

## Newsletter December 2012 No 2

### Note from the Director

We are saying farewell to a dynamic and inspiring year. 2012 has been a year in which the continent of Africa for the first time has organized the Global African Diaspora Summit in South Africa; a milestone in partnership building for the development efforts of the continent. It was also a year in which the sixth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Africa, the only continent which so far had not hosted the Forum. The government of Mauritius hosted the event from 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2012. The Forum particularly contributed to the strengthening of Africa's voice in the global debates regarding the nexus between migration and development. Additionally, a key debate for the future of the Forum was initiated in 2012 prior to the second UN High Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development which will be convened in New York in October 2013. The meeting is called upon to take stock of the milestones achieved in the past six years and deliberate on the future scenarios of the Forum. However, the proactive participation of migrants and other non-states actors in the HLD deliberations is critical in order to inform the policy debates on the future shape of the Forum. It is also imperative to invest in the realization of policy changes at local, national, regional and global levels conducive to the incorporation of migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, ADPC is committed to supporting a series of consultations among migrant organizations in Europe in the lead-up to the 2013 High Level Dialogue (HLD). The key purpose is to increase the advocacy voices of the migrants in matters relating to improving the well-being, human rights and human development of all migrants. A related purpose is to facilitate the inclusion of the migrant/diaspora voices and visions in policy deliberations taking place at the local, national and international level in a more structured and formalized manner.



The articles in this newsletter provide timely updates regarding the ongoing debates in the field of migration and development in general. They also carry concise and easily readable information on a number of issues the reader will find interesting.

Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year!

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

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## 1. Second African Diaspora Expert Meeting Paris

*Report of the expert meeting Paris 6-8 November 2012*

The second African Diaspora Expert Meeting took place in Paris, from the 6-8th November 2012. The event was organised by FORIM and its project partners ADPC, ICMPD, CGMD and AFFORD, as part of the European-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) Project. The aim of the EADPD Project is the establishment of the Africa-Europe Platform (AEP), a network of African diaspora organisations in Europe engaged in development activities in Africa.

The gathering was the second of three Expert Meetings to be organized during the project period, which will be completed at the end of 2013. About 60 representatives of the African diaspora from 27 EU member states plus Norway and Switzerland, and from governments and Civil Society Organisations from the five African pilot countries, namely Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Morocco and Senegal, came to Paris, France to participate in



the second African Diaspora Expert Meeting. The high concern of this project was proved by the active, creative and enthusiastic participation of the representatives of the donor organisations, namely the European Commission (EC), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The objective of the second meeting was firstly to promote the role of the African diaspora in development, by collecting and sharing good practice examples, and secondly to constitute and agree on a final version of the statutes of the AEP. Further topics were the continuation of the AEP after the project phase has ended and how to extend the circle of target groups, for instance by including the lusophone African diaspora in the platform.

As this Expert Meeting was the second one, most of the participants, already knew each other from the first Expert Meeting held from 5-7th March 2012 in Frankfurt, Germany, and the strength of the network character of the project was expressed through happiness of reunion and the fantastic and productive working atmosphere among the participants. Existing relations were deepened and new ones were established among the participants. The spirit of collaboration, motivation and to move forward was considerably noticeable during the 3 intensive working days of the meeting, which started early in the morning to end up late in the evening and challenged the participant's concentration.

However, the awareness of the shrinking remaining time to establish and complete the mission, to succeed making the AEP a growing, progressing and sustainable network of African Diaspora organisations across Europe and the still considerably huge number of tasks to be implemented, was shared by all participants.

Nevertheless, this awareness was translated into action and strong participation during the three working groups, where the thematic of Local Development, Diaspora Entrepreneurship and Scientific and Technical Diaspora were intensively discussed. As result of the working groups concrete recommendations dedicated to policy and decision makers were made and roadmaps how to proceed continually and progressive on these issues were drafted. Remarkable was, how strong and enthusiastic the representatives of the donor organisations actively participated in the working groups and enriched them by including their experiences and point of views to improve the coherence and feasibility of the drafted recommendations and roadmaps.

Another milestone of this 2nd Expert Meeting was the official statement made by the Angolan governmental delegation enabling the including of the lusophone African diaspora in Europe and the CSO in Africa by financing both the translation of the AEP-website and communication tools into Portuguese and the research on Angolan diaspora in Europe active in Co-development. This strong declaration of intent was welcomed and attested by a long applause of the audience. The meaning of this acknowledgement for the AEP is extremely important as it promotes and proves the importance of the Europe-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) project for other target groups and stakeholders and as it solves the obstacle of exclusion of lusophone diaspora and civil society organisations from the AEP.

In addition a coherent and powerful statute document of the AEP has been hammered out during an intensive session of discussions and exchanges of ideas. The remarkable contribution of all participants created consequentially the feeling of ownership of and identification with the AEP platform among all AEP experts. Now a strong system of rules has been defined which regulates all relevant and important aspects of the future platform, which helps and indicates how to administrate and manage it, once handed over into the hand of the diaspora. Among the achievements of the 2nd African Diaspora Expert meeting the agreement to develop an online resource library of good practice in diaspora development accessible to diaspora organisations, policy-makers, development practitioners, researchers, and funding organisations should be mentioned as well.

Finally the 2nd Expert Meeting was as well successful regarding the network and trust building process among the participants, which returned home with a clear picture about the AEP structure and regulation, a concrete roadmap for the way forward and an established framework to extend the AEP on the lusophone diaspora in Europe and the CSO in the lusophone African countries. All participants expressed their satisfaction regarding the goals reached at the closing phase of the meeting.

The achievements made in this Expert Meeting will be built on during the 3rd and final Expert Meeting that will be held in Brussels, hosted by CGMD in the last quarter of 2013. The focus of this upcoming event will be on taking stock of the progress of establishing the EADPD by presenting its output. However, this final conference will not be the end of the project, but for African diaspora organisations, their governments, and other stakeholders, it is just the beginning of the process of building sustainable partnerships for the benefit of the African continent.

The Expert Meeting was organised under the auspices of the Africa-Europe Platform (AEP) project, an initiative funded by the EC, the Swiss Development Agency, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more information about the EADPD Project and the Africa-Europe Platform, please consult the AEP website.

## **2. GFMD Event in Mauritius in 2012**

*Report of the Global Forum meeting Mauritius 19-22 November*

The sixth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Mauritius from the 19-22 of November 2012. This was the first time that the meeting of the Forum was held in Africa since it was launched in Brussels in 2007. The theme for this flagship event was “Enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and states”. The Forum is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue. Over the past five 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* within 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 is 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 meeting of governments which follows subsequently and is also held for two days. Since the Forum began, ADPC has been playing an active role in the panel discussions, deliberations and workshops during the civil society days. For this year’s event, ADPC in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration and Development (ICMPD) and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) organized a side meeting aimed at sharing information regarding unique initiative. The purpose of the side event was to introduce, popularize, and make known to wider audiences, the European Wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) Programme we are currently implementing. The programme is unique as it is the first of its kind initiated to build a solid and viable African diaspora network in Europe that can considerably increase the contribution of the diaspora to the overall development of Africa in a sustainable and a systematic manner. Additionally, ADPC in collaboration with the Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights (PANiDMR)<sup>1</sup> and Migrants Rights International has organized a panel devoted to the efforts of promoting the well-being and protection of human rights of migrants across the African continent and beyond. ADPC has also facilitated the participation of diaspora representatives in the event. The participation of the diasporas in the meeting is particularly important as Global Forum is a unique opportunity for them to interact informally and exchange insights and perspectives with other stakeholders in the field, and thereby, make the voices of diasporas count in discussions related to migration and development matters at the global level as well.

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<sup>1</sup> The Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights (PANiDMR) is an organization that is Africa-led and brings together voices of Africans in the continent and the diaspora to promote the wellbeing and interests of migrants, refugees and stateless persons from Africa. The Network was formally established in June 2010 in Bamako, Mali.

The overall focus of the Forum this year was partly devoted to seeking practical outcomes that tangibly improve the conditions and human development of migrants so that their development potentials are further maximized. It was also partly devoted to raising the voices, concerns, and priorities of the continent of Africa in the global debates regarding the nexus between migration and development. The event particularly reinforced the profile of Africa and its increased engagement in the process of the Forum at the global level. Another aspect which dominated the discussion of the meeting was the future of the Forum itself. In 2006 the first High-level UN Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development was held in New York. One of the outcomes of the High-level UN Dialogue was the establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. In October 2013, the second High-level UN Dialogue on International Migration and Development is planned to be convened in New York to take stock of the milestones achieved in the past six years and deliberate on the future scenarios of the Forum. During the civil society days (CSD) of the Forum more attention was devoted regarding the meaningful participation of the migrants in the 2013 High-level UN Dialogue and the shaping the future of the Forum. It was therefore proposed that civil society, migrants, and diaspora representatives in the Forum initiate activities and undertake a series of consultations among their diverse constituencies in the lead-up to the 2013 High Level Dialogue.

