

# The governance of migration in Africa & its regional economic communities:



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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

# Research Questions



- 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-academics, 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



Country	ICPRMW* Date <sup>#</sup>	ICCPR** Date	ILO's CO97*** Date	CSR**** Date	UNESCO's RCRAQ***** Date	African Charter Date
Angola		10 Jan 1992	X	23 Jun 1981 <sup>+</sup>	X	02 Jun 1990
Botswana	8 Sep 2000	X	X	6 Jan 1969	X	17 Jul 1986
DR Congo	X	1 Nov 1976	X	19 Jul 1965	X	20 Jul 1987
Lesotho	24 Sep 2004	9 Sep 1992	X	14 May 1981	13 Sept 1982	10 Jul 1992
Madagascar	X	21 Jun 1971	14 Jun 2001	18 Dec 1967	X	09 Jul 1992
Malawi	X	X	22 Mar 1965	10 Dec 1987	X	17 Nov 1989
Mauritius	X	X	02 Dec 1969	X	X	19 Jun 1992
Mozambique	X	X	X	16 Dec 1983	X	22 Feb 1989
Namibia	X	X	X	17 Feb 1995	X	30 Jul 1992
Seychelles	Ratified			23 Apr 1980	27 Aug 1998	13 Apr 1992
South Africa	X	10 Dec 1998	X	12 Jan 1996	X	09 Jul 1996
Swaziland	X	X	X	14 Feb 2000	19 Nov 1998	15 Sep 1995
Tanzania Zanzibar <sup>##</sup>	X	X	22 Jun 1964	X	X	X
UR of Tanzania <sup>##</sup>	X	X	X	12 May 1964	12 Jul 1983	18 Feb 1984
Zambia	X	X	02 Dec 1964	24 Sep 1969 <sup>++</sup>	25 Apr 1983	10 Jan 1984
Zimbabwe	X	X	X	25 Aug 1981	X	30 May 1986

# 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.?