1. **Introduction**

1.1 Following two well-attended and well received editions of the Africa Resilience Forum (ARF) in 2017 and 2018, the African Development Bank will be hosting the third annual edition of the Forum in March 2019. The Forum provides a platform for experience-sharing based on the Bank’s strategy for *Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2014-2019)*, which is inspired by the Bank’s *Ten Year Strategy (2013-2022)*. A critical element is effective partnerships. In this context, and similar to the previous Forums, the 2019 event will be organized in partnership with key regional and international institutions and organizations that have expressed an interest in being part of the ARF.

1.2 The previous two editions of the Forum brought together participants from regional partners, international organizations, the private sector, academia, civil society and the media, to identify ways of supporting African countries to effectively transition from fragility to resilience through innovative solutions, knowledge-sharing, partnerships and mixed and flexible financing. While developing new partnerships, the ARF 2019 will strengthen existing ones to address the current major regional and global dimension of fragility which is embodied in the migration crisis.

1.3 The inaugural Forum in 2017 focused on “Delivering the High 5s in a Resilient Africa,” while the second Forum held in 2018, built on the outcomes of preceding edition but centred on “Building resilience at the bottom-of-the-pyramid.” The third Africa Resilience Forum in March 2019 will build on some of the recommendations from the first two editions of the Forum while focusing on the important challenges around “Fragility, Migration and Resilience.” This Forum intends to share knowledge on new approaches to delivering development support in fragile environments, providing a platform for showcasing innovative policy solutions and technologies for delivering essential services to needy communities, which will in turn help build resilience and reduce migration.

1.4 The objectives of the ARF 2019 are:

- Supporting the building of a regional framework on migration for action based on key policy recommendations at various levels;
- Understanding the nexus between fragility, migration and building effective and resilient responses through the deployment of innovative solutions;
- Taking stock of achievements in the resilience agenda, identifying gaps and exchanging views on good practice, learning lessons in response to the migration crisis and encourage innovative solutions;
• Mobilizing capacities, knowledge and financial resources for more resilience investments on the continent;
• Appropriately identifying resilience factors and building on them for transformative purposes necessary for effective and sustainable development.

2. **Context**

2.1 The world is probably witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record and Africa is at the heart of this global manifestation of fragility. An unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from their homes. Amongst them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are aged 18 or under.¹ Young people, in particular, comprise the majority of the most affected among the African populations. Unless lasting solutions are developed, mass migration could become a permanent challenge of the 21st century world order.

2.2 While differences in economic development and availability of job opportunities influence the movement of people seeking better and more productive jobs, there are about 65 million people – or 1% of the world’s population – who are forced to flee their places of origin due to conflict and persecution.² This latter group of people has unique vulnerabilities. Global challenges such as climate change, a slowing economy, and food security are also contributing to this complex picture. The scale of migration draws its roots from conflicts, violence, poverty, and unemployment that characterize most fragile situations in the world.

2.3 Political and economic fragility generate repeated cycles of instability and deepen poverty. The spillover effects of conflict impact regional trade and domestic business confidence, and drive hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and across international borders for prolonged periods. In the context of displaced peoples and refugees, their exile amounts to a significant loss of human capital both to their own countries and to their countries of exile, where they struggle to realize their full potential. The resulting costs to national governments and international donors are significant.

2.4 The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice and institutions) and SDG 11 (reduced inequality) encapsulates the new risk-based multi-dimensional approach to fragility. The resources needed to tackle and respond to fragility continue to increase. The needs of countries in fragile situations are huge and far outstrip official development assistance (ODA) resources. As a result, there’s a growing need to explore alternative sources, such as the private sector.

2.5 Fragility transcends national borders with sub-regional and sub-national dimensions. Countries faced with conflict and fragility can drag their neighbours down through violence, refugee flows, and damage to infrastructure. Their territories can become breeding grounds for far-reaching networks of violent radicals, trafficking, and other organized crime. In this context, drug trafficking and human smuggling pose significant challenges, with illicit markets that link African countries to other continents. Many root causes, dynamics, drivers, and

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² ibid
manifestations of fragility are conceived in a regional framework. To address fragility and build resilience, the African Development Bank has placed the spotlight on regional spillovers.

2.6 Institutions that prevent conflicts and prepare for disasters could save many lives and significantly lessen the prospects of an exodus. However, such initiatives remain underfunded. Addressing root causes of displacement and the drivers of migration, building stable society and creating economic opportunity for communities that might otherwise see no future for their children at home, are therefore essential development prerogatives.

