

: Programme

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2016 **Pathways Towards Coordinated** **African Migration Governance:** **The African Regional Organisations' Role**

Hotel NH Potsdam

7-8 April 2016

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating Partners

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn/Bonn
WeltTrends, Potsdam

BACKGROUND

International migratory movements, especially to the European continent, are currently the topic of intense debate in Europe. However, the issues dominating the African migration governance discourse from an African perspective generally receive little attention in Germany and Europe. In 2013 alone, there were - according to the United Nations (UN) – 15.3 million migrants on the move in an African state other than their home country – and the numbers are increasing. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 65 per cent of sub-Saharan African migrants remain on their own continent.

The causes are highly diverse: people flee their homes because of armed conflict, political repression and human rights abuses. At the same time, people also migrate for the purpose of work or study or take advantage of the freedom of movement which the African Union (AU) and regional economic communities (RECs) are working towards. In the following, the latter migratory groups will be at the centre of attention. The interests of and challenges facing the individual regions and countries vary considerably as most African countries can not be divided into home, transit and destination countries as they are mostly affected by all three phenomena.

Coordinated and coherent migration governance has therefore emerged as one of the key challenges for the African countries. Their main task is to harness the potential of regular migration while lowering the risks and costs for migrants and mitigating the negative impacts on home, transit and host countries. The importance of migration governance for the continent's development is stated in the AU's *Migration Policy Framework for Africa* (2006) and *Agenda 2063* (2013), for example. In its Declaration on Migration (2015), too, the AU reaffirmed the importance of mobility in accelerating regional economic integration.

In recent years, some RECs have therefore developed diverse initiatives to promote mobility and manage migration. At the forefront are efforts to improve migrants' legal and social status, to regulate and expand freedom of movement and labour migration, and - even if not decisive in this context - to curb irregular migration. Progress on implementing these initiatives and enforcing the rules and guidelines adopted at the pan-African level is sluggish, however – often due to a lack of institutional and human capacities within the AU, the RECs and their Member States.

Against this background, the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2016 will critically appraise the regional mechanisms for implementing migration governance in Africa. African and European stakeholders will then jointly identify and discuss priorities and fields of action for comprehensive and coherent migration governance in Africa.

- Which regional protocols and dialogue processes on migration governance exist in Africa? What gaps are to be closed?
- Which practical measures are required in order to meet the goals agreed upon?
- How can the potential afforded by regular migration and mobility be utilised more effectively in the interests of Africa's development? What measures can be taken to ensure that the out-migration of skilled workers does not become a barrier to development?
- How can Germany and the EU support actors of migration governance in Africa in order to boost regional economic integration? What options are there to cooperate on developing long-term solutions?
- In which areas can the EU serve as a model? Where can African stakeholders learn from the experiences and current challenges facing the EU, if appropriate? Where should the EU step up its efforts?

: Thursday, 7 April 2016

- 09.00 hrs Registration
- 09.30 hrs Welcome
Anne Quart
State Secretary
Ministry for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection
of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Potsdam
Klaus Brückner
Member of the Executive Committee of the
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

SESSION I

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

- Chair
Klaus Brückner
Member of the Executive Committee of the
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- 10.00 hrs Keynotes
Gibril Faal
Director of GK Partners, London
H.E. Walter Lindner
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to South Africa, Pretoria
Andreas Gies
Head of the Directorate-General Development cooperation worldwide - country programmes
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, (BMZ) Bonn
- Plenary Discussion

SESSION II

TAKING STOCK: THE MIGRATION POLITICS OF THE RECS

In a current research projekt, the UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement of People analyses existing continental and regional policies and strategies regarding migration governance in Africa. A short overview on established instruments and remaining challenges will be given in order to instigate the debate.

- 11.15 hrs **Dr Christopher Nshimbi**
DST-NRF Research Fellow & Deputy Director
Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn)
Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria
- Plenary Discussion
- 12.00 hrs Lunch

SESSION III

FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS: INTENTION AND REALITY

The AU's long-term goal is to achieve unrestricted regional and continental mobility. One specific element of the AU's Agenda 2063 is therefore to introduce an African passport. It also aims to abolish visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries by 2018 as a way of solving the ongoing problem of irregularity, curbing out-migration from the continent and promoting intra-African trade. Many RECs, too, are placing freedom of movement and mobility at the heart of their integration policies. RECs which have made particularly good progress in this area include the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). However, other countries are closing their borders to migrants or refugees due to current crises or are periodically deporting them. These are familiar challenges in the EU as well.

How much progress has been made towards an African passport, and what challenges does this initiative face? To what extent are mobility and freedom of movement being implemented successfully in the RECs? How can the conflict between promoting regional integration and restricting the admission of refugees and migrants be resolved? What lessons can be learned from the challenges currently facing the EU in connection with freedom of movement (Schengen), restrictions and border controls?

