

APPEAL BY AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO THEIR STATES
"LET US MOVE IN OUR CONTINENT"

This is the heartfelt cry that we, organisations of African civil society, wish to raise at the margins of the week on migration in Marrakech that will witness a gathering of states, international organisations and civil society organisations from 4 to 11 December 2018. After the difficulties which have obstructed the acquisition of visas for Morocco for numerous African civil society organisations wishing to participate in this migration week, we cannot keep silent about the discrimination that Africans continue to suffer affecting their right to mobility in their own continent.

At the same time in which our European, American and Asian colleagues use their visa waivers for Morocco and buy their aeroplane ticket to Marrakesh, us Africans are still in the process of waiting for the Kingdom of Morocco to decide to issue us a visa. At the end of the day, our African delegations have had to pay higher prices for our aeroplane tickets in comparison with delegations from other continents because we have had to buy them at the last minute. At a time when the United Nations call, in their development plan for 2030, "*not to leave anyone behind*", when it comes to adopting the Global Compact on Migration, us Africans continue to suffer security-minded policies to prevent us from moving freely in comparison with citizens from other parts of the world.

We are human beings like everyone else. The same blood flows through our veins. We obviously have the same abilities, resources or intelligence as our brothers and sisters from other continents. Hence, we cannot understand why there is so much discrimination towards us and so many barriers are created against African populations' wish to live in brotherhood in their land. We condemn the African states that continue to play the game of the West against African integration in the name of the fight against illegal immigration. We reject the wish to confine Africans within their countries by strengthening border controls, in the deserts, at sea and in airports. We call upon all civil society organisations which aspire for a right of equality for all upon this earth which are also convinced of the need to put an end to the xenophobic migration policies against Africans to join us by signing this appeal and sending it to their official delegation that is currently present in Marrakesh.

Written in Morocco on 4 December 2018.

Signatory organisations:

L'Observatoire Ouest Africain des Migrations, ATTAC-APASH (**Congo**), Centre for Youth Integrated Development (**Nigeria**), REALIC (**Côte d'Ivoire**), Collectif des Communautés Subsahariennes au Maroc (**Maroc**), Confédération des Organisations Syndicales Indépendantes du Bénin (**Bénin**), Département de Sociologie de l'Université de Bamako (**Mali**), Moroccan Association of South Africa (**Afrique du Sud**), Alternative Espace Citoyen (**Niger**), Welcome Back Cameroon (**Cameroun**), Union Démocratique des Travailleurs du Sénégal (**Sénégal**), ONG SIFOS (**Gabon**), Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho (**Lesotho**), Confédération des Syndicats Autonomes du Bénin (**Bénin**), ALERT Migration – Afrique (**Burkina Faso**), The National Association of Women's Organizations in Uganda (**Ouganda**), Network of CSOs Against Child Trafficking Abuse and Labor (**Nigeria**), Botswana Labour Migrants Association (**Botswana**), Réseau Mondial Guinée Nouvelle (**Guinée**), Organisation des Migrants de Nouadhibou (**Mauritanie**), Confédération Général des Travailleurs du Bénin (**Bénin**),

Network of Ex Asylum Seekers (**Sierra Leone**), Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal (**Sénégal**), Ecowas Citizens Union of Liberia (**Liberia**), Centrale des Syndicats du Privé et de l'Informel du Bénin (**Bénin**), Union of Arab Community of South Africa (**Afrique du Sud**), Centrale des Syndicats Unis du Bénin (**Bénin**), Union Nationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs du Bénin (**Bénin**), Centre Nigérien des Droits de l'Homme pour la Paix et le Développement (**Niger**), Visions Solidaires (**Togo**), Association de Recherche de Solutions et d'Informations pour les Migrations (**Burkina Faso**), Action Internationale pour la Promotion du Développement (**Togo**), Institut Africain pour le Développement de la Famille (**Bénin**), Droit de l'Homme et Développement (**Cameroun**), AVOSAH ONG (**Bénin**), Children and Young People Living for Peace (**Nigeria**), Initiatives Panafricaines de Développement (**Bénin**), ONG LTHP (**Niger**), Initiatives en Coopération Décentralisée et Développement (**Bénin**), Concertation Nationale de la Société Civile (**Togo**), CARDIOP ONG (**Bénin**), ONG Human Help (**Mali**), Association de Lutte contre l'Exploitation des Employés de Maison (**Bénin**), Jeunesse Active pour l'Intégration et l'Education (**Bénin**), La Diaspora Béninoise au Togo (**Togo**), Réseau Panafricain des Journalistes pour la Supervision des Elections (**Togo**), EDI – ONG (**Bénin**), Nouvelles Alternatives pour le Développement Durable en Afrique (**Togo**)

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