



## **YAKAAR, not BARSAKH! A PROJECT AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

### **A PROJECT COMING FROM AFRICAN REGIONS**

Following the current geopolitical context, as well as prior foundational work and, above all, the political impetus from African regions, the Organization of United Regions ORU Fogar wishes to launch "Yakaar, not Barsakh! / Hope, not Death!", a platform dedicated to job creation in Africa. The project title is very intentional. It seeks to shift from the expression used by Senegalese youth in Wolof: "Barça or Barsakh!" (Barcelona or death), toward a message of life and hope—the belief that prosperity is possible in Africa. The mission, therefore, will consist of promoting development in African regions by creating decent jobs and improving living conditions, in order to reduce the structural causes that drive irregular migration.

Job creation will occur through the support of projects that generate opportunities in key sectors such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, technology, responsible tourism, and manufacturing. Special attention will also be given to training and education. Professional and technical training programs aligned with the labor market needs of African regions will be promoted, with a particular focus on youth and women.

To this end, ORU Fogar will support the creation of a Project Bank dedicated to Regional Development. It will be fueled by ORU Fogar member regions with specific projects designed to meet the development needs of African regions. This bank will gather initiatives in various areas such as food production and food security, sustainable management of natural resources, basic infrastructure (water, energy, transport), as well as digitization and access to technology.

Fogar is committed to mobilizing funding and technical support for these projects by establishing partnerships with international organizations, governments, companies, and private entities. The goal of this approach is to secure the signing of agreements between regions and funders, so that the latter finance the projects, support African entrepreneurs, provide seed capital, mentorship, and potentially access to international markets. ORU Fogar will continuously ensure the feasibility of the projects, guaranteeing their sustainability in the medium and long term. ORU Fogar will also ensure transparency in all processes, respect for the environment, and the protection of the labor rights of the people involved.

The ultimate objective is to reduce irregular migration by offering viable alternatives in regions of origin, thereby lowering the risk of people resorting to perilous migration routes. The project aims to strengthen regional economies. Economic growth within communities will foster greater social stability and balanced development. This will require renewed momentum in



international cooperation, fostering collaborative relations between Africa, Europe, and other regions to jointly address global challenges. ORU Fogar will therefore implement a dialogue strategy with all actors interested in halting irregular migration and capable of supporting the project, from the European Union to European regional governments. ORU Fogar will also encourage the participation of businesses and NGOs to support this project.

## **PERMANENT FORUM AGAINST MIGRATION**

In parallel with the implementation of this project, ORU Fogar will set up a Forum on Migration, which will monitor the entire process and serve as a space for reflection and debate. This forum, international in scope and with a permanent vocation, will meet every two years, primarily in migrants' countries of origin or in transit territories. The Forum will aim to gather as many European stakeholders as possible. It will accompany the implementation of concrete projects.

With the forum, a deep framework for reflection will be established on the link between irregular migration and the precarious economic and social situation in countries of origin, debating the public policies applied to date to truly understand the issue in its entirety and promote sustainable solutions capable of curbing the phenomenon, while guiding Africa toward balanced economic, social, and environmental development based on effective and virtuous governance.

The goal is to allow participants to broaden consultation and deepen debate by involving those directly concerned—namely, migrants who have returned to their countries—as well as all actors who might support (or hinder) them at different stages (departure, transit, arrival). The objective is to formulate collective solutions, and above all, to develop a roadmap in which all the SDGs are taken into account, where each actor assumes their role and responsibility with rigor and respects their long-term commitments to achieve collective interests. The aim is to avoid a worsening of an already out-of-control situation, while ensuring that no one is left behind, with particular attention paid to gender issues, equality, and inequality (SDG 5 and SDG 10).