



CADIZ POLITICAL DECLARATION

6th Ministerial Conference of the Rabat Process

WE, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Integration and Diaspora, in charge of migration issues, and High Representatives of the following countries: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BENIN, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CABO VERDE, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CONGO, CÔTE D’IVOIRE, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DENMARK, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NETHERLANDS, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TOGO and TUNISIA; High representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); of Algeria and Libya as observer countries; and in the presence of the European Commission and the European External Action Service;

GATHERED in Cadiz on 13 and 14 December 2022 at the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Rabat Process, at the invitation of the Kingdom of Spain;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the main developments since our 5th Ministerial Conference in May 2018 in Marrakesh which have a tangible and direct influence on migratory movements in our region;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT in particular the adoption in December 2018 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹ and the Global Compact on Refugees by Rabat Process partner countries, reflecting the commitment of the respective countries to issues relating to migration management and international protection systems;

RECALLING the relevance of the new European Pact on Migration and Asylum², proposed in September 2020 by the European Commission, many aspects of which are already in place;

CONSIDERING the scope of the new Migration Policy Framework for Africa and its Action Plan 2018-2030, complementing existing regional and policy frameworks on migration and asylum, as well as relevant regional and continental documents on free movement;

RECALLING the main commitments agreed to by European and African leaders at the 6th EU-AU Summit on 17 February 2022, notably on an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility;

¹ Without prejudice to the position of each participating or observer State of the Rabat Process towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:85ff8b4f-ff13-11ea-b44f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_3&format=PDF

RECALLING also the importance of strengthening cooperation on all aspects of migration and mobility, while taking full account of national competences, as expressed by stakeholders in the context of the ACP-EU partnership;

AWARE of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the reduction of global human mobility and the increased vulnerabilities of migrants, while **RECOGNIZING** the contribution of regular and well-managed international migration to societies both in Europe and in Africa;

CONCERNED about the consequences of protracted crises, conflicts, wars and irregular migratory movements, in particular along the Mediterranean routes, and their impact on increasing the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recent trends in regular and irregular migration movements within and between our regions, and their overall increase on the main migratory routes in 2022, as well as the increasing requests for international protection;

DETERMINED to pay particular attention in the coming years to the evolution of human mobility in our countries and regions;

AWARE OF the opportunities inherent in better management of human mobility within and between our regions

DETERMINED to find appropriate and coordinated approaches to make migration safer, more regular and orderly in countries of origin, transit and destination, while taking full account of national competences and specificities;

CONVINCED that only a comprehensive, integrated and multidimensional approach can ensure the success of our collective actions in the face of the complexity of the phenomenon of international migration and asylum;

REITERATING our individual and collective commitment to the Rabat Process, its principles and objectives;

RECALLING the commitments made at our 5th Ministerial Conference and the relevance of the Marrakesh Action Plan;

RECOGNISING the progress made in the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan and the need to strengthen it to better achieve our objectives;

ADOPT the attached Cadiz Action Plan

REAFFIRM our desire to act in a balanced and integrated manner across all five pillars of the Cadiz Action Plan and the Joint Valletta Action Plan, while taking full account of national competences;

REITERATE our determination to pursue our commitment in a spirit of shared responsibility, cooperation and solidarity, with full respect for the sovereignty of States, national legislation, international law and human rights, and to recognise the contributions migrants make to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, provided that these are regularly staying migrants;

AGREE to redouble our efforts to mitigate and prevent the vulnerabilities associated with irregular migration as well as those caused by forced displacement, such as armed conflicts, and to address their root causes, such as the differential in levels of economic and human development, as well as the risks of climate change and food insecurity;

EMPHASISE in this regard the need for continued support to strengthen the capacities of countries of origin and transit, while ensuring the alignment of our interventions with national development strategies, including increased attention to women, youth and diasporas as levers of change;

AGREE to place the issue of job creation and future prospects, particularly for young people in countries of origin, transit and destination, at the heart of the priorities of our actions and response strategies;

ENDEAVOUR in this regard to further facilitate legal migration in a triple win partnership approach, including in the area of visa issuance, and with respect for national needs, competences and legal frameworks, with innovative proposals focusing on education, training and skills development, as well as on the development of forms of circular migration and the fight against brain drain, in order to better respond to the real needs and capacities of migrants and contribute to the development of countries of origin, transit and destination;

COMMIT OURSELVES to deepen our cooperation to find durable solutions for refugees and persons in need of protection, as well as to ensure proper treatment of vulnerable migrants and victims of human trafficking, and to strengthen existing regional and continental mechanisms and asylum systems to provide adequate reception and international protection;

REITERATE our commitment to strengthen cross-border cooperation in order to prevent and combat more effectively irregular migration and criminal networks of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, which are responsible for serious violations of the human rights and dignity of migrants. **WE ARE RESOLVED** to unite our efforts so that the tragedies caused by the actions of these networks cease to plague our two continents;

AGREE to strengthen our cooperation with a view to achieving more tangible progress in the areas of return, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants, including through more effective identification and travel document issuance procedures, the compliance with the obligation of each State under international law including Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement³ for its parties to readmit its own nationals in full respect of human dignity and of the principle of non-refoulement, and increased efforts to promote voluntary return and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees in their country of origin;

AGREE to support the activities of migration research centres on the African continent, such as the African Migration Observatory (OAM) and the African Centre for Migration Studies and Research (CAREM), so that they can contribute to feeding and enriching our Dialogue with reliable data and analysis on migration;

³ Until the new agreement between the EU and OACP countries replaces this article and comes into force.

DECIDE to strengthen the ownership, visibility and institutional governance of the Rabat Process by endorsing the enlargement of the Steering Committee, the streamlining of the role of the reference countries, and the granting of permanent observer status to the UNHCR, IOM, UNODC and ICRC;

AGREE to mobilise adequate and sufficient financial resources to support the implementation of the Action Plan through the use of appropriate instruments and initiatives (Team Europe Initiative, etc.) and national resources of European and African countries dedicated to the implementation of partner countries' policies and strategies, in accordance with their respective procedures and programming;

COMMIT OURSELVES, with the support of the Rabat Process Secretariat, to establishing mechanisms and developing relevant tools to periodically monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Cadiz Action Plan in order to improve its scope and impact.

CONGRATULATE the authorities of the Kingdom of Spain for the facilities made available to our 6th Ministerial Conference to ensure its full success and **WISH** the Kingdom of Morocco every success in its future presidency.