



**The 4<sup>th</sup> Specialized Technical Committee on  
Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic  
Planning and Integration  
9-14 March 2020  
Accra, Ghana**

## **Side event: Migration and economic development**

## BACKGROUND

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Population projections suggest that by 2050 Africa will be the region of the world with the highest population growth rate. This means that there will be serious implications for international migration and the continent's economic development. With improved technological advancement in terms of access to information, good transportation systems, changing climatic conditions, demographic pressures and the desire for better livelihoods, there will be increased international migration in the continent. In 2006, in Banjul, the Assembly adopted the framework for migration policy in Africa. Also during the 24<sup>th</sup> AU extraordinary session in Ouagadougou, September 2004 on employment, poverty eradication, inclusive development in Africa, the heads of states adopted a plan of action with key priority areas including labour migration governance and regional economic integration in Africa. However, since 2016, migration has been at the heart of concern from the Heads of State and Government of the African Union. There is need to have measures in place so that we can have better migration governance in Africa.

One of the key elements of migration is labor migration. In order to understand labor migration in Africa, in 2015 the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the AUC/ILO/IOM/ECA Joint Program on labor migration governance and integration in Africa (JLMP). Given the extent of the migratory phenomenon in Africa, in particular the Mediterranean crisis but also the working conditions of African migrants in the Gulf countries, the Commission of the African Union has prepared a new migration policy framework for Africa. The Assembly adopted the new migration policy framework for Africa with its 2018-2020 action plan. With better migration governance, African migration can play an important role in the structural transformation of African economies including better socio-economic effects amongst countries of origin, transit and destination.

World Bank estimates suggest that remittances to sub-Saharan Africa rose by almost 10% in 2018 to \$ 46 billion compared to 2017, driven by good performance in high-income countries. As a share of gross domestic product (GDP), Comoros had the highest share, followed by The Gambia, Lesotho, Cabo Verde, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Togo, Ghana and Nigeria. Money transfers to the Middle East and North Africa soared 9% in 2018 to \$ 62 billion compared to 2017- a change mainly due to the rapid increase in transfers to Egypt, from around 17 %. This positive dynamic should continue beyond 2018, but at a slower pace, around 3% in 2019, hampered by the slowdown in activity in the euro zone.

Based on the two editions of reports of labor migration statistics in Africa, international migration takes place within the African continent. Migration outside the African continent remain somewhat weak. Intra-African and inter African migration promotes economic growth amongst member states and regions. According to UNCTAD estimates based on existing migration scenarios, immigration flows could significantly increase Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita by 2030. UNCTAD studies have also shown that: (i) migration has lasting beneficial effects on growth and development, (ii) migration stimulates trade, (iii) migration helps make growth profitable for all and expand opportunities for migrants, (iv) whether skilled or semi-

skilled, immigrants are agents of growth in destination countries, (v) migrants are neither a burden nor a quick fix when it comes to achieving the SDGs.

The side event is therefore intended to highlight the impact of migration to the economic development of the continent.

## OBJECTIVES

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The objectives of the side event are:

- Discuss the contribution of migration to economic growth in Africa;
- Share migration trends in Africa
- Show the contribution of migration for countries of origin and;
- Reflect on the political framework for the improvement of migration statistics in Africa;

## DATE AND VENUE OF THE EVENT

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**Date:** March 2020

**Time: 09 am-12:00 pm**

**Time allocated total:** 03:00

**Time per speaker:** 15 min followed by discussion

**Room:** tbd

**Moderator:** Mrs Leila Ben Ali (Head of Statistics Division, African Union)

### **Panellists:**

Mr. Jean Pierre Ntezimana, Statistics Sweden

Mr. Jason Gagnon, OECD Development Centre

Mr. Rainer Münz, Central European University (CEU) (TBC)

ILO,

UNECA

National Statistics Office of Ghana