



JOINT VALLETTA ACTION PLAN 2017 SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING



Analysis Report of the Khartoum Process in preparation for the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of 8th and 9th February 2017

The Khartoum Process members believe that the Valletta Summit was an important step forward in addressing migration. Firstly, it brought together European and African countries concerned to tackle the shared challenges of unmanaged migration flows. Secondly, it recognised the need to take action in source, transit and destination countries. And, thirdly, it emphasised the importance of a comprehensive approach combining migration, development and foreign policy tools and security challenges.

In this respect, the Khartoum Process strongly encourages Valletta participants to renew their political commitment to the principles of cooperation agreed in the Joint Valletta Declaration (solidarity, partnership, shared responsibility).

The impact of the Valletta Summit has also been important. It has been of significant value in raising awareness among participants of the problems and risks caused by unmanaged migration and in mobilising action. The “five domains” approach has provided an important framework. Members of the Khartoum Process are increasingly drawing on this framework to design migration interventions. The Valletta Summit galvanised actors and provided the necessary political prioritisation and created a renewed impetus allowing for a more focused approach on specific areas of migration. The Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)¹ has offered a set of detailed actions to address specific migration and migration related issues. Efforts and progress achieved at multilateral, bilateral and national levels have mainly focused on the implementation of the 16 priority initiatives for 2016 identified in the JVAP. In addition to pursuing these 16 priority actions, members have referenced the JVAP when formulating country-specific approaches. The results achieved are the fruit of close collaboration between partners and strong mobilisation of dialogue mechanisms and the successful governance of the Khartoum Process. Furthermore, active communication among the partners of the Khartoum Process has ensured better monitoring of the JVAP, including the drawing up of this report in preparation for the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 8th and 9th February 2017 in Malta.

There has been a generally encouraging level of implementation of the JVAP at political, policy and programming levels since its adoption. This has been facilitated by the many

¹ For more detailed information please refer to *summary document entitled: “Draft Analysis of Mapping of the Implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)”*

ongoing initiatives already supported by Khartoum Process members who have been pursuing the benefits and tackling the challenges of migration identified in the JVAP for many years.

To fully meet the expectations of all the partners of the Khartoum Process the implementation of the JVAP should be pursued and further developed.

There has been notable development of national policies and a wide range of instruments and programmes of support have also been engaged. These include the EUTF (EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa) and the new EIP (European External Investment Plan for Africa and EU Neighbourhood Countries). In addition global instruments have been applied to support migration actions, likewise Pan-African support through the Pan-African programme, regional support through, for example, the ACP programmes and bilateral and thematically-specific programming.

A signal of the EU's commitment, the EUTF has also been particularly key to the progress of the Dialogue's activities in supporting the Valletta Action Plan.

Drafted by Khartoum Process members, this report firstly provides an analysis per domain of initiatives, policy and legislation work undertaken by the Process so far. Secondly, it puts forward recommendations for partners of the Valletta Summit prior to the SOM on 8th and 9th February 2017 in Malta.

The report is divided into three parts:

1. An analysis of the five priority domains;
2. An overview of use of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and other funding instruments;
3. Conclusions and recommendations in preparation for the SOM on 8th-9th February 2017.

1. Analysis of the progress in the five priority domains and recommendations regarding the implementation of the priority initiatives

A recap of the JVAP-wide initiatives implemented per domain has already been conducted in the document "*Analysis of Mapping of the Implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan*". The analysis below is therefore specific to the Khartoum Process: it underlines the main achievements and gaps identified as a result of the mapping exercise. The analysis is based primarily on the experience of the Khartoum Process and reflected in its various proceedings.

Implementation levels have varied across domains and priority initiatives with reporting under some priority initiatives showing strong delivery of objectives whilst results in other areas are proving harder won. There are a number of potential reasons for this variance including complexity of objectives, multiplicity of responses required and the existence or non-existence of engagement upon which post-Valletta actions could be built.

Programmatic responses to the JVAP have prioritised the 16 priority initiatives identified in the JVAP to be launched before the end of 2016. Programming via a range of instruments and sources have contributed to the delivery of these priority initiatives.

