

AFRICAN UNION

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**ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF
THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH
ON MIGRATION (ACSRM)**

(Item proposed by the Republic of Mali)

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1. INTRODUCTION

At the Seventh (7th) Session of the Assembly of the African Union holding from 01-02 July in Banjul, The Gambia, the Republic of Mali, in pursuance of Article 8 (2-d) of the Rules of Procedure of the said Assembly, included the item: ***“Establishment of an African Centre for Study and Research on Migration”***, on its agenda.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRE

- To seek a methodology and practical ways of contributing to the design of a support mechanism for formulating national, regional and continental policies to manage all aspects of the phenomenon of migration. Researchers from specialized government agencies, public institutions and NGOs will provide the qualified skills needed by the mechanism;
- To provide relevant information on labour migration in order to positively influence public policies;
- To provide useful knowledge on intra-African migration in order to help in public policy formulation;
- To raise the awareness of institutional policy-makers on the need to formulate positive policies on labour migration under the international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. This awareness-raising will also cover the ratification of Conventions and the adoption of public policies that reflect the most important aspects of the protection of migrant workers' rights;
- To establish, within Africa and at the global level, consultation and dialogue frameworks for disseminating information aimed at boosting the image of migrant workers in host countries and fostering cultural diversity;
- To adopt and monitor measures to be taken at national, continental and international levels, notably the strengthening of mechanisms to combat networks trafficking in human beings, promoting enabling conditions for youth employment; introducing effective legal frameworks for combating illegal migration, cooperation agreements among African countries and with international partners to manage illegal migration and help to stop the suffering of young Africans trying to escape under-development;

- To contribute, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and the RECs, to the implementation of agreements on migrant workers and the management of migration in all its forms.

3. MISSIONS OF THE CENTRE

- To gather all information concerning migrant workers in Africa and on the international scene, with due regard to all intervening factors: migration paths, causes of migration, integration of migrants in the host country, cultural stakes (language use, religion ...) working and accommodation conditions, public policies, respect for human rights;
- To provide statistical, political and security information relevant to migration issues, especially in relation to development, peace, security and stability, and management of human resources in Africa;
- To publish information on the specific contexts in the various sub-regions, including cases of best practices and trade-union activities;
- To support the human and trade-union rights of all migrants;
- To undertake special campaigns to organize migrant workers, including those without valid identity papers;
- To prepare training programmes and organize workshops and colloquiums to better grasp the phenomenon of migration;
- To enhance African coordination and harmonization efforts aimed at providing Member States capacity building to better manage the phenomenon of migration and its consequences.

4. DECISION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (BANJUL, 28-29 JUNE 2006)

By Decision EX/CL/Dec.314 (IX), the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (Banjul, 28-29 June 2006):

- welcomed the initiative of the Government of Mali on the establishment of the Centre for Study and Research on Migration;
- approved the establishment of the Centre;
- requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of Mali, to monitor the implementation of this decision and oversee the process for the establishment of the African Centre for Study and Research on Migration;
- further requested the Commission to submit a report on the process at the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Addis Ababa, January 2007).

5. PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF ACSRM

5.1 Proposed Mali/African Union Commission Joint Action

1. Within the framework of implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.314 (IX) adopted at the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (Banjul, 28-29 June 2006), the Government of Mali requested the Commission (Department of Social Affairs) to send to Bamako, in December 2006, a Technical Support Team of the Commission for the elaboration, in conjunction with the relevant Malian authorities, of the draft Statutes, Strategy and Plan of Action of the African Centre for Study and Research on Migration (ACSRM), (Memorandum Ref: 0239/AM-ADD/2006 of 21 November 2006).

In this regard, the Government of Mali suggested that it would bear the expenses for a one week (7 days) stay (lodging, feeding, local transport) of three (3) members of the Technical Support Team designated by the Commission to go to Bamako.

2. By a Note Verbale to the Embassy Ref. No. DIR/SADE6/1499.06 of 11 December 2006, the Commission (Department of Social Affairs) declined the request by the Government of Mali concerning the sending to Mali of a Technical Support Team by the Commission, stressing that the Centre was a "Malian Initiative", and accordingly, it would be up to Mali to prepare the said instruments.
3. By Note Verbale Ref: 0264/AM-ADD/2006 of 14 December 2006, the Embassy, Permanent Representation of Mali, reminded the Commission (Department of Social Affairs) of the contents of Decision Ref: EX.CL/Dec.314 (IX) adopted by the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council at Banjul, stipulating particularly that:

The Executive Council,

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of Mali, to monitor the implementation of this decision, and oversee the process for the establishment of the African Centre for Study and Research on Migration;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the process at the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Furthermore, with reference to Article 3 (1) and (2) – Functions, of the Statutes of the Commission, the Embassy of Mali pointed out that, in accordance with the guidelines given by the Banjul Decision, the Commission (Department of Social Affairs) is responsible for steering the process for the establishment of the African Centre for Study and Research on Migration, including particularly the drafting of the Statutes, Strategy and Plan of Action of the Centre.

The Commission had played a similar role in the establishment of other Centres initiated by Member States of the Union.

Hence, to make it possible for a report on the process for the establishment of the Centre to be presented at the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, the Embassy reiterated the request by the Government of Mali for the Commission to send a Technical Support Team to Bamako in the month of December 2006.

4. By Note Verbale Ref: DIR/SAD/E6/1548.06 of 15 December 2006, the African Union Commission asked to be sent all relevant documents on the objectives, structure and financial and legal implications of the establishment of the proposed center, with mention of its links with other existing centers in Africa.

The Note also indicated that, at this stage, it would be premature for the Commission to send officers to Bamako as requested.

Finally, it was stated in the Note Verbale that because of time constraints, it will not be possible for the Commission to present a report on the Centre at the next session of the Executive Council.

5.2. Activities envisaged for 2007

The following activities are envisaged to ensure the effective implementation of Decision Ref: EX.CL/Dec.314 (IX) adopted at the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union at Banjul on 28-29 June 2006, as well as the perfect take-off of the Centre in 2007:

1. Provision of a temporary headquarters for the Centre (ACSRM) at Bamako;
2. Designation, for a provisional period, of an interim Director General and a light (caretaker) team to oversee the establishment of the ACSRМ;
3. Preparation, in conjunction with the African Union Commission, of the draft Statutes, Strategy and Plan of Action of the ACSRМ;
4. Convening at Bamako, by the Government of Mali and the African Union Commission, of the First High Level Inter-governmental Meeting of Member States of the Union, in the presence of Africa's partners and other members of the international community, in order to:
 - exchange views on the phenomenon of migration;
 - exchange views on the implementation of the African Migration Policy Framework and the African Common Position on Migration and Development;

- adopt the structure and operating modalities of the Centre;
 - adopt the Statutes, Strategy and Plan of Action of ACSRM.
5. Official launching of the Centre;
 6. Nomination/recruitment, by the African Union Commission, of the Director of the ACSRM, in accordance with the procedures in force;
 7. Designation of national focal points to liaise with the Centre.

Obviously, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Statutes of the African Union Commission and the guidelines laid down by the Banjul Decision on ACSRM, the Commission (Department of Social Affairs) is particularly responsible for the following two tasks:

- The determination of the financial and legal implications of the establishment of the Centre;
- The definition of the links between the ACSRM and other existing centers in Africa.

Addis Ababa, 6 January 2007

2007

Establishment and operationalization of the African centre for study and research on migration (ACSRM) (Item proposed by the Republic Of Mali)

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