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**Globalization and interdependence: International migration
and development****Letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative
of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that Morocco hosted the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development on 10 and 11 July 2006 in Rabat.

Nearly 80 ministers, representing 57 African and European countries participated in the Conference. Observer States, international and regional organizations, representatives of the private sector and of civil society and non-governmental organizations also took part.

The Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, the first of its kind between the two continents, adopted a plan of action and a political declaration on migration and development, copies of which are attached (see annexes).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the text of this letter and its annexes to be issued as an official document of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for consideration within the framework of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and of the deliberations of the General Assembly on this issue.

(Signed) Hamid **Chabar**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/61/150.



**Annex I to the letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Deputy
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

Plan of action

The Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development should result in the adoption of concrete measures along migration routes in the short and medium term, bearing in mind that the process is ongoing. Only a pragmatic and ambitious plan of action commensurate with the magnitude of the migration phenomenon can provide an appropriate response.

It is important to take swift and tangible actions in order to respond to the urgency of the situation and to lend visibility and credibility to the new dynamic that has emerged from the Conference. In order to be effective, those measures should be based on ownership, compliance and the partnership forged between the countries and partners that participated in the Conference. In particular, the measures should guide relations between those countries in migration and development matters while taking into account the specific conditions of each country. With its cross-cutting and practical approach and partnership dimension, the dialogue on article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement is an indispensable point of reference.

This initiative is the first phase in a process envisaging the future organization of further initiatives focusing on other migration routes in Africa and Europe. Based on a continental approach, the initiative is also a key phase in the preparation of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which is to take place in New York in September 2006.

Partners are invited to consider this Plan of Action within the context of their dialogue and to explore the feasibility of implementing the measures it contains. Such implementation should fully respect the dignity and fundamental rights of migrants and refugees.

1. Migration and development

Promotion of development

(a) Strengthening of economic cooperation, trade expansion, assistance with socio-economic development and conflict prevention with the aim of promoting economic prosperity in the countries concerned and thereby addressing the underlying causes of irregular migration flows;¹

(b) Treatment of migration as a positive factor for development by promoting concrete measures to strengthen its contribution to poverty reduction,² and integration of these and other measures relating to migration in development policies and programmes, in cooperation with the partners concerned;

¹ Conclusions of the Seville European Council, June 2002.

² European Consensus on Development, December 2005.

(c) Promotion of regional integration (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC); Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)) as a means of fostering economic growth and fighting poverty;

(d) Within the framework of national and regional development approaches, identification and implementation of cooperation projects in specific employment-generating areas (agriculture, crafts, tourism, fisheries, etc.), with particular emphasis on areas with high levels of emigration, especially between countries of northern, western and central Africa;

(e) Development and intensification of tripartite cooperation between the member States of the European Union and countries of northern, western and central Africa;

(f) Technical assistance for migrants wishing to develop business projects in their countries of origin, particularly within the framework of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), which is operated jointly by the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States;

(g) In collaboration with banks, credit unions and money transfer operators, reduction of the costs to emigrants of transferring savings to their countries of origin, while respecting the confidentiality of such transactions and strengthening their potential for development, thus rendering them more profitable;

(h) Support for the creation of a Euro-African trade and economic forum with a view to encouraging the sharing of knowledge and resources and jointly addressing needs relating specifically to the development of small and medium enterprises (SME) and African exports;

(i) Support for the creation of a network of European and African skills relating to various disciplines with the aim of advancing Africa's social and economic development;

(j) Support for the establishment of European and African partnerships between towns and cities, municipalities, companies and industries;

(k) Support for non-governmental organizations whose work relates to the co-development of African countries, particularly in areas where migration levels are high;

(l) Extension of co-development projects to cover all migration routes, drawing on the experiences of Morocco, Mali and Senegal and other countries in order to establish a network that is as comprehensive as possible and to facilitate joint actions that focus on specific issues and geographical areas.

