ADPC Annual Report 2010

ADPC is committed to contributing to better development in Africa by providing a platform that enables African diaspora in Europe to pool their resources for the development benefits of Africa

Participants in preparatory meeting for Global Forum on Migration and Development, October 2010 in Addis Ababa
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PREFACE

ADPC has had tangible success on several fronts in its activities in 2010. ADPC has continued its activities, which are geared, primarily, to realising policy and practice changes among diaspora-oriented policymakers in both Europe and Africa. These changes are conducive to the proactive engagement of the diaspora with the development of their respective countries of origin. To this end, ADPC has implemented a number of activities in key priority areas, a number of which are set out below.

For instance, ADPC has completed a multi-year research project, resulting in a policy-oriented book entitled *Building Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa: The Cases of Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, US and the UK*. Among other goals, this publication is intended to inform policymakers in the field of migration and development about the benefits to be gained from formal institutional cooperation with diaspora development practitioners. Likewise, ADPC was part of the consortium that carried out a multi-year DIASPEACE (Diasporas for Peace) research project funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme, ending in 2011. The empirical focus of the project was on the Horn of Africa – a region where decades of violent conflict have resulted in state collapse and the dispersal of more than two million people. The key findings of this landmark study provide us with better insights about the ways in which the potential and peace-making capacity of African diaspora can be effectively harnessed to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their respective countries of origin.

Furthermore, ADPC organised the first ever capacity building training workshop for African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented ministries in Africa in Accra, from 22-27 November 2010. The participants of this training workshop were twelve African government policymakers representing six countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Rwanda. The purpose of the training course was to strengthen the policymaking capacity of diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills and tools to develop feasible policies aimed at maximising the contribution of the diaspora to the development of their respective home countries.

Internationally, ADPC played an important role in the discussions regarding migration and development in 2010. In this respect, ADPC made possible the participation of fifteen diaspora-oriented African government officials representing diverse countries and regions in Africa in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Mexico from 8-11 November 2010. Their participation in the GFMD consultations and policy dialogue has further enhanced their knowledge, networks and policymaking capacity in the field. It has also raised the profile of African countries at the global level.

In terms of fundraising, ADPC secured substantial financial resources in 2010. Indeed, ADPC’s fundraising activities were successful both in the Netherlands and abroad. Notable donors in 2010 included the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid, Oxfam Novib, the MacArthur Foundation (US), the Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) of Germany and the EU’s 7th Framework Programme.
Looking to 2011, ADPC will continue its work on key priority areas; namely, mobilising African diaspora in Europe for the development of Africa; facilitating the mainstreaming of diaspora development practitioners in development cooperation circles, both in the host and home countries; promoting research collaboration between diaspora and homeland researchers; and strengthening the policymaking capacity of the newly-formed diaspora-oriented institutions in Africa.

Finally, ADPC will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of migration and development from the perspective of the diaspora, something that is currently largely undercapitalized. These key priorities will be the core business of ADPC in 2011 and beyond.
Summary of the projects

1.1 Involving African policymakers responsible for diaspora engagement in the GFMD process

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) implemented this short project between August 2010 and December 2010. The purpose of the project was to facilitate the participation of diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa in the forthcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Mexico from 8-11 November 2010. For instance, the participation of African government officials serving in the newly formed diaspora-oriented institutions and ministries in the past three GFMD meetings (held in Belgium, the Philippines and Greece) was dismal. As a result, the voices, concerns and aspirations of African governments have not been sufficiently heard in the deliberations on migration and development related issues at the global level.

The project was initiated specifically to tackle this problem and ensure that diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa were sufficiently represented at this fourth GFMD in Mexico. In fact, a diverse group of diaspora-oriented African government officials participated in the meeting, representing different countries and regions on the continent. The countries represented were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. Moreover, their participation in the meeting enhanced their knowledge, networks and policymaking capacity in the field of migration and development and raised the profile of their respective countries in Africa at the global level. Furthermore, the GFMD event in Mexico provided the representatives with the opportunity to express their concerns and policy priorities with regards to engaging their diaspora for the development of their respective countries.

