

**THE 4<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
(STC) EXPERTS ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
PERSONS**

**EXPERTS MEETING: 19 – 21 APRIL 2022 (VIRTUAL)**

**MINISTERIAL MEETING: 23 – 24 MAY 2022 – MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA.  
(IN PERSON/PHYSICAL)**

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

Public policies relating to migration, forced displacement of populations and the humanitarian response to disasters are of great concern to the Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union. This reality is especially evident at the continental, regional and state levels with the collective awareness on the fact that the choice of appropriate policies and their proper implementation will enable to overcome humanitarian challenges on the continent and pave the way for the achievement of The Global Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the AU Agenda 2063 for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.

In the past decade, migration and human mobility have been a particular and growing concern in Africa and in many parts of the world, as far as they created many complex challenges. Conflicts, human rights violations, disasters, economic and environmental degradation are amongst the underlying causes and drivers of migration and human mobility, especially forced displacement. To effectively manage migration, the root causes need to be confronted and halted. It is also recognized that the challenges of irregular migration persist in many AU Member States and RECs, and that these movements occur within and from the continent in a context that is characterized by the inadequacy of institutional and collective responses to address these challenges.

In juxtaposition with Agenda 2063 aspiration -1, it is encouraging to note that AU Member States recognize the positive contribution of a safe, regular and dignified migration in the continent for an inclusive growth and sustainable development. Africa also recognizes that migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit, and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. It is therefore important to underline the need to implement appropriate policies to ensure safe, dignified, and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the human treatment of migrants.

The AU has stepped up efforts to provide a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration that considers the realities of migration and current trends as well as linkages between migration and other key economic, social, political, environmental, and humanitarian issues.

Through the development of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by UN General Assembly, the AU has continuously put measures to support AU Member States and RECs in recognizing the role of migrants in their national planning tools and development agenda. The MPFA provides a clear roadmap on how to strengthen migration governance in the continent, specifically to tap on the benefits of a well-managed migration governance. It also provides policy suggestions on how Member States can develop innovative solutions to address challenges associated with irregular migration, particularly prevention of Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the continent.

Today, Africa hosts over a third of the world's forcibly displaced persons, including 7.8 million refugees and asylum seekers and 23.6million IDPs, thus Africa has no option but to redouble its efforts to address these phenomena. Accordingly, the adoption of Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration respectively, underscores the recent global shift to put the refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and migration topics at centre stage in policy discourse in Africa and beyond.

Furthermore, to advance the aspirations of Agenda 2063, the AU Assembly adopted the Common Africa Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, which articulates Africa's new humanitarian architecture with a view to address the root causes and achieving durable solutions. It has been recognized that the continent cannot achieve aspirations of Agenda 2063 without meaningful putting measures in place to be able to effectively predict, prevent and respond to humanitarian crises as well as building resilience among communities. This is only possible when deliberate measures are implemented to strengthen the primary and central role of the African States to initiate responses to and manage effectively humanitarian crises.

It is therefore expected that the fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons (MR&IDPs) will discuss and consider issues relating to response to humanitarian challenges with the consideration of the statute of the African Humanitarian Agency, the five (5) thematic topics of the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and consider the draft policy framework for the prevention of trafficking in persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Africa with their respective Action Plans. The STC-MR&IDPs will also be briefed in the context of policy orientation on Return, Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) as well as Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI).

The Fourth Ordinary Session of the STC is an opportunity for AU Member States to underscore and demonstrate the continent's ardent desire to establish a continental humanitarian agency for response to humanitarian disasters in the continent as well as provide a harmonized approach in the management of irregular migration in the continent by considering key policy documents on prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Africa. This is to maximise its benefits for the citizens of the continent, while also addressing the negative impacts that continue to jeopardise an opportunity to harvest and harness the socio-economic dividends of migration and development nexus. The meeting will also consider other policy orientations documents in the areas of migration governance including an update on status of operationalization of the 3 migration centres; among others.

## **2.0. BACKGROUND**

The African Union's Specialized Technical Committees are statutory policy organs of the Union in accordance with Article 5 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. Functions of Specialized Technical Committees are elaborated in Article 15 of the Constitutive Act and are among others, the preparation of projects and programmes of the Union and their submission to the Executive Council; to ensure the supervision, follow-up, and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the Organs of the Union.

Respectively, the meeting of the ordinary Session of STC Experts on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons to be convened from 19 – 21 April 2022 virtually, will focus on important policy documents that will contribute to the migration governance within and outside the continent, including the progress report on the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa and the African Passport. Apart from migration policies, the meeting will also focus on the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency which will help to coordinate and manage humanitarian situations in the continent as well as on the realization of the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its first 10 years implementation plan.

The Ordinary AU Assembly Decision, Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII), adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2009, considered the reconfiguration of Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and further decided that each STC should meet at the level of Ministers and Experts once every two (2) years, with the possibility of organizing an Extraordinary Session if required. Consistent with the Decision above, the AU Assembly determined that there shall be STC on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons (MR&IDPs – STC). Congruently, the African Union Commission organized the first meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in November 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during which the STC was operationalized. The Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian effectiveness was considered and adopted as well.

