DIASPORAS AS SIXTH REGION OF AFRICA: ASSESSMENT OF AFRICAN UNION INITIATIVES, 2002-2009

*Dissertation submitted to Jawaharlal Nehru university
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MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

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DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation entitled "**Diasporas as Sixth Region of Africa: Assessment of African Union Initiative, 2002-2009**", submitted by me in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY** of Jawaharlal Nehru University is my own work. The dissertation has not been submitted for any other degree of this University or any other university.
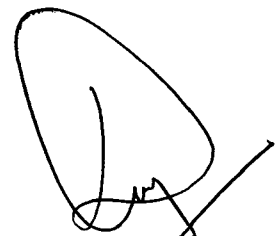
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We recommend that this dissertation be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

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I gladly acknowledge all the help (materials) offered to me in writing this dissertation. I trust that my research will not only give clear understanding or enhance African studies but will also be both informative to read and give more insight about African Union engagement with its Diaspora.

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Preface

Diaspora groups have been engaging in the development of their countries of origin for many years. In recent decade, diasporas are increasingly considered as an important source of external resources for many of the developing countries of the world. On seeing the potential implications of the African diasporas, the African Union acknowledged that the African diasporas are the powerhouse of human and capital resources that can be harness for the benefits of the continent. Therefore, the African Union has taken up a bold initiative to actively engage its diasporas in the sixth region of Africa for the development efforts of the continent.

The context consists of five chapters. The first chapter will introduce the topic of this dissertation. The second chapter examines the significance of African Union to engage its diasporas and in what way the diasporas can contribute to the development of their countries of origin. It also examines the initiatives and policy taken up by the AU to mobilize the resources of the Diaspora. The third chapter will deal with the programs taken up by the African union to include the diasporas in the framework of its policy process and its functioning in order to achieve the aim and objective in harnessing the diasporas for the benefits of the continent. And also deal with the various regional diasporas networks in the sixth region of Africa especially in North America and Europe. The Fourth chapter will examine the outcome of the AU-diasporas initiative on the continent's development as well as initiatives taken up by the major African countries and the responses of diasporas to these initiatives, also what issues they are raising and the limitations in contributing to the African progress. In the fifth chapter, I will conclude from my observation derived from the study.

In the process of writing this dissertation, I have drawn freely from various sources of speeches, AU reports, article, journals and books. I hope that my research will also contribute to the enhancement and better insight into the African studies. As my research is based on the secondary sources, I took full responsibility for all the inadvertent errors and omissions or inaccuracies (typographical or factual) that may have found their way into my dissertation (research).

ABBREVIATIONS or ACRONYMS

AU   African Union

AOU   African Organization of Unity

NEPAD   New Partnership for Africa's Development

MDGs   Millennium Development Goals

FDI   Foreign Direct Investment

GDP   Gross Domestic Product

WB   World Bank

HIPC   Highly Indebted Poor Countries

IOM   International Organization for Migration

IMF   International Monetary Fund

WHO   World Health Organization

UNO   United Nation Organization

CSSDCA   Conference on Security, Security, Development and Cooperation in Africa

WHADN   Western Hemisphere Diaspora Network

ECOSOCC   Economic, Social and Cultural Council

RCCs   Regional Consultative Conferences

CIDO   Citizens of Directorate

CSO   Civil Society Organization

AUDI   African Union Diaspora Initiative

OAPAD   Organization of African Professional and Associate in the Diaspora

ADPC   African Diaspora Policy Centre

AFFORD   African Foundation for Development

NGO   Non Government Organization

CEANA   Council of Ewe Associations of North America

MIDA   Migration for Development in Africa

ICT   Information and communication Technology

NIDO   Nigerians in the Diaspora Organization

FDA   Foundation for Democracy in Africa

ADHI   African Diaspora Health Initiative

ADM   African Diaspora Marketplace

USAID   United States Agency for International Development

D-MADE   Development Marketplace for African Diaspora in Europe

TOKEN   Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals

LDC   Least Developed Countries

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Diaspora has become a trend in the 21st century in various countries across the globe. Millions of African nationals live outside their continent depriving the continent of its vital human resources. It is estimated that there are roughly 35 million citizens of African descent both voluntary/involuntary immigrants and African Americans living in the United States with a collective purchasing power of about $450 billion per annum , a sum that, if represented by a single country, would make it one of the 15 largest economies in the world. African immigrants boast of the highest educational attainments of any immigrant group, featuring well over 250,000 scientists and physicians in the United States alone.[1] According to IOM studies, it was reported that the continent has already lost one-third of its human capital and is continuing to lose its skilled personnel at an increasing rate. This is a massive drain for a continent already lacking in human resources and thus reduces the already low quantity of skilled manpower available in African countries and increases its dependency on foreign technical assistance. This make important for the African Union to partner and join forces with the diasporas in the development efforts in their respective homelands. Although, the diasporas left their native countries physically, they remain emotionally attach to their origin.

Despite the enormous lose of human and capital resources by the African countries, the AU acknowledged that diasporas actors can promote or enhance development in social and economic sectors of their homeland. The AU initiatives to actively engage its diaspora is underpinned by the growing evidence of remittances they sent to their countries of origin. Therefore, the AU recognized that the African diasporas have the potential of resources that can contribute significantly to the development efforts of Africa, if they are willing to do so. This has resulted in the initiatives taken up by the AU in order to bring development in the continent as well as to achieve the targets of Millennium Development Goals set up by the United Nation to be achieves by 2015. Moreover, the AU initiative has brought a significant changes in African governments'

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[1] Raphael O. Ogom. "*The African Union. African Diaspora and the quest for development: In search of the missing link.*"African Journal of political science and International Relations Vol.3 (4), pp. 165-173,April 2009.

perception of their overseas diasporas. The home countries have increasingly recognized the diasporas as positive actors who can contribute towards accelerating the socio-economic development of their countries of origin. The changing attitude towards the diasporas is due to the recognition of their potentials for contributing to the overall development of the continent. In recent years, the diasporas have strategically positioned themselves as critical development actors in development cooperation and bilateral relations between Europe and Africa, America and Africa and the Caribbeans.

