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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations

N° prev. doc.:	WK 9041/2022 INIT
Subject:	Action File - Niger - Finalisation of the Implementation report

Delegations will find attached the "Action File -Niger - Implementation report" - the version showing previous and new wording in track changes.

Operational Coordination Mechanism for the External Dimension of Migration

MOCADEM

Action file

NIGER – IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

~~27 June-September~~ 2022

Specific objectives

- Continue support to Niger to establish and implement a comprehensive migration policy, notably to:
 - Ensure European support for the reception of IDPs, asylum seekers and refugees from Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso or evacuated from Libya.
 - Ensure early access to asylum procedures for asylum seekers
 - Strengthen border management capacities on a permanent basis, and combat smuggling networks, while assessing, if conditions allow, the possibilities for tripartite cooperation with the Libyan and Algerian authorities.

Output: A first report will be prepared on the progress achieved by the end of March.

Actions

Political and technical outreach

Action 1: Prepare regarding migration aspects, the EU's political contacts with Niger (Commissioner Johansson's visit on 14-15 February 2022; bilateral meetings in the margins of the EU-AU Summit on 17 and 18 February). Determine the possibility of future joint political contacts at the level of Ministers of the Member States.

- **Lead actors :**
 - Commission, EEAS and Member States
- **Timeframe :**
 - **S1 2022:** Follow up the February mission with potential political or high-level meetings of the Commission/EEAS and Member States

Completed

→ Political contacts occurred in February around the EU-AU Summit

→ EU Ambassador meeting with Interior Minister June 2022

→ Commission and Frontex held a mission, 11-12 April during which Niger accepted the concept of an anti-smuggling operational partnership (ASOP)

Ongoing

→ Visit of Nigerien Interior Minister ~~on 15 July foreseen in July (tbc)~~ in Brussels to ~~endorse launch~~ ASOP. ~~Frontex and EUCAP Sahel Niger to sign the Working Arrangement on this occasion.~~

→ Member States ...

Action 2: Continue the migration dialogue between the EU and Niger, also taking into account Niger's own structures such as "Cadre de concertation migration", and articulate it with the migration activities put in place in the framework of the Central and Western Mediterranean/Atlantic TEIs concerning Niger, in support of its 2020-2035 migration action plan.

- **Lead actors :**
 - o Member States, Commission, EEAS: strengthening the existing dialogue on migration
- **Timeframe :**
 - o **S1 2022:** At the February political meetings and the Summit: agree on the principle and on a date with Niger for the migration dialogue.

Pending

→ EU Delegation having contacts with Niger authorities, with a view to setting the date of the next Cadre de concertation sur la migration (possibly in July, tbc).

→ Member States ...

Action 3: Reactivate the AU-EU-UN Trilateral Task Force on the situation of refugee migrants in Libya, following the EU-AU Summit, through a meeting of senior officials, to facilitate the resumption of evacuations, and to identify areas of further support for Niger, notably in the framework of the EUIOM Protection and Reintegration Initiative.

- **Lead actors :**
 - o Commission, EEAS
- **Timeframe :**
 - o **S1 2022:** Organisation of a meeting of senior officials of the Tripartite Task Force once conditions allow

Pending

→ Meetings of the Tripartite Task only at technical level. Political involvement to be reconfirmed. IOM to submit propositions to revitalise the structure.

Support measures for the protection of refugees and IDPs

Action 4: Provide financial support to UNHCR's Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger (ETM Niger), as well as in Rwanda, through NDICI programming (€56M support for centres in Niger and Rwanda validated in NDICI committee) and resettlement offers (funded by FAMI).

- **Lead actors:**
 - o Commission: financial support for ETMs and resettlements
 - o Member States (resettlements):
 - [REDACTED]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- **Timeframe :**

- **Q1 2022:** Inform on the status of Member States' resettlement offers specifically for Niger, notably on the basis of pledges made in October 2021.

Ongoing

→ **Member States to mention resettlements carried out on the basis of the pledge**

→ **Prolongation of financing for ETM validated; contracting with UNHCR pending**

Action 5: Support the Nigerien authorities in the management of refugees and IDPs through the NDICI (e.g. programme in the Tillabéri regions, €50M) and the "North Africa" Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP NA – lead by IT), and the EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger (supported by AT, BE, CZ, DK, IT, NL, DE). Implement an EUAA-Niger pilot project on capacity building on asylum and reception, proposed by the European Asylum Agency (EUAA), with expert support from Member States. Support to enhance access to asylum procedures.

- **Lead actors:**

- Commission: Financial support from NDICI and AMIF
- European Asylum Agency: EUAA-Niger pilot project, EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger
- Member States: Implementation of the RDPP NA, and bilateral projects including :
- FR: OFPRA/Direction Générale de l'état-civil, des migrations et des réfugiés partnership (December 2021) on asylum capacity building in Niger (continuation of previous projects).

- **Timeframe:**

- **End of March/April 2022:** start of the EUAA-Niger pilot project ('EUAA-NE Pilot Roadmap'), after consultation and a formal exchange of letters, according to the protocol to be agreed with the Nigerien authorities in February.
- **S1 2022:** continuation of RDPP activities (country mission planned in Europe in 2022) and MS bilateral projects
- **Ongoing until November 2023:** the EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger.

Completed

→ **Financial agreement for the programme "Nexus 3 frontières" (EUR 50 million) in the Tillabéri region signed in May 2022**

Pending

→ Start of the EUAA-Niger pilot project still pending, discussions ongoing to ensure synergies with other EU funded support.

Support measures in the field of border management and fight against irregular migration

Action 6: Determine the possibilities of setting up an anti-smuggling operational partnership (ASOP), drawing on the police and judicial cooperation actions already under way (joint investigation team, support for the Compagnies Mobiles de Contrôle des Frontières), in conjunction with the CSDP mission EUCAP Sahel Niger and the activities by Frontex.

- **Lead actors :**

- Commission: set up an ASOP, in conjunction with the Member States active in Niger (DE, ES, FR, NL, IT, BE) and international partners (IOM) and share the relevant information with Europol via SIENA once up and running.

- **Timeframe :**

- **Q1 2022:** Identify the axes for structuring and strengthening police cooperation in the framework of the ASOP, and notably by assessing the need for revising the mandate of the Compagnies Mobiles de Contrôle des Frontières.
- **S1 2022:** High-level demarches to the Nigerien authorities to raise awareness and identify their needs and expectations with a view to setting up the ASOP.

Completed

→ Different elements of an anti-smuggling operational partnership (ASOP) have been agreed during and after technical mission in April: DST-Frontex working arrangement; Working arrangement EUCAP Sahel Niger-Frontex; Joint Investigation teams project (JIT Niger-France-Spain).

Ongoing

→ The new phase of the JIT -project was discussed with EU MS at the Coordination Group on Migration on 17 June 2022. This project is to be funded under the Flexibility Mechanism - action document to be discussed at the Global Europe Committee on 20 July. After the Commission adopts the Flexibility Mechanism, JIT contract ~~should~~ ~~is~~ to be signed before the end of 2022.

Action 7: Strengthen Frontex' action in Niger, including via its liaison officer, by finalising working arrangements with the CSDP missions EUCAP-Sahel Niger and EUBAM Libya, in order to facilitate border control actions in the south of Libya (supported by Italy with IOM) and any cooperative action that could allow for an intensification of patrols along the borders with Algeria and Libya. In the context of the ILO network, further consolidate a regular framework for the exchange of information between the various European actors involved in these initiatives and the Frontex liaison officer.

- **Lead actors:**

- Frontex, Commission, EEAS: finalisation of working arrangements
- Frontex, Commission, Member States, EEAS: set up regular information exchange consultations between the liaison officers of the Member States, the Frontex liaison officer and Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), on actions to combat migrant smuggling and border management.
- **Timeframe:**
 - **S1 2022:** Finalisation of Frontex/CSDP working arrangements
 - **Q1 2022:** Establishment of an enhanced European consultation framework between liaison officer on migrant smuggling and border management at local level.

Ongoing

→ **The Working Arrangement between Frontex and the European Union Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP) Sahel Niger to be signed during the visit of the Minister of Interior of Niger to Brussels on 15 July.**

→ [REDACTED]

→ **New European migration liaison officer (EMLO) has been deployed in April 2022 and is establishing coordination with other LO.**

Socio-economic support measures

Action 8: Seek the development of an economic basis to creating employment in the regions of Maradi, Niamey, Agadez and Zinder, and of training capacities (e.g. ongoing €50M project under NDICI), through EU budget and national funding coordinated under the TEIs.

- **Lead actors:**
 - Commission: see Action Plan
 - Member States: update Annex II of the Action Plan
- **Timeframe:**

By March 2022: Update Annex II of the Action Plan

Pending

→ **Member States to update Annex II of Niger Action Plan**

Completed

→ **Financial agreement for programme "Education-Formation-Emploi" (EUR 50 million, in the regions of Maradi, Niamey and Agadez) has been signed in May 2022.**