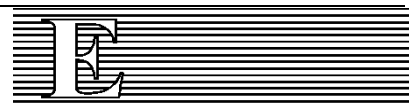




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REPORT OF THE AFRICAN WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION

Abidjan, 28 November – 2 December 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The adoption of the Abuja Treaty in June 1991 in Abuja, Nigeria, marked the firm determination of African leaders to accelerate the process of African integration with a view to fostering the socio-economic development of the continent. In this process of integration, the free movement of people through good management of migration across the continent has been regarded for several years as an important factor.
2. Africa is recognized as one of the most dynamic continents at the demographic level. With a population of more than one billion and a young majority (60%, World Bank 2015), the African continent must imperatively put this workforce at the service of its development.
3. For more than a decade, the African Union Commission (AUC) has committed itself to developing migration orientations by working closely with its member states to address the critical issues of migration. The different policy frameworks and instruments of the African Union (AU) on the issue include recommendations on how to promote the benefits of migration, improve migration management capacity, and increase mobility of people on the continent and to address the challenges of irregular migration.
4. To reaffirm this commitment to good migration management, African Heads of State and Government adopted at the 24th Ordinary Session of the AU Conference in January 2015 the Joint AU / ILO / IOM / ECA on governance of labour migration to foster development and integration in Africa. This programme is developed on the basis of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (Banjul 2006). It declares the strategies of Priority Area 5 of the African Union Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development (Assembly / AU / 20 (XXIV) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ababa in January 2015.
5. The purpose of this report is to present the activities undertaken by the migration working group during 2016. The main activities of the working group are structured around the following main points:
 - The statistical component of the Joint Programme on Labour Migration in Africa
 - Harmonization of statistical data on migration in Africa

II. THE STATISTICAL COMPONENT OF THE JLMP PROGRAMMEME

6. As part of the joint programme, there is a statistical component to present the state of the continent on migration statistics in general and labour migration in particular.

7. Since 2015, a comprehensive data collection has been undertaken on all African countries. The methodology used is structured as follows:

- Design of questionnaires
- Official letter sent to all countries for designation of focal point
- Sending questionnaires to focal bridges
- Return of questionnaires to the Commission of the African Union
- Validation meeting of the data collected
- Recruitment of consultants for the drafting of the report on labour migration statistics
- Validation meeting of the first draft of the report
- Meeting of a group of experts to finalize the report.

8. The three meetings mentioned in the methodology can be explained as follows:

- The first to validate the data collected was from 29 September 2015 to 2 November 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It brought together the focal points designated within the framework of the operation, the Regional Economic Communities and the Independent Experts. Experts and consultants presented the inconsistencies, the lack of data source, the low response rate of the operation. After that, the countries justified all these problems listed and reported difficulties in the collection of migration data. The data were thus validated under the following conditions: a consistency check, a revision of the sources, etc.
- The second meeting, on the validation of the first draft report on statistics on labour migration, was held from 30 May 2016 to 2 June 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. It also brought together focal points, RECs, consultants, Independent Experts and partners of the African Union. The recommendations of the meeting went in the direction of improving the quality of the report on specific points such as context and justification, analyzes of data, etc. A group of Francophone and Anglophone experts was then formed to finalize the report.
- The third meeting was held from 31 July to 1 August 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It brought together Experts from Cameroon, The Gambia, Uganda and South Africa. These experts revised the document by including the remarks and suggestions of the Dakar meeting.

9. This operation made it possible to identify the difficulties faced by the structures in charge of migration statistics. These include the lack of human and financial resources, the unavailability of clear and harmonized definitions and concepts, and the lack of coordination of structures involved in migration.

10. The recommendations resulting to this data collection operation are as follows:

- Harmonize tools, modules, concepts, definitions and classifications on labour migration statistics to promote their standardization and enable comparability of quality data between countries and RECs in Africa. Developed questionnaires, sampling plans and methodological guidelines and published them in all RECs.
- Establish a programme for the regular collection of statistical data on labour migration such as MICS and DHS with the participation of African countries for a given year. This would provide chronological data with particular emphasis on migration stocks and flows, as well as indicators of sustainable development goals (SDGs) broken down by gender, education level, cause, income, etc.
- Support National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in the introduction of labour migration modules in other existing surveys and censuses to support the collection and dissemination of statistics on labour migration artwork.
- Support and encourage the production, storage and use of administrative data to complement other sources of data on labour migration.
- Establish a coordination structure at the national, regional (REC) and continental (AU) levels, respectively, to oversee data collection, analysis, management and dissemination of migration data from a variety of sources. Establish data producing / user committees.
- Establish and strengthen the human, institutional, organizational and ICT capacities of national statistics services (NSIs), as well as other data producers on labour and migration statistics. Institute regular training on the production of harmonized data, tools, modules, concepts, definitions and classifications.
- Engage leaders and other key stakeholders in raising awareness for increased funding and technical assistance on the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on labour migration to all States Members of the AU.
- Set up a database on labour migration in Africa and contribute to international consultations on statistics on labour migration.

11. The next steps for this activity are the publication of the report and the preparation of the second report on statistics on labour migration in Africa.

III. HARMONIZATION OF CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS ON MIGRATION

12. Within the framework of the African Statistical Programme (SAP), there is a component on migration. A prospective study was carried out on the activities of the African Union Commission on migration. The study welcomed the JLMP initiative while emphasizing the harmonization of concepts and definitions.

13. A consultant was hired by the African Union with the support of Eurostat to work on this harmonization of concepts and definitions. This work is ongoing and is supported

by the ILO, IOM. A meeting will be held on December 19, 20, 21 and 22 to finalize this work.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CoDGs MEETING

14. The Working Group on Migration proposes the following recommendations to the meeting of the DGs Committee:

- (i) Requests the Commission of the African Union in collaboration with Eurostat, ECA, AfDB and other partners to finalize the following documents:
 - *Publication of the first report on statistics on labour migration*
 - *Harmonization of tools, modules, concepts, definitions and classifications on labour migration statistics to promote their standardization and enable comparability of quality data between countries and RECs in Africa*

- (ii) Requests the Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with Eurostat, ECA, AfDB and other partners, to initiate the following actions:
 - The second report on migration statistics of the labour force in Africa
 - Training countries on concepts and definitions of migration

- (iii) Requests the African Union Commission in collaboration with the African Association of Central Banks, United Nations Statistics Division, ECA, AfDB and other partners to work on the harmonization of data production of migration.