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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session
07 - 08 February 2019
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/1122(XXXIV)

Original : English

**REPORT ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL OPERATIONAL CENTRE (FOR
SHARING INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT
SMUGGLING) IN KHARTOUM**

INTRODUCTION

1. In its Second Ministerial Conference held Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in June 2016, the AU-HoAI underscored the need to articulate concrete, time-bound and measurable strategies and activities, and the need to ensure that this initiative adds value to combating human trafficking and smuggling in the region in line with the outcome documents of the First Ministerial Conference of October 2014 in Khartoum. In its declaration, the Second Ministerial Conference endorsed the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum for sharing information on transnational organized crime (ROCK), and also agreed to establish a Technical Working Group on Law Enforcement (TWG-LE) that would work with law enforcement agencies in the region to strengthen cooperation between and among Member States in combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and in line with the AU-HoAI Strategy and Plan of Action.

2. In subsequent discussions on the establishment of the ROCK, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan offered to host the ROCK, and has since allocated space for the ROCK within the premises of the Police Training Centre in Khartoum.

3. Pursuant to the implementation of Assembly Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXV) on Migration of June 2015, the Commission submitted a progress report of the activities of the AU-HoAI to the **2nd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration Refugees and Displaced Persons** (that was held in October 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda) for onward transmission to the Executive Council.

4. Among others, the Progress Report included a recommendation by the AU-HoAI to establish the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum for sharing information on human trafficking and migrant smuggling (ROCK). The ROCK would be the tool that would facilitate dialogue between the AU-HoAI and the rest of the Continent in addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and also play a pivotal role in the establishment of similar centres elsewhere on the Continent.

5. The overall objective of the ROCK will be to enhance the Continent's capacity to understand irregular migration flows and to develop common strategies and shared tools to fight trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. Its major role will be to facilitate Continental cooperation of law enforcement partners in the fight against human trafficking and smuggling through the exchange of information and intelligence among countries of origin, transit and destination in close collaboration with AFRIPOL, and INTERPOL and other regional bodies. The ROCK would achieve its objective through the following activities:

- i) Capacity-building and support to Member States on the development of the relevant political and legislative frameworks to allow structured information sharing and joint operations on a Continental level;

- ii) Identification of data available within the different agencies of the different authorities and their dissemination to relevant agencies within the Continent;
- iii) Cooperation on data analysis and support by actors, such as for instance INTERPOL and AFRIPOL;

6. In response to the Progress Report, the STC requested the Commission to support the ROCK, and facilitate the participation of other Member States and RECs that are not part of the AU-HoAI upon their request;

7. The Ministers of the STC took note of the Progress Report, and also recommended that it be forwarded to the next session of the Assembly: and further recommended that the Commission and Member States should support the Initiative;

8. The Progress Report was presented to the **32nd Ordinary Session of Executive Council of January 2018**, and through Decision **EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII)**, the Executive Council took note of the report and requested the Commission to expedite the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK).

9. The Executive Council also recommended that the Progress Report on the Initiative be forwarded to the next session of the Assembly.

10. Following the adoption of the decision of the Executive Council, the Commission made steps to establish the ROCK, including drafting a Host Agreement for the Centre ,and discussions are on-going for the development of its draft statute and structure;

11. Prior to the conclusion of the Host Agreement, the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) made the observation that while the Executive Council received the STC Decisions and Recommendations, along with the progress report of the Initiative, it did not take further action with regard to the establishment of the ROCK;

12. The OLC, therefore, recommended that the Commission engages the Executive Council to propose to the Assembly the establishment of the ROCK as a specialized technical office of the AU on managing irregular migration on the Continent.

13. In view of the foregoing, the Commission wishes to engage the PRC as per recommendation of the Office of the Legal Counsel, and to consider recommending to the Executive Council and the Assembly the establishment of the ROCK as a specialized technical office of the AU.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above, the African Union Commission would like to submit the following recommendations for consideration:

To the Executive Council:

- i) To propose to the Assembly to endorse the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum as a specialized technical office of the AU on managing irregular migration (specifically human trafficking and migrant smuggling) on the Continent.

