

Draft Concept Note

Sensitization of Development Partners based in Addis Ababa, in preparation of the Donors' meeting on the AUC-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration

Date: 18 February 2015

Time: 09:00hrs – 12:00hrs

Venue: AU Conference Center, Addis Ababa

Context:

Labour migration is a key concern for African leaders, as reflected in the AU Migration Policy Framework (Banjul, June 2006) which contains specific provisions on labour migration aimed at strengthening regional integration. The most recent available data from UN Population Division confirms that half of African migrants stay in Africa, 65% of sub-Saharan Africans migrate within sub-Saharan Africa and more than 70% of West Africans migrate within the ECOWAS region.

As a result, there is a renewed focused interest in the improved governance of labour migration within the continent to enable the optimization of the development benefits of migration; particularly within the AU's regional integration agenda. To this effect, the AUC, ILO, IOM and ECA, based on the inputs from RECs, have developed a Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance. The Joint Programme facilitates the accelerated implementation of the labour migration provisions of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa which was adopted by Heads of States. More specifically, the Joint Programme will strengthen the effective governance and regulation of labour migration and mobility in Africa, under the rule of law with the involvement of key stakeholders. It will directly contribute to obtaining the development potential of labour mobility in Africa by supporting effective governance of labour migration and protection of migrants. Labour migration data gaps, implementation of existing protocols and challenges related to skills mobility will be duly addressed, are some of the expected specific results of the bold programme.

The Joint Programme was unanimously endorsed by the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission at its Special Session in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2014. It has been also recently endorsed by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of States held in Addis (January 2015). It is important to reiterate that this Joint Initiative constitutes a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable AU-led programme for

implementing the AU-EU Partnership on Migration and Mobility. It also contributes strategically to the implementation of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy.

Following the endorsement by the Ministers and Heads of States, there is an urgent need to ensure the immediate effective and coordinated implementation of the Joint Programme. This requires an effective mobilization of resources, (financial and technical). In this respect, it is envisaged to organize a meeting of development partners on resource mobilization in Kigali in March on the occasion of the Roundtable Conference on Migration and Intra-Regional Integration.

Taking advantage of the presence of development partners and to mobilize a broad based coalition of the friends of the AU based in Addis Ababa, **a pre-development partners' meeting will be held in Addis Ababa on 18 February 2015 at the AU Conference Center.**

Objectives:

4. Sensitize and enhance the awareness of the development community based in Addis Ababa on the Joint Programme on Labour Migration
5. Receive feedback and inputs from participating development partners to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the Kigali meeting

Participants:

The AUC and international organizations Parties to the JLMP are co-organizers of the meeting convened by the AUC. The Embassy of Rwanda will be closely associated with the preparation of the meeting.

AU Member States: Angola, Botswana, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan and Zimbabwe

RECs: IGAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC

International Partners: European Union, European Union/Commission, DFID, League of Arab States, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), Swiss International Development Agency, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Islamic Development Bank, African Development Bank, OXFAM, Open Society Foundation, Walk Free Foundation, ECPAT International, World Bank, USAID, Italy, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, UK, France, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