During the meeting a spokesperson of the African government officials presented an Action Plan, which reflected their policy priorities on issues of common interest in the field of migration and development within the context of Africa. This Action Plan has identified a number of key policy priorities that can be translated into realisable programmes within a feasible period of time. Three key priority areas that were singled out for urgent action are:
Setting up a Consultation Platform for diaspora policymakers
Provision of capacity building training, workshops, conferences and expert meetings
Access to reliable information and data collection

This initiative was designed to be a springboard for a follow up programme aimed at facilitating the establishment of an African Consultative Forum on Migration and Development (ACFMD) in 2011. Thus, rather than it being a one-off activity, it was intended to kick-start a multi-year ADPC programme aimed at enhancing the exchange of good practices among policymakers in Africa dealing with diaspora and development related issues. The establishment of the ACFMD was first proposed as a policy priority by diaspora-oriented policymakers from different African countries, who attended a policy seminar that was organised by ADPC in cooperation with the MacArthur Foundation field office in Nigeria, in Abuja on 26-27 May 2010. The participants expressed the need to exchange information, share specific country experiences and good practices among themselves. They also stated that, until now, these efforts were being hampered by the lack of a mechanism to facilitate the process.

ADPC is committed to strengthening the policymaking capacities of the newly-formed diaspora-oriented institutions and ministries in Africa. Today, there are more than 30 African countries with diaspora-oriented institutions and ministries, which have been set up to deal more professionally with diaspora-led development related issues. However, the people working in these institutions lack sufficient capacity and training, which prevents them from making well-informed policy choices and appropriate decisions in the field of migration and development. This capacity deficiency also hinders their ability to develop feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions that can maximise the contribution of the diaspora to the development of the continent.

1.2 Building institutional cooperation between the diaspora and homeland governments in Africa: The cases of Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, the US and the UK

This research project resulted in a policy-oriented book entitled: Building Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa: The Cases of Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, US and the UK. Among other goals, this publication is intended to inform policymakers in the field of migration and development about the benefits to be gained from formal institutional cooperation with diaspora development practitioners.
The book also proposed concrete policy directions and feasible strategies to foster such cooperation. For example, the study highlighted the tangible benefits to be gained from integrating diaspora-driven development into domestic development strategies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and plans for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, several research seminars were organised in the context of the project. These seminars brought together researchers from both African and the African diaspora working in the field of migration and development. The meetings facilitated the cross-fertilisation of ideas, knowledge and experiences and the establishment of knowledge networks between diaspora and homeland researchers. These knowledge networks are vital in producing increasing and useful knowledge in this emerging policy field.

Lastly, also in the context of this project, ADPC organised a policy seminar in Abuja on 26-27 May 2010, where the key findings of the research were presented to and discussed with a multitude of stakeholders, in particular African government officials responsible for engaging the diaspora. This policy seminar provided officials with the opportunity to deliberate on how to translate the key findings of the study into policy recommendations and concrete actions and how to come up with suggestions for a follow-up plan of action.

Abuja was chosen as a strategic location in Africa. Indeed, by holding the seminar in Abuja, policymakers from different countries in Africa, dealing with diaspora and development related issues, were able to participate in the meeting and gain access to the findings of this timely and policy-relevant study.

Since there are latecomers and forerunners among African countries in the field of migration and development, the seminar aimed to provide those who are new to this area with opportunities to learn from the experiences and best practices of those at the forefront of the field. It also facilitated participants in the exchange and showcase of examples and catalysts of existing institutional cooperation between African diaspora and African governments on the continent, from which valuable policymaking lessons can be learned. In particular, the seminar was an opportunity for diaspora-oriented policymakers to share new
insights into effective policies and best practices geared to the establishment of formal linkages with African diasporas overseas for the development of their homeland countries.

1.3 Capacity building for newly formed diaspora ministries in Africa
ADPC continued this multi-year capacity building programme throughout 2010. Its aim is to strengthen the policymaking capacity of the newly formed diaspora ministries in Africa. The duration of the programme is from May 2009 to May 2011 and it was set up to respond to the capacity deficit that is currently affecting the performance of the emerging diaspora ministries in many countries in Africa. Insufficient capacity means that these newly-formed diaspora ministries are being hindered in making well-informed policy choices and appropriate decisions in the field of migration and development. This capacity deficit also prevents them from developing feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions that can maximise the contribution of the diaspora to the development of the continent. In 2009, several preparatory activities were undertaken, including the drafting of a training manual and conducting research in Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

From 22-27 November 2010, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) organised the first training workshop for African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented ministries in Africa. The training workshop was held in Accra and was the first of its kind. It was developed to respond to capacity deficits affecting the performance of the emerging diaspora ministries and other institutions tasked with overseeing diaspora and development related matters in many countries in Africa. The purpose of the training course was to strengthen the policymaking capacity of diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills and tools to develop feasible policies aimed at maximising the contribution of the diaspora to the development of their respective home countries.

