



EURO-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

RABAT DECLARATION

(Original in French)

We, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers responsible of Migration and Development and other representatives from partner countries: Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cap Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Guinea Equatorial, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom and the European Commission ;

Gathered, following the Kingdom of Morocco's invitation, on July 10th and 11th 2006 in Rabat, in the framework of the Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development ;

Thanked the Kingdom of Morocco, as host country, for the excellent organisation of the Conference and for its hospitality, as well as for its active participation and joint initiative with Spain and France ;

Expressed their consideration to the Republic of Senegal for its active commitment, in particular for the excellent organisation of preparatory meetings in Dakar ;

Thanked all the countries which have contributed to the draft of the Action and of the Final Declaration ;

Thanked as well the regional and international organisations present during the Conference ;

Aware that the destinies of our countries are linked and that only the development of an effective, rapid and tangible solidarity embodying both the imperatives of sustainable development and security for all will be able to offer a lasting answer to the management of migratory flows ;

Convinced that international migration has a positive effect on the host country and on the country of origin when such flows are well managed ;

Conscious that the management of migratory flows cannot be achieved through control measures only, but also require a concerted action on the root causes of migration, in particular through the implementation of development projects in Africa ;

Affirming that effective action must be taken against illegal migration, smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, in the framework of a viable and united partnership, whilst respecting the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants ;

Aware of the need to provide adequate international protection in accordance with the international obligations of the partner countries ;

Aware that it is necessary to make better use of the potential of migration as a factor for the development, modernisation and innovation of the societies of origin, transit and the host societies ;

Convinced that migratory flows are fed by powerful structural factors operating in the societies of origin, transit and the host societies, and that they have predominantly economic and social causes ;

Concerned by the phenomenon of brain-drain which holds back the development of countries of origin by depriving them of quality skills, leadership and experienced workers ;

Reaffirming that the management of these flows requires a coherent response that addresses, in a comprehensive and balanced way, the different aspects and various phases of the migratory process as a whole, in the context of an approach involving countries of origin, transit and destination ;

We Commit to creating and developing a close partnership between our respective countries so as to work together, following a comprehensive, balanced, pragmatic and operational approach, and respecting the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, as regards the phenomenon of migratory routes that affect our peoples.

a. This partnership between the countries of origin, transit and destination aims to offer a concrete and appropriate response to the fundamental issue of controlling migratory flows and is based on the strong conviction that the management of migration between Africa and Europe must be carried out within the context of a partnership to combat poverty and promote sustainable development and co-development.

b. In order to strengthen an environment favorable to development, it is necessary to promote good governance, people-to-people exchange, trade and to promote peace and stability and the coherence of international policies.

c. The partnership instituted by this Declaration sets out to manage the migratory flows between countries of origin, transit and destination, in an optimum fashion and in a spirit of shared responsibility.

d. In addition to structural development issues, this partnership will also address the migratory phenomenon from all points of view deemed relevant by the partner countries, such as:

- making better use of the potential of legal migration and its beneficial effects on the development of countries of origin and host countries,
- enhancing the capacity of countries of origin and transit and destination to manage migratory flows in their entirety,
- developing awareness campaigns,
- facilitating the movement of workers and people,
- implementing an active policy of integration for legal migrants and combating exclusion, xenophobia and racism,
- controlling borders, and
- fighting against illegal migration, including readmission of illegal migrants, and trafficking in human beings.

e. This partnership will be pragmatic and operational, as demonstrated by the concrete translation of all these elements into an Action Plan which has been agreed by all the participants and is annexed to this Declaration.

We commit, fully aware of our responsibilities for "*Cooperation in terms of Development*" and "*Cooperation in managing migratory flows,*" having regard to the urgency of the situation, to start integrating measures consistent with the Action Plan in our policies and actions in these areas, whilst preserving its comprehensive and balanced nature.

With this in view and in regard to the follow-up, we charge our Senior Officials with making an initial assessment of the implementation of the Action and proposing a date for a second Ministerial Conference, in two years time at the latest.

We commit to encourage and deepen the political and operational dialogue between the European Union and Africa on migration and development by:

a. deepening the political dialogue on a continental scale and the holding of a Europe-Africa Ministerial Conference on "Migration and Development", on the model of the Cairo Summit held on the 3 and 4 April 2000. In this respect, we welcome the offer from Libya to host this Conference in Tripoli before the end of 2006, as a contribution towards a Joint Strategy and to the II EU-Africa Summit, to be held in Lisbon as soon as possible ;

b. bearing in mind the interrelationship between many migratory routes, encourage the relevant countries and organisations in Africa and Europe to adhere to the concepts of the Rabat Conference ;

c. intensifying bilateral dialogue on migratory questions between the different countries of origin and transit with the European Union and its Member States, including in the framework of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement ;

Invite regional and international organisations, as they have an important role to play in the follow up and implementation of the Action Plan, to contribute and to support the participating States in setting in place and implementing the Action Plan, especially its development dimension.

We will present, in the framework of the United Nations High Level Dialogue, the approach, conclusions and Action Plan of this Conference as a pragmatic and operational contribution to the process of addressing together the regulation of migration flows.

Adopted in Rabat, 11 July 2006.