Foreword

In recent years, owing to their considerable social and financial capital, diasporas have become increasingly recognised by major institutions such as the World Bank, the UN and the EU as salient and strategic partners in development cooperation.

In 2008, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) coordinated initiatives in the Netherlands and at the European level to further inform international institutions of how the African diaspora’s potential can best be harnessed. The ADPC has become a strategic platform from which to facilitate the African diaspora organisations in Europe in joining forces, pooling their efforts and undertaking initiatives collectively for the overall development of Africa.

The ADPC aims to utilise its unique positioning to further mobilise and unite the diaspora for the benefit of Africa’s development in the coming years. It will also facilitate the inclusion of diaspora voices and visions in European policy deliberations in a more targeted and systematic manner. As diaspora organisations begin to play more active roles in the development of their countries of origin, their participation in policy dialogue and the generation of ideas and policy insights must continue to be stimulated in order for their voices to be heard in EU-wide discussions related to migration and development matters. Furthermore, the ADPC will forge closer links between the diaspora and African institutions such as the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) in order to inform and raise awareness among policy makers on the continent of the strategic role that the diaspora can play.

We at the ADPC will continue to work towards our mission of contributing to better development in Africa by providing a platform that enables African diaspora in Europe to pool their resources for the development of the continent.

Domenica Ghidei Biidu
Chair of the Board of the African Diaspora Policy Centre
Introduction

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) implemented several activities in 2008 aimed at raising the profile of African diaspora organisations in Europe. The activities were undertaken primarily to realise policy and practice changes among development circles, in both Europe and Africa that would be conducive to the proactive engagement of the diaspora with the development of their respective countries of origin. They were also undertaken to stimulate the active participation of the diaspora in policy dialogue in order to make their critical voices count in discussions related to migration and development matters, thereby facilitating, in a more structured and formalised manner, the inclusion of diaspora voices and visions in policy deliberations taking place at local, national and international levels. Moreover, activities were undertaken to showcase and make known to the wider development constituency the concrete development-related activities initiated by diaspora organisations and the specific factors that have contributed to their positive outcomes. Diasporas have now strategically positioned themselves as critical development actors in development policy circles, which reflects their increasing large-scale involvement in the development of their respective homelands.

A unique event of this kind was the ground-breaking policy dialogue seminar that the ADPC, in collaboration with the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), organised in Brussels from 25 to 26 June 2008. That seminar brought fifty leading African diaspora organisations from eleven EU countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK) together for the first time to engage in discussion with policy makers involved in migration and development-related issues in Europe and in Africa.

On several fronts, the ADPC has had tangible success in its activities in 2008. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the full support of the board of the ADPC, Domenica Ghidei, Sjoera Dikkers, Edzo Tonkes and Alberta Opoku. I am also particularly grateful to the excellent work of the ADPC staff, namely Sarah Osman, Antony Otieno Ong’ayo and Juliette Verhoeven, as well as volunteers and interns Lulessa Abadura, Ayan Abukar, Maartje van Veldhuizen and Philip van der Krogt. An indication of the growing profile of the ADPC is that in 2008 we received support from three Dutch donors – Cordaid, NCDO and Oxfam Novib. The ADPC also received financial support from donors
such as the European Commission, the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), the Ministry for Integration of North-Rhine Westphalia (Germany), the MacArthur Foundation (USA) and the EU 7th Framework Programme.

The ADPC has several key priorities for 2009. One priority area is the promotion of proactive participation of the African diaspora in Europe in policy dialogue regarding the newly formulated Joint Africa–EU Strategic Partnership and the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in Lisbon in 2007. The other priority area is the active participation of diaspora researchers in the production of knowledge in the field of migration and development in this emerging policy field.

In 2009, the ADPC will continue its work of integrating the diaspora into policy and strategy discussions and activities of the established development circles in both Europe and Africa. The ADPC is uniquely placed to act as a focal point and as a representative interlocutor with other stakeholders and players in the field of migration and development, as it is firmly grounded within the social setting of the African diaspora communities in Europe. The Centre is already playing a strategic role in facilitating viable partnerships between diaspora organisations and other stakeholders in the field in Europe and beyond. We will therefore continue to redouble our efforts of facilitating the African diaspora organisations in Europe to unite and undertake initiatives collectively for the overall development of Africa.

