



On 20 March 2014, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with ISC Intelligence in Science (ISC) and the Irish International Diaspora Centre Trust is organising a one day diaspora consultation meeting in Brussels. The key objective of the consultation meeting is to provide a platform for key diaspora figures, opinion leaders and other relevant stakeholders to consult and deliberate in order to collectively formulate a common voice and position on the future architecture of the Africa-EU partnership. The common diaspora position will be presented, in the form of a declaration, to the Heads of States of the two continents during the Summit that will be held in Brussels on 2-3 April 2014.

The African diaspora communities in Europe are the only strategic stakeholder that has not yet been consulted in prior to the upcoming Africa-EU Summit. Yet, diasporas are now in a unique position to add value to the advancement of the future Africa-EU partnership both in terms of policy dialogue and in the translation of the framework into programmes and practical operations. The Diasporas are in an unique strategic position as they have already built up valuable bridges between two cultures and societies as well as the space to mediate the transfer of all kinds of values between the two continents.

This reality therefore justifies to hear the views and register the proposals of the Diasporas and other relevant stakeholders on the strategic role that the Diasporas can play both in strengthening the policy dialogue of the partnership and in the practical implementation of the envisaged Action Plan in the future. The event will attempt to solicit and bring out the voices, views, insights aspirations, priorities and expectations of the diaspora on Africa-EU relations in the coming decade.

The consultation meeting is a unique event. It is also a timely initiative since the proactive participation of the Diasporas in the deliberations prior to the Summit will increase their advocacy voices in matters concerning to both continents such as the efforts of mainstreaming migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 development agenda. It will also facilitate the inclusion of diaspora insights and aspirations in the policy proposals that will come out from the deliberations of the Summit.

The meeting will produce a policy declaration articulating on how the diaspora can contribute to the ongoing policy dialogue on the future architecture of the Africa-EU partnership. It will also outline the strategic role that the diaspora will play and the concrete activities that they will undertake in the practical implementation of the envisaged Action Plan within the framework of the partnership.