Survey for African and EU Civil Society: Valletta, one year on

Background

The Valletta summit on migration (11th to 12th November 2015), brought together European and African Heads of State and Government in an effort to strengthen cooperation and to address the current challenges, but also the opportunities of migration. Leaders participating in the summit adopted a political declaration, an action plan and agreed upon a list of 16 concrete actions to be implemented by the end of 2016. The Action Plan stipulates that existing mechanisms of the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process and the Joint EU-Africa strategy will be used to monitor its implementation.

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa was also formally launched at the occasion of the Valletta summit. The trust's webpage provides details of projects selected for funding and how the project fits into the Valletta Action Plan. Following on from the Valletta Summit, the EU also began negotiations with certain African states to develop tailor-made partnerships (referred to as Compacts) according to the situation and needs of each partner country and depending on whether they are a country of origin, country of transit or a host country for displaced persons. These Compacts, which are part of the EU’s new Partnership Framework, have so far been negotiated for Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia. The EU also continues to develop agreements on migration and mobility with African countries, and has concluded such agreement with Morocco, Cape Verde and Tunisia, and dialogue is ongoing with Mali, Ivory Coast and Ghana.

In order to evaluate progress on the implementation of the Valetta Action Plan, a Senior Officials Meeting will take place on 8th and 9th February 2017 in Malta. During this meeting (which will gather participants from relevant European and African governments as well as representatives of the Rabat and Khartoum processes), a progress report on the 16 priority initiatives and a long-term monitoring tool will be presented. However, some civil society Organisations have raised concerns regarding the lack of transparency on the implementation of the Action Plan, the EU-Africa Trust fund and the ongoing negotiation of bilateral agreements.

The role of Civil Society in shaping the 2015 Valletta Action Plan

In 2015, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), in collaboration with Norwegian Refugee Council and the MADE Africa Network (coordinated by Caritas Senegal) organised a series of events to ensure that Civil Society’s opinions and views were taken into account during the Valletta Summit. Two Civil Society representatives attended the Summit, and a Joint Statement was issued by European and African Civil Society Organisations, reminding leaders at the Summit to tackle the root causes of migration and furthermore, to:

- Ensure the protection of human rights in all return operations and migration cooperation agreements, including readmission agreements
- Strengthen Civil Society’s contribution to the design, implementation and monitoring of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy on peace and security
- Facilitate and support migrants’ and diaspora’s contributions to development
- Ensure effective implementation of anti-trafficking legislation and an increased focus on victim-centred and gender-sensitive provisions

With regards to the implementation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the declaration called upon leaders to include a partnership principle in order to ensure that funding priorities match the needs in the region, and requested that Civil Society be allowed to patriciate in the programming process of the Trust Fund.
Influencing the 2017 Senior Officials Meeting: a call for Civil Society's inputs

Today, Civil Society has the opportunity to build upon its previous work and to once again engage with those behind the Valletta Action Plan and to influence discussions and decision-making processes. The aim of the survey below – which will be distributed to organisations in Europe and Africa – is to gather information about Civil Society's perception and opinion of the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, EU Trust Fund for Africa and partnership agreements, and to document its potential concerns.

Responses to the survey will be compiled, consolidated and will serve as the basis for a Summary Paper and recommendations to will be presented to participants before the Senior Officials Meeting in Malta (February 2017). ICMC is also exploring the possibility of organising, in collaboration with other NGOs, a roundtable in Brussels at the end of January 2017, to facilitate productive exchanges among the main European and African civil society and governmental actors.
**Survey: follow up of the Valletta Action Plan and inputs for a Civil Society Summary Paper**

1. **Surname / First name**

2. **Name of your organisation**

3. **In which country is your organisation active in the field of migration?**

4. **Was your organisation involved in the Civil Society consultations / preparations for the 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration?**

   Yes / No (please circle as appropriate)

5. **Do you think the concerns raised by Civil Society in preparation of the 2015 Valletta Summit were sufficiently taken into account in the elaboration of the Valletta Action Plan?**

   Yes / No (please circle as appropriate)

