Contents

Editor’s Foreword........................................................................................................................3
Reflections of the Consortium
Did you say Africa-Europe Diaspora Platform project? .............................................................4
   Background and justification ..................................................................................................4
   Current situation and implementation status of the Project ......................................................5
   Useful contacts for further information ..............................................................................6
Africa-Europe Partnerships
   Involvement of African diaspora organisations ................................................................7
   A bit of history ....................................................................................................................7
   The contribution made by migrants is increasingly acknowledged and welcomed in the host
countries ..................................................................................................................................8
   Position adopted by Civil Society .....................................................................................8
   The role of the African diaspora organisations ...................................................................9
Previously :
GFMD Preparatory Meeting in Abuja in October 2011 ..........................................................10
Back to Bunia (North-East, DRC) ............................................................................................12
   My observations before, during and after the elections held on November 28 2011 ......12
   Problems encountered .......................................................................................................13
   Triggering an unexpectedly large-scale protest .................................................................14
   Personal thoughts ..............................................................................................................14
Practical Information ..............................................................................................................17

Franck Dossa (AFFORD), Rahime Diallo (ADPC) & Yéra Dembele (FORIM)
Editor’s Foreword

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to be launching this e-newsletter at the start of 2012 and to count you among our readers and members of the Platform for the African diaspora in Europe. Do you wish to be part of the African diaspora pan-European network? To upgrade your skills and knowledge as a development actor through effective training tools? To access information on joint development project funding and other resources available from European funding bodies and policy makers? If yes, then this is the newsletter for you.

This newsletter covers these issues and provides details of the Africa-Europe Platform for the African diaspora on development. Four issues a year are to be published and this first issue is dedicated to an introduction of the Project and the partners leading it. One page has been reserved to focus on some of the events in which the Project partners have participated, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development which took place in Geneva (Switzerland) between November 28 and December 02 2011. Various funding possibilities emerged with a view to attract potential calls for project proposals.

In upcoming issues, we will include articles that highlight important work being carried out by migrants in the field of joint development, plus information on diaspora-related events. We trust that you will find the newsletter of interest, now and in the future issues. We shall strive to continuously improve our services for members of the Platform, as well as the quality of the newsletter itself; and therefore count on you to keep us informed of your thoughts, opinions and comments.

So, our very best wishes for the New Year to you, and may the European Platform of the African diaspora on development live long and prosper!

The Editorial Board

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Reflections of the Consortium

Did you say Africa-Europe Diaspora Platform project?

The EADPD project (European-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development) was initiated to foster the creation of a solid, viable network designed to considerably increase the contribution being made to overall development in Africa in a way that is both sustainable and systematic. The project is being funded by the European Commission under the "thematic programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum" and jointly financed by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

The project work is implemented by the five Consortium partners: the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in the Netherlands; the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the UK; the Forum of Immigration-based International Solidarity Organisations (FORIM) in France; the General Coordination of Migrants for Development (CGMD) in Belgium; and the International Centre for Migratory Policy Development (ICMPD). The Pilot Project is set to last over three years, running from January 2011 to December 2013.

Background and justification

The purpose of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Platform is to establish a solid and viable network designed to considerably increase the contribution made by the Diaspora to sustainable and systematic joint co-development projects.

Over the past fifteen years, a number of African diaspora organisations and associations have been set up in the European Union to actively contribute to the development of their respective home countries. However, the majority of these diaspora associations are facing a number of challenges which are limiting their collective efforts towards development in Africa.

Notable challenges include a lack of capacity in terms of making their development-related activities more visible to the wider public; weak and informal social organisations; and lack of better channels to gain access to useful information and networks.

Some of these constraints can be addressed within the context of the country they are located, while others can only be tackled transnationally. One critical problem that confronts diaspora organisations is the dearth of contacts and networking relations within and across countries. These contacts and networks would facilitate the pooling of important resources and allow organisations to act jointly and coordinate their development-related activities on the ground.

For example, there are still obstacles preventing a Ghanaian organisation based in Germany joining forces with a counterpart 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 marginalised groups of society. The reason is the lack of awareness of each other’s existence and the absence of transnational contacts and networking relations.

The EADPD is a multi-year project that has been initiated to improve the transnational contacts and networks among African diaspora organisations in EU countries, which, in turn, would stimulate the undertaking of 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 the following:
- Mapping African diaspora co-development organisations in EU countries;
- Alliance-building workshops and meetings;
- Capacity-building workshops;
- Conferences;
- Evidence-based research on diaspora engagement in development;
- Knowledge management.

