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NOTE

From:	Commission Services
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Operationalization of the Pact – Action plans for strengthening comprehensive migration partnerships with priority countries of origin and transit Draft Action Plan : Nigeria

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (06.12.2021)

Delegations will find attached a draft action plan for Nigeria prepared by the Commission Services.

The Commission would very much appreciate that the text of the draft action plan be handled with discretion.

Draft Action Plan: Nigeria

Overall EU Objectives – Lines to Take	
DELETED	
Goals for managing migration and addressing forced displacement – Lines to Take	
DELETED	

DELETED

Measures

DELETED

DELETED

Timelines for action

A. Next Steps for engagement by EU and by Member States

DELETED

B. Next steps for funding measures
DELETED

ANNEX I

Existing EU cooperation and areas of engagement under the New Pact

i. **Asylum/international protection/humanitarian aid**

- 8.7 million people in northeast Nigeria are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. There are 2.8 million IDPs in Nigeria and 321 000 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger.
- Humanitarian funding from the EU budget in 2021 stands at €52 million. Almost 30% is allocated to the WASH/shelter/camp coordination and camp management and protection of IDPs and refugees in Nigeria.

ii. **Addressing root causes**

- Ongoing bilateral cooperation under MFF 2014-2020 (€562 million) focusing on: 1) Health, nutrition and resilience, 2) Sustainable energy and access to electricity and 3) Rule of law, governance and democracy.
- Under MFF 2014-2020 Nigeria has benefitted from €128.5 million under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Due to the fragile socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the northeast of Nigeria, the intervention focused on access to basic services, enhancing self-reliance, conflict resolution and livelihood possibilities for displaced people as well as host communities.

iii. **Migration governance and management**

- The EU has been supporting migration governance in Nigeria since 2012. Some promising work is taking place at national and state level, with a few state governments having established Migration for Development Schemes and/or Taskforces against Trafficking in Human Beings. Steps forward were also noted in the operational efficiency and coordination roles of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) through the capacity building initiatives carried out by the 10th EDF and the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

Cooperation with EU Agencies:

- Frontex: EBCGA board recently approved an initiative to launch/update the Working Arrangements with several third countries. Nigeria is considered for an updated arrangement, once the new Model Working Arrangement has been approved (end October 2021, tbc);
- EUROPOL: The Commission has consistently promoted the signature of a cooperation agreement between EUROPOL and Nigeria. The objective is to seek an operational agreement, allowing the exchange of personal data between EUROPOL, EU law enforcement, and Nigeria.
- EASO: for the time being, no arrangement has been envisaged between EASO and Nigeria.

Border management

- Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, amounting to €15.5 million in total, Nigeria has received €200 000 towards the validation of a National Border Management Strategy which builds on a steadily developing and broadening EU support towards the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS). Support is focused on training, data management, investigation and prosecution, intelligence gathering and border management systems, such as MIDAS (Migration Information Data Analysis System). Ongoing EU projects in Nigeria have provided for a more active role for agencies such as Frontex and Europol in capacity-building in the areas of identification, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking and smuggling and a strengthened mandate of Frontex in third countries can be complementary to existing funding and cooperation in Nigeria and welcomed by government

agencies, such as NIS and NAPTIP, which are constantly in need of training for their officials.

- Nigeria is one of the 26 African and MENA countries to be part of the AFIC (Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community) project funded through the EU budget under MFF 2014-2020. The Risk Analysis Cell in Nigeria was inaugurated at the end of 2019 and is one of the five active Risk Analysis Cells of the AFIC project.

Migrant Smuggling

- A Common Operational Partnership (COP) along African migratory routes against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings was launched in 2020, to enhance structured and operational cooperation among European and African law enforcement and judicial authorities, and to prevent and fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. 90% of the total eligible costs (around €7.5 million) is supported from the EU budget and the project partners cover the remaining 10%. The consortium of partners consists of Austria as coordinator, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Interpol. The project engages with the competent authorities of African countries, regions and organisations, with a focus on Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Tunisia, as well as countries along the Horn of Africa route (including Ethiopia, Niger, Eritrea and Sudan) and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL).

Two work packages of the project involve cooperation with Nigeria:

- A work package led by Germany to combat Nigerian organised crime networks involved in THB from Nigeria and other African countries such as Cameroon, Ghana, Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea, through establishing an operational approach to strengthen common investigations (technical support, training, data exchange); and supporting the use of mediators in ongoing investigations to protect victims in EU Member States. This work package involves Germany (Bundeskriminalamt) and the Nigerian National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), with the involvement of Europol, Interpol and EBCGA/Frontex.
- A work package led by Italy to contribute to the fight against Nigerian mafia type criminal networks related to irregular migration towards the EU, THB and migrant smuggling from Nigeria into Europe and to eventually support a Common Operational Partnership between the competent authorities, through strengthening operational and judicial cooperation with the Nigerian law enforcement authorities and working together with them on transnational investigations, and the deployment of two Nigerian National Police Officers in Italy (Rome) at the Central Anticrime Directorate of the Italian National Police.

