



Third African parliamentary conference on migration

Niamey, 4 and 5 september 2018

Promoting safe, orderly and regular migration : which role for the Parliament especially in the implementation of the related Global compact

organized by the African Parliamentary Union (APU), in collaboration with the Interparliamentary Union and the support of the National Assembly of Niger

CONCEPT NOTE

Context

Very early, the African parliamentary Union (APU) was concerned by the issue of migration and by the important challenges which it presents. The forums the APU initiated for that purpose meet all the same prospect, that to bring a parliamentary dimension to the efforts exerted for an effective management of this issue.

THE APU so organized two Conferences on migration:

- *Africa and Migration: challenges, problems and solutions (Rabat , 2008)*
- *The contribution of African migrants to the development of the country of origin and destination (Djibouti, 2016)*

In October 2015, the IPU, at its 133rd Assembly, adopted an important statement on the imperative commitment of parliaments to fairer, more sound and human migration, which led to a series of actions that the IPU has since undertaken for greater involvement of parliaments in the management of migration.

However, during these last years, the migration invariably remained in the current events following vast migratory flows of people (with often human tragedies) looking for secure places or better living conditions. In its current form, migration makes challenges more complex, generates new ones particularly regarding safety, and integrates very often unexpected development opportunities.

Estimated at more than 258 million people in the world, the extensive migratory movements so raised questions on the adequacy of the national and international systems of management of migration and refugees.

In a concrete way, migration such as it appears needs new dynamics including the conception of a better governance inspiring a national policy in an international dimension of migration, the implementation of an international dialogue and the integration of migration in the development planning.

It is as well important to note that all the regions of the world, including the African continent, is the object of bilateral or regional conventions among States centered on an adequate governance of migration. However, parliamentarians are very often on the sidelines of the follow-up and the evaluation of the implementation of these conventions both at the national and interparliamentary level.

With the prospect of the consideration of migration in its new conception, initiatives were undertaken which must result in the adoption of the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in december 2018. The process of implementation of the Global compact, structured in three phases (consultations, assessment of the consultations and negotiations among States), began in 2017 with the organization of the informal thematic sessions. The IPU contributed to the work of the Global Compact through the mobilization of parliamentarians in the thematic sessions, the organization of the parliamentary hearing in New York (February 2018), debates and actions at the 2018 Assemblies of the IPU.

This process was all year round 2017 led in a open and inclusive way. Indeed, the actors managing this process, the Mexican and Swiss co-facilitators, the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the international migrations as well as the international Organizations invited to support at the technical and political level this process like the International Organization for Migration, emphasized the participation of all the stakeholders in the process of adoption of the global compact.

The global compact for migrations, following the New York Declaration, does not aim at questioning the existing conventions but rather intends to rely on the usual international law. In this perspective, once adopted, the global compact could contribute to a better application of the existing standards, the consideration of all the aspects bound to migration - according to a 360 degrees vision - and the opportunity to pursue dialogue among States for a safe, orderly and regular migration. The role of all the stakeholders, especially MPs , in the implementation of the global compact remains extremely important given the efforts of their implication in its process of adoption.

The previous phases (consultations and assessment) allowed the Mexican and Swiss co-facilitators to publish the zero draft of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migrations on February 5th, 2018. Although the Compact is not called to be a binding legal instrument, member states seem to direct their efforts to the adoption of a solid mechanism of follow-up and examination. Further to five cycles of negotiation, a revised version is in the course of circulation. Ultimately, the intergovernmental negotiations will come to an end in July, 2018 so that the Compact be submitted to adoption by United nations member states during a Conference planned in December, 2018 in Marrakech.

Committed to contribute to a better management of migration and in the continuity of the actions it led, the African Parliamentary Union, with the support of the interparliamentary Union, will organize an African parliamentary conference on this issue and its contribution to the adoption and gthe implementation for a safe , orderly and regular migration.

Objectives

- Develop the understanding of MPs on the large-scale political issue connected to the governance of migration with regard to the global process to envisage possibilities of a parliamentary action on points of disagreement;
- Inform the African MPs of the progress of negotiations of the global compact on migrations;
- Identify the possibilities of an approach based on all the Government and on all the society for an optimal implication of MPs , while taking into account assets of interparliamentary cooperation in the implementation, the follow-up and the examination of Global compact for migration;
- Agree on the role of the Law in the coherent implementation of the compact and on the vision of the African Union regarding promotion mobility of the people on the African continent by taking into account the protection of the human rights of migrants;
- Analyze the links existing in the current document of the Global compact with regard to the interactions between the migration and development as a major axis of the participation of MPs in the governance of migration.

Expected results

- Members of Parliament more informed in the contribution to the elaboration of the governance of the migration.
- A definition of the axes of parliamentary intervention in the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration
- The contribution of the African members of Parliament to the improvement and to the promotion of a mobility respectful of migrants' human rights , in favor of migrants and societies on the continent according to the vision of the African Union.

Participants

The parliamentarians who are members and non members of the African Parliamentary Union (APU), representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), representatives of the Pan-African Parliament and parliamentary institutions, representatives of international organizations and international experts, including leaders in migration research.

Delegations are encouraged to aim towards the gender parity in the composition of their delegation.

Place and date

Niamey (Niger), from 4 to 5 september 2018 .

Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, french and English.
The documents of the conference will be distributed in French and English.