



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

TALKING NOTES

Round Table 3: International Action and Cooperation on Refugees and Migrants and Issues Related to Displacement and the Way Forward

1. Mozambique is a refugee and migrants hosting country mainly of those from Africa. A number of causes are said to be behind the choice of Mozambique as a destination for refugees and migrants, amongst which the following are worth highlighting:

- ✓ Geographic location;
- ✓ Political stability;
- ✓ Safety;
- ✓ Conducive environment;
- ✓ Land availability;
- ✓ Good economic and business environment;

- ✓ The welcoming nature of the people;
- ✓ Easy access to the national territory.

2. Migrant movements cover refugees, internally displaced persons, unemployed, qualified staff, women and children/minors.

3. Causes underpinning the option to migrate to Mozambique taken by nationals of different origins are:

- ✓ Armed Conflicts;
- ✓ Natural disasters;
- ✓ Political instability;
- ✓ Poverty and unemployment;
- ✓ Poor economic and business environment;
- ✓ Unavailability of land.

4. Mozambique does not possess institutional and financial capacity to respond effectively to economic and social problems caused by refugees and migrants.

5. Mozambique is of the view that the approach to the immigration and refugee problems should take into account the following premises:

- ✓ Respect for human rights and dignity;
- ✓ Regional and international cooperation;
- ✓ Sharing of responsibilities among countries of origin, of transit and of destination

6. For Mozambique the relationship between refugees, migration and development cannot be disassociated due to the following reasons:

- ✓ Migration is a source of cultural and social enrichment for hosting countries;
- ✓ It has economic implications on employment and economic growth;
- ✓ It impacts on the demand of goods and services;
- ✓ It influences the demand for labour;
- ✓ It is a source of brain drain;
- ✓ It reduces active population and qualified work force.

7. Mozambique acknowledges that there are serious political divergences among States based on the following reasons:

- ✓ Guarantee of security;
- ✓ Organised crime expansion;

- ✓ Pressure on resources;
- ✓ Inequalities and imbalances in the development of countries;
- ✓ Incentive to xenophobia feelings;
- ✓ Unemployment;
- ✓ Legal differences.

8. Notwithstanding such divergences, Mozambique defends that free movement of persons through the territory of various countries is an enabling factor in the regional integration process, at least, as far as SADC is concerned, and it represents the most visible way of ordinary citizens benefiting from the building of a Community of States.

9. In view of the existing divergences and fears, Mozambique is for an incremental approach to the problems related to refugees and migration through the adoption of policies within the framework of community organizations of regional integration.

10. The drivers of such policies would, among others, include the following:

- ✓ Protection of Refugees;
- ✓ Combating human trafficking;

- ✓ Border control and management ;
- ✓ Management of labour force;
- ✓ Prevention of forced displacement;
- ✓ Migration and development;
- ✓ Establishment of mechanisms for national and international security and stability;
- ✓ Crisis prevention, management and resolution;
- ✓ Cooperation and policy harmonization.

11. On the relationship between refugees, migration and development, Mozambique subscribes priorities set by the African Union aimed at mitigating poverty, as well as:

- ✓ Promotion of agriculture and rural development;
- ✓ Good governance;
- ✓ Harmonization of economic and social policies;
- ✓ Improvement of protection of women, youth and persons with disabilities;
- ✓ Institutional reforms;
- ✓ Promotion of health sector policies.

12. As a way forward, Mozambique recognises and values the role of regional, inter-regional and international cooperation, including technical assistance in order to:

- ✓ Promote of the best practices for protection of the rights of refugees;
- ✓ Promote migration management and monitoring;
- ✓ Strengthening border protection and control measures;
- ✓ Provision of assistance to countries that need it for the introduction of more safe passports and travel documents- machine readable, automated and with biometric data.

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