Domain 1: Development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement

Given the multidimensional nature of the objectives of Domain 1 and its inclusion of development issues, it is the most important domain in terms of funding received and number of initiatives identified in the JVAP. It has also retained particular interest among the Khartoum Process members who attach particular importance to this area of work.

The domain's broad scope and the long-term nature of the responses required are reflected in often large budgetary allocations to relevant programmes. In addition, there are many cross-cutting programmes that are making a considerable contribution to this domain.

Bilateral assistance from Khartoum Process members as well as European Union programmes including its National Indicative Programmes has enabled various priorities to be addressed. However, it is important to continue to support initiatives designed to tackle root causes in the long-term, such as reducing poverty, stability, supporting inclusive economic growth through investment opportunities and the creation of decent jobs, improving the delivery of basic services.

Under priority 1 there has been progress in developing programmes related to enhancing employment opportunities and revenue-generating activities as well as supporting the implementation of national strategies on migration across many Khartoum Process countries, through a stronger engagement with diaspora and stronger socio-economic opportunities for young people in areas most affected by emigration.

There has also been progress in the identification and design of programmes to tackle relief, rehabilitation and development in peripheral and vulnerable areas – priority initiative 2. Priority initiative 3 specifically seeks to support the African Institute for Remittances (AIR). Effective cooperation, including additional funding between Kenya, the AUC, the World Bank and the EU is evidence in the significant advancement of this priority. In July 2016 Delegates representing African Diaspora Delegate organisations, money transfer organisations, private sector organisations, civil society, governments and international development agencies reaffirmed their commitment to implement remittance provisions of the JVAP in the Nairobi Action Plan on Remittances.

Priority Initiative 4 is intended to facilitate responsible private investment in African agriculture, agri-business and agro industries and here also promising and relevant initiatives have been approved and are progressing. EU Member States are particularly supportive of this initiative in their funding of identified programmes.

In addition to the priority initiatives, there were some 36 other actions identified under this JVAP domain. An overview of ongoing work relevant to these 36 other actions suggest that implementation progress has been noteworthy. These include EU-Africa analysis of root causes (via the EUTF's Research and Evidence Facility), numerous programmes to boost socio-economic development including through support to create new economic opportunities for youth, assisting youth to acquire market-relevant skills and via support to Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In addition, JVAP-identified measures under this domain have supported efforts to address the negative impacts of environmental and climate change and in support to diaspora initiatives. Additional domain-one actions under the JVAP focused on the need to address instability and crises including the need to prevent new conflicts and by supporting state building, the rule of law and good governance. Khartoum Process countries have long partnered in tackling these issues but recent new initiatives, including those funded under the EU's Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), constitute a major response to the JVAP.

EU Member States continue to engage actively with Khartoum Process partners across this wide agenda. Member States are working through bilateral national programmes to boost socio-economic development (including strong engagement in areas such as investment in African agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries), tackle the impact of environmental and climate change, support state-building initiatives and address instability and crisis. EU Member States support also extends to regional engagement and continental support including through support to the AUC.

African partners continue to implement a wide range of development-driven programmes through national budgets and through other delivery mechanisms. Many of the budgetary allocations and programmes are directly relevant to priority initiatives under this domain and are articulated in national development plans.

Specific recommendations

It is important to continue to **support initiatives designed to tackle root causes in the long-term**, such as reducing poverty, stability, supporting inclusive economic growth through investment opportunities and the creation of decent jobs, improving the delivery of basic services and in doing so ensure complementarity and coherence in support from all Khartoum Process Members. These objectives can also be supported by complementary financial instruments available.

The recent announcement of the EIP is a welcome response to calls by African partners for a greater focus on investment and jobs creation to address youth unemployment. In order to maximize the anticipated benefits of the EIP, **consultations** should be held **with all concerned African Partners** about the **potential fields of cooperation** related to migration. Khartoum Process members recommend **Technical and Vocational training and skills development** as an important means to promote long term development dynamics.