Consideration of the creation of financial instruments that facilitate co-development

(a) Support for the creation of financial mechanisms to benefit legal migrants in Europe with the aim of co-financing their investment projects in their countries of origin or providing them with guarantees, where appropriate in collaboration with local authorities;

(b) Support for the establishment of joint financing mechanisms in the countries concerned, with the participation of migrants in host countries;

- (c) Participation in response funds that support local development in areas severely affected by rural exodus.

Development of knowledge and know-how and measures to ensure that sufficient skills are available for the development of African countries

- (a) Facilitation of professional training by broadening access of African students to African and European universities, institutes and higher education schools;
- (b) Identification of measures to prevent the “brain drain” and to facilitate the return of highly qualified individuals to their countries of origin on completion of their studies;
- (c) Creation of incentives for African students to return to their home countries, combined with a policy to encourage applications to European and African universities, particularly through the creation of regional centres of excellence in the south and support for existing centres;
- (d) Conclusion of exchange agreements enabling young professionals to perfect their language and professional skills and gain paid work experience in another country, and identification of measures to ensure that such migrants return to their countries of origin at the end of their stay;
- (e) Facilitation of access to new information and communications technologies;
- (f) Development of twinning arrangements and partnerships with European and northern, western and central African countries with a view to financing and increasing the availability of training courses for teachers and trainers.

Development of partnerships between scientific and technical institutions

- (a) Facilitation of access of researchers to scientific networks;
- (b) Development of job-sharing systems for African scientists, researchers, physicians, technicians or other professionals;
- (c) Facilitation of networking between researchers working in the European Union and their colleagues in Africa, primarily those working in areas of direct relevance to countries on the African continent and their research institutions.

Strengthening of cooperation on training

- (a) Expansion of the range of university and technical courses offered, according to the private sector needs of African and European markets;
- (b) Creation or strengthening of centres of excellence, business training centres and support structures for enterprise development, particularly within the framework of the EU-ACP Centre for the Development of Enterprise;
- (c) Development of institutional twinning and partnerships between schools, universities, hospitals and research centres in northern, western and central Africa and in Europe;

(d) Facilitation of student mobility within Africa and between Africa and Europe, particularly through the Nyerere and Nyerere/Erasmus Mundus programmes.

2. Legal migration

Establishment of cooperation programmes to manage legal migration

(a) Strengthening of the administrative services (human resources and judicial, institutional and statistical infrastructures) responsible for emigration in order to permit them, among other things, to provide information to potential emigrants on available channels for legal migration;

(b) Opportunities for emigrants to receive training in their country of origin prior to departure, to facilitate insertion into the host country, as well as access to general knowledge on the values and language of the host country and the rights and duties of emigrants;

(c) Support of reception facilities for migrants in countries of destination in order to promote their integration process (language courses, orientation courses, etc. ...);

(d) Promotion of access by legal immigrants to education and training opportunities in countries of destination, which will facilitate integration into society and job placement;

(e) Promotion of measures to combat discrimination;

(f) Collective thinking on the exportability of migrants' pension entitlements.

Adoption of measures facilitating the movement of workers and persons

(a) Facilitation and streamlining of legal migration procedures for skilled and unskilled workers on a bilateral and voluntary basis, taking into account the needs of labour markets in order to improve legal channels for migration;

(b) Improved information on the needs of the European and African labour markets and on how to enter the labour markets of European Union member States;

(c) Encouragement and support for the development of intermediation mechanisms with a view to the rational management of skills mobility, matching supply and demand;

(d) Discussion of simplified procedures for certain categories of people (students, researchers, businesspeople, merchants, craftspeople, artists, athletes ...);

(e) Support for the implementation of an intra-community free circulation policy for persons within subregional economic integration organizations, while providing adequate guarantees against illegal flows and human trafficking (travel documents, border control, police and customs cooperation, cooperation for the return of persons ...);

(f) Promotion of means to facilitate roundtrip and temporary migration between countries of origin and destination which take labour market needs into account;

(g) Optimization of existing labour force and employment agreements between partners.

