

## Return Policy Timeframe in Nigeria

<p>2015: *Nigeria and EU sign CAMM with 4 major priority areas (1):</p> <p>-To better organize legal migration and foster well-managed mobility.</p> <p>-To prevent and combat irregular migration and tackle trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>-To maximize the development impact of migration and mobility.</p> <p>-To promote international protection.</p> <p>*Nigeria adopted National Migration Policy (NMP) in 2015, supported by the EU, to manage migration based on return, readmission and reintegration.</p>	<p>2016: *The European Union introduced the Migration Partnership Framework in 2016, using different instrument and tools in third countries to manage migration flows (2).</p> <p>*The implementing of the framework started with Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, and Ethiopia.</p> <p>*With this many EU officials visited Nigeria severally and vice versa.</p> <p>*Following, negotiation with Nigeria on returns started in October.</p>	<p>2017: *IOM focused on enhancing the effectiveness of AVRR. (6).</p> <p>*With that, increased the number of voluntary returns from transit countries like Greece, Mali, Tunisia, Niger, and South-South voluntary returns (7).</p> <p>*More than 80,000 people, including 16,800 Nigerians, under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrants' Protection have been returned (8).</p>	<p>2018: *Several new proposals and changes were recommended in the 2008 EU Return Directives including capacity building for the immigration and law enforcement officials and social services for the non-EU countries to manage return case (3).</p> <p>*This was done by removing obstacles and inconsistencies that hinder effective return, ensure rapid return procedures in order to increase the overall EU return rate and prevent absconding and secondary migration (9).</p>	<p>2019: *The implementation of 2018 MoU between Nigeria and the EU on migration issues began in 2019.</p> <p>*Thus, the National Border Management Strategy (NBMS) (2019- 2023) was established for sustainable return and reintegration of returnees (10).</p> <p>*Part one of the strategy discusses the return of Nigerian migrants due to Mediterranean migration crisis, abuses of Nigerian migrants and their high asylum rejection in Europe.</p>	<p>2020: *The EU Parliament and the Council agreed on New Pact on Migration and Asylum (12)</p> <p>*Five key proposals of creating a uniform system of regulations and policies on migration and asylum for the EU were prosed.</p> <p>*This include the safe third country concept, solidarity with countries facing crisis and procedure to remove asylum seekers who are not qualified swiftly.</p> <p>*There were also high-Level Dialogues at the 7th Ministerial meeting to step up cooperation including on effective return and readmission (13).</p>	<p>2021: *There was an EU Draft Action Plan for Nigeria in 2021 including five rounds of negotiation on returning of Nigerian migrants (4).</p> <p>*Two pilot projects were implemented: by Lithuania aiming at bringing ICT professionals from Nigeria; another one with IOM, seeking to address labour shortages in other EU countries.</p> <p>*These were geared towards returning Nigerian migrants ordered to leave the EU.</p>	<p>2022: *The existing MoU on migration, signed in 2018, was reinforced to enhance cooperation in voluntary returns and reintegration.</p> <p>*Discussions on joint initiatives to facilitate the safe return of migrants from Europe, ensuring adequate support upon arrival.</p> <p>*Negotiations to build the capacity of Nigerian institutions to better handle the complexities of return.</p> <p>* Following, 3,000 Nigerian migrants from Libya since January 2022, and the Migrant Transit Centre became fully operationalised (11).</p>	<p>2023: *In operationalizing EU Plan, EU is strengthening cooperation on negotiations on the readmission agreement to support effective return and readmission with Nigeria (5).</p> <p>*This resulted in the strengthening of the capacity and ownership of authorities and CSOs to manage voluntary returns and support sustainable reintegration through development policy measures.</p> <p>*There was also establishment of the National Referral Mechanism to help on safe return and sustainable reintegration.</p> <p>*Also, sensitization of returnees and potential migrants through community-based projects.</p>
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## References

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