

# Workshop Report

Dakar, 21-25 October 2013



## *Strengthening policymaking capacities of emerging African Diaspora Ministries in Migration and Development*

**Capacity  
Building**



**African  
Diaspora  
POLICY CENTRE**



## Contents

Brief Introduction.....	3
Day One 21 October 2013	
1 Opening Ceremony.....	4
2 Introduction to the Migration Discourse .....	5
3 Diaspora Engagement in Developing Countries .....	6
Day Two 22 October 2013	
4 Concepts of Diversity of Migration .....	7
5 Life-cycle of a Migrant.....	9
Day Three 23 October 2013	
6 Identifying Stakeholders for Drafting Policies .....	10
7 Data Collection .....	11
8 Best Practices in M&D Policy.....	12
Day Four 24 October 2013	
9 Policy Instruments and Policy Development.....	13
Day Five 25 October 2013	
10 Plenary Session - Online Courses.....	15
11 Global Forum on Migration and Development.....	16
12 African Networks and Platforms.....	18
Closing Ceremony.....	19
ANNEX I.....	20
ANNEX II .....	21
ANNEX III .....	22

### Colophon

Texts: The African Diaspora Policy Centre  
Edited by: Anna Yeadell-Moore  
Graphic Design: De Zagerij ontwerp bureau

© December 2013 African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)  
For more information please contact us at:  
[info@diaspora-centre.org](mailto:info@diaspora-centre.org)  
[www.diaspora-centre.org](http://www.diaspora-centre.org)

For more information on other Training Programmes  
please see the IDEP website at:  
[www.unidep.org](http://www.unidep.org)  
[idep@unidep.org](mailto:idep@unidep.org)

## Brief Introduction

From 21 to 25 October 2013, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Economic Development and Planning (UNIDEP) organised a capacity building training for African government officials working in the field of migration and development. The training was held at the IDEP training institute in Dakar, Senegal.

Twelve government officials from the following six countries were represented: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Ivory Coast and Tanzania (and one representative from the host country, Senegal).

### Objectives

1. Gain access to up-to-date information on the discourse of migration and development;
2. Exchange best practices of successful migration policies in Africa and beyond;
3. Strengthen policymaking skills to draft and implement migration policies that are Diaspora inclusive;
4. Knowledge of networks and platforms (both international and regional) to stay connected with Diaspora and with other policymakers in this field.

### Key components of this training course

- Overview of the migration and development discourse;
- Best practices: cases in Africa and beyond;
- Drafting policies and policy memos

### Methodology

The training has been designed to facilitate a small group (12) of government officials. The participants were selected based on criteria relating to the field of work, policy influence and policymaking experience to ensure that, as a group, but also on an individual level, trainees will be capable of directly integrating the input from the training into their daily work<sup>1</sup>. A small group was chosen as this provides space for lively discussions and the exchange of experiences and practice learning from different contexts. The practical exchange and participatory nature of previous ADPC trainings is seen as an asset and has been valued by participants. For this reason, each of the modules in the current training provides a platform for discussions and practical exchange amongst trainees.

### Expected results

- To obtain new knowledge and up-to-date information tailored to specific policymaking needs;
- To gain knowledge about best practices from each other and from the experiences of other countries in Africa;
- To acquire innovative strategies geared to mobilising Diaspora for homeland development;
- Develop technical capabilities to design a national Migration Strategy Paper.

*1. Please see the Annex for the full note on the selection criteria developed by IDEP and ADPC.*

Day One  
21 October  
2013

## 1 Opening Ceremony

The director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (AIDEP), Mr Adebayo, opened the workshop by welcoming all participants and thanking the staff of AIDEP and the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) for facilitating this first collaborative workshop on this highly relevant topic.

In the past, Africa has often been perceived as the continent 'without hope'; however, perceptions are changing and it is becoming the 'upcoming' continent. The Diaspora has become an important aspect of this development. Defining Diaspora is difficult. For some, members of the Diaspora are associated with 'brain drain', while for others Diaspora members are perceived as people who look for well-being elsewhere or as seasonal workers.

The African Diaspora continues to grow. This raises a question about how remittances can be directed in such a way that they make a substantial contribution to development.

The head of AIDEP's training division, Professor Robinson, quoted the British Medical Journal<sup>2</sup> saying that the estimated loss of returns on investment for all doctors from Sub-Saharan Africa working in the US, UK, Canada and Australia is \$2.1 billion. The receiving countries gained \$4.6 billion as a result of not having to invest further in medical education. If African countries can curb this drain, these highly experienced professionals could make a solid contribution to the development of the continent.

The director of ADPC, Mr Awil Mohamoud gave a short introduction on the organisation and outlined the broader programme for strengthening the policymaking capacities of emerging Diaspora Ministries.

This training will be complemented by two other activities that are part of the strengthening capacities programme: online courses and technical assistance. The online courses are designed by The Online University (TNU) and Professor Junne, Emeritus Professor in International Relations at the University of Amsterdam (Uva), has been closely involved in drafting the materials. Technical assistance for

this programme will be provided to Ghana, Uganda and Kenya.

Representatives of these three countries participated in workshops in 2010 and 2011 in Accra and asked for face-to-face support in their departments. These three countries are pilot countries and, depending on the success of this exercise, there will be a follow-up.