This is imperative since the outcomes and recommendations from the consultations can be effectively used to increase the inclusion of the voices of the non-state actors in the upcoming HLD deliberations regarding the future of the Forum. The proactive participation of the civil society, migrants, and diaspora in the proceedings of the HLD event is critical in order to ensure that the wellbeing of migrants and the protection of their human rights remain at the centre of global, regional, national and local efforts designed to mainstream migration into the development agenda in different sector policies and at different levels. Additionally, their participation in the deliberations will also help to influence the debate so that migration policies can be instrumental to effectively support human development and the human rights of all migrants. More importantly, the input of the civil society and diaspora/migrant stakeholders in the 2013 HLD is expected to influence policy changes at national, regional and global levels conducive to the incorporation of migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 development agenda.

*More information about the Global Forum on Migration and Development, see [www.gfmd.org](http://www.gfmd.org).*

### **3. Intra-ACP Migration Facility**

#### *Background information on ADPC's Programme*

The Intra-ACP Migration Facility was initiated to strengthen the capacity of national and regional institutions of the ACP countries regarding migration related matters. It was also begun with the objective of promoting a better understanding and management of migration flows, and to integrate migration issues into national and regional policies. The beneficiaries of the ACP Migration Facility programme are all the ACP member states comprising 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The overall goal of the Facility is to strive to contribute to a sustainable development in the countries of these regions in order to improve living conditions and people's rights, for both migrants and non-migrants.

This is important since the contemporary global migration presents both challenges and opportunities: the challenges of orderly management, and the opportunities for better harnessing the significant potential (capital, knowledge and networks) of migrants for the overall development of their origin countries. These two-pronged manifestations – problems and benefits associated with migration, have made the topic a top priority on the national and international agenda worldwide. It has also become an emerging policy field in many countries around the world. However, to many developing countries, current migration dynamics and their related issues represent huge policy and institutional challenges for effective coping mechanisms. This is due to the fact that the nexus between migration and development is a complex phenomenon with many different dimensions. It is also a relatively new field. As a result, policymakers in many ACP countries often lack the knowledge, capabilities, and experience to make well-informed policy choices geared towards orderly migration management, and for engaging migrants in domestic development in a sustainable and systematic manner.

The current programme of the Intra-ACP Migration Facility will provide a series of capacity building trainings to 12 ACP countries; namely, Angola, Cameroon, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rep. Dem. of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Timor Leste, and Trinidad and Tobago. ADPC is assisting the Facility in the provision of training the 12 pilot countries. The selection of our organization to administer the training is due to the pioneering role of ADPC in the field. For instance, ADPC is one of the few institutions that has already developed a high-quality capacity building training programme tailored to the specific needs of national governments, regional bodies, and civil society organizations in the developing world, active in the field of migration and development. More importantly, our training programme is developed from the perspectives, challenges, aspirations, development priorities, and the specific policy and institutional needs of developing countries regarding the nexus between migration and development. Our purpose is to bridge the North-South knowledge gap in this emerging policy field. We also understood early on that without strengthening the capacity of migrant-oriented institutions, developing countries will neither adequately manage the challenges of migration nor sufficiently benefit from its opportunities and development potentials. More concretely, since 2009, ADPC has been offering capacity building trainings to African government policymakers tasked with overseeing diaspora and development related matters. The main purpose of our training programme is 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. In the past two years, we have trained 24 African

government officials from 12 African countries located in different regions in Africa. The countries they represented are: Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe among others. In this regard, ADPC has a proven track record in delivering a high-quality capacity building training efficiently and on time.

