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Roundtable 1: How to make the migration – development nexus work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Session 1.2: Engaging Diasporas and migration in development policies and programs

John O. Oucho¹

Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K., and African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Engagement of African Diasporas in homeland development involves the Diasporas themselves, governments of both host and home countries and NGO as well as civil society organisations in both settings. The subject has gained significant currency across the African continent with the African Union (AU) recognising the Diaspora as its sixth region. The “African Diaspora” encompasses a variegated group of “people of Africa descent” representing successive generations including migrants, refugees as well as asylum seekers and transnationals who are resident in different world regions to which they migrated due to varying circumstances; the term “migrants” generically refers to those who have moved out (emigrants) or into (immigrants) a country, though strictly speaking it refers to those who have moved for an indefinite

¹ DISCLAIMER: The analysis presented in this paper does not necessarily reflect the views of the CSD Organizing Committee or the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

duration, and who may/may not return to their origins. A common bond has emerged between African Diasporas and their homelands to engage in particular aspects of homeland development, the policy environment and institutional arrangements notwithstanding. Currently, the Diaspora, transnationals and migrants overlap as they exhibit certain similar features, though they differ in others. Although emphasis has been placed on African Diasporas outside the continent, there is a huge African Diaspora (of different African nationalities) within Africa itself, about which we know only whenever they are subjected to xenophobic behaviour. Despite their good intentions and overtures to contribute to homeland development, African Diasporas and emigrants remain marginalised in policy decisions and programmes rolled out for their inputs. The few African countries that have engaged with their Diasporas and emigrants often do so without involving NGOs and the civil society to which the absent nationals belong or with which they work more closely than governments.

Lack of data and explicit Diaspora and migration policies in African countries constrain knowledge of their sizes, geographical spread, perceptions and attitudes to homeland development. In trying to harness the role of their Diasporas and emigrants as a resource for development, some African countries have recently favoured wide-ranging policies, among them granting of dual citizenship and, inherently, voting rights, establishment of Diaspora units in the government structure, and sustained dialogue with Diaspora and migrant associations, which are themselves either NGOs or civil society organisations. Through their organisations in the countries of destination and at times with links to homeland organisations, Diasporas make homeland overtures, such as homecoming occasions, providing professional and technical services where required, engaging in political development including deepening democratisation, sending both financial and non-financial remittances and acting as intermediaries in dialogues between host and homeland governments. Yet these are sporadic, informal gestures that policy and well-elaborated programmes could institutionalise, especially if governments work intimately with NGOs, the civil society, professional associations and business groups.

As selected examples show, African countries need to share experiences about their involvement with their Diasporas and emigrants, bringing on board a variety of stakeholders from these absent nationals. This is necessary in view of the regional or continental organisations lacking explicit policies and programmes to coordinate Diaspora and emigrants' activities; the proliferation of stakeholders in Diasporas' and

emigrants' roles in homeland development makes imperative the coordination of policies and programme as African regional economic communities (RECs) march towards establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC) in the next decade or so.

In view of current events in Diaspora circles, African countries should commission well-designed Diaspora and migration studies, benchmarking Latin American and Asian experiences where there are instructive lessons. While the partnership between Africa and the developed North is useful, it is unlikely to provide as instructive lessons as those in Africa-South exchanges.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Migrants and Diasporas

Emigration from Africa has produced on the one hand migrants who have not severed links with their countries of origin, and on the other Diasporas who identify either with Africa generally or with particular countries of origin. The African Diaspora is a variegated group comprising "people of African descent" belonging to successive generations, resident in diverse geographical settings, and promoting varied forms of links to Africa. Definitions and characterisation of Diaspora vary by disciplines and by the Diasporas' expectations on the one hand, and the identified homeland on the other. A world-renowned Diaspora scholar provides a taxonomy consisting of nine features: (i) dispersed (often traumatic) from the homeland; (ii) self-exiles in search of work, trade or colonial ambitions; (iii) a collective memory and myth concerning the homeland; (iv) an idealisation of the homeland; (v) a return movement; (vi) a strong ethnic group consciousness sustained over a period of time; (vii) an uneasy relationship with the "host" society; (viii) a sense of solidarity with co-members of the in other states; and (ix) the possibility of a positive experience in the host country.² A migration scholar cautions that for "the term Diaspora to have any analytical value ...and retain its descriptive power, it needs to be reserved for particular people living in distinctive relationships with each other and a homeland. Not all migrants become Diasporas and not all Diasporas can be considered as migrants (although their