6. **Do you think the 16 priority initiatives identified as part of the Valletta Action Plan listed below are relevant and well-adapted to respond to the challenges of migration?** (please circle as appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects to enhance employment opportunities and revenue-generating activities in regions of origin and transit of migrants in East, North and West Africa</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects linking relief, rehabilitation and development in peripheral and most vulnerable areas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operationalisation of the African Institute on Remittances</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitation of private investment in African agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doubling scholarships for students and academic staff through the EU supported Erasmus+ programme in 2016 as compared to 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects that pool offers for legal migration (e.g. for work, study, research, vocational training) by EU Member States or associated countries to selected African countries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops on visa facilitation within the framework of the Rabat and Khartoum processes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Operationalisation, by mid-2016, of the Regional Development and Protection Programmes in the Horn of Africa and North Africa</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Training and improvement of the quality of the asylum process</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects to improve resilience, safety and self-reliance of refugees in camps and host communities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing or upgrading national and regional anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking legislation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Projects focused on strengthening institutional capacities to fight against migrant smuggling</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A joint investigation team in Niger against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings | Yes | No
---|---
Information campaigns in countries of origin, transit and destination, to raise awareness of the general public and potential migrants and victims on the dangers of trafficking in human beings | Yes | No
Strengthening of the logistical and operational capacity of authorities of countries of origin to respond in a timely manner to readmission applications | Yes | No
Projects in countries of origin to support the reintegration of returnees into their communities | Yes | No

7. Are there any areas you think are missing that should have been included? If yes, which?
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

8. Has your organisation received either written or verbal information, or has it been consulted about the following initiatives? (please circle as appropriate)

Valletta Action Plan | Yes | No
Bilateral agreements on migration between EU and Africa | Yes | No
EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa | Yes | No
Compacts | Yes | No

9. If you answered yes to the previous question, in what form did you receive this information or how was your organisation consulted? (please circle as appropriate)

Discussion with members of the government in the country you work in? | Yes | No
Discussion with members of Civil Society in the country you work in? | Yes | No
Discussion with members of EU Delegation in the country you work in? | Yes | No
By other means (which)? __________________________________________________________________________

10. Has your organisation ever made an application in response to a call for proposals under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa?

Yes / No (please circle as appropriate)

11. If you answered yes to the previous question, under which priority domain of the Valletta Action Plan did you apply, and was your application successful?

Priority Domain: __________________________________________________________________________
Successful: Yes / No *(please circle as appropriate)*

12. Do you feel that the process with regards to accessing funding from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is clear and has been well-communicated to Civil Society actors?

Yes / No *(please circle as appropriate)*

13. Has your organisation ever been consulted with respect to the specific implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, the EU Emergency Trust fund for Africa, Compacts or Migration Partnerships?

Yes / No *(please circle as appropriate)*

14. Do you think the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan has resulted in progress in terms of its stated aims listed below? *(please circle as appropriate)*

- To maximise the development benefits of migration and address root causes  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To better organise legal channels for migration and mobility  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To ensure international protection for migrants and asylum seekers  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To intensify the fight against networks engaged in migrant smuggling and human trafficking  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To step up the cooperation on return and readmission  
  - Yes  
  - No

15. Do you think the implementation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has resulted in progress in terms of its stated aims listed below?

- To foster stability in Africa  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To respond to the challenges of irregular migration  
  - Yes  
  - No
- To contribute to better migration management.  
  - Yes  
  - No

16. If you could make 3 recommendations to improve the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan and the implementation and running of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, what would these be?

- Valletta Action Plan
  - I.
  - II.
lii.

- EU Trust Fund for Africa

i.

li.

lii.

17. During the Senior Officials Meeting in Malta in February 2017, a new tool will be introduced by decision-makers, designed to monitor progress of the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan. What do you consider would be appropriate mechanisms / processes to ensure such monitoring?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports and data</td>
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<tr>
<td>An active website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodic news bulletins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Updates from / meetings with EU delegations in country</td>
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</table>

Other__________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

18. Please provide your email address if are willing to take part in further discussions or exchanges with members of Civil Society on the issues raised in this survey

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Thank you for your participation. Please respond before the 23rd December 2016 by sending this survey to martius@icmc.net