The expected results of the ADPC capacity building training are that participant countries will:

- Acquire new knowledge and up-to-date information tailored to their specific policy-making needs;
- Obtain knowledge about best practices from the experiences of other countries;
- Acquire innovative strategies geared toward mobilising migrants for homeland development;
- Develop technical capabilities to design a national Migration and Development Strategy Paper (MDSP), which can be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions;
- Gain policy and practical insights on how diaspora-driven development can be integrated into the overall national development agenda; notably, through programmes such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

*For more information about the ADPC capacity programme, see the [www.diaspora-centre.org](http://www.diaspora-centre.org).*

## 4. Workshop Afrikadag

*Report Workshop ADPC, Amsterdam 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2012*

West-European governments are slowly shifting away from traditional models of development aid and increasing budgets dedicated to private sector development, which is becoming increasingly important for Africa. There are plentiful reasons why European SMEs should invest in Africa; strong economic growth, interesting consumer markets and a strong middle class. These provide even more reasons for African diaspora entrepreneurs who have the knowledge, skills and capacity



to advise and assist in this sector. Thus the question is: what role could the African diaspora play in the field of private sector development and why would diaspora entrepreneurs invest in Africa?

To answer these questions ADPC decided to organise a workshop focusing on African Diaspora Entrepreneurship during the Afrikadag in Amsterdam on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2012. This workshop was organised together with the Netherlands African Business Council (NABC), Project Nana and the Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organisations (DCMO).

Many visitors showed interest in the workshop. The classroom was fully packed and even after the workshop started people were still dropping in. After an introduction by Rahime Diallo from ADPC, the floor was given to our first speaker, Elisabeth van Loon-Muller of NABC. She pointed out the many opportunities, but also spoke about certain preconditions that have to be taken into consideration before starting a successful business. As an entrepreneur you have to be mindful of growing markets, of the competition around you, and you have to be aware that it is very hard to get a loan from a bank. Her main suggestion was doing thorough market research: entrepreneurs must know whether their business is attractive and for whom, they must have insight in future markets and trends. They also must ensure that their business is sustainable. The only way to do this is through having local partners with local expertise.

After this presentation, Samuel Waterberg joined us via a live stream interview through Skype for a plenary discussion, providing the audience with a unique perspective from a diaspora entrepreneur. Samuel Waterberg was born in Ghana and moved to The Netherlands at the age of ten. He studied and worked in the Netherlands, but moved to Accra, Ghana to start his own business 1,5 years ago. He emphasized that Africa is booming, and that the time to invest is now as there are more than 1 billion customers in Africa and it is home to seven out of the world's ten fastest growing economies.

What do these facts mean in practice? Samuel Waterberg gave the example of Ghana and why this country presents an excellent opportunity for companies to prosper and at the same time make positive impacts on their communities. Ghana has been political stable for the past 20 years and sustained growth over the last decade. In addition, it is easily accessible, assets are safe, and it is an English speaking country which is well resourced with both natural resources and human capital.

However, to benefit from these positive conditions it is important to have the right mind-set as a diaspora entrepreneur. Like Elisabeth, he stated that it is important to conduct feasibility studies before you start and connect with strategic partners that understand the market space you want to operate in. Building networks and partnerships takes time, therefore Samuel Waterberg advises every entrepreneur to have a working capital of at least two years.

What makes diaspora entrepreneurs different than other entrepreneurs? Samuel Waterberg answered that diaspora entrepreneurs often have a social responsibility towards their country of origin. This group does not only want to invest in Africa to yield profit but is sincerely interested in sustainable development on the continent as well. Another interesting point, is that when African diaspora entrepreneurs invest in Africa their money stays in Africa. Samuel Waterberg explains to the audience that Africans are only interested in working with diaspora entrepreneurs if they are committed for the long run. Additionally, entrepreneurs should be on the ground because remote entrepreneurship often does not work. One of the most important lessons learned from this section is that the African diaspora must not presume a bridge builder role. Of course, a diaspora entrepreneur often has added values because he understands the markets in Europe and in Africa and speaks the relevant languages. However, at the same time diaspora entrepreneurs should be aware of the fact that they often do not have a large network in their country of origin and that they have to adapt to the local business environment.

After this insightful conversation the floor was opened for questions from the audience. Around 30% of the audience declared they had considered the prospect of investing in Africa. Various business ideas and opportunities were brought up by the audience and discussed with Elisabeth, Samuel and Rahime. Ideas for establishing a fruit processing factory, an ICT centre, and a consultancy bureau were all brought up, as well as difficulties like the lack of infrastructure or technology. It was emphasized by various participants that the African diaspora can really make a change through investing in Africa. A great majority of the participants were interested in a follow-up workshop, as we only scratched the surface of this important and timely topic.

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