



2nd Diaspora Focal Point Workshop

**Khartoum, Sudan
27 to 29 November, 2018**



Acronyms

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADDO	African Diaspora Development Organisation
ADEC	African Diaspora Economic Community
ADEPT	Africa-Europe Diaspora development Platform
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU6RC	African Union Sixth Region Canada
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area
CIAD	Conference of Intellectuals in Africa and the Diaspora
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate of the African Union Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAF	Diaspora African Forum
DCYF	Diaspora Children and Youth Forum
DCF	Diaspora Consultative Forum
DDB	Diaspora Development Bank
DDI	Diaspora Direct Investment
DFPW	Diaspora Focal Point Workshop
DMADA	Development Market Place for the African Diaspora Model
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ICT	Information communications technology
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MS	African Union Member States
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
PAADN	Pan-African Australasian Diaspora Network
PAP	Pan African Parliament
REC	Regional Economic Community
STCs	Special Technical Committees
UN	United Nations

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I. Introduction

The 2nd DFPW is a follow up from the 1st workshop held in December 2016, in Cairo in accordance with Article 3(q) of the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which gives primacy to diaspora engagement. Stakeholders in attendance included representatives of different diaspora organisations, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organisations, individual experts on diaspora engagement, programme practitioners in diaspora matters, Members of Parliaments and high-ranking Government Officials from Member States and the Focal points of Member States' diaspora units Member States.

The objectives of the workshop were three-pronged: (1) map the current continental participation of the diaspora in the different Member States and create proposals leading to the development of a legal framework on the participation of the diaspora (Politically, Socially and Economically) in the AU; (2) Development of an African diaspora score card which will help amongst other things to measure performance, identify the appropriate capacity-building support, based on outcomes of the institutional capacity-building assessment and help define and strengthen the relationship between the AU, the MS, and the diasporas and; (3) Election of the new steering committee.

The outcomes are:

1. Member States made a series of proposals on political, economic and social participation of the diaspora in the AU as well as feedback on CIDO's *proposed legal framework for diaspora participation*;
2. The diaspora scorecard development in the form of detailed questionnaire, this scorecard will enable the AU and Member States measure progress – what has been done, where we are and what needs to be done. This will help define and strengthen the relationship between the AU and the diaspora focal points, and;
3. The election of a new 6+2 Steering committee.

II. Key activities and results

2.1 Legal framework for diaspora engagement

Background: Article 3(q) of the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, gives primacy to diaspora engagement. It invites and encourages the full participation of the African diaspora in the building of the African Union. To this end, CIDO is creating a legal framework to engage the diaspora and ensure their meaningful participation in the AU.

Definition: “African Diaspora” or “Diaspora”: The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and

who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union. Diaspora is increasingly being considered as the 6th Region of Africa.

Existing Measures and Mechanisms

1. Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO): diaspora participation in the AU agenda and support and coordinate their involvement in AU activities
2. ECOSOCC: Article 4(1)(c) of the Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (2004) permits 20 CSOs from the Diaspora to, and article 6
3. Legacy Projects from the Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit (2012): African Diaspora Investment Fund has been established while the others are under way.

The session was approached through a presentation detailing the current existing frameworks in the AU, followed by proposals -see subsection (i), and finally group discussions -see subsection (ii) - which resulted in recommendations. Together this will generate a draft legal framework for the participation of the diaspora in the AU which will be submitted to the decision making organs for review and feedback.

(i) Entitlements, privileges, obligations, duties, and responsibilities

The below table reflects proposed entitlements, privileges, obligations, duties, and responsibilities for the representation of the Diaspora in AU structures and processes, and is based largely on the preceding modalities.

<i>Entitlements and privileges of the Diaspora</i>	<i>Obligations, duties and responsibilities of the Diaspora</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in AU organs and departments, including through the granting of Consultative Membership of the AU, the granting of observer status by ECOSOCC, regional networks, and Africa Houses. • Participation of Parliamentarians from Consultative Member States and CSOs in the PAP. • Entitlement to an AU Passport, on terms determined by the Assembly of the Union. • Facilitation of opportunities, and lowering of barriers, by Member States to enable members of the Diaspora to invest, work and travel in Africa, including through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and tangible commitment of a historic and ongoing willingness to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the AU. • Invitation to the AU to appoint a special representative to participate in relevant regional fora of the Diaspora, including CARICOMM. • Provision of reciprocal immigration privileges to members of AU Member States. • Meaningful economic participation through trade and investment in Africa, particularly in key strategic sectors that are key to the development of the African continent, such as information communications technology and energy.

<p>Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI) initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive schemes to promote trade and investment of the Diaspora in Africa. • Re-integration of African people, particularly marginalised, indigenous, and refugee communities, to realise their right to return to and fully re-integrate into social and economic life in Africa. • Participation in employment, internship and volunteer opportunities. • Participation in academic, social and cultural exchanges. • Entitlements to citizenship, voting rights, and to obtain an AU Passport, or to travel within African with favourable immigration conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in development and training programmes for members of AU Member States, particularly in areas of identified skills shortages. • Responsibility of private sector actors in the African Diaspora to encourage employment opportunities of members of the Diaspora and AU Member States in the interests of equity and development. • Reciprocal benefits to members of AU Member States in relation to participation in volunteer opportunities, and academic, social and cultural exchanges.
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(ii) Summary of deliberations on the proposals:

Political:

- Ensure financial and technical support to the different diaspora organisations to facilitate their organisation into diaspora Federations;
- Propose a sub-committee of PRC or an STC to focus on diaspora matters;
- Expand Africa passport as defined as part of the CFTA to include the Diaspora. This will help strengthen their connection to the continent and encourage them to travel and invest in Africa;
- Adopt a common comprehensive framework compiling best diaspora practices which all Member States can research from, and create benchmarks to measure diaspora engagement progress;
- Harmonize diaspora-oriented policies amongst Member States using best practices and accordingly create a continental policy framework to engage diaspora from and for all Member States;
- Cluster and register a database of diaspora organisations;
- Empower and strengthen CIDO capacities (human, financial resources and outreach).
- Encourage Member States to permit dual citizenship;
- Encourage Member States to ensure the extra-economic participation of the diaspora such as their fair representation in governmental Institutions and voting rights abroad;
- Create an interphase mechanism to validate democratic, participative and inclusive representation (Consultative Assembly);

- Increase the representation of diaspora in National and Pan-African Parliaments and other political institutions;

Economic:

- Establish a Diaspora Investment Fund that would fund Africa priority sectors for its development such as infrastructure, health and education.
- Establish a diaspora arbitration body to protect diaspora investments in the continent;
- Set professional networks and trade forums involving the Diaspora;
- Set an Africa-Diaspora Trade Fair and Investment platform;
- Set similar status(es) as locals for diaspora for investment purposes or provide the Diaspora with tax incentives;
- Offer the opportunity or facilitate the process for diaspora to register their businesses in the embassies of their respective countries of origin or online;
- Enhance capacity-building mechanisms for actors involved in diaspora engagement;
- Establish African savings and diaspora investment accounts as to lead to a Diaspora Credit Union or Bank.

Social:

- Organise African Olympics games;
- Organise African art and cultural festivals involving the Diaspora;
- Organise a diaspora youth forum which would provide a space for young diaspora to engage and would cater for their specific needs;
- Enhance ads and ICT sensitization discussing identity issues and life skills;
- Support youth through skill training programmes;
- Create a centre of excellence to conduct training on business related issues funded by the Diaspora (a proposal made by the AU Ambassador to the United States);
- Set personal direct communication programme i.e. mentor-mentee programmes
- Provide a platform for cultural exchanges, information sharing and cross-learning within the diaspora, to ensure cross-learning from other diaspora;
- Use notable diaspora figures in art and sport as ambassadors to promote Africa. Many individuals of African descent holding a global celebrity to help change narratives about the continent.

2.2 African Diaspora Scorecard

The objectives of the scorecard include.

- Enhancing the capacity of Member States and policy makers assess the level of progress in diaspora engagement in relation to other AU Member States;
- Supporting Member States to create and implementation of diaspora strategies consistent with the Diaspora declaration and Agenda 2063

- Providing Member States with an easy and quick instrument to assess their progress in effectively harnessing the power of the diaspora for development
- Producing a scorecard to be adopted by the diaspora focal points of member states and presented to the AU Summit in 2020

The activities of the diaspora scorecard development were done in two phases. The first stage includes analyzing existing data and knowledge of diaspora in Member States. Relevant information about the general market environment and economic data will be gathered. This will include information about population of MS countries, the size of their diaspora, GDP, remittance flow, foreign direct investment among other pertinent data. Therefore, the score will be fundamental in driving and shaping progress in these sectors.

The second phase includes the development of testable diaspora scorecard for Africa. The data gathered in phase 1 will be used to develop the scorecard. A simple and easy-to-use tool will be developed for Member States. The indicators used in this phase will include the 6 key steps of diaspora engagement blueprint.

Diaspora engagement blueprint - the 6 key steps

1. Existence of political will at the highest level. There should be political will at executive and Presidential levels of African governments.
2. Diaspora friendly environment; this promotes return, investments and sharing of knowledge and resources
3. National diaspora policy; this is sine qua non to effective and prudent coordination of diaspora engagement activities
4. Consultation mechanism with the diaspora; effective communication and consultation between diaspora and Member States is necessary.
5. Establishment of diaspora advisory council.
6. Outreach oriented program; Diaspora guide—outreach is an effective mobilization strategy

Data sharing/collection for each country

To discuss the content and format of the diaspora scorecard, participants were distributed into 7 groups with 2 groups for West Africa (French- and English- speaking) and the 6th Region being represented by Diaspora organizations from the Americas, Caribbean, Canada, Australia and Europe as the 7th group. Questionnaire to assist in the development scorecard with a vision of ‘Connecting Africa with its Diaspora, for Sustainable Development’ was administered.

Benchmarking – what is good practice and where are there good examples

Good practice in diaspora engagement has been cited in some countries in Africa. These good practices serves as basic benchmark for Member States in diaspora engagement. Two countries—Nigeria and Senegal— presented some good practices that they are doing to attract diaspora participation and contribution in sustainable national development.

The Nigerian government has taken several initiatives to engage its diaspora community in national development of their countries of origin.

- One of the initiatives taken by the Nigerian government making access to dual citizenship for its diaspora, a measure which has facilitated diaspora investment back home. This makes it easier for the circulations of diaspora between their countries of destination and Nigeria. In addition to that, the National assembly has a committee on diaspora matters that reaches out to the diaspora and that the diaspora can contact when and if they have problems and need assistance.
- With these incentives above, Nigeria has been able to engage its skilled diaspora in knowledge transfer, where diaspora professionals such as architects or engineers organise trainings in Nigeria. Medical outreach missions are also organised. Nigerian diaspora doctors come home to offer free and subsidised medical services and surgeries.
- Once a year the Government organises a homecoming; the diaspora buys their tickets home while the Government provides them free accommodation.
- The leader of diaspora community in a country is always a part of the delegation to meet a president when the president visits and organises meet and greet with the diaspora community of that country.

Senegal is another African country with good practices. It already has well defined migration policy guiding migration management and productive and mutually beneficial diaspora contribution in the socio-economic and political sectors of the country. The Migration Policy involves not just Senegalese living outside the country but also other Africans living in Senegal. It is expected to come into force upon decree

Moreover, the Senegalese diaspora is represented in all spheres of decision-making such as the Scientific and Environmental Committee. The government also has a consultative council dedicated to Senegalese living abroad, known as the Haut-Conseil des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur (HCSE). Half of its members is nominated by the Government, the other half is elected by Senegalese living outside the country. Diaspora is highly involved in upcoming legislative election, where the diaspora can do hold elections in the regions where they are based.

In addition, 30% of social housing are dedicated to Senegalese diaspora. This gives the diaspora an opportunity to invest in housing and a possible chance for a subsequent return to Senegal to with their skills.

2.3 Elections of the Committee of 6+2

Mission of the committee of 6+2:

The 6 +2 is a steering committee consisting of the six regions (of Africa including the diaspora). It is elected every two years. The main function of the steering committee include coordinating and harmonizing activities regarding diaspora engagement between members

of the diaspora and members states. In addition, the committee identifies and shares best practices in diaspora engagement policies, initiatives and programmes among Member States and relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, Member States and stakeholders may receive guidance from this committee on the effective implementation of the identified best practices. Another task for the 6+2 committee is to follow up with Member States on proposals and policy decision and/or recommendations that emerged in the 2018 Diaspora Focal Point Workshop. The committee provides an effective working method that allows the MS's, Diaspora networks and AU to work in tandem in promoting and harnessing the power of diaspora in the development of the continent.

