

# THE RABAT PROCESS

BALANCED DIALOGUE,  
CONCRETE ACTION



**Rabat Process**

Euro-African Dialogue on  
Migration and Development

# WHAT IS THE RABAT PROCESS?



The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) is an intergovernmental migration dialogue bringing together Central African, West African, North African and European countries and organisations.

The Rabat Process was founded in 2006 as a framework for consultation and operationalisation for the countries of origin, transit and destination concerned by the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe.

Technical and political meetings of the participating national authorities pave the way for balanced and comprehensive partnerships on migration and mobility between Africa and Europe. Periodically, a new multiannual cooperation programme is adopted at ministerial level.

The Rabat Process is a State-driven Dialogue following a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure inclusiveness and facilitate exchange. International organisations, thematic experts, civil society organisations, diaspora organisations and the private sector regularly contribute their expertise. The Rabat Process also coordinates and seeks synergies with other regional dialogues, such as the Khartoum Process.

## A COMPREHENSIVE DIALOGUE:

Discussing common challenges and opportunities

## A NETWORK:

Building and enhancing Euro-African networks at technical and political levels

## A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:

Facilitating initiatives taking into account regional specificities

## A PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE-SHARING:

Sharing information on initiatives, policies and best practices

- 
- European partner countries
- African partner countries
- Observer countries
- The map shows Europe and Africa. European countries are shaded in teal, African countries in light green, and observer countries in a darker green. A legend on the left identifies these categories with colored circles.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023 – 2027

Periodically, the partners revise the Dialogue's strategic framework, thereby addressing the evolving realities of migration and mobility. The Sixth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held on 13-14 December 2022, defined the priorities for 2023-2027 in the Cadiz Declaration and Action Plan.

## CADIZ ACTION PLAN: 5 AREAS – 10 OBJECTIVES – 29 ACTIONS

1	<b>Development benefits of migration / Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement</b>	1. Maximise the positive impact of regular migration (+3 actions)	2. Understand the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement (+2 actions)
2	<b>Regular migration and mobility</b>	3. Promote regular migration & mobility (especially of young people and women) (+5 actions)	4. Encourage facilitation of visa issuance procedures (+2 actions)
3	<b>Protection and asylum</b>	5a. Enhance the protection of refugees and the forcibly displaced (+3 actions) 5b. Promote actions to respect the dignity and the human rights of migrants (+2 actions)	6. Promote the integration of refugees and the forcibly displaced into host communities (+2 actions)
4	<b>Irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB)</b>	7. Strengthen capacities for border management and combating migrant smuggling and THB (+3 actions)	8. Improve the protection of smuggled migrants, persons in need of international protection, and victims of THB (+3 actions)
5	<b>Return, readmission and reintegration</b>	9. Strengthen capacities for identification processes & the issuance of travel documents (+2 actions)	10. Encourage programmes for the safe return and sustainable reintegration of migrants (+2 actions)

# WHO IS PART OF THE RABAT PROCESS?

**4 permanent observer organisations**  
ICRC, IOM, UNODC, UNHCR<sup>1</sup>

**External technical experts**  
Civil society, diaspora organisations, academic representatives, private sector

## DIALOGUE PARTNERS

**55 partner countries**  
**2 observer countries**  
represented by National Focal Points

**2 regional organisations**  
The European Union (EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

## GOVERNANCE

**The Steering Committee**  
EU and ECOWAS,  
7 African countries and  
7 European countries:  
**Belgium, Burkina Faso,**  
**Equatorial Guinea, France,**  
**Italy, Mali, Morocco, the**  
**Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria,**  
**Portugal, Senegal, Spain,**  
**Switzerland**

**The Chair**  
Mandated for one year,  
the Chairmanship  
alternates between  
African and European  
Steering Committee  
members

**The Reference Countries<sup>2</sup>**  
Partner countries who  
volunteered to lead  
the operationalisation  
of actions in line with  
a specific area of the  
Cadiz Action Plan

## SUPPORT

**The Secretariat**  
Supports all Dialogue activities,  
including Dialogue meetings,  
knowledge-building activities,  
communications and strategic  
liaison with partners

**Implemented by** the International  
Centre for Migration Policy  
Development (ICMPD) and funded  
by the EU as part of the project  
"Support to Africa-EU Migration  
and Mobility Dialogue" (MMD)

<sup>1</sup>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup>Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo

# ACTIVE PARTNERS, SHAPING A STATE-DRIVEN DIALOGUE



**National Focal Points (NFP)** are contact points within national administrations who share their knowledge at Dialogue meetings or identify national thematic experts to do so. They disseminate the Dialogue's results at the national level and strengthen the sense of ownership of the Dialogue. The network of NFPs helps to pave the way for multilateral partnerships and increased cooperation.



