ADPC Annual Report 2011

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.

Afrikadag 2011, guest speakers and moderator
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Preface

On several fronts, ADPC has had tangible success in its activities in 2011. ADPC has continued its activities primarily geared at realizing policy and practice changes among diaspora-oriented policy makers, 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. ADPC has implemented a number of activities in key priority areas. For instance, ADPC has successfully completed an innovative multi-year (2009-2011) capacity building programme set up to strengthen the policymaking capacity of the newly formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa. During the implementation of this programme we have trained 24 government officials representing different countries and regions on the continent. The countries they represented are: Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the training course was to contribute to strengthening the policy making capacity of the diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills and tools to develop feasible policies aimed at maximizing the contribution of the diaspora to the development of their respective home countries. Likewise, ADPC as a member of a consortium carried out a multi-year DIASPEACE (Diasporas for Peace) research project funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme which ended 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 gave us better insights about the ways in which the peace-making capacity and potential of African diaspora can be effectively harnessed, to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their respective countries of origin.

Furthermore, in 2011 ADPC embarked on a European Wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) programme. The program was initiated to foster the creation of a solid and viable network to considerably increase the contribution of the Diaspora to the overall development of Africa in a sustainable and a systematic manner. The project is funded by the European Commission under the Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the areas of Migration and Asylum. ADPC was the lead organisation of the five consortiums implementing the work of the programme. Other partners are: African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the UK; Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale Issues des Migrations (FORIM) in France; Coordination Générale des Migrants pour le Développement (CGMD) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Belgium. The duration of the project is from 2011 to 2013.

Internationally, ADPC has played an important role in the discussion regarding migration and development in 2011. In this aspect, the role of ADPC in the civil society days (CSD) of the Global Forum on Migration (GFMD) was once again prominent. For example, the Director of ADPC was once again asked to be a member of a core of International Advisory Committee (IAC) tasked to support for the preparation of the civil society days for the event. He was also
a member of the International Advisory Committee that oversaw the Civil Society Days of the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Athens on 2-3 November 2009.

Looking to 2011, ADPC will continue its work on key priority areas; mobilising African diaspora in Europe for the development of Africa; facilitating the mainstreaming of diaspora development practitioners in the development cooperation circles both in 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; a mechanism for development which is largely undercapitalized. These key priorities will be the core business of ADPC in 2012 and beyond.
Summary of the projects

1.1 DIASPEACE: Diasporas for Peace: Patterns, Trends and Potential of Long-distance Diaspora Involvement in Conflict Settings

DIASPEACE is a multi-year research project funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme that ended in 2011. ADPC was one of the partners for the consortium that carried this research project. 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 study which was a multi-disciplinary research project was conducted 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 their impact on the conflict dynamics in their countries of origin. Finally, the study was conducted to assess ways in which the potential and peacemaking capacity of the diaspora can be effectively harnessed to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their respective countries of origin.

Nowadays, there is a growing realisation among Africans in the diaspora that they occupy a unique bridge-building position in which they can play a potential role to promote peace in their respective countries of origin. There are also great advantages in involving the diaspora actively for the promotion of peace and political stability in their home countries. For instance, diaspora peace activists can bring about new ways of dealing with the conflict in homelands, and can also widen the horizon and world-view of local protagonists. They are also in a position (particularly those located in the Western countries) to mobilize substantial financial resources and support from powerful political networks abroad for the local peace activists in their homelands. It is perhaps imperative to argue that the same way that diasporas contribute to development can also contribute to peace-building in their countries of origin. The participation of the diaspora in the homeland peace process would enable us to make a better use of their unique strategic position and the untapped, immense potential for conflict transformation in their respective countries in the Horn of Africa.

The key findings of this landmark study provided us better insights about the ways in which the peacemaking capacity and potential of African diaspora can be effectively harnessed to foster the resolution and transformation of conflicts in their respective countries of origin.

1 Other 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 Studi di Politica Intenzionale (CeSPI), Italy; The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), Ethiopia; Academy for Peace and Development (APD), Somaliland.
The study also recommended the need to design feasible programmes aimed at facilitating 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 certain peace related activities both in the homelands and in the host countries. Additionally, the findings of the study revealed the imperative of ensuring that the long-distance peace building activities initiated by diaspora organisations and groups be structurally integrated into the existing peace-making frameworks, and processes, so far exclusively implemented by mainstream donor development agencies, government institutions, international and regional organisations and UN bodies that are active in their home countries of origin. This is with the objective of joining forces for peace and also widening the civil society peace constituency in the EU countries and beyond with respect to Africa.

1.2 Capacity Building for Newly Formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa

During 2011, ADPC completed this multi-year capacity building programme set up to strengthen the policy making capacity of the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa. The duration of the programme was from May 2009 to May 2011. The programme 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 help in maximising the contribution of diaspora to the development of the continent.

