

3rd Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development

Presentation on the Paris Cooperation Programme by ICMPD/FIIAPP

Statement by Peter Widemann
Director General, International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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Introduction

- Your Excellency, our host, the Honorable Mr Madicke Niang,
- Distinguished Ministers, Your Excellencies, Esteemed Representatives of States and International Organisations, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I would like to start by extending my sincere appreciation to the Senegalese authorities for convening this meeting today, and allowing me to deliver this address. It gives me great pleasure to speak to such a distinguished audience and it is a distinct honour to present to you today, on behalf of the consortium supporting the Rabat Process, a brief outline of the outcomes of the implementation of the Paris Cooperation Programme for the period 2009-2011.
- In January 2010, ICMPD was entrusted, by the Steering Committee of the Rabat Process, to support the dialogue and developments of the Process, in close partnership with our colleagues from FIIAPP. FIIAPP, a Spanish public institution that provides technical assistance in the area of international cooperation for development and democratic governance, has been accompanying the Rabat Process virtually since its inception start in 2006. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is an international organisation whose purpose is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies, and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations.
- From this support project, the Steering Committee of the Rabat Process requested an evaluation of the implementation of the ambitious three-year Cooperation Programme adopted at the Second Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development, held in Paris in 2008. By drawing on lessons learnt, both from past and ongoing actions, the aim of this evaluation was to charter the road ahead and to elaborate recommendations for the identification of the main strategic axes to be followed over the next few years.

Methodology

- The evaluation was based on the information collected by both ICMPD and FIIAPP experts. A first assessment was made in October 2010, then subsequently during the last few months. The stocktaking exercise was mainly based on information collected

through questionnaires, telephone interviews, and face-to-face interviews realised during field missions. On the basis of the evidence collected, the stocktaking exercise resulted in the drafting of an evaluation paper

- A second outcome of the evaluation was the release of a list of non-confidential initiatives implemented by the different partners over the past three years and related to the Rabat Process.
- This list of initiatives has been made publicly available on the website of the Rabat Process and is partitioned per country **and** per pillar (legal migration, irregular migration, and migration and development).
- If you click on a country on the map, let us take Senegal for instance (*demo: clicks on Senegal on the map*), the list of initiatives undertaken by this country, or by other partners in this country in the area of migration, appears. By clicking on an initiative (*demo: clicks on a project*), the reader is redirected to some useful information related to the initiative, such as its budget, the different donors and partners, and a description of the action.
- If the reader is specifically interested in targeting a particular pillar, let us say, for instance, legal migration, then he can have direct access to the various initiatives, in each country, that are related to that particular pillar (*demo: clicks on the initiative on the map*).
- The aim of this very simple tool is, first and foremost, to make information visible. Please bear in mind that this list is the result of a continuous information gathering process. We do not expect it to be exhaustive today, but we would count on your political support and continuous cooperation to maintain it alive and up to date.
- Finally, the stocktaking exercise resulted in a series of recommendations, on the future of the Rabat Process, that were addressed to the Steering Committee and enabled the drafting of the cooperation programme for the coming years; as did the conclusions of the three expert meetings organised during the preparatory phase of this conference.

So what are the Achievements of the Paris Cooperation Programme?

