Final

Concept Note

5th PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM 5)

Theme: "Strengthening Migration Data and Research for evidence-based policy development and implementation towards effective migration governance in Africa"

14 – 16 September 2019;

Sofitel Hotel, Cairo, Egypt.

In partnership with:

Background

Migration and human mobility have shaped the global discourse in several aspects that transcends the socio-economic and political fabrics of our society today. Many countries in the world and particularly in Africa have undertaken tremendous efforts in addressing irregular migration and its negative consequences and have individually and collectively established necessary mechanisms to tap on the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration to contribute to their national and regional sustainable development.

However, in order to enhance States' capacity to effectively and sustainably improve migration governance, there is need to strengthen the collection of relevant and verifiable data on migration that will inform policy formulation and implementation. This aspiration has been well captured in the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM); which underscores the need for strengthening 'the global evidence base on international migration, by improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, comparable data….'[1]

The need to strengthen migration data collection, exchange and analysis is in line with the main African Union (AU) policies, including the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) Plan of Action (2018 – 2030), which identifies migration data and statistics as a key pillar in improving migration governance in the continent and recent AU Assembly decisions related to migration data collection.

This commitment was reaffirmed by the African Union (AU) Member States (MSs) and AU Regional Economic Communities (AU RECs) at June 2019 validation workshop of the Draft Plan of Action for the Implementation of the GCM in Africa. In this meeting, AU Member States appreciated the need to strengthen the collection and utilization of data and research in the development of migration policies and further informing its implementation.[2] The workshop recommended the need to address the existing data and research gaps on migration in the continent; and further ensure the establishment of necessary policy and legal framework to strengthen the collection and utilization of relevant migration data and statistics in Africa to enhance policy development and implementation in Africa as recommended in the Global Compact on Migration.

Further, the African Charter of Statistics, adopted in 2009, is a legal and advocacy instrument for the development of statistics in Africa that aims at promoting efforts towards harmonization of statistics in Africa. To further show the importance of Statistics in the continent, the Conference of Heads of State and Government adopted in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), which was later revised for 2017-2026 (SHaSA 2).This Charter and SHaSA2 provides key

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[1] Global Compact for Migration, Objective 1, Paragraph 17.
[2] Outcome Report of the Senior Officials meeting to validate the Draft 3-year Plan of Action on the Implementation of GCM in Africa, 18-19 June 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia.

guiding instruments for the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa, including migration statistics.

Additionally, the recent decisions of the AU Assembly to establish regional migration data Centre in Mali,[3] the Continental Operation Centre in Khartoum[4] for combating irregular migration, the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC)[5] and Migration Observatory Centre in Morocco seek to buttress the continental zeal to strengthening migration statistics in the continent.

As such, in order to realize this dream, there is need to identify the kind of data and statistics required for improved migration governance at national, regional and continental levels. This means that the collection of data should be aimed at addressing certain policy gaps with the aim of ensuring that there is verifiable evidence to support Member States at national, regional and continental levels to address such a gap. Key possible areas of migration statistics may include irregular migration (especially on Trafficking of Persons (TIP) and migrant smuggling), labor migration, diaspora engagement, and remittances, among others.

Statistics on Remittances for example, has a significant importance for the remittances industry and other sectors. These Statistics can be gathered through several means: administrative records, population censuses and household surveys. Nevertheless, official remittances statistics in most African countries only includes remittance flows through formal channels while significant amount of remittances flows through informal channels resulting in remittances data are substantially understated and inadequate. Improvement of remittances statistics in Africa thus requires design and implementation of sound methodologies to capture remittance flows through both formal and informal channels.

On the other hand, while enthusiasm for diaspora engagement continues to grow on the part of African policy makers, there exists little research data on the global African diaspora community to guide and inform responsive and robust diaspora policy and programming to generate development impact. There is therefore a clear need to collect, document and analyze data and information on the African diaspora populations globally in order to support the development of informed and proactive strategies that can effectively harness the power of the diaspora for development on the continent. Such research would review, collate and build on the various country mapping studies available in order to generate a consolidated set of statistics and demographic information that can support Africa-wide applications.

There remains a monitoring and evaluation gap on the part of AU member States regarding the outcomes of their domestic diaspora engagement strategies. There is a need for research to assess and evaluate the status of the implementation of these

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[3] Decision EX.CL/Dec.314 (IX)
[4] Executive Council and Assembly Summit decision EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII).
[5] AU resolution (Assembly/AU/462 (XX))

strategies in order to formulate recommendations on modification or discontinuation of existing policies and programs. AU Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) has recently developed the African Diaspora Engagement Self-Assessment Tool to help AU member States review and assess policy implementation in diaspora engagement.