²R. Cohen, *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. London: UCL Press, 1997, p. 180.

ancestors may have been so)".³ If anything, the terms Diaspora, transnationals and migrants often overlap, though they capture respectively distinctive features of those who have moved but retain some links with their origins, those who vie between homeland and different temporary destinations and those who may have moved either temporarily/permanently provided they meet or fail to meet immigration requirements at destinations. Migrants themselves are a complex group consisting on the one hand of voluntary movers who are documented, undocumented and irregular, and on the other forced movers comprising refugees and asylum seekers, some of whom later convert to labour migrants or constitute Diasporas once they are established in the host countries. This implies their likely varied response to host country vis-à-vis homeland policies and programmes.

Africa has successive generations of Diaspora and emigrants. The first generation of Diaspora consists exclusively of slave traffic to the Americas, later followed by those who went to pursue higher education in the developed North and those who migrated for work, trade and other aspirations. They differ from migrants, dubbed "brain drain" and "brain circulation" in view of periodic return to the origins, some of the latter becoming increasingly transnational. These distinctions should be recognised in efforts to address different categories of emigrants.

Involvement in Homeland Development

Throughout successive generations, migrant and Diaspora NGOs and civil society organisations including professional associations and business groups have diverse forms of involvement in homeland development, at times without even token appreciation of governments in the countries of origin. Both Diaspora and migrants have become a resource for homeland development through remittances, brief project-linked undertakings and through periodic return. In the Maghreb, Moroccan and Algerian migrants and Diasporas have stimulated homeland development and engaged in co-development initiatives with countries of destinations; the Horn of Africa has witnessed effective post-conflict reconstruction by Eritrean and Ethiopian migrants and Diasporas, and Somalis have sustained livelihoods in their failed state; and in Western Africa, generations of Ghanaian, Nigerian, Malian and Senegalese migrants and Diasporas have positively impacted homeland development, complementing government efforts from several fronts.

³Oliver Bakewell, "In Search of the Diasporas within Africa" Paper accepted for publication in July 2008 by *African Diaspora*, p.3.

Unsurprisingly, engagement of the African Diaspora in homeland development has become so topical that the African Union recognizes it as the sixth region in addition to the continent's five geographical regions. Yet this emotive recognition of the African Diaspora and transnationals belies their actual engagement with the homeland generally and with particular countries, including lack of engaging them in migration and development policies that are the exclusive prerogative of homeland governments and their non-migrant compatriots. Indeed, only a handful of African countries can boast of engaging their Diasporas in migration and development policies that of necessity recognize the role of Diasporas in homeland development. When governments become oblivious of the contribution of migrant and Diaspora NGOs, professional associations and entrepreneurial enterprises, they fail to engage with potentially powerful development partners.

Lack of Appreciation of Diaspora Organisations

Nor have home-based African universities, research and policy institutions given significant attention to migration and Diaspora issues in the context of development in their agenda. A few migration institutions have recently been established in Africa, albeit with a strong influence from the developed North, their capacity, programmes and ability to embrace migration and development policy-making, not to mention their non-engagement of the Diasporas with the expertise, skills and desire to inject desirable changes in their countries of origin.⁴ Still, these leave a lot to be desired as they are not involved with NGOs, the civil society organisations, professional bodies and business groups with strong commitment to migration and development work. Much less is known about the African migrants and Diaspora within Africa, except in the notable destination countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Gabon whenever xenophobia erupts. Yet migrant and Diaspora organisations are better suited to handle xenophobia and other reactions to immigration than are governments of the countries of destination. Poor exchange of migration data between African countries of origin and countries of destination, gives the false impression that there is heavier emigration from Africa than within it.

