



Rabat Process
Euro-African Dialogue on
Migration and Development

TAKING STOCK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARRAKESH PROGRAMME

2018-2022

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AP	Marrakesh Action Plan
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRD	Institute of Research for Development
JVAP	Joint Valletta Action Plan
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
NFP	National Focal Point
SC	Steering Committee
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting
UAM	Unaccompanied minor
UNHCR	Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

The Rabat Process is an **intergovernmental migration dialogue** founded in 2006 that brings together countries along the migration route linking Central Africa, West Africa, North Africa and Europe.

Main objective

To create a framework for consultation and cooperation within which concrete initiatives reflecting the political will expressed by the partner countries can be implemented.

Key milestones

Five Ministerial Conferences¹ have been held since its inception, with the adoption of Ministerial Declarations and Multi-Annual Cooperation Programmes that have set the strategic direction of the Rabat Process.

From 2018 to 2022, the Rabat Process was based on the **Marrakesh Programme** adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Rabat Process held in Marrakesh on 2 May 2018. It includes a Political Declaration and an operational Action Plan (AP), focusing on 5 priority domains, 10 objectives and 23 actions. In addition, six cross-cutting priorities have been integrated into the Ministerial Declaration with a view to *“implementing the Action Plan in an effective and balanced manner”*.

The AP is aligned with the 5 priority domains of the **Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)** in order to promote coherence and complementarity with the outcomes of the Valletta Summit on Migration of 2015. The Marrakesh Political Declaration also reiterates the mandate of the Rabat Process to monitor progress in the implementation of the JVAP, jointly with the Khartoum Process.

The period 2018-2022 has seen a succession of **Chairmanships**: Burkina Faso, France, Equatorial Guinea and Spain. The Ouagadougou Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) in February 2019 (under Burkina Faso’s Chairmanship) marked the launch of the implementation of the Marrakesh Programme and the Cadiz Ministerial Conference (handover of the Chairmanship from Spain to Morocco) will close it with the adoption of a new multiannual cooperation framework for the period 2023-2027.

The objective of **operationalising the Dialogue** has remained a constant priority throughout the Marrakesh Programme, through activities of an operational nature, both in terms of the target audience (practitioners, experts) and the objective pursued (development of good practice guides and concrete recommendations). In terms of **communication strategy**, the Secretariat has intensified audio-visual productions, and has increasingly communicated via its website and social networks (Twitter, LinkedIn) in French and English.

As of March 2020, the activities of the Rabat Process were impacted by the global health crisis related to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which led to the postponement of several activities. However, it should be noted that the Rabat Process Secretariat has shown adaptability and flexibility by proposing to organise several events in virtual or hybrid formats in order to continue the work programme and to keep the dialogue between partner countries going. Thus, the health situation affected the duration of the Marrakesh programme, which was extended until the end of 2022.

¹ Rabat 2006; Paris 2008; Dakar 2011; Rome 2014; Marrakesh 2018

Objectives of the report

This report aims to take stock of the implementation of the Marrakesh Programme from May 2018 to December 2022, reviewing all the activities organised and documents produced in the framework of the Dialogue during this period.

The Marrakesh Action Plan at a glance

Illustration: Pillars and objectives of the Marrakesh Action Plan



2. A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES ON THE FIVE DOMAINS OF THE ACTION PLAN

Thematic exchanges at a glance

Illustration: Number of thematic exchanges by pillar



The implementation of the AP in a nutshell

The meetings and workshops organised during the period 2018-2022 **cover all 5 domains of the Marrakesh Action Plan**, with a prevalence of domain 1 through the organisation of three thematic meetings, one technical workshop and one meeting with the “Rabat Process” label¹.

Within **domain 1**, the themes chosen reflect the importance of the migration and development nexus as well as the root causes of migration and remittances within the Dialogue.

Under **domain 2**, labour migration is emerging as a central issue for both European and African countries: it is increasingly at the heart of the international agenda. In a globalised world, labour migration offers new opportunities for countries of origin and destination that will help to address some of the existing challenges, such as labour shortages in certain sectors or the demographic challenge.

Domain 3 was the subject of two roundtables organised by the reference countries in this area (Switzerland and Chad) which focused on unaccompanied minors.

Under **domain 4**, the activities selected focused on cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination in the field of border management on the one hand and the fight against the smuggling of migrants, and more specifically the strengthening of national tools to combat it, regional and international cooperation and prevention campaigns on the other.

Finally, **domain 5** was addressed through a webinar on return and reintegration.

¹ A labelling system for initiatives led and/or funded by Rabat Process partners at the national level, which directly contribute to the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan, was launched at the 2019 Ouagadougou SOM. The labelling system is one of the pillars of the Dialogue’s engagement mechanism, through which Rabat Process partners can commit, on a voluntary basis, to support the implementation of one or more of the 23 actions of the Marrakesh Action Plan.

Domain 1

“Development benefits of migration and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement”

Thematic Meeting on Root Causes of Irregular Migration:

23-24 October 2018 in Paris | AP Action 4 and 5

Organised by France and Senegal.

Objective

To reach a common understanding of, and responses to the concept of “root causes of migration” in the Rabat Process region, in order to facilitate the development of appropriate policies capable of responding to the identified structural factors.

Results

- **A study on the root causes of international emigration** based on field interviews in Senegal and Italy, conducted by a renowned researcher who is specialised in migration in West Africa (IRD - Development Research Institute) (see Box 1 below).
- **36 technical recommendations** on optimising human capital, combating social exclusion, strengthening the agricultural sector, creating sustainable urban policies and contributing to a balanced narrative on root causes and migration.

Box 1: Study “Social Immobility versus Social Mobility: the Root Causes of International Emigration” by Nelly Robin (IRD)



The study followed a **qualitative approach** based on two survey techniques: 1) individual interviews (8 in Senegal and 4 in Italy) and 2) focus groups (8 groups, 160 surveys, 4 sites in Senegal and 3 groups, 25 surveys, 2 sites in Italy).

Objective

To examine the causes of emigration from the perspective of the primary migration actors: those planning to migrate, the migrants and their families.