The second meeting of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDP was convened from 16th October to 24th October 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda and adopted the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and its implementation roadmap, the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), as well as other relevant policies. In 2018, AUC organized an Extraordinary Session of the MR&IDPs-STC in Equatorial Guinea, Malabo, to consider the remaining subjects on the agenda including, the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right on the Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa and monitor the implementation of previous important decisions for the implementation of the agenda 2063 and its ten years plan of action.

The third Session of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs which convened on 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, considered and validated the following reports and policies structures: The report on the implementation of the Theme of year 2019, The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa, the draft Structures and budgets for the establishment of the African Centre for the study and Research on Migration, the African Migration Observatory and the Continental Operational Centre for Information sharing based in Khartoum.

The Fourth STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs is scheduled to take place as follows:

- 1. A virtual Experts Meeting from 19 – 21 April 2022**
- 2. An in person Ministers Meeting from 23 – 24 May 2022 – Physical, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.**

### **3.0. OBJECTIVE OF THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION STC.**

Besides considering several policy documents on Migration governance, this year's STC will also consider several working documents for the upcoming Extra Ordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging conference, scheduled to take place from 25 – 27 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The main objective of the fourth Ordinary session of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs meeting will consider and recommend to the Executive Council several key policy and operational documents in the field of Migration, Refugees and IDPs. Specifically, the meeting will seek to achieve the following:

- I. Consider and validate the Draft Statute for the Operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency;
- II. Consider the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons;
- III. Consider and validate the Draft Policy Document on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Africa
- IV. Consider and validate the Draft Policy Document on the Prevention of Smuggling in Migrants in Africa
- V. Consider and validate the Report of Experts of the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM)
- VI. Consider the status report of Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) and Policy Trajectory
- VII. Consideration of the Progress Report on Establishment of Africa Migration Centers in Bamako, Khartoum and Rabat
- VIII. Policy Orientation on Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) and Policy Trajectory
- IX. Policy Orientation on AU-EU-UN Tripartite Taskforce: Addressing Irregular Migration in Africa and Policy Trajectory

### **4.0. EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE STC MEETING**

The expected outcome of the STC meeting will include the following:

- I. The adoption on the Statute for the Operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency.
- II. Validation and adoption of the following policy documents:
  - a) Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Africa
  - b) Consider and validate the Draft Policy Document on the Prevention of Smuggling in Migrants in Africa;
- III. Provide policy guidance to the following policy orientation:
  - a. Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) and Policy Trajectory
  - b. Operationalization of Africa Migration Centers in Bamako, Khartoum and Rabat
  - c. Policy Orientation on Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) and Policy Trajectory
  - d. Policy Orientation on AU-EU-UN Tripartite Taskforce: Addressing Irregular Migration in Africa and Policy Trajectory

## 5.0. MEETING FORMAT AND MODALITIES

The Meeting of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDP will be organized in the following format:

- A virtual Experts Meeting
- An in person Ministers Meeting, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The meeting modalities will be conducted and guided by the AU Rules and procedures. Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings in the official languages of the African Union (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese,) will be arranged. Translation services will also be provided.

## 6.0. DATE AND VENUE

The following will be dates for the Meeting:

- **Virtual Experts Session: 19 – 21 April 2022**
- **In person Ministers Session: 23 – 24 May 2022**

## 7.0. PARTICIPATION

The STC meeting will be attended by AU Member States Ministers and Senior Experts in-Charge of Migration, Disaster and Forced Displacement Matters as well as Free Movement and Labour.

## 9.0. KEY REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Common African Position on Migration (CAP) on the Global Compact on Migration
- ✓ The Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness in Africa
- ✓ The Report on the feasibility Study on the modalities for the operationalization of an African Humanitarian Agency
- ✓ AU Humanitarian Policy Framework
- ✓ 2009 Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons
- ✓ 1969 OAU Refugees Convention
- ✓ 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
- ✓ Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and its implementation roadmap.
- ✓ Guidelines for the Specification, Design and Production and Issuance of the African Passport, including adopted Security Features of the African Passport (Annexure 1) and Standard Computer-Generated Designs (samples) of the African Passport
- ✓ Treaty Establish the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) 1991
- ✓ Agenda 2063 – ‘*The Africa We Want*’
- ✓ Study on the Benefits and Challenges of Free Movement of Persons in Africa
- ✓ Ten-year Implementation for Agenda 2063
- ✓ The Report of the Study on Benefits and Challenges of Free Movement



of Persons in Africa

- ✓ AU Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa
- ✓ The Global Compact on Migration
- ✓ The Global Compact on Refugees
- ✓ The UN New York Declaration.

#### 10.0. FURTHER INFORMATION

- Mr. Sabelo Mbokazi, African Union Commission, Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Tel. + (251) 11 551 7844; [MbokaziS@africa-union.org](mailto:MbokaziS@africa-union.org).
- Ms. Rita Amukhobu: African Union Commission, Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Ethiopia, Tel. + (251) 11 551 7844. [AmukhobuR@africa-union.org](mailto:AmukhobuR@africa-union.org).
- Geoffrey Wafula, African Union Commission, Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Tel. + (251) 11 551 7844; [Geoffreyk@africa-union.org](mailto:Geoffreyk@africa-union.org)