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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
N° prev. doc.:	WK 5072/2022 INIT
Subject:	Draft revised Action file - Nigeria

In view of the MOCADÉM RT meeting of 29 September 2023, delegations will find attached the MOCADÉM draft revised action file on Nigeria.

Draft Revised Action File
Nigeria

Specific objectives

Nigeria is a country of origin, transit and destination. Therefore, migration issues should be dealt with in a comprehensive way in order to overcome different challenges, in particular to:

- Communicate at highest political level on the EU's comprehensive approach to migration and relaunch a dialogue on all migration-related issues following a "Team Europe" approach under coordinated and consistent messaging from EU and MS on key issues.
- Give root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement particular attention, i. e. insecurity, social and economic weaknesses in the context of a fast-growing population, lack of opportunities, and the presence of transnational organised crime networks.
- Continue and strengthen operational cooperation on organised crime and actions to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings and build capacity for border management and forced displacement management.
- Enhance cooperation on returns [REDACTED]

Outputs: A first report will be prepared on the progress achieved in S1 2024.

Actions:

Political and technical outreach

Action 1: Building on the commitments made at the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue in November 2020 and within the Migration Partnership Agreement between Nigeria and the EU in 2016, prepare the migration component of upcoming political events, particularly the 8th EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue scheduled for October 2023. Relay, on the occasion of bilateral political contacts, on common lines on migration issues taking into account the EU and the Nigerian authorities' interests and needs with the broader objective of intensifying cooperation on migration (Annex).

- **Lead actors:**
 - o Commission, EEAS and Member States: identify key migration issues to be included in the Joint Communiqué that will be adopted in the 8th EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue.
- **Timeframe:**
 - o 4Q 2023

Action 2:

- **Lead actors:**

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- **Timeframe:**

- **Q4 2023:** senior official meeting to cover also the relevant migration matters as indicated above. SOM tentatively scheduled on 5-6 October (tbc).
 - **19 October: Ministerial Meeting, in Abudja, which will also address migration and mobility.**

Address the root causes of irregular migration and promote legal migration pathways

Action 3: Despite being the largest African economy, Nigeria faces a number of challenges, such as a high unemployment rate and the lack of opportunities for young people – being one of the fastest growing populations in the world. That is why it is particularly important to support job creation, also for the skilled migrants living in the country.

- **Lead actors:**

- **Commission and EEAS:**

- Make use of the Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) on the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean routes, and on the Central Mediterranean route to frame cooperation projects related to job creation.
 - Nigeria has expressed an interest in concluding a Talent Partnership with voluntary Member States, paying special attention to the specific features of their job market.

- **MS:**

- Explore the possibilities to engage national companies operating in Nigeria in job creation.

- **Timeframe: Ongoing**

Action 4: Promote legal migration pathways paying special attention to capacity building, and mainly through exchanges in education and research within European and national institutions.

- **Lead actors:**

- **Commission and MS:** Explore the possibilities to close agreements between education and research centres in order to contribute to capacity building.
 - Explore with the Nigerian authorities their interest in concluding a Talent Partnership with voluntary Member States, paying special attention to the specific features of their job market, also considering that

- **Timeframe: Ongoing**

Action 5: Promote existing mobility and legal migration initiatives deployed by Member States (“Digital explorer” project, phase II – funded under HOMEAMIF/MPF, MEUR 3.5) and work on the identification of possible Nigerian expectations in terms of legal mobility, mainly circular. Identify the needs and expectations of Member States that could form the basis for the implementation of “Talent partnership” by relying on key actors, such as IOM and NIDCOM (Nigerians in Diaspora Commission).

- **Lead actors:**

- **Commission:** Mapping of MS activities and expectations in this field.
- **Member States:** Provide information in order to complete the mapping of bilateral activities.

- **Timeframe:**

- **Q1 2024:** Mapping of EU and MS activities already done by EMLO will need to be updated and serve as an input to the Commission’s mapping exercise with MS at HQ level.

Measure to combat the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings and support border management

Action 6: Identify possibilities to strengthen existing police cooperation measures to combat trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling in Nigeria (e.g. joint multi-country operational partnership with AT, FR, IT, DE, NL and Interpol and to strengthen cooperation on border management, as well as existing information exchange projects [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] strengthen Frontex action in support of the relevant Nigerian authorities; enhance cooperation with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), including within the framework of the AFIC network (Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community) and in connection with existing programmes, and supporting actions on prevention and protection; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is also a Regional action covering ECOWAS, its members and Mauritania MEUR 34: Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa – Phase II implemented by IOM, ICMPD and ILO. This also covers support on border management and trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants.

Lastly a national project on Support to Migration Governance in Nigeria worth MEUR 28 is implemented by IOM MEUR 20 and UNODC/FIIAPP MEUR 8.

