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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration
on: 19 June 2012

Subject: The Rabat process: the road ahead 2012-2014

Delegations will find attached the text of the Roadmap for the period 2012-2014 agreed by the partners of the Rabat process at the Senior Official Meeting held on 6 June in Madrid.

THE RABAT PROCESS: THE ROAD AHEAD**2012-2014**

The Euro-African Process on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) brings together more than fifty countries of origin, transit and destination, which have a shared vision of a rational, balanced and efficient management of migration flows from and via West and Central Africa. The objective of the Rabat Process is to create a framework for dialogue and consultation within which concrete, practical initiatives, reflecting the political will expressed at Ministerial level, can be implemented. Since its inception at the 2006 Rabat Ministerial Conference, the Rabat Process has made satisfactory progress, not only for the participating States, but also for the other stakeholders. It has achieved tangible progress, not only in terms of a political dialogue, but also with regard to the implementation of specific bilateral, regional and multilateral projects. It has achieved real added value and consequently its utility is widely acknowledged. In this regard, the Rabat Process is intended to be a long-term policy instrument and must therefore be supported in order to ensure its sustainability.

To this end the European Union, which supported the Rabat Process during the period 2010-2012 via a project implemented by the FIIAPP-ICMPD consortium, plans to adopt a support project for the third phase of the Rabat Process for the period 2013-2015.

The Rabat Process is based on seamless, close cooperation between the countries of origin, transit and destination, with regard to both the political dialogue and the development and implementation of specific projects. The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Rabat Process in Dakar (Senegal), on 23 November 2011, emphasises that a Roadmap will make it possible to regularly monitor actions undertaken and to plan future activities. The future of the Rabat Process requires a deepening of the political dialogue, while obtaining concrete results on the ground. That is why the actions proposed by the Dakar Strategy, which are aimed at achieving ten priority objectives, must be promoted, supervised and carried out by the parties concerned.

It is crucial that these actions are also implemented via non-financial initiatives such as legislative or regulatory measures, as well as via technical support and capacity building. It is also indispensable to collect data on migratory movements and to put in place mechanisms for analysing this data, which is crucial for the implementation of policies and measures that support joint and mutually beneficial migration management.

In implementing these initiatives, it is important to ensure consistency and complementarity between the Rabat Process and other regional frameworks on migration between the European Union and the African States (the Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment between the European Union and Africa, as well as the Dialogue between the EU and the ACP countries on the basis of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement). It is vital to promote synergies between the different frameworks in order to avoid any overlap, particularly in the implementation of specific projects, and to ensure that their actions are complementary in their respective geographical and thematic contexts.

The Rabat Process is intergovernmental: its success depends on the active participation of the partner States. Moreover, the Steering Committee's role is crucial in ensuring that regular exchanges and meetings guide the Rabat Process during the period 2013-2015. These exchanges and meetings will be facilitated by the new Support Project.

In this regard, the new Support Project will produce an inventory and collect and disseminate information on the implementation of the various initiatives. It will also provide a support mechanism to ensure that recommendations are translated into practical actions, as well as assistance in collecting and sharing information via the *i-map* platform and support for the development and updating of migration profiles.

The new Support Project will furthermore support partners in ensuring a comprehensive follow-up of the initiatives that they commit to implement, notably, in the following priority areas: support movement of persons in West and Central Africa; support provision of opportunities for work and study in the countries of destination; reinforcement of integration and non-discrimination policies; guarantee refugees respect for their rights, as defined by international conventions, and strengthen local capacity for the determination of refugee status; development of integrated border management policies; reinforcement of national and regional policies to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; continuation of the efforts undertaken in order to establish efficient readmission systems between all partner states in the full compliance with fundamental rights and dignity of migrants; development of return programmes, including voluntary and assisted return, which respect fundamental rights; safeguarding of data management and registers related to civil status; intensification of South-South cooperation in the field of migration and development; encouragement of an inclusive approach to migration in development policies, with a view to implementing appropriate strategies and programmes, including at local level; mobilisation of remittances for productive investment while recognising their private nature; mobilisation of skills and expertise from the diaspora.

After the Meeting of Senior Officials in Madrid, the Steering Committee will decide the calendar for the upcoming meetings with a view to preparing for the 4th Ministerial Conference, which the Ministers from countries engaged in the Rabat Process have decided to hold in 2014.

This Roadmap will be supplemented by a technical document which will set out the main initiatives, including their principal characteristics, their partners, their budget and their calendar.