To the Assembly:

- ii) To endorse the Executive Council's proposal on the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum as a specialized technical office of the AU on managing irregular migration (specifically human trafficking and migrant smuggling) on the Continent.

Draft Decision of the Executive Council on the Establishment of the ROCK:

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** its Decision **EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII)** made in its 32nd Ordinary Session on the report of the Second STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs;
2. **PROPOSES** to the Assembly to endorse the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) as a specialized technical office of AU on managing irregular migration (specifically human trafficking and migrant smuggling) on the Continent.

Draft Decision of the Assembly on the Establishment of the ROCK:

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** its Declaration **Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXV)** of June 2015 on migration on the Continent, especially combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
2. **ENDORSES** the Executive Council's proposal on the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) as a specialized technical office of the AU on managing irregular migration (specifically human trafficking and migrant smuggling) on the Continent;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to elaborate the statute, structure and financial implications of establishing the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum for consideration by the relevant AU policy organs.

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EX.CL/1122(XXXIV)Annex

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**DRAFT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND BUDGET
OF
THE REGIONAL OPERATIONAL CENTRE IN KHARTOUM (ROCK)**

1. Establishment of the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum: Mandate

1. In June 2016, the AU-HoAI held its Second Ministerial Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The meeting underscored the need to ensure that this initiative adds value to combating human trafficking and smuggling in the region in line with the outcome documents of the First Ministerial Conference of October 2014 in Khartoum. The Second Ministerial Conference also agreed to establish a regional operational centre for sharing information on human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Khartoum.

2. During the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and IDPs that was held in October 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda, the Commission presented a Progress Report on the AU-HoAI. Among others, the Progress Report included a recommendation by the AU-HoAI to establish a Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) for sharing information on human trafficking and migrant smuggling (ROCK) as a tool to facilitate dialogue between the AU-HoAI and the rest of the Continent in addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and also play a pivotal role in the establishment of similar centres elsewhere on the Continent.

3. In response to the progress report, the STC requested the Commission to support the ROCK, and facilitate the participation of other Member States and RECs that are not part of the AU-HoAI upon their request.

4. The Ministers of the STC took note of the progress report, and also recommended that it be forwarded to the next session of the Assembly: and further recommended that the Commission and Member States should support the Initiative.

5. The progress report was presented to the 32nd Ordinary Session of Executive Council of January 2018, and through EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII), the Executive Council took note of the report, and reaffirmed the STCs recommendation, and also requested the Commission to expedite the establishment of the ROCK.

2. Vision, Objectives and Core Functions of the ROCK

The vision of the ROCK:

To become the premier AU centre for addressing irregular migration, and realizing the Continent's goal of a peaceful, stable, prosperous and integrated Africa.

Objectives of the ROCK

6. The ROCK shall be a Specialized Technical Office of the AUC, with a Continent-wide mandate to:

- a) Enhance the Continent's capacity to understand irregular migration flows and develop common strategies and shared tools to fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
- b) Facilitate cooperation of law enforcement agencies in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling through the exchange of information and intelligence among countries of origin, transit and destination in close collaboration with AFRIPOL, INTERPOL, Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community, EUROPOL and other regional security bodies.