Results of the 2018 Elections

The following Member States and Diaspora Organisations have been elected for a 2-year mandate as representatives for the 6 Regions of Africa and the Diaspora:

- Southern Africa: Mozambique;
- Central Africa: Central African Republic (CAR);
- North Africa: Algeria;
- West Africa: Liberia;
- East Africa: Kenya (alternate: Sudan);
- Diaspora: Africa-Europe Diaspora development Platform (ADEPT);
- +2: Pan-African Australasian Diaspora Network (PAADN) and African Unity Sixth Region Canada (AU6RC)

III. Key challenges and Mitigation

There are still several challenges ahead, which were revealed by the participants during the workshop. These challenges have been stated as follows:

1. **Dearth of reliable data on remittance (especially remittance sent through informal channels);** Remittance remains the lifelines for family members in the countries of origin, and which has – an unmeasured- but visible socio-economic effect.
Mitigation- Zimbabwe provides an example than can be emulated in terms of encouraging and recording remittances through official channels. In Zimbabwe, there are specific accounts dedicated for Diaspora Banking. When a diaspora opens a savings account with a local Bank, they can decide to send remittances by selecting from a number of operators such as Cassava Remit, Western Union, World Remit, EcoCash, Moneygram and others. As an incentive for diasporas to send remittances through the banks, the recipient receives up to 3% extra of the money sent by the diaspora. This incentive, allows remittances to be recorded and thus ensure that data is available.
2. **One Diaspora Window;** Most Member States have a Ministry, an office or a number of offices across different ministries that are in charge of diaspora. This present a challenge

to many Diasporas upon return to obtain information or action on any matter, particularly those related to investment.

Mitigation – It is recommended to have a dedicated unit, office or ministry with an exclusive diaspora mandate, i.e. Egypt and Sudan. On the occasion where a number of governmental departments having diaspora mandate, an inter-ministerial task force should be formed to coordinate efforts. Examples of MS include Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi, to name but a few.

- 3. Definition and composition of diaspora;** the AU Diaspora definition differs from that of the Member States. As a continental organization, the borders of the AU are limited to the continent, while MS borders are limited to the borders of the country.

Mitigation; the principle of continental integration and the right to free movement within the Continent should be stressed and emphasized. The principle will result in the equal treatment of internal migrants by all MS, and accordingly harmonize national and continental views on diaspora definition.

- 4. Draft legal Framework on the Representation of the African Diaspora in African Union Structures and Processes;** the framework presents a lengthy series of recommendations and proposal.

Mitigation – Need for prioritisation and a clear outline to ensure their funding and effective implementation. This includes, (a) the process towards the consultative membership to the African Union for the diaspora should be initiated early, bearing in mind that it will require the amendment of the Constitutive Act; and (b) the mobilisation of diaspora capital and foreign direct investment (FDI).

IV. Lessons learned and way forward

- 1. People of African Descent;** The people of African origin who are not citizens of any Member States and who form an important component of African diaspora, need to be engaged in diaspora mapping and profiling. This data will help determine their political, economic and social involvement.

- 2. Diaspora engagement in Member States;**

- Need to empower and build capacity of the AU MS and other institutions that deal with diaspora.
- Implementing a productive investment strategy intended to promote activities by or for the diaspora is imperative.
- Funding and dual nationality (more especially, the lack thereof in some countries) are hindrances to the effective development of the diaspora. Clashing agendas among Member States and within the Diaspora requires a comprehensive support document to adopt joint or coordinated programmes.

3. **Capacity building of CIDO;** There is seemingly a general positivism in Member States to engage their diaspora in political and socio-economic development of their countries. CIDO, AUC is spurring this spirit of positivism with some challenges though in terms of resources and capacity.
4. **Diaspora Networks;**
 - Members of the diaspora and diaspora networks//organizations show great enthusiasm in their contribution to the building of the African Union. Therefore, there should be continuous efforts in harmonizing these common goals through regional *networks* recognized by the AU to make sustainable and strategic impact in the development of the continent.
 - Collaborating with the networks is a fundamental and strategic approach for the AU and Member States to support their Diasporas abroad and to mobilize and channel diaspora resources for the development of the Union.
 - The registration of diaspora organisations within regional networks would help find adequate financial partners and adopt common positions for a more structured implementation and sustainable funding of the aforementioned recommendations.
5. **Diaspora Knowledge Materials;** The drafting of a comprehensive support document on diaspora best practices and current and envisaged legal framework and the compilation of a detailed research on the composition of the diaspora and its initiatives.
6. **Outreach;** It was recommended that a strong emphasis be put on outreach programmes, diaspora participation in AU summits.