Domain 2: Legal migration and mobility

Since the Valletta Summit, Khartoum Process countries have engaged in constructive dialogue on enhancing opportunities for legal migration and mobility. Examples of this engagement include the joint Rabat and Khartoum Processes workshop in Cabo Verde in December 2016 on visa facilitation (as agreed under priority action 7). The meeting considered current opportunities between Europe and Africa as well as within the African continent in relevant areas such as visa facilitation for specific categories of travellers – tourists, businessmen, students and researchers. The EU has also engaged with a number of countries on possible visa facilitation agreements and through longer-standing mobility partnerships as anticipated under other actions under the JVAP.

Khartoum Process countries have also been working on improving the context for legal migration and mobility. The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has enabled work with IGAD on the free movement of labour between IGAD countries.

More generally there have also been progressive policy developments under this domain. For the EU, legal migration and mobility remain a key element in the governance of migration, enshrined in the Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM), in the European Agenda on Migration as well as in the more recent Communication establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries. In May 2016 the EU adopted a new directive on third-country students and researchers, which facilitate their admission – as well as of trainees and their intra-EU mobility. A proposal for a reformed Blue Card for highly skilled workers was presented by the European Commission on 7 June 2016, and its consideration is ongoing. Under the proposed rules it will be easier and faster to qualify and obtain an EU Blue Card.

Two EU Directives adopted – one on seasonal workers and another one on intra-corporate transferees – are to be implemented by EU Member States by the end 2016. Implementation will improve the rules facilitating the admission and stay in the EU for these categories of third-country nationals. In June 2016 the Commission proposed a revision of the European Qualifications Framework as part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe. The proposal seeks to enhance the understanding of qualifications awarded outside of the EU as a means to, amongst other objectives, facilitate their recognition. In October 2016 the European Commission also proposed revision of the Europass Decision which will provide information on recognition practices and decisions in different countries, including third countries. This will help individuals and other stakeholders understand qualifications as well as additional information on skills and qualifications relevant to the particular needs of migrants arriving or residing in the Union.

Cross-cutting and specific programmes are providing concrete support to ongoing policy engagement under Valletta under this domain. Specifically EU's ERAMUS+ programme which is showing clear scale-up potential in the number of "mobilities" available in North and Sub-Saharan Africa, is a direct contributor to the implementation of priority initiative 5. By December 2016, around 8,000 mobilities will have been financed which is significantly higher than the commitment made in Valletta to double the number of scholarships. The

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are offering funding opportunities for the exchange of research staff. Since the Valletta Summit, the number of African researchers and organisations applying to MSCA has increased (by 25% for organisations, by 40% for researchers). This is a positive indicator but participation could be higher through more awareness-raising. The first call of the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility scheme took place in 2016. Seven projects have been selected with 29 African universities participating and a total of 560 mobilities are planned.

This attention placed on students and researchers at an EU level has been complemented by a number of EU Member States' bilateral efforts in relation to scholarships and offers for these categories. In order to coordinate such efforts, the Commission started mapping existing bilateral projects between selected African countries and Member States and demonstrates a willingness on behalf of the EU and its Member States to pursue a joint approach in this area. Initiatives related to work, study, research and vocational training (areas referred to in priority initiative 6) are being implemented in a range of countries, including Khartoum Process countries.

Specific Recommendations

In light of the findings of the mapping exercise (Table 1 on programmes and Table 2 on policies and legislation of African countries), the Khartoum Process recommends that Domain 2 should be **further strengthened** in order to achieve better levels of cooperation. The need for a **comprehensive approach to migration matters, encouraging policies** that promote regular channels for migration, including labour migration and the mobility of entrepreneurs, students and researchers, also at regional level, is crucial in building confidence among the partners. The members of the Khartoum Process have emphasised the importance of measures to promote safe and legal migration on several occasions, based on the agreement reflected in the Political Declaration recognizing the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility between and within two continents.

Khartoum Process also wishes to see further progress in the area of **visa facilitation**. As highlighted by the conclusions of the joint Rabat and Khartoum Processes workshop in Cabo Verde, Africa-EU and intra-African dialogues must be intensified and must work to achieve a climate of co-operation and trust, so as to promote exchanges and co-operation between regions and countries at all levels in the area of visa facilitation. This meeting also highlighted that the volume of migration flows and visitors within and to Africa are much more substantial than those to Europe and that improvements to policies and processes towards these flows will result in the most significant development benefits.

