UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Regional Meeting of Experts

International
Migration and Africa:
Trends and Prospects for the 21st Century

Gaborone, Botswana, 2-5 June 1998

Final Report

Network on Migration Research in Africa (NOMRA)

MOST
Management of Social Transformations
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Introduction

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is a region of diverse forms of migration, refugee flows and internal displacement of persons.

The sub-regions of Africa are broadly characterized by distinctive forms of migration. Among these are skilled labor migration from western and central Africa to developed countries; labor migration from southern and some eastern African countries to the Republic of South Africa; irregular migration, especially of ethnic groups divided by international borders, and of nomads in eastern Africa; and flows of refugees and displaced persons resulting from political, economic and environmental conditions within the Great Lakes region and eastern Africa.

While this may give a broad picture, the current situation is more complex, for example the refugee problem affects most areas of Africa, and sub-regional economic integration through co-operative organizations may have the potential to influence the flow of migration still further. There is thus a need to analyze contemporary patterns of international migration and identify priority areas for policy-relevant research. It was with this objective in mind that the Network on Migration Research in Africa (NOMRA) was inaugurated at a UNESCO-MOST meeting of experts held in Gaborone, Botswana (June 1998), hosted by the Central Statistics Office of Gaborone. Some 20 population and migration specialists, representing national, international and non-governmental organizations in the region participated in the meeting.

This report summarises the discussions of migration dynamics in and from sub-Saharan Africa which took place during this meeting, looking at the links with poverty and survival strategies; the changing position of women migrants; return migration and reintegration; and the causes and nature of the problem of refugees and the internally displaced.
2 Opening Session

2.1 Opening Statements

The participants of the meeting were welcomed by Guest Charumbira, Director of the Central Statistics Office, Gaborone, who summarised the purposes of the meeting and remarked on its timeliness given that the issue of international migration is high on the agenda of key policy makers in the sub-region. He mentioned that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on free mobility might be signed towards the end of 1998, and pointed out that efforts were being made to harmonise the statistical systems in the sub-region by holding the 2001 census at around the same time in all countries, which should generate comparable data sets on international migration. Lloyd G. Mothusi, the Secretary General of the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Ministry of Education and the National Commission. A welcoming speech was also given by Professor Aderanti Adepoju, who commented on the appropriateness of Botswana as a venue for this important meeting.

Serim Timur, Head of UNESCO’s Population and Migration Unit, remarked that Africa is a region of all forms of migration, which is complex at the level of its determinants, dimension and consequences. The aim of a regional network in Africa is to enhance decision-making through appropriate research and information for policy-making. The UNESCO-MOST Networks on migration would seek to provide research and advisory services for the following major regions: Asia and the Pacific; Africa; Central and Eastern Europe; and Latin America and the Caribbean. Among other activities, the Networks would carry out sub-regional and national projects; provide high level research and advisory services; and assist in raising the standards of data collection. Three major outputs of the networks would be: capacity building, exchange of information and translation of findings into policy.

At a time when population movements in sub-Saharan Africa are becoming increasingly complex, this UNESCO-MOST meeting of experts is held to review the new trends and major issues in international migration in this region, and to discuss the establishment of a Network on Migration Research in Africa.
3 Summary of Presentations and Discussion

3.1 An Overview of International Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa at the Threshold of the 21st Century

Aderanti Adepoju

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is, historically, a region of intense migration and population movement prompted by demographic, economic, ecological and political factors. Other factors contributing to migration include the external debt burden of many African countries; deteriorating living conditions; environmental degradation; the effects of structural adjustment programmes; the widening international economic inequalities; and the lack of long-term peace and security.

International migration is generally viewed negatively, and there is a pressing need to (re)conceptualise it as making a significant positive contribution to social and economic transformation and change in SSA. Describing migration in this region, several sub-regional characteristics can be noted:

- Labour migration and irregular migration characterise western Africa.
- East Africa is noted for its refugee movements, especially in the Horn of Africa and, recently, in the Great Lakes region.
- Contract labour predominates in southern Africa and, with the new opportunities in this sub-region, the migration of skilled workers and professionals has become an important feature.

In addition, evidence is emerging throughout SSA of a growing flow of independent women migrants, including highly skilled professionals who have migrated to the countries of the North and the Middle East. Other emigrants to the North are a mixture of both skilled workers, students, and a pool of semi-skilled and unskilled workers.
Increasingly, political and economic crises are triggering migrant labour and refugee flows to destinations which have no historical, political or economic links with the countries of emigration. The current economic downturn has been linked to the structural adjustment programmes in place in many nations, and is associated with increasing unemployment, underemployment, inequality and poverty. Political problems include civil wars, ethnic and tribal conflicts, and political corruption. As these crises intensify, flows of refugees and irregular migrants are increasing in both size and impact.

