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KhartoumProcess@icmpd.org

Established
November 2014

Current Chair
South Sudan

Upcoming Chair
Germany

Secretariat
African Union Commission
and European Commission

Member states
(Steering Committee
Members in bold):

Austria	Belgium
Bulgaria	Croatia
Cyprus	Czech Rep.
Denmark	Djibouti
Egypt	Eritrea
Estonia	Ethiopia
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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Implemented by ICMPD



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

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

Steering Committee Meeting and Senior Officials' Meeting, 22-23 March 2022, Kampala, Uganda.

Partners met for the 8th Khartoum Process Senior Officials' Meeting, which was preceded by a Steering Committee Meeting on the morning of 22 March. The Senior Officials' Meeting featured the Chairmanship handover from The Netherlands to South Sudan and marked the commencement of the South Sudanese Chairmanship. Delegates discussed the recent developments within the Khartoum Process and within partner organisations, deliberated upon the Work Plan for 2022/23 and explored new governance strategies for the Steering Committee.

Thematic Meeting on Return, Reintegration and Integration: Finding Durable Solutions, 24-25 November 2021, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Thematic Meeting capitalised on the knowledge and inputs shared by a broad range of experts on the three thematic pillars (return, reintegration and integration) during a Virtual Roundtable held on 21 September 2021. The roundtable was organised as a means of setting the grounds for in-depth deliberations, establishing a conceptual framework of durable solutions in all three fields for the discussion and identifying priority areas for further exploration. In addition to rich exchanges on the issues at hand, the in-person meeting provided the space for much valued networking.



Steering Committee Meeting, 21 September 2021. Due to the global health crisis, which affected both migration dynamics and the modus operandi of the Khartoum Process,

this Steering Committee Meeting provided a most welcome opportunity for Steering Committee representatives to reconvene and jointly deliberate on how the Process can move forward in a way that addresses the needs of the members and accounts for the new realities.

Trafficking in Human Beings: The 4Ps Revisited 4-Module Webinar Series,

between April and June 2021, the 4Ps (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnership) framework provided Khartoum Process partners with the conceptual structure to revisit the topic of trafficking in human beings from the perspective of recent and current good practice examples and initiatives from Khartoum Process members and, if and where applicable, reflect on the transformations triggered by the COVID-19 health crisis in these four areas of collaboration.

Virtual Steering Committee Meeting, 2 December 2020.

The aim of the meeting was for SC members to exchange on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the work of the Khartoum Process and jointly explore constructive ways of fulfilling the mandate of the Process in the coming months. New formats of activities and ways of communicating and exchanging have been explored, aimed at keeping channels of communication open and helping partners respond to emerging issues.