Till the last decade, the diasporas has been regarded as enemies by the country of their origin. The African governments did not trust their diasporas leading to suspicions and tensions. However, due to the changing perception of the African government towards the diaspora, they started taking an important role in building a relationship towards their home countries. Therefore, in the 21st century, the diaspora were accepted as an important actors for the development of their home countries.

1.1.Diaspora

The term *'Diaspora'* was originated from Greek word for *'dispersal'* though its most common sage has been in reference to the scattering of Jews throughout the West. The term itself varies among various authors and over the period of time depending upon their ideology.

Regarding the African Diasporas, the root caused was the result of slave trade and by the factors within the system of imperialism and colonialism that forced Africans to leave their continent. After decolonization from the white rule, intra-continental migration becomes the dominant pattern in search of better social and economic prospect in developed counties. Moreover, political conflict remains a significant element in the creation of the Diasporas and the continual struggle against colonialism in southern Africa, and by civil conflict in different parts of Africa which turned thousands of refugees into exiles in Europe, America and various parts across the globe. Therefore, it is estimated that over four thousand million voluntary immigrant of African reside in the

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west.[2] The continuing relationship among African people are rendered more complex by the multiplicity of places of residence and the nature of the problems faced especially by those outside of the African continent, and how they have come to identify themselves in relation to continental African people.

1.2. The African Diaspora

The term African diasporas is applied in particular to the descendents of the Black Africans who were enslaved and shipped to the Americas by way of the Atlantic slave trade, with the largest population in Brazil. People of Sub-Saharan descent number at least 800 million in Africa and over 140 million in the Western Hemisphere, representing around 14% of the world's population. The concept of African Diaspora has been lacking in generalize and homogenize definition as all the authors have their own views of who are the Diasporas and what criteria are needed to be called the diasporas. Therefore, it was the movement of Africans and their descendants to places throughout the world - predominantly to the Americas, then later to Europe, the Middle East and other places across the globe. Moreover, the African diasporas differs from the rest of the world Diasporas. The diasporas who were taken as slavery across the Atlantic cannot trace their ancestral roots or heritage in Africa.

However, in modern usage, the term African diasporas emerged clearly in the 1950s and sixties. It served in the scholarly debates both as a political term, with which to emphasize unifying experiences of African people dispersed by the slave trade, and also as an analytical term that enable scholars to talk about black communities across national boundaries, Much of this scholars examined the dispersal of people of African descent, their role in the transformation and creation of new cultures, institutions in and outside of Africa, and the problems of building pan-African movement across the globe. After the decolonization of African countries, the term 'new African diasporas emerged referring

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[2] World Bank, Engaging African Diaspora in Development Effort: MCC-.World Bank Participate in Diaspora-Focused Outreach Briefing. Washington. Dc. World Bank, 2008.

to those Africans who left their continent and settle down in different parts of the world.[3] Author like, Khalid Koser, focused on the new African Diasporas exclusively on migration from postcolonial Africa, and George Sheppeerson, referring African diasporas to all those of African descent outside the African continent, seems to have emerged during the period from the mid-1960s, coinciding with the beginning of the end of formal colonial rule in Sub-Saharan Africa and much of the Caribbean and of the struggle against racism and for 'civil rights' in the United States.

But Paul Tiyambe Zeleza differentiates the old and new African diasporas by distinguishing between the historic Diasporas and the contemporary Diasporas. According to him the term *'historic diaspora'* refers to the old Diasporas formed before the construction of colonial states, which have profoundly altered the territorial identifications of Africans on the continent since the late nineteenth century. Whereas, the *'contemporary Diasporas'* refers to Diaspora formed since the late nineteen century: the Diaspora of colonization, decolonization, and the era of structural adjustment, which emerged out of the disruptions and dispositions of colonial conquest, the struggles for independence, and structural adjustment programmes (SAPs).

Due to the complexities on defining who are African diasporas and who are not included, the Sixth Ordinary Session which was held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 2005, the Executive council adopted its decision EX.CL/Dec.173 (IV) on the definition of the African Diaspora. The African Union has defined the African Diaspora as *"it 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"*.

1.3. Sixth Region of Africa

In complementing the other five regions (North, south, east, west and Central) of Africa, the Diasporas were recognized by the AU as its sixth region of Africa. The countries

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[3] Tiffany Ruby Patterson and Robin D.G. Kelly (2000), 'Unfinished Migrations: Reflections on the african diaspora and the making of the modern world'. African Studies Review,Vol. 43 No.1, pp.11-45.

comprising in each of Africa's five regions are as follows:

- *Western Africa* consists of sixteen members such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivore, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

- *Central Africa — 9 members i.e.* Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Sao Tomé et Principe.

- *Eastern Africa — 13 members i.e.* Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

- *Northern Africa — 5 members* Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Tunisia

- *Southern Africa — 10 members* Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe[4]

1.4. From OAU to African Union

After the World War II, the support for the unity of African descendants on the continent and the African Diasporas, ran high throughout Africa. In 1957, when Ghana got independent, its President, Kwame Nkrumah, convened the first Conference of Independent African States, attended by eight countries, the following year in Accra. Due to the differences in opinion among the African political leaders, Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Houphouet-Boigny and Tubman, were divided on the issue of Casablanca and Monrovia. In 1963, a compromise was reached between the Casablanca and Monrovia groups and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on May 25, 1963, by the political leaders of 31 African countries. It aimed at bringing African nations together to gain and strengthen their independence

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[4] Jakkie Cilliers and Kathryn Sturman, '*Challenges facing the AU's peace and Security Council'*. (2004)African Security Review 13(1).

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from the white rulers. It stood against colonialism, apartheid, and dependence on foreign countries. The OAU also mediated several African disputes. However, the non-intervention clause in the OAU charter, along with the opposition to full democracy by some African leaders prevented the OAU from playing a mediator role in upcoming African crises. Moreover, no progress had been made in their efforts to promote economic and political union on the continent. By the late 1990s, it had become clear that a new paradigm was in order if the Continental African organization was to remain relevant at a time when the Europe, Asia and the Americans were forming economic blocs with an eye towards political union. in 1999, the issue of a 'United States of Africa' raised among the African leaders. At the African Heads of State Extraordinary OAU Summit in Sirte, Libya, on March 2, 2001, the African Union was declared established based on the unanimous will of the member states. When the required 36th OAU member (two-thirds of the membership) ratified the constitutive act on April 26, 2001, the African Union became a legal reality. A year later, the African Union (AU), founded in 2002, represents the fifty-three nations on the African continent replacing the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The AU emphasizes democracy, human rights, and economic development. The key mission of the relatively new AU is to create greater unity and cooperation among the member countries and among the peoples of Africa in order to improve the living conditions of the continent. The 53 member nations hope that the AU continues to work with governments of the member states and with other international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. Sometimes they collaborate projects with non-governmental organizations such as Doctors without Borders and the International Red Cross. AU member states are also members of the United Nations and other international organizations

The AU composed of countries on the continent of Africa, the second largest land mass on Earth with more than 20 percent of the human population, about 770 million people. Africa is spread across all four hemispheres—Eastern, Northern, Western, and Southern—and includes both tropical and subtropical climate zones.

1.5. African Diaspora linkage with Africa

The relationship between Africa and African diasporas in the Americas are dated as far back as several hundred years ago. Evolving through the different phases of African peoples' history, the manifestation of Pan-African ideology has evolved from uprisings under visionary leader who sought unity of African communities against the colonialists, to liberation from direct colonialism. The African Diasporas retained its linkages to the African continent despite its political, economic, and social position that slavery and its legacy produced. With the improved political, educational, economic, and social status of the African Diasporas in the US, its role in promoting African interests has expanded and improved significantly.The African Americans has established political linkages with Africa in decolonizing the African countries from the colonial power. For instances, Amilcar Cabral, who led the people of Guinea and Cape Verde against the Portuguese, the independence of Liberia, the colonization of Sierra Leone and the Congo, the rise of nationalism, the imposition of apartheid in south Africa. Moreover, many African-American intellectuals and others in different walks of life voiced their opposition to imperialism which was evident during 1893 meeting that discussed the historic Diasporas linkages with the continent. Their opposition to the exploitation and mistreatment of Africans in the Belgium Congo and their response to the Italian invasion and occupation of Ethiopia between 1935-1936, despite their inability to vote, leaving them with virtually no national or local representation, they volunteered to fight for their origin.[5] They paved the way for the African American advocacy groups such as the American Society of African Culture (AMSAC), Transafrica, Congressional Black Caucus and other organizations have continue to use their political leverage to lobby for African issues.

Therefore, the diasporas linking Africa and the Americas has not been static: it was not constituted in the era of slavery and then passed on unchanged to subsequent generations

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[5] Cassendra Veney *The Ties that Bind: Lessons from the Historic African Diaspora*. Paper prepared for the 10th General Assembly of the council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, Kampala, Uganda. Dec 8-12. 2002.

to another generation. Rather it has been forged and reforged until the present successive generations of Africans and persons of African descents all around the Atlantic basin have reconstituted their sense of themselves and their relationship with one another. Meanwhile, in the recent decades, the historians of Africa and the Americas have discovered one another and began to glimpse the benefits of strengthening the relationship between the host country and the continent through closed cooperation. As a result, the leaders of African Union has taken initiatives in consultation with the prominent diasporas all over the globe on how to engage each other in a meaningful way.

Hence, the African diaspora is a triadic relationship linking a dispersed group of people to their homeland, Africa, and to their host or adopted countries. They develop and reinforce images and ideas about themselves and their original homelands, as well as affect the economic, politics, and social dynamics of both their homeland and their host countries or areas. Diasporas are, therefore, a significant actors in national and international relations. Therefore, in recognizing the potentials of the diasporas, the AU acknowledging them in promoting economic and social development in the continent.

1.6. AU Initiative towards its Diaspora

The AU recognizes the African Diasporas as a potential source of economic, political, social and cultural development of Africa. Diasporas has a tremendous financial and intellectual wealth which needs to be recognized and harnessed. Therefore, the African union has taken up a bold initiative to engage the resources of the diasporas in the sixth region of African. In order to mobilize the diasporas, the AU has accepted the civil society organization as part of its organization and held several meetings, summits and conferences within Africa and in various regions of the world. It's policies and programmes were adopted to engaged the African diasporas in various sixth region of Africa for continental development process and in decision-making in matters that affects Africa's development so that they can directly involve in the activities of the AU. In engaging the diasporas for their contribution of their skilled manpower and resources in

Africa, the AU adopted article 3 (q) and reserve 20 seats for the diasporas[6] in one of AU programmes. It also adopted common policies on migration for the whole continent. And what the diasporas can expect from the African Union and from their countries of origin.

The AU's call to contribute to their countries of origin by interacting with the intelligentsia of the diasporas from various countries across the globe. In 2004 and 2006, the AU organized two important meetings, the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diasporas (CIAD).It was held in Dakar, Senegal and CIAD II in Salvador, Brazil, and brought together hundreds of intellectuals and several heads of state. Since then there has been a series of high level bilateral and multilateral conferences between African and the Caribbean governments and other Diaspora communities. In September 11-12, 2007, the AU held the Regional Consultative Conference for the African Diaspora in Paris, France.

Moreover, the AU asked various African governments to grant dual citizenship to the Diaspora so that they can actively involved in making policies for the development of their countries. It also encourage the African governments to create conducive environment to attract Diasporas investment in their countries as well as to allowed free movement of people, right to resident and legal employment in host countries.

Therefore, as part of the preparation for this great opportunity a number of regional, sub-regional, national meetings were organized for the African Diasporas community in several parts of the define sixth region. And in other parts of the world, formal preparation meetings have already taken place such as in the United States of America, Latin America, Brazil, Canada, the Caribbeans and in Europe (in the UK and the

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[6] African Union, '*Draft Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African union.Expert.*' Meeting on Statutes of the ECOSOCC of the African Union 12-14 May 2003, Addis Ababa-Ethopia, Exp/Draft/ECOSOCC Statutes/ Rev.2.

Holland).For the first time, the 1st western Hemisphere-AU Diaspora forum was held in Dec-17-19,2002, USA.

In order to harness the resources of the African diasporas, several regional diasporas network were established in North America, Europe and Latin America in order to link the diasporas with their countries of origin. Moreover, in order to strengthen the relationship between the host countries and their countries of origin, the AU has established a joint partnership with the EU and the Caribbeans.

The initiative has an impact both in positive and negative ways in establishing an active progress in its developmental projects. Inspite of the shortcomings, a profound progress has been made in some of the countries by initiating a programme to boost the development of their country. Here are some of the literatures which give the insight of the activities how far the progress has done and what are the responses and shortcomings of the conception of the AU.

1.7. Literature Survey

The African Union initiatives to engage its diasporas in the sixth region of Africa for social and economic development in the continent is a landmark in its policy to link its diasporas. The plan and polices has undertaken for effective engagement of the diasporas and on how they can best engage with its diasporas in order to harness their potential resources for the benefits of Africa. Therefore, some scholars and authors had explored the African diasporas which has contributed for my research study.

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza's article, *Rewriting the African Diaspora: Beyond the black Atlantic (2005)* argued that despite the growing popularity of diasporas studies our understanding of the African diasporas remains limited by both the conceptual difficulties of defining what is meant by general diasporas and the African diasporas in particular. The author differentiated between the historic African diasporas and the new diasporas.

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Jakkie Cilliers, in his article, ***From Durban to Maputo A review of 2003 summit of the African union.*** (2003)" pointed out the debate on the issues of who are the African diasporas, in the Maputo summit, "Mbeki explain that the concept of the Diaspora could not be limited to those that had recently left the continent, but that it should include those millions of slaves that had been transported to the new and old world in previous centuries". He also stated that the African union has reserved '20 members representing the African Diaspora, out of 150 seats of ECOSOCC'.

Diedre L. Badejo's book on, *Global Organization. The African union"* (2008), focused on the formation of African Union, which was founded in 2002, giving emphasizes on democracy, human rights and economic development and defines the objective and purpose of the new AU's constitutive Act: economic development that can be sustained over a long period of time, good governance, social justice, gender equality, youth development, and good health and to bring cooperation among the state in order to improve the living conditions in the continent.

Timothy Murithi's book on *"The African union: Pan africanism, Peacebuilding and development'* (2005), emphasize that, in order to achieve its goals and objectives, the AU should reinforce the African union-civil society partnership within and outside the continent which include the Diasporas. "With the creation of African union it is only logical for the organization to established link with the African Diaspora in its efforts to promote peace and development for its people. The African Diasporas can contribute towards accelerating growth and development of the African continent

Gumisai Mutume's article, *Reversing Africa's "brain drain": New initiatives tap skills of African expatriates* (2003), added that due to globalization, the African countries need to keep pace with the world in terms of social, economic and political spheres to compete with the outside world. Faced with these problems, the African union has started acknowledging the potentials of the African Diasporas for the development of the African union and Africa as a whole. "For the first time, the AU has invited African's Diaspora

(those who trace their roots back to the continent) to actively take part in the Region's development.

Johann Mouton, Nelius Boshoff, Tenbile Kalati and Frank Teng-zeng's article, *"Scientific Mobility and the African Diaspora"* (2007), pointed out that the 1st ordinary session of the AU executive council held in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa was a call for the involvement of the African Diasporas in the programmes of the Union. Also, in July 2003, the AU summit in Maputo amended the constitutive Act to provide for the participation of the African Diaspora in the building of AU.

Dr. Jinmi Adisa's article *"ECOSOC agenda: Reflection on the past and future challenges"* (2007), pointed out that like ECOSOCC, 'CIDO is also a branch of the commission designed to mainstream civil participation in its work and its purposed is to facilitate implementation of decision'.

Mr. A. Merouane's article, *"Contribution to the Africa-Recruit employment and Human Resource Sharing/Exchange Seminar-Engaging with the African Diaspora"* (2005), emphasis that the AU has recognized the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) as one of the programme to engage the African Diasporas in supporting Africa's quest and effort for promoting substantial development. The role of NEPAD is to turn the 'Brain Drain' Phenomena into a 'Brain Gain' potential.

International Organization for Migration, *'migration for development in Africa, Mobilizing the African diasporas for the development of Africa' (2007)* this article stresses on various countries that had started the initiative programmes through different modalities of transfer of intellectual and socio-professional resources in the continent. The diasporas has been contributing their skills and requisite expertise in the countries of their origin in socio and economic sector such as in education, health, remittances and entrepreneurial project with the help of their host country.

Rapheal O.Ogom's article *"the African union. African Diaspora and the quest for development: In search of the missing link "*(2009) , brings out that the external and internal environment has to complement each other to bring meaningful devlopement in the continent in which some African countries are lacking. The African government needs to (who comprise the AU) engineer a total re-orientation of their government for the Diasporas' inputs to take its roots. Another limitation he pointed out is that the AD is not a viable economic "power house" which the AU court its potential and all the AD are not interested in continent's development.

1.8. Rational and scope of study

The Rational and scope of my study is that, the AU initiatives to include Diasporas and its resources in the development of Africa is a bold step undertaken to bring development in Africa. Therefore, the study is to explore whether the AU initiative is adequate to bring development in Africa which other programme had failed in Africa.

The study will be focus on the framework of the African Union since the AU has taken a significant steps to operationalize the Diasporas with its framework. The study will examine the policies undertaken by the African union towards its Diaspora as well as the member states of the AU for its effective's implementation of the imitative. This study will also examine the progress, difficulties and shortcoming of both the Diaspora and the member states of the AU in taking up these initiatives.

1.9. Objectives of the study

> To understand the policy and its contents of African union towards its Diaspora.

> To study the structure and functioning of AU's Diaspora programme and African Diaspora networks.

> To analyze the relationship between the African Diasporas networks and the AU and its impact on Africa.

Hypotheses

> The AU policy to reach out to its Diasporas to bring back people of African origin to the continent of their origin.

> The AU's Diaspora policies are active only at the macro level as the unconducive domestic environment in the African countries impedes the Diaspora led development efforts.

> The African Diaspora engagement are of limited nature since they tends to be directed only for short- term gain as against long-term engagement.

CHAPTER TWO

IMPERATIVE FOR AU ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS DIASPORA

2.1. An overview: OAU engagement with its Diaspora

The relationship between the African union (AU) and African Diaspora goes back a century at the time when African Diaspora who resides outside Africa started the pan-African movement, championed by individuals like Marcus Garvey and Sylvester Williams, united against the oppression, racial discrimination and rights for the black people all over the world. The African Diaspora started their contributions at the time of struggle against the colonization of Africa, when some great leaders returned back to start the liberation movement and the unity of all back people. This movement instilled the spirit of pan-Africanism in the African leaders which led to the creation of the organization of African Unity (AOU) in 1963 in Africa. The thirty African nations united together to liberate themselves from the colonial rule and to fight against apartheid and to make collective efforts towards economic development in the continent. The founding fathers of the African continent were kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Leopold Sedan Seghor, etc.

While the OAU helped speed up the independence of African nations, it did not reach out to the African Diasporas in a meaningful way. Despite the longings of African descendants on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, Africa and the Diaspora did not unite as envisioned by the founding fathers of the Pan-African movement. This was partly due to the impact of the Cold War and African leaders' obsession with newly acquired sovereign power, nation-building, and political self-aggrandizement. However, they continue to reach out to their origin by sending money for the development of their home countries. Since the mid-1990s, their financial remittance to friends and relatives has become a reliable source of stable income and lifeline for many of the poor Africans. Also their financial remittances are serving as effective means of relief and rehabilitation and provide benefits to many people at the base of the African social class.

But from 1991 to 1997, the OAU representatives attended the Sullivan summit of the congressional black caucus in the US congress that canvassed afro-central policies. The purpose of the Summit is to unite people of African heritage and to build a bridge from

America and other part of the world to the African continent.[1] Therefore, the African Union's interest in the Diaspora is not accidental nor is it a sporadic effort to extend its constituency further ashore beyond the African continent. Rather it is an explicit recognition that this constituency is already extended by history, cultural and emotional ties and that the destiny and fate of Africa and its Diaspora constituency is inextricably aligned. The social and political challenges they face are similar and the impact of the activities of continental Africans and African Diasporas continue to affect each other.

2.2. Social and Economic challenges facing in Africa

Africa is the least development continent in the world. Despite the significant strides in areas of social and economic development during the last decade, these developments have not made significant impacts on the lives of the majority of the African people. The challenges posed by HIV/AID, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases are a great threat for the development of Africa. Regarding these, the African leaders are now taking specific steps to tackle the economic and social problems of the continent through the reconfiguration of the Organization of African Unity as the African Union (AU) and the implementation of the economic platform known as New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Economically, the last decade in Africa has shown that a stable macroeconomic environment—reflected in low inflation, market-determined exchange rates, low fiscal deficits, and prudent monetary policy— is required to raise growth rates. Africa, as a whole, has registered notable progress. The average growth rate for the region in 1995–2001 is estimated at around 4 percent, up from 1 percent in the first half of the 1990s. The region's average inflation rate stood at 12.2 percent in 2001, down from a high of 41.4 percent in 1994. And fiscal deficits have come down to –2.5 percent in 2002, down from

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[1] African Union. *'The development of the diaspora initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU"*. Executive council Extraordinary Session, 21-25 May 2003 Sun City, South Africa. Ext/EX/CL/S(III)."

a high of 6.9 percent in 1993. African governments have pursued prudent macroeconomic policies despite the large exogenous shocks many of them faced in recent years.[2]

Despite these achievements, Africa continued to be marginalized in world politics and struggles to find its place in the global economy. Describing the state of African underdevelopment, the south African president, Thabo Mbeki in his June 2003 address at the University of west Indies noted that, "Africa today is confronted by a world of financial, investment and trade regimes which unfairly favours the developed world and which prevents them from improving the quality of life of its citizens. Africa's share of world trade has plummeted, accounting for less than 2% and more than 140 million young Africans are illiterate, the continent has entered the 21st century but is still confronted by the hard realities of entrenched poverty, death form curable diseases, illiteracy, international marginalization and general underdevelopment, with little prospects for growth and development".[3]

Therefore, it became imperative for the African union to acknowledge the Africa Diaspora for the development of Africa as they constitute considerable human and capital resources that can be harness for the development of Africa. The African union has taken up various plans and policies to accelerate the social and economic development in the continent. Among the key objectives of the AU, as set out in Article 3 of the constitutive Act of the union, are the establishment of the necessary conditions that will enable Africa to play its rightful role in the global economy; the promotion of sustainable development at the economic, social, and cultural level, as well as the integration of African economies; and the promotion of cooperation in all fields of human activities to raise the living standards of the African peoples. The experience of the developed countries of the North and some of the emerging powers of the South has shown that they are playing a

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[2] African Development Bank and World Bank , Global Poverty Report (2002), 'Achieving the Mellenium Development Goals in africa Progress, prospects, and Policy implication, June.

