

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division  
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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

*Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)*

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

## QUESTION 1.

**Please describe briefly the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken in 2015, or is planning to undertake in 2016, to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4).**

- The analytical work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (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 devotes 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.



### **QUESTION 3.**

**Where relevant, please indicate any activities and initiatives your organization is planning to undertake in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled on 19 September 2016.**