Rabat Process
Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development

The Rabat Process

An original and operational Dialogue on migration and development issues

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The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development, also known as Rabat Process was created in 2006, on the basis of the need to bring together the countries of origin, transit and destination affected by the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe.

For more than a decade, this Dialogue has brought together almost 60 European and African countries, as well as the European Commission (EC) and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to discuss questions raised by the migratory challenges.
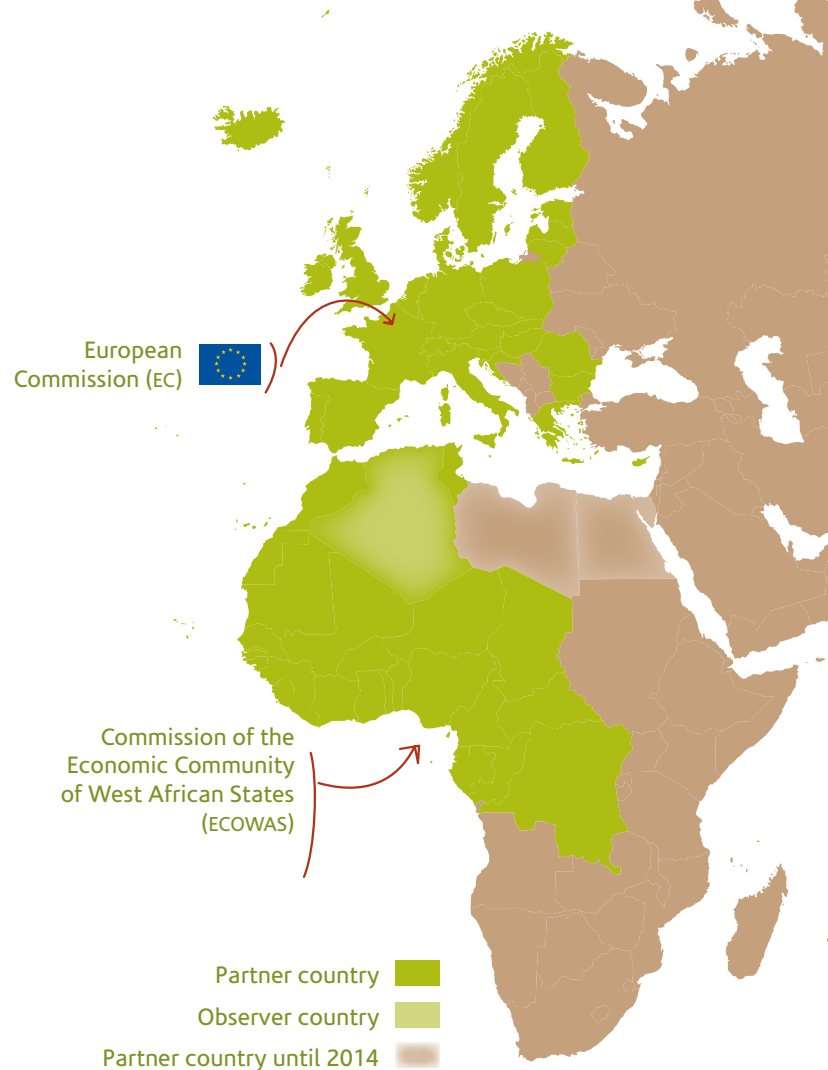
A BALANCED AND DYNAMIC DIALOGUE

Regular **frequency** of the meetings

Flexibility to introduce new topics

Geographical balance between the regions of the Dialogue

European Commission (EC)

Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Partner country
Observer country
Partner country until 2014

The Rabat Process is a consultation framework stimulated by political and technical meetings. The Dialogue allow a shared understanding of migratory matters, with a consensual approach to new challenges. The location for each meeting and training session alternate between Africa and Europe, and the approach on migration issues also ensures a balance between African and European issues on the agendas. This geographical balance constitutes one of the defining features of the Rabat Process and one of its strengths.

Rabat Process:
a mechanism to monitor the Valletta Action Plan

The Dialogue has been mandated, with other mechanisms, to **monitor the implementation** of the **priority actions included** in the Valletta Action Plan for the period 2016–2018.

From Dialogue to action:
the Facility

The Facility – an operational component of the Dialogue – supports the implementation of projects that respond to the need of partner countries. The Facility offers a flexible and unique framework and work in synergy with other financial instruments such as the EU Trust Fund for Migration in Africa, also known as the Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa.