Dr. Awil Mohamoud
Director
1. Engaging African Diaspora in Europe as Strategic Agents for Development in Africa

Diasporas are one of the major global forces shaping the trends of the 21st century. The contemporary African diaspora from the continent now living in EU countries alone is estimated to be around 3.3 million, 1 million of whom are from sub-Saharan Africa. There are more, of course, living in other countries in Europe. As such, the diaspora is Africa’s greatest offshore asset in terms of its considerable human and financial capital that could be engaged for the benefit of Africa. The African diaspora now occupies an indispensable strategic position, more closely linking the developed West with Africa. The huge presence of the African diaspora in powerful political and economic centres where global policy decisions are made, such as London, Paris, New York and Washington DC, has an especially important strategic significance.

In 2008, the ADPC undertook two activities to enhance dialogue between the African diaspora and policy makers at the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU). These activities explored the added value and options for strategic partnerships between the diaspora and other stakeholders in the field of migration and development. The added value of the diaspora in the field of development lies in their accumulative experience, insight and established networks. The project offered an opportunity for policy makers in this growing policy field to communicate and engage directly with the diaspora and their grassroots organisations for a genuine and effective policy dialogue.

1.1 Strengthening dialogue among diaspora organisations in Europe

**Expert Meeting, April 2008**

On 25 April 2008 the ADPC, in collaboration with Oxfam Novib, organised a pre-consultation meeting in The Hague, at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS). This was the first time that key African diaspora figures and opinion leaders from ten EU countries had been brought together. The key purpose of this pre-consultation meeting was to debate, brainstorm and deliberate on priority issues to be discussed at the policy dialogue seminar held in Brussels on 25 and 26 June 2008.

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1 For more information, see the Eurostat databank.
Twenty diaspora leaders from ten EU member states attended the expert meeting. Six projected outcomes and impacts were addressed. The first focused on the question of the formation of an EU-wide network among diaspora organisations. This issue is of particular importance since diasporas in European countries have mobilised their resources to give back to their countries of origin. However, there remains a lack of access to practical experience and information exchange between diaspora organisations. Secondly, employment and job creation were seen as essential points of focus that should be at the heart of the overall development strategies to be developed by the diasporas. Thirdly, dialogue was identified as the first logical step towards increasing understanding among policy makers of the added value of diasporas to development cooperation. Moreover, it was agreed, constructive and continued dialogue should take place between the diasporas as well as with other stakeholders active in migration and development-related issues. Fourthly, as a result of this dialogue, partnerships and strategic alliances can be formed among diaspora organisations. In turn, this will lead to the fifth and sixth outcomes: placing the African diaspora in a stronger position to contribute to overall policy discussions and, through this, reshaping the development cooperation agenda.

The expert meeting allowed diaspora leaders to formulate a plan for documentation and action that would inform the policy dialogue seminar. They identified the need to mobilise diaspora organisations in achieving the following:

- developing a collective vision and engaging in internal dialogue about common concerns and ideas;
- taking part in discussions with policy makers at the EU and the AU as well as with mainstream development organisations;
- producing documentation of what diaspora organisations are doing in Africa, to be used for policy recommendations and press releases.

1.2 Presenting the diaspora perspective to the EU

*Policy Dialogue Seminar, June 2008*

On 25 and 26 June 2008 the ADPC, in cooperation with the EU and the UNDP, organised the very first policy dialogue seminar, entitled ‘Engaging African Diaspora in Europe as Strategic Agents for Development in Africa’. The seminar facilitated a constructive and face-to-face
policy dialogue between the African diaspora and policy makers involved in migration and development-related issues in Europe and Africa. On the first day the seminar was attended by approximately 120 participants, and on the second day, which was closed to the diaspora representatives, there were approximately 70 participants.

The seminar’s core objective was to act as a forum for the voices, views, insights, perspectives, practical experience, aspirations, interests, priorities, challenges and specific needs of the African diaspora in Europe. A constructive policy dialogue between the diaspora and policy makers at the AU and EU level was facilitated to encourage the inclusion of diaspora voices, visions and perspectives in policy deliberations. This seminar aimed to incorporate diaspora voices in development discussions at the international level in a more structured and formal manner.