This training is not a one-time event, but rather is intended to contribute to further contacts, networking and reporting of changes and developments in the countries represented. This training is intended to keep participants engaged and to create a community of government officials throughout Africa.

2. 'The financial cost of doctors emigrating from Sub-Saharan Africa: Human Capital Analysis' *BMJ* 2011, 24 November 2011, pp. 1-13.



## 2 *Introduction to the Migration Discourse*

*By Dr Aly Tandian*

Dr Tandian started an interactive session by asking the participants to discuss three citations from leading politicians regarding the recent tragedy involving hundreds of migrants drowning off the coast of Lampedusa. According to participants, these citations do not sufficiently reflect possible measures that governments and migrants can take to reduce the risks of migration. The lecturer explained the many reasons why people leave their countries, in spite of all risks involved, and why neither the dangers encountered, nor awareness-raising programmes, nor the economic crisis in Europe will prevent people from doing so. It is not only the material gains expected that make people migrate, there is also “symbolic capital” to be gained from the experience of having travelled.

A number of trends in migration can be distinguished. Migrants are becoming younger (a demographic advantage for the receiving countries), there is an increasing percentage of skilled labour migration, and migrants are going to new destinations. South-South migration is on the increase, even though this does not show up in statistics, not least because documentation of migrants is increasingly challenging and, therefore, often does not happen. Furthermore, research on South-South migration lags behind studies on South-North migration.

### 3 *Diaspora Engagement in Developing Countries*

*Summary of the discussion outcomes of the Afternoon Session by Elizabeth Adjei*

#### **Creating focal points for Diaspora**

Given that migration is only expected to rise, governments need to harness the potential of migrant contributions to the development of their country of origin. Governments (at all levels: national, provincial, municipal) have both an agenda-setting power and a convening power. Therefore, they can establish and coordinate initiatives and act as brokers between other stakeholders. They should appoint one focal point for all Diaspora related matters and engage stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, at an early stage in policy development. These activities need a proper budget; Ministries for Diaspora Affairs in a number of countries (Nigeria, Senegal and Morocco) were closed after bureaucratic in-fighting and a lack of funds.

#### **Engaging Diaspora for development- exchange of best practises**

<b>Ivory Coast</b>	FIAPP <sup>3</sup> has been able to install structures with respect to the Conventions that Ivory Coast ratified.
<b>Tanzania</b>	The government created a special Diaspora department which is working under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Ministry works hand in hand with the Ministry of Labour and Employment who is responsible for developing the Labour Migration Policy: a process which is currently taking place. The challenge relates to migrants who go to a certain country for work but who do not return after their visa expires. The problem then is that they are also no longer registered or visible, while they could be a resource to the country of origin.
<b>Senegal</b>	There is an external policy memo for the Diaspora but it deals with both internal and international migration. The Senegalese Diaspora is important to the development of Senegal as they provide considerable returns on investment.
<b>Gambia</b>	Diaspora policymaking is the responsibility of the Immigration Office in the Gambia. In 2010, members of the Diaspora were invited to a conference in Banjul. There was a woefully small presence of Gambian Diaspora, which clearly has a love-hate relationship with Gambia.
<b>Cape Verde</b>	The country has an elaborated policy (and a special ministry) for cooperating with the Diaspora, since more Cape Verde citizens live abroad than in the country. A special prospectus has been developed for 20 investment opportunities for the Diaspora.
<b>Moldavia, Jamaica and Zimbabwe</b>	These countries are known for having some of the best practices on migration and development policymaking.

#### **Conclusion on engagement of Diaspora**

There is widespread awareness that all governments, ministries and departments working on migration related issues should reflect upon what can be offered to their Diaspora. Are there competent individuals staffing the consulates? What are the aspirations of members of Diaspora and what do they miss from their country of origin? Policies need to be in place for members of the Diaspora to return and to invest.

#### **Data challenges**

There are difficulties in obtaining precise data on the Diaspora related to composition and skills. This was a recurring theme throughout the seminar and a special session dedicated to this topic was added to the programme.

## 4 Concepts of Diversity of Migration

### *Highlights of the discussion of the morning session by Dr Aly Tandian*

#### **South-South migration**

How can mobility be used to promote human development and to create jobs?

For some countries, South-South remittances are higher than the income gained from remittances from the North. Attention should be given to southern mobility. Promoting circular migration could be a way to respond to unemployment. Currently, there is no policy in place that deals with Diaspora in neighbouring countries, while these groups are easy to contact; for example, when members of Diaspora go home for Christmas, this could be a good moment to approach and engage Diaspora members.

Within Africa, there are three sorts of migration flows:

1. Many migrants move to the centres of economic growth in Africa (for example, South Africa and Ghana) in the hope of finding work;
2. Migrants who flee because of violent conflicts in their own country often find refuge in neighbouring countries;
3. Many migrants try to reach Europe but are caught in North African countries (that act as 'subcontractors for FRONTEX', the European border police). They cannot enter Europe but do not dare to return to their home countries, often out of shame. They remain in the 'in-between countries' for indefinite periods of time.

#### **Conceptualising Diaspora**

The term Diaspora conveys the notion of transnational populations, living in one place but connected with a homeland, with real or 'imagined' affiliations to their country of origin. There are many notions of Diaspora, but here are three components that characterise Diaspora:

1. Emotional ties with their homeland;
2. They are organised or know how to mobilise their co-Diaspora in the country of destination;
3. They have aspirations to return home one day.