**The Steering Committee ("CoPil")** is the strategic governing body of the Dialogue. It sets strategic priorities and makes decisions for the Dialogue's advancement. This includes stimulating cooperation between partner countries, preparing decisions on the political orientation of the Dialogue and following up on the implementation of the multi-annual cooperation programmes. To ensure balanced geographic representation, the CoPil is composed of seven African and seven European countries, as well as the EC and ECOWAS.



**The Chair of the Rabat Process** is a driving force, shaping the Dialogue. Each CoPil member may act as a chair for the duration of one year, always alternating between Africa and Europe. The Chair provides fresh impetus to the Dialogue, moderates political meetings and acts as a mediator between diverging positions.



**The Reference Countries** contribute to the operationalisation of actions in line with the multi-annual cooperation programme to ensure all priorities are adequately addressed.



**The Secretariat of the Rabat Process** facilitates all Dialogue activities and supports the partners by providing expertise and knowledge, key information and access to networks. It is a demand-driven entity, accompanying the Dialogue as a "neutral broker" by giving technical and policy input. The Secretariat also ensures communications and preserves continuity as the institutional memory of the Rabat Process.

# ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

The Rabat Process combines **political, technical** and **operational** dimensions. Activities in its framework are **State-driven** and supported by the **Secretariat**. The Dialogue also aims to provide the impetus for policies and initiatives pursued by partner countries at national, bilateral and regional levels, in line with the jointly agreed objectives.



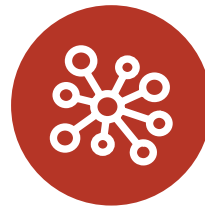
**Thematic and political Dialogue meetings** to exchange about challenges and good practices related to migration and development and set strategic objectives.



**Monitoring of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)**, adopted together with Khartoum Process countries at the 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration. Monitoring enables structured data collection on African and European projects and policies.



**Knowledge-building and sharing** activities led by the Secretariat, including policy papers, studies, and reports.



**Networking and communications** to widely disseminate results, using tools such as the Rabat Process website, videos, infographics and social media.

# A MULTI-LAYERED DIALOGUE

The Dialogue partners meet regularly at political and technical levels to tackle challenges and opportunities posed by migration and mobility guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. In addition, the Rabat Process is cooperating and coordinating with other regional processes, such as the Khartoum Process.

## POLITICAL MEETINGS

### Ministerial Conferences

Ministers endorse the multi-annual cooperation programme consisting of a political declaration and a set of detailed actions

### Senior Officials' Meetings

High-level representatives of national administrations, and regional and international organisations debate strategic policy and operational objectives to prepare political decisions and adopt the Dialogue programming plan

### Steering Committee Meetings

The 16 members of the CoPil discuss the strategic orientation of the Dialogue and make key decisions

**Co-ordination and synergies with other regional processes**  
including joint meetings with the Khartoum Process

## TECHNICAL MEETINGS

### Thematic Meetings and Workshops

Technical experts of national and local administrations as well as external observers and experts share their expertise and elaborate technical recommendations

### Reference Countries' Actions

Workshops or activities led by the reference countries of the Cadiz Action Plan

### Labelled Meetings

Initiatives led and/or funded mainly by Rabat Process partners that are branded as Rabat Process activities and contribute to the implementation of the Dialogue's objectives

# GET IN TOUCH

Learn more about the Rabat Process, the Valletta Action Plan and its Monitoring and Reporting Tool

Visit the Rabat Process website to stay informed about the Dialogue:

[www.rabat-process.org](http://www.rabat-process.org)

Contact the Rabat Process Secretariat for questions about the Dialogue:

[rabatprocess@icmpd.org](mailto:rabatprocess@icmpd.org)

Visit us on social media:

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Rabat\\_Process](https://twitter.com/Rabat_Process)

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