The unprecedented meeting of fifty African diaspora organisations from ten European countries – enabling them to interact, network and discuss, to share and exchange information, new insights, specific experiences and best practices on diverse issues in the migration and development field – was considered by the diaspora participants of the seminar to be a major accomplishment in itself. Moreover, the seminar concluded with the formulation of a number of recommendations to be reflected upon in further policy deliberations regarding the diaspora and their added value to the development of Africa. These included the formulation of coherent policies, catalysing further networking between the diaspora and fostering a more viable environment for job creation and entrepreneurship. The key recommendations included the following:

- Policies, both within the EU and between the EU and Africa, need to be more coherently inclusive of diaspora perspectives. Support by European policy makers is needed in order to develop methodologies and strategies for institutions. The EU can leverage country-specific best practices and scale these up across the EU. It can also devise policies to include remittances as a key component of development.

- Cross-border diaspora networks within Europe and between Europe and Africa need to be built. Furthermore, diasporas should engage with other NGOs and international organisations, as well as with the private sector. This includes the creation of a platform whereby diaspora expertise is accessible to various parties.
• Freedom of movement is vital for business, and for the survival of all manner of developing diaspora projects. Both countries of origin and host countries should put in place policies that encourage circular migration, to facilitate the involvement of the diaspora in Africa.

• It is necessary to create support for the diaspora seeking employment opportunities in Africa, or for the diaspora engaged in sustainable job-creation projects because the creation of jobs is imperative for the development of the continent. There has been an uphill battle to get experts from the African diaspora involved in pre-existing development bureaucracies. Policies, networks and funds should be established in order to increase the engagement of diaspora experts.

The timing of the seminar was significant. It was held before the second Ministerial Euro-African meeting on Migration and Development in Paris on 20 and 21 October 2008 and the second Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) that took place in Manila on 27 and 28 October 2008. The seminar helped the diaspora to identify a set of priority issues and collectively formulate specific policy recommendations that would be presented at these conferences. It created a dynamic momentum upon which to build in order to benefit from the insights and perspectives of the diaspora regarding development issues and it galvanised diaspora organisations, helping them to perceive themselves as important players in policy dialogue. Furthermore, diaspora organisations gained access, which had not been attempted before, to policy makers at the EU level.

The stimulation of the active participation of the diaspora in the generation of ideas and policy insights is necessary for the simple fact that diasporas are the most important stakeholders and the chief actors in making possible the nexus between migration and development.
2. Promoting Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa

The development of effective, formal and sustainable institutional links can considerably increase the contribution of the African diaspora to the overall development of their countries of origin, both in terms of structure and scale. This objective can be better realised by creating an enabling environment in the homelands, which is, in effect, a precondition for sustainable development in Africa. It is also a precondition for engaging the diaspora in the development of their respective home countries. The challenges in the home countries that need to be addressed include weak governance, political instability and poor economic conditions, along with issues of personal freedom, basic civic rights, democracy and rule of law. The prevalence of such complex challenges, which are often referred to as ‘push factors’, result in widespread social upheaval, disruption of economic production, slow economic growth, high levels of unemployment, disheartening working conditions, poor physical infrastructure, lack of adequate social services, absence of democracy and human-rights abuses.

Unfortunately, the persistence of some or all of these challenges in certain homelands gravely hampers the contribution of the diaspora to development efforts in Africa. It is for this reason that much of the research to date suggests the importance of strong institutions and good policies for enhancing the benefits of the diaspora for homeland development. As has been generally pointed out, the developmental impact of the diaspora is not equal across countries and is strongly affected by the incentives offered by the institutional environment of the homeland. African diaspora institutions and organisations in host countries in the West can play a role in creating an enabling environment within African countries by increasing their investment in the creation of homeland programmes in the fields of good governance and democratisation processes.

The absence of institutional cooperation between Africa and its diaspora reveals another problem that urgently needs to be addressed. In general, compared with their Asian and Latin American counterparts, most African countries have not yet taken sufficient advantage of the vast untapped potential of their overseas diaspora, nor have African diaspora organisations and their members been as actively involved in the development of their respective home
countries as diasporas from countries in both Asia and Latin America. How best to address this dilemma from both perspectives – that of Africa and the diaspora – is one of the focuses of this research project.

2.1 Identifying patterns of best practices and trajectories for diaspora engagement with homeland governments

*Research Programme, March 2008*

In March 2008, the ADPC initiated a policy-relevant research programme, Building Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. This project aims to foster the development of networks, strategic alliances and sustained institutional cooperation between the diaspora and the newly formed policy makers, such as the Ministries of Diaspora Affairs within governments in Ghana and Nigeria, and other officials dealing with diaspora and development-related issues within governments in their respective countries of origin. Through development activities, diasporas have developed formal as well as informal links with institutions and organisations in host and home countries. Furthermore, an increasing number of Africans abroad are seeking to be elected into office in their home countries. These developments require further study to ascertain their potential for improved governance in African countries.

The overall objective of the project is to generate evidence-based knowledge and information from which lessons can be learned to formulate sound policies. The research will highlight examples and catalysts of institutional cooperation already existing among the African diaspora and African governments on the continent. The research is conducted through extensive case studies on the African continent in Ghana and Nigeria, and in host countries in which most of the diaspora from both countries largely reside: Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Baseline data will be obtained on the evolution, nature, patterns and trends of existing links between homeland governments and their overseas diasporas. This study attempts to identify patterns of best practices and assemble specific trajectories and entry points employed by diasporas. The obtained information will help in

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2 For a discussion on this issue, see the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA)’s ‘Policy Forum on Migration and Development in Africa’, a background paper for a conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 26–27, 2005. (GCA Document/no.2/01/2005)
forging better relationships and sustained institutional collaboration between the African diaspora and the newly formed policy makers in Africa.

The research will also address policy-level issues and questions that make a pioneering contribution to an emerging research agenda on the subject of migration and development. The project will foster the development of formal structures and networks between the African diaspora organisations in Europe and the newly emerging institutions in Africa. It will disseminate examples of best practices and catalysts of constructive institutional cooperation already existing among African diaspora organisations and African governments. Finally, it will identify realistic and feasible programmes that can maximise the contribution of Africans abroad to the development of Africa. The project will continue until February 2010.

2.2 Fostering transnational links between researchers

*Expert Meeting, October 2008*

As part of the preparations for the research project, the ADPC, in collaboration with MacArthur Foundation and Oxfam Novib, organised a diaspora research expert meeting on 2 and 3 October 2008. Participants in this meeting were drawn from a cross-section of diaspora researchers and experts from Africa, Europe and the United States of America who have extensive expertise in issues of migration and development. The objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for diaspora researchers from which they can exchange knowledge and experiences, establish transnational contacts and enter into joint research collaborations. The goal was to strengthen the participation of diaspora research in the production of knowledge in the fields of migration, development and better governance, and to stimulate the inclusion of diaspora voices and visions in policy deliberations in the form of publications, public debates and expert meetings.

The expert meeting focused on two issues: the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the research programme and mechanisms to enhance the participation of diaspora researchers. This allowed for the formulation of strategies that are useful in this project as well as future research programs that aim to utilise the value of transnational links between researchers, especially in the field of migration and development. Specifically, it was identified at the expert meeting that it is imperative to promote knowledge advancement in the fields of migration, development and governance through the cross-fertilisation of ideas and
the sharing of knowledge and experiences across three continents (Europe, Africa and North America). Secondly, it is necessary to foster the inclusion of diaspora voices and visions in policy deliberations in the form of publications, public debates and expert meetings. Thirdly, this research program will pave the way for increasing the participation and input of diaspora professionals, scholars and researchers in a formal manner through the regularisation of institutional frameworks, which link them to development organisations and government departments in countries of origin and host countries.

It was noted that similar meetings are necessary in the future as a way of fostering collaboration between diaspora and homeland researchers. It was also observed that such a forum would immensely facilitate the generation of knowledge in the field from multiple sites and also help the development of a knowledge community. Furthermore, the process would encourage African governments to invest in strengthening knowledge networks between diaspora and homeland researchers – a prerequisite for laying the foundations for collaborative and sustainable intellectual endeavours.

