



Processus de Rabat

Dialogue Euro-Africain sur la
Migration et le Développement

Rabat Process Senior Officials' Meeting

**In preparation of the 6th Euro-African Ministerial Conference on
Migration and Development**

20 October 2022

Madrid, Spain

*Hotel Madrid Atocha (Melia)
Atocha 83, 28012, Madrid*

Conclusions



Under the Spanish Presidency

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In the framework of the Programme to Support the Africa-EU Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (MMD)

On the preparations of the Rabat Process Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference has **two objectives**: firstly, it will identify the current challenges faced by the Rabat Process countries and find common solutions. Secondly, it will be an opportunity to discuss the perspectives of the Dialogue in order to strengthen its role in the global migration framework.

The Conference will also **adopt the new strategic framework** of the Rabat Process for the period 2023-2027.

Course of the Ministerial Conference in Cadiz

- **12 December**: Steering Committee meeting
- **13 December 9:00-12:30**: Senior Officials' Meeting
- **13 December 14:30-18:00**: Ministerial Conference
- **14 December 9:00-12:45**: Ministerial Conference
- **14 December afternoon**: the Spanish Presidency proposed to organise a meeting of high-level officials in connection with the Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) that will be launched on 12 December in Brussels.

The Senior Officials' Meeting and the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Rabat Process will be held at the Palacio de Congresos in Cadiz.

The two days of the Ministerial Conference will be organised around **two round tables**:

- Roundtable 1: "Main challenges in the Rabat Process Dialogue"
- Roundtable 2: "Perspectives for addressing new drivers of Migration in the Rabat Process region"

The format of delegations to the Ministerial Conference is 2+2 (2 heads of delegation + 2 delegates). It was decided that only delegations with 2 Ministers could benefit from the 2+2 format. In case only 1 Minister is present or none, the delegation format will be 1+2. In addition, a maximum of one security officer per delegation will be allowed to register. The delegation format for international organisations is 1+1.

2 members of each delegation (1 head of delegation + 1 delegate) may participate in the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM).

Heads of Delegations wishing to intervene are invited to speak for up to three minutes.

A listening area will be available on the second floor on 13 and 14 December 2022, so that discussions taking place in the plenary hall can be monitored via live video streaming.

The deadline for delegations to register for the Ministerial Conference is **Friday 18 November**.

All enquiries regarding the agenda/interventions of the Ministerial Conference should be addressed to RP-Ministerial@icmpd.org.

On the Multi-annual Cooperation Programme 2023-2027

The Political Declaration and the Cadiz Action Plan were discussed during the Senior Officials' Meeting. The partner countries made a **number of comments which were taken into account** in version 3 of the two strategic documents, which was sent to all partner countries on 21st October.

Spain invited partner countries to send their final comments (only red lines) by **Tuesday 25 October at 12:00 CET** in order to prepare a version 4 of both documents.

The Spanish Presidency hopes that the two strategic documents will be finalised in November 2022 and then adopted by the ministers responsible for migration issues at the Ministerial Conference on 13 and 14 December in Cadiz.

On the governance of the Rabat Process

The partner countries examined the Spanish Presidency's proposal for **renewed governance of the Dialogue**, allowing for greater representation of all partner countries.

Three main issues were discussed:

- **Enlargement of the Steering Committee**

All the partner countries of the Rabat Process **have endorsed the principle of enlarging the Steering Committee**, according to the 2+2 format, i.e. two European countries and two African countries.

Several countries stressed the importance of English-speaking countries joining the Steering Committee.

Countries wishing to **apply for membership should do so in writing**, detailing their motivation and how they wish to contribute to the Steering Committee. This application must be sent to the Spanish Presidency and the Secretariat of the Rabat Process no later than **Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 12h CET**.

The next Steering Committee, which will meet in Cadiz on 12 December 2022, will assess the applications received and make recommendations on the basis of the objective criteria detailed in the procedural note. These recommendations will be submitted to the countries for approval at the Senior Officials' Meeting on 13 December 2022 in Cadiz.

- **Reference countries**

The added value of reference countries

The reference countries have a leading role in defining priorities and implementing actions that are in line with the objectives of the multi-annual strategic framework of the Rabat Process. They contribute to the overall coordination of activities related to their respective areas. They share lessons learned and good practices from their countries, notably during thematic meetings, thus benefiting

from high visibility. Furthermore, they facilitate the sharing of expertise and information for future Dialogue activities and help identify actions for which needs have been expressed.



The Spanish Presidency stressed the importance of having a **geographical parity between the European and African reference countries** and of covering the 5 Domains of the Cadiz Action Plan in a balanced way. In particular, it would be useful for a country to volunteer to follow the activities of Area 1, for which there is only one reference country at present.

According to the Presidency, applications from countries that are not members of the Steering Committee should be encouraged. To date, three reference countries are also members of the Steering Committee, namely Spain, Portugal and Burkina Faso.

The duration of the mandate of the lead countries could be linked to the 2023-2027 Action Plan for more coherence and efficiency.

International organisations can support certain countries in their tasks as reference countries, such as the ICRC, which has supported Switzerland and Chad in Domain 3.

Countries wishing to **apply for membership must do so in writing by Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 12:00 CET**.

- **The designation of permanent observer status for international organisations**

All Rabat Process partner countries **have agreed that permanent observer status should be granted to international organisations**, in particular UNHCR, IOM, ICRC and UNODC.

Organisations with permanent observer status will be invited to the thematic meetings of the Rabat Process on an ad-hoc basis according to their expertise and will thus be able to contribute actively to the debates and exchanges in the framework of the Dialogue. However, their participation in "political" meetings will be subject to the approval of Steering Committee members.