Core Functions of the ROCK

7. The ROCK would achieve its objectives through the following core functions:

- a) Develop relevant political and legislative frameworks to allow structured information sharing and joint operations for combating irregular migration;
- b) Build the capacity of Member States in the collection and analysis of data on human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
- c) Provide a platform for, and facilitating the exchange of information and intelligence on human trafficking and migrant smuggling among law enforcement agencies;
- d) Share information on best practices on the identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
- e) Facilitate the establishment /build the capacity of regional networks of law enforcement agencies responsible for human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
- f) Facilitate the establishment /build the capacity of joint cross-border investigative teams for combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling among Member States;

3. Structure of the ROCK

a. Governance Structure

8. The ROCK will be established as a Specialized Technical Office of the AU Commission under the Department of Social Affairs;

9. The ROCK will report to the AU Assembly through the Commissioner for Social Affairs and the Chairperson of the AU;

EXECUTIVE ORGANS

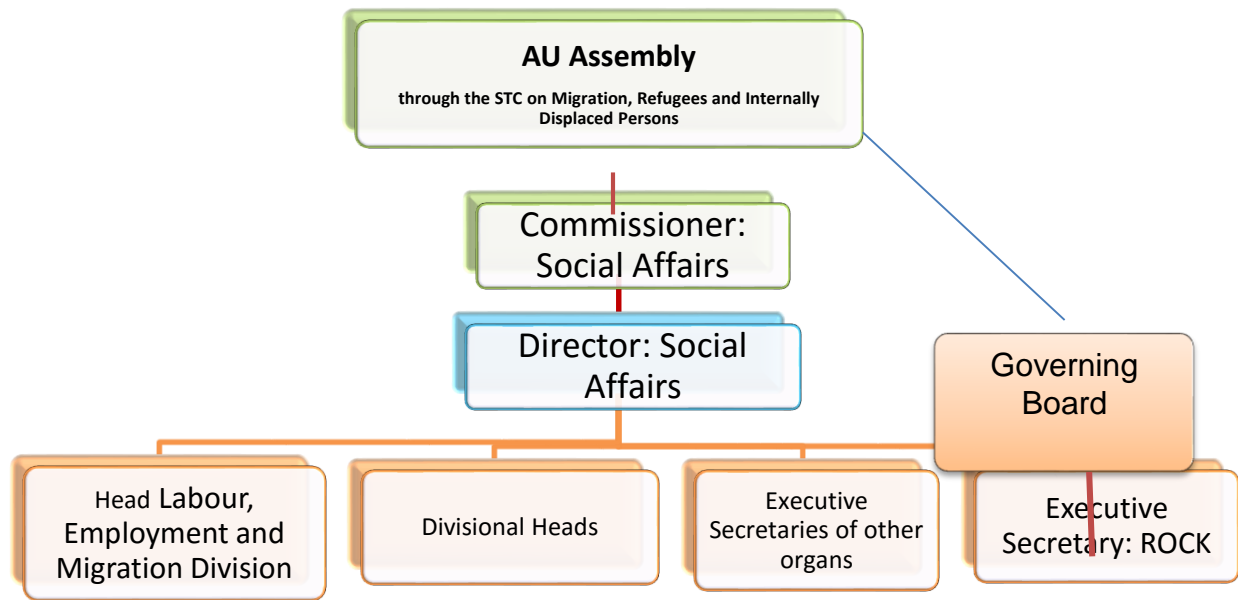
10. The Executive organ of the ROCK shall consist of two bodies, namely:
- i) Governing Board;
 - ii) The ROCK Secretariat.

I. THE GOVERNING BOARD

11. The Governing Board shall be the deliberative organ of the Centre with the responsibility to provide leadership, direction and oversight regarding activities of the Centre. It shall meet once a year to allow it to fully consider all relevant business and receive reports from relevant structures. However, extra ordinary Board meetings may be convened in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Statutory Meetings of the ROCK.