3. Illegal immigration

Cooperation in fighting illegal immigration

(a) Cooperation on the logistics and financing of voluntary return by migrants who are in transit countries;

(b) Establishment, with respect for the dignity and fundamental rights of persons, of effective readmission systems between all the countries involved, in particular through the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement, and the conclusion of readmission agreements, on the one hand, between the relevant countries of northern, western and central Africa and, on the other hand, between the European Community or one of its member States and the countries of northern, western and central Africa;

(c) Technical and logistical support in the identification of the nationality of illegal immigrants;

(d) Facilitation of the reinsertion of illegal immigrants who have returned to their country of origin;

(e) Information and awareness campaigns for potential immigrants on the risks of illegal immigration;

(f) Provision of financial resources to assist countries facing illegal immigration emergencies.

Reinforcement of national border control capacity for transit countries and countries of departure

(a) Enhancement of training for the relevant services, equipment and cross-border operational cooperation;

(b) Cooperation in order to provide the relevant countries with a digital database aimed at effectively combating illegal immigration;

(c) Cooperation with a view to establishing an early warning system based on the European model, in order to allow immediate transmission of warning signs of cases of illegal immigration and activities on the part of criminal organizations engaged in smuggling.

4. Operational police and judicial cooperation and aid to victims

(a) Reinforcement of judicial and police cooperation to combat human trafficking and illegal immigration networks;

(b) Identification and reinforcement of cooperation mechanisms and, if necessary, of joint action by countries of origin, transit and destination, including cooperation on sea and land and in the air, in order to dismantle the criminal organizations which control trafficking across national borders;

(c) Encouragement for the ratification and greater use of the mechanisms envisaged in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, United States, November 2000) and its Protocols;

(d) Implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children (28 November 2002);

(e) Implementation of projects providing assistance to and promoting the reinsertion of victims of human trafficking.

5. Financing

Creation of appropriate financing mechanisms

(a) Inventory and optimization of funds and existing institutional resources, without prejudice to existing financial frameworks, and establishment, if necessary and possible, of specific, appropriate mechanisms to implement the concrete measures identified during the Conference;

(b) Financing of approved actions through:

- The European Union
- Partner States
- Other international organizations or institutions.

6. Institutional framework and follow-up

(a) Establishment of a follow-up Committee to ensure correct implementation of the Plan of Action and consistency in the actions and policies of the various organizations involved (e.g., 5 + 5 ECOWAS, Euro-Med, etc.);

(b) Establishment of operational cooperation mechanisms between countries of origin, transit and destination;

(c) Support for the creation of a Euro-African migration observatory to achieve better knowledge and better control of migration flows, and to respond as well as possible to the challenges of managing illegal migration flows and preventing the various types of trafficking associated with migration issues;

(d) Provisions for evaluation clauses to ascertain whether the financial assistance or cooperation provided complies with the obligations and commitments made by all parties;

(e) Creation, when necessary, of specialized technical units to examine certain specific aspects.

Annex II to the letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Euro-African Partnership for Migration and Development

Rabat Declaration

We, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers responsible for migration and development and other representatives of partner countries: Austria; Belgium; Benin; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Cape Verde; the Central African Republic; Chad; the Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Cyprus; the Czech Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Denmark; Egypt; Equatorial Guinea; Estonia; Finland; France; Gabon; the Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Liberia; the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Morocco; the Netherlands; the Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Togo; Tunisia; and the United Kingdom; as well as the European Commission.

Having met, at the invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 10 and 11 July 2006 in Rabat, within the framework of the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development,

Expressing appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco, as host country, for the excellent organization of the Conference and for its hospitality, as well as for its active participation and joint initiative with Spain and France,

Expressing gratitude to the Republic of Senegal for its active involvement, in particular for the excellent organization of preparatory meetings in Dakar,

Expressing appreciation to all the countries which have contributed to the drafting of the Plan of Action and of the Final Declaration,

Also expressing appreciation to the regional and international organizations in attendance at the Conference,

Aware that the futures of our countries are linked and that only the development of effective, swift and tangible solidarity reconciling the requirements of development and of security for all can provide a lasting solution to the issue of managing migration flows,