3. Objective and Focus of ARF 2019

3.1 The increasing realization that effective partnership among the various actors in the context of the security-humanitarian-development nexus requires new approaches to ensuring sustainable results makes the Africa Resilience Forum a perfect basis for mapping out collaborative strategies. Thus, the main objective of this third ARF is to discuss the tremendous opportunities that migration could offer as a driver of development; a source of sharing of social values, as well as its impact on the economies of countries of departure, transit and destination; and identifying the best initiatives to address fragility and building resilience through appropriate responses to migration challenges.

3.2 While the movement of people, for whatever reason, is not a new phenomenon, it continues to cause disruption to people’s lives and livelihoods. It is also stretching the capacities of receiving and transit countries to manage the flows, creating new challenges, such as a rise in nationalistic sentiments. Responding to both the old and new challenges of the movement of people is therefore a critical element in mitigating their vulnerabilities.

3.4 The overriding objective of the 2019 Africa Resilience Forum is to build on the recommendations from previous editions of the Forum. These recommendations include: a) forging stronger partnerships as the foundation for a more effective delivery in insecure environments by leveraging the various partners’ comparative advantages; b) paying closer attention to the increasingly complex fragility challenges in the context of the security-humanitarian-development nexus in view of the recent large-scale forced human displacements; and, c) recognizing the interrelationship between multiple dimensions of fragility in line with the principles of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

4. Structure of the Forum

4.1 The third Africa Resilience Forum will therefore be anchored on four main themes at the heart of the migration challenge: i) migration and security; ii) youth and job creation; iii) women and gender issues; and iv) climate change and environmental impact. The Forum will also offer the opportunity to examine resilience responses available among the Bank’s partners.

4.2 Bearing these themes in mind, the Forum would be organised around plenary sessions and parallel breakout groups, which will discuss in detail issues highlighted in the plenary
sessions. The plenary sessions will focus on issues grouped under the broad headings: (a) fragility; (b) migration; (c) resilience; and (d) tools and knowledge.

5. **Fragility**

5.1 Over the years, the nature and manifestation of fragility has been in flux, changing rapidly and becoming increasingly complex. Its evolution has also been very dramatic. Though its causes have essentially remained the same, new pressures have emerged in recent times, especially from the security-humanitarian-development standpoint. The effects of climate change – ranging from floods, droughts, famine to desertification – have also contributed to the fragility crisis in recent years. These drivers of fragility have led to displacement, high unemployment, conflict, and even death.

5.2 Underlying fragility pressures are patterns of exclusion and poverty, unemployment, high migration, rapid urbanization, climate change and poor management of natural resources. Global challenges, apart from environmental issues, such as a slowing economy and food insecurity are also contributing to this complex picture.

5.4 In fragile and crisis situations, migration drivers and decision-making are shaped by constantly evolving social, economic, political, security and environmental factors that define the risks and opportunities for potential migrants, including displaced persons.

5.5 Underlying the fragility pressures are patterns of exclusion and poverty, unemployment, high migration, rapid urbanization, climate change and poor management of natural resources. Thus, ensuring the rule of law and respect for human rights in fragile contexts are important for achieving just and peaceful societies that are free from violent extremism and thereby prevent migration, internal displacements and refugees.

5.6 Africa’s youth population is rapidly growing and will expectedly double to over 830 million by 2050. This youth bulge could lead to significant economic opportunities, yet persistent unemployment and underemployment constitute central challenges to development in terms of insecurity and instability. Africa has the world’s youngest population; the youth make up 60% of Africa’s population and the share of the global working-age population has peaked at 66% and is declining, except for Africa. In fragile situations, unemployment may pose an even greater risk, as unstable situations and limited social safety nets contribute to increased fragility. How can governments promote policies which properly harness the great potential of the youth; and to support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth across fragile situations on the continent?

5.7 The cost of fragility is mainly borne by the people living in fragile situations or being displaced as a consequence of fragility. This in turn creates the conditions for a fragility trap. The youth are Africa’s greatest asset. But when they have no confidence or hope in their own future, this presents an enormous risk. Of Africa’s nearly 420 million youth, one-third are

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unemployed and discouraged, another third is vulnerably employed, and only one in six is in meaningful wage employment.\(^5\) Creating jobs for youth, and particularly women, is therefore of utmost priority. It is not possible to imagine a resilient Africa with hundreds of millions of youth unemployed.

