
**Joint Report of the 5th Meeting of the Nigeria-EU Dialogue
on Migration and Development,
Abuja, 27 January 2012**

The fifth meeting on Migration and Development was held between the EU and the Nigerian Government on 27 January, 2012. This meeting followed four previous dialogues, held in April 2008, June 2009, December 2009, and October 2010. The results of these meetings fed into the Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward and development cooperation activities. The results of this fifth meeting will revert into the next Nigeria-EU Ministerial meeting.

The Migration and Development dialogue is based on Articles 8 and 13 of the Cotonou Agreement and the Nigeria EU Joint Way Forward, adopted in Prague June 2009. It also builds on the First Action Plan of the Africa EU Strategy, the "Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment", as well as on the ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration, the Migration Ministerial Conferences held in Rabat and Tripoli, and the Euro African conferences held in Madrid, Paris and Dakar. The dedicated migration dialogue also builds on the Terms of Reference for an enhanced Nigeria-EU Dialogue as agreed in December 2009.

The EU delegation was led by HE Ambassador David MacRae of the European Union Delegation and further represented by HE Mr Alvaro Castillo, Ambassador of Spain and representatives from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Nigerian delegation was led by HE Ambassador Akin Fayomi, Under Secretary (Regions and International Organisations), and included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Productivity and the National Planning Commission (NPC). The National Commission for Refugees (NCFR), the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the National Agency for the Prohibition of the Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), were also represented. The list of participants is attached in Annexe I.

As with previous dialogues, the objective of the meeting was to exchange information and identify shared interests and practical measures of cooperation, in order to strengthen relations between Nigeria and the EU on migration, to build trust and commitment, and to develop the potentials of migration for development.

The dialogue covered the global and holistic approach to migration, including the following issues: migration and development; preventing and reducing irregular migration; and organising and facilitating regular migration and mobility. The agenda for the meeting is attached in Annexe II.

The parties confirmed their views that migration and mobility, when properly managed, can contribute to development. Nigeria and the EU congratulated each other on the progress made on both sides since the last-held dialogue. The EU informed the participants of its new Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, based on common interests and challenges as identified through cooperation with non EU countries and aiming at consolidating and launching more strategic relations with partners. The EU also informed Nigeria of the ongoing implementation of an important EU project on migration management in Nigeria. The national project of 20 million Euros (about N.4.2 billion) is funded under the 10th European Development

Fund. Nigeria welcomed the EU support project to promote better migration management in the country and in the region and noted that this was in response to needs expressed at previous Migration & Development meetings.

The parties agreed that remittances are important factors for development and promoted cheaper, more transparent, more competitive and more reliable transfers. Nigeria presented the remittance profile of Nigeria with US\$19,1 billion in remittances entering the country through formal channels in 2010. This makes Nigeria the largest receiver of remittances in the region. Other figures from the Central Bank of Nigeria show the response of the Diaspora with transfer figures increasing after a decrease in 2009 (US\$ 14,4 billion in 2005, US\$16,8 billion in 2006, US\$17,9 billion in 2007, US\$19,2 billion in 2008, US\$18,4 billion in 2009).

The EU reiterated its readiness to work closely with the Government of Nigeria to enhance the development impact of transfers of remittances to Nigeria, and encouraged Nigeria to define policies which facilitate linking the migrant communities to their countries of origin. In this respect, the EU informed Nigeria of the latest steps taken with regard to the set up of the African Remittances Institute Project, financed by the EU and located in Brussels. This project is a contribution to making remittances a more efficient and responsive tool for development and is included as one of the actions in the draft EU-AU Action Plan on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) for 2011-2013.

The EU, drawing from its experience, stressed the important role Nigerian nationals with residence in third countries can play in the development of Nigeria. The EU requested further information about the Government's recent initiatives taken in order to involve the Diaspora in policy developments. The EU also drew attention to the Diaspora of EU citizens residing in Nigeria, and the link between Diaspora and the treatment of migrants.