The expert meeting was attended by the following scholars:

- **Aderanti Adepoju**, director of the Network of Migration Research on Africa (NOMRA) and the Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC), Nigeria;
- **John Oucho**, chair of the Marie Curie Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations School of Health and Social Studies at the University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, and founder and chair of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Kenya;
- **Mariama Awumbila**, senior lecturer at the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana;
- **Osman Alhassan**, senior researcher at the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana;
- **Dimitria Clayton**, research and programme officer at the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany;
• **Olukunle Ojeleye**, PhD candidate, Department of War Studies at King’s College, University of London, United Kingdom;

• **Joshua Kwesi Aikins**, PhD candidate, Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany;

• **Christian Anyanwu**, professor at the Department of Social Sciences at the Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, USA;

• **Chudi Uwazurike**, professor at the College of the City University of New York, USA;

• **Jennifer Brinkerhoff**, professor at the department of Public Administration & International Affairs at George Washington University, USA;

• **Awil Mohamoud**, director of the African Diaspora Policy Centre, The Netherlands;

• **Antony Otieno Ong’ayo**, former research coordinator at the African Diaspora Policy Centre, The Netherlands;

• **Phillip van der Krogt**, former intern at the African Diaspora Policy Centre, The Netherlands.

3. **DIASPEACE: Diasporas for Peace – Patterns, Trends and Potential of Long-distance Diaspora Involvement in Conflict Settings**

In a globalised world diasporas have become new forces, shaping the interactions between countries, regions and continents. In mainstream academic literature, diasporas are often seen to fuel conflict and exacerbate tensions through radical mobilisation along ethnic and religious lines. New research findings, however, show that diaspora groups are playing an increasingly prominent role in peace and reconciliation processes.

The ADPC is taking part in the three-year multi-disciplinary research project ‘Case Studies from the Horn of Africa’ (DIASPEACE), funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. The research project seeks to generate evidence-based and policy-relevant knowledge about the roles diasporas play in the dynamics of conflict and peace in their countries of origin. The focus of DIASPEACE is on positive initiatives, while also bearing in mind unintended and negative impacts.
The project looks at the chances and challenges of diaspora involvement in their countries of origin. Thanks to their unique position, diaspora groups possess rich knowledge, strong relationships and in-depth understanding regarding peace-building processes in their homelands. But it is still rather difficult for European state actors, and even civil societies, to find ways of meaningful engagement with the involved and active diasporas and to identify potential cooperation partners in their peace-building efforts.

The DIASPEACE project will conduct field research in both Europe and Africa. The ADPC is one of the eight partners of the DIASPEACE consortium, which consists of members from five European countries as well as two international cooperation partner countries in the Horn of Africa. The project has an empirical focus on diaspora networks in Europe that extend their transnational activities to the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. In this region decades of violent conflict have resulted in state collapse and the dispersal of more than 2 million people.

DIASPEACE aims to:

- develop the conceptual framework for migrant political transnationalism in a context of conflict. This will be done by devising and testing methodologies of multi-sited comparative research;

- facilitate interaction between the diaspora and other stakeholders in Europe and in the Horn of Africa;

- provide policy input on how to better involve the diaspora in conflict resolution and peace-building interventions and on how to improve coherence between security, development and immigration policies.

DIASPEACE consists of five main research components. These focus on defining joint analytical tools and research methodologies. The research will provide a comparative assessment of transnational diaspora networks from the Horn of Africa, and their interfaces with European civil society and state institutions. The research components are:

- defining joint analytical tools and research methodologies;
• providing a comparative assessment of transnational diaspora networks from the Horn of Africa and their interfaces with European civil society and state institutions;

• case studies of diaspora as agents of conflict and peace in the Horn of Africa;

• interaction between European institutions and diasporas in conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

• synthesis and dissemination of the research findings and identification of further research directions.

The project will produce a wide range of publications, including working papers, articles in scientific journals and books, seminars and workshops, policy papers, a database and a handbook. The project also publishes an electronic newsletter at regular intervals.

Within the project, the ADPC has been assigned the following tasks:

• to contribute to the preparation of a joint article in an academic journal on diaspora organisations and networks and their modes of operation;

• to contribute substantially to discussion papers about the inventory and case studies of diaspora organisations, the assessment of interactions between European institutions and diasporas and the role of international and intergovernmental organisations in the process;

• to conduct fieldwork in the Netherlands and support the fieldwork in the United Kingdom;

• to provide support in facilitating interactive processes with diaspora organisations.

