

AFRICAN UNION

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## AFRICAN UNION ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL COUNCIL

### CONCEPT NOTE on

*E-workshop Series on the MIGRATION POLICY FOR AFRICA (MPFA)*

*Theme:*

## **The Migration Policy Framework for Africa: Uncovering the role of Civil Society in Migration Governance.**

*Via Zoom on Thursday 3 June 2021*

*12:00 GMT.*

## **Introduction and Context**

The revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa, MPFA (2018 – 2030) and its Plan of Action provide a comprehensive policy guideline to AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in nine thematic areas, namely: Migration Governance; Labor Migration and Education; Diaspora Engagement; Border Governance; Irregular Migration; Forced Displacement; Internal Migration; Migration and Trade; and other Cross-Cutting issues.

Multiple factors spur migration both within and out of Africa, including poor socio-economic conditions, low wages and high levels of unemployment. In addition, various political and social factors such as poor governance, corruption, political instability, conflict and civil strife lead to migration of both skilled and unskilled labor in Africa. Globalization and information technology is also playing a part in shaping migration trends by opening new frontiers and avenues for movement.

Well-managed migration can bring benefits to both countries of origin and destination. With the adopted Policy Framework, African governments and the RECs have the opportunity to harness and enhance the positive aspects of migration for national and regional development, while simultaneously mitigating its negative impacts. But for this to happen AU member states should take deliberate actions including enacting national migration policies as well as coordination mechanisms that allow all relevant migration stakeholders to discuss migration matters in the same space from different perspectives. It is also critical for countries to put system in place in order to collect migration data. This will help in making informed policy choices.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines migration governance as: “The traditions and institutions by which authority migration, mobility and nationality in a country are exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas. As the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory, and under what conditions within the framework of international law. Other actors

(including citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, NGOs, community organizations, religious organizations and academia) contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.”

It is then clear that the role of CSOs in the migration governance is necessary and crucial beside the responsibilities of the state. Civil society organizations should be an important source of information for both citizens and government on migration issues. They could help in monitoring government policies and actions on the matter and hold them accountable for the implementation of the adopted Policy Framework. But how can they do all that if they lack awareness and knowledge on the Framework and its Plan of action?

The African Union, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) are organizing a series of e-workshops to fill that gap.

### **Aim and Objectives:**

The main aim of the e-workshop series is to facilitate dialogue, learning and action plans towards active awareness raising of the MPFA, its Action Plan and other related policy documents among CSO's in Africa.

### **Objectives:**

- Improve understanding of the MFPA and its Action Plan amongst African CSO's taking part in the migration discussion and the community.
- Unlock opportunities between the AUC and CSO's in order to further strengthen joint cooperation on migration development.
- Discuss emerging challenges encountered in the processes of the implementation of the framework at local/national level in their various countries.
- Provide current trends and new developments from the AUC.
- Provide feedback from the grassroots and community levels for policy making decisions.
- Enhance Diaspora engagement in the continental policy frameworks.

## **Activities**

### **1st Session: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 12PM GMT**

#### ***Theme: Migration overview in Africa, where are we now?***

- The MPFA and its Plan of Action: Speaker: Peter Mudungwe - AUC
- The AU Common Action Plan on the Global Compact on Migration, and its nexus with MPFA: IOM/Geoffrey Wafula - AUC
- Presentation: Challenges and Opportunities for CSO Participation in the MPFA/GCM: AUC/Humanitarian Division
- Feedback, questions and answers from participants, including experience sharing, and policy recommendations

### **2nd Session: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 12PM GMT**

#### ***Theme: AfCFTA & Free Movement of People and Goods in Africa***

- Status of the Free Movement Treaty in Africa: AUC
- Mobility, Displacement and Human Security in Africa: WANEP
- AfCFTA implementation and Free Movement in Africa: AfCFTA/Economic Affairs

### **3rd Session: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 12PM GMT**

#### ***Theme: Migration Governance***

- Partnership State and Non-State Actors: AUC/IOM/ACCORD
- How to bridge the gap between policy level and community level initiatives on migration: A Faith based organization
- The role of the diaspora: CIDO