The results of the project are expected to be:
- To facilitate a process that will enable African diaspora organisations in Europe to establish viable contacts, learn from each other's development-related activities and exchange valuable information, share best practices and positive experiences;
- To stimulate African diaspora organisations 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;
- To facilitate diaspora leadership-building among co-development actors within the development cooperation framework;
- To promote effective networks among African diaspora organisations and associations in Europe, which would enable them to enter into strategic alliances and initiate joint, transnational development projects and, thereby, make more effective contributions to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their respective homelands in Africa.

Current situation and implementation status of the Project

In June 2011, a wide-scale mapping survey was launched and is still running, designed to identify the players in the African diaspora in 27 EU countries, plus Norway and Switzerland. Over the period of January and February 2012, a second survey (e-consultation) is intended to discover more about the various forms of involvement of the African diaspora in development cooperation and to sample opinions on the matter. A more in-depth understanding of the activities should make it possible to enhance the visibility and position of African migrants in the area of cooperation as far as the 29 European countries are concerned.

In addition to this, the first e-Policy Brief is currently being prepared by the project partners. It will be published quarterly, from February 2012. The main aim of this publication is to improve knowledge of migration and development issues for the benefit of the diaspora organisations, while at the same time raising the awareness of European policy-makers regarding the concerns of African diaspora organisations in relation to the principal M&D (migration and development) policy issues.

A further piece of good news is that a website platform is currently under construction. An African diaspora organisation with experts from a number of African countries has been chosen to take responsibility for this task. The brand new website is set to go live in March 2012.

Finally, a meeting of European diaspora experts is scheduled for March 2012. This coming-together of AEP experts will be the first of three. Its target group consists of diaspora organisations active in development cooperation in the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The aim of this meeting is to invite diaspora organisations working throughout the whole of Europe to agree upon a set of principles to guide the functioning of the Africa-Europe Platform and to streamline genuine cooperation, coordination and exchange of information.
The main activities of the project are: 

between the participants. Representatives from European African diaspora organisations, African partner organisations and selected African government representatives involved in migration and development will be invited.

Useful contacts for further information

The Project is being run by the ADPC (African Diaspora Policy Centre – Netherlands), leader of the Consortium. The four other partners are respectively: AFFORD (African Foundation for Development – UK), FORIM (Forum of Immigration-based International Solidarity Organisations – France), ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) and the CGMD (General Coordination of Migrants for Development) in Belgium.

If you have any questions or comments to make regarding the work of the five partners or the project platform, please contact us via the following agencies:

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Africa-Europe Partnerships


Involvement of African diaspora organisations

Let's go! Allons-y! Adelante! These encouragements punctuated the launch of the Civil Society Days held in Geneva on November 29 and 30 2011, chaired by the Swiss. This meeting traditionally takes place in advance of the state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

On the general theme of "Migration and development actions: consistency, capacity and cooperation" these meetings were attended by 186 Civil Society representatives from 61 countries, 73 migrants living in Europe including delegates from African diaspora organisations, and partners in the EADPD project, think tanks and other representatives of well-known migrant associations such as the International Catholic Commission for Migrants (Commission Internationale Catholique pour les Migrants – CICM). This institution has also taken responsibility for organising the Civil Society Days in 2011 and 2012.

On November 30 2011, working parties organised into knowledge-sharing workshops between Civil Society organisations discussed the theme "Action on labour migration, development and the protection of migrant workers and their families". The outcomes of these workshops were shared with the representatives of 162 United Nations Member States and 37 observers from the GFMD.

Following this, the open discussions of the morning of December 1 brought governments and civil society together on the subject of "Population growth, Employment and Youth Unemployment, Development and Migration". In actual fact, the concern of all Civil Society representatives was two-fold. In the first place, their concern was to formulate proposals and recommendations in the form of a lobbying action to put before members of governments regarding the outcomes to be achieved in the days following the Global Forum on Migration and Development sessions to enable the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013 to take account of their aspirations. And secondly, the Civil Society organisations were determined to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms at community, national and global levels between each other.

A bit of history

From Brussels (2007) to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (2010), via Manila (2008) and Athens (2009), the Forum has always been preceded by the Civil Society Days, where contributions are prepared for the meeting with governments in the framework of a half-day joint meeting.