3.1.1 Discussion

The following issues were highlighted:

- Since much migration occurs within SSA, the concept of a 'brain circulation' of highly skilled persons, is as relevant as the 'brain drain' from Africa.
- There is a need for a critical review of migration policies in the various countries, and these policies should consider the links between internal and international migration. Policies should also accommodate the concerns of both sending and receiving countries.
- The quality of data on international migration, especially on irregular migrants and refugees, requires substantial improvement.
- The links between population growth and migration need to be explored.
- The nature of survival strategies of migrants need to be analysed in the economic context of structural adjustment.
- There is a need for in-depth analysis of the emerging trends in autonomous migration of women.

3.2 Regional Integration, Labour Mobility, Irregular Labour Migrants and their Expulsion

Adcijumoke Afolayan

There are several sub-regional economic communities and co-operative agreements in the region. Perhaps the most well-known of these are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the South African Development Community (SADC) and the now-defunct East African Community. Such economic communities generally include major centres of attraction for immigrants,
for example Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire in ECOWAS, South Africa and Botswana in SADC, and labour mobility has generally increased following the establishment of regional economic integration bodies.

While the economies of these countries remain buoyant, immigrants are welcome but in the event of economic downturn, they often become convenient scapegoats. Since most states in SSA have a large pool of unemployed, unskilled labour, it is often this category of labour which is the first to seize the opportunity of free movement of labour to migrate to the more prosperous states in the communities. The problem is that the free flows of labour generated by economic agreements may not be of the category or quantity desired by the receiving state. One effect of the forthcoming protocol on the free mobility of labour has thus been a growing number of irregular migrants, and subsequently, a rise in the number of migrants expelled.

3.2.1 Discussion

The discussion centred on:

- the key role of the poles of attraction and states such as South Africa, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire in fostering regional labour mobility;
- the issue of the protocol on the free movement of persons, and of the rights of immigrants to residence and ownership of property in receiving countries;
- the notion that regional integration agreements tend to emphasise trade and commerce but are lukewarm on aspects of the free movement of persons;
- the need to reinforce economic integration with political integration;
- the need for countries to re-examine their national laws and statutes with the aim of minimising and ultimately eliminating conflicts between national legislation and regional protocols.

3.3 Return Migration and Social and Economic Aspects of Reintegration

Oladele Arowolo

The issue of return migration and reintegration is an important one, though there are many problems in researching return migration, not least the conceptual difficulties of defining migration, return migration and reintegration. Methodological problems in collecting information on return migrants also need
to be addressed. The reasons for return vary widely, but are intimately related to the objectives for migrating in the first instance. While some migrants return after achieving their objectives, others return out of a sense of frustration after failing to realise their goals at the point of destination. Some migrants find it most fulfilling to return home to retire after working away from home, while others prefer to return home to work after acquiring the necessary skills abroad.

Intervention strategies to assist return migrants include pre-return or on-arrival orientation to prepare for changes and difficulties likely to be encountered; provision of financial and investment advice for those hoping to start a business or acquire property; provision of information about qualifications and skills necessary for labour market entry; and language training for children born abroad and their preparation for entering the school system at 'home'. In spite of such support strategies, many return migrants still face acute problems of reintegration, ranging from joblessness to social maladjustment to psychological problems. The reintegration of returning refugees is even more challenging because their return, although often planned and orchestrated at the macro-scale, tends to be dramatic and chaotic for the individual refugees. Unlike voluntary migration, the development of frameworks for analysing the integration of refugees into their country of origin is recent and poorly developed.

To be successful, any programme of economic reintegration for returnees must be based on a careful analysis of their background characteristics such as: age, sex, education and or skills acquired, original reasons for leaving, host country or place of residence, type of work done while away, family characteristics, amount of money repatriated, access to property at home.

All of these determine an individual's needs for economic integration or reintegration. In addition, the absorptive capacity of the local economy must be balanced against the potential demand by returnees for employment. The social reintegration of returnees also calls for an understanding of their cultural environment both at their point of destination as migrants and at their home base, as adapting to life at the migrants' place of destination invariably calls for change in life styles and living conditions, and it may prove difficult for migrants and refugees to readjust to their original cultural context when they return.