[3] Raphael O. Ogom. "*The African Union. African Diaspora and the quest for development: In search of the missing link.*"African Journal of political science and International Relations Vol.3 (4),pp. 165-173,April 2009.

constructive role in the global economy. Attaining sustainable development and raising the living standard cannot be achieved on a weak industrial base. Africa requires an acceleration of industrial development and diversification of the economy to meet the challenges of development and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the socio- economic objectives of the AU. The African union also recognized that human capacity building is necessary for African countries to benefit from the outsourcing and externalizing of activities that have become important features of global manufacturing. Lack of qualified human resources in particular at the level of company management, constitutes a major hindrance to Africa's industrial and economic development. The African countries need to place special emphasis in human resources development on the training of company's managers through the creation of management skills and institutes that provides quality training.[4]

2.2.1. Social challenges

In Africa, the problem of poverty, health care and services, lack of education and the shortage of professional skills were the challenges face by the member states of African Union.

2.2.1.1 Poverty

In Africa, poverty remains one of the formidable challenges which need to be address rapidly in the continent. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where extreme poverty has been increasing instead of declining. It is also the only region where, according to current projection most countries will fall sort of achieving the Millennium development goal (MGD) targets set for 2015.[5] The proportion of people living in extreme poverty (living

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[4] African union, "*Action Plan for the Acceleration Industrial Development of Africa*". AU Conference of Ministry of Industry 1st Extraordinary Session 24-25 Sept 2007, Midrand, Republic of South African. *EXT/MIN/PA*

[5] United Nations, 'High-level Segment of Heads of State and Government Trade and development for Africa's prosperity: action and direction. Twelfth session on UN Conference on Trade and Development, Accra, Ghana20-25 April, 2008.

[6] Dr.Maxwell M. M kwezalamba and Emmanuel J. Chinyama, 'Implementation of Africa's Integration and Development Agenda: Challenges and Prospects.' African Integration Review, Vol.1, No. 1 January 2007.

on less than US$1 per day) in Africa, not including North Africa, increased from 44.6 percent in 1990 to 46.5 percent in 2001, while the world's developing countries as a whole registered a significant reduction in extreme poverty from 27.9 percent to 21.3 percent over the same period. Between 1990 and 2001, the number of people living on less than US$1 a day rose from 227 million to 313 million. In addition, the region has the highest rate of undernourishment, with one-third of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.[6] The thirty-three of the 41 most heavily indebted countries in the world are in Africa; roughly half of sub-Saharan Africa's700 million people earn less than $2 a day; and unemployment is as high as 40% in many African countries, including Liberia, Lesotho and Mozambique.[7] Over 40% of the people in sub-Saharan Africa live below the international poverty line of US$1 per day.[8] African countries stand lowest in the world in the United Nations' ranking of countries by their populations' quality of life. The average resource per person in sub-Saharan Africa are equal to about $840 a year. Despite this being the case, a number of African countries, including Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Ghana, Mauritania, Guinea, Benin, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ethiopia, have made good progress in reducing poverty and income disparity.[9]

As a result, many Africans have no food security, but go hungry or are malnourished. Despite Africa's multitude of great rivers and lakes, much of the population lacks clean drinking water, partly due to drought and problems of transportation. Although foreign assistance to Africa has had good effects, many grants and loans have been used with little effect and owe huge debts to the richer countries for failed development projects and arms. Inspite of growing its economy, the African countries are still far behind from the

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[7] Policy Seminar Report, on the centre for conflict Resolution. Building an AU for the 21st Century.Relations with Regional Economic Communities (RECS), NEPAD and Civil Society. The Vineyard Hotel, South Africa,20-22, August 2005

[8] Raphael O. Ogom. "*The African Union. African Diaspora and the quest for development: In search of the missing link.* "African Journal of political science and International Relations Vol.3 (4), pp. 165-173,April 2009.

[9] Badejo, Diedre L '*Global Organization. The African union,* 'New York: Chelsea House. 2008.

rest of the world. Therefore, the African union has taken up several measures in order to alleviate poverty in the continent.

2.2.2.2. In Health

The Heads of State at the Abuja 2006 Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria noted that Countries in south of the Sahara constitute 10% of the global population but account for more than 60% of the estimated HIV infected people in the world. Africa accounts for 77.4% of AIDS death worldwide and 90% of all AIDS orphans (0-17 years of age) in the world. It accounts for more than 25% of all TB reported cases in the world and is the only region in the world where TB incidence rates are increasing despite the availability of effective TB control strategies and implementation programs. More than 600,000 people die from TB in Africa and at least 2 million contract TB every year. Malaria is the number one killer of children in Africa. Most childhood Malaria deaths in Africa are eminently preventable if parents had access to prompt diagnosis and treatments. Africa accounts for almost 90% of the estimated 500 million malarial episodes reported every year, worldwide. At least one million people die every year in Tropical Africa from Malaria, representing more than 90%of all global deaths from the disease. Women and children in Africa remain particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. African women have the highest rates of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria compared to their counterparts in other regions of the world. The menace of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and the high rates of infections among African Diasporas are creating an urgent sense of shared mission to tackle a common, though, elusive enemy. Hence, African countries needs to strengthen the health systems, adoption of healthy life style and reducing the burden of disease by affordable access to primary heath care for the whole population, the reduction of maternal, child and infant mortality and reaching the MDG targets by 2015.

2.2.2.3. Education

In order to develop human resources, education is a fundamental human right and the most powerful level for the promotion of welfare, civic and social advancement, the progress of democracy and respect for human rights, the building of peace and the

promotion of an environment that allows pluralism, knowledge – including scientific and technological knowledge – and cultural diversity to prosper. As such, it is a precondition for sustainable development, economic growth and poverty reduction. In spite of the importance of education to promote the mention above, African youths who complete their education is very low. In sub-Saharan Africa an overall enrollment in school is about 95 percent in primary school but only 31 percent in secondary school, according to the World Bank.[10] Africa's abject poverty and the lack of global influence appear to stem from its weak bases in knowledge and, in particular, in science, technology, and innovation. If the AU were to exercise influence in world affairs, its member states would need to participate in the control of the fountains of knowledge.