⁴ Examples include the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana which is supported by the Netherlands government; the Migration Management Centre in Mali, supported by the EU to stem illegal immigration to the EU; and the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITRA), supported by the IOM for inter-governmental management of migration. Such developments may not be sustainable if they do not involve key governmental and non-governmental sectors of the respective countries or regions of jurisdiction that they are meant to serve

3. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Migration Enquiries from Governments

In making biennial inquiries from governments on international migration, the Population Division of the United Nations explores perceptions and policies regarding emigration vis-à-vis immigration, remittances flows and stock and so on. The 2006 enquiry relating to the decade 1995-2005 shows that Africa in general perceived emigration to be satisfactory, as did all African sub-regions with the exception Western Africa which wished to maintain it. The region did not envision any intervention on emigration, a response observed in all African sub-regions with the exception of Northern Africa which wished to see emigration either raised or lowered in 1995 and maintained in 2005. Raising emigration seems to reinforce the hope of migrants' and Diasporas' contribution to homeland development. Surprisingly, a notable shortcoming is inadequate documentation of the perceptions of and policies pertaining to African Diaspora and migrants. The standard United Nations enquiry only solves part of the puzzle. It reflects the official government stance on policy but may not reflect facts on the ground where governments lack the necessary data or never undertake national surveys on the subject. Without complementary enquiries from migrant and Diaspora organisations or non-governmental stakeholders, these enquiries fall so short of expectations that they are inconclusive.

Although most African countries lack explicit migration and development policies, they make significant overtures to their Diasporas and emigrants. Some of them – Ghana, Nigeria and Burundi, for instance – now grant dual citizenship to their nationals to enhance their contribution and investment in their homelands. In that way the migrants are involved in political developments, including voting and, therefore determining political changes in their countries of origin. Others engage with associations of their nationals abroad in development undertakings and investment opportunities. Virtually all the migrant and Diaspora associations make homecoming visits comprising exhibitions, dialogue and demonstration of skills that are considered necessary for developing their members' countries of origin. Still others like Eritrea have made remittances more or less obligatory for homeland development including funding of the 1998-2000 Ethio-Eritrean war. Even in failed states such as Somalia and Zimbabwe, migrant remittances have sustained

household survival strategies and communal development activities; while Somalis have perfected the *xawilaad*⁵ to transfer resources including money, Zimbabweans make financial and in-kind remittances and also use print and electronic media networks, including the internet to keep abreast of developments back home.

Relative importance of Remittances, FDI and Aid

In the period 1980-2002, African countries registered varying rankings in remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign aid or overseas development assistance (ODA). Out of 51 countries, the number of countries with the size of remittances exceeding aid nearly doubled from five to nine and between 14 and 22 countries received remittances exceeding FDI.⁶ Table 1 presents useful statistics on remittance flows. There has been an explosive increase in remittance inflows to all developing regions with the exception of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) which trails all of them, even the much smaller Europe and Central Asia. Among African countries, Egypt receives the largest amount of remittance inflows, followed by Morocco, and Nigeria occupies the second position by 2008. Smaller countries have their remittance inflows as significant proportions of GDP; leading the pack is Lesotho, followed by Cape Verde, Togo and Sierra Leone in descending order.

Diasporas and Peace-building

There are instances where Diasporas have been either peace-makers or peace-wreckers in their countries of origin that were once torn apart by conflict.⁷ In the former case, Diasporas have participated in peace-building initiatives and influenced democratisation especially in post-conflict countries. Some exciting cases are cited: Eritreans make compulsory remittances and network through DEHAI (the Eritrean Community Online Network); Ethiopians have the Forum International for Ethiopians Living in Diaspora (FIELD). The Association for Higher Education and Development

⁵ This is a system whereby instead of sending remittances through the Money Transfer Organisations (MTO) a remitter arranges with a Somali-based person to pay a recipient on mutually agreed terms between the remitter and the paymaster.

⁶ Derrese Degefa, "Workers' remittances: importance and determinants in Africa". Paper for the Workshop on Financial Systems and Mobilization of Resources in Africa organised by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Nairobi, 1-3 November, 2004.

⁷ This is the subject of an edited book: H. Smith and P. Stares (eds.) *Diasporas in Conflict: Peace-makers or Peace-wreckers?* The book contains insightful case studies, including Khalid Koser's chapter on Eritrean Diaspora.

