THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON MIGRATION IN MOROCCO :

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Contents

Summary:

Statistical data on migration is essential to ensure the communication, regularity, monitoring and evaluation of a country's migration policies.

In order to be useful and indispensable for the elaboration of different development strategies, it is not enough to produce more statistical data; it is essential to guarantee the availability of reliable, up-to-date and sufficiently disaggregatedquantitative and qualitative data to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of different policies and strategies. For reasons of efficiency, migration policies must be based on solid evidence and complete statistical information, presenting the demographic, economic, social and cultural profiles of migrants. Morocco has made considerable efforts to strengthen the statistical capacity of its migration data collection system, but comprehensive approaches to statistical capacity development still need to be designed and implemented. Several investment efforts were undertaken in terms of human resources, technical capacities, new information technologies and technological platforms and tools. These efforts were aimed at upgrading the capacities of the institutions responsible for collecting statistical information in the Kingdom to produce national data on migration.

The inventory of the statistical information system on migration in Morocco provides an overview of the ecosystem for the production of statistical information in this field, specifying the main players and institutions, their working methodologies, the standards adopted, the tools and mechanisms for evaluating, analyzing and monitoring statistical studies, and the limitations and constraints.

The aim is to analyze the information system and present conclusions to be made available to decision-makers in the planning and development of migration policies, thus guaranteeing the production of harmonized data at national, regional and even local levels, as well as ensuring comparability at international level to support and strengthen cooperation between countries. Towards agreements and pacts on data management, production and use that involve all stakeholders: national, regional and local authorities, data producers, data users, private players and non-governmental organizations....

The aim of this review of the statistical information system on migration is to provide a better understanding of :

- The migration data ecosystem in its various components: international migration, labor migration, regular migration, irregular migration ....
- Its environment and data sources, as well as an assessment of the quality of the data produced and its alignment with international instructions and guidelines.

In this way, we can provide institutions, researchers and decision-makers with numerous recommendations, presented around a number of concrete actions to strengthen the statistical information system on migration, as well as to develop responses to the question of harmonization and coordination between data-producing and data-using institutions.

An assessment of the quality of the statistical data produced and their alignment with international instructions and guidelines for migration statistics is essential. This certainly contributes to strengthening national and international discussions on the importance of credible and sufficiently disaggregated data on the migration issue in our country, and consequently to reinforcing the development of migration policies.

Introduction

Historically, the African continent has been a land of intense mobility, with different forms, directions, spatial scales and rhythms. These migratory movements are mainly driven by political, economic, socio-cultural and family factors.

This migration dynamic has become an economic, social, cultural and geopolitical issue. Often presented as a problem in political and media

discourse, these migratory movements make an important contribution to the development of the African continent and even the world, and the question of respect for human rights is sometimes overlooked.

Population mobility, whether intra-African or international, depends on a combination of factors: demographic (demographic transition), economic (increasing poverty and unemployment), political (unrest and violent conflicts between and within several African countries) and regulatory (generalization of the visa system and implementation of the Schengen area by EU countries).

These factors have led to an increase in the number of migrants heading for Europe, and consequently to a greater visibility of the migratory phenomenon via the Sahara. This "*phenomenon has, however, always existed in this area, although it only concerned the citizens of a few countries (Mali, Niger, Chad) who moved, generally for seasonal work or sometimes to settle down, in Libya and southern Algeria[1]* ".

In general, the Maghreb countries, given their geographical position, are faced with new South-South migratory waves that they must jointly manage to meet the challenges posed by migration, particularly after the events of the Arab Spring in 2011, which marked the weakening of states structurally affected by problems linked to bad governance, poverty and identity conflicts.

These transformations are accompanied by a set of dynamics and orientations that our country is simultaneously experiencing, namely the cosmopolitan redefinition of Moroccan identity by the Constitution of July 29, 2011[2] , the reorientation of Morocco's foreign policy towards sub-Saharan Africa, with the aspiration of becoming a regional power, and the development of a culture of human rights and the rule of law.

During the first half of the 20th century, Morocco, a major historical migratory basin, was a country of immigration for migratory flows from certain European countries in connection with colonization. It then became a country of emigration, mainly to these same European countries, and in recent decades, it has become a transit area sheltering an increasing number of irregular migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa[3] .

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[1] Mehdi Lahlou, "Le Maroc et les migrations des Africains du sud du Sahara récentes et possibilités d'action" published in Critique économique n° 16, 2005.

[2] Paragraph 2 of the preamble to the 2016 constitution: "... The Kingdom of Morocco intends to preserve, in its fullness and diversity, its national identity, which is one and indivisible. Its unity, forged by the convergence of its Arab-Islamic, Amazigh and Saharan-Hassani components, has been nourished and enriched by its African, Andalusian, Hebraic and Mediterranean tributaries."

[3] The General Population and Housing Census revealed that out of a population of 33.8 million surveyed in 2014, the number of foreigners residing in Morocco reached 84,001; a proportion of 0.25% of the total Moroccan population. Almost 80,000 foreigners live in urban areas,

As a country with a high emigration rate, Morocco has always been positively responsive to international initiatives to protect migrants' rights. It is committed to a binding international legal process, with obligations that its government must implement.

1- Background and objectives :

The importance of statistics in the study and analysis of the migration phenomenon requires the establishment of a statistical information system on migration that produces, exploits and uses reliable and sufficiently disaggregated data on the migration issue.

Statistical data on migration is essential to ensure the communication, regularity, monitoring and evaluation of a country's migration policies.

Morocco has made considerable efforts to strengthen the statistical capacity of its migration data collection system, which has evolved with the steady progress of information technology[4] , but there is still a need to design and implement comprehensive approaches to statistical capacity building.

Several investment efforts were undertaken in terms of human resources, technical capacities, new information technologies and technological platforms and tools. These efforts were aimed at upgrading the capacity of institutions responsible for collecting statistical information in the Kingdom to produce national data on migration.