An informal consultation procedure open to all Member States and UN Observers with Civil Society participation, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an annual meeting launched under the initiative of the Secretary General of the United Nations on the occasion of the High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development of September 2006.
The objective is "to address, in a transparent way, the multi-dimensional aspects, the opportunities and the challenges of international migration and its connections with development in order to bring together the expertise of the governments of all the regions, to reinforce dialogue, cooperation and partnership, and to seek practical and concrete results at national, regional and global levels".

The contribution made by migrants is increasingly acknowledged and welcomed in the host countries

The preparatory work of GFMD 2011 and the resulting discussions in Geneva, on December 1 and 2 2011, reveal that a considerable effort is being made by governments to build an ever stronger link between migration and development.

This was evidenced by the fact that an opening working session was devoted to "labour mobility and development". Prepared by six workshops which took place in Bangladesh, Dubai, Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria and Switzerland, with the participation of governments, Civil Society, the private sector and international organisations, this working session tackled the strategies via which labour migration could better contribute to the human development of the migrants and their families, plus the economic development of their country of origin and host country by:

- involving the private sector in planning the employment market;
- lowering migration costs with a view to upgrading benefits in terms of development;
- a more honest appreciation of the contribution made by migrants, particularly women, in the development of the global industry in personal support services.

A second working session was devoted to irregular migration and development on the basis of the outcomes of the GFMD 2011 meetings held in El Salvador and Turkey to address the interactions between irregular migration, development, human rights and migration policies. This also incorporated the development factor relating to the departure and arrival aspects of the migratory journey and their implications in terms of the institutional context of the departure and arrival countries.

A third working session was devoted to the incorporation of migration into public development and development cooperation policies, migratory profiles and an assessment of the effects of migration and development policies. Addressed by six workshops discussing practical concrete examples in France, the USA/New York, in Georgia, Morocco, Moldavia and the Philippines, these areas were also tackled by GFMD 2011 working sessions, on December 1 and 2 2011 in Geneva.

However, this was the only session which, via the French and Moroccan workshops, openly tackled the contribution made by diaspora organisations.

Position adopted by Civil Society

While the governments focused on the connections between migration and development, Civil Society, or at least the speakers present at GFMD 2011, essentially called for better governance of migration in terms of protecting the rights of migrants.

This concern headed the demands contained in the final declaration and in the videoconference exchanges with Mr Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative for Migration and Development. Apart from governance, the various points included in the Civil Society declaration are more or less the same as those addressed by the governments, to wit:
- a reconsideration of labour mobility with an eye to taking into consideration the migrant's family;
- irregular migration, with a call to stop the criminalisation of migrants in an irregular situation, and for their rights to be recognised;
- human and economic development taking account of the action of the migrants and their organisations, bearing in mind that they are required to work with the local authorities and do not know how to do so, and that they must strengthen their response capabilities on the ground;
- the future of the Forum and the course to take to arrive at the High Level Dialogue in 2013.

The role of the African diaspora organisations

The civil society recommends that the diaspora becomes more independent, while at the same time restricting such independence to the information, education and capacity upgrades which should help migrants to become organised, to better represent themselves and to defend their rights. They would then be able to take part in a structured dialogue with civil society in general and the public authorities, as they would in “the development of public policy”.

As suggested above, actions undertaken by diaspora organisation on the ground in Africa, such as Migration and Development in Morocco, have formed the subject of thematic workshops taking place as part of the third GFMD 2011 working session. This example shows that the diaspora organisations have no more need to demonstrate the effectiveness of their development actions on the ground, and are in a position to “frame the governmental policy development process” alongside the other development players, and not in their stead.

As far as representation is concerned, there is no shortage of instances where diaspora organisations, all countries of origin mixed together, have succeeded in overcoming their differences and managed to adopt a position where they can defend general interests. It is in this light that the African Diaspora in Europe Platform was designed and launched with the aim of capitalising on the experience gained by the various partners involved and of promoting the contribution made by the diaspora acting as a development agency for Africa. In order to achieve this, it has been necessary to pass through the stage of setting up an African diaspora platform at European level in order to take part in the dialogue, at European and international levels.

Yéra Dembele and Sarah Schlaeger
Previously:

GFMD Preparatory Meeting in Abuja in October 2011

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 one of a number held in Abuja on the 17th and 18th of October 2011.

