

**Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility  
between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
and the European Union and its Member States**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the European Union and its Member States, (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Signatories");

BUILDING on the current cooperation between the EU and Ethiopia on migration, as well as the existing cooperation programmes in the area of migration;

RECALLING the relevant regional frameworks for cooperation and dialogue, in particular the Strategic Partnership between the African Union and the European Union and its Dialogue on Migration and Mobility, the EU Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (the Khartoum Process) and the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development, based on Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement;

RECALLING in particular the EU-Africa declaration on Migration and Mobility, adopted during the fourth EU-Africa Summit, in Brussels on 3 April 2014;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Ethiopia is a country of destination, transit and origins of migrants;

CONSIDERING the benefits and opportunities that well-managed migration and mobility can bring to both migrants and the Signatories and their shared commitment to ensure better management of migration flows to and from Ethiopia, including those along the central Mediterranean migratory route;

REAFFIRMING their will to prevent and combat irregular immigration in accordance with applicable international standards and STRESSING the relevance of voluntary return schemes and reintegration from countries of destination and transit, to achieve this goal;

RECALLING the obligation of the Signatories, under relevant national laws and relevant international customary law, to receive back their own nationals, including the facilitation thereof;

STRESSING the importance of addressing the root causes of irregular migration and bearing in mind the importance of finding alternatives to this phenomenon;

RECALLING the firm commitment of the Signatories to addressing smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB) and to better protect and support the victims and UNDERSCORING the importance of prosecuting smugglers and traffickers and dismantling their criminal networks as they present a serious threat to the lives of migrants;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of strengthening the capacities of the relevant Ethiopian institutions and services involved in the management of migration flows;

STRESSING the importance of strengthening and promoting international protection, including through the implementation of international and regional instruments for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, in line with the principle of *non-refoulement* and giving special attention to the situation of vulnerable persons;

CONSIDERING the importance of remittances transferred to Ethiopia and its potential for development;

ACTING on the EU side without prejudice to the competences of the EU and of the EU Member States as laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;

RECOGNISING the existing migration-related bilateral agreements and arrangements between Ethiopia and several EU Member States;

HAVE DECIDED to establish a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM). The EU-Ethiopia CAMM will be based on partnership and reciprocity, and provide a framework for agreeing on joint objectives and actions as well as common recommendations with a view to better organising legal migration, fostering well-managed mobility, preventing and combating irregular migration, addressing smuggling and trafficking in human beings, promoting international protection, and maximising the development impact of migration and mobility, while respecting human rights and international norms regarding persons in need of international protection as applicable to the Signatories, and taking account of the perspective of individual migrants as well as the socio-economic situation of the Signatories;

ENDEAVOUR to further develop dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility, in particular along the following lines:

**Priority areas**

1. Work towards a better management of migration and mobility, supported by an improved knowledge base of migration flows of all kinds between Ethiopia and the EU, while ensuring the human rights of migrants, serving the interests of, and taking account of the respective competences of the Signatories, and concentrating on the following four priority areas:
  - better organising legal migration and fostering well-managed mobility;
  - preventing and combating irregular migration and addressing smuggling and trafficking in human beings including support for the victims;
  - maximising the development impact of migration and mobility;
  - promoting international protection of those in need of it.

## **Dialogue, recommendations and actions**

2. Hold dialogue at operational level in order to exchange information and views on legislation, policies and best practices and continuously explore possibilities for concrete cooperation, make policy recommendations, and gradually develop actions in the four priority areas.
3. In relation to promoting **international protection and addressing the needs of refugees**, through dialogue, recommendations or actions, address issues, such as:
  - supporting the effective implementation of a national asylum system in Ethiopia in accordance with national laws and international obligations of the Signatories;
  - building administrative capacity for the reception of applicants for asylum as well as for the identification of persons in need of international protection;
  - improving education opportunities and vocational training for refugees in Ethiopia to facilitate their local integration;
  - improving the capacity of Ethiopia to collect and analyse information and statistics regarding flows of persons in need of international protection to and from Ethiopia;
  - strengthening cooperation with international organisations such as UNHCR and other relevant agencies, including those of the EU;
  - considering the specific vulnerability of refugees to smuggling and trafficking in human beings, raising awareness of this particular group on the risks of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, in close cooperation with relevant civil society and international organisations;
  - meeting the specific needs of unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups in need of international protection;
  - wherever possible and relevant, extend those activities in order to enhance the resilience of the host communities to the migratory pressure.