Concrete steps to implement the conclusions of the meeting in Cabo Verde should be undertaken to have a tangible impact on the ground.

Domain 3: Protection and asylum

Host countries continue to play a lead role in accommodating and supporting large numbers of refugees and IDPs spread across many Khartoum Process countries. Enhancing protection of displaced populations and access to asylum continues to be a focus and is provided in a wide range of ways by Khartoum Process countries. Support is provided both directly and through international organisations and delivered through a wide range of delivery mechanisms and in some countries is embedded within national policies. EU Member States are working bilaterally with partners to build capacity to better manage protection and asylum issues and to provide material assistance to those in need.

The Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPP) aim to develop, in partnership with governments in the region, evidence-based, innovative and sustainable approaches, which address the protection needs of refugees and their host communities and promote durable solutions for them that integrate the development needs of each of these groups. This includes aiming to improve international protection and access to integrated service delivery, employment skills and education.

Of the Khartoum Process members, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya are key countries for the RDPP in the Horn of Africa as they host large numbers of refugees. In these countries, the RDPP aims to provide better prospects for refugees as well as host communities with a view to allowing beneficiaries to become more self-reliant. Additionally, efforts in Somalia are tailored to reach durable solutions by improving migration management, addressing state fragility and creating conducive conditions in areas of return, as well as enabling and facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of refugees from Kenyan refugee camps. In response to the recent influx from South Sudan, the RDPP is scaling up an earlier project in Uganda aimed at addressing development needs of South Sudanese refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda. The RDPP for North of Africa covering Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, is about to be launched, and it is still premature to measure its impact. EU support for humanitarian assistance (totalling around EUR 406 million for Khartoum Process countries in 2016) continues to be provided to refugees, IDPs and local communities in displacement contexts. This helps address basic humanitarian and protection needs and contributes to building resilience, safety and self-reliance of refugees and host communities (priority initiative 10).

In April 2016, the EU advanced a new policy approach to forced displacement in its Communication "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance" with the goal of preventing forced displacement becoming protracted and to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance in existing displacement situations. This policy advancement is underpinning the EU's approach to forced displacement including via the implementation of JVAP-relevant EU programmes under this domain.

The Khartoum Process welcomes significant regional and international political and capital investments made in this area during 2016, which have helped to place protection and asylum at the top of the international agenda.

Specific recommendations

Khartoum Process members reiterate the need “*to strengthen international protection and step up assistance, including its humanitarian dimension*”. As described in the Political Declaration of the Valletta Summit on Migration, “*Protection must be granted to all those entitled to it in accordance with international and regional instruments. Access to regular mechanisms for protection, such as resettlement, should be reinforced.*”

The Khartoum Process acknowledges that progress is required to **strengthen public institutions, policies and migration strategies** in order to improve the management of the mixed migration flows and to offer better protection of persons, in conformity with national standards and international conventions both at national and regional level.

There is a need to **ensure that those needing protection** can – and should – **seek it in the first safe country**, thus avoiding dangerous onward journeys.

In order to mitigate all refugee crises and especially protracted ones, **all durable solutions should be explored** including local reintegration and resettlement to third countries as appropriate. These efforts should not only focus on the humanitarian dimension but equally place focus on supporting resilience of the hosting communities in Africa.

Domain 4: Prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Efforts to tackle irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings have seen high levels of engagement from, and cooperation between, Valletta partners. This engagement and cooperation has been seen in policy dialogue and in programmatic responses. A good example of policy-level cooperation is the Khartoum Process thematic workshop on migrant smuggling held in May 2016 in Sudan. It focused on law enforcement and judicial response, information sharing and border management in view of enhancing prevention and fight against migrant smuggling in the region. Practical responses to the findings of the workshop are currently being developed.

On prevention, the EU supported information and awareness raising activities in a number of Khartoum Process countries through targeted campaigns as well as in the framework of RDDP and return and reintegration projects. The selection procedure of the European Migration Liaison Officer (EMLO) has been completed and they will be soon deployed to a number of Khartoum Process countries.

