



Migration, Governance and Development in West Africa:

The time for action

CONCEPT NOTE OF THE CONFERENCE

July 2016

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I - GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Migrations is now a major issue and critical in promoting policies and programs of socio-economic development, particularly in the context of *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). Therefore, the absence of significant shares by African States and all categories of stakeholders would likely jeopardize the achievement of these *objectives* and the implementation of the Africa 2063 vision.

A - Migrations: A phenomenon of great magnitude in West Africa

In West Africa, migratory dynamics present challenging realities and trends. According to a study in 2015, ECOWAS Member States are both countries of emigration and immigration. In real figures, the Ivory Coast is the largest country hosting the immigrant population with 2,406,700 individuals whose 2,350,024 originate from other ECOWAS countries. It is followed by Ghana which has 1,851,800 immigrants. Also, it is in the Gambia and Ivory Coast that the percentage of immigrants compared to the national population is highest. On the other hand, Nigeria, the third largest destination country in numbers, immigrants represents only 0.7% of the national population. Mali and Niger also arrive at the bottom of ranking in terms of immigrants' ratio / national population.

West Africa alone welcomes 7.5 million migrants originating from another West African country. In other words, 86% of West African migration is now intra-regional and mainly border orientated ¹. A movement that is seven times denser than flows of other regions of the world ².

Thus, on 100 West African migrants, 70% remain in Africa, 61 of which are in sub-region countries, 8 in Central Africa and 1 in North Africa. Only 30% live outside of Africa, 15 of which live in Europe, 6 in North America, and 9 in various countries ³.

¹ Sylvie Bredeloup. "African migration: New roads, new figures". *Revue Quart Monde*, N° 212 - Migrations: A World in Action Year 2009 *Revue Quart Monde* document.php? id = 4419

² Lanneau, G. and A. Scarlett, *the welfare of Migrants in West Africa, State Report of the Working Document of Migration in the World 2013*, IOM, 2013.

Club du Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *The socio-economic and regional context of West African migration*, <http://www.oecd.org/fr/migrations/38481406.pdf>, 2006 (Consultation July 29, 2014).

³ Statistics on African Migrations: Neither exodus nor invasion, Cris Beauchemin and David Lassault "e-MIGRINTER" N° 12, 2014

Migrations towards Europe remain minimal despite the media coverage giving the impression that Europe seems "invaded" by waves of migrants from Africa, particularly from West Africa. As a matter of fact, in 2004, 7.2 million African migrants living in one of the thirty OECD countries, in which 1.2 million West Africans were officially registered. **Therefore, Africa remains the first destination for African migrants before Europe.** In which the essential of movements take place within the regions.

Migrations within states are also a major phenomenon in Africa. Over the past 45 years, the rural exodus has experienced rapid progress in West Africa, with 80 million migrants from the countryside to the city. The urban population rose from 10 to 128 million. In 2025, nearly 60% of the African population should live in the city if current trends continue. This mass exodus of rural populations to the cities is explained by the drought, aridity of the land, the chronic underemployment of youth, widespread poverty, lack of administrative infrastructure, health and cultural, etc.

In total, **these African migrations - domestic or international - pose real difficulties**, especially in terms of administrative facilities, opportunities for economic and social inclusion, access to public services, security and human rights for migrants. In a global context of economic crisis with global threats such as terrorism or climate change, human mobility also refers to the challenges of the reconstruction of identities, societies and departing and welcoming territories. In addition, they raise the question of the added value of migrations on the key challenges of Africa for the transfer of technology and knowledge, capacity building, and the arrival on the continent of large numbers of immigrants described as "the land of opportunity and growth".

B - At the heart of migration: Governance and development in West Africa

A comprehensive and systemic approach to migrations shows how worldwide decisions and practices - *on the commodity prices or development patterns promoting climate change for example* - produce harmful effects on local territories. And how in turn the local adaptation strategies and survival transport poverty in cities, and cause international migrations. Only such an approach can reveal how migrations are a result of failed public policies and ineffective methods of regulation at national, continental and international levels.

Firstly, migrations is caused and guided by various factors combined - but of varying importance, particularly economic, social, cultural, political, security or environmental. Therefore, generating knowledge and acting on human mobility requires a transversal analysis of these sectors in the departing territories and the welcoming areas.

Then, **migrations reflect a perception and a report to a former place of living and / or new**. They therefore dictate a necessary reflection on territorial and interrelations - *horizontal or vertical* - between them. In this sense, they pose reflection on key issues, such as the territorial approach to development, planning, transnational citizenship, regional integration, decentralization, cross-border, territorial governance or instead the place of West Africa and its territories in international and global dynamics.

Finally, migrations in West Africa set in motion a multitude of stakeholders that interact – formally or not, indirectly or directly - at different scales. They therefore define relationships, but also perceptions and positions among States, community and international organizations and between human societies from local to global.

Migrations fundamentally question the meaning and future of the world, and basically the future of Africa in general. In this sense, they are positioned as a themed problematic interface, scales and stakeholders require careful reflection and appropriate proposals for change.

C - A key theme of political dialogue of multi-stakeholders

In view of the global economic and demographic context, territorial disparities and social inequalities, political upheavals, wars, the lack of democracy and good governance, the unbalanced ownership of resources of all **kinds, human mobility will intensify and make it more complex in time and space.** Therefore, given the issues and challenges they bear, migrations are a central issue - *present and future* - for the world.

The increasing complexity of migrations and the recent concerns around the worldwide for the fight against illegal immigration are the bedrock of a new Euro-African dialogue but also specifically among African States. This dialogue is focused on the elements of cooperation in the management of legal migrations, the fight against irregular migration and the connection between migration policy development and governance.

Migrations dynamics basically question the development and governance of Africa in relation to itself, but also in relation to Europe and the rest of the world. They now constitute a fundamental theme for research and policy dialogue on critical issues in West Africa in particular.

In their current effects as in their future **development, migrations are eminently a theme that calls for multi-stakeholder dialogues,** a real issue at the heart of development and governance.

That is why, **CODA with the support from IAG to ARGA and partner organizations - IPAR, L ASPAD, FEMIDEC, FDI AFRICA, AMLD, GLF, IFAN - agreed to organize a conference in West Africa on "Migrations, Governance and Development : Time for action".**

II - THE CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

A - Goals

1. Main objective

In a multi-stakeholder approach, the conference aims to structure a proactive reflection, build a voice and make proposals for improving practices and migration policies for development and governance in West Africa.

It helps to inform policy choices on the determinants - *politics, economic, social, and environmental* - of migrations, and to develop structural strategies.

2. Specific objectives

In connection with the major challenge of socio-economic structural transformation of West Africa, the conference has the following specific objectives :

- Present and discuss the forms and practices of internal and international migrations in West Africa;
- Identify and analyze the causes, opportunities, challenges and current and future challenges of migration dynamics in the political plan, legal, economic, social, security and environmental;
- Identify and assess the effects and impacts of migrations in terms of capital gain and capital loss for West Africa ;
- Prefigure networks of alliances, improve existing regional consultative processes and collect innovative ideas, good practice on the management of migration in West Africa;
- Develop consensus, strategic and innovative proposals for migration that enhances substantially the development and governance process in West Africa;
- Construct contributions from West Africa to African and international initiatives on migrations, in particular the tenth week of the ECA on the role of international migration in promoting inclusive growth and transformation in Africa.

B - Methodology

1. Methodological approach and principles

Given the implications of the various interdependencies of migrations, the topic will be addressed in a **multi-sectoral approach and multi-level, with particular attention to the representativeness and inclusion of all categories of stakeholders**, including the Diaspora. Thus the methodological approach will address the need to articulate the unity of the migration issue in diverse contexts, especially in the territorial diversity.

