



CWWM-AFRICA (CWWM-A): A COMMUNIQUE

On May 8-10, 2019, a regional workshop was convened by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), at Desmond Tutu Centre in All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Nairobi, Kenya, to deliberate, on migration and human trafficking with a view to define a coordinated response and launch Churches Witnessing With Migrants-Africa (CWWM-A).

The 45 participants from 19 organisations comprising 19 men and 16 women and 9 vibrant and well-resourced youth¹ from Francophone, Lusophone, Anglophone and Arabophone Africa. It also drew survivors of trafficking and migration and partners organisations namely: CWWM global from USA and Philippines, the Episcopal Church of USA-State Department, The Anglican Church of Canada, United Methodist Church, Act Alliance and The African Union (AU). The organisations represented at the workshop are collectively engaged in research and mapping migration routes; rescuing, counselling, reskilling, resettling and reintegrating migrants into society and this undertaking policy analysis and advocacy on related legislation.

Our vision is a world where all migrants feel safe, are treated with dignity, and are empowered to realize their full God-given potential.

We operate ecumenically and through interfaith partnerships and networks configured as a regional platform coordinated by CAPA, and supported by 5 sub-regional platforms namely: Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. We build on existing strengths and expertise in our members and global partnerships to support our work and response to migrants, refugees, IDPs as our primary stakeholders.

Migration is both voluntary and forced². The drivers, trends and patterns of voluntary migration within and outside national borders **include** growing disparity in development between countries and regions, poor socio-economic conditions, low wages, high levels of unemployment, poverty and lack of opportunities, lack of good governance, perceived opportunities for a better life and higher incomes. The others are the search for greater security, the pressure to join relatives, encouragement from families and friends, better quality of education and health care at the destination countries all influence decisions to migrate. We also understand migration to entail labour migration; mainly intra-regional; refugee flows-inter and intra-regional; cross-border migration, IDPs: and displaced/migrants as a direct result of environmental/climate factors & civil strife. More than 30 million Africans (about 3% of the continent's population) are living outside their countries of origin, and evidence suggests that this figure is growing.

The Profile of migrants with the exception of Southern Africa, has the median age of less than 30 years; an indication that the majority of migrants in Africa are youths. There has been an increase in the feminization of migration on the continent. In general, the percentage of female migrants is between 40- 50%.The reasons for the increase in female migration include: moving independently to seek for economic opportunities (trade and employment), education, family re-unification and marriage.

Irregular migration in Africa is increasingly characterized by smuggling and Human Trafficking (HT). It is a multi-million dollar industry run by sophisticated organized criminal groups and officially registered agencies. The majority of the trafficked/smuggled are youth especially women, children. They are often recruited by people they

¹ Participating organisations: AACC, EAAMCEI-Morocco, CNTS-Senegal, ACT Alliance, ACSA-Mozambique, NAWOU-Uganda, WSCF-Cameroon, HOPE AFRICA-Southern Africa, IRANWO FOUNDATION-Nigeria, RENIDEV-Senegal, NCCP- Philippines, ANCHOR-Uganda, Christian Council of Churches-Nigeria, United Methodist Church-USA, Diocese of Egypt, Anglican Diocese of Egypt, Anglican Church of Canada, CCZ/CPCA-Zambia, Dream initiative, African Union (AU) and CAPA.

² African Union (AU) Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030),



trust and trafficked for labour and sex. This lucrative and low risk trade reduces people to mere commodities traded in markets worldwide. Another lucrative and growing trade associated with human trafficking is organ extraction.

There is a nexus between Human Trafficking (HT) and terrorism. We are aware that because trafficked persons are vulnerable, some terrorist groups (IS/Al Shabaab/Boko Haram) have exploited this as a means to finance their operations and recruit trafficked persons into terrorists. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are just as vulnerable and therefore provide fertile ground for traffickers/smugglers to fish for “clients”. This is because there is a low levels of awareness of Human Trafficking among refugees/IDPs.

Collectively therefore, we have strategic themes and pillars as well as sub-regional, regional and global partners priorities to include, but not limited to; operating regional and sub-regional structures and systems; defining processes to champion membership growth, and effective decision-making including setting up a media department at the CWWM-A secretariat to champion research in partnership with member organisations and universities and identify advocacy issues and outcomes. We agreed to activate effective communication channels including digital platforms, and to strengthen partnerships as well as identifying information sources and audiences, generating and coordinating relevant content for sharing including information about the realities of forced migration, trafficking, supply chains, and movements of trafficked and forced migration out of Africa to Europe, the Gulf States and North America. We intend to provide migrants with pre-departure information on migration and trafficking including services along the migration routes. We shall map, monitor and report partner-program performance and foster strategic global partnerships for comprehensive responses to migration and human trafficking.

We are aware of the historical baggage and challenges related to current geo-political context and continued effects of neo-liberal economic trends, trade wars, and IMF’s lower projection for global economic growth in the beginning of 2019 at 3.5 %, as compared to their projection in October 2018 at 3.7 %;

We are mindful of the impact of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) announcement in March 2019 about the drop by 3.3% of global gross domestic product (GDP) growth down from 3.6% in 2018. 61% of the world’s workforce in 2016;

We are cognizant of the lack of decent work in general, and for migrants in particular. We have established the existence of worst human rights abuses in countries that have poor working conditions and labour flexibilization. Those countries have no explicit labour law and often deny some or all workers the right to strike or collective bargaining, while others deny or constrain workers from enjoying free speech and freedom of assembly,

We have analysed the implication of the rise of right-wing nationalism in the world as manifest in some countries in form of continued use of fascist demagoguery; Christian fundamentalism, Islamophobia, racism, misogyny, xenophobia to mobilize oppressive and militarised responses to migration in all its forms.

Our call to action is premised on Theological and contextual analysis strengthened through strategic regional and global partnerships and is framed around a grounded appreciation of migrant needs for dignity, hospitality and companionship. In that regard,

- **We are resolved** to ensure nothing is done for migrants without migrants and shall champion migrant-led solutions, be accountable, build our skills and expertise to enable us reach-out and meet member’s needs;
- **We seek to learn** from each other and our partners and to mobilise resources to support evidence-based advocacy and decision-making on migration and human trafficking including supporting migrant needs;
- **We build** on our existing synergy to ensure migrants are treated with dignity, met with hospitality and have companionship through their journey and,
- **Draw strength** from the assurance that,

“...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’