



CONCEPT NOTE

OPERATIONALISING THE OUAGADOUGOU ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

&

LAUNCHING OF THE AU COMMISSION INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (AU.COMMIT) CAMPAIGN WITHIN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Jointly organised by:

- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)**
- **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**
- **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION SPECIAL LIAISON MISSION (IOM/SLM) ADDIS ABABA**
- **EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY (EAC)**

DJIBOUTI, 6 – 8 December 2010

A. BACKGROUND

- 1) In recent years, the fight against trafficking in persons has gained much prominence in international and regional forums, which resulted in the adoption of international instruments and the launching of several programmes to address the scourge. Among those are the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000); the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) programme (2004) and in the context of Africa, the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children (2006).
- 2) In January 2007 the African Union adopted the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.324 (X) which endorsed the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children. Furthermore, the Commission in collaboration with IOM was requested to assist Member States with the development and implementation of sound migration policies aimed at addressing trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission is to report periodically on the implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan.
- 3) Furthermore, the Sixth African Development Forum, in November 2008, jointly organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, and the African Union, again reiterated the need for the prompt popularization and implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan. Similarly, the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (Lisbon Action Plan, 2008) particularly the Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment, calls for more action to combat trafficking in persons.
- 4) Additionally, the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), adopted by the AU Assembly in January 2008, provides for coordination of activities to fight human trafficking, to protect victims and prosecute offenders.
- 5) With the Ouagadougou Action Plan at the centre of its objective the campaign reaches out to Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (REC's) and Civil Society Organisations in taking serious measures against combating trafficking in human beings.
- 6) Taking the campaign further, and as per the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.324 (X) the AU Commission in collaboration with ECOWAS, IOM and UNODC organised a Regional Consultative Workshop for RECs on the operationalisation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan from in March 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, where the AU.COMMIT Campaign was also launched with REC's.
- 7) The subsequent next launch of AU.COMMIT and implementation workshop will take place on the 6-8 December 2010, in Djibouti for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC).

B. OBJECTIVES

- 8) The overriding objective is to sensitise RECs, and Member States of IGAD and EAC on the operationalisation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, and on the regional launching of the AU.COMMIT campaign.
- 9) The AU.COMMIT Campaign endeavours to raise awareness of the AU's continued commitment towards addressing the problem of trafficking in human beings throughout the continent.
- 10) The AU. COMMIT campaign is aimed at galvanising activities undertaken by the AU Commission, including global, regional and national initiatives towards more synergised and coordinated actions to combat trafficking in persons in Africa.

C. PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

- 11) The Workshop will address the following items:
 - The Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children (2006).
 - Initiatives and programmes in the IGAD and EAC regions regarding the prevention and awareness raising against trafficking in persons.
 - Initiatives and programmes pertaining to protection of victims of trafficking in the IGAD and EAC regions.
 - Initiatives and programmes on capacity building regarding prosecution of traffickers in the IGAD and EAC regions.

D. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 12) The workshop is expected to finalise and agree on the roll-out of the implementation mechanism of the Ouagadougou Action Plan as agreed at the workshop held in Abuja in March 2010.
- 13) The workshop will be presented with a synopsis of the current state of trafficking in human beings pertaining to Protection, Prevention and Prosecution in the IGAD and EAC regions.
- 14) In addition, it is envisaged that at the end of the workshop and launch of AU.COMMIT, there will be better cooperation among AU Commission, IGAD, EAC partners and Civil Society Organisations and the Media.

E. DOCUMENTS

- 15) Background documents include, among others:
 - African Common Position on Migration and Development.
 - Migration Policy Framework for Africa
 - Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development

- Ouagadougou Action Plan
- AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012)
- Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (Lisbon Action Plan) particularly the Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment.
- The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000);
- RECs instruments, policies and action plans as well as other relevant documents;
- Outcomes of March AU.COMMIT workshop (meeting report, implementation tool, and evaluation questionnaire).

F. PARTICIPANTS

- 16) Participants will be invited from the Regional Economic Community Secretariats (RECs), IGAD and EAC Member States, the League of Arab States, Civil Society Organizations, media organisations, UN/AU Social and Human Development Cluster members, and international development partners.

G. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 17) Contact for any further information on the Conference (using ref: AU.COMMIT IGAD & EAC): Ms. Aicha Ahmed Houssein, Economic Cooperation and Social Development Division of IGAD, Tel: +253 312716, Fax: +253 356994 & 253-353520; Email: aicha.houssein@igad.int with a copy to tigistz@africa-union.org.