4. In relation to the priority area of promoting **legal migration and mobility**, through dialogue, recommendations or actions, address issues, such as:
- supporting evidence-based research, which underpins the dialogue and cooperation between the Signatories, and with a view to making relevant and innovative policy recommendations;
  - building legal and administrative capacity to monitor and manage migration, *inter alia* through appropriate policy and legislative tools and the development of human resources; supporting Ethiopia's capacity to collect and analyse information and statistics on legal migration;
  - supporting the integration of Ethiopian citizens legally residing in the EU, notably through the promotion of language skills and civic orientation and through the promotion and implementation of their rights in line with applicable international human rights standards and EU laws, and with the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination;
  - supporting adequate assistance, training and information for Ethiopian migrants, before departure and upon return;
  - support Ethiopia in enhancing the cooperation in migration and mobility with its main countries of destination, notably by supporting the negotiation and implementation efforts of bilateral agreements.
5. In relation to the priority area of **irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings**, through dialogue, recommendations or actions, address issues, such as:
- supporting evidence-based research, with a view to making relevant and innovative policy recommendations, supporting Ethiopia's capacity to collect and analyse information and statistics on irregular migration and undertake risk analysis regarding irregular migration flows and routes between the EU and Ethiopia;

- continue support to Ethiopian authorities in improving their national legislation for countering trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants as well as its implementation, inter alia through the development of human resources within the relevant Ethiopian services;
- supporting Ethiopian institutions in improving the protection of and support to migrants and their reintegration, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organisations;
- supporting Ethiopia in improving regional cooperation in the field of border management, fight against smugglers and traffickers, notably through the support of joint patrol with neighbouring countries and information sharing, within the EU Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (the Khartoum process);
- improving travel document security, including through biometrics, and strengthening capacity to detect forged and falsified documents;
- taking into account the provisions of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement, exploring possibilities for engaging in close coordination and cooperation on the return of irregular migrants in a safe and secure environment, including by developing programs of voluntary return and adequate reintegration assistance to and from Ethiopia;
- increasing speed and efficiency of procedures for returning and receiving irregular migrants, especially with regard to the identification of own nationals and the issuance of travel documents required for return, while safeguarding respect for human rights, with all due respect to the countries' international and domestic legal obligations on the respect of human rights;
- launching information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

6. In relation to the priority area of **migration and development**, through dialogue, recommendations or actions, address issues, such as:
- supporting research – *inter alia* on root causes of all forms of migration between Ethiopia and the EU – which underpins the dialogue and cooperation between the Signatories, and with a view to making relevant and innovative policy recommendations;
  - harnessing the contribution of migrants to the economy of destination countries as well as countries of origin;
  - facilitating the flow of remittances, the reduction of their transaction costs and their development effect, while tackling their abuse;
  - supporting diaspora networks and the integration of legal migrants in the interest of development of countries of origin and destination;
  - mitigating the social consequences of migration for countries of origin including consideration of circular migration and the balance between brain drain and brain gain;
  - optimising the benefits deriving from return migration.

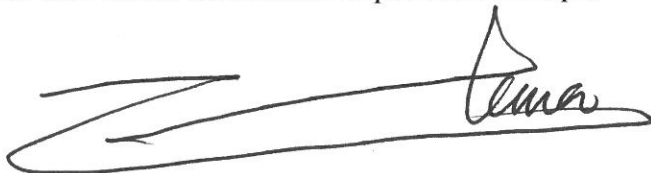
#### **Framework for cooperation**

7. Confirm that a Common Agenda is an open ended, flexible framework for cooperation of mutual interest to the Signatories based on the principle of voluntary participation of interested EU Member States, the overall steering of which will be provided by an EU-Ethiopia Dialogue on Migration and Mobility that will hold annual meetings alternating between Brussels and Addis Ababa.
8. Note that actions may be undertaken with Ethiopia at EU level, between Ethiopia and individual or groups of Member States, and between Ethiopia and Member States or EU agencies, where appropriate, such as Frontex, Europol, and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

9. Note that these actions are to be included and described in an Annex to this Joint Declaration to be drawn up and regularly reviewed in the context of the EU-Ethiopia Dialogue on Migration and Mobility.
10. This joint declaration will be interpreted in accordance with the respective bilateral and multilateral agreements to which the signatories are party.

Done at Valletta on the eleventh day of November in the year two thousand and fifteen.

For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



For the European Union and its Member States