The problem with all these definitions is that the aspects that characterise Diaspora are subjective. Whether a person is part of the Diaspora depends on emotional ties, something that cannot be captured in statistics. It is difficult, therefore, to assess the size of Diaspora groups in any given country. Nonetheless, for specific purposes, concrete Diaspora groups can be defined: individuals who send remittances are viewed as being part of the Diaspora. If a government aims to reach Diaspora members with specific academic skills, these individuals can be identified, even if there is no generally agreed upon definition of Diaspora or a comprehensive databank of all migrants.

#### **Building trust**

One cannot speak of the Diaspora without speaking of the political situation, precisely because Diaspora are often politicised, depending on political agendas and on the government in power. Ethnicity may also play a role as Diaspora tend to organise themselves along ethnic lines. It may be a challenge for governments to create a platform for dialogue with Diaspora when many members of the Diaspora are

highly critical of the government in the country of origin. Governments could build trust in their relations with the Diaspora, if they do something for migrants from their country. A good example is provided by the Philippines:

The Philippines has taken many measures and created many institutions to support migrants at every step of the migration (and return) process. These measures have created trust among the migrants in their government, which, in turn, generates an impressive volume of remittances being sent back to the country. Every trader understands that to gain you first need to invest. Countries that take care of their Diaspora can also expect more remittances.





After Dr Tandian's lecture there was an opportunity for participants to raise issues of particular interest to them. Below is a summary of the main questions that were discussed, providing an overview of what is of interest to this diverse team of government officials.

*Given the financial crisis in Europe, is there any resistance rising among migrants to sending large amounts of remittances to countries of origin? We have seen that some remittance flows have even reversed: People at home have sold assets (e.g. jewellery) to make it possible for migrants to stay in the country of destination, despite unemployment.*

*Is it necessary to have an all-encompassing national migration strategy? What are the most helpful structures for defining and implementing such a strategy?*

*How 'sustainable' is the concept of 'Diaspora'? The first generation might still be committed to the homeland but the second generation might just sell the assets (e.g. house) in the homeland, because they focus on their life in the country of destination, making it difficult to define their homeland.*

*Why should returning migrants be given privileges that others do not have? Especially when it turns out that – in the end – they are no more capable than people who have stayed in the country? (Migrants 'stole our resources' (a country's investment in education) 'and went away – and then want privileges to return?')*

*How is the 'Migration and Development' policy related to the Millennium Development Goals?*

*If a country cooperates with the EU and then arrests people who try to enter the EU in an irregular way – how can people ever trust their own government again, once they succeed in going abroad? Why should we expect them to become key actors in their country's future development?*

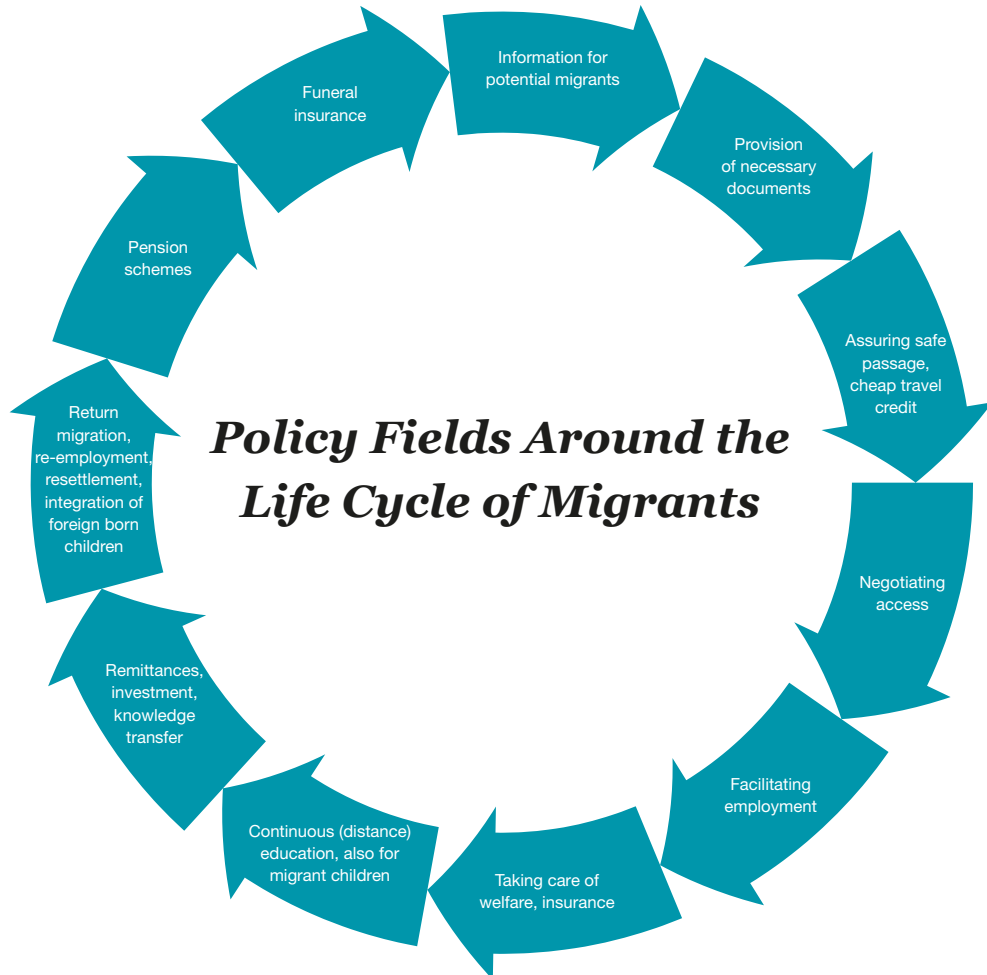




## 5 Life-cycle of a Migrant

*Afternoon session by Elizabeth Adjei*

The life-cycle of migrants can structure Diaspora policy: settling and resettling should take place with some governmental support.