A. Membership:

12. The Governing Board shall be composed of 10 members, as follows:
- i. Current Chairperson of Bureau of the STC on migration , refugees and IDP (1);
 - ii. Representatives from each AU sub-regions (to be elected by the STC) (5);
 - iii. The Commissioner for Social Affairs (1);
 - iv. A representative from the host country (1);
 - v. A representative from AFRIPOL (1);
 - vi. The Executive Secretary shall act as the Secretary and shall be ex-officio non-voting member of the Board.
13. The Chairperson of the STC on Migration, Refugees shall act as the Chairperson of the Board.



b. Operational Structure

The Rock Secretariat

14. The Secretariat will be the executive body with the responsibility of implementing the decisions taken by the Commission and the Governing board, and will be headed by the **Executive Secretary** and supported by 1 **Deputy Executive**, 5 **Senior Policy Officers**, 1 **Communication Officer**, 1 **IT Officer**, 1 Finance and Admin Officer and support staff. The regional coordination function will be undertaken by 5 Senior Policy Officers (one for each of the 5 regions).

15. The secretariat of the Rock will be under the direct supervision of the Director for Social Affairs and report to the governing board on the implementation of the overall strategy of the ROCK.

A. Composition:

16. The membership of the Secretariat shall comprise of the following.

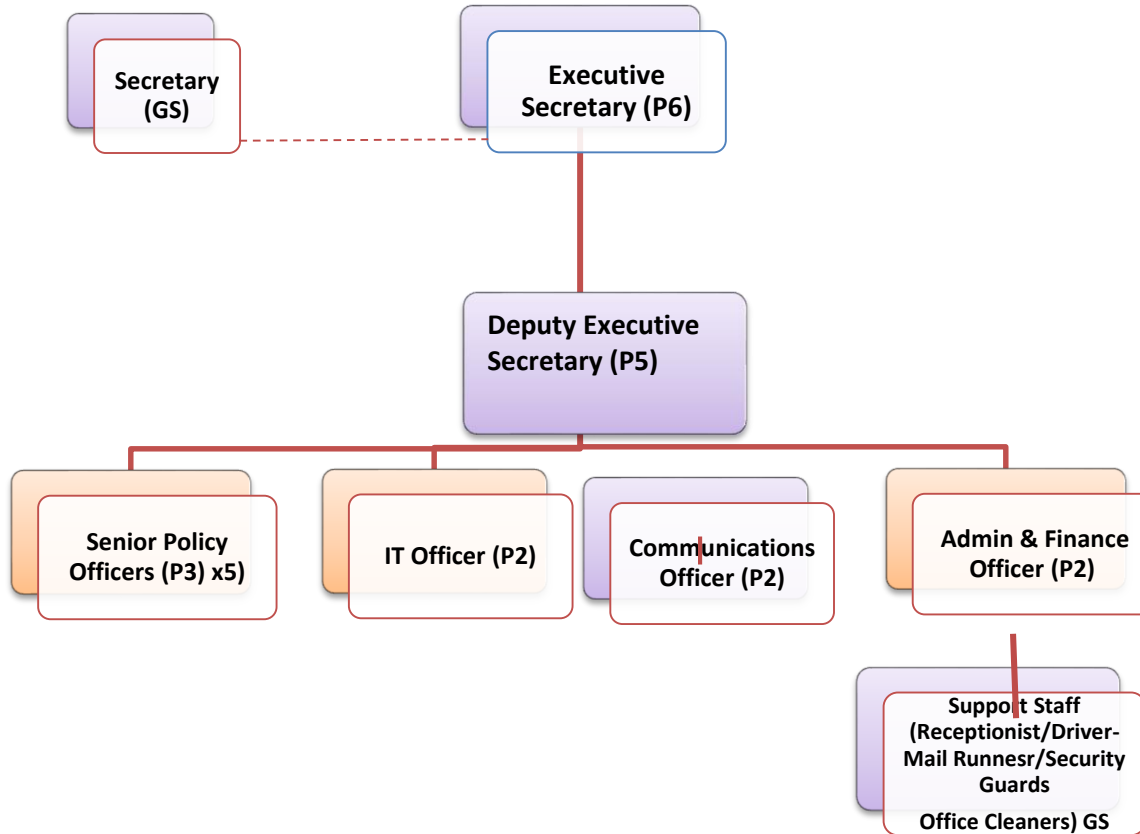
- i. 1 x Executive Secretary (P6)
- ii. 1 x Deputy Executive Secretary (P5)

