REPORT OF POST VALIDATION

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

AT

CHELSEA HOTEL ABUJA

ON

THURSDAY 29TH AUGUST, 2013
Disclaimer

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Meeting Objectives:

- To brief technical working group members on activities which had taken place before and after the policy validation
- To present the proposed strategies for swift policy adoption for input
- To inform members of the proposed National Consultation process to develop Nigeria common position at the High Level Dialogue (HLD)

Opening Remarks:
The representative of the Chief of Mission (IOM) in her remarks extolled the efforts of the technical working group members in developing the draft National Migration Policy, which is ready to be presented to the Federal Executive Council for adoption. She recalled that the draft policy takes into account the continental legal migration frameworks, especially the Economic Community of West African States migration framework.

The representative of the Minister of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Affairs, in his opening remarks stated that the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) is one of the organizations under her supervision that is actually making positive impacts in the issues of migration. He assured that the Honourable Minister is committed to facilitating the process of adoption of the draft national migration policy.

The representative of the Honourable Federal Commissioner of NCFRMI, M.M. Mohammed welcomed members to the post validation meeting and thanked them for their contributions throughout the development of the migration policy. In his address, he reiterated the commitment of the Commissioner to actualize the adoption of the draft policy as soon as possible.

Discussions/Comments/Deliberations:

Pre-Policy Validation Briefing:

In her presentation, the IOM Migration Officer walked members through the process of development of the draft policy document. This include the various reviews made by the Technical Working Group, desk review by the migration expert, Prof. Adepoju as well as the residential workshop for thorough scrutiny of the documents. Stakeholders including government and nongovernmental actors were also present at the national validation workshop. She thanked all for the commitment, support and cooperation.

Update on Post-Policy Endorsement:

The Head, Migration Division of NCFRMI highlighted some activities carried out NCFRMI after the validation exercise. This included the following:

- Publication of the Communiqué on two national dailies;
- Appearance on a television programme by Professor Adepoju and Martin Ocaga, the Chief Mission (IOM) to speak on migration and especially on the validated draft policy document, which gave further sensitization of the document;
- Drafting and insertion of the acknowledgement page of the policy document
- Review of the Foreword page
- Setting up of an in-house committee to thoroughly scrutinize the document
- Drafting of the FEC Memo

This workshop is funded by the European Union within the framework of the 10th EDF Project “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria”
The file is ready to be forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs for onward presentation to the Federal Executive Council.

Comments:
Prof. Adepoju congratulated TWG members for a job well done and expressed his satisfaction that the document is totally home grown and meets international best practice. He solicited for the cooperation of stakeholders to get the policy endorsed and implemented.

Amb. Dankano (MFA) acknowledged the challenges currently inherent in migration governance in Nigeria, which is mainly due to the lack of a legal framework. Hence, he congratulated those who put in efforts to develop the draft policy. He advised that rather than compare Nigeria with other African countries that are yet to develop a legal framework on migration, Nigerians should aim higher. More so, Nigeria is an origin, transit and destination country. The policy document is rich and reflected the best practices around the world. He thanked Professor Adepoju, EU, IOM and other development partners for the support extended to Nigeria in this regard.

United Nations High Level Dialogue (UNHLD) on Migration: An Overview

Prof. Adepoju gave an overview of the UNHLD as follows:

- The first dialogue was held from September 14-15, 2006 at UN headquarters, New York during the 61st session of the General Assembly;
- The purpose was to discuss multi-dimensional aspects and linkages between international migration and development;
- The aim was to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize the development of positive impacts and eliminate the negative impacts;
- The second HLD is scheduled to hold from 3-4 October, 2013, with the theme, “Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and co-operation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications”.

There are four (4) roundtables to be discussed this year at the HLD which will run simultaneously and Nigeria is expected to be represented at the various roundtables, since she has stakes on the three aspects of migration – origin, transit and destination. They are as follows:

- Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparations of the post 2015 development framework;
- Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well as to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to ensure regular orderly and safe migration;
- Strengthening partnerships and co-operation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promote coherence at all levels;
- International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

The third roundtable would be co-chaired by Nigeria and Switzerland.
He expressed concern over the national consultations for the following reasons:

- Other participating countries have been preparing for the event for the past 6 years, but Nigeria is yet to put their acts together;
- Ghana is occupying a position in the preparatory activities to lead Africa, a position Nigeria should occupy, considering the fact that Nigeria is contesting with South Africa and Egypt for a seat in the UN security, therefore, should be the spokesperson of Africa. More so, the project of ECOWAS is being bank rolled by Nigeria. Also, in terms of demography, Nigeria
is the most populous country in Africa. Economically, Nigeria is hoping to overtake South Africa soon;

- Negotiations and consultations for the country position should be finalized before the meeting;
- The delegation should be made up of the lead of delegation usually from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a technical expert and other delegates. Nigeria should ensure that a technical expert accompany other delegates from the Government.

