

Policy Seminar

Participation of the Diaspora in the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership 1-2 October 2009

Proceedings Document



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



ICMPD

International Centre for
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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
Day One Program.....	4
Day Two Program.....	5
Key Points and Recommendations.....	6
1. Background.....	7
2. Opening Remarks.....	7
3. Panel Presentation: Advancing the Africa-EU Policy Dialogue.....	9
4. Panel 1: Perspectives on Building Bridges.....	11
5. Panel 2: Perspectives on Employment.....	12
6. Panel Presentation: Building an EU-Wide Platform of Diaspora Organisations Working on Development Issues in Africa: The Challenges Ahead.....	14
7. Panel 3: Perspectives on Smart Partnerships.....	15
8. Panel 4: Strengthening Cooperation between Diaspora Organisations and Civil Society Institutions in Africa.....	16
9. Closing Remarks.....	17
List of Participants.....	18

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Day One: 1 October, 2009	
8:30 – 9:00	Participant Registration
9:00 – 10:45	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Awil Mohamoud, Director, African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), Netherlands • Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Director DG Development, European Commission • Mr. Lukas Gehrke, Head of Mission, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Brussels • H.E. Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Ambassador, AU Mission in Brussels • Mr. Saul Kaye, Manager, Governance & Public Administration AU/NEPAD Office • Ms. Kajsa Marsk Rives, Migration and Development Team Coordinator, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee and Tea Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Panel Presentation on Advancing Africa-EU Policy Dialogue</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Ms. Dimitria Clayton, Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, North Rhine-Westphalia (MGFFI-NRW), Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gibril Faal, Board Director, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), United Kingdom • Prof. Oumar C. Ndong, Secretary General, West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOF) • Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, Director, Ghana Immigration Service • Ms. Sara Lahmani, Project Officer, Population, Migration, Institutional and Strategic Partnerships, <i>Agence Française de Développement</i> (AFD), Paris • Mr. Rob Rozenburg, Head of Sector Migration, DG Development-C2
12:30 – 13:00	Forum Discussion
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Parallel Panel 1: Perspectives on Diaspora Building Bridges</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Dr. Puleng Lenka-Bula, Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Andredina Gomes Cardoso, Vice President, <i>Fundo de Apoio Social de Caboverdianos em Portugal</i> (FASCP) • Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director, CCP-African Union • Mr. Belay Taddese, Expatriate Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia • Mr. Jaime Mira Salama, Migration and Development Project Manager, Directorate General of Development Policy Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Madrid <p>Parallel Panel 2: Perspectives on Employment</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Prof. Oumar C. Ndong, Secretary General, WACSOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yera Dembele, President, <i>Federation des Associations Franco-Africaines de Développement</i> (FAFRAD), France • Mr. Samba Yomb Thiam, Technical Advisor, Ministry for Senegalese Abroad, Republic of Senegal • Dr. Irina Kausch, Deputy Head of Migration and Development, GTZ, Germany
16:00-17:00	Forum Discussion
17:00-18:00	<p>Summary of Day One Discussions and Overview of Day Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Puleng Lenka-Bula, Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa • Ms. Joyce Armstrong, Rapporteur, ADPC • Prof. Oumar C. Ndong, Secretary General, WACSOF • Dr. Giulia Sinatti, Programme Coordinator, ADPC

Day Two: 2 October, 2009	
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee and Tea
9:00 – 10:00	<p><i>Panel Presentation on Building an EU-Wide Platform of Diaspora Organisations Working on Development Issues in Africa: The Challenges Ahead</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Santo Deng, Chairman, Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD), Netherlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andreas Vogt, CONCORD, Brussels • Mr. Lulesa Abadura, Network Coordinator, ADPC, Netherlands
10:00 – 11:45	<i>Roundtable Discussion with Lead Representatives from Diaspora Organisations</i>
11:45 – 12:30	<p><i>Summary of Roundtable Discussions and Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Santo Deng, Chairman, DFD, Netherlands • Mr. Gibril Faal, Board Director, AFFORD, United Kingdom
12:20 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:15	<p><i>Panel 3: Perspectives on Smart Partnerships</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director, CCP-African Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Birame Diouf, Director, Atlantik Foundation, Norway
14:15 – 14:45	<i>Forum Discussion</i>
14:45 – 15:45	<p><i>Panel 4: Strengthening Cooperation between Diaspora Organisations and Civil Society Institutions in Africa</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director, CCP-African Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Beatrice Kindembe Isampete, Vice President, NAWES, Sweden • Dr. Puleng Lenka-Bula, Department of Systematic Ethics, University of South Africa • Prof. Oumar C. Ndong, Secretary General, WACSO • Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, Director, Ghana Immigration Service
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:00	<i>Forum Discussion</i>
17:00 – 17:30	<p><i>Summary of Day Two Discussions and Closing Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dimitria Clayton, MGFFI-NRW, Germany • Gibril Faal, Board Director, AFFORD, United Kingdom



Dr. Awil Mohamoud, Director, African Diaspora Policy Centre and Lukas Gehrke, Head of Mission, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Brussels



Dr. Awil Mohamoud, Prof. John Oucho of the University of Warwick, UK and Dimitria Clayton of the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Key Points and Recommendations

- There was support from all sides for the active engagement of the diaspora in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and Action Plan, and the need for concrete recommendations for active involvement was recognised.
- Participants from the governmental sector recognised the many contributions of the diaspora to development, including their inherent capacities for social networking, influencing policy, sharing human and financial capital, and participating at local levels where government cannot act.
- Participants highlighted the fact that the diaspora currently play a small role in the development dialogue due to a lack of organisation and lack of a platform for formal representation at the European level. There is a need to create a pan-European structure within which the diaspora can work together toward common goals while still preserving the diversity that strengthens them.
- Participants stressed that the diaspora already actively build bridges across sectors and continents, and that the challenge lies in bringing existing efforts to the forefront and stepping up those efforts via increased organisation.
- Remarks revealed that the academic sector is an area of opportunity for further partnerships and bridge building. The diaspora can, in cooperation with academic institutions in Europe and Africa, initiate research and data collection efforts such as qualitative studies and participatory evaluations in order to build capacities and create information sources to inform policy decisions.
- It was noted that the African diaspora in Europe tend to create their own jobs in host countries through the creation of small to medium sized businesses. It would be useful to examine the contribution, if any, of these ventures to development in countries of origin as well as the negative impact that brain waste in host countries has on development in both Europe and Africa.
- Panellists stressed the need to foster a favourable environment for job creation through increased access to credit in both Africa and Europe, innovative trade agreements and private sector partnerships, and capacity building and skills training.
- Panellists noted that strategic use of partnerships will likely emerge as vital in achieving the goals of the diaspora in the context of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, and the need to move beyond *if* and *how* to partner and to look more closely at the implementation of partnerships.
- Participants agreed that the diaspora must strengthen their cooperation with civil society institutions in Africa, and proposed doing so by utilising the AU's structure and varied organisations, the AU office in Brussels, and an informative website to increase collaboration efforts.
- The majority of diaspora representatives agreed to move forward with a preliminary plan for the creation of a European-wide platform for the coordination of diaspora development efforts. The ADPC and the ICMPD, with the support of diaspora opinion leaders, will work with the short term goal of formulating a concept note and competing for funding from the European Commission this fall, and with the mid term goal of deciding the full terms of reference for the endeavour.

1. Background

On October 1-2, 2009, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, organised a two-day policy seminar in Brussels on the subject of diaspora participation in the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. This policy seminar was the follow up to a one-day consultation meeting that was organised by ADPC on July 9, 2009 in The Hague.

Development cooperation between Africa and Europe has been steadily progressing for some time, and the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and Action Plan were adopted in Lisbon in 2007 in response to the need for a concrete framework for systematic, long-term cooperation between the two continents. This new strategy, which is often referred to as a ‘people-centred partnership’, was launched with the purpose of scaling up political dialogue between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) in the interest of building a solid and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership based on shared values, interests, and strategic objectives. The goal of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership is to reinvigorate and elevate cooperation between Africa and Europe in the fight against poverty, injustice, human rights violations, lawlessness, insecurity, and political and social instability. More specifically, the Action Plan is organised around eight themes: peace and security; democratic governance and human rights; trade, regional integration and infrastructure; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); energy; climate change; migration, mobility and employment; and science, information society and space.

The two-day seminar brought together more than 60 participants from a variety of sectors and nations including diaspora organisations from nine EU countries, professionals from many countries in Africa, academics, international organisations, and representatives of six EU member States, the African Union and the European Commission. Through a series of presentations, expert panels, and open dialogue, the participants were afforded the opportunity to expound on the inherent potential and likely characteristics of an alignment with the strategy of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, and the overall impact such an alliance would have on development in Africa and Europe.

2. Opening Remarks

Dr. Awil Mohamoud, Director of ADPC in the Netherlands, opened the seminar by welcoming the participants to Brussels and commenting on the unique and rare occasion of having such a large number of representatives from Africa, Europe, the African diaspora and the traditional development sector come together to discuss the role of the African diaspora in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and Action Plan. Dr. Mohamoud mentioned that he foresaw the diaspora playing a very large role in policy dialogue at local, national and international levels as well as in the practical implementation of the Partnership, and that the African diaspora in Europe occupy a critical strategic position of which both Europe and Africa can benefit its potential if it is skillfully harnessed. He then discussed the Brussels seminar of the previous year, reminding participants of what took place and the results it



achieved. The 2008 seminar brought together for the first time 50 leading African diaspora organisations from 10 EU countries to network, establish viable contacts, learn from each other's development related activities, exchange valuable information and to share best practices and positive experiences. It also facilitated constructive, face-to-face policy dialogue between members of the African diaspora and policy makers involved in migration and development related issues in Europe and in Africa. Dr. Mohamoud also said that, perhaps most importantly, last year's seminar began the discussion on creating an EU-wide diaspora platform for their engagement in development activities. He then indicated that he hoped for that discussion to continue and to become more concrete, and for the 2009 seminar to build on all of the successes of the previous year. Dr. Mohamoud concluded by thanking all of the panel members, presenters, chairs, and organisers for their hard work and dedication.



Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Director of DG Development in the European Commission, continued the opening proceedings by welcoming participants to the European Commission and noting that the governmental sector acknowledges the many contributions the diaspora make to development efforts, mentioning specifically their capacities for social networking, advocacy, bridge building, financial and human capital contributions, and participation in local efforts where government involvement is less possible. He then expressed his expectations for the seminar, including more involvement of the diaspora in the Strategic Partnership, more dialogue on development issues in general, and concrete proposals on how to achieve these two goals. Mr. Rudischhauser went on to note that the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership is not a government-to-government endeavour—it is called “people centred” because it is meant to be fully inclusive of all civil society stakeholders, including the diaspora. The diaspora, however, have not been particularly present in EU and AU policy discussions, not because of lack of intent, but due to what Mr. Rudischhauser described as a lack of organisation. Mr. Rudischhauser concluded by posing the question of the creation of a European network that would exist to represent all of the diaspora at the EU level, noting that the government's role in such an effort would be to provide support and opportunities for funding.

Mr. Lukas Gehrke, Head of the ICMPD Brussels Mission, began by highlighting the need to focus on and learn from best practices of diaspora engagement in policymaking and migration and development. He highlighted that a holistic approach towards the creation and maintenance of strong partnerships between actors involved at different levels (notably civil society organisations, NGOs, migrant organisations, governments and academia) can have a significant positive impact in addressing the challenges of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. He also stressed the need for governments to find concrete ways to create environments that enable diaspora groups to effectively engage in policy and share their ideas and expertise in a manner that can advance the Africa-EU agenda. He noted that plurality of discourse creates added value, and is essential in allowing diasporas to organise themselves around specific areas of concern and strengthen their dialogue through increased structure and organisation. Mr. Gehrke concluded by stating that the ICMPD's role is to facilitate and support the achievement of those goals.



H.E. Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Ambassador to the AU Mission in Brussels, spoke from the perspective of the AU and expressed general support for the development efforts of the African diaspora. He also mentioned that there is a move now within the AU to assign the worldwide African Diaspora¹ the designation of the 6th region of the AU in Africa—a decision that H.E. Mr. Annadif believes would create legitimacy for the diaspora in their development initiatives.

Mr. Saul Kaye, Manager of Governance & Public Administration for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD), echoed many of the sentiments of H.E. Mr. Annadif and asserted also that Africa's greatest resource is her people, including the very large network of diaspora residing on nearly every continent of the world.

Ms. Kajsa Marsk Rives, Migration and Development Team Coordinator for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), began her statement by admitting that Sweden has relatively little experience in the field of migration and development and in working with the diaspora, but that the Swedish Government is actively seeking more information on the subject. Ms. Rives explained that SIDA has been tasked with writing a background document on the migration-development nexus, and that this document would cover 2010-2015 and would be used to inform future policy and programming decisions by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She then concluded by expressing SIDA's interest, in the preparation of this document, in learning more about the diaspora experience and how the diaspora views development cooperation.

3. Panel Presentation on Advancing Africa-EU Policy Dialogue

Ms. Dimitria Clayton of the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration in North Rhine-Westphalia (MGFFI-NRW), Germany, acted as chair for this panel.

Mr. Gibril Faal, Board Director of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the United Kingdom, spoke from the perspective of the diaspora when he urged participants of the seminar not to seek to create a monolith that would represent all diaspora organisations at the cost of diversity. Mr. Faal spoke of such diversity as a great asset of the diaspora in advancing the Africa-EU policy dialogue, and advocated for the creation of a framework within which the diaspora can work



together toward common goals and find representation in larger policy discussions. Mr. Faal also identified a lack of clarity in the language used to refer to partnerships, and recommended viewing the decision to partner with another organisation, sector or network in a marketing context. This approach is based on a hierarchy or sliding scale, whereby customers (in this case the diaspora) begin by being suspicious about a product (partnership), move toward a prospective relationship as they scrutinise the product, then on to a customer relationship when they buy, a client

¹ The African Union defines the diaspora in a global sense as all people of African origin, regardless of citizenship, nationality, or how long ago they or their families migrated from Africa. For more information, see: www.siu.edu/~mafalay/JournalInfo/Vol.../Issue%201%20revised.pdf

relationship when they consume the product regularly, and finally end up in a partner relationship only when they assist in the future success of the product. Mr. Faal posited that right now, in their role with Africa-EU partnership, the diaspora are prospective at best, and suspicious at worst. He then called for a pragmatic approach to discussing the advancement of the policy dialogue, free of superfluous repetition of agreed upon concepts and in the spirit of mutual trust with the AU and the EU.

Professor Oumar C. Ndongo, Secretary General of the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF) represented the perspective of African civil society and the West African point of view in particular. Professor Ndongo expressed the need on the part of African civil society to examine the current demographics and trends of African migration, the push and pull factors that cause it, and the rejection of migrants by other nations. He also advocated for free and open migration within the continent for the purposes of advancing African development and reducing brain drain to Europe. Professor Ndongo also stressed the importance of focusing the dialogue on human rights issues related to migration, and emphasised the role of the diaspora in continuing to invest financially in their respective countries of origin.



Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, Director of the Ghana Immigration Service, referred to development aide, trade and migration as the most salient topics of the policy dialogue today, and alluded to a vital difference in Europe's and Africa's approach to these issues. Africa, Ms. Adjei stated, is focused on remittances, human rights, labour, and mobility while Europe approaches policy primarily from an interest in regulation, irregular migration, and the return of refugees. Additionally, Europe tends to concentrate most of its mobility policies on highly skilled workers from Africa even though, from the African perspective, much can be gained from promoting mobility across all groups. Ms. Adjei then warned that this disparity in the priorities, goals, and overall approach to policy making at the EU and AU levels will likely become a significant barrier to win-win policy development.

Ms. Sara Lahmani, Project Officer of Population, Migration, Institutional and Strategic Partnerships at *Agence Française de Développement*² (AFD) in Paris represented the perspective of the French Ministries and French development agencies when she presented six ways in which the involvement of the diaspora can be facilitated. The six methods included capacity building, awareness raising, informational meetings, and increased networking and visibility activities as well as the integration of diasporas and their own ministries and local level representatives. In terms of integration, Ms. Lahmani indicated that for local impact of diaspora projects, local representation and inputs were of absolute necessity.

Mr. Rob Rozenburg, Head of Sector Migration for DG Development-C2, referred back to Mr. Faal's marketing inspired approach to the partnership framework when he notes that some development actors are under the impression that they can continue to play a significant role in Africa's development without utilising the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. In this way, he continued, these actors have a prospective relationship with the Partnership, rather than being clients or partners themselves. Mr. Rozenburg went on to describe how a partnership is merely an

² Translation: French Development Agency

empty shell—a platform for cooperation—and that a partnership in itself accomplishes nothing. It is how the partnership is implemented and the inputs provided that result in desired outcomes.

4. Panel 1: Perspectives on Building Bridges

Dr. Puleng Lenka-Bula, Senior Lecturer at the University of South Africa, acted as chair for this panel.

Ms. Andredina Gomes Cardoso, Vice President of *Fundo de Apoio Social de Caboverdianos em Portugal*³ (FASCP), began her presentation by presenting a list of imperatives for the building of bridges, including the need for diaspora to be well integrated, to know and demonstrate the realities of the homelands, to know the real needs, to know local organisations, to involve locals from the beginning, and to work also with locals in Europe. In describing her organisation's education, health training, and capacity building efforts, Ms. Gomes Cardoso noted the use of local human, financial, and non-monetary resources and the importance of operating within civil society—local organisation to local organisation—rather than via the government.

Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director of the CCP of the African Union indicated that the concept of diaspora building bridges is not a new one, and that the challenge lies in bringing



existing efforts to the forefront and stepping up those efforts via increased organisation and support. Ms. Kebede explained how creating a strategic position for the diaspora and networking with private sector were multifaceted issues from her point of view. She also noted the necessity for identifying the potential first generation Afro-Europeans can have on development in Africa, and allowing them to understand their role in society as members of the diaspora. Additionally, there is a need to study the environment in which Afro-Europeans find themselves in and the culture of volunteerism.

Mr. Belay Taddese, Expatriate Affairs Director for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ethiopia pointed to the diaspora playing a role in policy dialogue and lobbying at the EU and AU levels, and said that there are very concrete ways in which the diaspora can further the goals of the Strategic Partnership and Action Plan. Specifically, Mr. Taddese said that the diaspora can help solicit trade concessions to Africa, help import fair trade products into host countries, and can help to better production technologies and protect quality standards. The diaspora can also help further the achievement of the MDGs through their work in the health and education sectors, and can play a vital role in the spheres of energy, climate change, science and technology through research, laboratory twinning, new technologies, and capacity building. Lastly, the diaspora can bolster their activities in the realm of mobility, employment and migration through increased dialogue, the promotion of circular migration, and by fulfilling an advisory role for governments on migration management.

Mr. Jaime Mira Salama, Migration and Development Project Manager and Directorate General of Development Policy Planning and Evaluation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Madrid asserted that in becoming more engaged in the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, the diaspora must employ a bottom up approach in determining the role they will play

³ Translation: Fund for Social Support of Cape Verdeans in Portugal

rather than allowing governments to determine how best to engage them. In Mr. Mira Salama's view, the diaspora must seek increased professionalism in order to build confidence and legitimacy for their activities at the European level, and must continue to build their capacities for contributing to policy making. Additionally, Mr. Mira Salama recommended engaging in research efforts that would create data sources and lead to evidence-based policymaking.

These presentations were followed by a **brief forum discussion** amongst participants. Much of the discussion was focused on the need for increased research efforts, and Botswana and Lesotho were highlighted as best practices for the way in which those countries incorporate migrant demographics within national censuses. Another area recommended for research in the forum discussion was qualitative studies examining geo political and intergenerational differences among African diasporas, with the goal of learning from best practices and maintaining commitment to the continent from second and third generation diaspora children.

Some recommendations for how to move forward and bolster the bridge building efforts of the diaspora included greater cooperation with regional councils and committees, and especially with the appropriate organisations of the AU such as the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), and the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) and an awareness raising campaign on the part of the EU and the AU that would inform the broader constituency of African diaspora living in Europe about the Strategic Partnership and Action plan and the role the diaspora can play in achieving the goals set out in the agreement.

5. Panel 2: Perspectives on Employment

Professor Oumar C. Ndongo, Secretary General of WACSOF, acted as chair for this panel. In introducing the topic of the panel discussion, Professor Ndongo called for reflection on how development initiatives undertaken by the diaspora for the purpose of job creation in the homeland can be further sustained and improved within the framework of the Strategic Partnership.



Mr. Yera Dembele, President of *Federation des Associations Franco-Africaines de Developpement*⁴ (FAFRAD) in France, introduced his organisation as a federation of 212 diaspora associations operating not only in the area of social and professional integration of immigrants, but also in the fields of intercultural dialogue and international development. FAFRAD is also one of the founding members of the FORIM, which is a forum of international solidarity organisations established by migrants. Mr. Dembele went on to say that FAFRAD's activities are relevant with regard to employment creation at three main levels, including remittances, enterprise creation and local development. In terms of remittances, Mr. Dembele described briefly how his organisation directed the use of remittances to aid development in the areas receiving them, rather than using them to pay for imported consumption products. FAFRAD's enterprise development activities involve step-by-step assistance in both Francand Africa in setting up small businesses, from securing credit to project preparation and feasibility studies. These services, he said, are offered in collaboration with *Groupe d'Appui à la Micro-Entreprise*⁵ (GAME), which offers a number of capacity building and financial support services. So far this project has been successful in 22 African countries, as well as in France. Lastly, Mr. Dembele described his organisation's local development efforts, which have included giving assistance to migrants who wish to start

⁴ Translation: Federation of French-African Associations for Development

⁵ Translation: Group for Support to Micro Enterprise

development projects of their own. This FAFRAD project is implemented in collaboration with the *Programme d'appui aux projets des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale Issues de l'Immigration*⁶ (PRA/OSIM), a mechanism for the accompaniment and the co-funding of local development projects promoted by migrant organisations that also encourages synergy with other actors in France and in the home-countries. Such projects are currently running in 19 countries in Africa, and primarily in Mali, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire.



Mr. Samba Yomb Thiam, Technical Advisor at the Ministry for Senegalese Abroad in the Republic of Senegal, spoke of the generation of the Ministry he represents, noting that the *Ministère des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur* was established in 2003, following a symposium that was held with diaspora members in 2001 that encouraged the government to commit to an active engagement in promoting its diaspora. In 2006 a Sectorial Policy Document on Migration was also approved that defines the strategic lines and the operational framework of a diaspora policy in line

with the principles contained in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy. Mr. Yomb Thiam explained that the Ministry's mandate is to manage, promote and protect the Senegalese diaspora, who are seen as vital actors in the development of Senegal. From an institutional perspective, a number of reforms in 2007 gave way to the creation of three new directorates, and the directorate for the support of diaspora investments and projects (DAIP) and has direct relevance with job creation. DAIP supports diaspora members who create employment through direct investment, and FAISE, another institution of the Ministry, provides guaranteed funds for diaspora members with investments in sectors that present potential growth and facilitates migrant access to credit. Mr. Yomb Thiam noted that in 2009, the fund amounted at 250 million CFA Francs, and 600 million are projected for 2010. Negotiations, however, are currently underway with the Government of Italy for additional funding of 200 million CFA Francs, and the objective is to mobilise 5 billion by 2012.

Dr. Irina Kausch, Deputy Head of Migration and Development for the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*⁷ (GTZ) in Germany, described how the GTZ came about setting up the Sector Project on Migration and Development in 2006 with the mandate and mission of aligning migration and development in technical cooperation. The Sector intervenes in four main areas of development, including remittances, diaspora cooperation, private sector, and migration policy. Dr. Kausch noted that there is much potential for employment promotion within the activities related to diaspora cooperation and the private sector, and went on to describe those areas of intervention in more detail. In terms of diaspora cooperation, GTZ drives non-profit engagement in diaspora-led projects in the home countries and assists in the funding of projects, research studies, conference event planning, capacity building and dialogue facilitation. The projects that are supported by GTZ (22 since 2007) often lead directly to job creation in the homelands, and the opportunity to build on this success is considerable. Dr. Kausch also expounded on how the GTZ's work with the private sector stimulates employment promotion



⁶ Translation: Programme Support for the Projects of Organisations of Solidarity and International Immigration Issues

⁷ Translation: German Agency for Technical Cooperation

through the improvement of the investment climate in major regions of origin, match-making, consulting on business creation sustainability, return assistance, and the creation of (trade) networks. The four main fields of private-sector intervention identified were lobbying, investment, knowledge transfer and trade.

Dr. Kausch concluding by listing some of the lessons learned from GTZ's activities in the above areas, including the fact that migrants seem to be motivated by return on investment and that diaspora projects are based primarily on emotional attachment, philanthropy and social standing in home and host communities. Further, she noted that members of the diaspora who are more likely to initiate projects and fulfil the role of the driving force behind those projects are entrepreneurs, academics, and those who have obtained nationality in their host countries. Additional lessons learned on how to target and promote the engagement of these migrants were also briefly identified.

These presentations were followed by a **brief forum discussion** amongst participants, wherein it was noted that all of the actors represented seem to combine social initiatives with a more economic or business centred approach when working towards job creation. There was much appreciation for the best practices discussed during the panellists' presentations, but some recommendations for improvement were posited. The need for centrality of capacity building, training and organisational support was noted, for example, as well as a double engagement of the diaspora both as a trainer and as trainee. The issue of knowledge transfer was also seen as closely related to this issue and poses difficulties in matching the skills acquired during migration and the effective capacities that might be useful in the homeland. Additionally, access to credit in both Africa and the EU was consistently viewed as a formidable barrier to job creation, and the creation of a favourable environment through business regulation and trade policies was deemed essential for employment promotion in the homelands.

6. Panel Presentation on Building an EU-Wide Platform of Diaspora Organisations Working on Development Issues in Africa: The Challenges Ahead

Mr. Santo Deng, Chairman of the Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD) in the Netherlands, acted as chair for this panel and introduced the topic by urging the dialogue to remain in the realm of concrete, actionable steps for creating a pan-European network of diaspora development initiatives.



Mr. Andreas Vogt, Membership and Networking Officer of CONCORD in Brussels began this panel presentation, which was the only segment of the seminar that was open only to diaspora leaders rather than participants from all sectors of representation, by explaining that his organisation is a European-wide network for relief and development NGOs. Mr. Vogt then shared with participants the main priorities of CONCORD, which include coordinating policy positions and advocacy work, creating a pool of expertise among its

members, promoting internal networking, working at the Brussels level to directly interact with European Council, devising joint communications strategies, and building capacities among its membership. Mr. Vogt indicated that such priorities could form the basis for the activities a

diaspora-wide network would engage in, but also recommended that the diaspora act quickly to build such a network so as to take advantage of the current favourable political climate. Mr. Vogt went on to offer sage advice on the creation of the platform, such as determining early on the governance of the body, its overarching purpose and goals, the membership requirements, and official representation and legitimacy.

Mr. Lulessa Abadura, Network Coordinator of ADPC in the Netherlands, presented information about the current scope of ADPC's activities, and its now and future capacities for working with a pan-European framework.

These presentations were followed by a **forum discussion** amongst participants, which focused primarily on the best way to move forward with creating a platform of diaspora organisations working on development issues in Africa. The general sentiment of the group was that the task of determining the details and the terms of reference for such an endeavour should be designated to a working group/steering committee composed of five to seven diaspora leaders of diverse origin and backgrounds. The upcoming funding opportunity from the European Commission was also discussed at length, and while some felt that the deadline was approaching too quickly for decisive and thoughtful action to be taken, the majority of those present agreed to attempt to compete for the funding. In the end a general agreement was reached that the ADPC, with the support of the ICMPD and all willing diaspora leaders, would draft a preliminary concept note and would submit that document to the European Commission on or before November 13, 2009. The ADPC and other participants agreed to work with the short-term goal of competing for this specific funding opportunity and a mid-term goal of determining the full terms of reference for creating the EU-wide platform.

7. Panel 3: Perspectives on Smart Partnerships

Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director of CCP of the African Union, acted as chair for this panel.

Mr. Birame Diouf, Director of the Atlantik Foundation in Norway, noted that the historical aspect of Africa and Europe's relationship and the existing tension between diaspora groups in Europe and residents of Africa is something that may need to be considered as a challenge in pursuing smart partnerships. Mr. Diouf continued also drew attention to the currently ailing status of the traditional development sector, and warned against partnering too hastily with organisations that have little to offer the diaspora effort. As a final note, Mr. Diouf raised the question of ownership versus partnership, and whether (or at what point) partnerships can inhibit organisational growth for the diaspora.



8. Panel 4: Strengthening Cooperation between Diaspora Organisations and Civil Society Institutions in Africa

Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, Executive Director of CCP of the African Union, acted as chair for this panel.

Ms. Beatrice Kindembe Isampete, Vice President of NAWES in Sweden, began by introducing her organisation and describing its activities. NAWES, she said, supports a network of women scientists of African origin who live and work in Sweden and encourages them to be visible and participate in the academic and public spheres in Sweden, Europe and Africa. The overarching goal of NAWES is to work for sustainable development in Africa and on behalf of the African diaspora living in Europe. Ms. Kindembe Isampete went on to explain that NAWES is involved in a variety of activities including some that are characterised by cooperation with the civil society sector in Africa. NAWES, for example, works to establish links and connections between higher education institutions in Sweden with research institutions in Africa and submits qualified projects for funding. The organisation is working to increase its success in securing that funding for a greater number of African institutions.



Dr. Puleng Lenka-Bula of the Department of Systematic Ethics at the University of South Africa provided an overview of the how the civil society sector can be an agent of change in cooperation with diaspora organisations, the private sector and public agencies. Dr. Lenka-Bula also noted that, in forming partnerships with civil society as well as with political agencies and the private sector, it is important to understand that the diverse roles, positions, and capacities of the diaspora are fully understood. She went on to say that while forming alliances and partnerships within the framework of the Strategic Partnership is important, attention must also be paid to relationships between diaspora institutions. Dr. Lenka-Bula concluded by indicating that participation of the diaspora in the Strategic Partnership and with civil society actors must be organised so that the diaspora are involved in implementing activities that impact African development on the continent and to economic development of African populations in Europe.

Professor Oumar C. Ndong, Secretary General of WACSOF, began his panellist presentation by suggesting that a starting point for pursuing greater cooperation with civil society in Africa should be the creation of the EU-wide diaspora platform and collaboration between that network on the European side, WACSOF on the West African Side, and the Centre for Citizen Participation (CCP), ECOSOCC, and CIDO on the AU side. Professor Ndong continued by noting that these organisations that are present today can channel cooperative efforts and projects initiated by the diaspora and the exchange of information. Additionally, the need to develop solidarity between partners for deriving benefit from mutual experiences was identified, as was the need for a website created for the expressed purposed of soliciting input from potential and current partners. Professor Ndong then described the shape that he believed cooperation between the diaspora and civil society would take, and said that it would likely be characterised by a joint search for funding opportunities as well as consultative meetings, visits, conferences, seminars, and workshops. Additionally, he reminded participants that one very direct route to cooperation is to seek seats in the boards of African organisations, some of which even earmark a certain number of seats specifically for diaspora, and with institutions of the AU such as ECOSOCC. Professor

Ndongo also identified the need to pressure the AU to ensure that the African diaspora in Europe is involved and their voices are heard. The AU office in Brussels would make an appropriate relay point for information that must pass from the diaspora to ECOSOCC and CIDO.

9. Closing Remarks



Ms. Clayton of MGFFI-NRW in Germany began her closing statement by remarking on the very strenuous work done by each of the participants over the preceding two days, and shared her great appreciation for the passionate and in depth discussion which resulted from each of the panels. Ms. Clayton then provided a brief summary of the proceedings of the seminar, and presented the main points and key recommendations discussed in each of the sessions.

Mr. Gibril Faal, Board Director of AFFORD in the United Kingdom, provided the final closing remarks of the two-day seminar when he spoke of the future development of Africa and immense role the diaspora currently and potentially could play in that development.

He also expressed his support for the creation of a pan-European network of diaspora organisations, and closed with selected quotes that encapsulated the spirit of the seminar and the way forward.

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