The aim of this work is to present the current state of the statistical information system on migration, highlight the ecosystem of statistical information production in this field, specify the main players and institutions, their working methodologies and the standards adopted, identify the tools and mechanisms for evaluating, analyzing and monitoring statistical studies, and highlight the

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with 95.2% of the foreign population living in urban areas (79,988 foreigners) and 4.8% (4,013 foreigners) in rural areas. Africans account for 34,966 foreigners, of whom 64.5% (22,545) are from sub-Saharan countries[3] .

[4] ILO report, first knowledge base produced in 2006 by the ILO for the Central Maghreb countries (Musette, Les systèmes d'informations statistiques sur les travailleurs migrants au Maghreb Central, 2006).

limitations, deficiencies and constraints faced by these players in producing, analyzing, illustrating and publishing official, reliable and up-to-date data.

There are four main classes of problems:
- Who are the main players in the statistical information system on international and labor migration?
- Produce and examine statistical data to diagnose existing situations, evaluate situations, resolve difficulties and assist decision-making;
- Assessment of the institutional environment and data quality.
- Formatting statistical information in a format useful to the producer, intermediate user and end user, or for further processing;
- Automating the exchange of statistical data on migration.

Building a solid, reliable and sustainable statistical information system requires considerable effort to identify the categories and characteristics of the different types of research carried out on migration data. The insights gained from these reviews and studies are crucial to unpacking the structure of the migration data ecosystem (the main stakeholders: administrations/agencies/sectoral structures of the various ministries directly involved in the production of statistical information on migration) and specifying the interactions and strategic correlations between the various players.

Hence the importance of mapping national, regional and local data sources (if available) from statistical information-gathering operations in the field (census, probabilistic and non-probabilistic sample surveys, etc.).) and under-produced statistics from ministerial departments and institutions (administrative statistics), as well as assessing the quality of the data collected and the capacity of different actors to produce reliable, integrated and sustainable information, guaranteeing a breakdown of data by category, and by territorial subdivisions and those according to international standards and respecting mainly the frameworks of practical applications of the United Nations "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" in terms of quality.

2- Regulatory and organizational framework for migration in Morocco.

Migration in Morocco has gradually undergone a number of changes, from emigration and immigration, to transit migration and new forms of immigration. These transformations are governed by an emerging policy framework, requiring a legal and institutional framework that meets the aspirations of migrants and host populations.

Addressing the issue of migration always calls for a global analysis that takes into account other parameters in addition to the historical approach, and as a result, the legal and institutional aspects are of extreme importance in analyzing the problem.

Since 2006, the issue of international migration has been on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly (GA),[5] in addition to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is an informal, non-binding framework for annual exchanges on migration and development, led by the governments of member countries.

Following the International Labour Conference in 2014, presentation of a report on fair migration (ILC, 2014).

In Banjul in 2006, the African Union (AU) produced an AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), revised in 2018, extended to 2030 (AU Work Plan, 2018)[6],

In 2015, the United Nations adopted an Agenda 2030 (UN, 2015) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Indeed, 2016 saw the United Nations General Assembly organize a high-level plenary meeting on managing the mass displacement of refugees and migrants. This meeting brought out recommendations recorded in the report "Safety and Dignity: Managing the Mass Displacement of Refugees and Migrants".

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[5] Report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development (UN, 2006).

[6] The ILO adopted a non-binding "*Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration*" in November 2005. This document, published and circulated at the time of the event, stresses the need to improve the capacity of government structures to collect and process data on labor migration (ILO, 2006).

In 2017, Publication of a report on labor migration is with the collaboration of the International Labor Organization, the African Union Commission and the International Organization for Migration, (first report on labor migration statistics in Africa (AU, 2017)).followed by the creation of a Migration Research Center (AU, 2018a) and an African Migration Observatory (AU, 2018b) hosted by Morocco.

The installation of the headquarters of the African Migration Observatory in Rabat in 2020, the recent ratification in 2019 by Morocco of Convention No.97 (Migrant Workers) of the International Labor Organization, and finally the request for integration into the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the adoption of a free movement regime.

The same year, Proposal of new guidelines and a clarification of definitions for the measurement of international labor migration (ILO, 2018), for the 20th International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) which offer an opportunity for the observation of three sections, among others, for the measurement of migrant workers. These are migrant workers in the informal economy; return migrants and employees in seasonal activities and migrant workers at borders.

In 2018, the United Nations adopted a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (United Nations, 2018)...

The year 2018 also saw a major turning point in the handling of migration issues on a global scale with the drafting and adoption of the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration"[7] , whose implementation process began in April 2017. This is a non-binding text for states and offers an opportunity to improve migration governance and address the challenges that are associated with migration today. It aims to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. This aspect has been highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which for the first time recognizes the contribution of migration to sustainable development[8] . Indeed, among the

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[7] More than 150 countries have adopted it and 16 countries have withdrawn, including : United States, Australia, Hungary, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Estonia, Israel, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Croatia, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic...

[8] The central reference to migration is found in target 10.7 of the goal to "reduce inequalities within and between countries", which calls for "facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". In addition, many other targets refer directly to migration, and in others migration is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be taken into account. Implementing the SDGs

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 69 targets and 226 indicators have been selected to monitor these targets. Target 17.18 on international cooperation recommends that signatory countries have access to "quality data", disaggregated including on the "migratory status" of populations. Three indicators have been selected to measure this target (UNSTAT, 2016).

The pact stresses the need for member countries to produce reliable, evidence-based data for use in drawing up migration policies [9]

As a country with a high emigration rate, Morocco has always been positively responsive to international initiatives to protect migrants' rights. It is committed to a binding international legal process, with obligations that its government must implement.

The Kingdom has also made considerable efforts to strengthen its migration data collection system.