![Capacity building training workshop - group work](image)

This is the first of two trainings that will be organised during the period of the project. The second training course will be organised in the spring of 2011. Twelve participants were selected for the first training workshop. They represented Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Rwanda. The selection criteria were designed to give regional representation, as well as include policymakers from post-conflict and stable countries and both forerunners and newcomers in the field of migration and development. This last criteria particularly helped to facilitate latecomers to learn from the experiences and good practices of the
forerunners in the field. More concretely, it helped latecomers in the field such as Liberia and Kenya to learn from successful diaspora-oriented programmes implemented by Ethiopia and Rwanda. Furthermore, the training workshop provided a unique platform for the participants to establish viable contacts, networks, to freely exchange valuable information and to share best practices and positive experiences regarding engaging the diaspora for the development of their respective countries. Indeed, the participants very much appreciated the opportunity to share and learn from best practices in terms of both policies and programmes from diverse African countries.

Right: Participant Dr. Martina Nwordu, former Head of Diaspora Department, Nigeria

In addition to the capacity building training, participants have identified other critical areas that require urgent intervention in order to further increase their policy insights and practical operations in the field. These proposed additional interventions would ensure a cumulative effect in terms of boosting their capacity to design effective policy instruments, which would, in turn, facilitate the integration of diaspora-driven development into the overall national development agenda in their respective countries. The areas they identified are: an African Consultative Forum on migration and development (ACFMD); an online course; direct technical assistance; strengthening the capacity of regional consultative processes; and evidence-based best practice case studies.

1. **African Consultative Forum on Migration and Development (ACFMD).** This forum would facilitate the exchange of good practices (policies and programmes) on a more regular basis among policymakers in Africa dealing with diaspora and development related issues. The forum will also facilitate peer consultation among policymakers. It is proposed that the ACFMD be held twice a year, rotating from one country to another.

2. **Online courses.** The government participants in the training workshop proposed to launch an online training course, which would enable them to continue learning and to access up-to-date information in the field. This would address a current issue of lack of access to the most recent knowledge generated on the subjects of diaspora, migration and development. Moreover, continual access to up-to-date information will stimulate better-informed policy choices and appropriate decisions in practical interventions. Furthermore, providing online courses is inexpensive and a way of extending participation to diaspora-oriented policymakers in many countries in Africa.
3. **Direct technical assistance.** The government participants have indicated a need for direct technical assistance in the form of consultancy, coaching and mentoring. They also require capacity building training for diverse groups of policymakers within each country so that more diaspora-oriented officials are trained in each country, rather than one or two individuals. Furthermore, this direct technical assistance must focus both on supporting the development of effective diaspora-oriented policy and the implementation of diaspora-oriented programmes on the ground. Ultimately, the government participants are of the view that direct and concentrated technical assistance would enable them to acquire the capability to develop a national Migration and Development Strategy Paper (MDSP), which can then be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions.

4. **Strengthening the capacity of regional consultative processes.** The government participants requested that the capacity of regional bodies such as IGAD in East Africa and ECOWAS in West Africa be strengthened in relation to the management of migration within the continent. This is important because developing effective regional policy approaches to migration movements fosters alliances and strategic partnerships among countries in the field of migration and development.

5. **Evidence-based best practice case studies.** The participants indicated the importance of documenting the best practices of both the policies and programmes that have already been initiated in African countries. These best practices showcase catalysts for positive actions that should be widely shared.

![Participants of the capacity building training workshop in Accra](image)

### 1.4 DIASPEACE: Diasporas for peace: Patterns, trends and potential of long-distance diaspora involvement in conflict settings

DIASPEACE is a multi-year research project funded until 2011 by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. ADPC was one of the partners of the consortium that has undertaken this research project.¹ The empirical focus of the project was on the Horn of

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¹Other partners of the consortium are: University of Jyväskylä (JYU), Finland; Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), Germany; Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (MPG), Germany; International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Norway; African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), The Netherlands; Centro
Africa – a region where decades of violent conflict have resulted in state collapse and the dispersal of more than two million people. The study, which was a multi-disciplinary research project, was conducted in order to generate evidence-based and policy-relevant knowledge about the ways in which diasporas play into the dynamics of conflict and peace in their countries of origin. It was also carried out to gain a better understanding about the long-distance activities (both positive and negative) undertaken by the diaspora and the impact of these activities on the conflict dynamics within their countries of origin. Finally, the study was conducted to assess ways in which the potential and peace-making capacity of the diaspora can be effectively harnessed in order to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their homelands.

Today, there is a growing realisation among Africans in the diaspora that they occupy a unique bridge-building position, which gives them a potential role in promoting peace in their respective countries of origin. There are also great advantages to actively involving the diaspora in the promotion of peace and political stability in their home countries. For instance, diaspora peace activists can introduce new ways of dealing with the conflict in their homelands and they can also widen the horizons and worldview of local protagonists. They (particularly those located in Western countries) are also in a position to mobilize substantial financial resources and support for local peace activists in their homelands from powerful political networks abroad. In the same way that diasporas contribute to development, they can also contribute to peace-building in their countries of origin. The participation of the diaspora in homeland peace processes stimulates the better use of their unique strategic position and the immense untapped potential for conflict transformation in their respective countries in the Horn of Africa.

The key findings of this landmark study provide us with better insights into the ways in which the potential peace-making capacity of African diaspora can be effectively harnessed to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their respective countries of origin. The study also recommends the need to design feasible programmes to facilitate the networks and contacts between diaspora peace-builders and peace activists active on the ground, so that they can develop resourceful transnational alliances, cooperate and act jointly on peace-related activities both in the homelands and in the host countries. In addition, the findings of the study reveal the imperative of ensuring that the long-distance peace-building activities initiated by diaspora organisations and groups must be structurally integrated into the existing peace-making frameworks and processes, which, thus far, have been implemented exclusively by mainstream donor development agencies, government institutions, international and regional organisations and UN bodies active in their home countries. The fundamental objective is to join forces for peace and also to widen the civil society peace constituency with respect to Africa in the EU countries and beyond.

Studi di PoliticaIntenazionale (CeSPI), Italy; The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), Ethiopia; Academy for Peace and Development (APD), Somaliland.
1.5 Workshop during Afrikadag: The WRR report from the perspective of the African diaspora

On 24 April 2010, ADPC organised a workshop during Afrikadag, titled ‘The WRR report from the perspective of the African diaspora’. This workshop was aimed at soliciting the views of the African Diaspora living and working in the Netherlands and beyond regarding the key proposals and recommendations put forward in the findings of the WRR report (Wetenschappelijke Raad voor Regeringsadvies–Scientific Council for Government Policy), ‘Less Pretension, More Ambition: Development Aid that Makes a Difference’ (18 January 2010).

The WRR report presented a number of policy recommendations to the Dutch government that are considered to be critical in the pursuance of future-oriented development policies. The report identifies a number of key drivers for the current development cooperation framework, most notably diaspora communities and the private sector.

Since the WRR report was published in January 2010, there have been many discussions regarding its contents. However, one voice that has not yet been heard is that of the diaspora. This workshop helped to articulate the diaspora perspective on three key points of the reports policy recommendations. It discussed the policy instruments needed to tap more effectively into the considerable development potential of diaspora communities for the development of their countries of origin. It also addressed the methods for mobilising the business community in general and diaspora entrepreneurs in particular so that they may play an active role in development. Finally, the workshop deliberated the merits of the report’s proposal that future aid should go beyond poverty reduction and be oriented towards economic growth, wealth creation and self-sufficiency. African migrants and diaspora communities are not passive agents of external change and must do something to improve their situation.

The opening remarks by the Director of the ADPC gave a clear indication of the current situation of the African diaspora and paved the way for debate. The first point of discussion highlighted how a lack of policy instruments has hindered the development potential of diaspora communities in the development of their countries of origin. Secondly, the discussion focused on the methods to mobilise the business community in general and diaspora entrepreneurs in particular so that they may play an active role in development. Lastly, the panel discussed how opportunities to build development partnerships between
diaspora and sub-national development organisations both in the home and host countries should be seized upon.

A number of important conclusions and recommendations emerged from the series of discussions. This included the recommendation that policies that accommodate increased cooperation between the diaspora and their host countries should be formulated at the home country level. This would stimulate diaspora communities to act as a bridge to facilitate, among other things, an information market for potential investors in host countries. Another important recommendation was that diaspora communities should pool their resources and forge networks in order to increase their influence at a sub-national level; this would, in turn, increase their effectiveness and reduce fragmentation.

1.6 Workshop during Metropolis 2010: Building development partnerships between diaspora and sub-national development actors

Metropolis Conference in The Hague, 4-8 October 2010

ADPC Workshop: Building development partnerships between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions

On 5 October 2010, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), in cooperation with Cordaid, organised a workshop on: ‘Building development partnerships between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions’. The main purpose of the workshop was to explore ways to promote viable development partnerships between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions (i.e. municipalities, local governments, NGOs and the private sector) both in the host and home countries. The workshop was well attended by representatives from diaspora organisations based in the Netherlands and abroad, mainstream donor agencies, the private sector, NGOs, municipalities and local government institutions and academia.

The workshop was also organised to facilitate the participation of sufficient numbers of diaspora representatives in the 15th International Metropolis Conference organised for the first time by the City of The Hague. This was important because diaspora participation in previous Metropolis Conferences had been dismal. The local authorities of the City of The Hague were also wanted to redress this shortcoming and were determined that the critical voices of the diaspora were heard loudly during the conference. This was particularly important since the theme of the conference was: ‘Justice and Migration’, a topic of which affects members of the diaspora greatly and, thus, their perspectives on the issue are crucial.

Indeed, the participants in the workshop showed great interest in the topic and considered it to be an area which has, thus far, been largely overlooked despite its critical significance. Examining the topic from different perspectives, they deliberated the options for fostering practical cooperation between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions. Participants in the workshop also exchanged diverse experiences and shared best practices between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions.
Moreover, they identified key challenges, existing constraints and acute research gaps in terms of building development partnerships between diaspora and sub-national actors both in the host and home countries. During the discussions, it became clear that we still know very little about both the policy considerations and practical operations in this area. For this reason, the workshop can been seen as a ‘pioneering exercise’. It was also both relevant and timely in terms of showcasing examples of partnerships and catalysts for diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions both in the host and home countries from which policymaking lessons can be learned.

In particular, the discussion highlighted the challenges that have resulted in diaspora development practitioners operating in isolation in the past. For example, the recent global economic crisis has had long-lasting consequences that have deeply affected the flow of diaspora remittances to their respective homelands. The crisis has also affected the sustainability of community-oriented projects that diaspora development practitioners have been implementing in their countries of origin. Indeed, this global development compels the diaspora to enter into development partnerships with sub-national development actors. Such cooperation can be promoted by raising awareness of the greater development benefits that are to be reaped from strategic collaboration through workshops and expert meetings that bring together the diaspora and sub-national development actors. These meetings would facilitate the establishment of viable networks, stimulate learning from each other’s development related activities, the exchange of valuable information, as well as the sharing of best practices and positive experiences. They also foster strategic alliances and initiate joint development projects that can contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the homelands.

Diaspora development practitioners and sub-national development actors can make a difference if they join forces in the struggle to reduce poverty and boost domestic economies in the homelands. In other words, collaboration can substantially improve the impact of their work. The advantage of joining forces is that each development sector brings its unique strengths and added value to projects. This leads to increased reach, capacity, efficiency and impact of the projects on development in the local communities. Such cooperation ensures that the diaspora gains access to professional expertise, practical experience, influential networks and resources from the mainstream sector. With sufficient facilitation, it will also substantially upscale the development activities undertaken by the diaspora.

In a nutshell, participants in the workshop concluded that the potential for collaboration between the diaspora and sub-national development actors, as outlined above, has not yet received sufficient policy and research attention, despite its critical importance in the boosting of development in the homelands. It was recommended that that ADPC should undertake evidence-based research that would enable us to better understand how to foster effective development partnerships between diaspora organisations and sub-national development institutions both in host and home countries. This evidence-based research can help policymakers formulate appropriate policy proposals that can be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions.
Publications in 2010


Contributions to conferences, seminars and workshops in 2010

22-23 April: Second International INFOCON conference: Diaspora organisations and Science. Two Worlds, One Mission. A Dialogue on Migration and Conflict. Nijmegen, the Netherlands

25- 27 May: DIASPEACE workshop PRIO. Oslo, Norway

24 September: Policy consultation conference on circular migration and development, by Diaspora Forum Development (DFD). Utrecht, the Netherlands

25-29 October: Transcode workshops, Synergy and Cooperation for Development. Soesterberg, the Netherlands

8-11 November: Civil Society Days, Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

ADPC donors in 2010

- John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- GIZ Germany
- European Commission
- Cordaid

ADPC Staff in 2010

- Awil Mohamoud, Director
- Giulia Sinatti, Programme Coordinator (until September 2010)
- Ayan Abukar, Coordinator Dutch Activities (until September 2010)
- Amma-Baddoo Asante, Programme Coordinator
- Wies Maas, Project Officer (from August 2010 - November 2010)
- Kim Groen, Project Assistant
- Ama van Dantzig, Project Officer (from September-November 2010)

ADPC Board Members in 2010

- 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)
- George Duncan, chairman of Sankofa Foundation
- Peter van Lier, director of Global Village Media, Publisher of Onze Wereld & OneWorld.nl