



Migration and Demography: Shaping Migration Policies for Demographic Dividend in Africa



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Abbreviations

BRICS	Britain, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
EU	European Union
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migrants
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

List of Participant Organizations

Current participating member organizations are:

[African Capacity Building Foundation \(ACBF\)](#)

[African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes \(ACCORD\)](#)

[African Monitor](#)

[Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development \(ACORD\)](#)

[Botswana Association of Local Authorities \(BALA\)](#)

[Centre for Natural Resource Governance \(CNRG\)](#)

[Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa \(CSEA\)](#)

[CLEEN Foundation](#)

[Democracy Development Programme \(DDP\)](#)

[Good Governance Africa \(GGA\)](#)

[Institute for Public Policy Research \(IPPR\)](#)

[Institute for Security Studies \(ISS\)](#)

[Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange \(Isis-WICCE\)](#)

[National Initiative for Civic Education \(NICE\)](#)

[Policy Research for Development \(REPOA\)](#)

[South African Institute of International Affairs \(SAIIA\)](#)

[Southern African Liaison Office \(SALO\)](#)

[Security Research & Information Centre \(SRIC\)](#)

Participating guests for the 9th APC meeting include:

Dr. Caroline Gudenus, Ambassador, *Austrian Embassy-Dakar*

Stephan Röken, Ambassador, *German Embassy Dakar*

Irène Mingasson, Head of Delegation, *EU Delegation to Senegal*

Ms. Katia Golovko, Mixed Migration Analyst, *Mixed Migration Centre*

Dr. Gilles Yabi, Political Economist, *WATHI – KAS' local partner in Dakar*

Mr. Abdoulaye Mamadou Mbengue, Executive Secretary, *ENDA DIAPOL-REMIDEV*

Richard Danziger, Regional Representative Regional Office for West and Central Africa, *IOM Senegal*

Abdoul Cisse, Resource Centre, *Alliance pour Refonder la Gouvernance en Afrique (ARGA)*

List of Member Participants

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8.	Elvis Fokala	Peacebuilder without Borders
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1. BACKGROUND

During the 8th African Policy Circle (APC) meeting on 24-25 May 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria that focused on 'Forced Migration within and out of Africa: Innovation Solutions from Africa Civil Society and Think-tanks', participants deliberated on the causes, consequences, local perspectives, and solutions to conflict-induced forced migration. Particularly highlighted was the need to address youth unemployment, education access, weak governance and institutions, and environmental degradation as some of the root causes of conflict-induced forced migration. Participants also underscored that while many people are forced to migrate due to conflict and violence, many more (especially young people) migrate for economic reasons. To deepen deliberation, the APC deemed it appropriate to specifically discuss Africa's economic migration. With a forward-looking approach, the 9th APC meeting held on 29-30 November 2018 in Dakar, Senegal focused discussions on the theme '*Migration and Demography: Shaping Migration Policies for Demographic Dividend in Africa*'.

As the 2018 chair, the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) hosted the 9th APC meeting in collaboration with Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), with support from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi). The meeting was organized as a high-level forum of experienced experts in peace and security, migration, economic and social development, policy research, as well as human rights, with the purpose to share knowledge, discuss strategies and develop actionable recommendations for policymakers to meaningfully address the economic migration within and out of Africa. 22 participant members attended the meeting.

This report presents the outcome and proceedings of the 9th APC meeting, and is partitioned into two parts: Part I presents the discussions on economic migration and part II presents matters on the APC.



2. RATIONALE BEHIND THE THEME

Africa's Economic Migration: A search for better life and employment

Although the factors driving economic migration are not uni-dimensional, the 'search for a better life and employment' is a key motivation for Africa's economic migration. While intra-regional migration predominates inter-regional economic migration, the number of people moving out of sub-Saharan Africa for economic reasons is steadily increasing: In 1990, about 40 percent of migrants moved for economic reasons, this share has more than doubled to 90 percent in 2013. According to a report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 7 out of 10 of those heading for Europe are not refugees fleeing war or persecution, but economic migrants in search of better lives. Truly, job creation in Africa has not been strong enough to absorb the new entrants to the labour force: Every year, between 10 and 12 million people join the African labour force, but the continent creates only 3.7 million jobs annually. This has several implications for labour markets, including: a large number of unemployed or

underemployed young people, a growing informal and/or illegal sector, an increased propensity for conflict, and an increased propensity to migrate in search of suitable employment opportunities.

