

Informal Advisory Group on Migration

Terms of Reference

Background

Migration has been the topical issue of the current period. Both at the global and continental levels, human mobility is increasing. Africa is often seen as a continent on the move due to crisis-led causes, mainly as people escaping poverty, environmental disaster, or violent conflict. The African narrative of migration is far from the picture presented by the media. Evidence shows that intra-African migration dominates migration flows on the continent (82%), and only a small proportion of Africans migrate to Europe (12%) and other continents (6%)¹. The migration stock for Africa is comparable to global figures. International migrants have remained constant at about 3 to 5 percent of the world's population for the last decade. Comparatively, about 3% of the continent's population have migrated internationally².

While migration issues have been researched, these have largely been based on ancient migration theories based on the bi-directional balance of push and pull factors. For example, the premise of poverty-driven migration out of Africa has been disputed by current research. A study by Jonsson (2009) shows that African countries with comparatively higher levels of development, such as in the Maghreb, coastal West Africa, South Africa also tend to have the highest intensity of extra-continental migration³. Research has focused mainly on the migrant as an individual and not taking into considerations the families, households, communities and nations that affect and determine migration patterns and dynamics⁴. Thus, migration studies have focused on the movement of males in their economically productive age, and not considering that women and children have also been migrants. The consequence has been reasons for migration have been skewed towards employment and obscured other motives for migration such as trade, marriage, education, pilgrimage, and seeking better social or health services. These two examples conjure that researches on migration need to look at emerging patterns of migration and define cutting-edge research on how these are determined by current demographic, socio-economic and political factors.

The dearth of migration data has resulted in programmatic and policy responses to migration that have been shaped by emotions rather than evidence. The issue of data has been raised in the Secretary General's Outcome Document which clearly states that the *basic requirement for culturally appropriate interventions is the availability of data (disaggregated by sex, age, migratory status, and rural/urban origin) on: 1) socio-cultural, health and economic characteristics of migrants; 2) factors that influence decisions to migrate; 3) the impact of migration and migration policies in areas of origin, transit and destination; and 4) the impact of sectoral policies on the decision and modalities of migration..*

ECA has responded by establishing a High Level Panel on Migration(HLPM) that was launched on the 6th of June 2017. The HLPM has the primary role of exploring and gaining a better understanding of the nature of African Migration and assessing the impact on the continental development. The HLPM will work to provide overall guidance and support to policy dialogues on an African perspective on international migration in Africa. The HLPM will seek to encourage the mobilization and effective utilization of political, financial, and intellectual resources of migrants for the development of Africa.

¹ UNDESA Population Division (2015a)

² UNDESA Population Division (2015b)

³ Jonsson, 2009

⁴ ibid

ECA in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the International Organization for Migration are facilitating the consultative process of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) by member states. The HLPM and the GCM are interlinked as they both aim to address the structural drivers of migration and leverage the developmental benefits of migration. The HLPM and GCM are aligned to Target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which commits member states to create an enabling environment that facilitates the contributions of migrants to sustainable development, by facilitating *“orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”*.

Duties and Responsibilities

The advisory group will be an informal one and participation will be on a voluntary basis. The members have been selected based on the expertise on African migration issues. The exchanges between group members will be mainly through electronic discussions and when opportunities arise, they will engage in face to face discussions at platforms organised by ECA.

The advisory group will work with the Director and the technical staff of the Social Development Policy Division to define the ways that ECA should respond to the migration issues, challenges and opportunities on the continent. The advisory group will assist in identifying the gaps that exist in programmatic and policy responses to African migration and recommend the niche focus areas that ECA should focus on and have impact on knowledge generation and policy influence. Consequently, the identified focus areas will guide the advocacy work of the HLPM.

Specifically, the advisory group will:

- a. Assist to define the niche focus areas to guide the HLPM on its role to provide an African narrative on migration.
- b. Contribute in designing and shaping the ECA research agenda as well as planned program of work on migration.
- c. Establish pathways and strategies which the different ECA initiatives on migration can be mutually reinforcing to the work of the HLPM.
- d. Review the interlinkages between the HLPM and GCM and identify the themes from the GCM that the panel should focus on their work.
- e. Review ECA knowledge products on migration so that these are of high quality and conform to publishable standards.
- f. Participate at meetings, conferences and workshops on migration by invitation, organised by ECA or its collaborating partners.
- g. Serve as a resource person at meetings, conferences or workshops on migration organised by ECA or its collaborating partners.

Members of the advisory will agree to serve as informal advisors who will participate on a voluntary basis and their individual capacity, in supporting ECA initiatives on migration. However, where the members are required to travel, the costs and daily allowances in connection with travel to and stay at conference venues will be paid in accordance with UN rules.

MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MIGRATION

United Nations Conference Centre, conference room 3

31 July – 1 August 2017

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Time	Session	Monday, 31 JULY 2017	Presentation/ Facilitation
08:30-09:00		Registration	
09:00-09:10	Opening	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Abdallah Hamdok-Executive Secretary a.i. ECA
09.10-09.20		Remarks	Mr. Florian Koch - Director - African Union Cooperation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
09.20-09.30		Introductions	All
09.30-09.45		Objectives of the Informal Advisory Group and the Meeting	Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo – Director, Social Development Policy Division, ECA
09.45-10.00		Setting the Scene	High Level Panel on Migration
10.00-10.30		Global Compact on Migration	Mr. William Muhwava - Chief, Population and Youth, Social Development Policy Division, ECA
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break		
11.00-11.30	Setting the Scene	Drivers of Migration in Africa	Mr. David Ndegwa (Sub Regional Consultant-Eastern Africa)
11.30-12.00		Human Rights and Governance	Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif – Chief, Political and Human Security, Capacity Development Division, ECA
12.00 -12.30		ECA Research/ knowledge focus to inform the HLPM	Prof. Mohamed Salih - Professor of Politics of Development, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague and Department of Political Science, University of Leiden, Netherlands.
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break		

14:00-16:00	Plenary Session	Discussion on key themes on Africa migration	Facilitated by Prof. Loren Landau - Director of the African Center for Migration and Society (ACMS) Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa & Ms. Ruzvidzo
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break		
16:30-17.30	Plenary Session	Discussion on key themes on Africa migration	Facilitated by Prof. Landau & Ms. Ruzvidzo
Tuesday, 1 August 2017			
09.00-09.30		Recap	
09.30-10.30	Plenary Session	Key Messages for Identified Priority Areas	Facilitated by Prof. Landau & Ms. Ruzvidzo
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30	Plenary Session	Key Messages for Identified Priority Areas	Facilitated by Prof. Landau & Ms. Ruzvidzo
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break		
14.00-14.20	Plenary Session	African Migration from an International Perspective	Prof. Loren Landau
14.20-15.00		Discussion	
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break		
15.30 – 15.45	Plenary Session	Way Forward and Remarks	Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo
15.45 – 16.00	Plenary Session	Remarks	Mr. Florian Koch
15:30-16:00	Closing	Closing Remarks	Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah