

# African Union COMMISSION Initiative against Trafficking

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Adopted in Tripoli, November 2006 by AU-EU Ministers, four Major AU Migration Policies:

- ✓ Migration Policy Framework for Africa
- ✓ African Common Position on Migration and Development
- ✓ Joint AU-EU Declaration on Migration and Development
- ✓ **Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children**



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## Measures called for in Ouagadougou Action Plan

- Prevention and awareness raising
- Capacity building for institutions
- Training of criminal justice system officials
- Support Protection and Rehabilitation Centres for victims of trafficking



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Core message of the AU.COMMIT Campaign:

**Curb Both the Supply and Demand  
Side of Trafficking**

The methods for AU.COMMIT Campaign to use both soft and hard tools = “smart tool” a.k.a. 5Ps, 3Cs, 3Rs



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## Hard tools:

Reform of laws

Prosecution of criminals

Disruption of network of crime

Coordination among  
destination,

countries of  
transit and origin



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## Soft Tools:

Socio-Economic Development

Poverty Eradication

Prevention

Protection



# WHY THE GROWTH IN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS?

- Push factors:

  - Ignorance

  - Exposure to “outside world”

  - Poverty

- Pull factors:

  - Demand for cheap labour

  - Demand for commercial sexual exploitation.

- Negative consequences do not trickle back**



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## 5 Core Principles in the Campaign

1. Victims-Protection Approach
2. The best interest of the Child
3. Empowerment of Women and Girls
4. The Root-Cause Approach
5. Respect for AU and UN Conventions





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Migration Policy Framework for Africa states that child trafficking presents particular challenges in Africa, and special requirements should be considered to ensure protection and assistance to child victims/survivors of trafficking.

Due to socio-economic situation and harmful cultural traditional practices, justifies this special focus on women and children which remain critical, in particular in Africa.



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Taking seriously the increase in sex tourism and other sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children

Africa has source, transit and destination countries for commercial sexual exploitation - controlled by organised criminal gangs

Child prostitution increasing in Africa with various countries increasingly known as destinations for international sex tourists



# CHILDREN – OUR FUTURE

- 80 million or 41% African children 5-14 years old work
- ILO: 200,000 to 300,000 children trafficked and/or smuggled each year in West & Central Africa
- UNICEF: 10,000 to 15,000 children work on cocoa plantations in Côte d'Ivoire, price  $\pm$ \$340 pp
- UNICEF: 25,000 children working in Gabon
- IOM: Ethiopian girls trafficked/smuggled to Middle East to work as domestic servants
- Human Rights Watch: over 120,000 children used in armed conflicts in Africa



# WHY TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

- UN estimates are TIP and smuggling generate \$7 to \$10 billion p/a
- Can provide repeated income
- Minimal risks for perpetrators



# The impact of trafficking

- **Violating human rights**
- **Social exclusion and crime**
- **Undermining public health**
- **Undermining government authority**
- **Sustaining illicit activities and organised crime**
- **Eroding human capital**



# WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- **Legislation**
- **Capacity building**
- **Shelters**
- **State programmes to combat human trafficking and smuggling in migrants**
- **Improve cooperation**
- **Contact points or units**
- **Establish databases**



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**Campaign Activities thus far:**

**Launch : 16 June 2009**

**Regional Workshops on Operationalisation of 2007  
Ouagadougou Action Plan**

- March 2010 (Abuja);
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 (East Africa)

**Experience sharing on Protection in 2011**

**Experience sharing on Prosecution in 2011**







# AU.COMMIT - PREVENTION

- Empowerment, education and training and employment
- Raise awareness
- Mobilise support
- Rehabilitation centres
- Reduce the demand
- Eliminate harmful customs and traditional practices
- Further research and information



# AU.COMMIT - PROTECTION

- Measures for victim protection and assistance
- Avoid criminalisation of victims of trafficking
- Special measures to address the plight of children-headed households, especially girls.
- Promote an HIV/AIDS sensitive approach and protect the dignity and human rights of victims of HIV/AIDS, taking the special needs of children into account.



# AU.COMMIT - PROSECUTION

- **Legislative Framework**
- **Policy development**
- **Law Enforcement**



# AU.COMMIT - COORDINATION

- Integrated approach
- Share experiences and lessons learned
- Enhance bilateral and multilateral co-operation
- Creation of focal points at national and regional levels