Demographic factors are projected to further increase Africa's economic migration over the next decade, especially to advanced countries. By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa's population will reach around 2.3 billion with 830 million new workforce participants; one in every four humans will be an African. This population boom will be characterized by young and energetic job seekers that local markets will not be able to fully absorb and provide gainful employment. At the same time, several Western and Asian Tiger economies are expected to have an aging population, which would mean more demand for skilled labour from regions, like Africa, with younger populations.

If well harnessed, the increase in Africa's working age population can translate into higher growth and yield a demographic dividend for the continent. On one hand, increasing remittance flows, innovation and knowledge transfers from the demographic transition can fuel development and structural transformation in the continent. This was observed in several Asian countries and helped define the 'Asian Miracle'. On the other hand, such transition has the potential to translate into an army of unemployed young people and significantly worsening economic risks and social tensions including, conflict and wars, trafficking, brain drain, and environment degradation. Therefore, it is imperative that when African governments plan their national and international agendas for peace and development, they need to prioritize migration and labor market policies.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

The following were discussed in the meeting:

3.1 Dimensions of Africa's economic migration

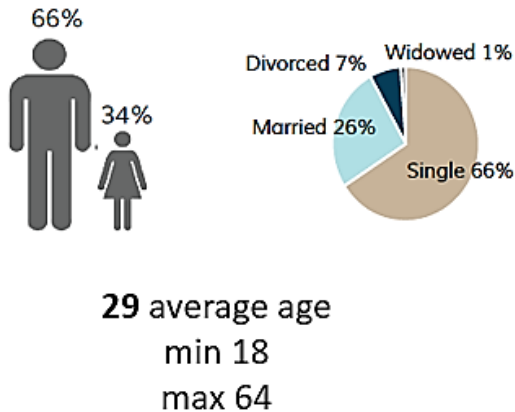
3.1.1 Profile of Economic Migrants-The Who

Participants shed more light on the profiles of economic migrants, and answered the important question "who are these migrants"? People who migrate for economic and other reasons are often young people. From a short sample by Mixed Migration Centre, the average age of interviewed refugees and migrants was 29 years, with minimum age of 18 and maximum age of 64. These migrants whose countries of origin include Gambia, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Senegal, are not necessarily held back by family ties given that half of the migrants do not have children. Among the other half, those who have one child were more of women and those with more than 2 children are more men.

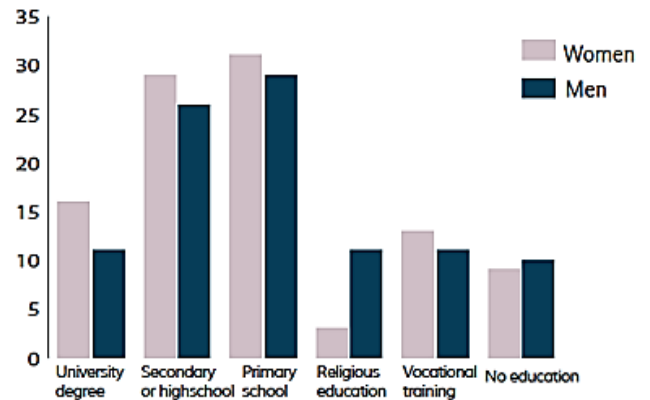
Educational qualification and employment status of migrants predominantly reveal low to intermediate socio-economic categories. Although some migrants possess vocational or no qualifications at all, majority of them have primary and secondary educational qualification with women having the highest in tertiary education. Women predominantly

work in the industries while men work as labourers, service industries or farmers in their countries of origin.

Profiles



Level of education



Source: Mixed Migration Centre, Danish Refugee Council, 2018.

44% of men interviewed said they have been planning on migrating compared to only 25% of women who said it was a new idea, about 22% of the women said they never planned to migrate but situations compelled them to.

3.1.2 Drivers of Economic Migration-The Why

Participants stated various reasons for economic migration and attributed the decision to migrate to “looking for a better life and employment”. African economies cannot accommodate or employ the ballooning working/productive age population of energetic and ambitious young people. Underlying the decision to migrate are causes with attendant implications, including:

- A. **Economic crisis:** Mr Sure, in his presentation, noted that economic crisis in African countries remain the number one cause of economic migration. Failure by the African governments to create enough economic opportunities for its productive population has led to massive economic migration. In Zimbabwe, there’s the economic war caused by corruption, greed, and primitive accumulation by the politicians who prosper on the back of exploiting the poor. This explains the lack of opportunities for those who are willing and able to work.
- B. **Lack of innovation and infrastructure:** Participants attributed the lack of innovation and infrastructure as one of the causes of economic migration. With the world moving fast on the wheels of technology, Africa have been found lagging behind hence causing Africans with passion for tech-development migrating to

continents like Asia, North America and Europe. Unlike Africa, these continents have advanced technologically, created massive opportunities for the working world population, and modelled an ideal environment that pulls Africa's bright technological minds.

- C. **Nature of Labor market:** Participants alluded economic migration to Africa's unsustainable labor market as most educated productive population are forced to migrate to other regions in search of better jobs paying jobs. Frustrations breeding from the endless search for jobs and the prominent tendency to encounter nepotism in the labour market fuel the desire to migrate. For instance, highly qualified Africans who may not find jobs in their home countries may be employed by big institutions such as NASA, World Bank, IMF etc.



Mr. Sure Kasanye (CNRG), giving his presentation.

3.1.3 Geographical Category and Methods of Economic Migration-The Where and How

Participants identified major destination areas of migration flows from various countries in Africa. An estimated 90 to 95 percent of migration flows in west and central Africa are internal to the region. The largest registered migrant populations in the region are currently living in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria (UNDESA). Most are migrants originating from neighboring countries. Participants noted that mobility is largely driven by employment opportunities to labour intensive areas that may change according to the season (wet/dry).



Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2018

Furthermore, intraregional mobility mainly takes place along one MAIN EAST-WEST AXIS and is then distributed north and south by other routes. On the other hand, Inter-regional migration route trends constantly evolve according to shifts in national policies and migration controls but the routes remain very similar. Migrants heading to North African or European countries travel along 3 main routes: Western African, Western Mediterranean, and Central Mediterranean. Spain is now the main arrival country from the Western Africa and Western Mediterranean routes. Although some skilled economic migrants from West and Central Africa take the faster route by air given that they have the means to, other unskilled or underprivileged migrants travel via routes that are often perilous (cf. deserts and boats).

3.2 Impact of Africa's Economic Migration

Although migration has been thought to have both positive and negative impact, the distinguishing factors remain the impact on the origin or destination countries. Some of the impacts noted by the APC participants include:

Loss of Networks: Participants underscored that many Africans who leave Africa lose existing networks in origin countries, and are often faced with the difficulty of integrating into the destination country. The families left behind stay that way, behind, for years, without an actual visit, and most of them do not find homes in destination countries. Participants also suggested that as a major determinant of migration, there should be existing networks to welcome migrants at destination countries.

Loss of Human Resources: The acceleration in inter-regional migration is causing a continued loss of Africa's human resources and leading to economic disintegration. Africans who leave to Europe take with them expert capacities that should be used to develop the continent. In this regard, participants suggested that facilitated intra-regional movement of people, including the development of markets, jobs, and politics could help mitigate illegal migrants, and curb death tolls of illegal migrants trying to migrate. In addition, young Africans need to be prepared to confront some kinds of potential challenges to be faced in the country of destination.

Brain Drain: Students who leave the continent to study, particularly to other regions outside Africa, often stay back at destination countries after their studies. This is a major setback to the development of the continent. Experts too leave the continent, meet suitable environments to hone their skills, and often time, never return. Participants suggested that African students should be encouraged to travel and associate with other Africans within the continent, as this will facilitate development. In terms of language, Anglophone countries' students should be encouraged to study in Francophone countries to understand the language, and vice versa.

3.3 The European Perspective: Why is Migration a “Hot” Topic?

Countries in Europe have no common ground when it comes to migration, and it has been indicated that there is no such thing as the European perspective on migration. Several experts believe that Europe is not dealing with international issues but with internal issues which are not limited to Brexit and the unsolved euro crisis- the case for nationalism. However, individual European countries take different stances in their view on migration and of the Global Compact on Migration. For example, two notable countries, Germany and Austria, have conflicting resolutions about signing the pact.



Stephan Röken, Ambassador, German Embassy Dakar

GERMANY

Germany is the second most popular migration destination in the world, after the United States. Of all the 27 European Union states, Germany has the second highest percentage

of immigrants in its population after the United Kingdom. The declaration of Germany as a country of immigration in 2005 eased the process to become an immigrant in Germany. Many migrants of African descents now live and work in Germany, with many more likely to migrate from Africa.

The large influx of migrants to Germany has triggered a recognition by the government that migration is a global issue that needs global answers. In response to this, Germany has resolved that there is a need to regulate migration and migration flows in the interest of most of the country. The German parliament debated this issue and the government parties adopted a resolution that the German government would sign the Global Pact on migration in Marrakesh - a move that have sparked many criticisms, but reasoned by the government to possess advantages that supersede disadvantages.

Germany seems to be at odd with the UNHCR or IOM language on migration: that migration always translate to positive economic impacts. To this end, certain sectors of the economy experience varied effects of economic migration, with some benefitting and others bearing huge costs. Therefore, the country asserts that signing the treaty would lead to many countries raising their standards with regard to refugees, which in the end would mean that "the migration pressure on Germany would lessen noticeably in the long run".



Dr. Caroline Gudenus, Ambassador, Austrian Embassy-Dakar

Austria

The Austrian government representative mentioned that Austria would join the United States and Hungary in not signing the global agreement (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration” meant to minimize the factors that push migrants to leave their home country, while boosting safety, access to services and inclusion for those who are compelled to go. The main concern of the Austrian government is that there are issues surrounding the difference between legal and illegal migration, and the pact does not give a clear sense of distinction between refugees and other migrants. These distinctions are not clearly worked out in the pact and as such they may lead to some kind of customary law which creates rights for migrants in some countries.

The Austrian government representative also noted that some individual Austrians disagree with the stance of the government. However, as a strong defender of multilateralism, the government worked in the negotiation of the text of the agreement, yet the text gives rise to more concern than advantages to the government of Austria. As such, the government would not be signing the pact.

3.4 Setting a Migration Agenda for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Participants opined that the rare third-time opportunity of South Africa’s admission into the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is fundamental to pushing some important agendas for adoption. Although South Africa’s two terms on the UNSC were characterized more by criticisms than positives, there are lessons to be learnt that the country needs to take into the next term. For example, in the first term, the decision it took on Myanmar was a very controversial decision, and subsequently, since 2008 till now, there’s been a lot of focus on how South Africa gauges not just at the security council but at other UN councils. The position that it takes at the human rights council in Geneva for instance frequently comes under criticism and it is increasingly finding that it has to play itself account for decision they make. In this respect, South Africa has commenced meetings on how they can collaborate on issues, and internal discussions on how they can collaborate on security issues. South Africa is starting to take that initiative which is an indication that they have learnt to be proactive, being better prepared for the unforeseeable events that might come. There is a body of evidence that shows that countries like South Africa have the capacity to speak about issues concerning security, and as such, migration can be a part of the issues discussed.

Participants alluded the potentially successful inclusion of a migration agenda at the UNSC to a possible alliance between South Africa and Germany. Some historical events suggest that both countries seem to have developed similar patterns in policy attestation. For example, South Africa did not vote for a certain controversial resolution in 1973, and Germany boycotted the same resolution. Both countries have also put Africa at the forefront of their engagements. South Africa, from 1994, made Africa corner stone of its foreign policy and this was anchored by successful policy designed by Mandela,

implemented by Thabo Mbeki, and now being reconstructed in the hands of President Ramaphosa. Germany on the other hand sees that Africa has huge potential, human resources and natural resources that if well harnessed can make the world come back to Africa to mobilize resources.