In 1990, a ministry was created under the name of "Ministère Délégué auprès du Premier Ministre Chargé des affaires de la Communauté Marocaines Résidant à l'Etranger". [10] The Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Living Abroad (MRE) was set up the same year, to help maintain links between MREs[11] and their country of origin, through cultural, legal, economic and social programs, and to help them overcome the difficulties they encounter as immigrants in host countries.

Always mindful of the concerns of Moroccans living abroad, Morocco set up a Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) in 2007. It is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the Kingdom's public policies towards its nationals living abroad.

The sheer numbers of Moroccans living abroad (MREs) around the world, and their contribution to Morocco's economic and territorial development through a

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offers the opportunity to protect mobile populations and empower them to realize their development potential, bringing benefits to people, communities and countries worldwide.

[9] "Goal 1: Collect and use accurate, disaggregated data to inform evidence-based policymaking" p. 7/36 of Resolution A/RES/73/195 (UN, 2019)

[10] This Ministry has undergone a number of changes over the years: in 1995, under the Filali II government, it became a sub-secretariat of state attached to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1997, this department was dissolved and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation took over. In 2000, it became a Ministry attached to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the Moroccan community living abroad.

[11] Moroccans living abroad.

variety of channels, has prompted the Moroccan authorities to set up institutions to support them.

In 2014, a decree defined the remit and organization of the Ministry in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs[12] . In 2017, this department became a ministry delegated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition to its focus on issues affecting MREs, this ministry is now responsible for immigration and asylum issues, and for implementing the government's related policy.

International Migration Observatories have also been set up, notably for Morocco (2003), subsequently reactivated in 2018.

Concerning irregular migration in Morocco, it should be noted that migration issues have been of growing interest since the 2000s. Indeed, to combat irregular migration, a department for migration and border surveillance was set up in 2003 within the Ministry of the Interior. The security aspect was also reflected in the legal and legislative arsenal adopted by Morocco with the enactment of the Dahir bearing law no. 02-03 relating to the entry and residence of foreigners in the Kingdom of Morocco, and to irregular emigration and immigration[13] :

This law is not in line with the international commitments ratified by Morocco, the 9 conventions relating to the various categories of human rights.

These conventions, which our country has ratified, specifically concern the migration of three categories: refugees, smuggled or trafficked migrants and migrant workers.

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[12] Published in bulletin officiel n 6246 of April 10, 2014

[13] *"Comprising 58 articles, 8 chapters and 3 titles, law 02-03 regulates migration in Morocco, with its two components of immigration (entry and stay in the country) and emigration (leaving the country). Law 02-03 also penalizes any irregular immigration or emigration".* This law, which dates from 2003, repeals all provisions relating to migration in Morocco. It was adopted to meet "international" obligations. **Among the laws repealed ...**

November 15, **1934,** regulating immigration to the French zone of the Cherifian Empire.

- The dahir of January 2, **1940** on the stay of certain persons in the French zone of the Cherifian Empire.
- The dahir of May 16, **1941** on residence permits in the French zone of the Cherifian Empire.
- The law relating to control measures established in the interest of public safety, published on September 17, **1947.**
- Regulation of the emigration of Moroccan workers (the dahir of November 8, **1949**) Morocco has embarked on a new era of democracy and respect for human rights since the 2011 constitution, which affirms in its preamble "Morocco's attachment to the values of human rights, the primacy of international conventions over the country's domestic law, and the need to harmonize the relevant provisions of its national legislation accordingly".

Aware of the situation of foreigners in Morocco through a thematic report on the situation of migrants and refugees in Morocco prepared by the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH). In 2013, our country put in place the national immigration and asylum policy broken down into two strategies: the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy 'SNIA'[14] and the National Strategy for Moroccans Residing Abroad 'SNMRE'.

To implement the SNIA, the government has created the following sub-commissions:

> Sub-commission for the regularization of illegal foreigners in charge of the implementation of the exceptional operation announced by the Kingdom for the regularization of illegal foreigners in Morocco at the beginning of 2014 ;
>
> Sub-commission for the study of asylum requests formulated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ;
>
> Sub-committee responsible for upgrading the legal and institutional framework relating to immigration, asylum and the fight against human trafficking;
>
> Sub-committee on diplomatic action to promote regional and international cooperation in the field of migration.

In January 2014, the launch throughout Morocco of the exceptional operation to regularize foreigners in an irregular administrative situation justified the mission's second objective, which consisted in evaluating and monitoring this action.

"...Migration, taken to its real proportions and far removed from the myths that project a scandalously distorted image of it, is a crucial global issue for our continent. It deserves a new Afro-centric approach that reconciles realism, tolerance and the primacy of reason over fear."[15]

These changes have had a number of repercussions on the situation of migrants, such as the end of roundups and deportations at the Algerian and Mauritanian borders.

It should be noted that the aspect relating to the processing of asylum applications and refugees took on new impetus on September 25, 2013 with the

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[14] It was adopted by the Government Council on December 18, 2014.

[15] Extract from the Speech by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the occasion of the 30ème African Union Summit, January 29, 2018, in Addis Ababa.

Reopening of the Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BRA)[16] of which the UNHCR Office in Morocco is an observer member, on the other hand, the issue of human trafficking is governed in Morocco by Law 27-14 published in the Official Bulletin on September 19, 2016.

Several partnership projects have been set up with various international bodies, including the International Labor Organization through the AMEM project[17] "Support for improved migration governance and the promotion of fair labor migration in the Maghreb", which aims to build the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors in three target countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania) and of non-governmental actors in Libya, to better manage labor migration and ensure a continuum of protection for migrant workers' rights,

This project undertakes national and sub-regional activities and has the following cross-cutting objectives: Better coherence between migration and employment policies; Better coordination between key labor market actors on migration for employment; and Improved governance of migration for employment,

The THAMM project *"Towards a holistic approach to the governance of labor migration and mobility in North Africa (THAMM)",* in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)[18] , , Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), aims *to* improve migration and legal mobility through the progressive implementation of a policy framework, institutional and regulatory framework in the field of legal migration and

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[16] This office was created on August 29, 1957.