### **Best practices (from policy fields addressing different steps in the life-cycle)**

In Cape Verde there is a policy in place for immigrants and there are current discussions about creating a centre for preparing potential migrants (emigration policy). Cape Verde has many dynamic Diaspora associations in destination countries that its embassies cooperate with closely. Well organised Diaspora associations are in the interest of the migrants, the host and the home countries. They can contribute to social cohesion in the host country and they have the potential to contribute substantially to the development of the home country. Migrants also profit as, together, they can demand their rights more easily, and other stakeholders are more interested in talking to them as representatives of an organised group.

Ecuador and Jamaica are providing training for migrants. Ensuring that migrants avoid vulnerable situations is the responsibility of the state and they have established several services for migrants. An example is to implement an anti-trafficking policy. Burkina Faso added that there are associations for migrants with questions and problems in their country of destination. These associations are better equipped to provide these services than the government.

A final intervention was made by Prof. Junne who gave the participants an assignment: *Please think tonight about which aspect of policymaking you want to work on and that makes most sense in your environment?* The results were discussed in the session on 'identifying stakeholders and drafting policies.'

Day Three  
23 October  
2013

## 6 Identifying Stakeholders for Drafting Policies

*Morning Session by Prof. Gerd Junne*

Unemployment rates are a sign that governance and market structures in societies are not working properly. This is not a problem confined to developing countries. Youth unemployment in Greece, for example, has reached 60 per cent. This is a sign that societies are not able to find the appropriate structures. Employment is a crucial ingredient of development. However, at present, job creation in developing countries is facing major obstacles: Most of the population is still working in agriculture, where jobs are being lost rapidly as a result of improved productivity. The present economic growth in Africa is mainly based on the export of minerals, but this is not labour intensive and many jobs for skilled workers (e.g. in the oil industry) are filled by experts.

The nascent industry has to cope with cheap imports from China; many manufacturing companies have closed down. For example a textile company (ironically, owned by a Chinese) in Zambia had to close because it could not compete with its Chinese competitors outside of Zambia.

There is brain drain at different levels, both internationally and internally. The majority of Diaspora relevant policy has to be carried out by local authorities. The government loses many qualified staff to international organisations (UN, EU, IOM). The next layer is formed by people that are employed by the national government and the final layer is staff of local authorities who are often not qualified enough and not always able to draft and carry out policies. To reverse the brain drain, policymakers should look beyond the classical options as there are many ways to gain from Diaspora expertise, including cooperation from a distance, facilitated by new forms of telecommunications.

Employment is one of the challenges that should be taken into account when drafting a policy. Other challenges include improving migrants' security, realising circular migration or facilitating the return of academics.

Once a policy problem has been identified, one of the first steps is to map the important stakeholders at all levels – from the management level to workers in the field – and in all sectors. A stakeholder mapping helps to identify key representatives in government, the private sector and in civil society, all of whom will be crucial at a later stage, when Diaspora groups need to be mobilised.

After the introduction session, the participants spent an hour working in groups on a stakeholder mapping. Four groups worked on the four topics mentioned earlier.

Employment is one of the challenges that should be taken into account when drafting a policy. Other challenges include improving migrants' security, realising circular migration or facilitating the return of academics.

## 7 Data Collection

### *Afternoon session by Prof. Gerd Junne*

Better  
approx-  
imately  
right, than  
exactly  
wrong

What are the challenges of collecting and keeping data up to date? To illustrate the amount of work that is necessary to maintain a comprehensive database, an example of an imaginary country with one million migrants was used. Migrant populations fluctuate greatly. Conservative estimates suggest that about 10 per cent of migrants move every year. If all information was readily available and if only three minutes were needed to collect and process information on individual changes, this would mean that every year 300,000 minutes would be necessary to keep the database up to date. That amounts to 5,000 hours or 625 full working days – the equivalent of three full time employees – unless the work can be automated to some extent. All participants were asked to make a quick estimation of how many migrants from their country are living abroad and what it would cost to keep a complete database up to date. It was noted that all data is biased, depending on political interests and agendas.

Two main issues dominated the discussion:

1. The process of collecting data could be modernised and be more efficient (e.g. via social media) with political commitment;
2. Once data has been collected, what will be done with it? This should be discussed before the collection of data starts. The data should be used to improve migration policies that respond to the development needs of the country (education levels, profession and skills). It could also provide insights into how much money flows into the country and where it is coming from. Phone companies could provide information on how many calls come from different locations to the home country.

Why not provide migrants with the incentive to register themselves? Incentives could include offering them information in their own language on topics that are missing in their country of destination, such as real estate opportunities in the homeland. There should be a survey of what information is important for migrants from a specific country? Even if migrants register using a fake name (this point arose following a discussion about whether people would submit their real name or not), dissemination of information is possible. In conclusion, it is more important to think about the needs of migrants and how to respond to those needs, than to create an enormous digital structure that would be difficult to manage and keep up to date.