More so, there are certain thematic issues which bedevil both states: South Africa continues to suffer the scourge of huge migration challenges at its borders just as Germany equally continues to experience same. Germany sees terrorism as destabilizing domestic politics; however, the government is a bit laid back on connecting the link between migration and terrorism. Participants also mentioned that although the thematic issues do not currently feature as strong issues at the global circle, the challenges of migration can be connected to the primary goal of the UNSC – global peace.



L-R: Dr. Showers Mawowa (SALO), Charles Nyuykonge (IGD), Aditi Lalbahadur(SAIIA), Dr. Barassou Diawara (ACBF).

In essence, underlying the achievement of the UNSC primary goal is the need to include a migration agenda which if proposed by South Africa, the chair, and supported by Germany, may attract or influence votes of a majority of other members. This is particularly viable given

that Germany enjoys close relations with three permanent members of the Security Council: France, Britain, and to some extent the United States. South Africa also enjoys relation with two of the BRICS states in the Security Council: China and Russia. A global consensus is therefore imminent if South Africa and Germany declares a migration agenda as part of discussions in the four-month agenda preparations.

Participants underscored that migration for South Africa is an important one because in its nature, it requires international cooperation. One of South Africa's strong area is strengthening multilateralism especially in this time of nationalism as seen in events like the Brexit, and migration requires multilateral engagements, one could possibly see an obvious interest. South Africa understands the African agenda as central and can indicate its interest on what Africa puts on the table in terms of migration and of course making the agenda 2063 and SDGs workable.

Emphasis on human security element and the inevitability of linking that to the SDGs could also be an opportunity to mitigate against the over securitization of the migration discussion. South Africa seems to be moving towards securitization in terms of its own policy on dimensional migration. The policy was adopted in July, 2018 and includes among other things the need to tighten border controls. Although there are contradictions on how South Africa is dealing with these things, the non-binding nature of the global compact, and some of the challenges that have been raised around the definition may also mean that those with the influence of voice within the United Nations become more important in terms of generating the political will at the high level to ensure that all these things are addressed and realized. The country should always coordinate these to suit the discussion on migration, from the opportunity to sit as the UNSCs chair.

4. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants agreed on the following recommendations:

- To address the causes of economic migration, African governments need to prioritize migration and labor market policies when planning their national and international agendas for peace and development.
- To curb the negative effects of an impending population boom, African governments should create enough economic opportunities for its productive population. Achieving this is hinged on terminating corruption, greed, and primitive accumulation by politicians.
- National governments in Africa should work more closely to collaborate and address the anomaly in innovation and infrastructure. To reduce prospects of migrating for economic reasons, it is pertinent to model an ideal environment that keeps Africa's bright technological minds, instead of pushing them to other advanced economies.
- To address the integration difficulty faced by migrants, there should be existing networks to welcome migrants at destination countries.
- Facilitated intra-regional movement of people, including the development of markets, jobs, and politics could help mitigate illegal migrants, and curb death tolls of illegal migrants trying to migrate. In addition, young Africans need to be prepared to confront some kinds of potential challenges to be faced in the country of destination.
- African students should be encouraged to travel and associate with other Africans within the continent, as this will facilitate development. In terms of language, Anglophone countries' students should be encouraged to study in Francophone countries to understand the language, and vice versa.
- On setting the agenda for migration at the UNSC, South Africa should leverage on its capacity to speak about issues concerning security, to include migration as one of the issues discussed at the UNSC.
- To draw member votes for a migration agenda, South Africa should include Germany in preparation plans, given that Germany enjoys close relations with three permanent members of the Security Council: France, Britain, and to some extent the United States.
- There are important lessons to learn from experiences of African countries that have dealt with migration for a long time and these lessons can actually fit into global migration policies.