The methodology will help collect *inputs*, develop prospective analyzes and proposals of importance deriving from experiences, perceptions, plans and prospects of all categories of stakeholders at all the scales. Centered on the specifics, experiences and aspirations of West African stakeholders, the conference will allow **providing appropriate and relevant answers** to the sub-region while seeking **shared solutions to the common challenges** of migrations.

In total, with the chosen method, the conference will be of particular interest to **build and manage appropriate consistencies** to the extent where migrations put in presence various stakeholders on different but strongly interconnected areas - *from local to national, sub-*

regional and international, and should cover on the complex issue of development and governance in their different variants.

2. Format and educational organization

The conference will be held over **a period of 3 days**. It will gather **a hundred participants**, including guests from other parts of Africa, Europe, Asia and America.

The participants will be stakeholder's representative of the diversity of institutions and socio-professional backgrounds, including:

- The States;
- Local Authorities;
- Integration organizations and international institutions;
- Organizations and associations of Migrants and Immigrants;
- Migrant entrepreneurs and Project Developers;
- The organizations of civil society and other NGOs;
- The national and international private sector;
- Political Parties;
- Associations, Women's Movements, Children's Parliaments, Youth Movements and Students;
- Organizations, Programs and Initiatives on Migrations, etc.
- Universities, Research Organizations and Think Tanks

A preparatory work will define the status, challenges and stakes of migrations in West Africa. The prepared documents will serve as an introduction and basis for discussion at the conference.

The conference will be organized around panels with:

- Introductory communications;
- Thematic focus;
- Testimonials, presentations of innovations and good practices.

A facilitator note and methodological framework of the conference will be developed by the Steering Committee.

III - Management and Partnerships

The conference is taking place under the technical Steering Committee of AGI.

It will seek the partnership of States, Community and International Institutions, Development Partners and other relevant organizations.

The Steering Committee will be established, with the main mandates:

- Define and ensure compliance with guidelines, provisions and results of the conference;
- Support strategic thinking, and validate various scientific productions and the communication plan of the conference;
- Ensure the political and strategic port of the conference, particularly by facilitating contacts, exchanges and opportunities at the national, Pan-African and international levels.
- The Steering Committee will be composed of personalities and organizations recognized for their commitment and experience in relations to migrations.

III. INDICATIVE AGENDA

Time	Sessions / Activities
	Day 1
8:30-10:00 hrs	Welcome – Registration of Participants
10:00–11:00 hrs	Opening ceremony
11:00-13:00 hrs	High-level political panel: migration realities and trends in West Africa
13:00-14:30 hrs	Lunch break
14:30–16:00 hrs	panel 2 : - “Exchanges of viewpoints” on Migrations in the world - Great witnesses : Practices on lessons learned!
16:00–16:30 hrs	Coffee break
16:30–18:00 hrs	panel 2 : Continuation and Ending (exchanges and conclusions)
	day 2
9:00- 11:00hrs	panel 3 : - Leverage migration for economic and social development ...

	- Make migrations the backbone of sharing knowledge, science and technology
11:00-11:30 hrs	Coffee break
11:30-13:30 hrs	panel 3 : Continuation and Ending (exchanges and conclusions)
13:30-14:30 hrs	Lunch break
14:30–16:00 hrs	panel 4 : - Turn migrations into a real integration resource - African Migrations for a proactive geostrategic
16–16:30 hrs	Coffee break
16:30-18 :00hrs	panel 4 : Continuation and Ending (exchanges and conclusions)
	day 3
9 :00–11 :00hrs	panel 5 : - Migrations as a prerequisite for a collective security and peace - Ensure the protection of migrants: Why and how?
11-11:30 hrs	Coffee break
11:30-13:30 hrs	panel 5 : Continuation and Ending (exchanges and conclusions)
13:30-15:30 hrs	Lunch Break
15:30-17 :00hrs	Presentation of conclusions, recommendations and commitments Closing Ceremony