Major steps have also been taken towards developing a comprehensive strategy to curb smuggling and trafficking activities. There has been considerable programmatic support to the priority initiatives and the other actions set out for this domain in the JVAP. In respect of the JVAP's 16 priority initiatives, a range of actions to establish or upgrade national and regional

anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking legislation, policies or action plans in countries and regions of origin and transit of migration have commenced. Likewise, projects focused on strengthening institutional capacity to fight the criminal networks involved in smuggling migrants and trafficking human beings. Other programmes support the implementation of information campaigns in countries of origin, transit and destination to raise awareness of the general public and prospective migrants of the dangers linked to irregular migration and risks of trafficking.

One of the EUTF's principal responses to the challenges of addressing irregular migration is the development of the EUR 46 million Better Migration Management Programme (BMM Programme) in the Horn of Africa region. This programme aims at better managing migration at the regional level through the provision of capacity building and basic equipment to government institutions of the Khartoum Process. Support will be provided to assist investigate, prosecute and trial cases of trafficking and smuggling, to improve border management, or to generate and use statistical data. Assistance will also be provided to develop and harmonize policies and legislative frameworks on trafficking and smuggling, ensuring the protection of victims, and raising awareness about the perils of irregular migration and options for legal migration and mobility.

In addition to BMM, an agreement among relevant stakeholders was reached in December to establish a Regional Operational Centre (ROCK) in support of the Khartoum Process and AU-Horn of Africa Initiative. This follows an intense effort in consultations to which all stakeholders have positively contributed, especially during two informal Working Groups in February and July 2016.

More widely, the EU continues to develop a pipeline of actions to enhance African partner capacity to tackle a range of aspects in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking. Areas being worked on include support to victims of trafficking and smuggled persons, training of law enforcement and judicial authorities and the establishment of cooperation platforms and other fora through which countries and relevant international bodies can better work together.

The members of the Khartoum Process welcome the efforts undertaken by several of its members in adapting their legislation and policies to better address migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

Specific recommendations

Khartoum Process reiterates and renews its full commitment and engagement to enhance the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings. In this respect, it

equally recalls the relevance of the JVAP (which envisages several priority initiatives aimed at state building and strengthening of public institutions).

Efforts should not be spared to **curb the smugglers' illicit activities** and the phenomenon of trafficking of human beings, including by taking short-term actions to complement the longer-term developmental approach.

Members of the Khartoum process stress the importance of addressing **border management** and the criminal activities of trafficking and smuggling networks in the most efficient and effective way. To this end, the importance of enhanced cooperation and exchange of information to strengthen the legislative and operational capacities of the law enforcement agencies in the concerned countries must be emphasized.

There is also a need to create dynamics for **consultations** and **reinforcing exchange of information** among all countries to better combat trans-border organized criminal networks.

Khartoum Process members stress the need to **implement the recommendations** of the **thematic meeting in Khartoum in May 2016** and will build on this through expert training workshops and further thematic meetings in 2017.

Specific attention needs to be devoted to the **assistance victims of trafficking of human beings** in full respect of their human rights.

Awareness raising projects need to be pursued as an important prevention measure.

Domain 5: Return, re-admission and reintegration

The JVAP identified 2 priority initiatives and some 6 other actions to be pursued in the domain of return, readmission and reintegration. Strengthening logistical and operational capacity of authorities of countries of origin to respond in a timely manner to readmission applications and the launching of projects in countries of origin to support the reintegration of returnees into their communities were specifically identified in the JVAP for priority action.

Dialogue on cooperation on readmission with partner countries has intensified over the last year. Negotiations of formal agreements and other practical cooperation arrangements to facilitate readmission and to help partner countries meet their international obligation to readmit own nationals were launched with a number of countries (both at bilateral Member States level and with the EU). These arrangements aim at establishing effective procedures, helping the countries to respond to readmission applications. Since Valletta, the Khartoum Process has advanced dialogue and policy engagement in this area.

A number of missions aimed at identifying irregular migrants and issuing them emergency travel documents have taken place since the Valletta Summit. These missions complement the

regular process of identification and re-documentation of migrants by consulates, especially when there are a high number of arrivals.

Programmatic responses have come from the EU and its Member States. These responses include programmes supporting reintegration schemes and reintegration capacity in countries across a number of regions.

