

Established

November 2014

Current Chair

The Netherlands

Upcoming Chair

TBC

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:

- o 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;
- o Assisting in improving national capacity building in the field of migration management in all its components upon individual request of the countries;
- o Assisting national authorities in stepping up prevention measures with special regards to trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants;
- o 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;
- o Assisting in improving the identification and prosecution of criminal networks;
- o 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);
- o Promoting a victim-centred approach;
- o Promoting sustainable development in countries of origin and transit in order to address the root causes of irregular migration;
- o Developing a regional framework for return, including voluntary, and reintegration, in the full respect of human rights, while strengthening the national capacities;
- o 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 <http://italia2014.eu/media/3785/declaration-of-the-ministerial-conference-of-the-khartoum-process.pdf>

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 (SC) and Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), The Hague, The Netherlands, 4-5 March 2020. Delegates examined governance and membership-related considerations, the Khartoum Process work plan during the Chairmanship of The Netherlands and beyond, the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) update state-of-play and next steps. The SOM included a scenario-building exercise, with a view of supporting Khartoum Process partners in engaging in more effective and sustainable planning on mixed migration. The SOM also marked the handover of the Chairmanship from Eritrea to The Netherlands.

Thematic Meeting on Migration for Development: Harnessing the Potential of Diaspora, Asmara, Eritrea, 23-24 October 2019. The meeting examined the existing opportunities for leveraging diaspora potential for development. The means of reaching out to and engaging with the diaspora were discussed, along with the policy tools that provide an enabling environment to maximise diaspora capital, including remittances, skills, and knowledge, in countries of origin and destination.

Thematic Meeting on Legal Frameworks and Policy Development: Optimising the Benefits of Organised Labour Migration, Cairo, Egypt, 24-25 September 2019. This first Thematic Meeting on legal migration

organised in the Khartoum Process examined the existing legal and policy instruments regulating labour migration in the region. Considering the diversity and the scale of migration flows occurring between the Horn of Africa and Europe, the meeting offered insights on the current trends, driving forces, and actors involved, as well as explored the operational side of policies in place. With the aim to identify concrete means to support national strategies to harness legal migration, participants jointly elaborated a set of recommendations and practical measures for implementation.

Steering Committee (SC) and Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), Asmara, Eritrea, 6-7 March 2019. The meetings focused on taking stock of the developments within the Khartoum Process, governance matters, and the work plan for 2019 and beyond. The launching of the preparations for the update of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) have taken place. The SOM marked the handover of the Process'

Chairmanship from Italy to Eritrea.

Regional Training Programme on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings, Djibouti City, 30-31 January 2019. This first-of-a-kind activity in the framework of the Khartoum Process facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experience pertaining to addressing the interconnected crimes of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. The Training Programme resulted in a joint elaboration of recommendations aimed at strengthening national capacities and regional cooperation.

Thematic Meeting on the Protection of Women and Girls on the Move from Africa to Europe, Stockholm, Sweden, 18-19 September 2018. The participants of the Meeting, namely representatives of participating states, EU, UN, academics, and civil society, shared their expertise on protection and gender-based violence (GBV) within the context of mixed migratory flows from Africa to Europe, including the access to GBV response services during displacement and migration.

Steering Committee Meeting, Cairo, Egypt, 9 July 2018, was dedicated to the discussion of the 2019 African Chair, resulting in an endorsement of the Eritrean candidature, and the structure of the Khartoum Process Report for the 2018 JVAP SOM, scheduled to take place on 14-15 November 2018 on the premises of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.

