

# African Diaspora Policy Centre

Newsletter 2015 Overview



## Acknowledgements

This newsletter was written by Yusra Medani, ADPC's Project Associate in 2015 under the leadership of Connie Formson-Lorist, DAP Programme Coordinator and in collaboration with Ank van den Berg, Ciaran Hickey, Malcom Richardson and Abubakar Koroma.

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## Foreword



Migration and development have increasingly gained tremendous amount of attention. This recognition however has not always had positive connotations. In the words of Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Naci Koru at the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD) held in Turkey.

“International migration is a product of two of the most powerful forces in the world: market forces and the universal human urge to achieve a safer, better life for oneself and one’s children. It is up to all of us to work together to promote positive outcomes of international migration, for people and for countries and to work against forces that rob migrants of their potential.”<sup>1</sup>

With our engagement in the GFMD and in the 4<sup>th</sup> Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD) on Climate change, migration and development: “How to Maximise the Impact of African Diaspora organisations” part of COP21 in Paris we have been able to play our part in empowering African diaspora in their role of development in their homelands. With the words of Minister Naci Koru in mind we presented how the African diaspora can capitalize its recourses to get involved in environmental preservation on the continent at the DDD.

This newsletter contains an overview of events held throughout the year to stimulate and harness the role of African diaspora in development in their countries of origin. With your support we are dedicated to extend our efforts of assisting the diaspora in Africa and beyond to contribute to positive developmental change in their respective homelands.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

As the New Year approaches us, the ADPC team and I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and wonderful year ahead.

Dr. Awil Mohamoud  
Director African Diaspora Policy Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.gfmd.org/news/8th-gfmd-summit-concludes-gfmd-must-play-role-implementation-migration-relevant-2030-sdgs>



## Diaspora Academy Programme

In cooperation with the Hague Academy of Local Governance (THA) and The Network University (TNU), ADPC has launched the Diaspora Academy Programme (DAP) in May 2014. The aim of the Diaspora Academy is to promote active diaspora engagement, networking and collaboration, and to support the use of superior lobbying and advocacy instruments of diaspora organizations in Europe who are engaged in the development of their countries of origin.

DAP provides support in the field of advocacy and lobbying where diaspora are trained in effective manners for influencing policy and making practical changes, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. The workshops focus on conflict transformation tools for peace, and partnerships and cooperation which deals with technical capabilities that enables diaspora organizations to forge alliances with different actors and institutions to considerably extend the reach and impact of their development interventions.

## Peacebuilding Conference: 27 August 2015

On August 27<sup>th</sup> ADPC held a peacebuilding conference on “The Potential of Diaspora Participation in Peacebuilding towards Homeland”. The meeting included several diaspora peace activists, diaspora individuals, diaspora organisation and key partners such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the workshop network opportunities were available to establish viable contacts and exchange valuable information, best practice and personal experiences. The workshop provided general overview on the discourse on diaspora and peacebuilding in their countries of origin. This was followed by a governmental perspective and two case studies of diaspora peace activists showcasing the Burundian Women for Peace and Development and an individual perspective of homeland peacebuilding and interventions towards conflict resolution between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The prevailing message from the meeting stressed the importance of including diaspora in peacebuilding efforts due to the comparative advantage. The conference also highlighted the importance of diasporas’ soft power in peacebuilding through persuasion or dialogue to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

## In the first half of this year

### Start the year with something new

The first half of the year was marked by the inaugural of our Advocacy & Lobbying workshop and our E-learning programme on Migration and Development.

**Within DAP:** The Advocacy & Lobbying workshop was held from 13-17 April 2015 and brought together a group of nine dynamic African diaspora from Europe and one from the USA. The workshop’s aim was to support African diaspora practitioners and organisations in designing and implementing lobby and advocacy strategies according to the priorities of their country of origin.

**Within SEDIMA:** The E-learning programme on Migration and Development is designed for policy makers and civil servants in Africa. The course consist of twelve modules each dealing with migration topics such as the history of migration, remittances and return migration. In May 2015 the first course was held, in which fifteen individuals; policy makers, civil servants, academics and others from different countries in Africa but also from Europe and North-America participated.



## Second Peacebuilding Training workshop: 21-25 September 2015

September 21<sup>st</sup> till the 25<sup>th</sup> was marked by the second Peacebuilding Training held at THA. In the training workshop, ten African diaspora individuals from Europe and the United States representing various countries in Africa such as Nigeria, Djibouti and Zimbabwe, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, South-Sudan, Kenya and Burundi, that are active or interested in areas of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in their countries of origin participated.

Elicitive participatory approach, in which the unique cultural understanding of conflict and its resolution of the various participants are highlighted through reflection and dialogue and in case studies was used. The workshops provided participants with conflict transformation techniques, skills and practical tools to strengthen their peace-making capacity as peace activists and their counterparts in the home countries.