[17] The project has two levels of monitoring: the National Tripartite Monitoring Committees (CTSN) and the Regional Tripartite Consultative Committee (CRTC).

[18] International Organization for Migration: Founded in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. The IOM works to help ensure the humane and orderly management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced persons. In 2016, IOM entered into an agreement with the United Nations and became one of its affiliated organizations. Morocco has been a member of the International Organization for Migration since 1998. Following the entry into force of the headquarters agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and IOM in July 2006, IOM opened its mission in Rabat in 2007. Today, IOM is developing activities in different regions of the Kingdom. In addition to its offices in Rabat, Tangiers and Tetouan, IOM is also active in Oujda, Figuig, Beni Mellal, Khouribga, Agadir and Tiznit.

For example, the "Global Migration mainstreaming - Integrating migration into national development policies" project is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs, UNDP and Swiss Cooperation. IOM supported the Ministry of Health's development of the national "health and immigration" strategic plan 2017-2021, and the INDIMAJ Oriental project aims to ensure that migration is taken into account in strategic planning for the sustainable and inclusive development of the Oriental region.

mobility, the improvement of mechanisms for the assessment, certification, validation and recognition of migrants' qualifications and skills, data management in the field of legal migration and mobility, and cooperation between the various players involved.

Several efforts and investments were made in technical capacity building, new information technologies and technological platforms and tools. These efforts were aimed at upgrading the capacity of institutions responsible for collecting statistical information in the Kingdom to produce national data on migration.

Hence the importance of having a statistical information system on migration that produces, exploits and uses reliable and sufficiently disaggregated data on the migration issue.

The interest that policy-makers can and should take in quality statistical data in general, and on migration in particular, has and will certainly have a direct impact on the supply of national or regional data, and on the way in which the various producers and users of official statistics on migration in our country operate and organize themselves.

3- Ecosystem of statistical data on migration

At present, the Statistical Information System on Migration in our country operates within a data ecosystem that brings together public institutions designated as official producers of statistics, an increasing number of private sector data producers, non-governmental organizations representing civil society, and regional and international bodies.

This is part of a framework of mutual and interactive exchange, governed by an eminent need and a common interest in multiplying the production of figures and making available to data users as much statistical information as possible in its various forms.

The data ecosystem is made up of :

Community of official statistics :

This includes all the players, agencies and organizations that collect, process and disseminate official statistics in the country:

- Le Haut Commissariat au Plan ;

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

- Le Ministère délégué Chargé des Marocains résidants à l'Etranger er de la Migration ;

- The Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Living Abroad ;

- The Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME)

- The Ministry of the Interior, through its Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale (DGSN), the Direction de la Migration et de la Surveillance des Frontières and the Observatoire de la Migration ;

- The agencies, services and statistical departments of the ministries involved in migration.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad, through its Department of Consular and Social Affairs (DACS) ;

- Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills (MIEPEEC)

- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training,

- National Labor Market Observatory

- Ministry of Higher Education,

- Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences ;

- The Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research ;

- Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts;

- Bank al Maghreb;

- Ministerial delegations for human rights ;

- The African Migration Observatory in Morocco.

- The National Social Security Fund,

- Office de Change.

The **data community of international agencies and other United Nations institutions** (ILO, IOM, OECD, IRD, World Bank, AICS, etc.);

The objectives of these institutions are to cooperate in the collection and examination of international statistical data, and above all to guarantee the quality of the information collected, the usefulness and reliability of the data, as well as the updating of statistics relating to population mobility, and above all to serve as a basis for comparisons between countries, generally using data from the official producers of migration statistics of the said nations.

The community of private-sector data producers, essentially private agencies operating in the field of migration statistics.

The civil society data community: associations and organizations that work to produce data on a national and sub-national scale (regions, provinces, prefectures, communes, etc.). This gives a remarkable scope to the usefulness of the statistical information collected by these organizations, mainly in terms of timeliness, up-to-dateness and data quality, which generally constitute essential supports for drawing up profiles of the population in continuous spatial mobility.

The scientific research community on migration is essentially made up of university research units, study and research centers, migration research laboratories, etc., which essentially bring together researchers, academics, etc., working in the field of collecting, analyzing and processing statistical information on migration.

At the heart of this data ecosystem lies one organization, the Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP), which enjoys institutional and intellectual independence in setting up its programs and conducting its surveys and studies. It is the main producer of economic, demographic and social statistical information and is responsible for drawing up the nation's accounts, as well as producing official statistics on migration and its various components. This institution, whose mission and remit include the production, processing and dissemination of statistical data and demographic and socio-economic studies, including migration, carries out the General Census of Population and Housing every ten years (RGPH 2014 is the 6th[ème] since Morocco's independence), as well as a quarterly permanent survey of the labor market, household surveys (Repeated Passage Demographic Survey, Household Consumption and Expenditure Survey, etc.) and other studies on migration.) as well as other studies on international migration, in line with international standards. Since

2005, the HCP has adhered to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).

Morocco also has a National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA), one of the country's leading engineering schools.

The analysis of the ecosystem is based primarily on the correlation and various interactions between the components of this system and the way it serves the general statistical information environment (for example, the SIS-MIM is organized around two components: data sources (producers of statistical information on labor migration) and users (demand for information via social actors and policy-makers) governed by regulatory mechanisms and devices, and updated according to the guidelines of the $20^{ème}$ CIST[19] .

4- Analysis of Migration Information System data sources

Generally speaking, the organization of the process of producing statistical data on migration is rather centralized, with total coverage of data collection in the field, covering both urban and rural environments, while taking into account the territorial divisions of region, province/prefecture and commune.

It should be noted that most of the process of collecting data in the field (conducting censuses and surveys) and disseminating the results in the form of official statistics on migration or study notes and reports, are managed directly by the Haut Commissariat au Plan, ministries such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, international organizations[20] or other agencies such as customs and social security may produce and publish some of their own statistics and mainly under-produced statistics and administrative data such as :

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[19] The $20^{ème}$ ICLS (International Conference of Labor Statisticians) was held from October 10 to 19, 2018 | Geneva, Switzerland. The Conference adopted four resolutions concerning:

- labor relations statistics
- child labor
- ODD indicator on labor rights
- ODD indicator on youth employment

[20] Data disseminated according to ILO standards of classifications and nomenclatures for migrant workers.

Consular statistics

Embarkation/Disembarkation Cards/Ministry of the Interior

Residence permits/Ministry of the Interior

Work Permit, Ministry of Employment

Irregular migration, Ministry of the Interior, Association, HCP

Student statistics, Ministry of Education

MRE transfers, Office des changes.

A mapping of data sources is essential to better understand the operating mechanisms of the entire sphere.

This mapping is based on an analysis of the current capacities of players to produce data on migration, respecting :

- Data availability and breakdown options ;

- The relevance and characterization of each national statistical source;

- Identification of possible sources from which the required missing data could be collected;

- Harmonization and coordination between the various players and data sources available on migration;

- Analysis of the working methodologies of data-producing organizations, through a matrix of source data on migration, institutions and the various categories of migrants, and alignment of statistical data sources with international standards in migration statistics (definition, metadata, etc.) (SDGs/Global Compact goals of regular, safe and orderly migration).

Main sources of statistical data on migration :

The General Census of Population and Housing.

Household surveys :

- Population and employment surveys, household living standards surveys, demographic surveys...

- Socio-economic surveys of Moroccans living abroad.

- Les enquêtes sur les Migrants de retour au Maghreb, réintégration et enjeux de développement de 2007 (MIREM), (IUE) de Florence.

- The "Push and pull factors behind international migration flows" survey, Eurostat 2000

- Survey on departures and returns of international migrants and their impact on local development, Tangier-Tetouan, 2008

- Migration and Skills Survey, 2012 (conducted by ETF in Morocco)

- Survey of sub-Saharan immigration to Morocco, 2007

- L'enquête sur les investissements des Marocains résidant à l'Etranger 2004, Fondation Hassan II pour les Marocains résidant à l'Etranger.

- L'enquête sur la migration et le troisième âge de 2005, Fondation Hassan II pour les Marocains résidant à l'Etranger.

- Survey on : Attitudes, perceptions and behavior of Moroccans towards sub-Saharan migrants" 2008

- 2013 Survey on the impact of international migration on development in Morocco (IOM).

- 2016 sub-Saharan migrant surveys (MCMREAM).

- Morocco international migration survey 2018 (MED HIMMS).

- Survey on forced migration in Morocco 2021.

Administrative statistics / under-produced statistics.

In assessing the statistical system on migration and the official data production institutions, as well as the data user organizations, we note that Morocco has made great efforts to set up a resilient and integrated statistical information system on migration through its national policy on migration, its various institutions and structures for producing statistical information on migration, with the Haut Commissariat au Plan at the heart of this system(the integration of migration modules in the RGPH and in the Employment and Modular Household Surveys, carrying out HIMMS[21] surveys on international

[21] https://www.hcp.ma/Premiers-resultats-de-l-Enquete-du-Haut-Commissariat-au-Plan-sur-la-Migration-Internationale-au-cours-de-2018-2019_a2443.html.

and forced migration, drafting the methodological file for a survey on the Cost of Recruiting International Migrants in Morocco (ILO- HCP) and evaluating the Recommendations of the 20th ICLS, and measuring the cost of recruiting migrants in response to target 7 of MDG 10), the creation of a National Migration Observatory, the efforts undertaken by civil society to support government bodies in observing migratory movements, the dynamism of university scientific research, social partners involved in migration management...

However, we need to identify and examine the main constraints facing the system, which mainly concern the :

– Regulatory and institutional framework: Main relationships between data producers and users in terms of strategic relations, institutional framework and laws and regulations, statistical coordination mechanism and system, Programs, actions and research projects in statistical data collection, analysis, processing and dissemination activities;

– Human and financial resources: Availability of budgets and funds to finance programs and projects, qualified human resources (training and continuing education, skill levels, human resources management strategy, capacity building);

– Data exploitation systems and digital infrastructure: new technologies for information gathering, statistical software, computer systems, communication systems, localization and temporal and spatial information).

In order to analyze and evaluate our Statistical Information on Migration system, we use the fundamental principles of official United Nations statistics.
A number of principles can be distinguished, each accompanied and measured by a set of good practice indicators relating to the institutional environment, statistical data production processes and the results of statistical collection and analysis. The basic principles are :

- Professional independence,
- Coordination and cooperation,
- The mandate for data collection and access,
- Adequacy of resources,
- Commitment to quality,
- Statistical confidentiality and data protection,

- ✓ Impartiality and objectivity.

However, the statistical information system for international migration is generally defined as follows: "An information system is defined by its components, the interactions between them and the relationships it maintains with other systems. It may comprise several sub-systems. The statistical information system is a data system that collects and communicates information on the state of a social, economic or cultural situation, and its evolution" [22]

5- Mapping the Statistical Information System on Labor Migration in Morocco :

With regard to the International Labor Migration Information System (SIMIMO), it focuses on three basic concepts: the general definition of a Statistical Information System, combined with that of the labor market, and then the "migrant workers" component.

The definition of a labor market SIS is "the institutional arrangements, procedures and mechanisms put in place to coordinate the collection, processing, analysis, storage, retrieval and dissemination of labor market information"[23] the labor market SIS includes the following categories:

- ✓ Users (institutions, organizations, individuals) ;
- ✓ Data sources (censuses, household surveys (employment, labor, informal sector, etc.), establishment surveys, administrative sources);
- ✓ Producers (institutions, organizations) ;
- ✓ Information on the job market itself.

