The governance of migration in Africa & its regional economic communities: policies, frameworks and challenges

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Introduction: migration governance in Africa

- Africa- socioeconomic conditions
- Africa hosts multiple RECs – overlapping membership
- Substantial international migration
- 75% (14m) of all SSA migrants settle in another SSA country
- Various factors motivate migration – social, economic, political, natural
What are the most relevant migration governance policies and frameworks in Africa at the continental level and in the major regions of Africa? What provisions do they include?

What are the difficulties in developing and implementing regional protocols on population movement?

To what extent do/can international development partners influence existing and potential legislation and policy agendas?
Methods & planned outputs

- Desk review & thorough review of migration and related legislations and policies
- Interviews with selected respondents based on policy portfolio & position in relevant organizations
- ‘Workshop’ migration experts-academicians, civil society practitioners, government & officials in RECs
  - Purposively chose based on expertise and position in relevant institutions
- 50-page report
- Recommendations to AU, RECs; Governments; External actors
Regional labour migration regimes:

Implications for regional integration & migration management in Africa

- Level of **economic development** of a region and the degree of similarity of economic development of neighbouring countries shape the ease with which cross border labour mobility can be handled.

- Some policies within a region clearly aim at complete **free movement** for citizens and others aim at **managed migration** of specific categories of workers.

- Many **regional labour market regimes** focus on skilled migration and link this to the recognition of qualifications.
Regional governance of migration in Africa

- **Abuja Treaty** envisages an African Economic Community built on 8 key African RECs
  - Provides overall continental framework for migration governance—*Articles 4; 6; & 71*

- **Two key policy frameworks** define the AU’s approach to migration in Africa:
  - **Migration Policy Framework for Africa**
    - 9 key migration issues
  - **African Common Position on Migration and Development**
    - 11 policy issues

- **Intra-African Talent Mobility Partnership Program**
  - Voluntary; involving Eastern & Southern Africa & West Africa
  - Aims to accelerate integration, open borders, common policies & laws- utilize Schengen mechanisms
### EAC-SADC, ECOWAS: ratifications of relevant migrant labour-related international conventions

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Institutional governance of migration—southern Africa

- States **have not domesticated** most international/multilateral migration instruments
- States maintain **managed approaches**: allow migration of sectoral and certain categories of skilled and unskilled labour
- **Bilateral agreements** have established a ‘parallel’ labour migration system
  - slim prospects for regional migration legislation
- **Significant informal cross-border movement** of workers and informal traders
Way forward

- Complete SADC section
- Apply research questions to East Africa & West Africa
- Synthesize and discuss
- Recommendations
- feedback, suggestions, comments, etc.?