(AHEAD) and the Action for Health, Education and Development (AHEAD);
Burundians run the Coopérative de la Burundaise (CODIBU), Réseau des

Table 1 - Migrant remittance inflows: Major African recipients, sub-Saharan Africa and other developing regions, 2000, 2004, 2008 (US \$million)

African Country	2000	2008	2008 est.	Remittances as % of GDP 2007
Algeria	790	2,460	2,202	1.6
Cape Verde	87	113	139	9.7
Egypt	2,852	3,341	9,476	5.9
Ethiopia	53	134	358	1.8
Gambia	14	62	64	7.4
Ghana	32	82	128	0.8
Guinea-Bissau	2	28	30	8.1
Kenya	538	620	1,692	6.6
Lesotho	252	355	443	27.7
Morocco	2,161	4,221	6,730	9.0
Nigeria	1,392	2,273	9,980	5.6
Sierra Leone	7	25	150	8.9
Togo	34	179	229	9.2
Tunisia	796	1,432	1,870	4.9
Uganda	238	311	489	3.8
Developing Regions				
East Asia & Pacific	16,682	39,164	78,134	
Europe & Central Asia	12,143	20,955	57,100	
Latin America & Caribbean	19,987	43,330	64,454	
Middle East & North Africa	12,898	23,034	34,431	
South Asia	17,212	28,694	73,676	
Sub-Saharan Africa	4,623	8,021	19,796	

Source, D. Ratha, S. Mohapatra and A. Silwal, "Outlook for Remittance Flows: 2009-211: Remittances expected to fall by 7-10 per cent in 2009", *Migration and Development Brief 10*, 13 July 2009.

Organisations Paysanes au Burundi (ROPABU and so on; the Rwandan Global Diaspora Network (RGDN) operates in different parts of the world; and Sierra Leone benefits from the African Community Empowerment, “The Young Shall Grow”, Women Empowerment and International Networking (WEIN) and the International Association of Sierra Leoneans Abroad (INASLA). The opposite has happened in failed states such as Somalia where the Diaspora and migrants continue to fuel conflict through remittances and small arms to different militarised factions in the country.

Governments have useful lessons to draw from Diasporas and migrants as peace-makers, particularly in Africa where security remains a major constraint to development and reconstruction. Specifically, Diasporas and migrants engage in homeland dynamics of policy interest, notably remittances and conflict resolution in the homeland, involvement in political events unfolding in the homeland, civic-oriented involvement in the homeland and lobbying in the host country for homeland development.⁸ These interventions represent good practice which has helped influence the new wave of democratisation over the last decade. Such developments have occurred without the homeland governments involving the Diaspora and emigrants in policies and programmes, failing to synchronize with the affected parties’ interests or aspirations. Rarely involved are NGOs, the civil society, professional associations and business groups in the home countries.

Migrant/Diaspora Associations and Homeland Development

A remarkable development is AFFORD’s identification of organisations - hometown, ethnic, alumni, religious, professional - focusing on a variety of activities. There are also development-centred NGOs, investment groups, political groups, national development groups, welfare/refugee groups, supplementary schools, and virtual organisations. Their activities include community-to-community transfers, identity building/awareness raising, lobbying in current home on issues relating to ancestral home, trade with and investment in ancestral home, transfers of intangible resources, support for development on a more 'professional' basis and payment of taxes in

⁸ Attributed to research at the Netherlands-based African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) which has been undertaking work on the African Diaspora and is linked to the Nairobi-based African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) and engaging with the Network of Migration Research in Africa (NOMRA) on the Centre for Migration Studies in the University of Ghana on Diaspora and migration issues in the homeland. For details, see A.A. Mohamoud, “African Diaspora and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Africa”, DIIS Brief. Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark, February 2006.

ancestral home.⁹ A potentially useful practice would be for homeland governments to engage with Diaspora and migrant associations, professional bodies and business groups more intimately and concertedly than has been the case. This has paid off in Ghana and Nigeria where their doctors in Diaspora occasionally return home to provide services in the heavily skill-drained health sector. Nigeria has also undertaken a skills audit of its Diaspora and emigrants to determine how best to deploy them in homeland development.

The opening decade of the 21st century has witnessed some positive developments in migration and development policies in which Diasporas have been engaged. With the opening up of airwaves and adoption of IT policies to stimulate development, many African countries are positively engaging with virtual Diasporas. For instance, the Eritrean Diaspora internet network, DEHAI, has enhanced communication not only among the Diaspora in different settings but also between the Diaspora and their homeland compatriots. Cameroonians in the United Kingdom have embraced the same system for communicating with those in their homeland.¹⁰ Some African countries have not developed the IT infrastructure to permit virtual Diasporas' involvement in homeland development activities. This is an area which African governments should take more seriously in their bilateral arrangements for overseas development assistance (ODA), in foreign development investment (FDI) and in efforts to encourage their Diasporas' and emigrants' investments of remittances, expertise and skills.

