EC ROUNDTABLE ON PROMOTING INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM) IN LATIN AMERICA AND SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

IBM Potential For Improved Governance Of Migration And Mobility In West Africa

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Outline

- Centrality of historical factors- colonization and the emergence of modern states –to border discourse in Africa
- Pre-disposition of borders to violence and crime during post colonial period due to lack of efficient mechanisms and proper governance structures
- Challenge of borders in transition towards increased regional integration
- How can IBM help to reform borders to make them more responsive to achieve the objectives of socio-economic development, conflict prevention and regional integration?
- Key recommendations

Historical context

Pre-colonial

➤ Cross-border movements largely informal, with complex and dynamic interactions manifested by exchange of goods and ideas among multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural peoples

➤ Free movement across borders, occurring through trade, education, farming and transhumant activities

➤ Mobility as a tool for economic, social activity and for poverty reduction –search for personal and political security, trade and commerce

Historic factors cont'd

Period of colonization

- Change in movements, motivations and composition

- Mass labor movements : emergence of institutionalized labor movements from poor north to resource south

- Growth of urban centers and push to cities

- Establishment of territorial boundaries and new structure of the states-

post colonial period

➤ New border demarcations lumped together people whose history, religion and culture were not the same

➤ Arbitrariness and artificiality of border demarcations across coherent populations create challenges for real sovereignty

➤ Post colonial borders prone to disputes and conflicts over demarcations and natural resources

➤ Vulnerability of borders due to political conflicts, bad governance, faltering economic growth, etc. spawning new migrations across borders

Key characteristics of contemporary borders

➤ High intra-regional migration propelled by a variety of factors: political instability, interstate conflicts, critical levels of poverty

➤ Voluntary and involuntary- legal vrs illegal migrations across borders and regional in nature

➤ Significant increase in the migration of women involved in cross-border migration and informal sector

Key characteristics cont'd

- Major component of migrant stock as refugee population resulting from political violence and climate change

- Predominance of security approach – states focus more on security to the detriment of facilitation because of history- borders used to protect territory

- *Despite the important of mobility to national and regional development, few national governments have dealt with this area in terms of specific policy, especially management of borders and free movement of people.*

Specificities of modern borders

➢ Vulnerabilities arising out of remoteness of borderlands and absence of proper governance mechanisms and lack of political control

➢ Pervasiveness of 'Smuggling for survival', leading the development of a parallel and informal economy

➢ Pre-disposition of borders to illegality and transnational crimes; borders as 'locator and innovator' of vice and crime,

➢ Predominance of national security to the detriment of social interactions and trade

Key challenges of contemporary border management

- Absence of institutional capacity and political will to implement reforms
- Porous borders with weak state institutions, often managed by small armies or police
- Difficulties in shifting militarized mentality
- Challenge of managing high levels of mobility in high security sensitive environment
- Borders have remained impediments to economic and social development, regional integration notwithstanding

EU approach to IBM

- Does the EU strategy address priorities of border management in West Africa?

- Policy is characterized by preponderance of security with specific focus on the fight against illegal migration and organized crime

- No specific measures to promote border management as a tool for economic and social development

- Policy overlooks social and economic costs to migration and mobility hidden in colonization and globalization

What needs to be done to support change?

- Need for a new dialogue framework based on cooperation and convergence of interests

- IBM dialogue must reflect priorities of greater cross-border cooperation for higher levels economic growth through improved trade and human mobility.

- New approach must combine socio-economic improvements with the fight against irregular migration and organized crime

New dialogue framework

- Focus on South-South movements as a tool for development

- Amplify the benefits of prosperity, wellness and human development dimensions in border management strategy

- Improve opportunities for migration and mobility by addressing key development priorities and constraints to IBM and governance of migration

- Deliberate and innovative policies to facilitate mobility and access to labor markets
  - Focus on labor mobility to promote circulation of skills and knowledge to foster job creation
  - Free movement protocols to be strengthened to reinforce its human development potential – human rights, human security and human development

Key recommendations

- Develop solid mechanisms to ensure integration of legal statutes and operational mechanisms across states

- Strengthen cross-border management through targeted training, support for equipment and border infrastructure

- Streamline institutions dealing with border management and across states to address institutional inefficiencies

Key recommendations

- Border management to be given deeper focus in public policy making and embedded in the national governance architecture to achieve human mobility, conflict prevention and regional integration objectives
  - Support to enhance national and regional capacities to manage borders as a development tool
  - Establish/strengthen existing regional academies for training border officials: eg. KAIPTC in Ghana, University of Senghor in Senegal; etc

  Support to enhance physical infrastructure to make borders more accessible and functional

Recommendations cont'd

- Develop solid mechanisms to integrate IBM policy and framework into broader national development process
- Support for comprehensive reforms of the political and operational environments
- Inclusive governance and cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors to address the security-facilitation nexus
- Strengthen cross-border border management through harmonization of processes and practices at intra and inter-agency levels
- IBM as a tool to protect rather than suppress

Way forward

- Develop synergies with other thematic regional and continental frameworks such as SSR and APSA for policy harmonization
- *At the national level :*Support to IBM must be in coherence with other policy areas related to migration, mobility, trade and integration
- *At the at the regional level:* Utilize existing regional processes to coordinate, facilitate and harmonize border reforms and integration efforts. These include AU's '*from barriers to bridges'* and ECOWAS' '*cross-border cooperation'* programs

Critical success factors

- Political commitment to reforms and buy-in of top level management for sustainability

- Financial considerations to support expansive bureaucracy

- Involvement of Civil society, private sector, including traders, transporters, financial institutions to broaden dialogue and support