- iii. 5x Senior Policy Officers (P3);
- iv. 1 x Communications Officer(P2)
- v. 1 x IT Officer (P 2)
- vi. 1 x Administration & Finance Officer (P2)

Support Staff

- i. 1 Admin Assistant (GS)
- ii. 1 x Receptionist
- iii. 1 x Secretary (GS)
- iv. 2 x Drivers/Mail Runners (GS)
- v. 2 x Office Cleaners (GS)
- vi. 3 x Security Guards (GS)

Organizational Structure of the ROCK Secretariat



Annex 1: Estimated Staffing and Operational Budget

Staff Salaries & Benefits					
DESCRIPTION					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Executive Secretary (P6-1)	61,023	64,074	67,278	70,642	74,174
Deputy Executive Secretary (P5-1)	50,746	53,283	55,947	58,745	61,682
Senior Policy Officer (P3-1) Western	37,453	39,326	41,292	43,357	45,524
Senior Policy Officer (P3-1)) Eastern	37,453	39,326	41,292	43,357	45,524

Senior Policy Officer (P3-1) Northern	37,453	39,326	41,292	43,357	45,524
Senior Policy Officer (P3-1) Southern	37,453	39,326	41,292	43,357	45,524
Senior Policy Officer (P3-1) Central	37,453	39,326	41,292	43,357	45,524
IT Officer (P2-1)	31,073	32,627	34,258	35,971	37,769
Communications Officer (P2-1)	31,073	32,627	34,258	35,971	37,769
Admin & Finance Officer (P2-1)	31,073	32,627	34,258	35,971	37,769
Admin Assistant (GSA3-1)	11,071	11,625	12,206	12,816	13,457
Secretary (GSA2-1)	9,308	9,773	10,262	10,775	11,314
Receptionist (GSA1-1)	8,094	8,499	8,924	9,370	9,838
Driver/Mail Runner (GSB6-1)	6,033	6,335	6,651	6,984	7,333
Driver/Mail Runner (GSB6-1)	6,033	6,335	6,651	6,984	7,333
Security Guard (GSB4-1)	3,215	3,376	3,545	3,722	3,908
Security Guard (GSB4-1)	3,215	3,376	3,545	3,722	3,908
Security Guard (GSB4-1)	3,215	3,376	3,545	3,722	3,908
Cleaner (GSB3-1)	2,477	2,601	2,731	2,867	3,011
Cleaner (GSB3-1)	2,477	2,601	2,731	2,867	3,011
Annual Total Budget for Staff	447,391	469,761	493,249	517,911	543,807
Total Staffing Budget for five years	2,472,118				
Operational Expenses					
Ø Meetings					
- Governing Board Statutory Meetings (1 per year)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ø Purchase of Fixed Assets				-	-
- Vehicles (x 2)	70,000	-	-	-	-
- Furniture & Fixtures	10,000			-	-
- Office Equipment, computers & accessories	30,000			-	-
Ø Communications					
- Data Sharing Portal and Platform	50,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
- Internet Services	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
- Telephone & Fax	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
- Postage	500	500	500	500	500
- Freight Charges	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ø Travel Expenses					
- Official missions for the secretariat	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
- Official missions for the Governing Board	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Ø Maintenance					
- Vehicles Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
- Maintenance of Equipment	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
- Maintenance of Premises	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ø Stationery and Office Supplies					
- Stationery & Office Supplies	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

- Translation, Printing & Publishing	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
- Library & Books	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Ø Other Operating Expenses					
- Fuel & Lubricants	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
- Bank Charges	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
- Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Operational Expenses	320,500	165,500	165,500	165,500	165,500
Total Operational Budget for five years	982,500				
Total (Staff Salaries & Operational Expenses)	767,891	635,261	658,749	683,411	709,307

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