The DIASPEACE project is distinctive in its approach and has added value for social science research, diaspora activities, and peace-building actors. The project explores a new interdisciplinary field of social science research, developing and testing a multi-sited methodology which allows cross-checking of data and a transnational approach to research. In addition, the project takes into account the sensitivities of the topic at hand, consciously avoiding falling into either an idealised or a pessimistic approach to diaspora activism. The policy input will help connect the diaspora communities at grassroots levels with policy-makers and international actors at higher levels of the policy ladder, facilitating their
cooperation. The DIASPEACE project will continue until 2010. The project looks at the chances and challenges of diaspora involvement in countries of origin. Thanks to their unique position, diaspora groups possess rich knowledge, strong relationships and in-depth understanding regarding peace-building processes in their countries of origin. But it is still rather difficult for European state actors, and even civil societies, to find ways of meaningful engagement with the involved and active diasporas and to identify potential cooperation partners in their peace-building efforts. DIASPEACE analyses the diaspora engagement through case studies, in order to facilitate interaction between diaspora and other peace-building actors, and to develop recommendations for European actors on how better to engage diasporas in peace-building activities.

4. Strengthening the Communication Capacity of the ADPC

In order to make more visible the best practices and successful results of the development-related activities initiated by the diaspora, the ADPC and the NCDO initiated a project in 2008 aimed at strengthening and professionalising the communication capacity of the Centre. In 2008, the ADPC increased its access to several target groups: the African diaspora within the Netherlands, policy makers, mainstream donor organisations, universities and other knowledge centres, the media, and interested parties in general. In addition, the ADPC focussed on strengthening the communication between diaspora organisations, especially to exchange knowledge, capabilities and best practices.

The following key objectives were formulated:

- to develop, strengthen and professionalise the communication capacities of the ADPC in order to provide information about diaspora activities relating to the themes of better governance, brain gain, peace-building and migration and development;

- to act as an information hub by providing up-to-date information about key reports and publications, as well as events and organisations related to the field of migration and development;

- to collect best practices and inspiring stories of role models whose initiatives in the Netherlands are contributing to peace and development in Africa in a sustainable manner;
• to act as a broker for journalists and the media at large;

• to compile a skills database of African diaspora professionals and organisations.

In order to reach the target groups, the website has been updated, a newsletter has been developed, three factsheets have been published, and the African Diaspora Skills Database has been built.

The updated ADPC website has become an important source of information, remedying the existing lack of information on diaspora and development-related issues. The website offers an overview of key publications, concrete projects, articles, reports and key activities of diaspora individuals and organisations working in development cooperation. It attracted more than 40,000 individual visitors between May and December 2008.

Three electronic newsletters were published in 2008. The newsletters include reports, forthcoming events, public debates, recent literature and research documentation, news articles and personal stories from diaspora role models. This is the first newsletter in the Netherlands to deal with these issues. Three factsheets were developed in 2008. The factsheets place the diaspora at the centre of debates within the four core themes of the ADPC and offer the main results of research, new developments and current debates with concrete examples from the diaspora. The factsheets aim to make this information accessible to a wide audience, as well as to policy makers and journalists. The newsletters and factsheets are read by nearly 2,000 subscribers, and are available on the ADPC website as well as through OneWorld.

The ADPC also aims to stay up to date with the activities of diaspora organisations in the Netherlands and staff from the ADPC attended several diaspora organisation meetings last year. Furthermore, the ADPC has sent press releases to the media about major events and current affairs. This resulted in an article in the Algemeen Dagblad, an interview on Radio Netherlands, and a feature in The African Courier. The ADPC also participated in the 2008 Afrika Dag and was a partner of De Kracht van Afrika project, resulting in exposure of the Centre to the 300,000 or so viewers of the television series.

The project enabled the ADPC to professionalise its communication tools and has given the ADPC a central role in the gathering and dissemination of information on issues regarding the
diaspora and social, political and economic development in Africa. The ADPC also developed a media platform for the diaspora to showcase their activities. This has increased the contact between diaspora groups, and between the diaspora and mainstream development agents, policy makers and the media. Through professionalised communication, the ADPC has been able to place itself at the forefront of the field of development cooperation, and now has an important position among national and international stakeholders with regards to diaspora issues.