Rabat Process
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on Migration and Development

Provides the strategic framework

Fosters legitimacy and ownership

Results are fed back into the Dialogue

The Facility offers grants for **initiatives and projects** and operationalises the Dialogue

The Strategic Framework

THE FOUR THEMATIC PILLARS OF THE ROME PROGRAMME

Organising mobility and legal migration
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› Support regional mobility and facilitate exchanges between the various actors involved in mobility;
› Integrate the migration element in education and employment policies;
› Guarantee respect of migrants' rights;
› Protect, promote and facilitate the management of civil status and the issuance of identity and travel documents.

Improving border management and combating irregular migration
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› Support countries of origin, transit and destination in Africa in terms of preventing and managing irregular immigration;
› Strengthen operational cooperation in border management and readmission;
› Fight against criminal networks, human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
› Facilitate voluntary return and reintegration.

Strengthening the synergies between migration and development
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› Promote the positive potential of migration and of the diaspora, both for the country of origin and country of destination;
› Act on links between migration and the main challenges to development, in particular the consequences of environmental degradation, political instability, and food insecurity and poverty.

Promoting international protection
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› Reinforce legal, political and operational frameworks relating to international protection at national and regional levels;
› Develop capacities for reception, determination of status, management of secondary movements and implementation of durable solutions.
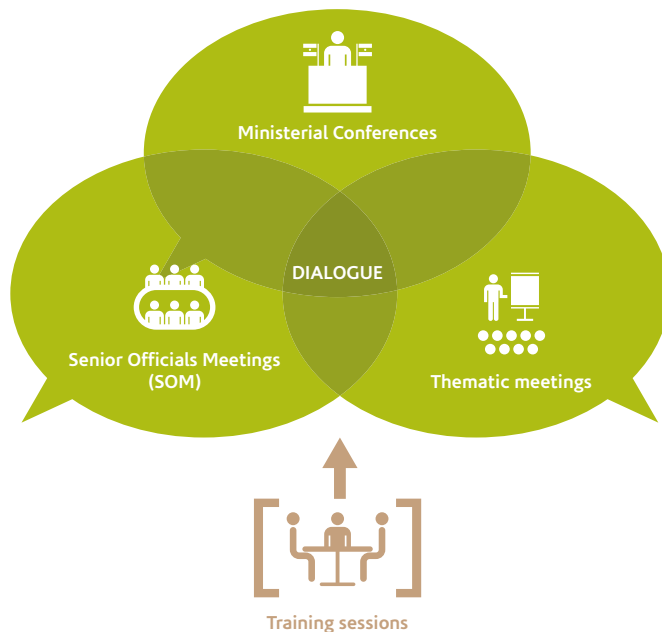
Two areas of priority areas

- Strengthening the link between migration and development
- Preventing and fighting irregular migration and related crimes

A functional governance at the service of a dynamic Dialogue

The Rabat Process has developed a network of active **National Focal Points** who animate the Dialogue, guarantee the continuity of the actions, and support the commitment of each State.

The **Steering Committee** (CoPil) is the strategic governing body of the Rabat Process: it stimulates cooperation between the States and prepares the political orientations of the Dialogue. The CoPil is composed of Belgium, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, France, Italy, Mali, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, the European Commission (EC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Dialogue is facilitated by a **Secretariat** implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and funded by the European Union as part of the Africa-EU Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (MMD) Support Project.

Ministerial Conferences

DIALOGUE

Senior Officials Meetings (SOM)

Thematic meetings

Training sessions

› **Ministerial Conferences** take place regularly. The ministers in charge of migration and development convene to define the strategic framework of the Dialogue and ensure it evolves with the migratory context.

› **Senior Officials Meetings (SOM)** are the main fora for policy Dialogue, where the Dialogue partners debate strategic objectives in detail. Each SOM is officially hosted by a country taking part in the Dialogue.

› **Thematic meetings** are dedicated to a specific topic, which stems from the strategic framework and its priorities. They provide the partners with the opportunity to share their experiences and good practices.

› **A technical programme** that complements the three levels of Dialogue and constitutes an operational follow-up to the Thematic Meetings.

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ICMPD
International Centre for Migration Policy Development