Suffice it to say, many African countries have not engaged their Diasporas and emigrants effectively in the homeland development process because of the lack of policies targeting their absent nationals, mistrust of them or inability to what the absent nationalities could do to invigorate homeland development. A grey area still exists between the Diasporas/emigrants and their home governments and especially between the Diaspora/emigrants and their non-migrants or even returnees. It all borders on unfounded suspicion, mistrust and lack of sharing information, knowledge and experiences. Here is an opportunity for the non-governmental sector to bridge

⁹ AFFORD's (2000) report is quoted in G. Mohan and A.B. Zack-Williams, "Globalisation from below: conceptualising the role of the African Diasporas in Africa's development", *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 29, no. 92, 2002.

¹⁰ Ida T. Enow. The Role of the Internet in facilitating Communication between the Diaspora and Homeland: Case of Cameroonian Education Diaspora, unpublished MA dissertation, University of Leeds. Similar research could be commissioned in other African countries to assess the differences Internet availability/unavailability make in Diaspora-homeland links and their potential for stimulating development in the latter.

the gap between governments and their absent nationals and to instil trust which is essential in engaging migrants and the Diaspora in the development process.

African Diasporas and emigrants are often at the mercy of rapidly changing migration policies of the countries of destination. The tendency has been for the countries of destination within and outside of Africa to dictate terms to African Diasporas and emigrants without any intervention from their countries of origin. This lacuna puts the Diaspora and immigrants at the mercy of individual destination-country governments and strains relations between the two countries, with the victims unfairly subjected to discordant or polarised policies and programmes. The notion that all “brain drain” necessarily translates into “brain gain” is sometimes flawed. Emigrating from Africa as brain drain, a sizeable number actually become “brain waste” comprising those employed below their skill or professional levels and receiving remuneration that is incommensurate with their qualifications in the countries of destination. This happens against the gross contravention of the provisions of international conventions on migrant labour which governments in the two settings might have signed and ratified. If African countries involve their Diasporas and emigrants in ascertaining what exactly they do in the countries of destination, such unfortunate happenings and gross violations of international conventions and protocols would easily be contained.

Whereas the EU has policies and strong institutions to contain African immigration, the AU has none that can claim to bind African emigrants and Diasporas, or even their institutions. The EU member states have updated data on immigrants’ countries of origin, characteristics, residence and economic activity, all of which they use to change migration policies and programmes. As most African countries lack policies and programmes pertaining to their Diasporas and emigrants, they cannot adequately address their absent nationals’ concerns. Policies and programmes in the EU relating to dual citizenship, remittances and return often dictate the behaviour of African Diasporas and migrants and often compromise their involvement in homeland development.

4. KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some options

Diaspora-homeland residents’ links: Several key messages emerge from literature on the role of the African Diaspora and migrants on homeland development. First,

while the Diaspora and migrants are keen on engaging in homeland developments, homeland governments and their non-migrant compatriots seem to be reluctant to accept them, perceiving them as “foreigners” who have no business meddling in national issues. Consequently, the Diaspora and migrants are discouraged from applying their expertise and skills where they are most desired. It is desirable that governments draw together emigrants and Diasporas with home-based citizens to engage in mutually reinforcing collaborative ventures, all designed for homeland development, with governments involving the non-government sector.

Second, being a variegated group, Diasporas and emigrants cannot be expected to respond uniformly to homeland development needs. It is important for their countries of origin to ascertain who exactly they are, where they reside, their characteristics and the added value of engaging them in particular aspects of homeland development. Countries of origin, in collaboration with their development partners, assisted by their diplomatic missions, should from time to time conduct surveys of their emigrants and Diaspora to update their records on absent nationals and how best they could be engaged in national development. Moreover, countries of destination have invaluable records on African emigrants and Diaspora which the countries of origin should access and analyse carefully to feed into policies and programmes. To this end, the Department for International Development (DfID) of the United Kingdom has engaged with the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), Interims for Development and other similar organizations in recruiting volunteer African Diasporas to support public and private sectors where required. Against such positive developments, the AU has no reason for not engaging residents of its sixth region from an African perspective thereby translating rhetoric into specific programmes, even on a pilot basis.

Skilled Diaspora Opportunities: African countries should create opportunities for the African Diaspora and emigrants to spend post-doctoral fellowships and sabbatical leave in African institutions thereby injecting their invaluable expertise and skills. This would help eliminate the tendency for the fellows to spend these programmes only in the developed North where knowledge and information acquired by the beneficiaries might not be immediately applied in African countries on return.