3.3.1 Discussion

The discussion focused on:

- the problems of defining 'migration' in the African context; in view of the level of contact often maintained by migrants with their places of origin, the term 'circulation' was proposed as potentially more appropriate;
the issue of the reinsertion of returnees into the labour market;
the need for governments to set up a social security system for returning migrants, especially for those who had remitted money during their sojourn abroad;
mechanisms to resolve potential conflicts at both macro and micro levels between returnees and local communities, arising out of jealousy and arrogance on the part of the local population and the returnees respectively;
the diminished capacity of local communities and countries of origin to reabsorb the returnees;
the health problems of return migrants and the role of governments of both sending and receiving countries in this respect.

3.4 Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Sub-Saharan Africa: Causes, Dimensions and the Search for Enduring Solutions

John Oucho

Refugees and displaced persons are defined as those who have moved from their place of origin because of fear of persecution, whether such persecution is based on religious beliefs, ethnicity, race, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political affiliation. The movement of refugees has been very disruptive and unpredictable in Africa since independence, for instance Rwanda has been disrupted by civil war, South Africans and Zimbabweans fled their homes during the apartheid era, and Liberians and Southern Sudanese were forced to flee civil wars.

The issue of refugees and displaced persons can be analysed at three levels: causes, dimensions, and enduring solutions. The main causes of refugees can be identified as: a lack of protection; political persecution; the aftermath of revolutions; restrictions on free movement; environmental degradation; population pressure; landlessness; forced relocation and population redistribution programmes; economic crisis; and social tension.

The major source and destination areas for refugees and internally displaced persons in SSA can be seen to have shifted over time. Initially concentrated in the Horn of Africa, refugees were later highly visible in the Great Lakes region and in West Africa. A series of wars and conflicts also generated millions
of internally displaced persons within national borders in these areas. In the 1980s, about 50 per cent of the world's refugees were to be found in Africa, emanating from poor countries where civil wars, ethnic conflicts and internal strife had ravaged communities over time.

Three solutions were proposed by the Organization for African Unity (OAU): settlement, repatriation, and resettlement in third countries. Repatriation is generally the most favoured solution to the plight of refugees in Africa. In all cases the need for national reconciliation is imperative and the process can be facilitated by intergovernmental organisations such as the UNHCR, OAU, as well as religious and charitable organisations. Repatriated refugees and returning displaced persons have to be socially and economically empowered and effective NGOs need to be identified as partners in all endeavours to protect in particular women and children refugees. Programmes to monitor the level of violence also have to be instigated. The more long term and enduring solution to the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons can be found in good governance, respect for human rights, and the implementation of early warning systems to resolve conflicts before flows of refugees and internally displaced people are generated.

3.4.1 Discussion

The discussion centred on:

- distinguishing between internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and economic refugees and prioritising their needs;
- the problem of quantifying the number of refugees at any given time since regional organisations do not have the human resource capacity to undertake this task;
- the challenge for researchers and migration experts of providing adequate and policy relevant data on flows of migrants, refugees and the internally displaced;
- the plight of internally displaced persons, differentiating between those displaced through force and those moving for economic reasons.
3.5 **Recent Trends in Migration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Countries: Challenges and Prospects**

Dominic Milazi

Labour migration is a dominant feature of population movements in South Africa. During the apartheid era, much of this migration was co-ordinated by recruiting agencies in the peripheral states of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and even further afield in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Immigrants who have been in South Africa for more than five years have recently been granted permits to reside in the country permanently if they so wish. This decision was made by the ANC government in consultation with the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Union of Miners (NUM) and it was widely debated. Some argued that most immigrants in South Africa have a low standard of education, and hence their assimilation into a new South Africa could be problematic.

**3.5.1 Discussion**

The discussion centred on:

- the paucity of information on migrants from Mozambique, and the potential attraction of Angola for migrants and returnees;
- the rise of Botswana as an important country of immigration in the sub-region;
- the fact that there are large numbers of white immigrants in South Africa, including many doctors and engineers, mostly from Cuba and Europe.
4. Country Migration Reports

Each participant was asked to present at the meeting a profile of current migration patterns in their own country. Taken together, these reports gave a comprehensive overview of contemporary trends in international migration in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and through discussion, allowed the identification of several common priorities for further research and policy making.