## 8 Best Practices in M&D Policy

### *Afternoon session by Elizabeth Adjei*

4. For example, the Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in Europe, the African Development Marketplace, and the Joint Migration and Development Initiative.

Aside from small grants or matching grants initiatives<sup>4</sup>, there are currently only a few well-defined programmes that facilitate Diaspora trade, investment and technology operations. There is little information on such initiatives and only few external evaluations of their effectiveness exist (Haas 2006).

Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China are examples of economies that rely on their Diasporas as knowledge sources. Diaspora skills can be tapped by establishing networks of research and innovation with initiatives such as mentor-sponsor programmes in certain sectors or industries, joint research projects, peer review mechanisms and short-term visits and assignments.



Morocco and Egypt have experience in involving their emigrant scientists in the promotion of science and research at home. Diasporas are a conduit to businesses in the countries of origin, providing access to technology and skills through professional associations, chambers of commerce, temporary assignments for skilled expatriates working in origin countries, distance learning, and the (temporary) return of emigrants with enhanced skills. In the aftermath of the Arab Spring, several Diaspora groups have initiated support for science, innovation, education and entrepreneurship programmes in their countries of origin.

Jamaica has shared its best practice of 'mainstreaming' migration into development strategies globally. It achieved this through an institutional support mechanism, through policy development, coherence and programming as well as by engaging in partnerships for implementation. Zimbabwe has developed a similar programme with partner support to create an institutional mechanism. Jamaica is often mentioned as an example of good practice that has been integrated into different contexts of African countries.

### **Recommendations identified by the resource person with inputs from the trainees**

1. Do your homework: understand the Diaspora, their needs, wants and potential to appraise current government approaches.
2. Policy must address the specific characteristics of Diaspora: skilled, low skilled, politicised, dispersed.
3. Adopt policies based on the skills and capacities of Diaspora that are context relevant.
4. Always identify a national focal point.
5. Linking taxes to political participation could be an effective incentive for Diaspora to return.

## 9 Policy Instruments and Policy Development

*Full day session by Prof. Gerd Junne*

The morning started with a recapitulation of the most significant issues. All participants were asked to write one sentence of a Haiku and then pass it on to their neighbour to do the same, so that, in the end, a Haiku was created by three people.

Below are examples in English and French of what the trainees drafted:

*Overseas workers save  
Diaspora why needed?  
Benefit for all*

*Migration Partout  
Grande absence de données  
Humain qui compte*

### **No returns on scholarship investments**

Governments provide scholarships to their students but without linking them to their country's needs. Furthermore, there are few instruments in place for the students to return and share their knowledge and skills. Thus, if policymakers want their Diaspora to return they must provide them with incentives. Africa could take a look at Europe and see that in the developed world it is all about investment in human resources.

The Ivory Coast representative proposed establishing a regional office for migration. This idea was immediately embraced by everyone, including the resource persons. A concluding remark was made that the time for scholarships has passed. Instead, there should be a shift towards governments sponsoring temporary jobs within the United Nations, for example, which would provide skills and experience for future public officials.

### **Challenges of engaging Diaspora in policy**

Throughout the training the issue of engaging the Diaspora for development remained a hot topic. Representatives of all the participant countries recognise the importance of engaging the Diaspora but they also see many challenges. Collecting and maintaining data has been recognised as one of the hurdles for ministries tasked with engaging Diaspora and, therefore, an extended session was devoted to these data challenges.

Professor Junne decided that before participants practiced drafting a policy, the remaining obstacles should be recorded so that they could be integrated into the drafting exercise.

Gambia has concerns about data as there are no statistics on nationals that migrate to neighbouring countries, especially to those countries that do not require a visa. These migrants often remain attached to

the country, but the government has no idea about their numbers or who they are, let alone a strategy to effect their return. Another issue raised by a representative from Gambia is that some migrants have passports from foreign countries and are no longer in the records as Gambians, but that these individuals could still contribute to their country of origin.

Tanzania recognised the Gambian challenges and added that tackling these issues is crucial to any discussion of migration.

Private sector involvement in the development of the country is important as these companies know how to attract the Diaspora. One of the trainees mentioned that migrants always work in the private sector and hardly ever in the public sector. Unemployment is a problem for many of the countries represented in the training. However, they all recognise that it is important returning migrants have employment opportunities. A policy framework

should be put in place that is accountable for monitoring and inspections (labour) and that also includes specialised recruiters who understand the specific skills and knowledge gaps.

A final example was given by Mrs Adjei who pointed to the presence of the private sector at the last Global Forum in Geneva. The private sector is a stakeholder that should be present in debates about engaging Diaspora for development.

You don't  
attract a fly  
with vinegar



**Assignment to develop a policy memo**

All participants were asked to work in groups of two (per country) and select a topic that relates to their daily work and responsibilities. A specific policy area should be identified, per country, which relates to the challenges of engaging Diaspora for development.

Cape Verde, for example, presented the idea of drafting a general investment policy for emigrants to be implemented by the Ministry of Communities. Given the time constraints, it was agreed that the participants could work on a policy memo at home and send it to the resource persons for feedback.

Below is a list of the main subjects that were selected for this assignment.

