

AFRICAN UNION

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CONCEPT NOTE

African Union Theme of the Year

**“Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions
to Forced Displacement in Africa”**

5-6 August 2019, Casablanca, Morocco

Sponsoring Organization & Coordinating Unit	African Union Commission
	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission
	African Union Economic Social And cultural Council
Collaborating Organisation	Association International cle de la paix pour le développement et la solidarité

Prepared By:

Directorate of Citizens and Diaspora Organizations

African Union Commission

Background:

In the framework of the long-term vision encapsulated in Agenda 2063, the African Union's (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted a Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness (CAP) and called for a ten – year period of transformation to strengthen humanitarian action on the continent to define Africa's new humanitarian architecture, which includes the creation of the African Humanitarian Agency as a vehicle for Africa's humanitarian action. The new humanitarian architecture addresses root causes to achieve durable solutions, as well as bolster the capacity of States and other stakeholders to tackle the challenges of forced displacement on the continent. Hence, AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union's adoption Decision AU/Dec.707(XXXI) of 2019 as “the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa” in July 2018, at Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Out of the estimated 68 million forcibly displaced persons in the world, over a third are recorded to be in Africa; consisting 6.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 14.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to multiple complex circumstances including conflicts, poor governance, human rights violations, environmental degradation, adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. Many of the displaced also find themselves in protracted displacement situations, leaving them stateless. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, records 712, 000 stateless persons on the continent, due to protracted cases of conflicts, violence, health emergencies such as Ebola outbreak, food insecurity, extreme poverty and other factors also underpin these challenges.

Against this backdrop, came the need to organize awareness – raising activities among a viable stakeholders on the continent, to popularize the theme of the year through the sharing of “good practice” between the AU and Civil Society Organisations through a meeting.

Meeting Objectives:

- Bring stakeholders and up to date with their counterparts by sharing information and identifying areas of support, through networking
- To develop a coordination mechanism among stakeholders in to strengthen communication and enhance mutual collaboration and cooperation in the popularization of the theme of the year

Meeting Outcomes:

- Awareness on the steps taken by the AUC to operationalise the theme of the year
- Visibility and familiarisation of the theme among for key stakeholders

Date and Location

The workshop will take place in Casablanca, Morocco from 5 -6 August 2019 at the Farah Hotel.

Participants

The number of participants will range from 30 to and not exceeding 60 attendees. The composition of participants will include:

- 45 CSO's from ECOSOCC; Diaspora and the wider civil society;
- Representatives of Regional Economic communities (RECS)
- Civil Societies in Morocco
- Staff of the AUC

Implementing Partners

1. CIDO

The Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission located under the Bureau of the Chairperson, is designed to serve as a catalyst to facilitate the involvement of African peoples in the continent and the Diaspora in the affairs of the African Union. Its commitment is to ensure that the AU represents not only African governments, but also the people of Africa. Its overall mission is to engage all elements of African communities, namely civil society and the African Diaspora, in the development and support of AU activities, decision-making processes, policy programmes, institutions, organs and overall goals.

2. ECOSOCC

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) is a legislative and advisory organ of the African Union, established during the third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2004 under the provisions of articles 5 (i) and 22 of the AU Constitutive Act, to actively engage civil society in the processes and work of the Union, particularly with regards to Africa's integration and development. ECOSOCC comprises various social, private sector and professional groups of member states of the union, and the African diaspora (Assembly/AU/ Dec.48 (III)) to act as a bridge through which the AU could partner and engage with civil society organizations on the continent.

3. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION KEY OF PEACE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY

The organization was established to create a modern and developed society through the integration of young people of all nationalities in the social, environmental, economic, physical activities and health areas, through different educational tools and training programs as part of a sustainable human development. The organization emphasize on the human element and focus on training and growth in a participatory approach for the development and the modernization of the society.