

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: migration statistics

Document E/CN.3/2021/11 – Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics

Statement provided by:

Morocco

Statement:

Morocco would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter

African countries have committed to various regional and international instruments aiming to improve the availability of quality migration statistics. To this end, various initiatives are ongoing in the region in order to improve the production, dissemination and management of timely and comparable migration data and statistics at national and regional levels. While some of these initiatives are focusing on the harmonization of concepts, definition and data collection tools, others deal with capacity building of member states. These include among others

- (i) Development of adequate and standardized materials and data collection tools aiming to improve the production and dissemination of relevant and harmonised migration data in Africa. Key references in this regard are:
 - (a) The African Union Commission (AUC) Guidelines for collecting existing administrative data and census data on migration.
 - (b) The AUC handbook on irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migration in 2020 that has been piloted in 3 countries Botswana, Kenya and Tunisia;
- (ii) The implementation of the United Nations Development Account (DA) project on migration statistics and skills by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the ILO. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of Member States for the development of evidence-based migration policies and programs;
- (iii) The AUC Recurrent Report on Labour Migration Statistics that focuses on the situation of labour statistics in Africa whose third publication will be in March 2021.
- (iv) The contribution from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to discussions and meetings of a Specialized Technical Group (STG) working on migrations statistics, convened by the AUC. In 2020, the group discussed and reviewed documents on world migration survey, harmonization questionnaire on Migration survey in Africa and third edition of labor migration statistics in Africa report, which are in line with the work done by UNDESA and United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics. In addition, the group has been working on revision of concepts and definitions, and new and innovative ways of data collection on migration including the possibility of introducing migration modules into household surveys. This could be further explored by the expert group. Findings and lessons from the STG and other similar regional working groups and consultations would be important inputs in further revision and adoption of the conceptual framework on migration

Africa member states commend the efforts deployed by the United Nations Statistics Division to revise the conceptual framework on international migration and mobility and accompanying definitions as well as its ongoing work on the development of the data and indicator framework. We also agree on recommendations made by the commission. In addition, Africa proposes the following:

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- a. That all initiatives aiming to foster the availability and use of quality data on international migration in the continent, including tools used to collect administrative and survey data on migration build on the revised conceptual framework on international migration and mobility as well as the data and indicator framework that is being developed at global level.
- b. Given the complexity of the pattern of international migration in Africa and its measurement issues, the African member states recommend that the revised conceptual and data and indicator frameworks developed at global level give room for adaption to regional and national specific context without impeding the quality and comparability of data at national, regional and global levels. To this end, we agree that UNECA should be part of all these framework's revision processes and assist African countries in their implementation, including their adaptation to the African context and reality, and capacity building needed in this regard.
- c. Appreciate the work of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics on the improvement of migration statistics.
- d. Endorse the revised conceptual framework on international migration and mobility and accompanying definitions as the core elements for the upcoming revision of the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration

Submitted on:

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