The meeting was initiated specifically to provide an interactive dialogue platform for senior experts from ECOWAS Member States as well as other regions of the world. The participants were given the opportunity to exchange experiences and deliberate the challenges and opportunities of South-South labour migration. Certainly, in this regard, it was clear that the meeting aided a better understanding of the complexities of this issue and presented government representatives and other stakeholders with a series of practical approaches on how to translate – and ultimately implement – theoretical evidence into coherent policies. More importantly, throughout the meeting, particular attention was devoted to the development impact of South-South labour migration and its mainstreaming into development strategies in the homelands.

ADPC’s participation in this key event was crucial. It provided a unique opportunity for ADPC to meet with the ECOWAS Commission and to discuss areas of possible cooperation between the two institutions in the field of migration and development in the Western African region. Discussions focused on the technical assistance needed by the ECOWAS Commission in its efforts to support member states to engage more effectively with their Diaspora population abroad for the development of their respective countries.

Since 2009, a number of ECOWAS member states have benefited from the capacity building training offered by ADPC and the Commission appreciated the work ADPC has done in the region. Consequently, the Commission has indicated its willingness to explore a partnership with ADPC, with a view to establishing a consultative platform for the West Africa region on migration related matters. We fully expect such a dialogue platform to strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission in the management of the migration in the West Africa region.

It will also facilitate and encourage ECOWAS member states to regularly convene and consult on matters of common interest and to exchange good practices (both policies and programmes) in the field of migration and development. The function of this proposed West Africa regional platform will vary. Its remit will include providing direct technical assistance to ECOWAS staff dealing with migration related issues; facilitating policy dialogues on migration issues among ECOWAS member states; and organizing stakeholder workshops that bring together government policymakers and representatives from civil society, the diaspora, the private sector and others in order to discuss and share experiences, and to establish viable networks and partnerships in the field of migration and development.
Creating this kind of dialogue forum on migration related matters in Africa is critical at this juncture, not least because migration within the continent and beyond has become a complex phenomenon that requires structured management across countries and regions. Dealing with such issues effectively is imperative since the current migration dynamics represent huge political and institutional challenges to many countries in Africa. Yet, Africa is the only continent without an informal regional consultation forum in the field of migration and development. Other continents, such as Asia and Latin America, have already established multiple informal consultation platforms on migration at different levels, which facilitate regional deliberations on issues of common interest and within their respective contexts. This explains why government and civil society representatives from Asia and Latin America are better informed and more vocal than their African counterparts in the deliberations on migration and development related issues at the global level. This reality means the establishment of consultative platforms in different regions in Africa is now urgent. Such structures will increase the knowledge in the field and allow the voices, concerns and aspirations of Africa to be sufficiently heard in the global debates regarding the nexus between migration and development.

This issue is particularly pressing given that the next Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will be held in Africa for the first time. The government of Mauritius is hosting the sixth GFMD event in 2012. This means that African stakeholders will need to consult with each other at different levels, be it regional or continental, and come up with an African agenda for the GFMD event next year. This agenda must clearly articulate African issues, challenges, priorities and expectations in the short-, medium- and long-term. In short, each continent has its own specific migration related issues, now is the time for Africa to seize the moment and put its own priorities at the top of the agenda in order to guide the discussions of the GFMD event next year.

The full report of the meeting can be found here:

http://www.diaspora-centre.org/DOCS/GFMD_Abuja_FINAL.pdf

By Awil Mohamoud (Director of the ADPC)

The entry gate of Abuja
Back to Bunia (North-East, DRC)

My observations before, during and after the elections held on November 28 2011

The beginning

An afternoon, late September 2011. I receive a call from a friend asking me if I want to join the EURAC observers group on behalf of the European Union. I take my time considering it (– I'm still a Congolese national, and not a European). I give her my answer on October 4, after a fourth call. The group is made up of Belgians, the British, Spaniards, the French, Dutch, Italians and others.

Part of the group is a panel of Congolese nationals. I'm aware of the fact that the job could be delicate. I decide to travel incognito. I avoid telling anybody, both European and brothers and sisters living in the DRC. I keep a low profile, and make sure I'm not being followed. You never know.

Context and process of the elections

Throughout the whole duration of the outgoing administration (2006–2011), the Congolese diaspora made considerable financial contributions by means of cash transfers to family members or through the creation of income-generating activities (SMEs, hotels, restaurants etc.). It was also noticeable through its need to exercise its influence at the political level, both in the form of demonstrations in various Western capitals and as direct action in the political life of the DRC.