**Specification of objectives of 'Migration and Development' policies**

Cartography of Diaspora
Coordination structures for Diaspora policy
Labour migration policy
Regional Diaspora policy coordination (in West Africa)
Stimulation of Diaspora investment
Diaspora contribution to social development



Day Five  
25 October  
2013

## 10 Plenary Session - Online Courses

**By Prof. Gerd Junne**

For the first part of the morning session, participants moved to the library, where everyone found a computer and was given a password to log onto the online learning environment for the e-learning course on *Migration and Development* developed by The Network University (TNU)<sup>5</sup>. Participants were provided access to the first three modules of the course. They will keep their access code for the coming months and will be alerted every time that an additional module comes online, until all twelve modules are ready. Participants were encouraged to participate actively in the further elaboration of the course and to comment on preliminary versions of modules in order to make them relevant to their own situation. They can use the course not only to refresh their own memory, but also to share the course content with colleagues in their own institutions. A limitation is that, currently, there is only an English version of the course available. It would be useful to produce a French version, too, perhaps in cooperation with universities in Senegal and together with Dr Tandian and Modus Operandi (MODOP), the sister organisation of The Network University in Grenoble<sup>6</sup>.

Participants navigated through the modules and participated in an online quiz on the history of migration at the start of the second module. The trainees could compare their answers with the answers in the literature. They were also introduced to the virtual discussion forum, which offers an opportunity to exchange individual observations not only amongst themselves but also with the experts (coaches). This short introduction was positively received by the participants and a number of them committed to contributing both to the content of the following modules if needed and they said they would (if available in French as well) recommend it to their colleagues.

5. [www.netuni.nl](http://www.netuni.nl).

6. [www.modop.org](http://www.modop.org).



# 11 Global Forum on Migration and Development

*By Elizabeth Adjei*

Mrs Adjei gave a comprehensive overview of the background and the achievements of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and explained where the GFMD stands now.

The GFMD is not a body that can take any binding decisions, but it has certainly created a framework to gather and compare relevant information from all over the world<sup>7</sup>.

The Forum was established to fill the global governance gap by sharing common challenges and solutions, by indicating good practices that are of common interest and by building a global community of trust. The rationale behind this is that trust will be a basis for a greater sharing of practices, learning and inventing common approaches to migration and development.

In terms of results the Forum has contributed to better cooperation in the field of migration and development. Issues such as migration for poverty alleviation purposes, Diaspora resources for entrepreneurial capacity, empowerment of migrants through recognition of their rights and investment of Diaspora resources in emerging markets have all been put on the agenda.

There has also been criticism of the Forum, including that, in the past, the Forum has contributed to the marginalisation of the voice of migrants in the discourse. The Forum is also blamed for not taking into account the root causes of (forced) migration. However, there are opportunities for the Forum, especially in the field of greater policy coherence and promoting evidence of the contribution of migration to future development goals. It is up to the rotating chairs (currently Sweden, to be followed by Turkey in 2014) to identify the priorities of the Forum.

The lecture on GFMD by Mrs Adjei was complemented by a number of suggestions by Dr Tandian on issues that have not yet received enough attention in international forums. These points included:

1. Security for migrants: It is somewhat ironic that migrants from West Africa face greater risks within the region of West Africa itself than outside the region.
2. More information is needed on the preferences of migrants themselves, i.e. which are the countries of destination that they would like to reach.
3. The GFMD is in a transition phase, not least because many recent developments form new challenges (like the Arab Spring, the situation in Syria, and the drama of migrants trying to reach Lampedusa).
4. Problems such as these can only be addressed by collective action from the international community; no individual state is able to cope with these challenges. More cooperation within each state is also needed, between ministries, politicians, private business and civil societies.
5. A specific problem arises from the stigmatisation of migrants that do not reach the country of destination and who, consequently, do not dare return to their country of origin.
6. The role of civil society in migration policy and migration governance has to be more clearly defined. Is it a role to alert? Or of awareness raising? There are few NGOs that deal with questions of migration (compared to, e.g., the number of organisations that deal with AIDS).
7. The rights of migrants– and the methods for better protecting these rights – deserve greater attention.
8. A special issue is the children of migrants and their future life chances.
9. The target group of education programmes should not only be children, but also adults. How can they be better prepared for migration, how can they better integrate in the country of destination, and how can they re-integrate in the country of origin?
10. The brain drain is not a phenomenon of the past. In fact, the brain drain has speeded up, not least because of efforts by highly industrialised countries to attract the best brains in order to boost their own competitiveness. More attention is needed to keep educated people in the country or to harness their contribution to the country's development at a distance, or to organise innovative forms of circular migration. It should be noted that not all specialists can make a useful contribution to their country. An employee of NASA, for example, returning to Bamako, might not be able to make a useful contribution to the development of Mali. There are also a number of conceptual issues to be solved: What does 'brain drain' actually mean? Are there people 'without brain'? Does 'brain drain' start with people who finished secondary education, or does it start with people who have obtained a bachelor's degree?

7. GFMD's website contains an extensive Migration Profiles Repository, with detailed information on migrants from many different countries and regions, see [www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles/repository/all](http://www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles/repository/all).