Social remittances and Co-development: Apart from financial remittances which much of the literature underscores and to which most African governments attach special importance, social remittances also deserve consideration in policies and

programmes. Simply defined, *social remittances* are ideas, practices, mind-sets, world views, values and attitudes, norms of behaviour and social capital (knowledge, experience and expertise) that the Diasporas mediate and consciously or unconsciously transfer from host home communities.¹¹ Suppose African countries develop the requisite infrastructure and provide an environment conducive to investment, their Diasporas and emigrants would be more predisposed than before to transfer technological, professional and business advances happenings in their current countries of destination to their home countries. That would occur if the two parties, with the mediation of host countries, engaged in candid dialogue on the way forward. Already the “co-development” initiative between France and its former colonies, similar initiatives between the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Africa, and MIDA Ghana jointly with the Netherlands or MIDA Senegal jointly with Italy provide useful templates for replication in future.¹² Through its GTZ’s Migration and Development Programme, Germany has engaged with Cameroonian and Senegalese Diasporas on their homeland development.¹³ To succeed and become sustainable, such host-country support requires strong reciprocal support of homeland governments to their Diasporas and emigrants. African countries must therefore improve their IT capacities to facilitate virtual interaction of their citizens resident at home and those outside the country.

The IOM study on engaging Diasporas as agents of development is instructive for the countries of origin. Recognising the knowledge gap at the policy level, the study poses pertinent questions, such as: what policies are being implemented, what institutions are in charge, which methods are favoured, and what tools are put in place?¹⁴ That survey provides a strong foundation for national initiatives in policy and institutional arrangements for engaging national Diasporas in development. It provides insights that national initiatives must of necessity contain in efforts to

¹¹North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, *Social Remittances of the African Diasporas in Europe: Case Studies – Netherlands and Portugal*, 2006.

¹²After the International Organization for Migration (IOM) terminated the Return of Qualified African (RQAN) programme which returned qualified Africans to their countries of origin, it introduced the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, which facilitates return for brief periods for specific assignments. Some EU member states are already taking advantage of the opportunity in consultation with selected African governments.

¹³GTZ Migration and Development, *The Cameroonian Diaspora in Germany: Its Contribution to Development in Cameroon*. Eschborn, Germany: GTZ, Division for Economic Development and Employment, 2007.

¹⁴Results of the Survey “Engaging Diasporas as Agents of Development, p.3 (iom.ch/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/microsites/IDM/workshops/Mai_nstreaming_02030205/related%20docs/survey_results.pdf, accessed on 15/07/09).

formulate viable policies and establish appropriate institutional arrangements that are currently lacking.

Some African initiatives: The AU and its economic blueprint, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), have pledged to work, but are yet to concretise strategies for engaging with, the African Diaspora. Both the AU and the NEPAD secretariats should have strong units specifically charged with activities pertaining to African Diaspora in their ambivalent activities in both the countries of destination and their homelands. Among other things, the units would implement these organisations' strategies developed jointly with the European Union (EU), including Economic Partnership Agreements EPAs which need Diaspora and migrants' inputs as Africa marches towards the creation of the AEC in the next decade or so. Among other things, the units would work closely with African research and policy institutions, NGOs and the civil society to broaden the scope of stakeholders in Diaspora and emigrants' engagement in homeland development.

Africa, through the AU and RECs, should have annual showpieces and exhibitions of their Diasporas and emigrants as well as of returnees with success stories worth extending in the region. The move would improve upon piecemeal ventures that have characterised these features in some African countries without ample involvement of those who have never migrated or resided elsewhere.

Desirable national migration studies: The time has come for African countries to commission well-designed studies on the engagement of the African Diaspora and emigrants on homeland development from sub-national to national and regional levels. Such studies should be in the mould of Demographic Health Surveys which African countries have carried out over the last two decades or so; their results would inform national and Africa-wide policies and programmes in which the Diaspora and emigrants should of necessity be involved. Moreover, the studies would provide perspectives on the homeland which in the past has not witnessed them. In addition, the studies would avoid reliance on piecemeal studies and give credence to generalisations on the subject.

