

Draft Intervention Points of the African Group on International Cooperation Objective 23

Co-Facilitators,

As it may be recalled, the African Group made a proposal for the inclusion of a separate objective on international cooperation and has received a wider support from a number of countries during the course of passed rounds of negotiations.

In this round, we would like to provide the rationale behind as well as the details of what a separate objective on international cooperation would look like. The African Group views the issue of international cooperation as something which is different from the issue of means of implementation and Capacity Building Mechanism.

Co-facilitators,

Globalization, the level of development between States and societies, different standards of living and income differences prevailing in different countries provide the strongest incentives for migration of people from one country into another.

For many of people living outside their country, migration provides an opportunity for a better life while contributing for the sustainable development of their countries of origin, transit, and destination.

However, for many migrants, the search for such an opportunity comes at an extremely high cost, as they face unimaginable and often fatal dangers along their journeys as the opportunities for legal migration are very limited.

The cost of migration is also high for many as the protection and promotion of their human rights and ensuring their benefit from their migration remains a challenge.

Thus, a comprehensive response to these issues requires an enhanced framework on international cooperation.

In addition, the increase in deaths of migrants engaging in a dangerous journey by sea or by land, the various human rights violations and the protection challenges as well as the mixed movement brought with it a sense of urgency for enhanced international cooperation on migration.

Half way through our negotiation process, it is important to remind ourselves that the Secretary General, in his report, has also identified international cooperation on migration as an urgent issue.

Such international cooperation should focus on addressing the root causes of irregular migration that would require fostering or establishing a mechanism to enable Member States to cooperate at the international level with countries of origin in the design, implementation and follow-up of a framework that would address irregular flows of migrants and find durable solutions in countries of origin.

The proposal will also address “tensions” between countries of origin and destination in relation to the repatriation of irregular migrants by the latter and issues around reception and reintegration .

Repatriation revolves around the limited capacity of countries of origin to receive and reintegrate their nationals.

The absence of such sustainable reintegration framework for repatriated migrants/returnees in the countries of origin in many cases, has resulted in migrants taking a dangerous journey using other routes; thus, this issue requires an international cooperation framework that would enable countries of

origin and destination to work together towards sustainable return in the provision of technical, capacity building and financial assistance..

It may be argued by some that the whole Global Compact is about international cooperation, but this separate objective takes into account one of the four fundamental considerations outlined by the Secretary-General in his report under paragraph 4d which is focused on making migration work for all in keeping migrants at the center by using “all the developmental, governance and political tools at our disposal to prevent and mitigate the human and natural forces that drive such large movements of people”.

It also :

- underlines the need for long-term development programmes that are aligned to national priorities of Member States,

- explores the potential for sectoral development programmes as well as community based programmes that will enable us to address the root causes of migration by focusing on some of the pocket areas.

- to address some of the protection challenges in relation to lifesaving humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.

Therefore, the new objective on international cooperation would read as follows:

Objective 23: International Co-operation

We commit to support countries in the implementation of commitments under this Global Compact particularly in addressing irregular migration. We commit to enhance support to countries of origin aimed at preventing irregular migration and addressing the root causes of migration.

In this regard the following actions are instrumental :

- a. support countries of origin, particularly in areas identified by these countries as the sources of migrants and which are consistently impacted by poverty, unemployment and climate change and disasters aimed at addressing irregular migratory flows by:

- i. Design and implement tailored projects;, sectoral development programmes and promotion of decent work, aligned with their national priorities;
 - ii. Investing in education, including technical and vocational training;
 - iii. Capacity building; and
 - iv. Development of Small and medium enterprises.
- b. Facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants into community life through strengthen our support to countries of origin in the provision of equal access to social protection and services, psycho-social assistance, vocational training, employment opportunities and employment opportunities, and financial services, in order to fully build upon their entrepreneurship, skills and recognition of skills acquired abroad and human capital as active members of society. In that regard, we decide that countries returning migrants provide reintegration assistance to countries of origin,
- c. Provide technical, financial and capacity building assistance for the implementation of such tailored projects
- d. Establish regional and cross-regional cooperation frameworks in search and rescue and responding to the protection needs of migrants caught in distress at sea or land;
- e. Take measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate at the national, regional and international level (This is based on the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage)

The African is opened for discussion on how we can strengthen this objective with colleagues and we look forward for its inclusion in the next draft by the co-facilitators.

I thank you

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