Main findings

It is not so much the inequalities between the South and the North but rather the inequality of opportunities and the feeling of immobility and social injustice in the country of origin, which explain emigration.

Technical Workshop on Diaspora Remittances and Sustainable Development:

5-6 November 2019 in Abuja | AP Actions 2 and 3

Organised by Nigeria and co-chaired by France and Belgium.

Objective

Exchange good practices in the field of mobilising remittances for productive investment in countries of origin and improve technical understanding of relevant instruments and initiatives.

Results

- A compendium/mapping listing a dozen initiatives that leverage diaspora remittances for development and offering recommendations to governments on the one hand and to other actors such as diaspora members, experts and financial institutions on the other.

Labelled Meeting “Mainstreaming Migration into Development Policies and Cooperation”:

19 April 2021, virtual | AP Action 5

Organised by France.

This was the first event to have the label of the “Rabat Process”.

Objectives

To identify good practices in European and African countries regarding the elaboration of Migration and Development policies and strategies, their implementation and monitoring as well as the multi-level governance of these policies at local, national or regional level.

Results

- **Two working documents** produced by the Rabat Process Secretariat and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs provide an overview of strategies and policies linking migration and development in six African and six European countries.
- **A video**, produced by the Rabat Process Secretariat, on the development of Migration and Development strategies in Côte d’Ivoire and Switzerland.
- **A final document** outlining the main conclusions of the meeting.

Thematic Meeting “Migration and Development in 2022: the Role of Cooperation in Migration; New Actors for a New Context”:

12-13 May 2022 in Madrid | AP Actions 3, 4 and 5

Co-chaired by Spain and Senegal.

Objective

To update the knowledge of Rabat Process partners and stimulate reflection on how development cooperation can contribute more effectively to addressing the root causes of migration, while capitalising on the positive effects of migration.

Results

- A **final document** highlighting key points and operational guidelines for partner countries as well as for practitioners and technicians to guide them in the implementation of actions in this field.

Thematic Meeting “Remittances and Sustainable Development”:

3-4 November 2022 in Brussels | AP Action 2

Co-chaired by Belgium and Ghana.

Objectives

To improve the technical understanding of Rabat and Khartoum Processes partners on remittances and sustainable development and promote mutual learning that will lead to the replication of initiatives that have had a positive impact.

Results

- A **final document** which highlights the benefits, developments and challenges of technological innovation and collects good practices on remittances and their links to sustainable development.

Box 2: Collection of Diaspora Engagement Practices

In line with Action 1 of the Marrakesh Plan of Action, **a compendium of good practices on diaspora engagement practices** has been elaborated in order to respond to the common priority of Dialogue partners to better know, understand and engage their diasporas and to enhance their economic, social and cultural potential for development.

This document provides partner countries with a knowledge tool and a guide for national administrations of Rabat Process partner countries to compare and analyse diaspora engagement initiatives and strategies implemented in the different Dialogue regions, with a view to facilitating the transferability of the most innovative strategies among Rabat Process countries.



Domain 2

“Legal migration and mobility”

Virtual Thematic Meeting on Legal Migration, with a Focus on Labour Migration: 16-17 December 2021, virtual | AP actions 6 and 7

Co-chaired by Portugal and Cabo Verde, reference countries for domain 2 of the Marrakesh AP.

Objective

To identify the main challenges and analyse corresponding solutions in the field of legal migration for the Rabat Process countries, with a particular focus on labour migration.

Results

This first meeting of the Rabat Process on labour migration resulted in a **final document**, which highlights good practices on policy development and project implementation in this area between policy makers, operational actors and Rabat Process partners.

Thematic Meeting “State Cooperation as a Key to Success in Labour Migration”: 29-30 September 2022 in Malaga | AP Actions 6, 7 and 8

Co-chaired by Spain and Nigeria.

Objectives

To strengthen an open dialogue between European and African countries on labour migration; to analyse African and European perspectives on labour migration; to identify the needs of countries of origin and transit, challenges, good practices and areas for improvement and consensus; to reflect on current and future avenues of labour migration based on collaboration and cooperation between States.

Results

- A **final document** that identifies challenges, priorities and opportunities in labour migration to better support policy making and analyses good practices and relevant information on legal and labour migration to implement policies and programmes appropriately.

Domain 3

“Protection and asylum”

Virtual Roundtable “Asylum procedure for unaccompanied minors (UAM) - Reception”: 7 July 2021 | AP Action 11

Organised by Switzerland and Chad (reference countries for domain 3), in collaboration with UNHCR and the Rabat Process Secretariat.

Objective

In order to address the subject of protection and asylum from all angles, the two roundtables followed the three phases of a refugee’s journey: along the road, reception upon arrival, and the search for durable solutions.

Results

- A **final document** which highlights the sharing of experiences on the protection and assistance of UAM (Switzerland’s new asylum and protection law and initiatives implemented by Chad) and the age determination of UAM (good practices include the use of multidisciplinary and independent teams to determine age, using interviews and other techniques rather than medical tests).

Roundtable “Risks, support and durable solutions, in particular for unaccompanied minors”: 13-14 October 2021 in Geneva | AP Action 11

Organised by Switzerland, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Rabat Process Secretariat.

Objective

In order to address the subject of protection and asylum from all angles, the two roundtables followed the three phases of a refugee’s journey: along the road, reception upon arrival, and the search for durable solutions.

Results

- A **final document** presenting the main good practices around three themes:
 - 1) the protection of unaccompanied minors along migration routes,
 - 2) family separation and missing persons in the context of migration and
 - 3) local integration of refugees.

Domain 4

“Preventing irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings and fight against these phenomena”

Thematic meeting on Cooperation between Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination in the Field of Border Management:

1-2 July 2019 in Madrid | AP Action 15

Organised by Spain and co-chaired by Morocco.

Objective

To share good practices and experiences in bilateral and regional cooperation in the fields of combating irregular immigration and, more generally, border management.

Results

- A guide entitled **“Some good practices in the implementation of border management projects”**: in a new format, this document offers concrete recommendations on the formulation and implementation of projects and good practices in border management.
- With the knowledge gained from the meeting and the practical guide, the partners felt that they would be able to “develop projects and improve their Border Management Action Plan, improve interoperability in border management and improve information sharing between national security services and neighbouring countries.”