The workshop consisted of four modules. In the first module diaspora in the context of peacebuilding was addressed. This was followed by a conflict and stakeholder analysis that mapped the causes of conflict, actors involved and the dynamics of conflict to provide context specific responses upon which the participants could develop Action Plans. The interventions and skills module covered issues such as problem solving, process and skills, and presentation and feedback feeding into the Back Home Action Plan. Other key areas of focus included economic development and peacebuilding and, integration of gender into peacebuilding, during post conflict development.



## Second Advocacy & lobbying Training workshop: 19-23 October 2015

After the successful launch of Advocacy & Lobby Training workshop in April this year, a second Advocacy & Lobby training workshop was organized and took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> till the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The participants consisted of nine diaspora development practitioners from Belgium, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Sweden and United Kingdom representing assorted countries in Africa like Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

The workshop adopted a collaborative learning approach that has led to vibrant discussions, meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas and experiences between the various participants. During the five day training workshop participants dealt with the importance of image and representation for lobbying and advocacy, the different kinds of power and effective ways of utilizing power, and applying advocacy tools such as (social) media to channel support for a certain topic to make the most impact. Besides the discussions and small exercises, the nine diaspora development practitioners were trained to design an advocacy strategy and an action plan.



## Strengthening Policymaking Capacity in the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa

Strengthening Policymaking Capacity in the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa ( SEDIMA) is a programme designed to the needs and specific contexts of interest countries. The programme aims to bridge the North-South knowledge gap in the field of migration by offering tailor-made capacity building assistance to national institutes, regional bodies, civil society representatives as well as other stakeholders directly involved in the migration policy processes and practical implementations in their area of work.

SEDIMA contributes to knowledge transfer through offering:

- Capacity building training workshops: Strengthening capacity of policy makers.
- Direct technical assistance: To reinforce the relationship between migrants and their country of origin and to develop feasible strategic interventions with realizable actions.
- E-learning courses: To facilitate a continuous learning platform and access to up-to-date information in the field of migration and development.



### E-learning programme on Migration and Development: 5-30 October 2015

Sixteen African policy makers working the governmental, private and non-governmental sector in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Netherlands, Kenya, Togo, Rwanda participated in the second E-learning programme on Migration and Development organized in October.

Throughout the programme participants increased their knowledge on how African diaspora can be supported to make a positive contribution to development of their countries of origin. Participants acquired knowledge on drafting policies targeting diaspora, identifying stakeholders necessary for diaspora engagement, and learned how to strategically engage with diaspora. Furthermore participants gained practical knowledge on how to apply to apply these issues in their professional work.

Participants described the E-learning programme as:

*“ This program is more equipping , offering the possible to formulate smart diaspora policy at national level.”*

*“The course has led us to understand the way to reach the goal.”*

*“ Meeting expectations and beyond ”*



## Diaspora Conference on the Great Lakes Region: “Root Causes of Conflict & Opportunities for Peace”: 5-6 November 2015

In collaboration with The Hague Peace Projects and Institute for Social Studies (ISS), ADPC has coordinated a Diaspora Conference on the 5th and 6th of November, to devote attention to causes of the conflict and the peace process in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo.

During the two day conference participants shared personal stories reflecting on the context of the conflict in the Great Lakes region, knowledge and expertise on peacebuilding both from an international level and local level to evaluate the best practices of peacebuilding and the obstacles to sustainable peace. The conference concluded with a concrete action plan reflected on the perspectives for future of the Hague Peace Projects and the diaspora.

## Tailor Made Training: Addis Ababa 13-25 September 2015

### “Glocal” Partnerships for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia: Sub-National Diaspora Engagement Policies and Practices

Ethiopia is one of Africa’s pioneers in creating an inviting domestic atmosphere for its respective diaspora to participate in the development of their homeland. Ethiopia developed a National Diaspora Policy and a national Diaspora Day, however they still face problems regarding the development of coherent policy instruments for sustainable diaspora-driven agribusiness development in the country.



On the 13th till the 25th of September, with the support of Nuffic, ADPC provided on the ground Tailor Made Training (TMT) to 15 Ethiopian government officials serving in the numerous Diaspora Coordinating Offices (DCOs) in different regions of the country, as well as Diaspora returnees already engaged in Agribusiness. TMT aimed at enhancing the technical policymaking capacity in the field of Diaspora Engagement in Agribusiness.

The TMT resulted in three types of deliverables: policy proposal to facilitate diaspora entrepreneurship in agribusiness, business plans of the participating returnee entrepreneurs and educational manual for comprehensive knowledge transfers. The workshop utilized a combination of different methods and knowledge from global and local experts, including a field trip to a flower farm and a dairy and cattle feed enterprise owned by diaspora. The practical and theoretical aspects of the TMT were received very well by the participants who have scored the training workshop 8 out of 10. Stressing both the excellent level of training and the quality and quantity of knowledge gained after the training workshop.



## Upcoming events

Stay tuned for our intriguing events in 2016!

<b>March</b>		Conference on Lobby and Advocacy
<b>April</b>	<b>4- 8</b>	Third Lobby and Advocacy Workshop
<b>June</b>	<b>6-10</b>	Third Peacebuilding Workshop

*For details on events please visit our website at: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/event-calender/>*

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