VALLETTA ACTION PLAN AND GLOBAL COMPACTS ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES: JOURNEYS IN SAME OR OPPOSITE DIRECTION(S)

Numerous global, regional and national dialogues and initiatives are taking place on how best to harness the benefits of migration while minimizing its negative effects.

The European Union (EU) called for a dialogue between Africa\(^1\) and EU in Malta, hosting the Valletta Summit on Migration in November 2015 that resulted in a Political Declaration and Action Plan (VAP) to address major issues at the center of migration governance among the two regions. These include addressing the root cause of irregular migration and forced displacement; enhancing cooperation on legal migration and mobility, reinforce the protection of migrants and asylum seekers; preventing and fighting irregular migration, migrants smuggling and trafficking in human persons, and working more closely to improve cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration. The parties know that the process cannot be considered in isolation thus the VAP was designed to make use of existing mechanisms established under the regional Rabat and Khartoum Processes, the broader context of the European Union’s Global Approach to Migration Management (GAMM) and, more recently, the European Agenda on Migration.

On the global level, as an offshoot of the September 19, 2016 summit on large movement of migrants and refugees the member States committed to developing two global compacts—global compact on migration and global compact on refugees—of an international cooperation, framed in consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and its scope global compact.\(^2\) The compacts will be developed through an open, transparent and inclusive process of consultations and negotiations and the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities, and migrant organizations in both the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process.

Many actors including civil society believe that, irrespective of their individual uniqueness, in order to avoid duplication or losing in one process what is gained in another requires a coordinated and collaborative effort towards a consolidated outcome. Thus the question of the possible meeting point of the processes is urgent and pertinent. Such meeting point would see that the processes complement each other in substance and procedure. Also the lessons learned from one process would help avoid possible mistake in another, in this way, ensuring delivering as one.

\(^1\) 29 African countries from the Khartoum and Rabat Process countries.
The **side event** is envisaged to provide opportunities for further understanding of the two processes especially in their intersections, if any, towards better governance for safe and orderly mobility in dignity and respect for human rights of all migrants regardless of their status. It is also hoped that it would offer insights for leveraging multi-stakeholders opportunities and building the capacity of CSO to participate in the two processes.

**Date:** June 30, 2017  
**Time:** 14:00-15:45h  
**Venue:** Robert Bosch Foundation (Robert Bosch Stiftung) Französische Straße 32, 10117 Berlin

**Sponsors:** Augustinians International; African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), UK International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Europe; Civil Society National Network on Migration and Development (Csomigrationnetwork), Nigeria; Congregations of St. Joseph and NGO Committee on Migration

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