However, while the economic contributions from the Congolese abroad are very welcome, their claims to exercise their political and social rights are just as vigorously resisted. This was also the case as regards the electoral observation mission. The CENI, the Independent National Electoral Commission, demanded compliance with various conditions before granting accreditation cards to the three Congolese diaspora members who had retained their original nationality (they were required to produce proof of residence abroad, possession of a voter's card, and so on). The attitude being adopted towards our mission and our stay in the country was abundantly clear.

My response to this was as follows: "It's quite obvious that the CENI demands don't make a lot of sense. In the first place, we are Belgian residents (which means that when we joined the mission we could not have been in the DRC). In the second place, the Electoral Commission currently forbids Congolese living abroad from voting. In addition to which, the administrative hassle itself is a stigma applied to us (for what purpose?) and picks out the three Congolese nationality from the group of international observers."

Deployment location: Bunia, Ituri District in the Eastern Province. On Saturday November 26 2011, dogged by a shortage of equipment and apparatus which had not been supplied to the local observers in the RENOSEC network, I was asked to provide the observation sheets, to photocopy them and, in just 3 hours, to train the 160 partners who were to be deployed through the two territories of Irumu (containing the city of Bunia) and Djugu (the most densely populated region in the Congo).
Problems encountered

It’s my opinion that from the moment on January 15 2011 when the Parliament had voted to amend the constitution by a single Presidential vote on a single ballot, the worm was in the bud. To put it another way, the truck was headed straight for a brick wall.

Would the Congolese opposition be able to unite around a single candidate and counter the manoeuvre? Congolese institutions and analysts could reply that it would be impossible in the light of the rivalries, the ambitions expressed by all and sundry and above all the lack of perception on the part of all Congolese politicians, at any time.

And then there was my personal desire to be an eyewitness to the historical moment our country was living through. As part of the preparations for the DRC elections observation mission, I had attended a conference held on November 18 at the Belgian Parliament, whose participants included the First Vice-President of the CENI, Prof. Jacques Djoli, a representative of the opposition, Member of Parliament Elysée Dimandja and a Civil Society representative, Mr Gérard Bisambu, Secretary General of AETA (the Association for Transparent and Peaceful Elections).

On November 23 2011, we had talks in Kinshasa with the Belgian Ambassador there, mercifully free of political nonsense.

I managed, at times, to suggest to the various speakers that they should include the following factors, which they had so far ignored, in their outlines:

- the fact that the population had received no education as to the issues involved in the electoral process;
- the unpredictable behaviour or reactions of the population on the publication of the results;
- the influence of the Congolese diaspora in the debate and in the opinion of the results.

Three weeks after these exchanges, I could not help noticing (modestly and sadly, with no sense of triumph) that all my comments had been prophetic and were becoming reality at that very moment. Dissatisfied voices were being heard abroad as to the credibility of the elections. To mention just Belgium, in the North (Flanders), voices were being raised, particularly on television, condemning the irregularities and malfunctions of the electoral process, with footage in evidence. During this time, on the French side, the tradition has become to seek sponsors for one Congolese politician or another, depending on the Belgian French-speaking attitudes or political parties.

In my humble opinion, given the current issues as they are, the time has come to discard our partisan or ideological spectacles and examine the situation in the Congo as it really is. Clinging to the traditional types of analysis applied to the Congo will lead nowhere, and attention must be drawn to factors such as the fact that people who are nagged by hunger, weakened and undermined by poverty are unable to take to the streets and protest all the livelong day in the face of the forces of repression; and that the Congolese diaspora consists of opportunists, eternally in opposition in order to justify their presence abroad, and on, and on.
Triggering an unexpectedly large-scale protest

A new sociological phenomenon, a new social dynamic, and a new political awareness are taking hold among the Congolese masses, and indeed throughout the world. Decades of suffering have finally instilled in the Congolese a sense of belonging and of identification with a motherland, a common stock, something which overrides distinctive, regional or tribal identity.

Comment, intellectual, critical and dialectical, is now at global level, such that we can now immediately grasp and understand the faltering nature of this new birth, or re-birth of Congolese patriotism. This latent movement will be blown back and forth, seeking focuses where it can crystallise, either around people (in 2006 around Bemba and in 2011 around Tshisekedi), or around lines of thinking (Bundu dia Kongo), or perhaps claims (Congolese diaspora), etc.