2.2.2.4. Shortage of professional skills

It is estimated that at least 70,000 or more highly qualified Africans leave their country of origin annually for western countries. In 2002, some 2,297 medical doctors and nurses left Zimbabwe in the first nine months, in that same year South Africa lost more than 300 specialist nurses to developed countries every month. In Ghana the ratio of doctor to people is 1:22,970 as against 1:420 in the United States and 1:810 in the United Kingdom. It is estimated that up to 68% of medical staff trained in Ghana between 1993 and 2000 have left the country.

The rate of expatriate of students are exceptionally high for sub-Saharan Africa (with the exception of South Africa), with an increase over the last few years: 6.9% in West Africa, 13% in Central Africa and 8.5% in East Africa, unlike other regions of the developing world (Asia, Latin America, the Maghreb and Near East). And some small countries in Africa have very high rates of expatriation, sometimes reaching more than 75% of scientific and technical personnel, and of highly qualified people in general.[11] The rate of

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[10] Badejo, Diedre L 'Global Organization. The African union, New York: Chelsea House. 2008.

[11] (IOM) International organization for migration (2007). Migration for development in Africa(MIDA): Mobilizing the African Diaspora for the development of Africa.
http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/brochures_and_info_sheets/MIDA_EN_updated.pdf.

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expatriation of students of sub-Saharan Africa origin is of particular significance in that these figures refers to a population that is exceptionally qualified in comparison with other regions in the world. Development is closely linked to the availability of highly skilled personnel power. Africa has a serious shortage of skilled personnel power in virtually all key areas set for the Millennium Development Goals. This is not a problem only in least developed countries, but also in countries like Botswana and South Africa. The high rate of highly educated Africans who do not return to their home countries has had a debilitating impact on African public and private sector institutions. Public services and businesses lack qualified human resources; very low health worker/population ratios; university faculties have high student-faculty ratios; many state-owned enterprises have has serious management and financial difficulties and hence failed, and service delivery is considered the least effective in the world. As a result, African countries rely on high rates of international consultants for implementing Bank and donor-funded projects. Quite often, the performance of these projects is poor as some of the expatriates experts lack the knowledge of the local factors which are necessary for successful implementation. These are recognize by Donors and development partners that given the high level of expertise among African immigrants, mobilizing a small fraction of these capacities would provide a significant contribution to the development efforts in Africa.

2.2.3. Economic challenges

Africa faces a number of economic challenges such as the decline in foreign direct investment (FDI); huge external and domestic debt burden.

2.2.3.1. Foreign Direct Investment

The level of investment in Africa is very low with her share in global FDI inflows remaining below 5 percent. According to available data, investment coming to Africa only concentrates in a few countries that export natural resources like oil and minerals.[12] Over the last 25 years, investment rates in sub-Saharan Africa have averaged around 18 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), a performance that compares poorly to most

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[12]United Nations, 'High-level Segment of Heads of State and Government Trade and development for Africa's prosperty: action and direction'. Twelfth session on UN Conference on Trade and Development, Accra, Ghana20-25 April 2008.

other developing regions. There has been some upward movement in recent years, with the rise of about 19.5 per cent in 2006. Further efforts need to be made to raise the rates to at least the 25–30 per cent range, which most experts agree are the level that would help generate the higher growth rates needed for significant poverty reduction. Despite witnessing a rapid increase in inward FDI within the last four years, reaching a peak of about $40 billion in 2006, the region's share of global FDI flows remains about 3 per cent, below its share in the 1970s. These flows are very much concentrated in a few countries and a few sectors. Although some countries – such as South Africa, Morocco and Egypt – have managed to attract considerable external investment in manufacturing and for the acquisition of existing assets (mergers and acquisitions), the bulk of FDI going into Africa has been focused on the extraction of natural resources, particularly oil and gas. While there are signs of increasing investment in services, in particular in infrastructural services, the share of FDI in the manufacturing sector is on the decline, mainly as a result of the end of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. Despite recent efforts to enhance domestic financial resource mobilization, very low domestic savings and weak domestic financial systems remain significant impediments to vigorous private-sector-led investment, growth and employment generation.

The reason behind this is that most African countries are not conducive to attracting foreign investors owing to a number of factors, including existence of unstable macroeconomic conditions, poor governance, and persistence of conflicts and insecurity in the continent. One of main barriers to trade and investment is also due to lack of infrastructure. This inevitably leads to high investment costs, which makes the continent a less attractive destination for funds. According to the Commission for Africa Report, Africa needs an additional US$20 billion a year investment in infrastructure. Traditionally financing for such projects has come from developmental loans granted by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank.

2.2.3.2 Debt burden

The situation of debt in Africa has been a concern to many African leaders. Outstanding total debt stock at the end of 2004 was estimated at $330 billion in nominal terms and African countries continued to pay over $30 million a day on the loans contracted over the last 30 years.[13] Thus, many African countries are spending their scarce resources in servicing debt, instead of allocating them to growth and social sectors. In order to address the problem of debt facing African countries, several debt relief initiatives have been initiated, including the enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the Gleneagles Summit (July 2005) decision to cancel debt for 18 HIPCs, including 14 from Africa. However, these initiatives have fallen short of meeting the demands of African countries. This was further added by the growing problem of domestic debt in many of the African countries.

2.3. Diaspora as a Resource

Since the time of decolonization, thousands of African nationals migrated to various part of the world to pursue better economic prospects within or outside Africa. The diasporas possess immense intellectual, technical, financial, and other resources that remain largely untapped, and which, if more effectively harnessed and utilized, can contribute substantially for the development of African continent.[14] According to International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 22% of African Diasporas are in the teaching, education and research professions; 20% in finance, investments and economics; 20% in public health; 15% in engineering; 9% in agriculture; 5% in information technology; 5% in legal sciences; 3% in administration, and; 1% in natural sciences. The 2000 US census indicates that foreign-born Sub-Saharan Africans (recent immigrants) have the highest

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[13] Dr.Maxwell M. M kwezalamba and Emmanuel J. Chinyama "Implementation of Africa's Integration and Development Agenda: Challenges and Prospects. African Integration Review, Vol.1, No. 1 January 2007.

