



IGAD Consultation Meeting on Diaspora Engagement in Homeland Development; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-7 June



The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), recently convened a two-day “Consultation Meeting on Good Practices for Diaspora Engagement in Homeland Development”, at Radisson Blu Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by officials working in the Diaspora departments of the IGAD member states. Ms. Fathia Alwan delivered an opening statement on behalf of H.E. Amb (Eng) Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD. Issues that were highlighted by her included the point that IGAD has been actively engaged in managing migration in the region, enhancing the involvement of the diaspora in national and regional development, and addressing the root-causes of migration, as well as the protection of the rights of migrants in the context of the Valetta Declaration in November, 2015. She also informed the meeting that IGAD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ADPC for broader cooperation in the management of diaspora issues, including enhancing their active participation in sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The Meeting had three principal objectives:

- to provide a platform for senior policy makers and heads of Diaspora units and departments set up by the governments of the IGAD member states to convene, come into direct contact, establish viable networks and build up strategic partnerships in the field of migration and development;
- to share successful diaspora engagement models. A number of cases were showcased, derived from experiences in Africa and beyond; and
- to contribute to the IGAD efforts to operationalize strategic recommendations emanating from the IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework on migration and development and corresponding activities from the IGAD Migration Action Plan 2015-2020 strategy priority 11.

The consultation meeting is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- 1) Increase information and experience sharing on the nature of policy and institutional challenges facing the IGAD member states from benefiting adequately from the development potential of the

diaspora;

2) Identifying capacity development needs of the newly-formed diaspora-oriented units, directorates and departments set up by the governments of the IGAD member states and the specific technical support they require in the field of migration and development

3) Proposals regarding the generation of new knowledge that improves the evidence-based policies of engaging the diaspora in three critical sectors, health, education and private development (i.e. SMEs) – badly affected by the flight of skilled personnel from the region; and,

4) Learning from the examples of proven outreach strategies designed to develop channels of communication that facilitate a constructive dialogue and regular conversations with the diaspora

5) Developing an Action Plan to guide the activities of the different stakeholders in the coming years.

For further Information please contact

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