As with the labor market, the information system on international labor migration is based on three main functions[24]):

- Description function: This involves describing, particularly in quantitative terms, the prevailing situation and trends in the labor market, including the situation and outlook for labor migration.
- Monitoring function: the aim of this function is to monitor progress in achieving the objectives of employment policies, including labor migration, labor and human resources development.
- Evaluation function: used to check the extent to which the achievement of objectives can be attributed to policies.

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[22] (AFRISTAT, 2006,p.14).

[23] (Djerma, 2015).

[24] (Djerma, 2015; Diallo, 2019

The 20ᵉᵐᵉ ICLS Guidelines present the principles for observing three components of the migrant worker category. These are migrant workers in :

- the informal economy: This category has been analyzed in Morocco through the Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental (CESE, 2018) report on foreign workers in Morocco.[25]

- Migrants returning to their country of origin: Returning migrant workers were the subject of an initial analysis when the survey on returning migrants to Morocco and Tunisia was carried out (MIREM, 2017), and other studies have deepened our knowledge of returning migrants (Mghari, 2010) , Potential returns (Bouiyour, 2013).

- Employees in seasonal activities and migrant workers at borders: Mainly through studies on irregular migration (the CISP project conducted in Morocco (Khachani, 2008), however, no information on seasonal activities).

The various sources of data on labor migration are listed and analyzed, based on the production of the main data sources recommended by the 20ᵉᵐᵉ ICLS guidelines.

In Morocco, the main institutional players involved in producing international and labor migration statistics are :

- Haut-Commissariat au Plan ;

- Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Africaine et des MRE/Direction des Affaires Consulaires et Sociales;

- Ministry of the Interior (Observatoire National de la Migration/Direction de la Migration et de la Surveillance des frontières) ;

- Direction Générale de la Sureté Nationale (DGSN) ;

- Ministère de l'Inclusion Economique, de la Petite Entreprise, de l'Emploi et des Compétences (MIEPEEC) / Direction de l'Emploi/Observatoire National du Marché du Travail/Département de la Formation Professionnelle ;

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[25] *"The report states that, of the 56,000 migrants who have submitted regularization applications, some are working in formal jobs, while others are engaged in survival activities in the informal sector. Some of these migrants are working in formal jobs, while others are engaged in survival activities in the informal sector* (page 18).

- Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences (ANAPEC) ;
- Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale (CNSS).

The implementation of a coherent, integrated and harmonized statistical information system on labor migration must integrate data from general population and housing censuses, surveys and under-produced (administrative) statistics.

The major challenge is to fill the gap in comprehensive statistical information on international labor migration, improve the quality of statistics on international labor migration (MIMO) to and from Morocco, and thus act on its impact on national development, in order to facilitate the effective integration of labor migration into national development strategies.

The Haut Commissariat au Plan, the main producer of statistical, demographic, economic and social information, has access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date statistical data on international labor migration, through general population and housing censuses, household surveys and, above all, the national employment survey. It also uses administrative data from other institutions to analyze and process data on labor flows into and out of Morocco.

As part of the drive to strengthen the governance of labor migration in Morocco in a variety of ways, the ILO is supporting cooperation projects that focus on the need for harmonization and national strategic thinking on the integration of MIMO into a coherent, integrated system.

As the oldest technical agency in the United Nations system, working to implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 8 and 10 and all the labor-related indicators, the ILO has always been committed to improving statistical data and information on labor migration[26] .

Several partnerships have been set up between the HCP and the ILO to set up and improve the Statistical Information System on Labor Migration[27] , These

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[26] The ILO's mission includes defending the interests of migrant workers employed abroad, and ensuring compliance with international standards and ILO recommendations (Conventions Nos. 97 and 143 and Recommendations Nos. 86 and 151),

[27] Technical workshop on February 24 and 25, 2022, "Towards an integrated and harmonized information system on international labor migration in Morocco".

include the AMEM Project[28] "Appui à la Migration Equitable pour le Maghreb" and the THAMM Project "Towards a holistic approach to labor migration governance and labor mobility in North Africa", implemented by the ILO in collaboration with other national and international institutions. The main aim of these projects is to improve the management of international labor migration and ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers in all categories (emigrants abroad, foreign immigrants residing in the country (regular migrants, irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers) and returning migrants.

Since 2003, the Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) has doubled its efforts to integrate migration-related dimensions into the entire process of producing and disseminating data and statistical information on migration in support of Morocco's migration policy. In November 2021, the launch of the activity to harmonize administrative statistics on international migration in general and labor migration in particular, in partnership with the International Labor Office (ILO) and the national institutions that make up the statistical information system on international Migration (data producers and users).

As part of the AMEM project, the ILO is supporting Morocco in setting up an integrated and harmonized information system on labor migration. The HCP is providing leadership for this project, which also involves all Moroccan institutions producing data on this theme

This will certainly reinforce the implementation of an integrated information system on international migration for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the country's migration policy.

The commitment of institutional players to sharing and exchanging data, through the mobilization and awareness-raising of all institutions involved in the collection, production and analysis of these statistics, remains crucial to the sustainability of an integrated and harmonized information system for international labor migration statistics (SIMIMO), through a series of joint actions to be carried out:

- Design and implementation of the Integrated and Harmonized System on International Labor Migration Statistics (centralized platform at HCP).
- Drawing up a strategy and translating it into a plan for operationalizing and implementing SIMIMO.
- Establishment of memorandums of understanding and partnerships between the HCP and various institutions.

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[28] In 2018, the AMEM project, as part of a regional initiative, launched an inventory of international labor migration statistics (SMIMO) in Morocco, finalized in 2019

- Establishment of a SIMIMO master plan (assessment of the institutional situation of producers and users, data availability and access, data preparation, configuration and loading, data management platform, etc.).
- Data modeling (flows, metadata, SDMX data exchange and sharing methods and mechanisms)
- Technological aspects (platform installation architecture, data transfer, etc.).

