
Terms of Reference for the AU-HOA Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants

1. Purpose

The overall purpose of this Member States led initiative is to provide a forum for the participating countries to debate; exchange information, experiences and good practices; improve cooperation on migration management in the Horn of Africa and address the challenges of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; as well as irregular migration.

This initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of migrants is underpinned by African Union's increasing focus on providing in-depth understanding of the configurations, dynamics and policy challenges in respect to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, whilst having closer consideration of the intersection between migration and inclusive development.

More specifically the initiative aims at:

- a) Support the effective implementation of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as other relevant policies, positions, and strategies at national levels as they pertain to Africa;
- b) Promoting regular dialogue among participating countries and other relevant actors including other transit and destination countries;
- c) Build common understanding on the causes, consequences, patterns and predict future trends of irregular migration in the region;
- d) Enhance cooperation among participating countries especially in the area of dismantling, investigating and prosecuting the criminal networks of smugglers and traffickers, while ensuring protection for the victims;
- e) Devise appropriate mechanisms to address the issue of smuggling and trafficking in the region;
- f) Facilitating technical assistance and capacity building; and
- g) Engage in the resource mobilization activities to ensure funding for projects implemented under the AU-HOA initiative.

2. Composition

The initiative on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is a multi-stake holder structure comprising:

- a) Core countries: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan;
- b) Neighboring countries: Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan;
- c) Invited partner countries: Italy, Libya, Malta, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Tunisia and Yemen ¹; and
- d) Partner organizations: EC, INTERPOL, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC

3. Secretariat and Meeting Arrangements

The AUC, IOM and UNHCR will serve as secretariat for this initiative. The core member countries will meet once every six months.

4. Activities

The activities will build on existing initiatives of the Member States countries to deliver specific outputs that will support the overall implementation of the following:

- a) Capacity Building Programmes;
- b) Information sharing;
- c) Awareness raising;
- d) Community stabilization initiatives;
- e) Skills training for returnees and potential migrants,
- f) Alternative livelihood.
- g) Promote regular dialogue and discussion among member states and other partners;
- h) Protection and direct assistance to victims of trafficking and stranded migrants;
- i) Development of national migration policy;
- j) Development of migration profiles;
- k) Enhance cooperation in combatting cross border Human Trafficking and smuggling; encourage member states to exchange information and to coordinate their activities in this regard in conformity with international, regional and bilateral agreements on cross border management;
- l) Harmonization and domestication of international and regional legal and policy instruments and frameworks; and
- m) Promote cooperation in investigation and prosecution of traffickers and smugglers.

¹ With their consent

5. Implementation of activities

- a) Participating countries will select and prioritize activities from the above list and/or identify new activities for implementation within an agreed timeline;
- b) Once agreed, the participating states will develop project proposals for funding with the technical support of the secretariat which will be implemented under the leadership of the African Union Commission;
- c) The project proposal for funding will be considered and agreed upon by core countries and implemented under the leadership of the AU in cooperation with partner countries and organizations included in the initiative; and
- d) Ad Hoc or Subsidiary or Specialized Bodies of the Initiative could be set up as and when necessary to handle specific or technical issues.

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