








Rabat Process activities organised since December 2018 with a link to the objectives of the GCM¹

Rabat Process activities	Alignment with the GCM objectives
<p>The Rabat Process' strategic framework, the Marrakesh Action Plan, commits to paying "Particular attention to the collection, analysis and sharing of disaggregated data", as one of its cross cutting priorities. The Rabat Process contributed to strengthening the global evidence base on international migration through, <i>inter alia</i> its partnership with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), designed to support evidence-based policymaking. The MMC collects primary data, using a network of field monitors situated along frequently used routes and in major migratory hubs. These monitors conduct in-depth interviews with adult migrants and refugees on a continuous basis. MMC data was used by the Rabat Process to develop 4 policy briefs and workshops on issues such as the migration drivers, climate change and the future of work, highlighting areas of concern for policymakers.</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>1 DATA</p> </div> </div> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>"Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies".</i></p>
<p>The Rabat Process generated discussion on adverse drivers as well as structural factors that compel people to leave their countries in its study named "Social immobility versus social mobility: the root causes of international emigration" published in 2019. The latter was based on data collected during biographical interviews and focus groups in Senegal and Italy, and seeks to unravel the complexity of the root causes debate, and to contribute to well-informed public discourse on this issue. The study proposes a nuanced understanding, going beyond that which explains migration as the result of purely external (economic, demographic, environmental, political) factors. Migrants' perceptions of their own decisions and migratory journeys are at the heart of the study. More recently, in 2021, 2 briefing papers were produced by the Rabat Process using MMC data and aimed at supporting partners to understand the <u>complex and intertwined nature of drivers of migration in North, West and Central Africa</u>, including the role of <u>climate change and environmental stressors</u>.</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>2 MINIMIZE ADVERSE DRIVERS</p> </div> </div> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>"Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin".</i></p>
<p>The Rabat Process stimulated dialogue on options for regular migration and the facilitation of labour migration, through its <u>virtual meeting on legal migration with a focus on labour migration held in December 2021</u>. Lessons learnt and good practices from EU pilot projects on legal migration with partner countries were shared in order to encourage the creation of similar projects to fill gaps in the work force of EU MS, whilst also reducing irregular migration flows by offering safe and legal pathways for people to migrate for work or study.</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>5 REGULAR PATHWAYS</p> </div> </div> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>"Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration".</i></p>





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<p>The Marrakesh Action Plan resolves to pay particular attention “... to the issues of gender and the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations including, in particular, women and children”, as one of its cross cutting priorities. The Rabat Process organised two roundtables in 2021 on the protection of unaccompanied minors (UAM) at different stages of the migratory journey: along the migration routes as well as during the asylum process (referral and access to services). The first roundtable enabled Rabat Process partners to exchange on good practices for age determination of UAMs, and the role of the legal guardian or “person of trust”. The second was the opportunity to exchange on the risks faced by children along the migration routes. It explored the issue of missing migrants, highlighted the importance of preventing children from becoming separated and restoring family links.</p>	 7 REDUCE VULNERABILITIES	<p>“Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration”.</p>
<p>The issue of missing migrants was addressed for the first time during the abovementioned roundtables. The consequences of disappearance on individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and arrival were highlighted, along with the common interest of finding solutions to this trans regional problem. In addition to raising awareness of missing migrants among Rabat Process partners, the roundtable helped the latter to understand the need for bilateral or multilateral responses, recognising that cases of missing migrants cannot be solved by one single entity or actor.</p>	 8 SAVE LIVES	<p>“Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants”.</p>
<p>In 2019, the Rabat Process organised a workshop on the fight against migrant smuggling, in partnership with the Niamey Declaration/UNODC. This meeting recognised strengthening the national approach to fighting migrant smuggling – including legislative and institutional frameworks – as a prerequisite for coordination at regional and international levels. The workshop was held back-to-back with the 2nd Regional Conference of Directors General on the fight against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. A series of technical recommendations for policy makers was issued at the end of the workshop, building upon the conclusions of regional conference.</p>	 9 COUNTER SMUGGLING	<p>“Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants”.</p>
<p>In 2020 the Rabat Process published a report entitled “Assessment of Anti-Trafficking Gaps, Needs and Transferrable Practices in the ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania” based on desk research, consultations and interviews with a wide range of anti-trafficking stakeholders from government agencies, civil society, international and regional organisations. One of the main findings of the assessment highlights how poor communication between the national authorities in the sub-region often leads to inconsistent referral and inadequate protection of victims of trafficking. The report pays particular attention to vulnerable groups, analysing the different factors that can influence a person’s level of vulnerability or resilience: first and foremost age and gender.</p>	 10 ERADICATE TRAFFICKING	<p>“Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration”.</p>




