

2 February 2017  
15:30-16:30, Thon Hotel Rue de la Loi 75

## Tackling the Root Causes of Mass Population Movements

### Migration and Development – Background Information

#### ***The relationship between migration and development***

The idea that migration and development are interrelated is undisputed. The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 recognizes the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Conventional logic, however, which presumes that more development leads to less international migration, is misleading. The relationship between migration and development is far more complex and uncertain than this. In the short term, development aid can actually stimulate migration.

**Fact:** Irregular migration can only be addressed by tackling the root causes of forced migration and displacement.

#### ***The root causes of forced migration***

In order to identify root causes of forced migration it is useful to distinguish between structural causes of migration such as **negative political, economic and social circumstances** (which can be accentuated by **environmental conditions**) and acute causes of migration which include **armed conflicts**, civil wars and other forms of violence.

#### ***Actions taken on the EU level to tackle root causes of forced migration***

- The **EU Trust Fund for Africa** was launched at the Valetta summit on migration on 12 November 2015 to address the root causes of destabilisation, displacement and irregular migration in countries from the Sahel region and Lake Chad area, the Horn of Africa and the North of Africa. Thereby, creating employment opportunities, resilience, migration management in all its aspects and providing stability and governance are the main priorities. The Fund is financed by pooling money from different Commission financial instruments such as the European development Fund (EDF), Regional Indicative Programmes, Contributions from national Indicative Programmes for the Horn of Africa and other financial instruments such as the European neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).<sup>1</sup> On 25 November 2016, two projects worth €60 million were signed with Senegal.<sup>2</sup> On 15 December 2016, the Commission announced an EU investment of €170 million under the Fund to tackle instability and irregular migration in the Horn of Africa.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en)

<sup>2</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-3503\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3503_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-4424\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-4424_en.htm)

- On 7 June 2016, the Commission published a Communication on establishing a new **Partnership Framework** with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration.<sup>4</sup> Tailor-made responses and partnerships with third countries (Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia) will include the engagement of all policies and tools that can address the multiple aspects of migration and forced displacement, including on legal migration, irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, border management, remittances, international protection and return and reintegration on the basis of mutual accountability and full respect of our humanitarian and human rights obligations.
- On 5 July 2016, the Commission published a proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 establishing an **instrument contributing to stability and peace**.<sup>5</sup> This proposal extends the Union's assistance under exceptional circumstances to be used to build the capacity of military actors in partner countries in order to contribute to sustainable development. Commissioner Mimica commented that development and security go hand in hand.
- In his State of the Union Address from 14 September 2016, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a **European External Investment Plan (EIP)**, to boost investments in Africa and EU neighbourhood countries.<sup>6</sup> The EIP aims to contribute to sustainable growth and inclusive jobs and thus pursues a mid- to long-term perspective in order to counter the economic root causes of migration.
- On 22 November 2016 the Commission published a Communication for a Proposal for a **new European Consensus on Development**. The Consensus on Development aims at contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing a framework for the common approach to development cooperation policy.

### Problematic issues and criticism

- The European Court of Auditors published a report on the share of European aid allocated to the issue of migration in March 2016<sup>7</sup> which finds that the EU is struggling to draw a clear link between the causes and the effects of migration.
- "We are extremely concerned that European development aid is becoming increasingly influenced by the EU's security interests. But strengthening security at the borders in order to contain migration has nothing to do with helping the populations suffering from poverty in developing countries or dealing with extreme inequality," said Sara Tesorieri, Oxfam's EU migration policy advisor.
- Development aid is being linked or conditioned by agreements on readmission, stronger border control or stifling mobility within African countries of origin of migrants.
- The issue of blending - a form of pump-priming private sector investment, by leveraging it onto public official development aid.
- In mixing public sector money and private investment, the danger is the public sector takes the risk, and the private sector walks away with the profits.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication\\_external\\_aspects\\_eam\\_towards\\_new\\_migration\\_ompact\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_external_aspects_eam_towards_new_migration_ompact_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/com-2016-477-20160706-proposal-for-regulation-icsp\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/com-2016-477-20160706-proposal-for-regulation-icsp_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-3002\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3002_en.htm)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR16\\_09/SR\\_MIGRATION\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR16_09/SR_MIGRATION_EN.pdf)