Technical workshop on combating migrant smuggling:

24 October 2019 in Abidjan | AP actions 15, 16 and 17

Organised by Côte d’Ivoire, at the initiative of the French Chairmanship of the Rabat Process.

Objective

To exchange experiences and formalise recommendations based on the good practices implemented by the 18 signatory States of the Niamey Declaration, whose annual follow-up meeting organised by UNODC took place on the previous two days.

Results

- Adoption of **conclusions taking up the main ideas of the Niamey Declaration**, namely the need to set up appropriate legislative frameworks and a specific institutional framework, the optimisation of judicial cooperation tools at national/regional level and the development of operational mechanisms for regional cooperation.
- The countries of the Rabat Process that are not members of the Niamey Initiative were able to learn about the actions that these countries are taking to combat migrant smuggling and to draw inspiration from them.

Thematic meeting “Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination in the field of border management”: 5-6 July 2022 in Madrid | AP actions 15, 16 and 17

Co-chaired by Spain and Morocco.

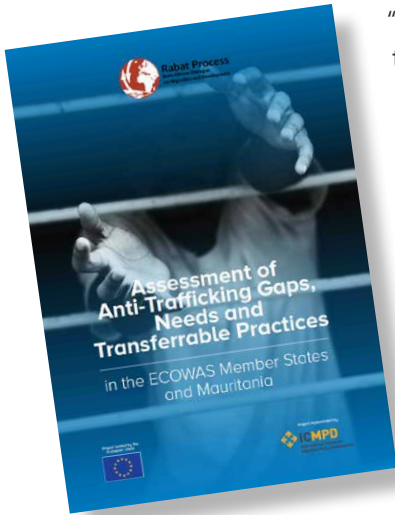
Objectives

To inform participants of the latest developments in border management in the region since the last meeting in 2019 and to assess the main challenges of common interest to the Rabat Process partner countries where cooperation could be further strengthened at regional level and to suggest strategies for joint actions.

Results

- A **final document**, which focuses on the exchange of good practices and the identification of common challenges in border management and lists concrete actions related to good practice in integrated border management.

Box 3: Anti-Trafficking Assessment: Gaps, Needs and Transferrable Practices



In Action 19 of the Marrakesh Action Plan, partners committed to “formulate concrete responses regarding the protection and assistance to people affected by smuggling and victims of trafficking in human beings (...) and promote their inclusion into national, regional and sub-regional initiatives and policies”.

To give effect to this action, an **assessment of gaps, needs and transferable practices in the field of human trafficking** was carried out under the coordination of the Rabat Process Secretariat. The assessment provides a comprehensive analysis based on anti-trafficking initiatives and includes a **toolbox of practices that can be replicated/transferred** from one Rabat Process region or country to another. The methodology includes desk research, written questionnaires, interviews and consultation meetings with key stakeholders in the sub-region, including ECOWAS Focal Points on Trafficking and Rabat Process National Focal Points.

On 16 September 2020, the evaluation report was presented to the Dialogue partners and discussed in a **webinar**.

Domain 5

“Return, reintegration and readmission”

Webinar on voluntary return and reintegration:

21 January 2021 | Objective 10, actions 22 and 23 of the AP

Organised by France and Cameroon.

Objective

Identify good practices regarding the conditions for successful voluntary return and reintegration programmes.

Results

- First Dialogue activity open to all interested policy makers, practitioners and academics, in addition to the main stakeholders of the Rabat Process.
- A **video produced** on the “Reach Out” project implemented by the Belgian Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL).
- A **final document** outlining the main challenges and key factors for the success of voluntary return and reintegration programmes, such as a multi-stakeholder approach and strong coordination between countries of origin and destination, the development of host communities, effective referral of migrants to the relevant authorities and support for socio-economic reintegration, and the creation of favourable conditions for returning migrants.

Crosscutting priorities

Activities related to the crosscutting priorities

Labelled meeting “National authorities, local authorities and migration”:

14-15 September 2021 in Paris and virtual

Organised by France.

Objective

To discuss the different models of multi-level governance in the field of migration and to exchange good practices on the coordination between local and national authorities in this field.

Results

- Better understanding of the coordination issues faced by national and local authorities in the field of migration;
- Sharing of partners’ experiences on coordination between national and local authorities on migration issues;
- Reflection on the opportunities for integrating the local level in the Dialogue and in the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan, through the National Focal Points (NFP).

Thematic Meeting on Climate Change and Migration:

5-7 October 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

First thematic meeting on climate change and human mobility organised in the framework of the Khartoum Process, with the participation of the Rabat Process partners. Climate change is a crosscutting priority in the Marrakesh Action Plan.

Objectives

To understand the nuanced nature of the link between climate change and human mobility, with a focus on the regions concerned; to share experiences on strategies and initiatives at local, national and regional levels on human mobility in the context of climate change; to identify recommendations for further implementation and cooperation between migration dialogues, such as the Khartoum and Rabat Processes.

Results

- An **outcome document** including a **series of recommendations** on several themes: 1) Displacement in the context of climate change; 2) Adaptation and resilience in the context of climate change; 3) Intersection of urban planning, mobility and climate change; and 4) Whole of society approach to climate mobility.

3. POLITICAL MEETINGS AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Political meetings at a glance

Illustration: Number of political meetings 2018-2022



Steering Committee meetings

2018

- **25 June 2018, Brussels (Belgium)**
Discussion about the drafting of the report for the Valletta SOM.
- **25 July 2018, Brussels (Belgium)**
Participation in the drafting of the report for the Valletta SOM.
- **24 September 2018, Paris (France)**
Preparation of the Valletta SOM, including review of comments received from Rabat Process partners on the individual analysis report - discussions, validation.



2019

- **23 January 2019, Brussels (Belgium)**
Review of the issue of SC governance; Reminder of the joint responsibility of the two regional dialogues in monitoring the implementation of the JVAP.
- **11 February 2019, Ouagadougou (Burkina-Faso)**
Review of the question of the enlargement of the SC and decision to keep a restricted exchange forum, composed of the current members, without enlargement but with possibilities of association.
- **3 June 2019, Brussels, (Belgium)**
Handover of the Chairmanship of Burkina Faso to France.
- **13 November 2019, Brussels, (Belgium)**
Exchanges on the results of the consultation with the Rabat Process partners in the framework of the update of the JVAP.