Pressure on the Central Mediterranean route remains and rates of departure from the Libyan coast continue to be high. Programmes responding to protection needs of migrants upon disembarkation and in detention centres and to reinforce the humanitarian repatriation and reintegration as well as community stabilization have been approved under the EUTF.

Projects aimed at enhancing civil registries based on biometric database have also been developed, and should contribute to improved capacity of authorities to identify their nationals rapidly. Some EU Member States are also providing support under direct arrangements or via support to international organisations such as IOM to enhance the capacity of national authorities and to better improve processes of return, readmission and reintegration. These efforts will respond to ongoing needs under this domain and address issues raised by the expert level Stocktaking Review Meeting on the state of play of the implementation of the JVAP held in Brussels in June 2016.

The Khartoum Process acknowledges the considerable interest in this area in order to make significant process, as shown by the thematic meeting held in October 2016 in Addis Ababa. Planning durable reintegration must be based, on the one hand, on a comprehensive support strategy from the pre-departure and arrival phases, with concrete measures and projects to strengthen return with the help of relevant actors such as international organisations. On the other hand, reintegration must be based as much as possible on existing national systems and be adapted to various national contexts and the needs of different categories of migrants, including those who have been forcibly returned. It must reinforce community and collective approaches and strategies including through collaboration with civil society in European and African countries, according to applicable laws, and must provide information and communicate on the possibilities of voluntary return.

Specific recommendations

Khartoum Process members will continue to **strengthen the efforts to fight against irregular migration** in line with existing agreements and obligations under international law, as well as mutually agreed arrangements on return and readmission. Preference should be given to voluntary return and to ensure that all returns are carried out in full respect of human rights and human dignity. Improved cooperation on return and sustainable reintegration can only enhance migration and mobility policy and make it more effective and comprehensive.

Khartoum Process members stress the need to **implement the recommendations of the thematic meeting in Addis in October 2016** and will build on this through expert training workshops and further thematic meetings in 2017.

2. Overview of use of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (Sahel / Lake Chad and North Africa windows)

The EUTF is a welcome initiative. With over €600 million committed for the Horn of Africa since its establishment in November 2015, and over 40% of that amount already contracted, as well as close articulation with international, regional and national dialogues, the EUTF is contributing significantly to the implementation of both the Khartoum Process and the JVAP. Efforts have been made and steps taken to prioritize a balanced approach between the different aspects of migration, with investments made in all 5 priority domains of the JVAP, particularly in domains 1 (63%), 3 (15%), 5 (15%) and 4 (6%). Apportioning of EUTF projects across the 5 JVAP domains needs to be continued taking into account country specificities.

However, certain concerns expressed by the beneficiary countries need to be considered. Resources allocated to date show strong efforts to support the development benefits of migration and fight root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement through priority domain 1. This should continue being done through an evidence-based approach guiding the future allocation of funds and supporting swift disbursements. With a swift pace of project approvals and progress on implementation and contracting picking up during the course of 2016, partners of the Khartoum Process underline the importance of focusing on the continued implementation and contracting of projects in 2017 so as to start showing results on the ground and better communicate the impact of the dialogue processes.

In the Horn of Africa, support through the European Development Fund National Programmes has substantially contributed to the JVAP priorities, particularly by addressing root causes of migration through mid-long term development actions to improve people's livelihoods and promote job creation.

Progress under the JVAP must not be measured by the number and budget of approved projects alone, but also by the extent of political commitment and engagement by member states on all sides and in all five JVAP domains. Ownership by African states must step up, including in EUTF-funded projects. This ownership can be achieved by engaging more with national government institutions.

In this context, in order to effectively respond to the complex and multifaceted nature of migration issues, a structured and forward-looking approach should continue to mainstream political and diplomatic solutions within responses of the EUTF, in alignment and coherence with other EU and bilateral instruments that target related objectives.

Specific recommendations

Upcoming funding should respect the need for emphasis on other priority domains through increased project proposals in these areas and for further coherence with bilateral and EU instruments and programmes that target related objectives.

Whilst recognizing progress listed above, efforts should be made to **expedite the contracting** and **disbursement of funds** in close consultations with the concerned countries and based on national ownership and assessed needs. The designing of projects and their implementation should be carried out in close consultation with the countries concerned.