5.8 Sustainable employment opportunities, especially for young people and women are crucial to improving living standards, maintaining stability and preserving cohesion. Economic growth directly addresses one of the drivers of migration – the search for economic opportunities not available in the countries of origin.

5.9 Over the last few years there has been an upsurge of interest in the likely impact of climate change on population movements with numerous and varying estimates of the number of people that would be affected and how high temperatures would increase over the next few decades with the attendant impacts. Preparedness is critical to effectively cope with migration shocks. To be better prepared when shocks occur and to mitigate their impact, it is important to strengthen vital social and economic infrastructure and support private sector-led growth and job creation.

6. Migration

6.1 Migration to a large extent is both a cause and effect of fragility. For instance, people migrate due to climatic pressures like drought and famine, and in so doing end up putting undue pressure on the institutions and infrastructure of their host communities. Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa includes international, internal and displacement.

6.2 The issue of migration, whether as a refugee or a displaced person, does not only generate problems but also creates opportunities – (a) the meeting of cultures: it is demonstrated that people, especially women, who emigrate acquire more knowledge about their rights and on their return to their areas of origin can contribute to the change of mentality; (b) migration contributes to the development of skills through the exchange of experience, hence the ability of the diaspora to contribute to the development of their country upon their return; (c) migrants bring with them skills and can contribute to the development of host communities. It is important to change the perspective and find a way to turn this problem into an opportunity.

6.3 There is a general perception around the world that Africans are leaving the continent en masse, risking their lives for greener pastures in Europe and America – but that is not the whole story. Migration is taking place within the continent at a higher rate.\(^6\) In 2017, it is reported that 19 million migrants moved within Africa while 17 million Africans left the continent. Also, 5.5 million people who were born outside the continent made Africa their destination.\(^7\)

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\(^5\) Global Migration Group: Migration and Youth – Challenges and Opportunities. UNICEF, 2014


\(^7\) UNCTAD op. cit.
6.4 Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa includes international, internal and displacement. African countries have lost a substantial proportion of their skilled labour force through ‘brain drain’ – migration caused by a lack of economic opportunity or conflict.

6.5 More than 65 million people are forcibly displaced by violence and conflict – with more refugees and migrants leaving their homes than ever before. The vast majority – about 40 million people including 17 million children – are displaced within their own countries. Migrants leave their home countries in search of a better life. They flee from poverty, national disasters, climate change effects, poor governance, repression and persistent exclusion. Many more will flee as the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change make continued habitation impossible.

6.6 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in its first-ever Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, reports that smuggling networks engage in systematic corruption activities at various levels of government and operate a range of criminal schemes locally and internationally – fake marriages, counterfeiting travel documents, employment rackets and corruption of government officials.

6.8 Gender is central to any discussion of the causes and consequences of migration, whether forced or voluntary. Gender reasons also often propel migration: who migrates and to where, how people migrate and the networks they use, opportunities and resources available at destinations, and relations with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also shaped in large part by the migrant’s gender, and often vary drastically for different groups.

6.9 It is therefore critical to understand how gender impacts migration and to respond accordingly. Being aware of gender-specific reasons for migration trends can mean the difference between successfully addressing the specific needs and capacities of beneficiaries or failing to do so and perpetuating inequality.

6.10 Encouraging support for women-specific international rights frameworks – such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action – that offer protection for women migrants to ensure that governments ratify and adhere to them, will be another aspect to be examined during the Forum. Illegal migration has in many cases led to manipulations and abuse of migrants, with some suffering from slavery. Thus, it is imperative that better understanding of migration and the responses to the causes of fragility should take the gender and cultural aspects into account.

7. Resilience

7.1 Migration is increasingly manifesting in the form of series of humanitarian catastrophes. Since 2015, the humanitarian needs in Africa, and the world, have reached unprecedented levels as a consequence of conflict and natural disasters, with more than 56 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and more than 17 million displaced across

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8 UNODC (2018): Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants
9 OECD (2011), Tackling the Policy Challenges of Migration: Regulation, Integration, Development, Development Centre Studies, OECD Publishing
Africa.\textsuperscript{10} Women and youth are suffering disproportionately in these situations. Sustainable solutions to reduce the future needs and cost of humanitarian assistance across the world will go a long way in addressing fragility. Preventing such humanitarian catastrophes requires scaled-up and concerted efforts by development partners, working at the local level, taking a regional perspective, targeting vulnerable groups, while building institutional capacity, concurrently. No single institution can achieve much on its own, but a lot is achievable if approached from a partnership standpoint.