2020

- **18 February 2020, Brussels, Belgium**
Exchanges on the future African Chairmanship of the Rabat Process and review and validation of the draft update of the JVAP.
- **15 October 2020, virtual**
Reference countries system; Continuity of dialogue during the COVID-19 period and handing over of the Chairmanship to Equatorial Guinea.
- **28 October 2020, virtual with the reference countries**
Meeting of the Steering Committee in the presence of the reference countries to boost the Dialogue.

At this meeting, the reference countries presented their roadmap (activities already carried out and to be carried out in the area concerned).

2021

- **20 April 2021, virtual with the reference countries**
Cooperation with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC); Preparation of the Senior Officials' Meeting in Equatorial Guinea (SOM) and feedback on the JVAP.

+ Presentation by the reference countries of the activities envisaged under domains 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Marrakesh AP.
- **1 July 2021, virtual**
Preparation of the Senior Officials' Meeting in Equatorial Guinea (SOM) and presentation of the future programme of the Spanish Chairmanship.
- **29 September 2021, Brussels, Belgium**
Review of the Spanish Chairmanship programme; Review of the upcoming African Chairmanship and update on the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) and the JVAP Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM).

2022

- **24 February 2022, Brussels, Belgium**
Update on the Spanish Chairmanship programme; Ministerial Conference in Spain; Improving the ownership of the Dialogue/Institutional aspects.
- **22 June 2022, Brussels, Belgium**
Ministerial Conference in Spain; Discussions on the governance of the Dialogue; Briefing on Team Europe Initiatives (TEI).
- **7 September 2022, Brussels, Belgium**
Discussions on the forthcoming Political Declaration and Action Plan; Discussions on the governance of the Dialogue.



19 October 2022, Madrid (Spain)

Preparations for the Senior Officials' Meeting in Madrid (SOM); Schedule of meetings until the end of 2022; Governance of the Dialogue.



12 December 2022, Cadiz (Spain): upcoming

Preparations for the Senior Officials' Meeting in Madrid (SOM) and Governance of the Dialogue.

Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM)

2019



12-13 February 2019, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Definition of a work programme for the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan.

2021



17-18 November 2021, Malabo (Equatorial Guinea)

Assessment of the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan under the Chairmanship of Equatorial Guinea; Handover of the Chairmanship of the Dialogue to Spain; Follow-up of the implementation of the JVAP; Presentation of the actions of the reference countries to contribute to the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan; Strengthening the interaction of the Dialogue with cities and local authorities; Question of the governance of the Dialogue.

2022



20 October 2022, Madrid (Spain)

Preparations for the Rabat Process Ministerial Conference; Discussions on the Multiannual Cooperation Programme 2023-2027; Discussions on the governance of the Rabat Process.



13 December 2022, Cadiz (Spain): upcoming

Concluding remarks on the multiannual cooperation programme 2023-2027; Presentation and evaluation of European and African applications for membership of the Steering Committee.

The future multiannual cooperation programme 2023-2027

The Ministerial Conference on 13 and 14 December 2022 in Cadiz (Spain) will be the occasion to officially adopt the **next multiannual cooperation programme 2023-2027** that will guide the activities of the Rabat Process. The Ministerial Conference will also provide an opportunity for partner countries to exchange views during two roundtables, one on the main challenges of the Rabat Process and the other one on the perspectives of the Dialogue.

Box 5 : Governance issues within the Dialogue

Progress on governance was driven by the Spanish Chairmanship, which wanted to strengthen the **ownership and involvement of partner countries in the Dialogue**.

At the SOM on 20 October 2022 in Madrid, all Rabat Process partner countries endorsed several important advances in the area of governance:

- **The principle of the enlargement of the Steering Committee**, according to the 2+2 format, i.e. two European and two African countries. The Steering Committee, which will meet in Cadiz on 12 December 2022, will evaluate the applications received and make recommendations for approval by the countries at the SOM on 13 December 2022 in Cadiz.
- **The importance of having European and African reference countries** to cover the 5 domains of the Cadiz Action Plan in a balanced way.
- **The designation of permanent observer status for international organisations**, in particular UNHCR, IOM, ICRC and UNODC.

4. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JVAP

The Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process are engaged in updating² the JVAP, in accordance with the joint conclusions of the Senior Officials' Meeting held in Addis Ababa in November 2018.

To update the JVAP, two series of consultations were organised with the partners of the Rabat Process, and two Steering Committees set up to discuss the draft document updating the JVAP.

Activities

- **13 May 2019:** First round of consultations with the Rabat Process Focal Points to examine their contributions and recommendations on policy developments and priority actions to be reflected in the updated text of the JVAP.
- **16 September 2019:** Second round of consultations with Rabat Process Focal Points invited to provide comments due to the low response rate to the first round of consultations.
- **13 November 2019:** Discussion on the update of the Valletta Joint Action Plan (JVAP) at the Rabat Process Steering Committee (SC) meeting.

² The term "update" was agreed to ensure that the text reflects recent developments and current realities in migration, while largely maintaining the original principles and structure of the JVAP.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would integrate all comments received into a single document and prepare a proposal for a revised text to be presented to SC members in February.

18 February 2020: Rereading and validation by the partners of the Rabat Process of the draft JVAP update document.

15 December 2020: Joint Steering Committee of the Khartoum and Rabat Processes; decision to approve the updated version the following year through a silent written procedure and dissemination with Valletta partners.

JVAP monitoring tools

In order to facilitate the follow-up of the JVAP, a series of IT tools were developed for the JVAP Partners: a Portal, a Database, and a Data Visualisation Tool.

The Database

was launched in 2017, and has been used for two data collection cycles: 2018 and 2020. The fourth data collection cycle (2022) is currently underway. The Database was created to ensure transparency for JVAP Partners on initiatives developed by them. Currently, the Database hosts over 2000 JVAP projects and policies.