The region of SSA comprises countries with greatly varying levels of economic development and political stability, yet most are significantly affected by international migration. The nature of each country's engagement with the migration process is largely determined by its political and economic conditions. For instance, at the macro-level Botswana is a prosperous and politically stable country, and has attracted large numbers of immigrants from other parts of the region, many of them highly skilled professionals who lack similar employment opportunities in their own countries. Côte d'Ivoire is also a country of immigration, and in 1993 immigrants, mainly from other west African nations, constituted 25 per cent of the total population, but in contrast to Botswana, most of these immigrants have little education and few skills. Gabon is a small country which is rich in natural resources but which lacks the labour power to exploit them, and so its government encourages contract and immigrant labour to supplement the domestic work force. Most immigrants to Gabon are from west Africa, but about a quarter come from other African countries and from Europe.

Many countries have significant flows of both immigration and emigration, demonstrating that the interaction between individual motivations for migration and political and economic circumstances can produce different outcomes. For instance, Gambia attracts migrants from Senegal (more than 60 per cent of immigrants in 1993 were Senegalese), and since 1997 has received increasing numbers of immigrants from Sierra Leone. At the same time growing numbers of Gambians are emigrating for educational purposes as there is no university in Gambia. South Africa is a pole of attraction
for immigrants from the rest of the SSA, and the South African government is currently concerned with the issue of irregular immigration, but at the same time it is worried by the loss through emigration of skilled labour power in critical economic sectors.

- Women are playing an increasingly active role as independent migrants, and also form a large part of refugee flows. The impact of women’s migration on issues such as gender relations, fertility, and family structure remain to be studied in depth.

- In many countries immigration has resulted in intensifying ethnic conflicts and a growth in xenophobia, and immigrants have been blamed for increasing population growth, a growth in ‘shanty towns’, unemployment, high crime rates and pressure on public resources such as sanitation and transport.

- In terms of emigration, much movement is to countries within the region; international migration of this form may thus also be termed regional circulation. About three quarters of emigrants from Côte d’Ivoire in 1993 went to West African countries, for example, with Europe and the US being the other significant destinations. Yet although regional circulation may mean labour resources are not lost from the region as a whole, individual countries within the region may still suffer from ‘brain drain’. Almost half of Lesotho’s population of economically active males were working in the mines of South Africa in 1996. This has led to a syndrome of dependence on South Africa for employment and on mine workers for remittances, with a simultaneous decline in agricultural self-sufficiency in Lesotho.

- Refugees have been and continue to be a pressing problem for many African countries. In the 1980s refugees from conflict-ridden countries such as Angola, Mozambique and Zaire fled to countries like Malawi and Zambia, and the 1990s have seen new waves of refugees fleeing conflicts in Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Zaire. Some repatriation programmes have occurred, for instance Mozambican refugees in Malawi were repatriated from 1993 onwards. However this is a pressing problem and the issues of how to avoid situations which produce refugees, how to protect refugees, and if, when and how they should return are ones which demand international attention.
5. Discussion on the Establishment of a Network on Migration Research in Africa

5.1 Regional Network (NOMRA)

This session of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion of issues relating to the establishment of a research network for the study of migration in Africa. Serim Timur defined the second key objective of the meeting as debating the modalities for setting up such a network, its structure and its activities. She identified the general objectives of such a network as being:

- to carry out research projects on various aspects of migration and ethno-cultural diversity;
- to develop research capacities in the region and pursue theoretical and methodological advances in migration research through international seminars and in-service training courses for researchers;
- to provide high-level research and advisory services for policy-makers at the national and international levels;
- to assist in raising the quality of international migration data collection and analysis.

Following a general debate, the proposal to establish a regional research network was approved, and the name Network on Migration Research in Africa (NOMRA) was unanimously agreed.

The rationale, modality and tentative organisational structure of the network were discussed. Four sub-regional focal points were set up, namely in East, West, Central and Southern Africa. Professor Aderanti Adepoju (Nigeria) was nominated and unanimously endorsed as the co-ordinator of NOMRA. Six major themes around which to focus research were identified.

5.2 NOMRA Research Themes

1. Regional integration and intra-regional mobility of labour in Africa: problems and prospects

The extent to which regional integration bodies in Africa has promoted labour mobility needs to be quantified. Protocols on inter-regional mobility of labour have tended to be problematic because movements have been directed only to a
limited number of countries - Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria in West Africa, South Africa and Botswana in Southern Africa; Gabon in Central Africa and Kenya in East Africa. Areas of operational failure of protocols - such as limited absorptive capacity of receiving countries, level of movement of unskilled labour, social factors associated with cross-border movements - need to be studied, and findings backed up with statistical information where available. Case studies of selected regional integration bodies would be helpful.