Trafficking in human beings

- The EU is supporting Nigeria, via the same Common Operational Partnership (COP) mentioned above.
- Through the 11th EDF Action Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the EU is supporting Nigeria in strengthening national migration policies to facilitate the identification, referral, protection and assistance of trafficked persons as well as the improvement of anti-trafficking legislation and regulations especially in terms of their implementation in Nigeria. Despite previous training on investigation, law enforcement agencies in Nigeria would still need support towards investigating cross-border or internal organised crime (support amounting to €10 million).
- The project INSigHT, led by Italy and Sweden financed under Mobility Partnership Facility (contribution of approx. €570 000 from the EU budget) aims to increase the capacity of key local stakeholders in the Veneto Region (Italy), Edo State and Lagos (Nigeria) and Stockholm (Sweden) to tackle human trafficking.

Awareness raising

- Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, the EU has been supporting the development and adoption of effective and evidenced based information and communication strategies to enhance current efforts towards informing migrants and potential migrants of the risks they may face *en route* as well as safe migration options while managing expectations at the same time. Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations, especially of those active in awareness- raising activities is further needed. Support amounts to around €1 million under a €15.5 million programme.

iv. Returns, readmission, reintegration

- Negotiations on a Returns and Readmission agreement is currently underway (five rounds in 2016-2018; five rounds in 2021).

v. Legal migration and mobility

- Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Return and Reintegration, the EU has supported the review of policy action plans, strengthening coordination platforms on labour migration, strengthening of services provided through Migrant Resource Centres (MRC) and Job Centres, boosting the labour migration information management systems, and supporting the implementation of priority actions (support around €7m).
- Two pilot projects are currently being implemented: one by Lithuania aiming at bringing 50 ICT professionals from Nigeria to Lithuania (€1.35 million under the Mobility Partnership Facility); one project with IOM (MATCH), seeking to address labour markets shortages in Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, in sectors such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), technology and digitalization (€1.8 million from the EU budget).

ANNEX II

Member States' bilateral engagement [EUMS to provide]

ANNEX III

Key figures and trends
Irregular migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal border crossing of Nigerian nationals to the EU: 889 in 2020 (871 in 2019) of which 371 in Italy, 355 in Cyprus and 37 in Greece Illegal stay of Nigerian nationals in the EU: 7 995 in 2020 (13 650 in 2019) of which 3 045 in Germany, 1 760 in Italy, 1 050 in France
Return <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigerian nationals ordered to leave the EU: 7 845 in 2020 (10 785 in 2019) of which 2 100 in France, 1 965 in Germany and 1 760 in Italy Return rate: 11% in 2020 (19% in 2019) Highest return rate in 2020: 68% in the Netherlands, 40% in Germany Lowest return rate in 2020: 1% in France. 0% in Latvia, Croatia, Poland, Portugal
Asylum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time asylum applications: 9 610 in 2020 (20 515 in 2019) of which 3 305 in Germany, 3 100 in France and 855 in Italy First instance asylum decisions: 17 265 in 2020 (29 960 in 2019) EU recognition rate excluding humanitarian protection: 12% in 2020 (12% in 2019) EU recognition rate including humanitarian protection: 16% in 2020 (14% in 2019)
Forced displacement in the country; Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to UNHCR, as of 31 July 2021, there were 2 887 107 IDPs in Nigeria. UNHCR reports that, as of 31 July 2021, there were 71 365 refugees and 1 634 asylum seekers. The refugees are mainly from Cameroon (67 456) and different nationalities in urban areas.¹ UNHCR reports that, as of 31 July 2021, there were 186,597 Nigerian refugees in Niger, 118,409 in Cameroon and 16,634 in Chad.
Legal migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time residence permits: 23 692 in 2019 of which 7 765 in Germany, 5 181 in Italy and 1 889 in Spain – No available data for 2020 Total valid residence permits: 211 522 in 2019 of which 97 908 in Italy, 34 327 in Spain and 32 856 in Germany – No available data for 2020
Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short stay visa applications to the EU: 21 497 in 2020 (102 322 in 2019)² Share of Multiple Entry Visas (MEVs): 42.7% in 2020 (37% in 2019). Top three Member States of Multiple Entry Visa issuance in 2020: France (3 723), Germany (1 638) and Italy (1 637). Visa refusal rate: 51% 2020 (48.5% in 2019)

¹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/nga>

² Lower in 2020 due to Covid-19