The Portal

was launched in February 2020 and provides information and updates about the JVAP Follow-up to the migration policy community and broader public. As well as serving as a reference platform, the Portal serves as a gateway to the Database and the Data Visualisation Tool: by logging into their personal accounts on the portal, Partners access their 'Dashboard', from which they can be redirected to the two other tools - the Database and the DVT. Partners can also access supporting materials and resources designed to assist them with data collection, entry, and quality check.

The Data Visualisation Tool

was also launched in February 2020, and was set up to provide Partners with actionable knowledge in the form of dynamic data visualisations. It is connected to the Database allowing changes to be reflected in real time. A new feature on this tool was launched in September 2022: the Search Interface, which allows for complex searches of the Database to be carried out easily and quickly. The Data Visualisation Tool is used for various purposes, such as preparing data for specific Khartoum or Rabat Process activities or meeting requirements, or upon request of one of our JVAP Partners.

5. INNOVATIVE WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

I. A tool to stimulate the Dialogue: the “labelled” initiatives

Approach

What is a labelled event?

These are initiatives led and/or funded by Rabat Process partners at the national level that contribute directly to the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan. The labelling system is one of the pillars of the Dialogue’s engagement mechanism, through which Rabat Process partners can commit, on a voluntary basis, to support the implementation of one or more of the 23 actions of the Marrakesh Action Plan.

Objectives

- Contribute to the overall implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan;
- Give new visibility to national actions that fall within the scope of the Dialogue;
- Improve the sharing of good practices among Dialogue partners, which can then feed into their policy development and project implementation;
- Use the communication channels established by the Rabat Process to share the results and conclusions of the labelled initiatives within the network of Dialogue partners.

Box 6 : Two labelled meetings organised by France during its Chairmanship

→ “Mainstreaming migration into development policies and cooperation”, 19/04/21, virtual: action 5 of the AP (see page 7)

Innovative approach : This was the first activity labelled under the Rabat Process and took the form of a webinar. The specific focus of the webinar on integrating migration into development policies and cooperation has never been the subject of a dedicated meeting before. In order to ensure a common knowledge base, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Rabat Process Secretariat have developed two working documents that present the different approaches of selected African and European Rabat Process partners to migration and development policies and strategies.

→ “National authorities, local authorities and migration”, 14-15/09/21, Paris and virtual: cross-cutting action of the AP (see page 12)

Added value: The Dialogue partners discussed for the first time ever the role of local authorities and cities, alongside national authorities, in the governance of migration. This meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the opportunities for integrating the local level in the Dialogue and in the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan, through the National Focal Points (NFP).

Interactive approach : Ice-breaker activity with participants to find out why they came and what they expect. Role-play activity on the socio-economic inclusion of new arrivals to observe the complementarity between the different levels of authority and the key role of local and regional authorities in the social and economic integration of migrants.

II. Actions undertaken by the reference countries

Approach

What is the reference countries system?

The system of reference countries aims to encourage Rabat Process partners to lead the implementation of certain priorities of the Marrakesh Action Plan. It is designed to strengthen partners' sense of ownership and involvement in the Dialogue.

How it works

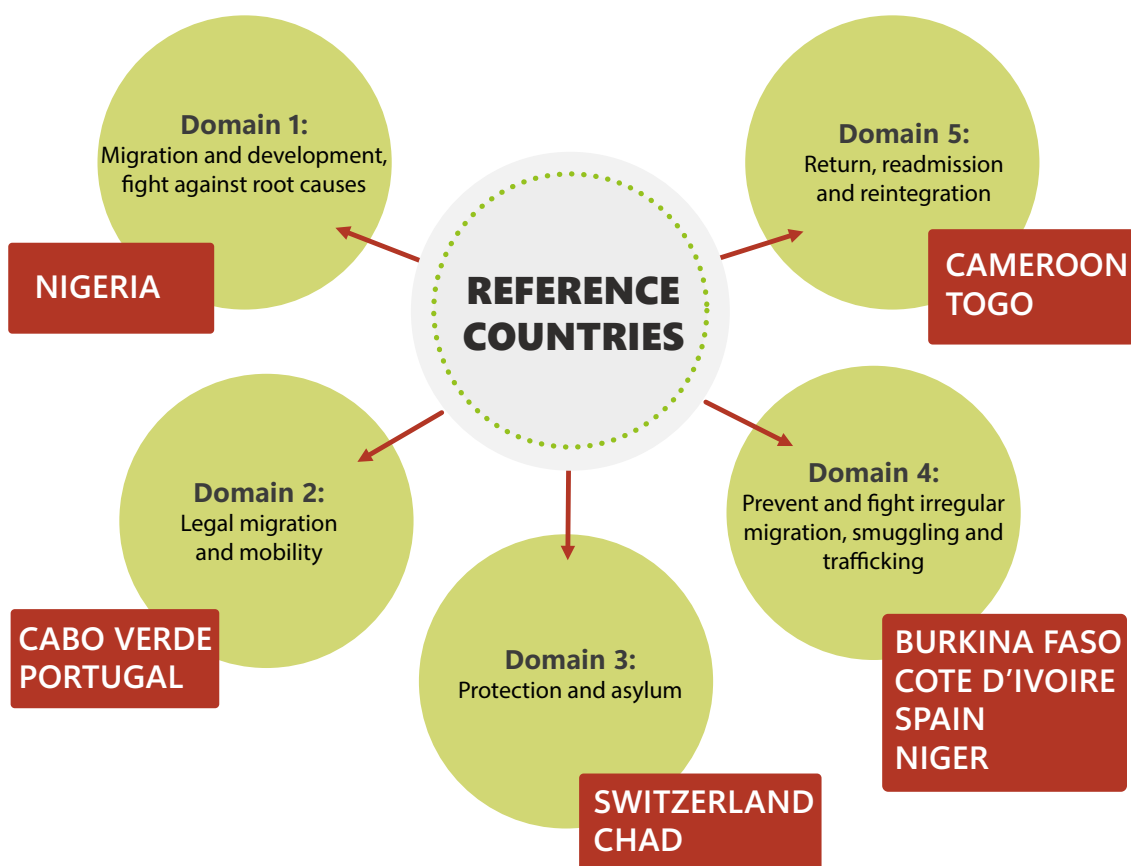
The reference countries contribute to the overall coordination of activities related to their respective domains, share lessons learned and best practices with Rabat Process partners, facilitate expertise and information for future Dialogue activities, encourage the identification of actions where needs are expressed, and ensure that priorities that have not yet been addressed are adequately addressed.

