



**African
Diaspora**
POLICY CENTRE

AFRICAN DIASPORA POLICY CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2015

Welcome to the African Diaspora Policy Centre's January 2015 Newsletter. In this newsletter we would like to update you about the most significant events and developments that have kept us busy for the year ended 2014.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.diaspora-centre.org>

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Note from the director



On behalf of the African Diaspora Policy Centre, I wish you all a pleasant 2015. Your support over the years for the work of ADPC has helped us to contribute empowering African diaspora as change agents for the development of their respective homelands.

It also helped us to proactively advocate and contribute to policy and practical changes at different levels conducive to their effective participation in the overall development of Africa.

We are committed to continuing our efforts of galvanizing the diaspora for the development of Africa in 2015 and beyond. We are also committed to contributing to the ongoing efforts geared at integrating migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 UN development agenda. I hope you will enjoy reading our reports in this newsletter.

Dr. Awil Mohamoud

Director

African Diaspora Policy Centre

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ADPC Housewarming – September 2014

All the members of African Diaspora Policy Centre would like to thank everyone who attended our housewarming event at our new office at the Laan van Meerdevoort 70 in The Hague last September. It was a great success, and could not have happened without the generous support of our partners and the African diaspora community.

With Our Most Sincere Gratitude

On 23rd September 2014, ADPC organised a **housewarming event** at our new office location where we welcomed diaspora organizations, development practitioners and policymakers dealing with diaspora related issues, both in host and home countries to welcome them to our new office located in The Hague.

Our director Dr. Awil Mohamoud , opened the event by welcoming all the guest to our new location in The Hague, with a very short and concrete information about what ADPC stands for, what it does and its future plans which are essential to ensuring the future development and success of ADPC work.



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‘Africa Works’ workshop on ‘Effective cross-sector partnerships for business and development in complex and high-risk environments’ – October 2014

On 16 October, 2014, ADPC was asked to collaborate with SPARK and the *Conflict Research Unit (CRU)* of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’ to host a workshop at the Africa Works conference about ‘Effective cross-sector partnerships for business and development in complex and high-risk environments’ in Leiden.

The workshop, moderated by Dr. Rens Twijnstra ([African Diaspora Policy Centre](#)), brought together speakers from different backgrounds – donor government (The Netherlands), host government (Sierra Leone), local business ([Farmers & Co](#), Burundi), local NGO (Mobinc, Burundi) – with a view to raise the prospects that the increasing interest in partnering up will be translated into significant and sustained changes in the practices of actors on the ground.

Abubakarr Bangura, chairman of Sierra Leone Central Union and board member of ADPC, well established in government circles but most of all an entrepreneur himself, provided introductory remarks. Apart from addressing common challenges such as the absence of adequate data, he also highlighted some key factors which he



believes are essential to build effective cross-sector partnerships: mutual trust and understanding, expectation management, clear rules of engagement, realism and flexibility. In his view, cross-sector partnerships should focus on maximising the gains and minimising the pains.

Sjoerd Smit, Department for Sustainable Economic Development, The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Mr. Ibrahim Sorie Kamara, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union, both emphasised the importance of the ‘New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States’.

To read more about the report [click here](#)

You can find more information about the conference on the [Africa Works! website](#)

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The fourth Capacity Development Training Workshop for Diaspora-oriented Officials from Africa – November 2014

Last year ADPC organised the fourth capacity development training workshop for government policymakers serving in the newly-formed Diaspora-oriented institutions in Africa, Addis Ababa, 24-28 November 2014.



Participants and ADPC staff posing at the Africa Hall mosaic in Addis Ababa during the 2014 SEDIMA training workshop

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Capacity Development Division (UNECA-CDD) organised the fourth edition of the capacity development training workshop for African policymakers serving at diaspora-oriented departments and ministries in Africa.

The workshop took place at the ECA conference centre in Addis Ababa from 24 - 28 November 2014 and was participated by a host of senior government officials from Ethiopia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Sudan and Zambia. The workshop was also supported by the Diaspora Affairs Directorate within the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participants exchanged views and experiences on a range of migration and development related issues, and received training on drafting policy papers about diaspora engagement. Drawing on the expertise from two of ADPC's resource persons, Prof. Dr. Gerd Junne and Mr. Peter Mudungwe, examples from across the African continent and abroad about how to leverage the human capital of the diaspora for homeland development were showcased and shared.

To galvanize the exchange between Africa, Latin America and Asia, guest speakers such as the Ambassador from the Republic of Mexico to Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Juan Alfredo Miranda Ortiz, and the Ambassador from the Republic of India to Ethiopia, H.E Mr. Sanjay Verma were also invited to present their experiences about diaspora engagement



H.E Ambassador Sanjay Verma addresses workshop Participants on India's Diaspora engagement policies

For a full workshop report, please check our [website](#)

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The Diaspora Academy Peacebuilding Training – December 2014

December 2014 The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with the Hague Academy of Local Governance (THA), The Network University (TNU) and Cordaid, has launched a Diaspora Academy. The initiative is generously supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The first diaspora-oriented peace building training of the Diaspora Academy (DA) was held at The Hague Academy for Local Governance 1st-5th of December, 2014. The training was offered to 10 African diaspora peace activists representing leading diaspora organisations from Belgium, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The countries that the diaspora peace-builders originated in Africa are Burundi, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. This first peace building training will be followed by two more trainings in 2015 and 2016. Each training will be participated by 10 diaspora peace activists representing leading diaspora organizations in Europe that are active in the promotion of peace in their respective countries in Africa.