- **Lead actors:**

- **Commission:** Identify the axes for structuring and strengthening police cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.
- **EU Delegation/EMLO:** Establishment of an enhanced European consultation framework between liaison officers on migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and border management;
- **Frontex:**
 - Enhance capacity building and training available to NAPTIP and Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), including via the AFIC.
 - Support EU Action Against Trafficking on Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (TIPSOM) implemented by FIIAPP in Nigeria. As TIPSOM is ending, new support will be available under the new Action **Support to Migration Governance**, adopted in April 2023, with an envelope of MEUR 28.4. This action includes a

component on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants that would be implemented by UNODC.

- Facilitate operational visits to neighbouring police forces in Nigeria under AFIC (Niger, Gambia, Togo in project);

- **Europol:** enhancing cooperation between Nigerian law enforcement authorities and Europol, [REDACTED]

- **EUROJUST:** [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Member States:

- Involvement in border management and anti-smuggling consultation framework with a view to sharing on bilateral projects.

- **Timeframe:**

- **Q1 2024:** Commission and Frontex measures, including the establishment of a local consultation framework.

Support measures for protection

Action 7: Building on the priorities expressed on the Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMP), enhance the European offer of support to the protection of IDPs and refugees in Nigeria, including through funding to UNHCR, considering IDP management aspects, notably with a view to durable solutions.

- **Lead actors:**

- Commission: *[to be updated]*

- **Timeframe:** Ongoing

Conclusion of the readmission agreement, and strengthening readmission support actions

Action 8: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- **Lead actors:**

- **Commission:**

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Action 9: Provide on-the-spot support to Member States' cooperation on the readmission of Nigerian nationals, through enhanced involvement of the European Return Liaison Officer (EURLO) and the European Migration Liaison Officer (EMLO): strengthen the steering of the local network for the

exchange of information on migration management and readmission and identify good practices to strengthen Member States' action. Call for a joint effort by Member States and the EU in this field, under the coordination of EMLO.

- **Lead actors:**
 - o **Commission/Frontex:**
 - **EMLO/EURLO (+Member States):** Further deepen, together with the local representations of the Member States, the operational coordination on migration and readmission issues.
 - **Frontex and EUDEL:** Enhance Frontex-led return operations.
- **Timeframe:**
 - o **Q4 2023:** Identification of areas of cooperation that can be prioritised by Frontex, including in the framework of [REDACTED]
 - o **Q4 2023:** Second Frontex-led return operation to Nigeria.

Action 10: Continue support and reintegration projects with relevant stakeholders to ensure the sustainable reintegration of returnees (including victims of THB); [REDACTED] ensure synergies and complementarities of these actions with the Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) of Frontex and other national or EU-supported projects.

- **Lead actors:**
 - o **Commission:** A MEUR 103 individual measure in support of the joint EU-IOM initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Sahel and Lake Chad, as well as the Horn of Africa regions was launched in December 2021 and concluded in 2022. The new regional programme Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA) covers the period 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2024 for a total amount of **MEUR 180**. A possible additional top-up is currently under discussion. The MPRR contributes to the protection of vulnerable and stranded migrants, including through assisted voluntary return, and to their sustainable reintegration within Sub-Saharan Africa. This is complemented at national level through the programme "Support to migration governance" (MEUR 28.4 adopted in April 2023 also mentioned above), which includes a component on reintegration.
 - o **EU delegation:** Mapping of MS activities in this field: EMLO mapped EU and MS reintegration activities in Q2 2023.
 - o **Frontex:** Perform joint reintegration services (including TAP4RRR project).
 - o **Member States:** Provide information at local level if needed to update/ complete the mapping of bilateral activities including in context of the TEI.
- **Timeframe:**
 - o **Ongoing:** MPRR programme ongoing since 1 August 2022
 - o **Q4 2023:**
 - Continue updating mapping of MS reintegration activities;
 - Roundtable on reintegration as part of the Frontex TAP4RRR project.

ANNEX: Common messages

[General support]

- Highlight the importance of the EU's relationship with Nigeria, a major player in the political, social and economic field in the region, and the EU's wish to pursue the strategic and comprehensive EU-Nigeria partnership, as will be seen in the 8th EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue scheduled for October 2023.

[Address the root causes of irregular migration and promote legal migration pathways]

- Stress the importance of capacity building and job creation, particularly for young people, and the willingness of the EU and MS to continue the cooperation in this area.

[Migration management]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Recall that the trust built so far during the negotiations is key to continue broadening our cooperation.
- Point out the possibilities of support offered in the framework of our external action funding instruments for protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, reintegration, and border management.
- Emphasise, in addition, that EU migration cooperation with Nigeria could benefit from the structuring of funding and projects in the framework of the Team Europe Initiative on the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route.

[Fight against smuggling networks and trafficking in human beings and support to border management, supplemented by proactive information campaigns warning about the dangers of irregular migration]

- State the objective of supporting capacity building to combat smuggling and trafficking networks, and the means already put in place by Member States and Commission
- Signal the availability of European agencies, and in particular Europol and Frontex, to enhance the level of cooperation and support to the relevant Nigerian authorities in the areas, respectively, of organised crime, -including the fight against migrant smugglers and traffickers, - and of border management.
- Share the need for information campaigns aimed at warning of the risks of irregular migration, including criminal smugglers and traffickers, and pointing out alternative perspectives in the region of origin.

[Readmission]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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