

PRIORITIES FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR THE RAMPHAL COMMISSION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE

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OUTLINE

I INTRODUCTION

II PRIORITY AREAS

III WHAT THE RC SHOULD ADDRESS



I INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Importance of Africa: 38 % of CW member states
 - African former colonies and strong UK links
 - African former colonies and the rest of the Commonwealth
- ❑ Misrepresentations of African emigration:
 - Mass emigration to the developed Commonwealth
 - Inadequate research and policy dialogue on internal migration within Africa
 - All African emigration is brain drain & refugees/asylum seekers



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□ Facts on the ground:

- Intra-African migration more dominant than emigration from the continent.
- African economies have been responsible for emigration: unemployment, poor governance, economic failures, etc.
- Regimented immigration controls/policy changes in the UK fuels undocumented/unauthorized immigration.
- Much of African “brain drain” converts to “brain waste” in the developed Commonwealth despite comparable qualifications.
- The Commonwealth has poor datasets to shed light on intra-Commonwealth migration.



II PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

□ General:

- Uneven playing field in migration management; accreditation of qualifications; and inter-governmental experiences, interests and concerns.
- Lack of professional inputs in most commissions.
- Poor exploitation of strong bonds between Africa and the developed Commonwealth.
- Lack of South-South cooperation in migration and development work, esp. between Africa and Asia, LAC
- Absence of links among the Commonwealth member states in areas other than the Summit, Commonwealth Games and Parliamentary meetings.



II Continued...

- Lack of mutually considered migration management between countries of origin and countries of destination in the CW.
- Where did the rain begin to beat the CW member states to adopt visa-entry and stringent migration controls? How can the policy morass be rectified?
- Failure of the Free of Movement of Persons even in SADC which has all CW countries with the exception of Angola and Madagascar



II Continued...

❑ Specific Areas

• Research and Data:

✓ Need for research on migration within the CW, among CW countries and between CW and non-CW countries: flows & stock, migrant characteristics, causes of migration and implications for African countries.

✓ Research networks among universities, research institutions, national statistics offices.

• Training and Capacity Building:

✓ Training new generations of researchers, trainers and capacity builders.

✓ Purpose, depth and duration of train: long, medium, short.

✓ Levels of capacity building: individual, institutional and CWwide.

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- **Policy Dialogue and Networking:**
 - ✓ Need for review of migration legislation and practice in the Commonwealth from an African perspective and with the rest of the CW in mind.
 - ✓ Policy incoherence in-country and between countries of origin and destination: need for research, documentation and seminar.
 - ✓ Implications of emerging frameworks: dual citizenship, minimisation of permanent residence and frequent legislative and policy changes in destination countries.
 - ✓ Need for systematic research/data for scholarship, policy dialogue and resource mobilisation on CW migration.



II Continued...

- Resources:
 - ✓ Need for development of resources on African migration and development: reference library, datasets, videos, films, etc.
 - ✓ Resource mobilisation through governments, DFID, AusAID, CIDA, foundations, research councils, etc.



III WHAT THE RC SHOULD ADDRESS

- The place of Africa in the RCCMD is crucial.
- African representation be professional/technical also, not just diplomatic.
- The RCCMD to engage with African governmental and non-governmental institutions, including civil society organisations beyond governmental circles.
- The RCCMD to identify African institutions and individuals to engage in the exercise.
- The RCCMD to commission critical reviews of previous work on migration and development in the CW to inform its work upfront.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



