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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Valletta Summit Political Declaration Version Zero

Delegations will find enclosed Version Zero of the Valletta Summit Political Declaration.

VALLETTA SUMMIT, 11-12 NOVEMBER 2015

FINAL DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of (...), recall the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development of 2006, the Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Mobility of 2014, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Declarations of the Ministerial Conferences of the Rabat Process and of the Khartoum Process on 27 November and 28 November 2014 respectively.

We are deeply concerned by the dramatic increase in flows of refugees and migrants which entails massive suffering, abuse and exploitation, particularly for children and women, and unacceptable loss of lives in the desert or at sea. Such an increase places **most affected countries under severe pressure**, with serious humanitarian consequences and security challenges. **Facing that challenge, we agree to respond decisively and manage together migration flows in all their aspects**, guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility.

We agree that the first priority in this context is to save lives and set up the necessary actions to rescue all the migrants whose lives are at risk.

We reiterate our firm commitment to respect international obligations and human rights. Respect for the dignity of refugees and migrants and protection of their human rights, particularly with regard to vulnerable groups like women and children, will remain our priority at all times.

We acknowledge the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility between and within our continents. We underline that a comprehensive approach in this field is the necessary vehicle for boosting sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to ensure that human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality. We have a common responsibility to address the opportunities and challenges of migration and mobility which must be distributed in a fair manner between countries of origin, transit and destination. We commit to integrate migration and mobility in development strategies and programming.

We recognise the **high degree of interdependence** between Africa and Europe as we share **common interests**: promoting stability and security, eradicating poverty, supporting socio-economic development, including rural development, mitigating the effects of climate change are challenges that affect us all and have an impact on migration. Only through joint action will we effectively tackle those issues.

Migration within Africa and Europe, from Africa to Europe and from Europe to Africa is a multi-faceted phenomenon. We stress the importance of **addressing the root causes of migration and forced displacement**. Such causes may be of a short term nature but most are structural, related to long-term demographic and economic trends. Reducing poverty, promoting good governance, resilience and stability, supporting the creation of decent jobs and investment opportunities, improving basic services delivery such as education, health, rule of law and security must be at the core of our common action. Rekindling hope, notably for the African youth, must be our paramount objective.

We acknowledge that further efforts should be made to **advance legal migration and mobility**, by fostering well-managed mobility between and within the continents as well as encouraging policies that facilitate labour migration and promote the mobility of students and researchers, including at regional level.

We are determined to strengthen the **fight against irregular migration** by promoting comprehensive and efficient cooperation in order to avoid the negative consequences of irregular migration and to safeguard the lives of migrants. In parallel, irregular migrants who are not in need of international protection must be effectively returned to their countries of origin, in line with existing and future agreements, as well as mutually agreed arrangements. Improved cooperation on return and sustainable reintegration can only enhance migration and mobility policy.

We undertake to upscale our efforts in **preventing and fighting migrant smuggling, eradicating trafficking in human beings** and combatting those taking advantage of all forms of exploitation, both in Europe and in Africa. Trafficking in human beings represents a serious crime and an unacceptable infringement of fundamental human rights. We will strengthen the fight against organised criminal networks, including through enhanced cooperation and effective and integrated management of borders.

We agree to **strengthen international protection and assistance**. Protection must be granted to all those entitled to it in accordance with international and regional instruments for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.

We acknowledge the maturity of our dialogue on migratory issues and express our **strong and unambiguous political will to address jointly the challenges** related to inter and intra-continental migration and mobility, building on existing cooperation and dialogue frameworks, including best practices from bilateral arrangements.

We agree to continue **regular dialogues** on migration through existing bilateral and regional mechanisms, including the Rabat and Khartoum processes and the Migration and Mobility Dialogue.

We commit to **undertake concrete actions** to respond to challenges of migration and mobility at the appropriate level and with a gender perspective. Our joint actions shall be seen as a whole and hence implemented in parallel, allowing for the necessary degree of differentiation.

We commit to **allocate appropriate resources** to the implementation of such concrete actions using all available instruments, including the newly set up EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa.

To this end, we agree today to implement the joint **Action Plan annexed to this declaration** in order to address the key challenges both in the short and longer term.