Consultations

The reference countries interact with the governance of the Rabat Process, i.e. the Steering Committee, the Dialogue Chair and the Secretariat. This system of reference countries reinforces the intergovernmental character of the Dialogue. Since the introduction of this system at the Ouagadougou SOM in 2019, two annual meetings of the Steering Committee with the reference countries have taken place in 2020 and 2021.

So far, several Rabat Process partner countries have volunteered to be reference countries:

Illustration: Reference countries by domain



Box 7: Protection and asylum: Rabat Process reference countries take the lead

Chad and Switzerland, as reference countries in the field of protection and asylum, successfully piloted activities in 2021 on domain 3 of the Marrakesh Action Plan. Both countries organised **two roundtables** (in July and October), in collaboration with UNHCR and the Rabat Process Secretariat on **unaccompanied minors (UAM)**.

These roundtables were the first activities carried out by reference countries and targeted a group of countries selected - for the first time - on the basis of an expression of interest, their knowledge of protection and asylum and the practical application of national policies and legislation in these areas.

Concrete results

- Agreement that future work on domain 3 of the Marrakesh Action Plan should focus on certain sub-themes (e.g. unaccompanied minors and their protection along migration routes and missing migrants).
- Planning of a bilateral project led by Switzerland and Chad to build capacity for eligibility interviews for vulnerable categories of asylum seekers.
- A core group of (African and European) countries and experts (e.g. ICRC and UNHCR) is ready to support future Rabat Process activities in this domain.

II. Develop scenarios to inform decision-making on migration and better prepare for crises

A **partnership** was initiated in October 2018 with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) which provides independent and high-quality analysis on mixed migration. The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The Centre acts as an independent source of data, research, analysis and policy development.

Objective of this partnership

Work together to develop regional³ scenarios to support the development of evidence-based migration policies.

Added value of this approach

- Have the necessary tools for thinking critically about the future, to better anticipate change, identify weaknesses and engage in more effective and sustainable planning and Dialogue.
- Work with quantitative and qualitative data collected in the field by the MMC through data collection projects, such as the 4MI⁴.

MIXED MIGRATION:
cross-border movements of people, including both refugees fleeing persecution and conflict who are victims of trafficking and people seeking a better life and opportunities. Motivated by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have different legal statuses and a variety of vulnerabilities (MMC definition).

³ Scenarios (as distinct from predictions or forecasts) are detailed representations of what might be the main regional drivers and patterns of future migration. Many factors influence people's aspirations, capacities and decisions to migrate, and this process identifies factors that may influence the decision to migrate.

⁴ As part of the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi), 120 monitors collect data on mixed migration in more than 20 countries across 8 migration routes around the world, conducting more than 10,000 in-depth interviews with refugees and migrants on the move each year. 4Mi is a key element of the MMC's research, analysis and policy engagement and is increasingly used by a wide range of partners.

Programme on the future of mixed migration (scenario building and interactive workshops)

The Rabat Process Secretariat and the MMC organised 4 workshops to better anticipate future trends and plan appropriate responses:

- The role of technology in migration dynamics, 16/06/21, virtual;
- Climate change and environmental factors - what impact on migration, 27/10/21, virtual;
- The future of mixed migration : How might the future of work influence migration in 2035?“, 01/12/2021, virtual;
- Migrant smuggling and financing in West and North Africa, 22/06/2022 in Brussels.

Box 8: Four briefing papers

Based on thousands of surveys of refugees and migrants in Africa (MMC's 4Mi project), the MMC has produced four briefing papers in the framework of its collaboration with ICMPD:

- **The impact of COVID-19** on refugees and migrants on the move in North and West Africa (03/2021);
- **Migration drivers** and decision-making of West and Central Africans on the move (06/2021);
- **Urban mixed migration:** Migrants moving to, through and from Cities in West and North Africa (11/2021);
- **Climate-related events and environmental stressors' roles** in driving migration in West and North Africa (03/2022).



Results

Increased involvement of experts and representatives of international organisations (UNHCR, ICRC) in the activities of the Rabat Process.

IV. Strengthen the interaction of the Dialogue with cities and local authorities

The Marrakesh Political Declaration endorsed, as one of its cross-cutting priorities, “an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach” to migration management.

Objective

Commit to progressively creating in the coming years an exchange of technical expertise with cities and local authorities within the framework of the Dialogue. This would enable it to demonstrate its capacity to be an inclusive and flexible Dialogue, capable of adapting to circumstances and developments.

Added value of this commitment

- Multi-level migration governance
- Help to encourage consultation and coordination between national governments - partners in the Rabat Process - and their cities and local partners.

Examples

The meeting organised by France in September 2021 in Paris entitled “National authorities, local authorities and migration”, which was the first meeting to address this issue, provided food for thought for the Rabat Process partners on the future involvement of cities and local authorities in the Dialogue.

Results

The members of the Rabat Process Steering Committee welcomed the prospect of future collaboration with local authorities and France prepared a position paper proposing different options for integrating local actors into the Dialogue.

V. Data collection, analysis and sharing tools adapted to the needs of partner countries

It should be recalled that data collection, analysis and sharing is one of the cross-cutting priorities of the Marrakesh Action Plan: “among the activities envisaged, the partners will endeavour to identify existing initiatives and studies, to share migration data and will undertake, if necessary, specific studies for operational purposes at national or regional levels”.

Approach

During the period 2018-2022, collaboration with stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis in the Rabat Process region has been strengthened. This collaboration took the form of a formal partnership with the MMC (see Box 8), close cooperation with renowned researchers (see Box 1) or cooperation with international organisations in the field of international protection, such as UNHCR and ICRC (see Box 7).

