

SITA BORDER SUMMIT CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN TRADE FACILITATION,
SINGLE AVIATION AIR TRANSPORT MARKET AND FREE
MOVEMENT OF PERSONS
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2063
The Africa we Want




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Contextual Background

It is envisaged that African development and integration will not be achieved without breaking the barriers that impede the free movement of persons across the continent.

Furthermore, Agenda 2063, highlights the importance of African integration in Aspiration 2, which calls for 'An integrated continent politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance'.

Rights of FMP Protocol

The Protocol provides three Rights: Rights of Entry, Residence

Right of Entry

- Entry in Member State Territory
- Official points of entry and exit
- Travel Documents including the African Passport;
- Use of Vehicles;
- Free Movement of residents of border communities;
- Free Movement of students and researchers;
- Free Movement of workers;
- Permits and Passes

What does the protocol of the free movement seek to achieve?

1) The [Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons](#) aims to promote the movement of people across African borders. This is indeed an integral part of the African integration agenda and along with the African Passport is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063. By simplifying immigration procedures, granting residency rights, and encouraging visa-free travel, the protocol seeks to enhance regional integration and unlock the potential of Africa's human capital.

2) The protocol is a cornerstone of Agenda 2063, aiming to create a borderless Africa where people can freely move, reside, and work across the continent.

- **What is the current level of adhesion achieved towards the free movement protocol?**

The protocol has so far received 32 signatures from member states, and Rwanda, Niger, Mali, and Sao Tome and Principe have all deposited ratifications.

However, since the Protocol was adopted in January 2018, Member States such as The Gambia, Benin, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria have continued to show improvement in seamlessly facilitating movement of persons across the continent by allowing professionals, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to move easily within the continent.



African Union
Member States
that has
adopted
SAATM
AGREEMENT

Signature and Ratification within SAATM Cluster

No	SAATM Member States	FMP Signature	FMP Ratification
1	Cabo Verde		
2	Cote d'Ivoire	✓	
3	Congo	✓	
4	Cameroon		
5	Central African Republic	✓	
6	Ethiopia		
7	Gambia	✓	
8	Ghana	✓	
9	Gabon	✓	
10	Kenya	✓	
11	Morocco		
12	Mozambique	✓	
13	Namibia		
14	Niger	✓	✓
15	Nigeria		
16	Rwanda	✓	✓
17	Senegal	✓	
18	South Africa		
19	Togo	✓	
20	Zambia		

What are the existing legal provisions within the free movement and SAATM protocols to safeguard against cross-border pandemics?

- ❖ During the Covid the Department of Health, Humanitarian and Social Development organized a continental forum with Member States and RECs to create a platform to share challenges and experiences of the impacts of COVID-19 on the operationalization of Free Movement of Persons in various region and bloc of the continent during the pandemic and expose lesson learnt in order to enhance best practices.
- ❖ I will not be able to say much, our sister division (Health) are mandated to coordinate with relevant organs and agencies to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

What are the existing challenges?

- 1) Inadequate political will and fear of the unknown to ratify and implement the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons
- 2) Slow harmonization of national and regional policies to support Free Movement of Persons protocol implementation
- 3) Regional and blocs common position, such as SADC and Northern regions, to put hold on ratifying the protocol
- 4) Problem of Civil registration across the continent

What is the way forward?

The slow progress shows that it is crucial to: -

- 1) Continue sensitizing African citizens and policymakers about the benefits of free movement.
- 2) Engage high profile individuals as Goodwill Ambassadors to champion the protocol.
- 3) Continue to conduct relevant studies to show clarity on some grey areas of the protocol.
- 4) Create synergies between Intra Africa Trade, tourism, labour migration through the promotion of free movement of persons, goods and services.
- 5) Lobby strategic partners for resources to promote the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and its implementation roadmap.

Conclusion: The Strength of Synergizing AfCFTA, FMP AND SAATM

When the AfCFTA, SAATM, and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons work together, they create a powerful synergy that propels Africa towards a more integrated and prosperous future. This tripartite embodies the spirit of Agenda 2063 and Pan-Africanism.

The AfCFTA reduces trade barriers, SAATM enhances air connectivity, and the Free Movement of Persons protocol facilitates the movement of human capital. This tripartite approach addresses multiple dimensions of regional integration, reinforcing Africa's economic potential.