

**REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS: AFRICA**

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) contributions to the consultations

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-On behalf of all CSOs in the GFMD process-

The CSO's Mechanism will like to thank the organizers of these consultations for the participatory process set up for more inclusive contributions. Our deepest acknowledgment to the African Union (AU) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for giving us this space to share our perspectives on such important issues. Finally, we thank all the other mechanisms participating to the Africa consultations hoping that the same sense of inclusiveness will continue during this process and beyond.

We, CSOs from different constituencies and from different regions in Africa (5 regions and the diaspora as the 6<sup>th</sup> region) met to exchange around the 3 thematic issues selected for the continental consultations. The following points summarize the key conclusions and recommendations we had along 2 sessions (English and French):

**Thematic issue 1: Governance of labor**

**Preliminary observations**

- Informal sector dominating the Economic environment in Africa and that is highly affected like other economic actors,
- Widespread of poverty despite the economic growth claimed by different institutions before the of COVID-19 pandemic. This is a strong indicator of the extraversion of more African economies not ready to contribute to the structural transformation claimed by states but not able to create sustainable jobs for youth,
- Lack of global policy space to deal with formal sectors challenges COVID-19 just recalled us the fragility of our economics
- Dysfunctionalities of labor structures in the continent preventing countries to have coherent guidelines from different institutions at different levels (Pan-African, regional, sub-regional, national and local -governments-);
- Domination of intra Africa Migration with more than 80% according to various sources with migrants facing the same challenges of abuses they have living in other continents;
- Huge contribution of african diaspora in various manners in the development dynamics of their countries and regions of origin.

Then continental (internal) challenges should take more space in our vision, mission strategic orientations' formulation in Africa. All migrants with any form of discrimination should be protected in all african countries and political measures should be taken against all african countries violating labor rights in the continent.

## Recommendations

- 1- Ensure coherences of policies and practices at all levels in the continent (continental, regional, sub-regional, national and local)
- 2- Build more coherences of institutions at all levels
- 3- Each country to have coherent migration and labor policies framed with the strong participation of CSOs in particular but also other stakeholders in general;
- 4- Develop more multilateral agreements in requesting partnerships at international level (AU, RECs...) to avoid individual countries bilateral agreements that can destabilize regional integration in some cases (West Africa with militarization of borders, hotspots, military bases, externalization of borders etc.)
- 5- Speed up the implementation of different relevant instruments developed by AU on line with migration perspectives (Agenda 2063, Africa free movement of people protocol, migration agenda, Africa Mining Vision, Maputo/Malabo declaration, Continental Free Trade Agreement taking roots in the free movement of people protocol etc.)
- 6- Develop in each Country a decent work agenda with African Union's strong participation and contribution for the monitoring and evaluation but also the knowledge management on cases and stories to be scaled up.
- 7- Set up multistakeholders' platform of dialogue bringing together at all levels, various actors to develop progressive labor governance frameworks and or action plans (all these levels);
- 8- AU to encourage and support Africa's economic transformation with priorities to investments in Agriculture (fishing, livestock, agriculture, forestry upstream and downstream) & mining Sectors development (better governance and investment) for a continental sovereignty leading to better job creation structure and more investment in countries' economies;
- 9- Put emphasis on national & regional resources mobilization for reinvesting in economic sectors but also restoring social services for better access to all including migrants;
- 10- Develop more initiatives between countries & regions in mutualizing resources for socio-economic development;
- 11- Promote industrialization initiatives of the continent for more jobs creation offering better living conditions to Africa's vibrant youth with no perspective today,
- 12- Collaborate more with CSOs to create better implementation strategies monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management of labor governance policies, programs and practices.

## Thematic issue 2: Skilling migrants for employment

We shared many different case studies on skills development of african diaspora all over the world (Europe, North America, Asia...). From these case studies we learned that there is a strong need to create conditions for mutual learning processes for Africa diaspora at the 3 levels (country of origin, transit and destination/host).

CSOs recommend among others:

- Governments, multilateral and bilateral co-operations to invest more on skills, competences and performances in Africa both at formal and informal learning spaces to prepare young people to be more competitive in and out of the continent;
- Build more coherences between curricula and development sectors' needs in different African countries
- Create more spaces for African diaspora training online with their needs and using different instruments and domains;
- Build up more accountability for states on skill development in countries of origin, countries of transit and destination by creating training centers for migrants. We urge African Union to speed up the implementation of the centers of excellency on migration in the continent on line with migrants' needs;
- All stakeholders to put more emphasis on new information and communication tools to accelerate learning processes for migrants and youth at all levels.

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## Thematic issue 3: Gaps in migrants' protection

State of the debate

- Restriction of legal pathways pushing mainly young people to use dangerous routes by sea or desert/Sahara
- AU free movement protocol ratified by only 4 countries that needs to be questioned in terms of interests and commitment for this very important protocol;
- Legal protection is subject to abuses of women but also young people at all levels (within the continent and out of the continent)
- Regional blocs (REC) have sometimes progressive policies and practices that need to be scaled up by AU and other international institutions but there is no specific agenda on that perspective despite the strong advocacy work done by CSOs.

The CSOs' perspectives on migrants' protection are built around:

- Engaging dialogue with Government in their commitment to protect migrants at the 3 levels (origin, transit, destination)
- Support the framing, implementation, monitoring and assessment of comprehensive migrants' protection frameworks in all African countries;
- Built capacities for diaspora to engage in the defense of their rights in all domains, regions and all the time
- Building all CSO capacities to engage more with governments and other stakeholders.

We believe that the protection of migrants rights should address 4 key areas

- 1- **Economic rights related to labor**, abuses from employers, transfer of resources in their country of origin
- 2- **Social protection against stereotypes that are victims most migrants**
  - States to ensure access for all to all social services;
  - Access to decent housing
  - Guarantee all migrants to access legal documents respecting their rights and making it possible to regularize all migrants without any discrimination
- 3- **Health as specific issue that become problematic with this pandemic era**
  - Access to information as a right
  - Access to health systems and facilities
- 4- **Legal protection**
  - Training of migrants on their rights and develop strategies to claim them legally
  - Support potential migrants in the corridors in promoting and protecting their rights to life, social services, decent work, justice and other related facilities
  - AU to ratify different international instruments that protect migrants' rights.

African Civil Society Organizations (CSO) working on migration are committed to engage and/or consolidate dialogue with all the actors, in particular governments, different mechanisms (private, local authorities, etc.) to promote the rights of all migrants inside and outside the continent. The next steps in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) process will enable such an approach to be implemented we deeply hope.

**Thanks for your kind attention**