The conclusions and recommendations of these projects' inventories and reports highlight the importance and necessity of data harmonization and national strategic reflection on their integration into an information system.

The following findings are of particular note[29] :

- The many sources of information on MIMO, derived from RGPH, statistical surveys or administrative statistics, require coordination and dissemination mechanisms to make them available to decision-makers, public players and stakeholders interested in the migration issue (scientific research, media, social partners, economic players, associations, etc.);

- The HCP is committed to implementing international standards as quickly as possible in its production of MIMO-related statistics. However, considerable efforts are still required from other national producers of data, particularly administrative data, in terms of alignment with international statistical standards (harmonization of concepts and definitions, classifications, reference periods, comparability, etc.);

- In the HCP's recurring surveys, the migration dimension, while present, could still be strengthened and better harmonized with international standards;

- The majority of surveys carried out on MIMO (MEDHIMS) are ad hoc and therefore do not provide a relevant view of the chronological evolution of the MIMO phenomenon;

- A lot of effort needs to be put into sharing and disseminating MIMO data, and the aim is to strengthen coordination, collaboration and communication between producers and users of MIMO data in Morocco[30] .

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[29] Technical workshop: "Towards an integrated and harmonized information system on international labor migration in Morocco (SIMIMO)". Rabat, February 24-25, 2022

An action plan for the implementation of SIMIMO has been drawn up, outlining the main actions and concrete measures to be implemented in order to effectively improve SIMIMO and its implementation. It covers the following elements[31] (Actions/measures, Results, responsible players involved; Deadlines/timetables; Technical and logistical resources required; Monitoring indicators.) These measures and actions take into consideration the priorities and capacity-building needs of the players, the degree of simplicity for implementation and the timeframes required for their completion.

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[30]https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/-–ro-abidjan/-–ilo-algiers/documents/publication/wcms_818627.pdf p.16

[31] Plan d'action pour la mise en place di SIMIMO, Technical workshop: "Towards an integrated and harmonized information system on international labor migration in Morocco (SIMIMO)". Rabat, February 24-25, 2022

6- Towards a harmonized statistical information system on international and labor migration in Morocco

Key issues of information governance, mainly in the context of control and accessibility of information, protection of personal data and integrated, reliable information systems, have always emerged as compliance requirements for data publications. This presents major constraints for the implementation of an information governance strategy at national or even regional level.

These multiple components need to be present in the planning and operationalization of an information governance strategy, especially the contribution and role of institutional and organizational players in standardizing concepts and working methods, and standardizing rules and processes for collecting, analyzing and publishing work results.

The aim is to establish a strategy for the harmonization of several information functions, i.e. data processing, the use of new information technologies, etc., and to set up separate, independent administrative units acting at the level of the regional data ecosystem.

Work towards collective actions for the governance of information on migration involving all local players according to their areas of intervention and responsibilities, emphasizing the interactive and participative nature of interventions.

As part of the National Action Plan adopted for the implementation of the Integrated and Harmonized Information System on International Migration in Morocco, our country has launched since December 2021, a process for all national institutions producing migration data, in order to focus on the main lines of the action plan developed in consultation with the national and international actors involved, and to identify the modalities of its implementation and deployment at central and regional level.

In order TO MOVE TOWARDS THE harmonization of statistical data on migration and to guarantee data comparability and harmonization, it is essential to analyze the statistical information system on international and labor migration in terms of data collection and processing in compliance with predefined international standards:

1. Use the same basic source for fundamental data.

2. In the presence of similar basic sources, seek to have the same concepts and metadata, as well as the main objectives and motivations from the outset, then consult the legal texts, their applications and even current practices that fill in the gaps.

3. Strong correlation between statistical data and field data collection methods, i.e. Survey design, field data collection tools and mechanisms (forms, documents, computer applications, etc.), data processing and analysis methods, treatment of non-responses and missing values, etc.

4. Ensuring optimal coverage according to the basic objectives of the field operation, calculating the degree of error and the confidence interval for testing initial hypotheses, specifying observation and sampling errors and guaranteeing the representativeness of the sample, and consequently extrapolation to the entire population.

5. Credibility of responses (interview techniques and tools for collecting information in the field) and comparability of data by cross-checking statistics to provide indicators of the reliability of the statistical data collected.

6. Methods and techniques adopted during the statistical data processing phase, the choice of using new technologies in data processing and analysis: statistical software, tabulations, numerical analysis, time series, etc.

7. Publication of results, availability and accessibility of published data in various usable forms and made available to a wide audience, anonymized data, sectoral data, disaggregated data, exhaustive data...

7- Recommendations :

Morocco has always emphasized the importance of producing and analyzing reliable statistical and administrative data to steer the country's migration policy. The use of these data at national or sub-national level requires their integration into a harmonized information system on international migration and international labor migration.

In order to identify and pinpoint past and current trends in international migration, and in labor migration in particular, the competent authorities have made a considerable effort to prioritize these issues, by implementing actions and measures to consolidate the institutional environment (in terms of legislation), improve data quality (by setting up integrated, up-to-date databases) and encourage national and regional players to work together to strengthen the system.

The research carried out as part of the inventory and discussions with data-producing and data-using stakeholders led to the following observations:

1. The HCP will play a leading role in strengthening the information system on international migration, by designing, centralizing and implementing an integrated information system on MIMO (updated statistical and administrative database, and automated data exchange between the various national partners).

2. Establishing the essential attributes and characteristics of credibility for statistics produced on MIMO, including scientific rigor in methodology, accuracy, relevance and consistency according to international standards.

3. Plurality of data sources and expansion to other non-conventional data sources to fill statistical gaps: move to the use of new data collection techniques (Mega data or massive data, remote sensing and satellite imagery, biometric data, geographic information systems, social media, mobile telephony...).