The EU also informed on the developments of the EU's close collaboration with the African Union to implement the "Diaspora Outreach Initiative" (initiative 4 of the draft MME 2011-2013) with the objective to engage the Diaspora in the development of Africa and to build capacity and transfer skills, knowledge and technologies from the Diaspora to the African continent.

Nigeria informed the EU of recent policy development and initiatives taken in order to involve the Diaspora in the Government's transformation agenda and the economic development vision 20:2020. Nigeria explained that the new Ministry of Trade and Investment is making the necessary efforts to engage Diaspora to invest in the Transformation Agenda and more particularly in sectors such as agribusiness, health, transport, power, energy and ICT. The Ministry of Trade and Investment expects to attract 15 trillion Naira for investment in those critical sectors of the transformation agenda and has targeted the Diaspora fund to achieve this. The Ministry of Trade and Investment has met Diaspora organisations in different capitals in Europe and the US. Diaspora is well organised, and has formed NIDEN as part of these efforts to attract investment to the country.

Nigeria informed the EU of the work done by the House Committee on Diaspora Affairs on pushing ahead for the adoption of the Bill for the Establishment of a

~~Diaspora Commission. The chair of the Diaspora Committee was the only parliamentary representative at the last Global forum on Migration and Development. These initiatives reflect the importance Nigeria and the NASS attach to the Diaspora.~~

With respect to **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**, Nigeria explained that there is an estimate of 1.2 million IDPs in the country. The NCFR gave a briefing on the different geographical corridors of IDPs and explained the different reasons for re-settlement (communal and ethnic tensions, floods and pressure on resources such as a scarcity of drinkable water). The parties agreed on the importance of supporting these vulnerable groups of people, particularly following episodes of violence.

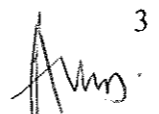
The EU congratulated Nigerian authorities, law enforcement agencies and institutions, in particular NAPTIP and NIS for their efforts and active stand in preventing and combating **human trafficking**. Nigeria and the EU share a broad approach to tackling trafficking in persons by means of prevention, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims. Nigeria and the EU shared concern of worrying trends of human trafficking in the West African region and recognised the importance to cooperate closely in Nigeria and at a regional level. NIS invited the EU to look at possibilities to further join forces with NAPTIP in this regard, and offered to partner the EU in joint operations on trafficking in persons, considering the country's experience in the area. Nigeria recognized its interest to criminalise the smuggling of migrants.

NAPTIP presented the latest development on its working plan and informed the EU of the work of its seven zonal offices across the country, especially with regards to victim rehabilitation and shelter. The EU encouraged the different agencies and ministries to reinforce the coordination and cooperation within Nigeria as well as with partners to tackle this human rights problem, also in close cooperation with ECOWAS.

The parties also agreed on the importance of tackling the issue of illicit origin of remittances.

Nigeria welcomed the 4.6 Million € support under the 10th EDF, allocated to finance activities to improve the legal framework, capacity building, data sharing and support to the implementation of the national plan against trafficking. Spain informed the meeting of its support to contain human trafficking and irregular migration more globally in Nigeria, through a sensitization programme (dissemination of a "passport to safe migration" booklet) under a 10 Million € Migration programme with ECOWAS. Nigeria welcomed specific support from EU Member States in this area.