The GFMD provides an opportunity to promote migration as a concrete expression of globalisation

11. Responsibility of civil society to raise awareness to a broad public. Sometimes their role might be passive, while action should be expected. In the case of Lampedusa more could be done by civil society to prevent such traumatic events. Civil society has a role to engaging abroad public in the issue of migration both in the rural areas and in the urban areas.
12. First stage of migration is from rural to urban. Civil society should not limit its sensitisation programmes to the urban population. It should raise awareness among migrants about what their duties and rights are when they travel.
13. Policymakers should be aware of the influence of policies on people's daily lives. Some bridges are needed here to overcome the gap between the theories and the realities on the ground.

**Questions that followed from the debate**

- Who profits from clandestine migration? For whom is it a problem? Receiving countries show a double attitude: They limit access, on the one hand, but they profit from the contribution of cheap labour on the other.
- Access to some African countries is often more difficult than access to Europe. Countries like Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Sao Tomé have higher visa costs (Gabon: € 1500) than France (€ 200).

## 12 African Networks and Platforms

*By Dr Aly Tandian*

The presentation not only provided insight into the history and the working methods of a number of African networks and platforms, it also revealed the weaknesses of each organisation, something that is not obvious from their websites.

Six<sup>8</sup> regional networks and platforms were discussed, along with their achievements and the challenges they face. Some recommendations were formulated that apply to all platforms.

1. There is a need to establish committees that sensitise free movement of people across borders in the region.
2. To familiarise citizens with their rights and duties.
3. To reinforce the security coordination on the level of the individual countries and also of the member states of each of the networks.

### **Final wrap-up on Friday afternoon**

In the final session before the closing ceremony, participants shared some of the insights that they will take home from this workshop, such as:

1. Programmes for increased risk awareness among potential migrants are not very effective, as many people are unwilling to believe accounts of the real dangers they will face.
2. There are many organisations that could play a role in harnessing the potential of migration for development; a potential that cannot necessarily be represented in any coordinating body. Who would have thought, for example, of the beekeepers association?
3. Good proposals were made to use national grant programmes for studies abroad in a more strategic way to meet the specific needs of the country of origin. Better contact with students sent abroad could help to mobilise their knowledge for development.
4. Data could be collected through universities, which have to certify the degree documents of students who want to continue their studies abroad. With a little extra effort, this could be a tremendous source of information on the 'brains abroad'.
5. In order to use such information, there has to be enough capacity to process such information and to combine it with information on gaps in the local labour markets. It is desirable to collect data on immigrants and emigrants and on the situation of local labour markets in different parts of a country.
6. A regional office of migration (e.g. in West Africa) could help to harmonise policies, collect regional data and facilitate regional migration to create an effective regional labour market.
7. Better information for migrants on their rights, but also on their obligations, would facilitate integration in the countries of destination (*'Je voyage avec mes droits et avec mes devoirs'*).

8. These were the Economic Community of West Africa (CEDEAO) which is the first regional African network which was formed in 1975, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of the Central African States (CEEAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Union of the Maghreb Arabe (UMA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The IGAD is the newest of these networks. It was formed in 1986

Training  
is at the  
heart of any  
develop-  
ment

## Closing Ceremony

Mr Babacar Mbaye, Director General of Planning at the Ministry of Planning of Senegal was introduced by Professor Robinson as chair of the closing ceremony. Many words of thanks were expressed to the IDEP and ADPC for organising the training. This training has been designed to face some of the challenges of policy drafting and the complexity of migration in connection with development, Diaspora issues and how to frame these in a policy framework.

Professor Gerd Junne also shared a few words on behalf of the Director of ADPC. He thanked the participants for being such a pleasant and articulate group that participated intensively.

Professor Junne emphasised that there are three mechanisms that the group, with the support of the ADPC, will take forward. One is the draft proposals for specific policy initiatives: they can be sent to the resource persons and support will be provided. Secondly, he welcomed feedback on the online programme and would be glad to develop it further in close collaboration with the trainees. Finally, the outcome mapping will continue. Mrs Reijer will keep in touch with each participant to monitor the progress and to hear about the developments in each of the trainees' working environment.

### Speech by Djakalidja Coulibaly as representative of the trainees

The trainees come from a wide scope of countries but all had the same goal: to reflect on issues of migration. The group appreciated the wide space to exchange views and experiences on issues of

migration. Many insights from different contexts have been very useful. Thanks to the excellent interpreters, language barriers were overcome and the group was given a unique opportunity to exchange experiences. Furthermore, the group perceived the formulation and definition of Diaspora and questions of migration at the international level as a great asset. The course provided practical examples, including letters of intent and policy memos. Another asset emphasized by the representative was the relationship component:

*'We as participants have become a real family. With the support of the online community we can continue the relationship and advise on establishing the network, as we have the seeds now. What we have learned is not in isolation, but will continue and progress will be monitored.'*

Mr Babacar emphasised the importance of this topic and thanked the organisations for designing a course on migration and development. He urged IDEP and ADPC to continue to design and facilitate courses on migration and development.

He welcomed the participants one-by-one to receive their training certificate.



