



ENHANCING AFRICAN-EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION ON MIGRATION

SEVEN ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Migration is high on the political agenda. Nevertheless, progress on human rights-based policies remains slow.

The 6th African Union-European Union Summit – that had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic – was finally held in February 2022.

While heads of state and government addressed controversial subjects about displacement including border management, return and reintegration, the summit did not adequately speak to the need to expand legal migration routes or counterbalance climate change effects on human mobility.

This past May, the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing brought together UN member states in New York to discuss the Progress Declaration of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The results were disappointing: Since the GCM was adopted in 2018, the living conditions of migrants everywhere have deteriorated. Although the Progress Declaration contains some positive aspects and emphasises health care for migrant workers, gender responsiveness and protection of underage migrants, good practices lacked consistency and regularity.

They were implemented ad-hoc, and related to specific circumstances such as the pandemic. In addition, it had few formats for civil society to meaningfully engage with state actors. The big questions re

main whether states will develop significant benchmarks and measurable indicators for migrant and civil society participation and, also, how they will address the disconnect between their domestic security-driven policies and international commitments under the Global Compact for Migration.

Meanwhile, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) – “a voluntary, informal, non-binding government-led process” to support international debate on migration and development – has begun a new cycle that runs until December 2023. One of its main objectives is bringing together national and regional governments, civil society and private sector actors and young people to brainstorm innovations for policy and practice. Co-chaired by France and Senegal, this particular GFMD offers a framework for studying the challenges and opportunities regarding mobility between Africa and Europe and discussing possible new human- rights-based migration policies. It focuses on six thematic areas: the impact of climate change on human mobility; rights and migration; the role of diasporas; labour migration; migration narratives and multi-level governance.

The inclusive, transparent, organised political cooperation of all civil society sectors is key to improving the situation of migrants worldwide.

In an online networking workshop run by the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO) in June 2022, migration experts and representatives of African and European civil society organisations (CSOs) and networks took stock of recent political processes and developed concrete measures to strengthen their collaboration.

Anticipating work under the GFMD's African-European co-chairmanship, we – representatives of civil society networks and organisations in Africa and Europe – have identified ways to enhance cooperation on migration:

1. Assemble a repository of civil society best practices

We will build up and feed a collection of practices conducted by African and European civil society organisations in order to broaden visibility and enable intensified exchange about ways to collaborate across regions.

2. Facilitate and promote workshops and training programmes

Recognising that developing capacity is an important pillar of our work, we intend to conceptualise, promote and participate in digital and on-site workshops and training programmes for CSOs working on Africa-Europe migration. We will provide information about these events to local organisations on both continents on an ongoing basis.

3. Regularly engage in relevant political processes

We recognise the importance of developing our advocacy using lessons learnt in previous processes, such as the GFMD, the IMRF, AU-EU Summits and the Rabat Process, also known as the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development. Since 2006, the Rabat Process has presented a framework for consulting with different stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination along the migration routes that link Central, West and North Africa to Europe.

To this end, we want to make our advocacy work more effective by identifying common synergies, regularly communicating and discussing our activities and following them up.

4. Increase migrant visibility

Under the maxim “Nothing about us without us”, we plan concrete measures to increase migrant voices in our activities. This includes inviting local African and European CSOs, faith-based organisations, migrant networks and diaspora organisations as panellists and experts. We will also highlight migrant perspectives crosscutting our multimedia activities.

5. Assess migration

We want to actively participate in and circulate interactive surveys on African and European civil society cooperation regarding migration and enhance our work through better data.

6. Develop a collective accountability framework

Sustainable cooperation requires consistency mechanisms. We plan to continue monitoring and meeting regularly to discuss our progress and challenges, and document them to ensure transparency and improve information management.

7. Facilitate access to information

To enhance dialogue, we will facilitate access to information on migration to Africa and Europe. Using our resources, we will, for instance, translate information into more languages and provide simultaneous interpretation at events. Taking the digital divide between our regions into special consideration, we will reach out to local partners and rely on their expertise to spread relevant information.



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