There is need to create and enhance collaboration between existing continental and regional migration data and research centers. These centers should develop joint programs to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination, address data gaps, assess key migration trends, and encourage collaboration among relevant stakeholders at all levels to provide dedicated training, financial support and technical assistance and leverage of new data sources.

These centers must also establish shared strategies for maximizing the value of migration data, in coordination with existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms. These centers must jointly design and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving migration data collection, exchange and analysis at local, national, regional and global levels, with the participation of all major stakeholders by harmonizing methodologies for data collection and strengthening analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators. The centers must work together on improving international comparability and compatibility of migration statistics and national data systems, including by further developing and applying the statistical definition of an international migrant, elaborating a set of standards to measure migrant stocks and flows, and documenting migration patterns and trends, characteristics of migrants, as well as drivers and impacts of migration.

To address the above mentioned gaps in migration data; the African Union Commission (AUC), with support of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt will organize the 5th Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM 5) in Cairo, Egypt, from 14 till 16 September, 2019. This year's theme will be *"Strengthening Migration Data and Research for evidence-based policy development and implementation towards effective migration governance in Africa"* and will bring together all AU Member States, AU RECs; civil societies, and other relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the above theme. The meeting will aim at providing policy guidance and prescriptions on how the continent can strengthen the collection of verifiable data and Migration Statistics for effective migration governance at national, regional and continental levels.

Objective of the Meeting:

The main objective of PAFOM 5 is to open dialogue on ways of developing and strengthening the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated migration data and statistics for effective migration governance in the continent.

Specifically, the forum will seek to achieve the following:

a) Take stock of the existing Inter States and Intra States Migration consultative platforms at national, regional and international levels with the aim of ensuring that they are well coordinated, relevant and are sustainable.

b) Consider and validate the draft Terms of Reference for the PAFOM to ensure there is synergy with regional and national consultative frameworks, while at the same strengthening its relevance in improving migration governance in the continent Identify and document on ways of strengthening the collection and utilization of data with specific interest on human trafficking, diaspora, remittances and labor migration.

c) Establish a continental working group on Migration Statistics to support Member States and Recs in strengthening migration statistics in Africa particularly at national, regional and continental levels on migration statistics.

d) Discuss the feasibility and modalities of establishing national, regional and continental database, portal and depository on Migration Statistics in Africa.

Expected Outcome:

The main outcome of PAFOM 5 is an endorsed outcome report with the following key attributes:

a) An outcome meeting Report with clear recommendation on strengthened migration data and research for evidence-based policy development and implementation towards effective migration governance in Africa.

b) Validated Road map on the establishment of national, regional and continental database, portal and depository on Migration Statistics in Africa;

c) Establishment of the on Migration Statistics Working Group in African; to follow up on the issues of Migration Statistics in Africa including the implementation of the PAFOM 2019 Outcome Report on Migration Statistics and the Revised Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2);

d) Validated Draft Terms of Reference for PAFOM to guide on Chairing, hosting criteria, participation, funding and synergy with regional consultative mechanism, among other issues in future.

Meeting Dates and level of Participation:

For the first time in the history of PAFOM, this year's meeting will invite Ministers from AU Member States, responsible for either the National Statistics, Migration, Labor, Diaspora, Planning or Finance to attend the meeting on the last day after the Senior Officials meeting. This year's PAFOM will be divided into two sessions: *a two days Senior Officials session (14th and 15th of September 2019) and one day Ministerial session (16th of September 2019)*.

A slightly over 250 participants will therefore be expected to attend the PAFOM 5 in Cairo, Egypt as indicated on the above dates. As such, it is anticipated that about one hundred

and fifty (150) Senior Officials and Experts drawn from ministries and institutions responsible for migration, National Statistics Office (NSO), diaspora offices, Foreign Affairs, and law enforcement agencies from AU Member States will attend the Forum during the first two days session of the senior officials meeting from **14-15 September, 2019**. They will be further later be joined by 55 Ministers drawn from the respective AU Ministries and departments during the last day of **16 September 2019**.

Other notable participants will include senior officials and experts from AU RECs, UN agencies and other international organizations. The African civil societies, private sector, Diaspora organizations and networks, Media, Local Authorities, workers and employers' Organizations, Faith based organizations, among other stakeholders, will be invited as well.

Participants from non-African countries and organizations who are key partners in the migration governance in Africa will also be invited as observers.

Meeting Modalities

This Forum will be conducted and guided by the AU Rules and procedures.

Both Ministerial and Senior Officials meeting will be led by the PAFOM Chair and will further be organized into different sessions, based on the theme of the year. If need be, there could be breakout sessions to provide specific thematic discussions on the subject area with a view of ensuring effective participation of all invited participants.

The AU Commission, together with relevant UN partners, will provide technical guidance and support to the Chair to effectively undertake his/her duties during the meeting.

Simultaneous translation of the proceedings into the 4 official languages of the African Union (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese) will be arranged.