

Newsletter December 2010 No 2

Note from the Director

This newsletter aims to update you on the key activities undertaken by the ADPC since the second half of 2010. During this period, the ADPC has redoubled its efforts aimed at strengthening the policymaking capacity of the emerging diaspora-oriented institutions in Africa. Today, there are more than 30 African countries that have established diaspora-oriented institutions and ministries in order to deal more professionally with diaspora and development related issues. Yet, many of the policymakers serving in these newly-formed institutions seriously lack sufficient capacities to develop well-informed and effective Migration and Development policies. Consequently, this capacity deficit prevents them from developing feasible policy interventions as a way of maximizing the contribution of the diaspora to the development of Africa.



To address this challenge, the ADPC has been conducting capacity building and training workshops, organizing expert meetings and conferences and facilitating contacts and networking relations, all designed to enhance the policymaking capacity of African government officials dealing with diaspora and development related issues in their respective countries. For example, on November 22-27, 2010, the ADPC organized in Accra the first capacity building training workshop for African policy makers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented ministries in Africa. Likewise, the ADPC has facilitated the participation of 15 diaspora-oriented African government officials representing diverse countries and regions in Africa in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Mexico, from 8-11 November 2010. Their participation in the GFMD consultations and policy dialogue has further enhanced their knowledge, networks and policymaking capacity in the field. It has also raised the profile of African countries at the global level.

In this regard, the ADPC is committed to strengthening the policymaking capacities of African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented institutions on the continent. We realise that without significant policymaking capability, the newly-formed diaspora institutions in Africa will not benefit adequately from the development potential of diaspora overseas. This is indeed an aspect which has not received sufficient policy attention in the development cooperation discussions between the host and home countries within the migration and development framework.

I hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter. Happy holidays and a happy new year!

Overview of newsletter articles

Article 1: Meeting for African policymakers responsible for diaspora engagement

Article 2: Capacity Building for Policymakers Serving in the Newly-formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa

Article 3: African government's engagement with diaspora for homeland development

Article 4: Intra-ACP Migration Facility

1. Meeting for African policymakers responsible for diaspora engagement

Report meeting Addis Ababa, October 13 & 14 2010

On October 13-14, 2010, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), in cooperation with the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a two-day preparatory meeting in Addis Ababa. The meeting was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The preparatory meeting was organized for African policymakers responsible for engaging diaspora for homeland development and held prior to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8-11 November 2010. A diverse group of diaspora-oriented African government officials participated in the meeting, representing different countries and regions on the continent. The countries represented were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda.

The preparatory meeting provided a platform for African policymakers dealing with diaspora and development related issues in their respective home countries to convene and deliberate on matters of common interest in the field of migration and development within the context of Africa. The participants discussed a number of issues reflecting their concerns and aspirations on matters related to diaspora and development. A number of challenges were identified:

1. Lack of access to reliable information and data on the number, location and skills profile of their diaspora overseas;
2. Limited capacity to develop diaspora outreach strategies and to design diaspora-oriented national policy strategy;
3. Capacity deficiency in terms of policy coherence and cooperation and for implementation of diaspora-oriented programmes;
4. The complexity of dealing with irregular migration in and outside the continent;
5. Weak network building among themselves and no mechanism to facilitate the exchange of good practices (policies and programmes) on a more regular basis among policymakers in Africa dealing with diaspora and development related issues.

In conclusion, the participants in the meeting indicated four key policy priorities for an Action Plan that can be translated into realisable programmes within a feasible time period.

The policy priorities identified are:

- Developing diaspora outreach strategies such as the creation of a national 'diaspora guide';
- Setting up capacity building programmes like the ADPC's 'Capacity Building Programme' for the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa;
- Setting up a mechanism that facilitates the exchange of good practices in the form of an African Consultative Forum on Migration and Development (ACFMD);
- Concerted efforts for data collection and evidence-based study.

2. Capacity Building for Policymakers Serving in the Newly-formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa

Report Workshop, Accra, 22-27 November 2010

On 22-27 November 2010, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) organized the first training workshop for African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented ministries in Africa. The training workshop was held at the Alisa Hotel in Accra. This training workshop, which was the first of its kind, was 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 purpose of the training course was to strengthen the capacity of diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa 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.

This is the first of two trainings that will be organized during the period of the project. The second training course will take place in Spring 2011. For this first workshop, 12 participants were selected, representing six countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Rwanda. The selection criteria were based on regional representation, post-conflict and stable countries, as well as forerunners and newcomers in the field of migration and development. The last criteria particularly helped to facilitate latecomers to learn from the experiences and good practices of the forerunners in the field. More concretely, it helped latecomers in the field, such as Liberia and Kenya, to learn from the successful diaspora-oriented programmes implemented by Ethiopia and Rwanda. Furthermore, the training workshop provided a unique platform enabling participants to establish viable contacts, networks, freely exchange valuable information and share best practices and positive experiences on engaging the diaspora for development of their respective countries. Indeed, there are a number of best practices in the context of both policies and programmes that the African countries could share, something that the participants greatly appreciated.

In addition to the capacity building training, participants identified other critical areas requiring urgent interventions in order to further increase their policy insights and practical operations in the field. The additional interventions they proposed would ensure a cumulative effect in terms of boosting their capability to design effective policy instruments. This would facilitate the integration of diaspora-driven development into the overall national development agenda in their respective countries. The areas identified are: African consultative forum on migration and development (ACFMD); online course; direct technical assistance; strengthening the capacity of regional consultative processes; and evidence-based best practices case studies.