7.3 Resilience-building empowers affected people to better influence their crisis situation while reducing vulnerability to future protracted or recurring shocks and stresses. Under the Bank’s risk-based approach to fragility, attention to conflict, violence and institutions takes centre stage in the design and implementation of policies and operations aimed at addressing fragility that is driving the current migration wave and building resilience.

7.4 Since beginning operations over 50 years ago, the Bank has provided development support to its member countries in Africa, significantly contributing to the improvement of people’s lives on the continent, particularly those in fragile situations. And since 2015, the Bank has refocused its attention on five priority areas, commonly referred to as the High 5s. Delivering these High 5s in fragile situations is particularly challenging, yet it is in these situations where urgent support is needed to achieve the desired transformational impact to mitigate fragility risks that exist.

7.5 Protection of the environment, creating jobs and allowing young people to participate in politics and society should become urgent priorities to prevent greater crises. As should building peaceful and inclusive societies, helping local and national groups to create the opportunities and security that drive sustainable development. Continued investment in development, conflict prevention and global solidarity is essential. Building community-level resilience through specific tools and knowledge is a crucial part of the responses to fragility.

8. Tools and Knowledge
8.1 As the premier development finance institution on the continent, most of the African Development Bank’s interventions focus on large-scale investment projects in infrastructure, agriculture and the social sectors. Such interventions often take time to conceptualize and develop into implementable projects and are therefore unsuitable in security-challenged environments where pressures at the community, local, regional or national levels pose significant risks of violent conflict. Acknowledging that mitigating the fragility risks at the community-level prevents such risks from becoming bigger and generalized occurrences, reaching out to such communities provides potential benefits for addressing fragility-related challenges. In this context, ARF 2019 brings together various stakeholders to discuss and share knowledge for tailored support to those at the bottom-of-the-pyramid, vulnerable to migration pressures.

8.2 Through the ARF, the Bank’s leadership role in knowledge management in the areas of addressing fragility and building resilience within its regional members will be showcased.

It is in the context of the Strategy for Addressing Fragility as the main vehicle that the need to increase knowledge of fragility through the rollout of the Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment (CRFA) tool, the results of which will be a key platform for the Bank’s engagement with its member countries. The CRFA is a credible statistical resilience and fragility tool developed by the Bank’s Transition Support Coordination Office (RDTS) to closely examine the fragility risks or pressures in a regional member country and the country’s existing capacity to mitigate such pressures.  

9. Target audience
The 2019 Africa Resilience Forum will bring together diverse participants including government officials, representatives of regional economic communities (RECs), representatives of international organizations, academics and researchers, private sector actors and representatives of civil society, the media, as well as Bank staff.

10. Outputs of ARF 2019
a) Forum report – The Africa Resilience Forum report will be the main output and will include specific recommendations for the partners who will be involved in implementing and delivering basic services at the community levels. It will also identify areas that still need further investigation as part of the ongoing knowledge work among the various stakeholders.

b) Enhanced partnerships among the various stakeholders – Based on the recommendations from the ARF, it is hoped that improved partnerships will emerge among the stakeholders to better address migration issues created by fragility pressures.

c) Enable the adoption of innovative and appropriate technologies by vulnerable communities – Vulnerable and/or isolated communities tend to have limited access to information on innovations that could be beneficial to them. The Forum will enable participants to develop an awareness campaign that brings appropriate technology to such communities.

d) Improved knowledge on working in fragile situations – By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the Africa Resilience Forum serves to enhance knowledge on working in fragile situations through robust discussions and sharing of knowledge.

11. Conclusion
While it is clear that delivering effective support in fragile situations is often challenging, this three-day Forum will provide the opportunity for various actors and organizations to reflect on issues they are dealing with, strategize on new approaches to these issues, and commit to the forging effective partnerships to address fragility and build resilience in the context of security-humanitarian-development nexus embodied by the migration crisis. It is expected that new and innovative partnership arrangements will emerge from the 2019 edition of the Africa Resilience Forum to address fragility issues at various levels on the continent using innovative tools and strategies.

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11 The CRFA tool assesses the pressures and resilience capacities along seven dimensions – Legitimate politics, Security, Justice, Economic and social inclusiveness, Social cohesion, Externalities/spill-over effects and Climate/environmental impacts