The EU informed Nigeria that the fight against Human Trafficking is high on the EU political agenda, and builds notably on the strategy of "The Stockholm Programme – An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens" for 2010-2014. The EU updated Nigeria on the newly adopted "European Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims", to be implemented by Member States by April 2013. The Directive establishes tougher rules for action against criminals involved in trafficking in human beings, combined with better assistance for victims. The European Commission has also appointed an EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and launched a website dedicated to the Fight against

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~~Trafficking in Human Beings where information on EU legislation and policy, EU Member States and EU activities in third countries, as well as information from international organisations and stakeholders is shared. The EU remains committed to support activities linked to preventing human trafficking in Nigeria, in the region and on the continent.~~

The parties agreed that effective actions against irregular migration are essential. They recognised that the main challenges remain the porous land borders, fraudulent documents, and intelligence gathering. The parties recognised that the EU and Nigeria are developing a good cooperation on issues of preventing irregular migration, combating those who organise irregular migration, and fostering the return and readmission of irregular migrants under dignified conditions respectful of their rights. In this respect, Nigeria and the EU congratulated themselves on the recent signing of a working agreement between the NIS and FRONTEX. This agreement will strengthen cooperation in four areas: risk analysis; research and development; training and equipment; and joint operation activities. This is the first agreement of this kind to be signed with an African country.

The EU also encouraged Nigeria to make an appropriate link between migration, border control and security, particularly in light of increased insecurity in Northern Nigerian and the Sahel. In this respect, the EU encouraged Nigeria to ensure strong coordination between the different Ministries and agencies involved to obtain maximised impact. The parties also recognised the need for Nigeria to cooperate with its ECOWAS neighbours to protect the external borders while respecting the free movement of persons within the region. Nigeria informed the EU on preventive measures taken to protect vulnerable areas and reduce the threat.

Nigeria pointed out a recent border assessment financed by the EU and conducted by NL, UK and Switzerland. Nigeria welcomed the philosophy of the EU Employer sanctions Directive, targeting employers who employ irregular migrants. The Directive seeks to make employing irregular migrants more difficult, while including protection measures in favour of workers, particularly those exploited by unscrupulous employers.

On the management of fraudulent documents, Nigeria explained that the new biometric E-passports constitute an improvement as they are less vulnerable to fraud. However, they encouraged the EU to continue checking the validity of passports and cooperating with the Nigerian authorities in this regard.

On Migration Policies, Nigeria informed the meeting on the progress made with regards to the Draft National Policy on Migration and on the Draft Labour Migration Policy, both currently with the Federal Executive Council for adoption.

The EU welcomed the contribution of these policies to the implementation of Vision 20:2020 and called for their swift adoption in full coherence with the ECOWAS common approach. Nigeria stressed the importance of South South labour mobility and its commitments within ECOWAS in this respect. The EU also encouraged Nigeria to ratify, domesticate and implement international treaties and core labour rights conventions and to move ahead the EPA negotiations that could include commitments on services.

The EU migration project under the 10th EDF provides support to strengthen the legal framework and support the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity to improve its capacity to manage labour migration.

The EU informed Nigeria on the five EU regulations (Directives) in the field of legal migration, with a focus on: 1. on the statuses of third-country nationals who are long term residents. 2. on the conditions of admission of third country nationals for the purposes of studies, training or voluntary services; 3. on a specific procedure for admitting third country nationals for the purposes of scientific research. 4; on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the highly qualified employment and 5. on the right to family reunification. Nigeria was also informed of new regulations currently being discussed, promoting mobility and concerning a single permit, seasonal workers, and intra corporate transferees.

Concerning **data collection**, the Parties recognised the importance of collection of data and evidence for developing migration related policies. The NPC, on behalf of the National Population Commission (NPopC), outlined the progress made in harmonising data collection templates throughout the country. Nigeria requested EU support in promoting regular updates, in the analysis of data of its migration surveys and capacity building of the MDAs for a coordinated strategy on data sharing.

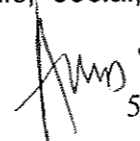
The EU informed Nigeria that the 10th EDF Migration and Development Programme include assistance in the area of data collection, in response to the request from Nigeria. An ongoing Intra-ACP Facility on Migration of 25 Million € complements these efforts, as a key component of the project is the creation of an Observatory for Migration which is an institution designed to produce data on South-South migration.