On 26-29 April 2011, the African Diaspora policy Centre organised the second capacity building training workshop for African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented institutions on the continent. The training workshop was held at the Alisa Hotel in Accra.
Twelve government officials representing different countries and regions on the continent participated in the second round of training. The countries they represented are: Benin, Burundi, Mali, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In addition, two government officials from Nigeria participated in the training workshop on the initiative of their government with the objective of training more policymakers in the field of migration and development.
Capacity Building Workshop

ADPC established this training workshop in 2009 as a pilot project. It was the first of its kind on this issue regarding Africa. The training was primarily developed in response 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 main purpose of the training workshop was to strengthen the policymaking capacity of the diaspora-oriented policymakers 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.

1.3 Workshop during Afrikadag: ‘African Diaspora Changemakers’

On October 29, 2011, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with Cordaid and the Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organisations (DCMO) organized a workshop titled: “African Diaspora Change Makers” during the Africaday 2011 in The Hague. The main purpose of the workshop was to explore and discuss the role of the African diaspora in the field of development and to what extent the diaspora differs from other development actors. In short, how does the African diaspora make the change?

Africaday, which is an event organised by the Evert Vermeer Foundation (EVF) each year, is becoming an important day for the African diaspora in the Netherlands. They consider it to be a “Diaspora Day” since their involvement in the development of their respective countries in Africa has been increasing on a large scale. For instance, a large number of African diaspora organisations in the Netherlands and in many other countries in Europe and beyond are now leading hundreds of development-related projects in villages and rural
areas of Africa. Diaspora organisations are particularly active in fragile, post-conflict countries where development assistance is most required. They are responding to the vital needs that are not met by programmes of more established development agencies. In this regard, the development initiatives undertaken by diaspora organisations often complement those implemented by mainstream donor agencies active in the homelands.

Info stand on Africaday

The event hosted a panel discussion participated by prominent experts such as Howard Regusters, producer of the film ‘Obama in Ghana’, from the USA, and Gibril Faal, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), from the UK. It was well attended by a broad audience consisting of, among others, individuals from the African diaspora, representatives from diaspora organisations and the NGO sector, students and academia. The audience turned out to be a good mixture for the discussion since diaspora as well as non-diaspora participants were present and both showed a great interest in the topic.

The Workshop in progress
During the workshop an interesting debate about the role of the diaspora in development ensued. The sense expressed thereafter was that the subject of the workshop is an area with a lot of potential for further fruitful discussions. The contributions of the panel and especially the enthusiasm of the audience illustrated that this debate should not stop here. It offered a little insight into the dynamics of African Diaspora Change Makers who will surely continue their work and use their knowledge and perception about Africa to achieve their goals and inspire all of us.

1.4 GFMD Civil Society Days 2011

The fifth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Geneva from 29 November to 2 December 2011. The flagship theme for the event was “Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation”. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcome-oriented dialogue. Over the past four years, the GFMD has sought to contribute to more policy coherence on migration and development at the national, regional and global levels, strengthen the capacity of states to address migration and development opportunities and challenges more effectively, and promote international cooperation among states, and between states and other actors. Through its inclusive approach, ongoing consultations, and follow-up activities it has also become more than just an annual conference.

Each year, the GFMD event was organized in two phases. The first phase is the civil society days (CSD) convened for a period of two days. The second phase is a two-day meeting of governments which follows subsequently and is also held for two days. In 2011, the rector
of the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), Awil Mohamoud, was once again asked to be a member of a core of International Advisory Committee (IAC) tasked to support for the preparation of the civil society days for the event. Mohamoud was also a member of the International Advisory Committee that oversaw the Civil Society Days of the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Athens on 2-3 November 2009.

To increase the active voice of the diaspora at the global level, the ADPC in cooperation with Cordaid actively contributed to the organization of a panel discussion devoted to “diaspora, employment and development”. The focus of the workshop was to highlight concrete diaspora-driven projects and programmes that have been contributing to job creation and to development in home countries of origin. The meeting was successful. The panel members and the audience shared useful practical experiences and exchanged new innovative ideas that have the potential to spur the contribution of the diaspora to other sectors of the homeland domestic economy and the efforts of creating jobs locally. A good example is the innovative private sector scheme launched by the Mexican diaspora in the US. For instance, Mexican diasporas have initiated a 3x1 formula private sector programme in which diaspora entrepreneurs in the US set up business in Mexico or collaborate with local business people. The difference between this private sector oriented scheme and the old local development-oriented programmes is that the contribution which migrant entrepreneurs receive from the multiple tiers of the government is provided in the form of a loan that should be paid back after 5 years. Subsequently, the amount of the money paid back to the layers of the government administrations are then channeled to improve public good provision at the local level.