Diaspora issues in national development frameworks: In their quest to realise objectives of national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and "Development Visions" which have not adequately recognised Diaspora and migration issues, African countries should engage with their

absent nationals to redesign these important documents which guide national development frameworks. It has been noted that provision of post-primary education and health for the general population, for example, suffer adverse effects of brain drain, particularly in view of lack of policies and programmes that take cognizance of the vital human resources.

The time is ripe for African countries to benchmark experiences from Latin American and Asian Diasporas and emigrants to engage better with their own within and outside of Africa. Instructive lessons can be drawn from Mexican, Colombian, Filipino, Korean, Bangladeshi and Indian Diasporas and emigrants who have transformed homeland development agenda. Such a move might pay quicker and better dividends than Africa-developed North partnership which pits grossly unequal partners who are precariously trying to find solutions for issues that hardly synchronise.

Annex I: “BEST PRACTICES” OF ENGAGEMENT OF DIASPORAS IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Who	What	When	How	Contact Person
<p><i>a.</i> <i>Organisations</i></p> <p>1. International Organisation for Migration (IOM)</p>	<p>i) Engaging diasporas as development partners for home and destination countries¹</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>Issues considered pertinent in diasporas: definitions and data; how diasporas can be agents for development; mobilisation of diaspora resources through different forms of capital, namely human, social, affective, financial, local); existing policy tools for targeting diasporas (regulatory & legislative tools, institutional tools, technical tools, financial& business facilitation instruments, alleviating bureaucracy, information & communication, education, partnerships, sector-based approaches, post conflict/emergency. Reconstruction, returns).</p>	<p>IOM Headquarters, Geneva</p>

	ii) Challenges for policymakers relating to engaging diasporas as development partners for home and destination countries ²	2005	Definitions and data; incorporation of diaspora contributions in development strategies of home and destination countries with diasporas caught in between; partnering with relevant diasporas; home-country programmes and incentives for diaspora engagement; and diaspora resources for development.	IOM Headquarters, Geneva
	iii) Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)		Project-linked periodic return of African expatriates to serve their homelands/other African countries.	
2. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Diaspora Networks Alliance (DNA) ³		There are different types of DNA involvement: diaspora engagement beyond remittances; diaspora philanthropy or “collective remittances”; Diaspora Volunteer Corps (e.g. Armenian Volunteer Corps and IndiCorps); Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI) to home countries; Diaspora Capital Markets (bonds&	USAID Global Partnerships
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			remittance-backed securities); Diaspora Tourism & Nostalgic Trade; Diaspora Advocacy & Diplomacy; and various partnerships for change	
3. Migration Policy Institute (MPI)	Migrants, Migration and Development ⁴	Since inception	Important reports, studies and data on migrants-migration-development links, e.g. <i>Closing the Distance: How Governments Strengthen Ties with Their Diasporas</i> , with practitioner insights from Mali, Mexico and the Philippines.	MPI Secretariat, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
4. African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)	African diasporas’ involvement in homeland development	Since inception	Convening seminars on diasporas’ engagement with homeland development but from a North perspective	Director, ADPC< Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<i>b. Selected countries with strong diasporas that have influenced homeland development</i>	Ghana	Since the 1990s	Working with home-country to recognise the diaspora's contribution, "homecoming summits" and granting of dual citizenship	Secretariats of different Ghanaian diasporas with varying activities in the North
	Senegal	Since the 1990s	"Co-development " with France, Italy, etc.	Secretariats of different Senegalese diaspora organisations in Europe
	Ethiopia	During post-conflict situation	Participation of skilled and professional Ethiopian diaspora organisations in sector-based developments, e.g. education, health and housing	Secretariats of the Association for Higher Education and Development (AHEAD), the Action for Health, Education and Development (AHEAD) and the Forum International for Ethiopians Living in Diaspora (FIELD)
	Mexico	Over several decades	Multi-stage remittance programmes involving hometown associations (HTAs), local and federal governments ("3x1") and recently also involving the Western Union ("4-por-1").	US-based Mexican diaspora organisations

Sources:

¹Workshop of Migration and Development: Mainstreaming Migration and Development into Development Policy Agenda, 2-3 February 2005. Geneva: IOM.

²D. Ionescu (2005) Engaging Diasporas as Development Partners for Home and Destination Countries: Challenges for Policymakers. Geneva: IOM

³USAID Global Development Alliance: Diaspora Engagement: Remittances & beyond http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda/remittances.html.

⁴ Migration Policy Institute "Migrants, Migration and Development" (http://migrationpolicy.org/research/migration_development.php).