In conclusion, he advised that Nigeria should develop a common position paper for the event.

**National Consultative Process for Nigeria on HLD:**

Amb. Dankano further enlightened members that while the issue of climate change and the MDGs, now Post 2015 Development Agenda are on the front burner of discussions at the HLD, migration issues has not been given the prominence it deserves in the international arena. The GFMD, an informal forum happens to be the only forum where migration is discussed internationally. A committee set up at the forum to assess the issue of migration and recommend modalities to include migration in the Development Agenda made a report at the last Forum at Mauritius. Their recommendation was that migration issue should be included in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Furthermore, he informed members that as a preparatory meeting to the forthcoming HLD, two consultations have been held. The first was convened by IOM in June, 2013, while the second was convened by Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26th August, 2013. The aim was to develop a common position for Nigeria. He further informed members of the proposed national consultation on the HLD, scheduled to take off from 16th September, 2013. Invitation letters would be forwarded to members to this effect in due course.

Meanwhile, based on the different thematic roundtables, relevant MDAs were requested to make inputs to the Nigerian position on the various roundtables, via the Director, Consular and Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, he informed members that this year, what is referred to as the “bible of resolutions” was developed by Nigeria for the UNGA, which contains all the resolutions to be discussed during this year’s session, as well as the position paper. UNGA is scheduled to be held from 17 September, 2013 to 31st December, 2013 in New York. There are several side events of UNGA and the HLD is one of such side events. Nigeria delegation to the HLD will be led by the Minister of Interior.

According to him, Diaspora remittances to the economy of Nigeria in 2012 amounted to about $26.8 billion. The FGN has made a step in the right direction by liaising with the Ministry of Trade and Investment to channel the remittances into national development.

**Reactions/Contributions:**

- A member inquired about the possibility of CSOs being sponsored by government to participate in the HLD

  In reaction to the above, the representative from MFA stated that CSOs cannot be invited by government to such meetings; neither could government sponsor CSOs on such trips because of the slim budget line. However, CSOs are being carried along on the process, since they are given a slot at the event and have a way of getting sponsorship to such events.
• Another member from NBS emphasized that the aim of the TWG should primarily be the adoption of the NMP, after which other activities would naturally follow. He was of the view that all relevant stakeholders on migration were carried along from inception and was glad that their efforts resulted in an all inclusive home grown draft policy framework for the nation that would stand the test of time, which he was positive would receive fast adoption when presented to FEC.

• The member representing NAPTIP informed members about the forthcoming National Seminar on International Relations that borders on migration and promised that relevant MDAs would be formally invited to attend the event.

• The Head, Migration Division (NCFRMI) suggested that the weeklong national consultation should take place outside Abuja to enable participants concentrate on the deliberations and called on MFA to expedite action in sending invitations to relevant MDAs early enough to enable those that would attend the event in New York start processing their travel documents on time. He also promised to share EU and IOM Position papers on the HLD with members.

Strategies for swift Policy Adoption:

In presenting the formatted template of programme on advocacy and sensitization strategy developed by the NCFRMI, the Head, Migration Division (NCFRMI) emphasized that the essence of the advocacy strategy was to galvanize the political support needed to make the policy a priority document for the Federal Government, in order to ensure its swift adoption. The programme has two major components, viz:

a. Advocacy/Political Lobbying – which include courtesy visit to some Cabinet Ministers and other top government functionaries; and

b. Public Sensitization – to be used to trigger debate in the media among various stakeholders on the need for a National Migration Policy.

In reaction, members commended the effort of the NCFRMI in articulating an advocacy strategy, but, emphasized the need to expand the list of MDAs to be visited to include, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF); Ministers for Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Information, Labour and Productivity, National Planning and Finance.

Summary of Resolutions:

After exhaustive deliberations, it was resolved as follows:

• That NCFRMI should determine the membership of the TWG Advocacy sub-committee to be constituted for the purpose of carrying out the advocacy visits to the above listed MDAs. The migration desk officers of these MDAs were mandated to facilitate the meeting schedules between the Advocacy sub-committee and the respective Ministers;

• That a three days workshop should be organized preparatory to the UN High Level Dialogue. The workshop has been scheduled to hold from 16th September, 2013 in two separate sessions for CSOs and Government actors. It was agreed that based on the different roundtables, NCFRMI should categorize MDAs into relevant thematic groups for better articulation and send invitation letters for the preparatory meeting based on the categorization. However,
members have the liberty to indicate the thematic areas they have comparative advantage to make their contributions.

7. **Adjournment/Closing:**

At the end of the brief but very productive deliberations, a member representing NAPTIP moved for adjournment, seconded by member representing Policy Consult. The meeting came to a close at about 1.26 pm.

**Attendance List:**

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