

The contribution of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to the efforts to address migration-related issues

A- OSAA's main efforts to monitor and implement the migration related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- The 2030 Agenda recognized the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. It underlined the commitment of member states to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” [10.7] as well as to protect labour rights of all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants [8.8]
- Throughout the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, OSAA provided substantive inputs on Africa’s development priorities to the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 agenda, including through the technical background policy briefs issued by the UN systems as well as through closed interaction with African delegations. OSAA has contributed to the formulation of Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 that highlighted the impact of climate change in driving internal and international migration as well as the Common African Position on the Post-2015 development agenda that has underscored the importance of population dynamics on the continent, particularly the need to translate Africa’s youth bulge into demographic dividend and to strengthen the linkages between migration and development [paragraph 47].
- In 2015, OSAA’s work and activities have advocated for promoting synergies and building complementarities between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 which represents the overarching continental strategy that will guide development efforts in the continent for the next five decades. Both Agendas emphasized the need to regulate migration flows, protect the rights of migrants and

mobilize international cooperation to address all the aspects related to migration including the concerns of Women, Youth and vulnerable groups.

- In particular, the African Union Agenda 2063 has put forward the realization of a unified Africa among its key aspirations, prioritizing in this regard projects and programmes to promote regional integration, including through the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017 and the achievement of a continent-wide visa free regime by 2018 as reaffirmed in the Declaration on Migration adopted by the AU summit in June 2015.
- This progress builds on the consensus achieved among African countries within the framework of the African Common Position on Migration and Development (2006) on a number of policy issues such as human resource and brain drain, labor migration, remittances and migration and human rights among others.
- The Africa week 2015, organized by OSAA in partnership with the AU, NEPAD Agency, the Department of Public Information and the UN system, was held on the theme “*Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Moving from Aspirations to Reality*”, and aimed at popularizing Agenda 2063, mobilizing international support for its implementation and highlighting synergies between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B- Other initiatives and efforts undertaken by OSAA during 2015 that respond to the purpose of the coordination meeting on International Migration

- The analytical work of OSAA, including the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa devote significant attention to the socio-economic triggers of conflict as well as conflicts’ human and social cost, including in terms of the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons. To give an example, the latest report on the causes of conflict (A/70/176) estimated that the current situation in Burundi has forced 145,000 persons to seek refuge in neighboring countries.
- The peace-security-development nexus that continue to guide OSAA’s analytical and advocacy work is further demonstrated by the emphasis placed on emerging challenges that continue to fuel social unrest and

conflict as well as drive international migration from the continent. Examples of these challenges that were tackled in the annual reports include good governance and role of law (A/68/220), management of diversity (A/67/205), and youth, education, and employment (A/66/2014).

- Migration issues have also been high on the agenda of OSAA's advocacy efforts in 2015. Expert group meetings and interactive panel discussions organized by OSAA noted the positive contribution of migrants to sustainable development and inclusive growth, including in migrants' countries of origin through remittances and other capital flows as recognized also by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as in recipient countries.
- As armed conflicts have always been a major cause of the internal displacement of people and large flows of refugees, the efforts by the African countries to increase their national and collective capacities to address current and emerging threats to peace and security deserve the full support of the international community. Building on the progress made on the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, African countries have committed in the 2013 Solemn Declaration to ending all conflicts in the continent by 2020. In this respect, OSAA continues to advocate for and mobilize international support for the African initiative to "*silence the guns by 2020*", including through the convening of the briefing by African regional economic communities held on 12 October 2015 on the theme "Silencing the Guns in Africa: the Nexus between Peace, Security, Governance and Development".
- Furthermore, the growing attention to the humanitarian, human rights, peace and security dimensions of forced migration, particularly after thousands have died in the Mediterranean attempting to reach Europe made it extremely urgent to raise awareness and contribute to the dialogue among experts and policy makers on addressing the various dimensions associated with international migration.
- This is why the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa co-organized with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) a high-level expert group meeting (EGM) in Durban, South Africa, in November 2015 on the theme "Conflict-Induced Migration in Africa:

Maximizing New Opportunities to Address its Peace, Security and Inclusive Development Dimensions”.

- The meeting focused on the growing number of conflict-generated refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa. It also examined the impact of other emerging challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism. The meeting has put forward concrete policy proposals for collective action at the regional and global level to tackle the underlying causes of forced migration and provide for the safety, rights and dignity of the people affected by these causes.
- Looking ahead, the increasing attention to migration and its underlying causes is expected to be even more pronounced in 2016 through the summit that the Secretary-General will convene on migration and refugee movements on 19 September 2015. Taking into account the AU - EU Valletta Summit on Migration that was held in November 2015 and the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit, OSAA will continue to give due attention to migration issues in its analytical and advocacy work. In this regard, OSAA will organize a side event on “harnessing Africa’s demographic dividends” on 27 May 2016 during the Midterm Review of Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developing Countries (LDCs), to be held in Antalya, Turkey. The Event will be focusing on promoting youth employment and providing economic opportunities for Africa’s burgeoning youth population in their own countries.