The training is aimed at strengthening the peace-making capacity of the diaspora peace activists/brokers and support them in the application of this gained skills in the peace-building activities they involved in their home countries of origin.

By increasing the peace building capacities of diaspora peace activists, it is expected that their efforts to contribute to peace and social stability in their countries of origin become more effective and enduring.

Acquiring adequate conflict transformation techniques, skills and practical tools will enable diaspora peace activities and their counterparts will enable diaspora peace activities and their counterparts in the home countries to operate more efficiently in their peace making activities. It will also help to widen peace-building actors in the homelands by incorporating the diasporas in the process in a more structured and formal manner.



Participants at The Hague Academy for Local Governance in The Netherlands during DA peace building training, 1st-5th of December 2014

For more information about the training programme, please check our [website](#) or download the ADPC Diaspora-oriented Peacebuilding Training [here](#).



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Policy Paper on Diaspora and Migrant Entrepreneurs as Social and Economic Investors in Homeland Development

The following excerpt is taken from our recently published policy paper on Diaspora and Migrant Entrepreneurs as Social and Economic Investors in Homeland Development, drafted within the framework of the Migration and Development (MADE) programme.

Migration is increasingly seen as having important positive contributions to development. In the migration and development field diaspora have emerged as important strategic partners essential for the practical implementation of policy proposals that require migrants to play a leading role. Over the decades, the contribution of migration to development has been seen through the positive effects of diaspora and migrant remittances on the well-being of families in countries of origin.

Since 2000, migrant remittances have grown fivefold, with remittances to developing countries amounting to approximately US\$ 404 million in 2013. Consequently, while the relative importance of official development assistance is declining, remittances have grown in importance for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of developing countries. Evidence to date also indicates that going beyond remittances, diaspora entrepreneurs can contribute positively to the socio-economic development of their countries of origin. The unique nature of diaspora entrepreneurs enables them to exploit

opportunities in diverse homeland contexts to create business and jobs, stimulate innovation, create cross boarder social capital and channel political and financial capital towards development.

However, until recently the strategic contribution of diaspora to homeland socio-economic development has not been formally recognised in various global discussions. The increasing recognition of the important positive contributions of migration, and in particular diaspora entrepreneurship, to development is now reflected in the current global call for the inclusion of migration in the post 2015 development agenda. Initiated in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, these discussions culminated in the UNGA High Level Dialogues (HLDs) on International Migration and Development in 2006 and 2013. The formation of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was the result of the first forum of discussions. As an outcome and follow up to the 2013 UN HLD, Civil Society organisations have proposed a 5 year Action Plan for collaboration articulating 8 key development issues to be addressed in the coming 5 years.

A clear recommendation put forward is the need to better engage migrants and diaspora as entrepreneurs, social investors, policy advocates and partners in development.

Consequently addressing the topic of diaspora entrepreneurship as the first global Working15 Group on migrants and diaspora for development is both timely and policy relevant in that it responds to the current trends on the global development debates geared to promote the contribution of the private sector to development. This topic also holds policy relevance for the next GFMD meeting scheduled to take place in October 2015 in Istanbul. The host government Turkey has already indicated that migrant entrepreneurship will be a leading theme in upcoming GFMD deliberations. Building on the evidence base in this area is important in order to inform policy and programming.

The full policy paper can be downloaded from our [website](#).

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Research Brief: Diasporas as Mediating Actors in Development – Case Study about Somali Diasporas in Denmark.

ADPC has recently published a research brief that presents findings from a master thesis authored by two students of the International Development Studies Programme at the Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University in Denmark, and is based on qualitative research with Somali diasporas in Denmark.

The research conducted for this brief took place during spring 2014 in co-operation with the Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme.

Diasporas have been recognised as powerful actors in their country of origin largely due to the high numbers of remittances that is sent back every year. Many diaspora-led development initiatives are designed with the aim of channelling personal remittances into larger developmental activities.

Diasporas' contributions to their country of origin have increasingly triggered awareness about their potential in development, poverty reduction and economic growth in the South. Consequently, numerous diaspora-led development programmes have been established. Despite this increased attention for diasporas in development, there is little knowledge about diasporas in the country of immigration and how, or whether, they identify themselves as development actors.

Understanding diaspora perspectives and motivations for being involved in development is utterly important for policy makers and practitioners engaged in diaspora-led development in order to continuously seek to strengthen collaboration with diasporas.

The objective of this research brief is to give a voice to Somali diasporas in Denmark on their engagement in development. The brief will conclude with a number of recommendations for supporting diaspora-led development.



Nordic Somali Youth Summit participants

In Denmark, the Somali migrant population is one of the largest non-European groups. Most of them arrived as refugees after the breakout of the civil war in Somalia and thus increasingly from the beginning of the 1990's followed by a growing number of Somalis coming to Denmark through family reunification (Statistics Denmark Web 2014). Somalis as a migrant group are known for their strong associational practices and for upholding strong kinship relations to relatives in Somalia. Thus, many of the Somali-established associations engage in activities directed to Somalia.

Please download the full research brief [here](#).

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Contact Information

**For more information about ADPC
you can contact us via (e)mail or
phone during office hours: 9am-5pm
*from Monday-Thursday.***



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