Governance of Migration in Africa

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Topics for Discussion

- Defining Migration Governance
- African migration Governance
- Cooperation on migration
  - Inter-Africa cooperation on migration
  - Intra-Africa cooperation on migration
- Questions for discussion
Defining Migration Governance

- The term “Migration Governance” is defined as “System of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms, and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants” (IOM 2011).
- The term is used almost synonymously with the term “migration management.”
- Migration governance includes national policies and laws, bilateral and regional cooperation as well as international cooperation.
Analyses of African migration governance often ignore the role of African governments through their focus on the actions of European and other ‘destination’ countries to manage African migration.

The European impact on African migration governance can’t be ignored or denied.

Yet, African experiences in governing migration should be highlighted.
Inter-Africa cooperation on migration

- When talking about inter-African cooperation on migration we are talking mainly about Euro-African cooperation on migration.
- Euro-African cooperation on migration started in the 1990s in order for Europe to seek collaboration from African countries to prevent the exit and transit of prospective migrants and asylum seekers.
- Three important processes can be highlighted in order to show how Europe influences African migration governance:
Inter-Africa cooperation on migration

- The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development, known as the **Rabat Process**, was established in 2006.
- It seeks to create a framework for dialogue and consultation in order to address the challenges raised by the **West African migration route**.
- The Rabat Process brings together about 60 European and African countries from North, West and Central Africa, as well as the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
Inter-Africa cooperation on migration

- Through the Rabat Process, parties aim at strengthening their migration dialogue with both the European Union and African states.

- The Rabat Process is based on three pillars:
  1. Organizing legal migration,
  2. Combating irregular migration, and
  3. Strengthening the synergies between migration and development.
Inter-Africa cooperation on migration

- The EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative, known as the *Khartoum Process*, is another initiative that aims at establishing a continuous dialogue for enhanced cooperation on migration and mobility.

- In order to identify and implement concrete projects to address *trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants* and also to strengthen the regional collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination targeting the route between the Horn of Africa and the European Union.
Inter-Africa cooperation on migration

- The Khartoum Process was established in 2014.
- It brings together 39 European and African countries.
- The *EU Trust Fund for Africa* is another initiative by the European Union.
- It was established at the Valletta Summit on 12 November 2015 to address the migration crises in the region of Sahel/Lake Chad, Horn of Africa and North Africa encompassing a total of 23 countries.
Intra-Africa cooperation on migration

- The intra-African cooperation on migration is, in many cases, masked by the propaganda linked to the media coverage for Mediterranean boat migration.

- Many Initiatives and processes can be highlighted regarding Intra-African cooperation on migration:
Intra-Africa cooperation on migration

- The African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa
- Regional consultative processes on migration
  - Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs (North Africa states, Djibouti, and Comoros)
  - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) RCP (IGAD RCP)
  - Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM) [formerly COMESA RCP]
  - Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)
Intra-Africa cooperation on migration

- The ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment which was approved by the ECOWAS heads of state in May 1979.
- Bilateral/multilateral agreements.
Intra-Africa cooperation on migration

- To sum up,
- African states have a solid base to build on in order to harmonize their migration governance and to have more control on their own human resources.
Questions for discussion

What can be done by Africa states in order to manage/govern migration better in terms of:

- National institutions relating migration,
- Cooperation: bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and global cooperation, and
- Any other concrete recommendations.

Thank you …
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