



Meeting of the Task Force on Migration & Development

Abuja, 21 – 23 July, 2008

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

The third meeting of the Task Force on Migration and Development was held in Abuja from 21 to 23 July, 2008 as a follow up to the meeting held in Praia, Cape Verde from 12 to 14 May, 2008.

2. The following countries were represented at the meeting:

- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Togo

A sizeable number of officials from the ECOWAS Commission from relevant Departments also attended the meeting.

OPENING SESSION:

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. N. Fally Sanoh, the Director in charge of Free Movement of Persons of the ECOWAS Commission, on behalf of the Commissioner in charge of Trade, Customs, Tourism, Industry, Mines and Free Movement who was unavoidably absent, welcomed participants to the 3rd ECOWAS meeting of the working groups on Migration and Development aimed at strengthening developmental potentials derivable from migration dynamics. He emphasized that the Rabat Plan of Action has been identified as a major framework to tackle migration issues within the sub-region. Furthermore, he emphasised that the focus of the Rabat Plan of

the migration routes encompassing countries of origin, transit and destination taking into account, projects that could be implemented in the short, medium and long term. He further intimated that Spain has already donated the sum of €10m for the development of priority projects on migration within the ECOWAS member states.

4. In addition, he stated that other countries have also indicated readiness to collaborate with ECOWAS and fund projects relating to migration and developmental issues. He enjoined member states to focus attention on the main objective of this meeting which is to prioritise projects and identify those that could be implemented in the immediate future as well as set specific deadlines for identification and execution of projects in member states. He therefore encouraged all delegates to participate actively as well as contribute meaningfully to the deliberation in order to formulate implementable projects that will be of tremendous benefit to the Community citizens with aim of attaining economic stability and development to realise the integration process in the sub-region. Thereafter, he handed over to the delegate from Burkina Faso, Mrs Barry Traore Wato Delphine to take charge of the proceedings of the meeting.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

5. The following Bureau was elected:

Chairperson – Burkina Faso

Rapporteurs – Nigeria

- Togo

6. The agenda was adopted as follows:-

- Opening Ceremony
- Appraisal and consideration of PRAIA Agenda by the working groups
- Any other business
- Closing Remarks

DELIBERATIONS ON THE PRAIA DOCUMENT:

7. After the formal opening ceremony, the Chairperson formally welcomed all participants to the meeting and charged them to study the PRAIA DOCUMENT carefully with a view to making useful contributions to the deliberations of this meeting. In order for the meeting to be focused, she then called for suggestions on the modus operandi for the conduct of the meeting. Thereafter, the Togolese delegate suggested that the projects to be executed in member states should be categorised as follows:

1 – 2 years --- Short term

3 – 5 years --- Medium term

5 years and above --- Long term

She then enjoined all participants to come up with concrete and fundable projects that could be executed from the €5m provided by Spain affirming that priority would be given to those short term projects. The meeting was briefed in detail by Mr. Jonah of the ECOWAS Commission on the sum of €10 million (ten million Euros) extended to ECOWAS by Spain to fund projects on migration in the West African Sub-region.

themes:

- Migration and Development
- Regular Migration
- Irregular Migration
- Migration and Diaspora
- Migration and Gender
- Strengthening of the operational co-operation on migration.

9. The meeting deliberated on the Praia document which contained the above six broad themes line by line and necessary amendments were effected as can be seen from the attached table. However, theme N^o 6, which is, strengthening of the operational co-operation on migration was not examined because it had been taken care of in other previous activities. The meeting also agreed that short term projects are to be accorded priority for immediate implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DELEGATES

10. In order to have a common position and effective dialogue with our developmental partners, in the meeting on migration coming up in Paris, in October 2008, the delegates recommended the following:

- A meeting of Committee of experts on migration and development should be convened with a view to formulating and harmonising our common position on migration as it affects the ECOWAS sub-region which will further be deliberated upon by the Ministerial Committee before the Paris conference scheduled for October this year

should also be convened with the view to adopting a common position for the ECOWAS sub-region for formal presentation as a position paper by ECOWAS member states at the Paris conference.

11. The meeting further recommended that the ECOWAS Commission should bring this matter to the attention of the President of the ECOWAS Commission for immediate action.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. The Chairperson enjoined all participants to take the issue of migration very seriously in order to confront the challenges posed by it to developing countries like ours. In response participants expressed the need for each member state to provide an enabling environment in their respective states to discourage illegal migration. They further expressed deep commitment to the issue of migration and promised to forward the recommendations of this meeting to relevant authorities in their respective countries for urgent consideration at national levels.

DONE IN ABUJA, THE 23 DAY OF JULY, 2008

The Chairperson

Mrs Barry Traore Wato Delphine



VOTE OF THANKS

The experts at the meeting of Task Force on Migration and Development held in Abuja from 21 to 23 July 2008, express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and the people of Nigeria for the excellent facilities put at our disposal in order to ensure the success of this meeting.

THE MEETING