It is also a startling fact that there has been no in-depth debate between the candidates, nor any explanation of the vision of the promised society by the various protagonists. You may wonder what the Congo elections are for, or what good they are supposed to serve. And you can arrive at your own conclusions in the light of the triviality and brevity of the programmes or messages broadcast during the electoral campaign.

As far as cheating is concerned, the possibility cannot be excluded, the fact being that the international observers could only be deployed in the main population centres (the cities) and there was no possibility of penetrating the interior and visiting the villages.

On this point, I should like to repeat what Prof. Djoli, 1st Vice-President of CENI, said at the conference held on November 18 in Brussels: “The place where the international observers could really be useful is in the villages, not in the cities. As you know, our villages and remote zones are real black holes where, sheltered by the total darkness reigning there, anything can happen, from ballot-box stuffing to printing fake voting reports.”

On top of this, the police had not been paid for nearly 12 months (and the teachers were on strike over the election period). Since it was the job of the police to protect the ballot boxes, it was often the police who told the locals by SMS about any suspicious moves, so that the people could appear in a matter of minutes to surprise any forgers or cheats there might be.

Personal thoughts

The CENI has now published the results of the counts giving the Head of State 49% of the votes and Tshisekedi 32%, and anybody in a position to contest the official results published by the CENI can compare them with the figures displayed on the day of the count (and who could possibly do that? Even with 30,000 observers, the Catholic Church only managed to cover 23% of the national territory). Should it be possible to contest the outcome, the door is open to the 63,865 disputes which the Supreme Court could clearly never hear (the CENI set up 11,611 voting sites, 16,948 voting centres and 63,865 polling stations).
From the scientific angle, I personally wonder what the statistical likelihood is of 1 candidate in 11 being able to grab up to 49% of the votes on the first ballot? Particularly since nobody could claim that there was a landslide for any one candidate throughout the entire country. This means that what it looks like is that the results published by the CENI would be a better match for the outcome of a second ballot. Yet another piece of magic for which only the Congo holds the key.

To put it very simply, we accept that all is not going well in the Congo right now, and that the future is uncertain. Of course, Kinshasa is not the whole of the Congo. The more unrest you see in the capital, the more peace you find in other corners of the nation. Nevertheless, as a megalopolis, the capital is developing a specific sub-culture, the impact of which could lead the way for the rest of the country. Even in the interior of the country, genuine concerns remain for the future. What does the vote mean to the illiterate, who make up over 90% of the population in the Provinces?

In conclusion: the people seem happy to come together, now that it has become a habit, and face each other over the ballot box every 5 years for a verdict. Next time it will be better, they hope. But there is no spontaneous reality. Everything is a social, economic and political construct, based on power relationships. We shall all have to pitch in to build something better.

In this light, the involvement of the Congolese diaspora in the crisis triggered by the contested electoral results is a phenomenon which it is important to view in terms of the international globalisation of migration issues and the willingness of the migrants to participate in the policies implemented in the North, in the host countries, and in the South, in the countries of origin.

The full text of the electoral observation report was published on a number of websites (club-walco, congoindependant, etc.) and is available on request from: arthur.yenga@gmail.com
The voters on 28 November 2011

After the elections took place on 28 November 2011
Practical Information

  - The African Bulletin is a ‘newspaper from the African perspective’
- The 2012-2013 King Baudouin African Development Prize: [www.kbprize.org](http://www.kbprize.org)
  - The King Baudouin African Development Prize aims to reward individuals or organisations who are making an outstanding contribution to development in Africa.
- Coming up: Launch of a new Online Platform: “Remittances for Community Development” by The Network University as part of the ongoing research project Remittances for Community Development (FrCD)
  - This online platform will serve stakeholders involved in Migration for Development activities. We aim to provide a platform for migrants (and their organisations), remittance receivers, intermediaries, and interested partners to learn from others on the possibilities to leverage remittances for the use of development. For more information, have a look at: [www.netuni.nl](http://www.netuni.nl)
- MPI, Migration Information Source: [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org)
- New journal: Migration Policy Practice (primarily for policymakers, but interesting for other stakeholders as well: [http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/migration-policy/migration-policy-practice](http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/migration-policy/migration-policy-practice)
  - Migration Policy Practice is a bi-monthly journal that publishes articles from, and that is overseen by policymakers working in the field of migration policy. It provides a vehicle for policymakers to reflect and write on their day-to-day policy practice, their decisions and their experience, and to share such insights with like-minded colleagues nationally and internationally.
- International Migration Institute of the University of Oxford: [http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/)