

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
(ECA)*

¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

1. *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

Since 2017 ECA has worked closely with African Union Commission (AUC) and member States to develop a common position on migration and supported the negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) through a series of sub-regional and regional consultations.

Five consultative meetings were organized in 2017 that brought together experts from various sectors to deliberate on migration issues in the respective sub-regions. These meetings were well covered by the media and the deliberations were disseminated in the regions, on the continent and globally. The outcomes of the meetings contributed to developing and strengthening the African position on the Global Compact.

The resultant outcome documents (Africa Common Position on Migration and Africa Regional Report on Migration) that provided detailed evidence-based account of priorities and action areas identified by African Member States served as the African regional input into the global stocktaking meeting that was held in Mexico in December 2017. ECA provided technical support by providing technical materials to the Africa Group involved in the intergovernmental negotiations. The intergovernmental negotiations produced a document which offers a 360 degrees' vision of migration and constitutes the first internationally-agreed normative and regulatory framework in the area of migration governance.

2. *High Level panel on International Migration in Africa (HLPM)*

The Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4-5 April 2016), setup a High Level Panel on International Migration. The High Level Panel on Migration is composed of 16 eminent persons including representatives of government, the private sector, academia and civil society. The panel members are notably selected on their individual capacity and institutional relevance to resolve issues emerging from the migration trend in Africa.

The overall objective of the HLPM is to a) affirm Africa's commitment to global objectives and values, and b) harness migration for Africa's development in the context of international cooperation.

ECA is the secretariat of the HLPM, chaired by former President Johnson Sirleaf, that advocates for (i) a new vision of African migration as an opportunity, effectively countering the dominant crisis narrative that portrays African migration as a response to poverty, violence and environmental disasters; (ii) intra-African mobility by lifting visa barriers through the effective implementation of existing regional agreements and protocols; (iii) boosting the capacity for research, analysis and public education on African migration issues; and (iv) for free movement of people in Africa through promotion of the signing and ratification of the Free Movement of Persons Protocol and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Advocacy for a fresh perspective on international migration in Africa was strengthened by the high-profile visits of the HLPM Chair and members to different states that helped focus attention on the importance of free movement of people in Africa, and to ensure that migration policies are integrated into their national development plans and strategies. The Chair of the HLPM met separately with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration, the Co-Facilitators for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, and staff at the AU New York Office for the GCM to discuss progress of the GCM negotiations and the African common position and its impact on the work and outcomes of the HLPM.

The HLPM, supported by ECA, produced a report (***'African Migration: Facing Facts, embracing opportunities and Mitigating Challenges'***) with seven action points that was presented at the AU Summit of the Heads of States and Government on 10-11 February 2019.

The report provides analysis on various migration themes that provide evidence base to influence policy and

programmes. To fulfil its mandate, the HLPM has committed to leverage on some of processes and initiatives that are complementary to its work, mainly the Global Compact for Migration, The Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the AUC Champion on Migration. The HLPM held a side event at the adoption of the GCM in Marrakech - Morocco in December 2018 to explore areas of synergy between the GCM and the future work of the HLPM.

3. ECA is participating in the Joint Programme on Labour Migration (JLPM) in Africa

The JLMP is a partnership comprising the African Union Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the objective of addressing the challenges of labour migration and mobility on the continent by enhancing the capacity of Member States and RECs to: achieve wider elaboration, adoption and implementation of harmonized free movement regimes and coherent national labour migration policy in the RECs, extend social security to migrants with access to portability regimes compatible, resolve skills shortages and skills–education mismatches while increasing recognition of harmonized qualifications across Africa.

4. Future ECA engagement on Migration

ECA together with UNDESA and ILO will implement a project – “**Improving migration statistics and skills recognition in Africa to implement the Global Compact**”. This proposed project seeks to strengthen the evidence base of international migration in Africa to inform policies and programmes to support the implementation of migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Furthermore, the project will facilitate mutual recognition of skills and qualifications of African workers migrating within or outside the continent and enhance their abilities to access better paying jobs and support member States to implement and monitor the Global Compact.

This project will draw on experiences from past/ongoing ECA programs, joint migration programs with partners, ECA research outputs, regional protocols and frameworks on migration (including the African Union Convention on Cross Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention); the African Union Border Programme and Measures for its Consolidation; the Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa; the African Common Position on Migration and Development; the Declaration on Migration; the Joint Labour Migration Programme; the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) agreement; and the Protocol on Free Movement of People and Goods) as well as recommendations from the African Regional Consultative Meeting on the GCM and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Table below presents some of the recent key knowledge products on migration produced by ECA:

Title of Publication	Brief Synopsis
African Migration: <i>Facing Facts, embracing opportunities and Mitigating Challenges</i>	The report of the HLPM presents evidence that counters the dominant crisis narrative of African migration that is based on a flawed, one-sided understandings of African migration as a response to poverty, violence and environmental havoc. The evidence points to increased intra and extra-African migration, primarily because economic and human development will enable and motivate more Africans to move in order to build new livelihoods in cities and abroad.
High level panel on Migration: Five Country Case Studies	This is a synthesis of 5 case studies conducted in: South Africa, Morocco, Senegal, Ethiopia and Cameroon. The case studies cover migration origin, transit and destination scenarios. In addition, issues of migrant rights and remittances are addressed as in the case of Ethiopia.

<p>Normalising the African migration narrative</p>	<p>This report offers concrete suggestions of what is currently available (including existing laws, regulations, policies, programmes related to African migration), with concrete recommendations of what should be done to implement progressive Africa-oriented policies. It attempts to demystify stereotypes, but more importantly focuses on evidence of what already exists in practice, policy, and programming.</p>
<p>Migration, regional integration and economic development in Africa</p>	<p>The report addresses the common African policy narrative and policy agenda and highlights the positive benefits of migration for comprehensive economic growth and human development in Africa that can also help to eliminate misleading stereotypes and perceptions of (African) migration and migrants. The report suggests that in order to achieve convergence between the SDGs and migration policies, a central element of common African migration policy agendas should be to increase the access of the relatively poor to legal migration opportunities within and outside the continent.</p>
<p>Migration governance, migration frameworks and human rights protection of migrants in Africa</p>	<p>The report reviews and discusses the many instruments for migration governance frameworks on the continent including global instruments, continental instruments as well as regional instruments in addition to national laws. The GCM is hailed as being overarching and complimentary to Agenda 2030 and at the continental level, the AU Agenda 2063's migration objectives that have led to the adoption of the MPFA, which guides RECs to develop regional migration policy frameworks.</p>