Nigeria sensitised the EU and its Member States on the importance of respecting the **human rights of migrants**, including irregular ones, stressing the importance of completing return operations in full respect of human rights. Nigeria also indicated that it opposes criminalisation of migrants and supports voluntary return policies, indicating that there is room for improvement and for sharing best practices.

The EU stressed it is promoting policies and measures to achieve efficient management of migratory flows, in full respect of the fundamental human rights of the migrants. This principle applies both to migrants living in Europe, and the treatment of persons returned to the country of origin. The Treaty of Lisbon has reinforced the EU commitment towards Human Rights, through the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights which applies to all citizens living in the EU. The Global approach on Migration and Mobility also emphasizes the EU commitment in this respect.

The EU informed Nigeria that the EU remains open to legal migration flows, which are necessary for economic, social and cultural development both in Europe and Africa. In this regard, the successful **integration** of regular migrants remains a top priority. The Parties agreed that successful integration of migrants into society in the host country is key to maximising opportunities of legal migration.

In July 2011, the European commission proposed a European agenda for the integration of non-EU migrants, focusing on action to increase economic, social,



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cultural and political participation by migrants and putting the emphasis on local action. It also explores the role of countries of origin in the integration process.

The EU reiterated that the implementation of integration policies remains a competency of EU Member States. However, a European network of national contact points on integration allows for exchanges of information and experience between EU Member States, such as the European Integration Forum, the European web site on Integration and the European Integration Fund are some of the tools to enhance EU action in this area.

On Visas, Nigeria had previously appealed for human-friendly and less cumbersome visa procedures and process. The EU fully recognises the importance that this Administration attaches to visa procedures. In this regard, the Parties recalled the **ad-hoc informative meeting on Visa Procedures**, held in October 2011. The meeting was attended by Consuls and Visa Officers of Schengen-area countries and representatives of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerian Immigration Service. Parties agreed that the meeting created a good opportunity for both sides to clear some ambiguities, misunderstandings and lack of information. Specific procedures, fees, basic and supporting documents, timing issues were clarified. The meeting was viewed as the forum to address pertinent visa issues by all the attendees who agreed to hold such a meeting at least once a year to evaluate progress of the current cooperation in this regard.

Nigeria informed the EU on recent visa liberalisation policy developments to facilitate visas to diplomats residing in Nigeria, as well as tourists and investors visiting Nigeria.

The EU also informed Nigeria of steps taken to speed up existing visa procedures, explaining that a Special Report is currently being examined by the Visa Committee of the Council of the European Union in Brussels, with the aim to create a more consistent and transparent application procedure for third-country nationals.

The Parties agreed that the dialogue on Migration and Development is a positive component of the EU Nigeria Joint Way Forward. Parties saluted the fruitful exchange. The result of the dialogue will feed into the next Nigeria – EU Ministerial meeting on 8th February 2012, in the framework of the EU-Nigeria Joint Way Forward, and the development cooperation programme. The Parties agreed to hold an informative workshop on the opportunities of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility in 2012, and to pursue the dialogue in 2012.

Annexe I

Participants' List to the Nigeria-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development
Abuja, 22 October 2010.

ATTENDANCE

Agenda 5th Dialogue on Migration and Development

Abuja, 27 January 2012

1. Opening remarks and round-table presentation
2. Migration and Development
 - a) Remittances (Nigeria leads)
 - b) Diaspora (EU leads)
 - c) Refugees and IDPs
3. Managing and Fighting Irregular Migration
 - a) Cooperation and support to Nigerian authorities to tackle human trafficking (EU leads)
 - b) Challenges of irregular migration – including security considerations (EU leads)
4. Managing Regular Migration and Mobility
 - a) Migration Policy and Labour Migration Policy (Nigeria leads)
 - b) Collection of data and evidence (Nigeria leads)
 - c) Treatment of migrants (Nigeria leads)
 - d) Visas – Report of the ad hoc Visa meeting (EU leads)
5. Closing remarks