- Let me present you some of the findings of the consortium from this evaluation exercise. To present the full scope of the evaluation would go beyond the limits of my address here today, and I will therefore merely briefly underline some important elements of the evaluation.
- Over the three years covered by the Paris Cooperation Programme (2009-2011), migration has remained high on the agendas of the EU, its Member States and African countries, with coordination mechanisms between North and West African States, and EU Member States, becoming consolidated. Numerous bilateral and multilateral initiatives have been undertaken involving all three pillars of the Rabat Process. The list of implemented and ongoing projects is indeed impressive with more than 150 entries.
- This evaluation demonstrates that the Rabat Process is anchored into a natural and dynamic cooperation between its partner countries, and indeed fosters it. The dialogue has enhanced from often narrowly focused priorities to a mature dialogue that seeks to promote a better use of the potential of migration, mainly in origin and destination countries. This dialogue recognises different viewpoints, but addresses all issues without taboos and is solution-oriented. Innovative tools have been developed that proved their relevance to foster cooperation among partners, such as the network of Immigration Liaison Officers, the “i-MAP”, an interactive platform for migration officials to learn about migration patterns in the partner countries, or the Migration EU Expertise initiative (MIEUX), a short-term technical assistance programme.
- The global crisis and high unemployment rates in several EU countries pose clear challenges in the area of **legal migration** between Africa and Europe. Job opportunities are becoming scarcer and Europe appears less attractive for would-be migrants. However, despite the few opportunities for labour migration, steps forward have been made in EU policy to facilitate access to labour markets for migrant workers and to promote the rights of migrants. New concepts have been put into practice, such as circular migration or mobility partnerships.

- The evaluation recommends to further strengthen the benefits of intra-regional African mobility, considering that these represent by far the largest proportion of all migratory flows from West and Central Africa.
- The fight against **irregular migration** is the area that has attracted most efforts and has therefore also yielded significant results, notably in terms of strengthening many African countries' capacity to ensure adequate border management within their territories.
- i-MAP provides, in this case, an interesting view on the evolution of irregular migration flows and routes over the past years (*demo: i-map presentation on the evolution of migration flows from Africa since 2005*). This projection of the evolution of irregular migration routes in Africa is the best demonstration of the results achieved in this area since the First Euro-African Ministerial Conference on migration and development that took place in Rabat in 2006.
- The issue of unaccompanied minors has also been particularly at the forefront, in addition to the issue of fighting trafficking and smuggling networks. A seminar on civil registry raised awareness on the risks linked to identity fraud, and the need to improve civil registration systems for increasingly secure mobility. The issue of readmission and voluntary return was raised without taboos as part of comprehensive discussions and agreements.
- More and more attention is being paid to the **link between migration and development**, which is reflected by the increasing research commissioned on this issue, and its increasing appropriation by partner countries. Most initiatives from the partners, both in terms of innovation and quantitative analysis, have focused on reducing the cost of remittances and on engaging the diaspora for development. The EU, its Member States and partner organisations have developed programmes to encourage participation from civil society actors and migrant communities, such as the Joint Migration and Development Initiative. Several countries have made significant progress in terms of mainstreaming migration into their national development strategies.

- These initiatives are most welcome and must be further encouraged and promoted. While focusing on these issues, one should not overlook the fact that development is dependent on the creation of more favourable economic environments to attract investments and promote economic growth
- Social protection remains a critical issue for migrants, as has become apparent from the discussions regarding the portability of social rights of migrants covered at the experts' meeting recently held in Rabat. Equally critical are the issues of brain drain and brain waste, for which further action should be undertaken in the near future.

Conclusion

- Distinguished Ministers, Esteemed Representatives of States and International Organisations, Ladies and Gentlemen, those were, in a few words, some highlights of this evaluation, and the efforts undertaken over the past three years, since the Paris ministerial conference.
- ICMPD and FIIAPP remain at your disposal to make this evaluation exercise a continuous process, which will allow you to learn from other practices, and make your contributions to migration and development more relevant and visible.
- When looking at the results of this evaluation, and comparing it with the situation a few years ago, I am in a position to state that the cooperation between Africa and Europe, in the areas of migration management, and migration and development in all its dimensions, has been growing quickly, trust has been built through dialogue and practical cooperation, and, most importantly, actions have proved their relevance.
- Much has been done. Much remains, of course, to be achieved. International mobility is a complex phenomenon, which requires concerted and comprehensive answers. However, this is not a new concept for your own individual countries, but your commitment to the Rabat Process and your presence today speak for themselves.
- Let me conclude with one of the visions of ICMPD: Migration is about people, about those who move, about those who stay, and about those who receive migrants in their societies, and we have to find solutions for all of them. Thank you.