

**CONFERENCE ON  
“REGIONAL MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROTECTION WITHIN  
AFRICA AND INTO EUROPE: WHAT ROLE FOR AFRICAN REGIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS?”**

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The latest number of refugees published by UNHCR come close to 70 million worldwide. Wars and humanitarian crises in African countries such as Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Somalia or South Sudan result in refugee movements within Africa, and from Africa to Europe. While forced displacement is one reason for the movement of people, migration for other reasons such as educational and work stays fueled by globalization, is another major contributor. Either way, migration has evolved into an important and complex

task for policymakers in Africa, Europe and elsewhere. This development has shifted the focus of the inner-African as well as the AU-EU dialogue towards management of migration. How should migration be governed? To what extent can or should values like solidarity and human dignity be taken into account? And which role do governmental and non-governmental actors play regarding the management of migration?

To contribute to this discourse, the KAS Rule of Law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa in cooperation with the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) hosted a conference on Regional Management of Migration and Refugee Protection within Africa and into Europe, with a special focus on the role of regional organisations such as African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).

The conference brought together legal and political scholars, professionals and researchers from Africa and Europe to exchange experiences and discuss several topics in the field of migration and refugee protection.

The objective of this conference was to give an overview of the current migration frameworks within Africa and between Africa and Europe as well as to reflect on the various players' respective roles, propose follow-up steps and make recommendations on the subject matter, especially in view of the upcoming AU-EU negotiations on their future collaboration. The conference provided a platform for an international exchange among highly qualified legal and political professionals from Cyprus, Kenya, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

Topics of presentations and discussions included the regional management of migration and mobility in Africa, main causes of migration and the AU-EU dialogue on that matter. Moreover, practical experiences in refugee protection were shared by an immigration judge, and a case study report presented by Dr. Arne Wulff, Director of the KAS Rule of law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa, on the German migration and refugee policy.

It was concluded and recommended that,

- ❖ migration should be approached from a positive stance instead of perceiving it as a threat from the outset;
- ❖ there should be a coordinated focus at the regional and continental level to manage the situation in an effective manner. Therefore, African states were challenged to show more solidarity and enhanced cooperation on this matter;

- ❖ conflict prevention and peace keeping needs to be supported to prevent causes of flight and migration;
- ❖ return from refugees to their countries of origin must be accompanied by supporting measures such as retraining to enable employment and reintegration;
- ❖ African organisations must find a voice in Brussels in order to introduce their own view into the European discussions about management of migration from African continent;
- ❖ migration issues should be delinked from development funding, because funding is needed to fight causes of flight and migration;
- ❖ there is shared responsibility between countries of origin and destination, wherefore it also needs global solutions and a change of perspectives.