2. Migration of highly skilled professionals: magnitude, mechanisms and consequences

Many African countries are fast losing their much-needed professionals to countries within and beyond the continent. Even though this migration of professionals involves a small proportion of the total population, it has an impact disproportionate to its size on the level of development of the countries. As a result, there is an urgent need to examine its magnitude, causes, dynamics and consequences. The mechanisms through which highly skilled persons migrate should be investigated in more detail, including the social networks in host countries. The consequences of migration should be seen in light of the impact on attitudes and behaviour of migrants, of those remaining in the countries of emigration, and on the source region as a whole.

In order to assess these phenomena, a conceptual framework should be designed that would show ways of balancing the equation for losses and gains in the process. Assessing the role of governments in arresting the possible negative effects on the source region would require collaboration with those of receiving countries that gain from the process.

3. Migration and gender: determinants, mechanisms and consequences of contemporary female migration in Africa, and changing status of women migrants

Projects will identify the “push and pull” factors of autonomous migration of women in recent times. What are their characteristics and how different are their movements from those of men? What are their survival strategies and what are the socio-economic and cultural consequences of their mobility?

4. Return migration: magnitude, dynamics, socio-economic impact and socio-cultural integration in countries of origin

The focus of this project will be to address economic and financial aspects of
infrastructural facilities in migrants' home countries, including a socio-demographic profile, skills profile, and prospects and problems of economic reintegration. Cross-country comparisons will be made in terms of length-of-stay in the last country; occupational stratification; socio-demographic profile; types of reintegration projects anticipated; and expected outcomes of reintegration efforts.

5.  **Refugees and internally displaced persons in the era of democratization**

African countries have been experiencing an increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons as a result of various catastrophes including wars and ethnic conflicts. Therefore, there is a need to explore the impact of refugees on the economies of the receiving countries/areas. The role and policies of Governments and multi-national NGOs in handling refugees/IDPs will also be investigated. With respect to the IDPs, it is necessary to analyse the magnitude of the problem, unearth determinants of internal displacement, characteristics of IDPs and the consequences for families, communities and countries.

6.  **Structural Adjustment Programmes and poverty: migration as a survival strategy in Africa**

Review the performance of African economies, SAPs – elements and conditionalties: causes and dimensions of poverty; impact of SAPs on education, employment and health sectors; SAPs and pauperization of the working class; responses - migration as a coping mechanism, changing directions and flows of migration (internal and international), and transition from labour importing to labour exporting countries. Specific country case studies will be undertaken.

**Follow-up**

A Working Group Meeting will be held in December 1999, possibly in Dakar, Senegal to finalise draft project proposals and prepare the Workplan of NOMRA, (which will in principle include publication of the papers of the Gaborone meeting, establishing a NOMRA website and a newsletter), and to deliberate on the funding of NOMRA's activities.

It is envisaged that a follow-up Symposium will be organised in the year 2000 to bring together policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders in the area of international migration in the region, to discuss the policy implications of research findings, and related activities of NOMRA.
It gives me great pleasure to be here today on behalf of UNESCO. We are most grateful to Mr Guest Charumbira, Director of the Central Statistics Office, and to Mr Lloyd G. Mothusi, the Secretary General of the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO, for kindly agreeing to our holding this meeting in Gaborone. Allow me to take this opportunity also to thank Professor Aderanti Adepoju for his dynamic and most efficient scientific co-ordination.

Africa is historically a region of all forms of migration. At a time when population movements in sub-Saharan Africa are becoming increasingly complex, this regional meeting is both timely and important, and will lead to significant follow-up activities at the national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

Recently, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 52/189 concerning international migration and development, called upon all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for inter-regional, regional and sub-regional processes and activities on international migration and development, taking into account various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to international migration and development.
It is opportune that this meeting is being held just before the UN Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development which will take place in the Hague, 29 June - 2 July, 1998, for in that way the creation of a network on migration research in Africa can be announced.

UNESCO has a long-standing interest in the subject of international migration which goes back to the time of its creation in the aftermath of World War II and to the post-war reconstruction period of the 1950s. In the last decade, the Organization has carried out seminal work on the causes and consequences of international migration, as well as on the impact of migration on both sending and receiving countries. The two-volume UNESCO publication International Migration Today, published in 1988, takes stock of migratory movements as they affect the different major regions of the world, focusing on intra- and inter-regional flows over time in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Latin America, the Caribbean, Western Europe and North America.