Results

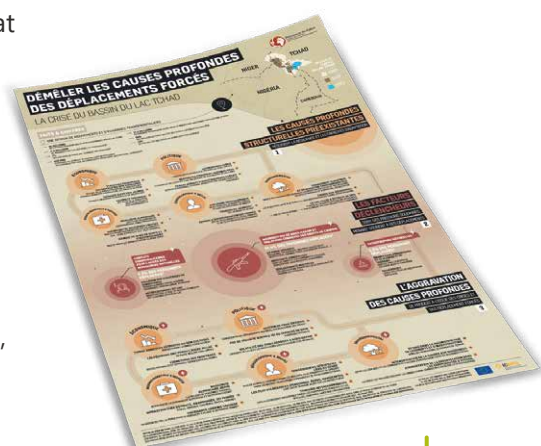
Access to reliable and relevant data and the effort to capitalise on information and knowledge on a given theme not only better informs the Dialogue, but also serves as a more solid basis for the development of policy and technical recommendations.

Box 9 : An example of an analysis paper with positive impact: Infographic: Untangling the Roots of Forced Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin

This **infographic**, developed by the Rabat Process Secretariat based on desk research and expert consultations, was presented at the Thematic Meeting on the Root Causes of Irregular Migration held in October 2018 in Paris.

Objective

To serve as a complementary tool to better understand the root causes (both structural factors and short-term triggers) of irregular migration and forced displacement. The Lake Chad Basin crisis was chosen as the focus of this infographic, as it is one of the most neglected displacement crises in Africa, directly or indirectly affecting several Rabat Process partner countries.



VI. A strengthened communication strategy

The Rabat Process website, available in [English](#) and [French](#), is the main awareness-raising and communication tool, centralising all relevant information and resources on the Rabat Process. It provides a clear overview of the governance of the Dialogue, the activities implemented and the publications and knowledge tools produced. The site is updated on a regular basis, with 77 articles published from May 2018 to December 2022 presenting the activities and publications.

In November 2020, the website underwent a significant restructuring improving its navigation and design. A new feature was created: a **document repository** offering direct access to all key Rabat Process documents and publications that have been produced since 2006 (currently over 450 entries in English and French). The site also hosts the private area reserved for users with login details. **The private area** now allows Rabat Process stakeholders to access documents with restricted access.

Press outreach has been strengthened through the organisation of press conferences, particularly in the context of Senior Officials' Meetings. A press kit and awareness-raising materials such as brochures support these efforts.

Social media outreach was also intensified, including live coverage of the Dialogue meetings on the Rabat Process [Twitter account](#). This has helped to reach a wide audience, particularly experts and organisations active in the field of migration. In total, more than 550 tweets were published to disseminate articles from the Rabat Process website and live quotes from the Dialogue meetings. In addition, a [LinkedIn account](#) was created in 2022 to enhance the visibility of the Dialogue and to communicate on the activities and publications.

During the period in question, emphasis was placed on the production and **dissemination of audiovisual tools** such as [videos](#) and publications that present key ideas in an accessible. The following achievements are particularly noteworthy (see Reference Documents for a full list):

- **An animated video** on the Rabat Process was produced to explain its main features to a wider audience.
- **Three videos on the handovers of the Chairmanships** allowed the partners to present the programme and priorities pursued during their Chairmanship.
- **Four videos** on the margins of several Rabat Process meetings were used to capture and disseminate the knowledge of experts present beyond these meetings. **Two video interviews** presented some innovative practices implemented by partner countries that correspond to the objectives of the Marrakesh Action Plan, such as voluntary return projects and migration and development policies and strategies.
- **A wide range of analytical documents with visual elements** were produced to communicate complex information in an entertaining way, such as infographics (see Box 10) and visual factsheets presenting the role and progress of countries.

Finally, in order to strengthen the brand of the Rabat Process and make the results of the Dialogue more recognisable, a **visibility manual** was produced. In addition, a **manual on the communication tools** that are available to partner countries through the Secretariat was developed to provide an overview of external communication tools and their use.

6. CONCLUSION

During the period 2018-2022, the Rabat Process has implemented **numerous activities covering all 5 domains of the Marrakesh Programme** on topics as varied as the link between migration and development, root causes of migration, remittances, labour migration, protection of unaccompanied minors, border management, combating smuggling of migrants or return and reintegration.

The Rabat Process has **adapted to the global health situation** by maintaining regular meetings - both political and thematic - in virtual, hybrid and face-to-face formats. At the same time, the health context has allowed the Dialogue to evolve and develop **virtual tools** (e.g. webinars and pre-recorded video projection) that have increased the participation of new actors outside the Process.

The Dialogue has also adopted **increasingly operational working methods** by identifying participant profiles adapted to the challenges of the meetings and by developing innovative tools, such as "labelled" initiatives, activities developed by the reference countries, collaboration with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), the development of synergies and collaboration with all stakeholders (in particular cities and local authorities), or the reinforced communication strategy.

Furthermore, in recent years, **synergies with other regional processes and fora have been strengthened** in order to ensure a comprehensive approach to migration and to constantly enrich the Dialogue with new practices. This cooperation has taken the form of joint activities with the Khartoum Process, strengthened collaboration with international organisations and close exchanges with the Prague and Budapest Processes.

The Rabat Process has also confirmed its **leading role in the follow-up, implementation and updating of the JVAP**.

Finally, the Dialogue has made **significant progress in governance** to strengthen ownership and involvement of partner countries in the Dialogue, by endorsing the principle of enlarging the Steering Committee to include two new European and two new African countries.

The next multi-annual programme to be adopted by the Rabat Process Ministers on 13-14 December 2022 in Cadiz will guide the Dialogue's activities for the period 2023-2027 and ensure that it remains a key player in the global migration governance.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Documents produced by the Rabat Process Secretariat in coordination with the Dialogue partners from May 2018 to November 2022.

