

REPORT

ACTIVITY:	“THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE OF MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE.”
COORDINATORS:	FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG – FUNDACIÓN PABLO IGLESIAS
PLACE:	SALÓN DE ACTOS FUNDACIÓN PABLO IGLESIAS
LECTURERS:	ANGELO E. MONDLANE , Southern African Development Community, Gaborone. JEFFREY O. ISIMA , Dep. of Defence Management and Security Analysis, Cranfield University, U.K. MEHDI LAHLOU , Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics, Rabat. CÉSAR MOGO , Office of State Secretary of Immigration and Migration, Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires.
OTHER PARTICIPANTS:	SALVADOR CLOTAS, ALEXANDER KALLWEIT, MARGARITA ECHEVERRI, BERNABÉ LÓPEZ, LORENZO CACHÓN, CARMEN PÉREZ, PABLO LÓPEZ, ROBERTO MARRO

RESUME OF THE DISCUSSION AND MAIN PROPOSALS

During the conference, the approach to migrant flows was held without considering migration as a problem, by itself. However, it was considered necessary to study and reflect about causes and effects associated to the increase of African irregular migrant flows to Europe in extremely conditions, due to several and interconnected dynamics. Next, the most relevant points of this discussion and common reflections will be exposed, first related to causes and effects of migrant flows, and secondly, in relation with the nowadays situation and potential political solutions.

a) The causes of the increase of African population flows to Europe are clearly attached to the poverty phenomenon and the existence of deeper asymmetrical economies. In fact, there is a clear relation among the increase of African migrant flows and the multiplication of the socio-economical gap in between African and European countries. Also, is important to show that this socio-economical gap has been increased not only in relation to Europe, but also, among African countries¹.

¹ Through the following data is possible to notice the socio-economical gap in relation to incomes:

The main African socio-economical characteristics are the following: high percentages of population under poverty line, lack of improving expectations, constant political instability, and higher levels of corruption, human rights violations, and distrust on public institutions and especially on public security forces.

Around this situation, there is a shared conscience about the necessity of finding socio-economical and political solutions in order to decrease migration push factors in Africa; however, it seems that several recent proposals led by European countries have failed. In that sense, it is necessary to search for a more serious commitment in order to improve development in African countries. This commitment should be multilateral and multisectorial, led by European Community, searching specifically on the reduction of the economical gap and the continent development. Therefore, it should be relevant to rework European policies according with this commitment, and to launch enormous efforts in development cooperation to Africa (and not only in strategic cooperation²). Also, it should be important to reinforce democratic institutions and citizenship in African countries, through coordinated monitoring programs of transparency and the coordinated work around conflict prevention and resolution, in order to guarantee better and most constant inversions in the region.

b) Migrant flows to Europe generate some profits to African Countries through the effects of remittances. However, it seems there are two important issues around migration effects and development. By one hand, as it was told in relation to the countries of Southern African Development Community³, there is an increasing migration of qualified persons (male and female doctors, nurses, teachers) that limit the possibilities of improving development, and by other hand, remittance are not increasing the possibilities of development in the receptor countries. In that sense, it could be relevant to spread co-development initiatives, in order to improve the potential effects of remittance in African countries development.

1: 7.2, Chad /Lebanon: 1: 27, Niger / Tunisia: 1: 11.7], and among North African countries and European countries: Algeria / Holland: 1: 13.9, Tunisia / Italy 1: 9.5, Morocco / France 1: 18.5]. It is important to compare with the USA / Mexico frontier data, around 1: 5.

2 The strategic cooperation of each European country in the region would be hindering the possibility of a coordinated action between European countries and Africans, due to the different interests in the regional. In that sense, it would be relevant to wonder if it is possible to implement a joined strategy among Europe and Africa, due to the heterogeneous characteristic of African countries, the different European interests in the region.

3 The Southern African Development Community is consists of fourteen countries of Austral African. It counts with thirty million persons, and with US \$230 millions of global internal production. Although there are still important regional inequalities, the Community is working to achieve Millennium Objectives, and to improve the levels of integration in order to reach the Common Market structure in 2015.

To European countries, irregular African migration is starting to be thought as a problem of security, not only in relation with the violation of frontiers, but also due to other phenomena associated to these flows, as woman and children illegal traffic and other problems attached to social integration under conditions of extreme necessity and generalized abused. Therefore, it was generally accepted the necessity of implement a coherent coordinated polity of migrant management among European and African countries, not only related to security in frontiers, but also to create and encourage regular channels of migration. In that sense, it should be necessary to enlarge the diplomatic office net among European and African countries, as well as to strength other already existing migrant instruments as migration quotas.

In that sense, it was recognised that in several situations European funds have been used to put migrant flows down and to solve humanitarian and security problems attached to migration instead to prevent and collaborate with African development. However, it seems that this tendency is starting to be reversed and the future Euro-African Migrant Conference that will be held in Rabat, next July, could be an important opportunity to change the policies and axes of European and African concerns about migration.

Finally, it is important to briefly mark two other important issues, although they could go too far in the debate. By one hand, the obligation commitment of European and African left parties with a coherent migrant management in other to rest opportunities to European right parties to develop an stigmatization of African migration, and by other hand, the requirement of celebrating activities among politicians and academics in order to work jointly about problems and potential solutions.