Chair

Professor Raimund Krämer

Editor of the journal WeltTrends, Potsdam

Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

13.30 hrs

Inputs

Dr Olumide Abimbola

Consultant for the NEPAD, Regional Integration and Trade Department

African Development Bank (AfdB), Abidjan

Caroline Njuki

Regional Migration Coordinator

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat, Djibouti

Professor John O. Oucho

Executive Director

African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), Nairobi

Plenary Discussion

15.30 hrs

Coffee Break

SESSION IV

MOBILITY AND EMPLOYMENT: MOTOR FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION?

Labour migration, like trade, is a building block of regional economic integration and development. In a Declaration adopted in January 2015, the African Union acknowledges the acceleration of widespread labour migration within the continent and its significant contribution to development and poverty eradication but also expresses concern about the dramatic adverse consequences of out-migration of skilled workers and the threat of rising youth unemployment as a result of demographic change. Recognising the need to establish or strengthen comprehensive structures and mechanisms for labour migration governance, the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and other partners have launched the *Joint Labour Migration Program for Africa* (JLMP). All eight RECs are involved in its implementation.

How much progress have the AU and RECs made on implementing the JLMP, and what challenges do they face? How are the RECs utilising the potential of labour mobility to stimulate regional economic integration? What lessons can be learned from the EU's responses to challenges such as Member States' differing levels of economic performance and labour market dynamics?

Chair

Gibril Faal

Director of GK Partners, London

16.00 hrs

Inputs

Takyiwaa Manuh

Director

Social Development Policy Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa

H.E. Marcel R. Tibaleka

Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, Berlin

Matthias Busse

Researcher

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

Plenary Discussion

EVENING PROGRAMME

from 18.00 hrs

City Tour

from 19.30 hrs

Reception hosted by the Minister-President of Land Brandenburg in the Forsthaus Templin

Welcome by

Anne Quart

State Secretary

Ministry for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

: Friday, 8 April 2016

SESSION V

MIGRANTS AS AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT: ROLE OF THE DIASPORA

The positive aspects of migration and mobility, in terms of promoting social development and integration, are attracting growing attention, including at the political level. Partly due to greater freedom of movement, migrants and diaspora communities make a significant contribution to development through their remittances (money transfers), innovative ideas and networks and the sharing of skills acquired abroad. The AU's Agenda 2063 expressly acknowledges this contribution. Several African countries have therefore devised national strategies which map out ways of involving the diaspora in development processes. At the same time, African civil society organisations are appealing to African and European leaders to take action, e.g. by reducing the transaction costs of remittances and by supporting structured consultations with migrants and diaspora communities on furthering national and regional development strategies.

How can diaspora organisations be integrated more effectively into the planning of development measures in their home countries as well as the planning and implementation of international development policies? Which models already exist, and what are the ongoing challenges?

Chair

Dr Andrea Riemer

Deputy Head

Division of Migration and Development

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn

09.30 hrs

Inputs

Hailu Kinfe Bune

Consultant

African Institute for Remittances (AIR) Project

African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

Emmanuel Enos

Director of the Diaspora Affairs Bureau

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Accra

Cleophas Obino Torori

Deputy Country Director

Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) Programme Liberia

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Monrovia

Kyeretwie Osei

Policy Officer Americas and Caribbean

Directorate of Citizens and Diaspora Organization (CIDO)

African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

Plenary Discussion

11.30 hrs

Break for coffee and refreshments

SESSION VI

TOWARDS A COOPERATIVE MIGRATION POLICY BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE EU

Cooperative migration governance between African countries and the EU was high on the agenda at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration in Valletta in November 2015. From a European perspective, addressing the root causes of migration, enhancing cooperation on legal migration and mobility, reinforcing the protection of migrants and asylum seekers, combating exploitation, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and improving cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration were the focus areas. However, as discussed during the previous panels, a very different set of processes, challenges and concepts relating to the potential of migration dominate the African debate.

How can a common denominator be found between the two continents' diverse interests and challenges? How can stakeholders in Africa and Europe learn from one another? What kind of support for African migration governance is expected from German and European development cooperation – and what contribution can it make?

Chair

Dr Günther Taube

Director of the Division for Global Partnerships

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn

12.00 hrs

Roundtable Talk

Anna Knoll

Policy Officer in the Strengthening European External Action Programme
European Centre for Development Policy Management (ecdpm), Maastricht

Dr Mehari Taddele Maru

Migration Consultant for the African Union (AU) and the
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Addis Ababa

Dr Abdoul Aziz M'Baye

Senior Policy Advisor to the Africa Department
European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Sophie Ngo-Diep

Regional Network Developer & Funding Coordinator, MADE Programme
International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Brussels

Christoph Rauh

Head of the Division for Policy Issues of Development Cooperation with Africa
and the African Union

Federal Ministry für Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

Plenary Discussion

14.00 hrs

Closing remarks from the organisers