A **holistic approach** in dealing with all operational windows needs to be taken into consideration.

3. General recommendations in preparation for the SOM on 8th - 9th February 2017

- 1) Migration should be managed with a holistic approach, taking into account all its dimensions. Migration, particularly if unmanaged, can represent a challenge for countries of destination insofar as it poses serious political and policy challenges, as has been demonstrated in recent political trends across Europe. At the same time, countries of origin equally strive to face their own social, economic and political challenges. Migration however, provided it is well governed and managed, offers opportunities whose benefits should be harnessed by origin, transit and destination countries and communities.
- 2) Migration and mobility-related issues should be addressed in a balanced way. Addressing the push factors or root causes which cause migrants to leave their places of origin and undertake perilous journeys is of paramount importance.
- 3) All concerned stake holders should step up efforts to mainstream migration into their relevant policies, including development cooperation, notwithstanding other migration-related aspects, which still need to be tackled, in addition to addressing the political and social factors and causes of conflict.
- 4) As regards approaches towards specific countries, there is clearly significant value in closer in-country coordination with all relevant stakeholders as a way of improving the coherence of our collective approach. A balanced approach would also take into consideration the diversity and specificities of each region and country and their migrants when addressing push factors.
- 5) A 'one size fits all' solution should be avoided. Active cooperation, coordination and partnership among all stakeholders are therefore absolutely crucial to ensure a balanced, positive approach to migration and mobility. Going forward, initiatives and coordination mechanisms should ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.
- 6) The Khartoum Process members consider that the available knowledge and data collection tools on migration in the region could be further enhanced. The research and analysis component should thus be reinforced for better migration management in

light of the factors which lead to increasing numbers as well as taking into account the successes in reducing the flows and deaths in the Aegean in 2016.

- 7) It is crucial that the JVAP is measured against real progress on the ground and in this respect it has to be acknowledged that despite all efforts undertaken under it (and while taking due note of the fact that most of the projects are still in the inception phase and will require more time to demonstrate results), the number of irregular arrivals from African countries in Europe has not decreased since the Summit in Valletta. Therefore more will have to be done to fight irregular migration, human smuggling, trafficking and exploitation as well as strengthening protection and support of refugees in African host countries as per the agreed commitment under the Valletta Political Declaration as well as support social development and enhance stability in Africa.
- 8) Ownership and coordination must be accompanied by a tool enabling long-term monitoring of the JVAP. The mapping exercise conducted in the framework of the Khartoum Process is essential in the sense that it provides an initial visual overview of the progress in the implementation of the JVAP. However, in order to complete this first stage, and to obtain a long-term, structured and detailed vision of all of the actions and policies carried out to date and their level of achievement in real time, it is imperative to focus on the qualitative as well as quantitative impact of these initiatives on the ground.
- 9) The Khartoum Process supports the establishment of a fully-fledged and efficient monitoring tool which will include systematic data collection according to the model to be proposed by ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) which will be discussed at the Malta SOM.
- 10) The selection of any further priority actions should meet the criteria of coherence and impact and distinguish clearly between the short, medium and long term.
- 11) It will also be important to agree at the Malta SOM on the future direction of Valletta which should take into account both of the EU/Africa Summit later in 2017 and of the forthcoming negotiations on refugee and migration compacts, as mandated at the UN last September. The Khartoum Process needs to consider how it can contribute to both, drawing on Valletta for inspiration. The fulfilment of SDG 10.7 on “*orderly, safe and responsible migration*” is an important element of this.
- 12) The Malta SOM should send a forward-looking message and identify areas of further practical cooperation. The Khartoum Process encourages the partners of Valletta to define the priorities for 2017 whether short-, medium- or long-term, building on the assessment of the level of implementation of the 16 priority actions and other 89 actions of the JVAP and in closer cooperation with Rabat Process countries.
- 13) Finally, Khartoum Process members believe that an additional Valletta SOM should be held in 2018 in order to track and encourage continuing progress and thus welcomes the offer of Ethiopia, as current Chair of the Khartoum Process, who has signalled its willingness to host such a meeting.