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<p>In 2019, the Rabat Process organised a thematic meeting entitled <u>“Cooperation between Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination in the Field of Border Management”</u>. The meeting introduced partners to a selection of cooperation projects in order to illustrate the different approaches which have been used and to propose joint action strategies and good practices for bilateral and regional cooperation in the fields of integrated border management. This was followed by the production of a guide for Rabat Process partners and other stakeholders entitled “Good Practices in Implementing Border Management Projects”, containing practical guidelines to ensure border management initiatives which respect national sovereignty and human rights.</p>	 <p>11 MANAGE BORDERS</p>	<p><i>“Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner”.</i></p>
<p>The Rabat Process partners discussed the inclusion and social cohesion of migrants (focusing particularly on the role of cities and local authorities) at a thematic meeting entitled <u>“National authorities, local authorities and migration”</u> in 2021. A roundtable on the socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and refugees explored the challenges and opportunities related to social cohesion. It was recognised that coordination between local governments, central government and civil society needs to be enhanced to ensure comprehensive solutions for socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and refugees. The presence of migrants and refugees in cities creates pressure on the job market and basic services, and tensions arising from this sometimes fuel racism or xenophobia. It is thus crucial that both local and national authorities undertake measures to address this and to foster social cohesion.</p>	 <p>16 INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION</p>	<p><i>“Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion”.</i></p>
<p>At the <u>virtual meeting on legal migration with a focus on labour migration held in December 2021</u>, projects which promote investing in skills development and facilitating mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences were presented, such as THAMM (Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa). Methods to achieve this include strengthening the regulatory capacity of public employment services and promoting recognition of qualifications and skills prior to departure and upon return.</p>	 <p>18 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION</p>	<p><i>“Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications & competences”.</i></p>
<p>A <u>Collection of Diaspora Engagement Practices</u> was published in 2020, designed to support partner governments, as well as key stakeholders working with diasporas, in their diaspora engagement activities. The Collection shares innovative policies, programmes, projects, and business models implemented with success in Rabat Process partner countries. It explores the contribution of diasporas to economic, social and cultural development and is based on an extensive mapping of innovative diaspora engagement policies, programmes and projects in the Rabat Process region (Europe, North, West and Central Africa).</p>	 <p>19 MIGRANT AND DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS</p>	<p><i>“Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries”.</i></p>

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<p>In 2019, the Rabat Process organised a Technical Workshop on diaspora remittances exploring the question of how to optimise the contribution of remittances to foster sustainable development in the countries of the Rabat Process region. It aimed at deepening partners' knowledge of remittances, focusing in particular on the issues of use, productivity and impact of remittances. A background paper was prepared in advance of the meeting, analysing initiatives which help to mobilise and catalyse diaspora savings and resources to be better used to serve the development of communities. The workshop culminated in a series of technical recommendations to governments, members of the diaspora and practitioners.</p>	 <p>20 REMITTANCES</p>	<p><i>"Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants".</i></p>
<p>The Rabat Process organised a Webinar on Voluntary Return and Reintegration (VRR) in 2021, aimed at identifying a set of good practices between European and African countries on the conditions for successful VRR programmes. The impacts of the Covid 19 health crisis and the EU's New Pact on migration and asylum on VRR were discussed, as well as factors for increased sustainability of VRR, such as the use of multi-stakeholder approaches, strong coordination between host and home countries, development support for local communities hosting returnees and the use of digital solutions (virtual counselling, consent-recording online tools) to provide continuous support to the returnees. The key takeaways were captured in an outcome document.</p>	 <p>21 DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION</p>	<p><i>"Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration".</i></p>
<p>The primary goal for the creation of the Rabat Process in 2006 was to set up a platform that would allow a joint response to challenges caused by irregular migration flows and identify opportunities for cooperation. The Rabat Process quickly evolved, adopting a more comprehensive approach to migration issues that also included legal migration and, in particular, migration and development. Today the Rabat Process is a constructive dialogue, where partners cooperate together to facilitate safe orderly and regular migration, in a spirit of partnership and openness. The Marrakesh Action Plan takes a comprehensive and integrated approach to migration management across its five domains. In its accompanying political declaration, the partners – represented at Ministerial level – underline their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the pledge to "leave no-one behind" and reaffirm their adherence "to the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility in the joint management of migration issues in full respect of human rights".</p>	 <p>23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</p>	<p><i>"Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration".</i></p>

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