1. African Consultative Forum on Migration and Development (ACFMD). This forum would facilitate the exchange of good practices (policies and programmes) on a more regular basis among policymakers in Africa dealing with diaspora and development related issues. The forum will also facilitate peer consultation among policymakers. It was proposed that the ACFMD should be held twice a year rotating from one country to another;
2. Online courses. The government participants in the training workshop proposed to launch an online training course, which would enable them to continue learning and to gain access to up-to-date information in the field. This would go some way to redressing the current lack of access to the most recent knowledge generated on the subject. Moreover, continued access

to up-to-date information in the field will allow for better-informed policy choices and appropriate decisions in practical interventions. Furthermore, providing online courses is an inexpensive and effective way to increase participation of diaspora-oriented policymakers in many countries in Africa;

3. Direct technical assistance. The government participants have indicated a need for direct technical assistance in the form of consultancy, coaching and mentoring. They will also require capacity building training for diverse groups of policymakers within each country in order that more diaspora-oriented officials are trained in each country, rather than one or two individuals. This direct technical assistance should focus both on supporting the development of effective diaspora-oriented policy and the implementation of diaspora-oriented programmes on the ground. Ultimately, the government participants are of the view that direct and concentrated technical assistance would enable them to acquire the capability to develop a national Migration and Development Strategy Paper (MDSP) that can be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions;
4. Strengthening the capacity of regional consultative processes. The government participants requested that the capacity of regional bodies, such as IGAD in East Africa and ECOWAS in West Africa, be strengthened in terms of the management of the migration within the continent. This is important as developing effective regional policy approaches to migration movements can foster alliances and strategic partnerships among countries in the field of migration and development;
5. Evidence-based best practices case studies. The participants indicated the importance of documenting best practices in the policies and programmes that African countries have already initiated. Such case studies would showcase catalysts of positive exceptions that should be widely shared.

The training workshop was facilitated by renowned international experts in the field of migration and development. Collectively, the unique quality of each expert resulted in the training course being a successful endeavour.

3. African government's engagement with diaspora for homeland development

ADPC Workshop at the GFMD in Mexico on 9 November 2010

On 9 November 2010, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) organized a workshop, during the GFMD event in Mexico, for African policymakers responsible for engaging diaspora for the development of their respective homelands. The workshop was sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and supported by Fundación BBVA Bancomar and the GFMD Mexican Chair-in-Office. A diverse group of diaspora-oriented African government officials, holding high-ranking positions in their respective governments, participated in the workshop. They represented various countries and regions in Africa, including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. In the three previous GFMD meetings, held in Belgium, the Philippines and Greece, the participation of diaspora-oriented policymakers from Africa had been dismal. Consequently, the voices, concerns and aspirations of African governments were lacking in the deliberations on migration and development related issues at the global level.

The ADPC initiated this workshop in order to tackle this problem and to ensure that diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa were sufficiently represented at the fourth GFMD event in Mexico. Ultimately, the participation of the African government officials in the GFMD consultations and policy dialogue in Mexico enhanced their knowledge, networks and policymaking capacity in the field of migration and development. It also raised the profile of African countries at the global level. Furthermore, the GFMD event in Mexico provided African representative with the opportunity to express their concerns and policy priorities with respect to engaging diaspora for development.

The workshop was held during the GFMD's Civil Society Days (CSD). It was a landmark event which facilitated, for the first time, a face-to-face dialogue and exchange of ideas between representatives of African governments and diaspora organizations and civil society associations. In addition, discussions took place on how to promote the engagement of the diaspora in the development of their respective homelands. During the workshop a spokesperson of the African government officials presented an Action Plan that reflected their policy priorities on issues of common interest in the field of migration and development within the context of Africa. The Action Plan identifies a number of key policy priorities that can be translated into realisable programmes within a feasible time period. Three key priority areas that were singled out for urgent action are:

- ▶ Setting up a consultation platform for diaspora policymakers
- ▶ Provision of capacity building, training, workshops, conferences, expert meetings
- ▶ Access to reliable information and data collection

The workshop was well-attended by diverse representatives of mainstream development practitioners, donor communities, the private sector, academia and policymakers from a range of countries and continents. Among the key government representatives and donors who participated in the workshop were the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USAID, GTZ, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Western Union. Of great significance was the presence of a high-level delegation led by Bob

Gallucci, the President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which underscored the key partnership between the ADPC and the Foundation in the field of migration and development. The President of the Foundation noted his appreciation of the ADPC's work, stating that:

'I appreciated being able to sit in on the workshop, which clearly broke new ground by bringing together diaspora organisations and diaspora-oriented policymakers from the continent to discuss best practices and to forge a partnership for future collaboration. I was also pleased to see the interest in this meeting among bilateral development agencies such as USAID and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. I am gratified that the Foundation supports the work of organizations such as the African Diaspora Policy Centre; we greatly value your contributions to improving research and policy to help foster concrete contributions by diasporas to their countries of origin'.

In sum, the workshop offered an important opportunity for diverse stakeholders in the field of migration and development to network, establish viable contacts, learn from each other's development related activities and share best practices and positive experiences. It also facilitated the exchange of ideas, which, in turn, helps to identify key policy actions in order to maximize the considerable development potential of the diaspora. Indeed, in this regard, the workshop has achieved remarkable results.

The participants in the workshop hailed it as a unique event. It was also considered to be an exemplary model that should be replicated in the forthcoming GFMD event that will be held in Switzerland in 2011. However, one concern aired by participants in the meeting was that these kinds of workshop should not remain a side event, as was the case at the Mexico meeting, rather it should be incorporated in the main activities of future Civil Society Days. A workshop like this makes it possible for representatives of the diaspora and the government officials from their countries of origin to engage in a direct dialogue that contributes to a process of confidence-building, trust and greater understanding of each other's position.

4. Intra-ACP Migration Facility

Background information about the ACP Facility

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).
