



## **Background Document**

### **Training Workshop on Capacity Building for Diaspora-oriented Officials in Somalia**

**3-7 October 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

The training workshop is designed to respond to capacity deficits affecting the performance of emerging Diaspora-oriented government institutions in Africa. The targeted beneficiaries of the training are the government policymakers tasked with overseeing Diaspora engagement in development-related matters in their respective countries.

Over the past decade there has been a significant change in many African governments' perception of their overseas Diaspora. Diasporas are increasingly seen as actors who can make a significant and positive contribution to the development of their homelands. Not only in terms of financial transfers (remittances) but also in terms of transferring knowledge and skills, promoting trade and foreign direct investment (FDI), philanthropy and spurring entrepreneurship.

Hence, the growing awareness of this potential has led an increasing number of African countries to initiate Diaspora-friendly policies and set up specific institutions or ministries for that purpose. For instance, there are now more than 30 African countries that have established Diaspora-oriented institutions and ministries in order to address Diaspora issues more professionally. However, these newly formed Diaspora-oriented institutions often lack the capacity to develop well-informed and effective Diaspora engagement policies. This lack of capacity is two-fold: (1) lack of relevant knowledge and information about trends, patterns and the current discourse on the nexus between migration and development, and (2) lack of practical skills and instruments on the policy-making process itself.

This training workshop will particularly support the Somali officials manning the Diaspora focal points in different regions of Somalia. The purpose of the training course is to contribute to strengthening the policy making capacities and practical operations of the Somali officials by providing them with essential knowledge, skills and tools to develop feasible policies aimed at maximizing the contribution of the Somali Diaspora to the overall development of Somalia.

The training workshop will be held in Addis Ababa with a duration of 5 days. ADPC will collaborate with IGAD for the delivery of the training. Holding the workshop in Addis Ababa will help the Somali government officials to gain exposure to the wealth of practical

experience and expertise that has already acquired in the field of migration and the development. The training will course will compose of three components: **overview of the current migration and development discourse; best practices: cases both in Africa and beyond; and tools for Diaspora engagement policy development.**

Through this the participants will be provided with:

- Hands-on tools and technical capability to design a national migration policy, which will enable them to make better informed policy choices and more appropriate decisions in their practical and programmatic interventions;
- Knowledge about best practices from the experiences of Ethiopia as well as other countries; and,
- Skills of designing innovative strategies geared to reach out and mobilise the diaspora for the development of the country.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
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