Convinced that international migration has a positive effect on host countries and countries of transit and origin when such flows are well managed,

Aware that the management of migration flows cannot be achieved by control measures alone, but also requires concerted action on the root causes of migration, in particular through the implementation of development projects in Africa,

Affirming that illegal migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking must be combated effectively within the framework of a viable and united partnership respecting the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants,

Aware of the need to provide adequate international protection in accordance with the international obligations of the partner countries,

Aware of the need to make better use of the potential of migration as a factor for development, modernization and innovation in societies of origin and host societies,

Convinced that migration flows are prompted by powerful structural factors existing in societies of origin, transit and destination and that they have predominantly economic and social causes,

Concerned by the phenomenon of brain drain, which hinders the development of countries of origin by depriving them of skilled professionals, decision makers and experienced managers,

Reaffirming that the management of these flows requires a coherent response that addresses in a comprehensive and balanced way the different aspects and various phases of the migration process as a whole in the context of an approach involving countries of origin, transit and destination,

Undertake to create and develop a close partnership between our respective countries so as to work together, taking a comprehensive, balanced, pragmatic and operational approach, and respecting the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, on the question of migration routes that affects our peoples:

(a) This partnership between the countries of origin, transit and destination is intended to address the fundamental issue of controlling migration flows in a specific and appropriate manner and is based on the strong conviction that migration between Africa and Europe must be managed within the context of a partnership to combat poverty and promote sustainable development and co-development;

(b) Fostering an environment conducive to development requires good governance, exchange of people and trade, promotion of peace and stability and consistent international policies;

(c) The partnership instituted by this Declaration is aimed at managing migration flows between countries of origin, transit and destination in an optimal manner and in a spirit of shared responsibility;

(d) In addition to structural development issues, this partnership will also address migration from all perspectives deemed relevant by the partner countries, including:

- Utilizing the potential of legal migration and its development benefits for countries of origin and transit and host countries;
- Capacity-building in countries of origin, transit and destination to manage overall migration flows;
- Developing awareness campaigns;
- Facilitating the movement of workers and people;
- Implementing an active policy of integration of legal migrants and combating exclusion, xenophobia and racism;
- Monitoring borders;
- Combating illegal migration, including readmission of illegal migrants and human trafficking;

(e) This partnership will be pragmatic and operational, as is shown by the specific reflection of all these elements in the Plan of Action which was agreed to by all the participants and which is annexed to this Declaration.

Undertake, fully aware of our responsibilities with respect to cooperation for development and cooperation for the management of migratory flows, given the urgency of the situation, to begin to incorporate measures consistent with the Plan of Action in our policies and actions in these areas, while preserving its comprehensive and balanced nature;

In this regard, we request our senior officials to hold a follow-up meeting to make an initial assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action and to propose a date for a second Ministerial Conference within the next two years;

Undertake to encourage and intensify the political and operational dialogue between the European Union and Africa on migration and development by:

(a) Deepening continent-wide political dialogue and holding an Africa-Europe ministerial conference on migration and development based on the model of the Africa-Europe Summit held at Cairo on 3 and 4 April 2000. In this respect, we welcome the offer by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host this Conference in Tripoli before the end of 2006 as a contribution towards a joint strategy and to the second Africa-Europe Summit, which should take place in Lisbon as soon as possible;

(b) Encouraging the relevant countries and organizations in Africa and Europe, in the light of the link existing between migration routes, to abide by the concepts of the Rabat Conference;

(c) Intensifying bilateral dialogue on migration issues between the various countries of origin and transit and the European Union and its member States, including within the framework of article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement;

Invite regional and international organizations, given the importance of their role in following up and implementing the Plan of Action, to assist and support the participating States in establishing and implementing the Plan of Action, especially its development dimension;

Plan to present, within the framework of the United Nations High-Level Dialogue, the approach, conclusions and Plan of Action of this Conference as a pragmatic and operational contribution to the task of addressing together the management of migration flows.

Adopted at Rabat on 11 July 2006.
