

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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

*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)*

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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).**

ECA recognizes that there is an urgent need to support member States to achieve the SDGs on migration by assisting them to mainstream migration into national development plans and strategies. It is involved in a number of activities either on its own, or with other UN entities and other organizations. Given the number of inter-connected issues on migration, ECA has taken a comprehensive approach that is encompassing the Africa-specific issues. An ECA-wide migration project has been conceived consisting of:

- i) an ECA-wide programme that supports member States achieve the SDGs on migration while addressing the different facets of migration.
- ii) partnerships with other agencies working in these areas (such as AUC, RECs, specialized UN agencies, civil society, academic institutions/think tanks, etc.).
- iii) A high level panel discussion on migration is being organized as a side event at the 9th Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in March 2016, to offer a platform for prominent African stakeholders to exchanges perspectives on current status of migration in Africa, with a special focus on intra-African migration flows and practical ways to ensure safe and orderly intra-African migration, and policy options to better harness the potential of intra-African migration.
- iv) Advisory and Policy Support: ECA will also provide advisory and policy support to member states to promote the rights of migrants and integrate migration in national plans and sectoral strategies in areas such as youth employment, entrepreneurship, and skill formation. ECA will build the capacity of policy makers, enhance information exchange, and develop toolkits/manuals to assist in this regard, in addition to analytical work and preparation of reports, policy briefs, and other knowledge products. ECA will work with national statistical agencies in select countries to strengthen database on migrants and develop suitable indicators in national surveys and studies.
- v) Database on Migration Work in Africa: ECA's Capacity Development Division has undertaken a mapping exercise that identifies agencies and institutions delivering knowledge on migration related issues. The database contains information of organizations, universities, research centers and think tanks that provide services on migration issues.
- vi) Short Courses: ECA's IDEP has ran short courses on Migration Policy for middle and senior level policy makers on Migration Policy in Regional Economic Communities in Africa (ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC, COMESA, SADC, CENSAD, ECCAS and UMA) to guide them in the formulation of migration policies that will enhance regional integration and actively contribute to the implementation of countries' development strategies.
- vii) Collection and Use of Migration Data: ECA collaborated with the PopDivision and the Statistics Division of DESA on a regional workshop for selected countries of Northern and Western Africa on the collection and use of international migration data for development, in Dakar, Senegal, from 8 to 11 September 2015.
- viii) ECA is in the process of developing an operational guide which an instrument that would offer countries clear and specific guidance for monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development which also addresses key issues relevant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely: facilitating free movement of people and goods within countries to foster rural-urban inter-linkages, and regional integration adopting selective migration policies, maximize the benefits and minimize the costs and repercussions of international migration, and manage irregular migration formulating and adopting evidence-based migration policies, particularly those aimed at vulnerable groups, especially women and youth maximize the benefits and minimize the costs and repercussions of international migration, and to protect the rights of migrants and citizens integrating migration issues in national development plans and strategies
- ix) Joint Activities- JLMP and JYEIA

-Together with the African Union, the ILO and the IOM, ECA has developed the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) to facilitate implementation of relevant policy frameworks on labour migration and the AU's Agenda 2063 towards continental integration. The JLMP aims to address the challenges of labour migration and mobility on the continent by enhancing the capacity of Member States and RECs to, among others: 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, resolve skills shortages and skills-education mismatches, while increasing recognition of harmonized qualifications across Africa. It is recognized that enhancing mobility and free movement regimes would provide alternative legal channels of migration and help reduce irregular migration.

-Together with the African Union, the African Development Bank and the ILO, ECA has been engaged in the Joint Youth Employment Initiative for Africa (JYEIA) with the objective of tackling the youth employment challenge in Africa by means of policy support, support to implementation of national, sub-regional and regional youth employment plans and policies and, knowledge building and dissemination. While the project does not deal with migration explicitly, it is anticipated that enhancing youth employment opportunities will reduce the desperation of youth to migrate out of the continent in search of livelihoods.

## QUESTION 2.

**Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your organization's contribution to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.**

ECA's work on migration is located within the global and continent-wide development frameworks. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognizes the positive contributions of migrants and their fundamental role in sustainable development. Migration and human mobility are included within the Agenda 2030 across three Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 8 - economic growth and decent work Goal 10 - reducing inequalities and Goal 17 - on data), correcting their absence from the earlier Millennium Development Goals.

Free movement of persons, along with goods and services was articulated in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991) as a key element in achieving the goal of regional integration on the continent. In implementing the Abuja Treaty, the African Union (AU) adopted policy frameworks, such as the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) that provides guidance to member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the development of policies to promote integration through migration as part of efforts to strengthen migration governance for regional economic integration and inclusive development.

The eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU in 2012 endorsed the Action Plan for boosting intra-African trade and the Framework, Roadmap and Architecture for fast-tracking the establishment of a continental free trade area by 2017.

All existing frameworks relating to migration stress the rights of migrants. Addressing the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, African Ministers met in Addis Ababa in October 2013 and committed to protect and fulfill the rights of all migrants, including economic migrants, internally displaced and forced migrants through policy and programmes that ensure their access to work, basic social services and protection of rights.

ECA works with the African Union Commission and its partners recognizing that a comprehensive approach with a long term vision is required to address the root causes of irregular migration and the promotion of regular channels of migration in Africa. African Union Agenda 2063 aspires for political unity in Africa to ensure free movement of people as part of the gradual intensification of regional integration across the continent.

## 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.**

As of now, ECA is not engaged in any specific activity towards the High Level Plenary Meeting of the GA. However it stands ready to assist the African Union and member states with any planned initiatives.

The side event that GG10 is co-organizing with ECA during ECA's 2016 Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and the Economy in March 2016, on "The tragedy of refugees- towards regional and global solutions" will undoubtedly feed into the HLP in September 2016. The outcome of the side event will be a report on global governance. Building on the ideas developed in the initial GG10 Report on Inclusive Multilateralism, this report is intended to be a contribution to the necessary debates on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.