I. Political Meetings

Steering Committees (SC)

- Document outlining options for association with the Steering Committee
- Document on the proposals for the enlargement of the Steering Committee
- Operating procedures of the Steering Committee
- Strategic note on the Dialogue Governance
- Minutes and conclusions of the Steering Committees (June 2018, January 2019, February 2019, June 2019, November 2019, February 2020, September 2020, October 2020, April 2021, July 2021, September 2021, November 2021, February 2022, June 2022, September 2021, October 2021)

Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM)

- Verbatim of the Marrakesh Ministerial Conference and SOM, May 2018
- Individual Analysis Report of the Rabat Process, JVAP SOM Addis Ababa November 2018
- Report of the Ouagadougou SOM, February 2019
- Report of the Malabo SOM, November 2021
- Report of the Madrid SOM, October 2022

II. Thematic/technical meetings

- Conclusions and recommendations of the thematic meetings (Paris 2019, Madrid 2019, Abidjan 2019, Abuja 2019, RRR Webinar 2021, MigDev webinar 2021, Virtual roundtable 2021, Paris 2021, Geneva 2021, Legal migration webinar 2021, MigDev Madrid 2021, IBM Madrid 2021, Malaga 2021, Brussels 2021)
- Background note on the meeting on root causes of irregular migration
- Background paper on the technical workshop on diaspora remittances and sustainable development
- Background note on the workshop on international migration and development
- Concept Note on the Voluntary Return and Reintegration Workshop
- Background note on the roundtable and related activities on protection and asylum
- Concept note on the thematic meeting on border management
- Concept note on the thematic meeting on legal migration
- Concept note on thematic meeting on remittances and sustainable development
- Guiding questions (TM legal migration December 2021, TM MigDev May 2022, TM labour migration September 2022)

III. Strategic documents

- Review of the implementation of the Rome Programme 2015-2017
- Comparative table of the Marrakesh Action Plan with the Global Compact on Migration analysing crosscutting priorities and areas of focus
- Discussion paper prepared ahead of the Ouagadougou SOM of February 2019 on the future of the Rabat Process
- Roadmap for the Chairmanship of the Rabat Process: Responsibilities and tasks of the Chairmanship of the Dialogue
- Stocktaking of progress on the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan (2018 – 2020) and future prospects
- Preparatory document on the “Needs and priorities of partners in the framework of the Marrakesh Action Plan and the Rabat Process” – SOM Malabo November 2021
- Progress papers, Marrakesh Action Plan (D5 on return, readmission and reintegration and D3 on protection and asylum) – SOM Malabo November 2021
- Flyer “Equatorial Guinea’s chairmanship of the Rabat Process – Programme and priorities” – SOM Malabo November 2021
- Where does the Rabat Process align with objectives of the Global Compact for Migration? - Rabat Process activities organised since December 2018 with a link to the objectives of the GCM
- Discussion paper, Roundtable 1 “Common opportunities and challenges arising from migration and mobility for Rabat Process countries”
- Discussion paper, Roundtable 2 “Perspectives for addressing new drivers of migration in the Rabat Process region”

IV. Knowledge tools

- State of the Art synthesis - Study on the root causes of irregular migration in the Rabat Process region by the Development Research Institute
- Explanatory note on the analytical study on the root causes of irregular migration in the Rabat Process region
- Infographic on the root causes of forced displacement in the Lake Chad Basin crisis
- Collection of Good Practices on Engaging with the Diaspora in the Rabat Process Region
- Assessment Report on Gaps, Needs and Transferable Practices in the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings in the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania - Mapping Migration-Development Policies in the Rabat Process
- Questionnaire on voluntary return and reintegration
- “Working Document: Migration and Development Policies and Strategies. European Regional Analysis (Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) and Country Factsheets (France, Switzerland)”
- “Working Document: Migration and Development Policies and Strategies. Regional Analysis and Country Factsheets: Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Togo”

- Briefing paper “Climate-related events and environmental stressors’ roles in driving migration in West and North Africa” - in collaboration with the MMC
- Briefing paper “Urban mixed migration - Experiences of migrants moving to, through and from cities in West and North Africa” – in collaboration with the MMC
- Briefing paper “Migration drivers and decision-making of West and Central Africans on the move in West and North Africa: A quantitative analysis of factors contributing to departure” – in collaboration with the MMC
- Briefing paper “The impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants on the move in North and West Africa” – in collaboration with the MMC

V. Monitoring tools

- Report on the analysis of participation in the meetings of the Rabat Process in 2015-2019
- Evaluation forms for thematic meetings of the Rabat Process 2018-2022
- Calendar of Rabat Process activities (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- Concept note on the implementation of Action 1 of the Marrakesh Action Plan
- Concept note on the implementation of Action 19 of the Marrakesh Action Plan
- Note on the labelling system for initiatives contributing to the implementation of the Marrakesh Action Plan
- Visual note on the role of reference countries
- Methodological note and concept note on the approach with cities and local authorities
- Note on the partnership with the MMC
- Documents summarising the results of the workshop to develop scenarios on mixed migration in West Africa in 2030 (MMC-led exercise)

VI. Communication tools

- Rabat Process website: <https://www.rabat-process.org/>
- Rabat Process Twitter: https://twitter.com/rabat_process
- Rabat Process LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rabat-process/>
- Press releases for meetings of the Rabat Process
- Articles on the website for all Rabat Process activities between May 2018 and November 2022
- Brochure on the Marrakesh 2018-2020 programme
- Videos of the SOM press conference in Ouagadougou February 2019
- Video on the Technical Meeting on Border Management in Madrid, July 2019
- Video on the handover of the Chairmanship from Burkina Faso to France
- Videos with thematic experts during the workshop on remittances and sustainable development in Abuja, November 2019
- Video on Equatorial Guinea’s chairmanship handover

- Video on Migration and Development: "A look at migration and development policies and strategies in Côte d'Ivoire and Switzerland"
- Video "Reach Out" project - Raising awareness about voluntary return among stranded migrants and migrants in transit
- Video on Spain's chairmanship handover
- Video reference country perspectives on protection and asylum (Switzerland, Chad) - Roundtable "Risks, support and durable solutions, in particular for unaccompanied minors"
- Video "Rabat Process in a nutshell"
- Rabat Process Style guide and visibility manual
- Rabat Process Communication tools manual
- Social media publication calendar (2019 ,2020, 2021, 2022)
- Rabat Process Press kit
- Rabat Process Factsheet


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International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Rue Belliard 159, 1040 Brussels

www.rabat-process.org | rabatprocess@icmpd.org

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