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Established
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Current Chair
Germany

Upcoming Chair
TBC

Secretariat
African Union Commission
European Commission
ICMPD

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(Steering Committee)

Austria	Belgium
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Egypt	Eritrea
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Finland	France
Germany	Greece
Hungary	Ireland
Italy	Kenya
Latvia	Libya
Lithuania	Luxembourg
Malta	The Netherlands
Norway	Poland
Portugal	Romania
Slovakia	Slovenia
Somalia	South Sudan
Spain	Sudan
Sweden	Switzerland
Tunisia	Uganda

A Regional Dialogue for Cooperation on Tackling Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants along the Horn of Africa-Europe Migration Route

The EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process) is a regional dialogue, implemented within the overarching framework of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) – the framework of the external dimension of EU migration policy. This political initiative builds upon the positive outcomes of the African Union Regional Ministerial Conference on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the Horn of Africa, held in **Khartoum** on **13-16 October 2014**.

On **28 November 2014**¹, the Khartoum Process member states and the EU met in Rome for a Ministerial Conference and signed a Declaration agreeing to undertake concrete actions to prevent and tackle the challenges of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants between the Horn of Africa and Europe, in a spirit of partnership, shared responsibility, and cooperation.

The Declaration defines a number of priority areas for cooperation, on a voluntary basis, as follows:

- Developing cooperation at bilateral and regional level between countries of origin, transit and destination to tackle irregular migration and criminal networks through concrete measures pertaining to information-sharing, focused training activities, and technical assistance;
- Assisting in improving national capacity building in the field of migration management in all its components upon individual request of the countries;
- Assisting national authorities in stepping up prevention measures with special regards to trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants;
- Establishing national strategies to strengthen horizontal coordination among all services involved, including ensuring protection to refugees and asylum seekers and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Assisting in improving the identification and prosecution of criminal networks;
- Improving or, where appropriate, establishing criminal law frameworks and fostering – where applicable – the ratification and the proper implementation of the Protocols against Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (Palermo Convention);
- Promoting a victim-centred approach;
- Promoting sustainable development in countries of origin and transit in order to address the root causes of irregular migration;
- Developing a regional framework for return, including voluntary, and reintegration, in the full respect of human rights, while strengthening the national capacities;
- Assisting participating countries in establishing and managing reception centres, providing access to asylum processes in line with the international law, improving camp services and security, screening mixed migratory flows.

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¹ <https://www.khartoumprocess.net/resources/library/political-declaration/60-khartoum-process-declaration>

More information is available at the Khartoum Process website: www.khartoumprocess.net

Scope

The Khartoum Process represents a platform for consultation, coordination, and political cooperation among the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. It thus fosters a common understanding on the associated challenges and encourages opportunities for partnership, as well as the implementation of concrete actions, on a voluntary basis.

Various EU bodies, such as the European Commission (DG Home Affairs, DG Development and Cooperation, and DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and the External Action Service, actively participate in the Khartoum Process. International organisations, such as ICMPD, IOM, UNHCR, and UNODC partake, as well as IGAD.

The African Union Commission and the European Commission are in charge of the Secretariat of the Khartoum Process.

The Khartoum Process aims to:

Give a new impetus to the regional collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe.

Provide a platform for sharing knowledge and experience to strengthen inter-governmental cooperation, with the support of international organisations (ICMPD, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC) as well as of IGAD as a regional organisation.

Recent Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting and Senior Officials' Meeting, 15 – 16 March 2023, Berlin, Germany:

Khartoum Process partners met for the 9th Senior Officials' Meeting, preceded by a Steering Committee Meeting in the afternoon of 15 March. The Senior Officials' Meeting featured the Chairmanship handover from South Sudan to Germany, who presented their priorities for the year ahead. Among other priority areas, the German chairmanship will focus on human mobility in the context of climate change and the protection of internally displaced people. As a cross-cutting theme and in line with Germany's Feminist Foreign Policy Guidelines, gender-specific issues will receive special attention.

Delegates additionally discussed the recent developments within the Khartoum Process and within partner organisations and explored new governance strategies for the Steering Committee.

Thematic Workshop on Innovative Law Enforcement Tools to Tackle Irregular Migration, 22 – 24 November 2022, Cairo, Egypt:

The aim of this workshop was to provide law enforcement professionals in Khartoum Process countries with practical, hands-on innovative tools to address irregular migration – trafficking in human beings (THB) and smuggling of migrants (SoM) in particular – with a focus on the

financial aspects, document security, and the use of technology and digital tools, with cooperation and partnership as an overarching theme.



Thematic Meeting on Climate Change and Migration, 5-7 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

This meeting, addressing climate mobility for the first time in the framework of both dialogues, aimed at establishing an understanding of the nuanced nature of the climate change - human mobility nexus, with a focus on the regions involved; establishing a conceptual framework for mainstreaming climate mobility into migration governance and other connected areas such as urban

planning, while sharing experiences on strategies and initiatives at the local, national, and regional levels on human mobility in the context of climate change.

Thematic Meeting on Legal Pathways: Talent and Skills Mobility Partnerships to Match Labour Market Needs, 12 – 13 July 2022, Mombasa, Kenya:

This meeting built on the successful outcomes of the meeting on *Legal Frameworks and Policy Development: Optimising the Benefits of Organised Labour Migration* hosted by Egypt in 2019, narrowing down the focus of the extensive topic of labour migration, to explore specifically the matter of talent and skills mobility partnerships to match labour market needs.

Regional training for officials of border management agencies on international cooperation to combat cross-border crime, 24-25 May 2022, Juba, South Sudan.

During the 2.5 - days event, officials of border management agencies operational at the border and border management and law enforcement professionals in the Khartoum Process African region and the neighbouring Central African Republic were invited to expand their knowledge on challenges and good practices on cross-border cooperation to address crimes such as trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants.