



# **BUILDING POLICY AND SYSTEMS IN SUPPORT OF FREE MOVEMENT ACROSS SECURE BORDERS**

**BY**

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# Important Issues

- Understanding the term Border
- What are the policies required to support a free movement that will not affect national security & will provide all the envisaged socio-economic benefits.
- The balance between freedom & Security
- With many vendors around, which system can best support our dream



# Our Leaders Have Spoken!

- At regional and continental level, our leaders have shown commitment by signing and ratifying treaties for our citizens to move free without visa.
- ECOWAS & AU
- It is left for administrators to develop good policies and build systems
- We must mitigate the threat to free movement



# Borders!\*

- In Africa borders are artificial but remained a bitter and lasting legacy left behind by colonial rule.
- How can we implement free movement across our borders without compromising security?
- What are the policies and systems we can put in place that the public will see free movement in Africa as a benefit rather than a threat?
- Are there lessons we can learn from other continents – Schengen Free Area?



## Free Movement, to which extent?

- Article 13(2) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”.
- This right to emigrate is however not complemented by an internationally recognized right to immigrate.
- Consequently, the decision of whether a person is allowed to enter another/his country is still in the discretion of sovereign Nation States.



## Free Movement, to which extent? Contd.

- A dominant feature in regional arrangements is the framing of Free Movement Agreements around potential socio-economic gains for citizens or a perceived shared responsibility.
- ECOWAS - 90, residency & establishment
- AU – will this be like ECOWAS?
- What about 3<sup>rd</sup> country nationals?
- Our ECOWAS leaders directed the implementation of the Schengen type of visa



## **POLICY: Learning From The SHENGEN System**

- Free Movement in the Region & the Continent most learn from Schengen system.
- The Schengen Information System
- No physical internal borders.
- Establishment of FRONTEX
- Integrated Border Management Systems
  - Biometric
- Common Judicial System
- Cooperation among Member States
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Country nationals



## **SYSTEM: Only Golden Advise**

- No special system to be recommended
- Policy for system/equipment must not be vendor or donor driven.
- Governments cannot fund borders 100% BUT must provide the leadership – a safe border is a safe nation.
- Another alternative is PPP, BUT –
  1. Technology transfer
  2. Equity in sharing formula
  3. Transference
  4. Termination period





# Free Movement is at Risk!

- Terrorism
- Protectionism
- Nationalism
- Politic – Election
- BUT – we must see the bigger picture
- Nigeria – growing sentiment against migrants due to security concern.
- If we think global and act local we will welcome good migrants and refugees – we have many abroad.



## Other CHALLENGES

- Attention of African governments is more on Airports at the expense of Land borders.
- Vendors driving policies
- Attention on equipment without building human capacity.
- Lack of integrating local community in border strategy – e.g. community border relation and use of available means of patrol and communication.
- Lack of infrastructure – road, rail, petrol stations etc along international route.
- Law enforcement corruption

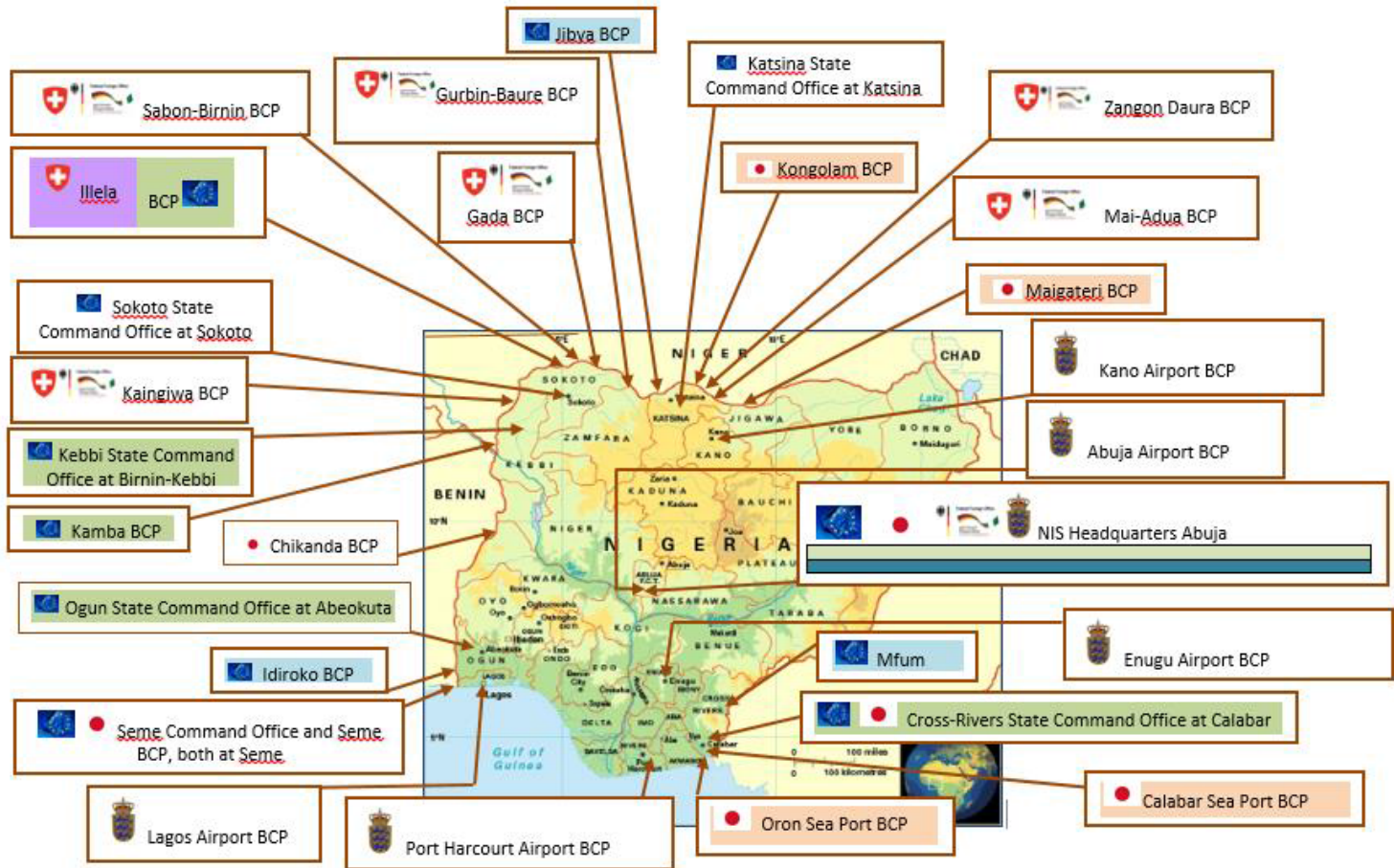


## Sharing Nigerian Experience

- Control Before Entry – Biometric Visa
- Control On Entry, MIDAS – Implemented by IOM with the support of Swiss, Japan & Danish governments
- Community Border Patrol.
- Training of Border Patrol Commanders, Officers and Drivers.
- Deployment of over 200 Patrol Vehicles
- Control After Entry – Migrant Registration
- Regional approach – June 2017 ECOWAS Heads of Immigration Meeting, Tuga Regional Institution & ongoing ECOWAS Conference on Transhumance.
- Integrated Boarder System – MIDAS being linked to i24/7, local Suspect Index etc.



# MIGRATION INFORMATION AND DATA ANALYSIS (MIDAS)





# The Way Forward

- Member States of ECOWAS or AU must develop joint facilities to make Free Movement secure and useful – common legal system, information, penalties for individuals and states etc.
- Build efficient system rather than machines.
- Integrated Border System connected to API, INTERPOL, Suspect Index, Open Sources Analysis system etc.
- Establishment of Monitoring & Donor Coordination Teams at both ECOWAS & AU
- Involvement of Civil Society in educating populace in the benefit of Free Movement to reduce sentiment against migrants.
- UN agencies and international organization must provide guideline to states.



**Thank you for your kind  
attention and may God Bless.**

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