The international labour market, economy, political and socio-cultural situation have changed significantly since the 1980s. Consequently, it is pertinent for researchers to update information obtained earlier and to investigate further and disseminate findings on international migration in the various regions.

The present meeting is organised as part of the activities of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) of UNESCO's Sector of Social and Human Sciences. This programme was established in 1994, to promote policy-relevant research on social transformations and issues of global importance. MOST basically creates a framework to contribute to the promotion of high quality, policy-relevant international social science knowledge, and to promote national decision-making through improved use of social knowledge.

New activities initiated in the complex area of the relations between research and policy-making include international migration, population issues, social exclusion and poverty, and urban development and governance.

As international mobility is a key factor in current social transformations throughout the world, UNESCO is undertaking important regional migration networking activities. These Networks will constitute "centres of expertise" to provide research and advisory services for policy makers on the role of migration and ethno-cultural diversity, in a large number of countries in major regions.

The first of these networks is the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) which was established in 1995 with the collaboration of experts and scholars from 11 countries of the region to produce research relevant to public policy and to advance education in migration and ethnicity issues.

Preparations are under way for the establishment of two further migration research networks: in Central and Eastern Europe (a regional meeting...
is to be held in Moscow, the Russian Federation in September 1998) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (a regional meeting is being organised in Santiago, Chile, to take place in October 1998).

Other UNESCO activities in this field include the establishment at universities of UNESCO Chairs on Migration and various educational programmes in support of refugees.

Migration and gender relations, the specific social, cultural, educational and occupational conditions affecting women migrants have been - and continue to be - among UNESCO's major concerns.

The objectives of the present regional meeting are:

- to review the recent trends and major issues in international migration in Africa through state-of-the-art papers and country migration profiles;
- to discuss the modalities of setting-up a network on migration research in Africa to critically examine emerging migratory trends and prospects in the region and provide advisory services based on research results.

The general objectives of the Network will be to:

- carry out research projects on various aspects of migration and ethno-cultural diversity;
- develop research capacities in the region and enhance knowledge on migration through international seminars and training courses;
- provide high-level research and advisory services for policy-makers at the national and international levels, strengthening the link between research and public policy;
- assist in raising the quality of international migration studies and data collection.

It is expected that the existence of the Network will itself be a major factor in building capacities. Exchanges through the Internet, newsletters, directories of migration researchers, future workshops and setting-up of sub-regional project development teams on various priority topics will all contribute to this objective.

Let me conclude by reiterating the importance that UNESCO attaches to studies and research, to inform policies on migration. The development of a regional migration studies network will contribute to building research capacities and exchange of information in Africa as well as to facilitate the translation of findings into policy.

I wish you all a most productive deliberation.
UNESCO-MOST
Regional Meeting of Experts
International Migration in Africa
at the Threshold of the 21st Century
Gaborone, Botswana, 2 – 5 June 1998

Programme

2 June 1998

a. m. Welcome addresses
   Guest CHAURUMBIRA, Director, Central Statistical Office,
   Botswana
   Lloyd G. MOTHUSI, Secretary General, Botswana National
   Commission for UNESCO

   Introductory remarks: objectives of the meeting
   Serim TIMUR, Chief, Population and Migration Unit, UNESCO,
   Paris

   An overview of emigration dynamics in and from sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
   Aderanti ADEPOJU, Scientific Co-ordinator

p. m. Regional integration, labor mobility, irregular migrants and their expulsion
   Adejumoke AFOLAYAN (Nigeria)

   Return migration and economic and social aspects of reintegration
   Oladele AROWOLO (Namibia)
3 June 1998

a. m. Refugees and internally displaced persons in SSA: causes, dimensions and the search for enduring solutions
John OUCHO (Botswana)

Recent trends in migration in the South African Development Community (SADC) countries: challenges and prospects
Dominic MILAZI (South Africa)

p. m. Country migration profile presentations
Botswana, Ghana, Gambia, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon

4 June 1998

a. m. Country migration profile presentations (continued)
Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia

p. m. Discussion on the establishment of a network on migration research in Africa

5 June 1998

a. m. Presentation of the report of the meeting
Closing remarks
Appendix II

UNESCO-MOST
Regional Meeting of Experts
International Migration in Africa
at the Threshold of the 21st Century

Gaborone, Botswana. 2 – 5 June 1998

List of participants

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