4.1 The African Diaspora Skills Database – Reversing Brain Drain

The African Diaspora Skills Database was launched in May 2008. The human capital and skills of the African diaspora individuals living in the Netherlands have never been mapped; neither have the activities of organisations set up by African diaspora groups. To swiftly mobilise and utilise the skills and capacities of the African diaspora, the African Diaspora Skills Database was launched by the ADPC, and is accessible free of charge on the ADPC website.

The objective of the Database is to stimulate closer cooperation between the diaspora and mainstream development organisations and other stakeholders in development. The Database contains a skills inventory of educated African diaspora individuals and organisations in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe. The Database is accessible to mainstream donor agencies and government institutions in Europe, as well as to universities, knowledge centres and government institutions in Africa that are suffering from a shortfall of skilled personnel.

It offers an overview of African diaspora individuals and organisations that are active in or have interest in contributing to the economic, social and political development of Africa. The registered organisations are currently implementing programmes in Africa, and the registered professionals offer their expertise. The Database holds information of the registered African diaspora professionals and organisations, including professional qualifications and areas of expertise and experience. The 27 categories of expertise include agriculture, engineering, entrepreneurship, human rights, information technology (ICT) and project management.
More than 180 diaspora professionals and organisations have registered themselves in the Database, and the number is steadily expanding. Interested parties, such as development organisations, media, policy makers and research centres, can contact the diaspora through the Database. Organisations and research centres such as PSO, Marie Stopes International, SPARK, Radboud University, Nijmegen and BiD Network have shown interest in the Database, as have freelance journalists.

5. Publications in 2008


6. Contribution to conferences, seminars and workshops in 2008

- 31 January–1 February: *Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)* organised by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.
- 22–23 February: The Security-Migration Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities of African Migration to EU Countries organised by the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) in Bonn, Germany.
• 19 September: Afrika: een continent op drift (Africa: a continent adrift) organised by Stichting Nationaal Erfgoed Hotel De Wereld in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

• 24–29 October: International Forum on Microfinance, Remittances and Social Impact of Migration organised by the INAFI and the Global Forum on Migration and Development hosted by the government of the Philippines in Manila, the Philippines.

• 27–31 October: 13th International Metropolis Conference Mobility, Integration and Development in a Globalised World organised by the Ministry of Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Bonn, Germany.

• 13–14 November: Diaspora and Development organised by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and the Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO) in Athens, Greece.

• 3–5 December: Diaspora Trans-nationalism and Its Implications for Building Peace organised by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uppsala, Sweden.

7. ADPC partners in 2008

• National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO)
• Oxfam Novib
• European Union (EU)
• Cordaid
• John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
• Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, North Rhine-Westphalia (MGFFI-NRW)
• Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
• United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
8. Financial Overview

8.1 Summarised statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2008

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<th>Grants and other income</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diaspeace funded under the 7th EU Framework Programme</td>
<td>€66,759</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCDO</td>
<td>€70,000</td>
<td>€45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>€39,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCO</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>€28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>€310,757</td>
<td>€112,135</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Costs</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses project activities</td>
<td>€64,228</td>
<td>€22,268</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross salaries, including social security taxes and holiday allowances</td>
<td>€111,049</td>
<td>€52,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office and Organisation Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent costs</td>
<td>€6,666</td>
<td>€5,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other office costs</td>
<td>€3,225</td>
<td>€31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total office and organisation expenses</td>
<td>€9,891</td>
<td>€5,190</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>€195,059</td>
<td>€85,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature Accountants: Signature Chair and Treasurer of the ADPC Board
9. ADPC Staff in 2008

Dr. Awil Mohamoud, Director
Antony Otieno Ong’ayo, MSc., Research Coordinator
Sarah Osman, MSc., Communications Officer
Juliette Verhoeven, MSc., Financial Manager
Lulessa Abadura, MSc., Volunteer
Maartje van Veldhuizen, BSc., Intern
Ayan Abukar, BSc., Intern
Philip van der Krogt, BSc., Intern

ADPC Board Members in 2008

Domenica Ghidei Biidu, judge specialised in Refugees and Migration Issues, member of the Equal Treatment Commission (Chair)
Alberta Opoku, journalist and member of the board of the Evert Vermeer Foundation (Secretary)
Edzo Tonkes, former deputy director of programmes, Bernard van Leer Foundation (Treasurer)
Sjoera Dikkers, former director of Stop AIDS Now