5. The Future of the APC

5.1 Survey Results

Participants filled survey questionnaires centered on two key questions:

- i. What is the value of the APC?
- ii. What is its ideal future?

On the value of the APC, participants' responses were sorted into different categories as follows:

Networking and knowledge sharing

Participants underscored that one of the values of the APC has been sharing of knowledge, experience and networking. This value lies in the opportunity it affords for African Think tanks to share knowledge and perspectives on major issues affecting the African continent and its people, from diverse viewpoints. With this, participants have the opportunity to listen to the perspectives of the other APC members from different countries, backgrounds, thematic areas etc in order to enrich their perspective and improve their work. The knowledge sharing lead to proposing policy solutions on different issues faced by African countries.

Visibility

Participant alluded the value of the APC to the visibility it gives to participant organizations. For instance, CSEA's increased organizational visibility, improved organizational skills and exposure to new networks were characterized by the opportunity to hold chairmanship of APC in 2018.

Impact on policy

Participants indicated that position papers produced by the APC provide opportunity for policy makers to benefit from the expertise and knowledge of APC members, thereby influencing policy on important issues. However, participants also suggested that the APC and member organizations need to think long and hard about what is it that they intend to influence and how to do so. It is imperative that the APC defines its core mission and objective, and abides by them.

On the ideal future of the APC:

Greater Impact on policy/debates

Participants specified that the ideal future of the APC is a sustainable and effective organization, capable of transforming debates on continental matters to more assertive

actions than position papers. Long term sustainability of the APC is hinged on its ability to demonstrate its utility as a platform for evidence-informed action. This will enhance the APC's legitimacy as a forum for continental policy-making, increasing its appeal among the wider civil society network in Africa and beyond. Other participants suggested that the ideal future of the APC would be to transform itself into a self-sustaining clearing house for policy issues and agenda setting for Africa, while endeavoring to publicize itself and be widely better known throughout the continent.

Workshop design

Participants proposed a biannual research informed conference organized by APC on a particular policy theme bringing together member organizations, and participants from selected African governments, civil society, the African Union and key western partners such as the EU. Participants also proposed a continuation of APC's meeting twice a year. In addition, members should share research results with the group during the year and distribute them in their respective networks.

More collaboration between members

Participants suggested that there should be joint collaborative or partnerships between the groups that would enhance partnership and encourage more collaboration beyond APC and grow the Network bigger in number and impact or outreach of project. Identify members' strength between those that are good at research and those good at regional and international advocacy, optimize on these strengths by mobilizing and ploughing resources into network members. An APC that is sensitive to the resource constraints faced by members and actively assists.

More funding

Participants underscored that the ideal future of the APC would be for KAS to provide resources or funding to 2-3 organisations for 3-5 years projects and have several deliverables attributed to APC from this, and the APC should broaden the resource base for its sustainability.

More inclusion

Participants suggested that the ideal future of the APC is to involve other stakeholders engaged or implementing a specific policy issues. For example, the structure of APC can be as follows: the first day discussion and engagement among APC members only, and then day two invite strategic stakeholders to engage on the identified thematic area as a whole day session.

5.2 Position Paper

The position paper on Economic Migration for the meeting was written by Charles Nyuykonge (Peacebuilders without Borders) and reviewed by participants during the meeting. The paper explained issues around undocumented migration and intra-continental migration. The fact that Africans prefer to leave to neighboring countries is

important for drawing lessons from those migrants-experienced countries like Libya. The argument was for these lessons to fit into global migration policies.

5.3 Next Meeting

The chairmanship held by CSEA would end in 2018, and there would be another chair for 2019 hence the need to determine the APC chair for 2019 as soon as possible. REPOA, represented by Jamal, expressed interest to chair the APC in 2019 however, participants agreed that the APC chairmanship should be left open to everyone from the group, in a bid to provide equal opportunity to also express their interest. All interested organizations were given until December 12, 2018 to indicate interest in chairing the APC in 2019. Interested organizations were also advised to contact GPPi or CSEA to get answers to questions they might have on chairing the APC.

African Policy Circle

9th Meeting; 29-30 November 2018, Dakar, Senegal

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