## ANNEX I

**AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
AFRICAN DIASPORA POLICY CENTRE  
(IDEP / ADPC)**

**General criteria for the selection of potential candidates for the course on  
*'Strengthening policymaking capacities of emerging African Diaspora Ministries in Migration  
and Development'***

1. Candidates should be in a position to influence policies at mid- or senior level, such as senior policymaker, policy advisor or head of department or equivalent job functions
2. Candidates are expected to have at least a Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent in Development Studies, Economics or related disciplines
3. Candidates should have a minimum of three years professional experience within government and ideally some experience of drafting policies
4. Candidates should preferably be serving in a newly-formed Diaspora-oriented institutions or departments within Ministries such as Foreign Affairs, Development Planning, Labour or Finance and/or mandated to deal with Diaspora and Development-related issues
5. Candidates should have the full support within their Department or Ministry and be in a position to influence policies that could facilitate the mainstreaming of Diaspora-driven development initiatives into the overall national development programmes, plans and policies
6. Candidates should be enthusiastic, proactive and inspiring and have strong networking and advocacy skills
7. Candidates should be willing to commit themselves to contributing to the process of strengthening capacities



## ANNEX II

### List of participants of the training

**Hamadé Sawadogo**

Head of political services  
and population programmes  
Ministry of Economics and Finances  
Burkina Faso  
☎ + 226 70 47 15 83  
✉ [sawadogo\\_conapo@yahoo.fr](mailto:sawadogo_conapo@yahoo.fr)

**Rosangela Alfama-Miranda**

Superior Technique in the General Direction  
Ministry of Communities  
Cape Verde  
☎ + 238 260 79 16  
✉ [alfamamiranda@gmail.com](mailto:alfamamiranda@gmail.com)

**Djakalidja Coulibaly**

Director M&E Labour Policy  
Ministry of State, Ministry of Labour,  
Social Affairs and Professional Training  
Ivory Coast  
☎ + 225 07 52 69 73  
✉ [couldjack@yahoo.fr](mailto:couldjack@yahoo.fr)

**Yeo Drissa**

Head Policy & Programmes Division  
National Population Office (NPO)  
Ivory Coast  
☎ + 225 45 69 69 39  
✉ [yeognene@yahoo.fr](mailto:yeognene@yahoo.fr)

**Oumie Kalsum Cham**

Senior Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Interior  
The Gambia  
☎ + 220 738 37 45  
✉ [kcham002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kcham002@hotmail.co.uk)

**Themistocles Theonest Rumboyo**

Labour Officer  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
Tanzania  
☎ + 255 713 830 206  
✉ [trumboyo@yahoo.com](mailto:trumboyo@yahoo.com)

**Lanfia Diane** (facilitated by IDEP as host country)

Head of Social Planning Division  
Ministry of Planning and Human Development Planning Direction (DPPDH)  
Senegal  
☎ + 221 77 263 05 06  
✉ [lanfiadiane@hotmail.com](mailto:lanfiadiane@hotmail.com)

**Ousmane Jean Sawadogo**

Monitoring and evaluation manager  
Population Programme UNFPA  
Ministry of Economics and Finances  
Burkina Faso  
☎ + 226 70 14 74 05  
✉ [sjeanousmane@yahoo.fr](mailto:sjeanousmane@yahoo.fr)

**César Augusto Monteiro**

Advisor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Cape Verde  
☎ + 238 977 25 22  
✉ [cesarmonteiro53@gmail.com](mailto:cesarmonteiro53@gmail.com)

**Déré Marc-Antoine Grah**

Responsible for studies at the General  
Direction of Multilateral Cooperation  
Ministry of State, Foreign Affairs  
Ivory Coast  
☎ + 225 07 28 28 70  
✉ [grahdere\\_marc@yahoo.fr](mailto:grahdere_marc@yahoo.fr)

**Samba Camara Mballow**

Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Gambia

**Alberta Ndesario Kinabo**

Assistant Director  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
Tanzania  
☎ + 255 767 50 80 34  
✉ [albeki@hotmail.com](mailto:albeki@hotmail.com)

**Mahamat Saleh Mahamat**

Head North American Relations Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration  
Chad  
☎ + 235 63 14 55 58  
✉ [togoifils@yahoo.fr](mailto:togoifils@yahoo.fr)

## ANNEX III

### *List of resource persons of the training*

**Prof. Dr. Gerd Junne**

Professor Emeritus  
University of Amsterdam (UvA)  
The Netherlands  
✉ [gjunne@inter.nl.net](mailto:gjunne@inter.nl.net)

**Dr. Aly Tandian**

Professor/Researcher  
Faculty of Sociology  
Gaston Berger University  
✉ [aly.tandian@gmail.com](mailto:aly.tandian@gmail.com)

**Mrs Elizabeth Adjei**

Independent Consultant  
Accra, Ghana  
✉ [ealazio@myzipnet.com](mailto:ealazio@myzipnet.com)

### *Contact persons at the African Diaspora Policy Centre*

**Dr. Awil Mohamoud**

Director African Diaspora Policy Centre  
The Netherlands  
☎ + 31 70 753 77 30  
✉ [a.mohamoud@diaspora-centre.org](mailto:a.mohamoud@diaspora-centre.org)

**Mrs Nathalie Reijer**

Programme Manager  
The Netherlands  
☎ + 31 70 753 77 30  
✉ [n.reijer@diaspora-centre.org](mailto:n.reijer@diaspora-centre.org)

### *Contact persons at the Institute for Economic Development and Planning*

**Prof Herbert Robinson**

Head of Training Division  
Senegal  
☎ + 221 33 823 10 20  
✉ [H.Robinson@unidep.org](mailto:H.Robinson@unidep.org)

**Mrs Sokhna Ndoye**

Training Division  
Senegal  
☎ + 221 33 829 55 24  
✉ [s.ndoye@unidep.org](mailto:s.ndoye@unidep.org)