

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



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I. INTRODUCTION

- Selected information on international migration in Africa
- Opportunities presented by international migration
- Challenges presented by international migration
- Conclusion and way forward

30 June 2006



II. SELECTED INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN AFRICA

- International migrants in Africa: 16.2 million people in 2000 (2.1% of total population)
- Proportion of female migrants: 42% in 1960 to 47% in 2000
- Number of refugees: 79,000 in 1960 to 6.4 million in 1995, dropping to 3.6 million in 2000
- Limited migration policies and limited adoption of the convention on migrant workers



III. OPPORTUNITIES

- Free movement of human resources to where they can best be utilized;
- Widened employment opportunities;
- Transfer of skills and cultural enrichment;
and
- International remittances



IV. CHALLENGES

- Lack of standardized data;
- Lack of human resources/institutions to handle migration;
- Security concerns;
- Spread of diseases;
- Trafficking in human beings;



IV. CHALLENGES (CONT.)

- Smuggling human beings;
- Brain-drain and brain waste; and
- Lack of appropriate policies



V. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

- International migration presents opportunities and challenges to development endeavours in Africa;
- International migration is an important factor in development – requires special policies and programmes to manage



V. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD (CONT.)

- There is a need for protection of rights of migrants and management of integration and reintegration processes;
- Management and targeting of diaspora resources (technological know-how and entrepreneurial skills, remittances, etc) are important;
- Strengthened collaboration, cooperation and partnerships (national, regional, international) are necessary; and



V. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD (CONT.)

- Mechanisms for the implementation of the NEPAD and the “Strategic Framework for a Policy of Migration in Africa” need to be stepped up (RECs are important institutions in this process).



THANK YOU

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