The GFMD Civil Society Days in Geneva 2011
The GFMD events have been rotating between countries and continents since it was launched in 2006. In the previous five years the GFMD meetings were held in Europe, Asia and Latin America. More precisely, the events were organized in Belgium, Greece, Mexico and the Philippines. In 2012, the six GFMD meeting will be held in Africa for the first time. Mauritius has agreed to host the event. Since the dialogue on global migration and development was initiated, the specific issues of the continent in which the GFMD event was organized have been on top of the agenda for the meeting. It is therefore expected that the particular issues of the continent of Africa (challenges, aspirations and priorities) regarding the nexus between migration and development should guide the overall flagship theme for the GFMD event in 2012. These are the issues that would considerably increase the contribution of African diasporas to the overall development of the continent in a sustainable and a systematic manner.


1.5 EADPD: European-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development

The European Wide African diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) is initiated to foster the creation of a solid and viable network to considerably increase the contribution of the diaspora to the overall development of Africa in a sustainable and a systematic manner. The project is funded by the European Commission under the Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the areas of Migration and Asylum. The work of the project is implemented by five consortium partners, namely, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in the Netherlands, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the UK, Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM) in France, Coordination Générale des Migrants pour le Développement (CGMD) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Belgium. The duration of the project is from 2011 to 2013.

In the past 15 years many African diaspora organizations and associations were created in most of the EU countries to contribute activity to the development of their respective home countries. However, most of these diaspora organizations are faced with various kinds of
challenges which are limiting their collective efforts towards the development of Africa. Notable challenges include the lack of capacity to make their development related activities more visible to the wider public, weak and informal social organizations, and lack of better channels to gain access to useful information and networks among others. Some of the constraints can be addressed within the context of the country they are located, while others can only be tackled across countries. One critical problem that diaspora organizations face is the lack of contacts and networking relations within and across countries which could have facilitated the pooling of their resources, and act jointly to coordinate their development related activities on the ground. For example, it is still a problem that a Ghanaian organization based in Germany has not joined forces with a similar one based in the UK, while both of them are implementing concrete development related projects in Ghana aimed at reducing poverty and improving the lives of the marginalized groups of society. The reason is the lack of awareness of each other’s existence and the absence of contacts and networking relations across countries. This multi-year project is initiated to improve the transnational contacts and networks among African diaspora organizations in EU countries so that they can undertake joint projects on the ground and thereby boost the positive impact of their development activities on the local conditions.

The main activities of the project are:

- Mapping African Diaspora Co-development organizations in the EU countries
- Alliance building workshops and meetings
- Capacity building workshops
- Conference
- Evidence-based research on diaspora engagement in development
- Knowledge management

The results of the project are expected to:

- Facilitate a process which will enable African Diaspora organizations in Europe to establish viable contacts, learn from each other’s development related activities and exchange valuable information, share best practices and positive experiences
- Foster African Diaspora organizations in Europe to initiate feasible cooperation and act jointly on certain development issues and activities such as lobbying, campaigning and advocacy for policies and practices that enhance the involvement of diasporas in development cooperation relations
- Facilitate Diaspora leadership building as Co-development actors within the development cooperation framework
- Promote effective networks among African diaspora organisations and associations in Europe which would enable them to enter into strategic alliances and initiate joint development projects across countries, thereby contributing more towards poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their respective homelands in Africa.
Publications in 2011

ADPC 2011
Strategies for Mobilising the Diaspora for Homeland Development. The Case Studies of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal

ADPC 2011
Mainstreaming Diaspora Initiatives Into Development Cooperation Policy Towards Africa. Evidence from Britain, France, Germany and The Netherlands

The first exploratory meeting between the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) was held in The Hague.

Contribution to conferences, seminars and workshops in 2011

25-29 April: Second Capacity Building Training Workshop for Policymakers Serving at the Newly-Formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa

17-19 April: First Annual Global Diaspora Forum held in Washington
30-31 March: The first exploratory meeting between the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) was held in The Hague.

28 June: The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) and the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) organised a roundtable discussion entitled 'Africa and International Migration'. The Director of the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), Awil Mohamoud, was invited to make a presentation on “The impact of international migration on peace and security”.

17th - 18th October: The Federal Republic of Nigeria and the GFMD Switzerland Chair-in-Office invited the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) to participate in a two-day thematic meeting entitled “From Evidence to Action: Facilitating South-South Labour Migration for Development”. The event, which was supported by the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was held in Abuja.

29 October: Afrika dag Workshop on 'African Diaspora Change Makers’ in cooperation with Cordaid and the Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organizations (DCMO).

29 November- 2 December: The fifth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Geneva.

ADPC donors in 2011

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

ADPC Staff in 2011

- Awil Mohamoud, Director
- Amma-Baddoo Asante, Programme Coordinator
- Kim Groen, Project Assistant
- Rahime Abdou Diallo, Project Officer
- Sara Kleine-Vennekate, Project Assistant
ADPC Board Members in 2011

- Domenica Ghidei Biidu, judge specialised in Refugee 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, former Director of Global Village Media, Publisher of OnzeWereld & OneWorld.nl