4. Support for the computerization of the register of Moroccan workers placed abroad and the creation of a database on vocational training for migrants (Ministry of Employment);

5. Accessibility of the data produced and improvement of the communication and dissemination processes in order to guarantee better exploitation and enhancement of these data;

6. Strengthen coordination, collaboration and communication between producers and users of MIMO data to harmonize statistical data collection concepts and standards between different administrative bodies and institutions, local authorities and sectoral structures.

7. Reinvigorate the system by consolidating administrative data sources through field surveys to supplement administrative statistics at national, regional or local level.

8. Strengthening data use and dissemination mechanisms through the use of technology to broaden the impact of data and information, and ensure robustness in data production (Improving data accessibility and Generalizing HCP microdata dissemination to other ENE and EDR surveys for the case of labor migration) and MTIP dissemination of data extracted from the TAECHIR platform in the form of anonymized microdata).

9. Reinforcement of programs concerning existing data sources towards the production of more open and transparent disaggregated data at different territorial levels (national and intra-national).

10. Support for merging the two databases on foreign workers employed in Morocco and migrants with regularized projects registered with ANAPEC, as well as the two CNSS databases on migrants covered by the social security system and migrant pensioners;

11. Support for the development of the design and redesign of the MRE registration form and the simplification of registration procedures;

12. Carry out a statistical survey of skills in Morocco (extent, drain, reasons for emigration, cost, impact on development, etc.);

13. Develop a joint program to establish and make functional a SIMIMO between MCMREAM and the Observatoire national du marché du travail (OMT), if necessary with ILO support;

14. Set up a regular system for linking administrative information sources and statistical survey data;

15. Integrate the data collection dimensions of international labor migration into university study and research programs (training in statistics/demography, etc.);

16. Set up an information exchange platform between organizations producing and using information on international labor migration.

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Appendix:Sidebars

Box 1: Objectives of the Marrakech Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The 23 objectives to which the UN member countries have committed themselves are: **1. to collect and use** accurate, disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking; **2. to combat the negative factors** and structural problems that drive people to leave their countries of origin; **3. to provide timely and** accurate **information at** all stages of migration; **4**. to provide all migrants with legal proof of identity and proper documentation; 5. to ensure that all migrants have access to the right documents; and 6. to ensure that all migrants have access to the right documents. **Provide all migrants with legal proof of identity** and proper documentation; **5. Make regular migration channels more accessible** and flexible; **6. Promote** fair and ethical **recruitment practices** and ensure conditions for decent work; **7. Address** and reduce migration-related **vulnerabilities; 8. Save lives** and implement coordinated international action to recover missing migrants; **9.** Strengthen transnational action against migrant smuggling; **10. Prevent, combat and eliminate** human **trafficking in the** context of international migration; **11. Manage borders** in an integrated, secure and coordinated way; **12. Ensure the invariability and predictability of** migration procedures to ensure proper control, assessment and guidance; **13. Use administrative detention** of migrants only as a last resort, and seek alternative solutions; **14. Strengthen** consular **protection**, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle; **15. Ensure migrants' access to basic services**; **16. Empower migrants and societies to** promote full integration and social cohesion; **17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination** and encourage fact-based public debate to change perceptions of migration; **18. Invest in** skills **development** and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies; **19. Create the conditions for** migrants and diasporas to contribute fully to sustainable development in all countries; **20. Make remittances faster**, safer and cheaper, and promote the financial inclusion of migrants; **21.** Cooperate to facilitate the safe and dignified return and readmission of migrants, as well as their sustainable reintegration; **22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of** social security rights and acquired benefits; **23. Strengthen international cooperation** and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

What are the sharing issues at each level (national, subregional, regional, international)?

All participants were convinced of the need to set up mechanisms for sharing information on labor migration. This is a matter of the utmost urgency, as some information is lost with the passage of time and the mobility of the players involved. Cooperation between countries of origin and host countries is also considered essential to obtain reliable data. Ways and means need to be found to ensure coordination between stakeholders, and to secure their cooperation and trust.

What are the main obstacles?

The participants raised a series of obstacles, with a convergence of priorities on the level of political will and sensitivity to data sharing for various reasons, some of which are "cultural" or "*linked to mistrust*".

Secondly, fundamental issues are raised regarding the existence of human trafficking or indecent labor, as well as the informal nature of some migrants' activities and their "community" lifestyle, making it difficult to find out about their numbers or working conditions in order to advocate for labor migrants.

Lastly, on the technical front, obstacles have been identified in terms of differences in approach and definition between countries (lack of harmonization), as well as difficulties in collecting basic data insofar as information is lost from generation to generation.

What concrete ways can we share?

The participants welcomed the contribution of the AMEM project, which provided a favorable framework for initiating the sharing process. The participants were unanimous on three sets of ideas

The first is based on the need for a common framework, through an information-sharing agreement on labor migration between countries within the framework of the UMA could be concluded and specifically mentioned in the documents, with a common platform put online on the Internet. Experiences with regional platforms (ECOWAS, ASEAN). In order to do this, it is necessary to specify what shape this platform would take, and what its objectives would be. As a first step, we need to set up a working group to consider this question, define the scope and obtain a costing, with the support of the ILO.

Secondly, it is proposed to organize a series of meetings between the NSIs and other organizations producing data on labor migration in the countries of the sub-region. In this way, it would be possible to build up a database in each country, and ensure the continuity and sustainability of the sharing system.

Thirdly, the existence of employers' organizations in the sub-region, such as the Union des Entrepreneurs du Maghreb, is mentioned: the need to organize and plan a series of activities (broader than just statistics). For the time being, the Observatories attached to the Patronats (as in Morocco) can make an immediate contribution to furthering information sharing. Finally, it was also pointed out that it would be helpful to integrate surveys from various sources, including those carried out by the media, including social networks.

Extracts from the summary of the AMEM Workshop, Rabat, November 27-28, 2019