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**Meeting of the High Level Panel on Migration**  
Geneva, 28-29 May 2018

**Concept note**

## **I: BACKGROUND**

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In 2016, the Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from April 4-5), mandated the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to establish a High Level Panel on Migration (HLPM) in Africa to provide overall guidance and support to policy dialogues on international migration in Africa from an African perspective. In lieu of this mandate, the HLPM was constituted and launched in Monrovia, Liberia, on 6 June 2017, by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who is its Chair.

The Panel is composed of sixteen eminent persons including representatives of government, the private sector, academia and civil society. The panel members are notably selected on their individual capacity and institutional relevance to resolve issues emerging from the migration trend in Africa. Each panel member is represented by a technical committee member who is responsible for the day-to-day responsibilities of the HLPM. The panel is expected to meet at least three times over the course of the life of the HLPM. While the first meeting of the HLPM was held on 15 January 2018, the second meeting, hosted by IOM, will convene on 28-29 May 2018 in Geneva. The panel will meet again in October 2018 to assess progress and will subsequently organize a side event in Morocco at the launch of the Global Compact for Migration. It is anticipated that the main report of the Panel will be submitted at the AU heads of state summit in January 2019; once endorsed by relevant AU decision making bodies including the Executive Council.

## **II: CONTEXT**

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The main mandate of the Panel is to provide overall policy guidance and support to policy dialogues on international migration in Africa. As such, the panel seeks to identify critical migration and human mobility issues affecting the continent and further present them to the continent's critical policy organs and stakeholders; with the view of developing sustainable solutions and interventions. Within this frame of reference, the panel shall propose, recommend, and engage the efforts of strategic stakeholders and partners concerned with inter, intra, and international migration in Africa.

The Panel therefore is mandated to:

- Support the collaboration and cooperation among African Member States, regional economic communities (RECs), and international development partners to promote migrants' rights and facilitate their movement, and reduce vulnerability of migrants, especially women;
- Support the production of migration-related knowledge for the conception of evidence-based migration policies and interventions;
- Support the engagement of the policy implication of the state of knowledge in determining the nature and patterns of inter, intra, and international migration streams in Africa;
- Assess the impact of irregular migration, in particular in transit countries, and the impact on border communities;

- Assess skilled migration both for countries of origin and of destination and the long-term implications of remittance flows for development;
- Sensitize policy makers to integrate migration into national plans and strategies; and
- Propose and advocate for policy makers to integrate migration into national plans and strategies policies and mobilize support for practices that promote international migration for the development of Africa.

The activities of the HLPM will necessitate resource mobilization, notably in advocacy and mobilization of migration policy support and the production of knowledge products on African migration, and support for the secretariat.

### **III: OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

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The main objectives of the Geneva meeting of the High Level Panel on Migration are to:

- Discuss drivers and patterns of international migration within, from and to Africa and highlight the socio-economic impacts of migration in Africa;
- Identify best practices in migration interventions and management that have yielded positive outcomes and project them for replication in other member states or regions;
- Discuss and give guidance to key migration political, legal and policy frameworks and programs pertaining to migration, to generate and highlight opportunities for the HLPM on addressing migration in Africa, including in the context of the Global Compact on Migration, Migration Policy Framework for Africa, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063;
- Discuss how the work of the HLPM will contribute and provide guidance to the current international and continental discourses and interventions on migration; and
- Identify and discuss areas of interest to be included in the final HLPM report.

### **IV: FORMAT OF THE MEETING**

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- The meeting will comprise interactive plenary presentations and discussions. The presentations and discussions will focus on providing inputs to enrich the final report.
- An inception report, which provide details on the issues and themes to be included, has been prepared and thus will guide the discussions. During the plenary discussions, panel members will provide inputs, for example, data, case studies and information which will feed into the report of the HLPM.
- The panel is expected to come up with actionable recommendations on continental and global processes on international migration.

## **V: EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

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The meeting is expected to provide inputs and comments to facilitate the finalization of the HLPM report and other related knowledge products. It is anticipated that a summary of the meeting's proceedings and recommendations will largely inform a part of the HLPM Report that will be used to provide evidence and policy prescriptions to the current and future migration and human mobility policy and operational interventions.

## **VI: EXPECTED MEETING OUTCOMES**

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It is expected that the work of the HLPM will support the ongoing migration and human mobility policy agenda in the continent. The meeting deliberations report will form a basis of forging a common understanding of important migration and human mobility agenda in the continent by all relevant actors. The meeting will also identify potential areas of collaboration among different actors and build a common advocacy message for the continent.

## **VI: PARTICIPATION**

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The meeting is expected to bring together all panel members of the Panel. The Technical Committee will provide a technical backstopping to the Panel during the meeting and will be supported by the Secretariat. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa will provide the overall technical and secretariat backstopping as directed by the 2016 Joint Ministerial Meeting. In addition, IOM, and ILO will be represented at the meeting.

## **II: DATES AND VENUE**

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The High Level Panel on Migration meeting will be held at IOM HQ in Geneva on 28 and 29 May 2018.

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