[14] (IOM) International organization for migration (2007). *Migration for development in Africa(MIDA): Mobilizing the African Diaspora for the development of Africa.*
http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/brochures_and_i nfo_sheets/MIDA_EN_updated.pdf.

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proportion of foreign-born individuals, 25 years and over who have bachelor's degrees (49.3%) compared to Europe (32.9%) and Asia (44.9%). At least 38.2% of Sub-Saharan householders in the US own their own homes. The average median household income of foreign-born households headed by Sub-Saharan Africans was $36,371, according to the 2000 US census. For the period 2000 through 2002, the median household income for African Americans was $29,483 according to the US Census. Home-ownership for African Americans was 48% in 2003. Black-owned business in 1997, the latest period for which data is available, employed 718,300 persons and generated US$71 billion in revenues, according to the US Census. By 2005, 3000,000- 500,000 including 30,000 doctoral degree holders, had left the continent and 20,000 more emigrate each year to the U.S. or Europe. Also, five million African entrepreneurs and professional are living in the diaspora and that 40 percent of African professionals and higher level managers are residing outside the continent. Moreover, the IMF estimates that the African Diaspora now constitutes the biggest group of foreign investors in Africa. Therefore, the diaspora of highly skilled Africans has reached a point where it has caused international debates and suggestions as to how to reduce its impact on the societies left behind.[15]As a result, the African diaspora are well equipped with new ideas and skills which they gained from their host country. They not only gained knowledge and expertise but send money back to the countries of their origin which became the main source of income in many of the African countries.

According to the Union Economic Commission for Africa and the international organization for migration (IOM), it is estimated that since 1990 at least 20,000 people leave the continent annually. The US census 2000 officially documented, voluntary African immigrant in North America and Europe are about 3 million of which 1 million in USA, 282,600 in Canada, 1.7 million in Europe (not include North Africa). Therefore, about one third of modern Africa's highly qualified human resources are present in Diaspora. Besides earning money and sending back home they also represent inaudible human resources of expertise, knowledge, education, and entrepreneurship that can be

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[15] Isodore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu, 'the new African diaspora'. Amadu Jacky Kaba "Africa's Migration Brain Drain: Factors Contributing to the Mass Emigration of Africa's elite to the west. Indiana University press (2009)

deployed in their home countries. For instance; countries like Nigeria have more than half their academic personnel working abroad. In Ghana and Zimbabwe, three-quarters of all doctors leave within few years after completing medical training, more Ethiopian doctors are practicing in Chicago than in Ethiopia and South Africa produces approximately 2,500 nurses per year, but a 2006 study by the Centre for Global Development found that more than 4,844 were working overseas; at least 12,207 South African health workers, including an estimated 21% of doctors produced in the country, were practicing abroad in 2000. This shows that Africa is losing the human resources it needs most for economic, social, scientific, and technological progress.[16]

2.4. The role of Diaspora that can play in the development efforts of Africa's

The African Diasporas can play a very crucial role in helping to develop their homelands apart from simply sending remittances. People of the Diaspora present special advantages for African countries over foreign investors. They are in the position to simultaneously valuing and understanding two cultures (home and host countries), making them ideally suited to offer an alternative, and perhaps more effective ways to communicating the development message. They understand the local context and are able to identify specific challenges, and they are willing to take more risks, as well as on how to adopt strategies to avoid them. Moreover they have an emotional and cultural attachment to their countries of descent. The culturally hybridized and their transnational roots enable them to serve as a potentially important links between the two cultures, as well as to assemble considerable resources. This places Diaspora groups into a strategically important position in terms of advancing their homelands –socially, economically, and politically. They are powerful forces that can mobilize tangible foreign assistance efforts- a force that cannot be ignored by mainstream development actors.

As a result, the African Diaspora is a very important part of, not only in economic terms, but also in political, social and cultural terms. The importance of the financial and

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[16] World Bank, 'Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development'. Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C World Bank, 2007.

intellectual wealth of the African Diasporas to overall prosperity need to be recognized and harnessed. This requires establishing formal links with the Diaspora at the government level. Besides helping to boost African economies, tapping the talent of the Diasporas could help reverse the shortage of skills in Africa. African countries need nurses and medical doctors to extend access to health services for the poor, well-trained educators to ensure that primary education targets are met, and agricultural extension officers and scientists to address hunger and food insecurity. Skilled personnel power in order to meet the needs of the private sector, and entrepreneurs to ensure jobs creation. Professionals are vital to strengthen the capacity of government institutions to deliver public goods.

2.4.1. Mobilizing Financial Resources for development

In order to achieved development in the continent, former Zambian president Kenneth Kuanda says that African leaders must build bridges to Africans living outside of the continent. Noting that African Americans earned an annual aggregate income of around US$750-billion, he said this economic potential needed to be harnessed for the development of Africa.

2.4.1.1 Remittance

Diaspora groups have been engaged in the development of their home countries for many years. Over the years, Diaspora has played a traditional, albeit consistent role in contributing to their homelands' economies through increasingly large level of remittances. In the past few years, it has been growing tremendously and plays a non-negligible role in some countries economies. According to a 2005 World Bank report, remittances flows from the African Diaspora are in excess of $4-6 billion per year and a significant number of professionals from the continent are currently living outside of Africa. In 2006, according to IMF estimates of formal remittances, Nigeria receives the continent's largest inflows, with an estimated $2.27 billion; South Africa and Uganda both received around $650 million, and Kenya and Senegal $500 million each; next is Lesotho with $355 million, followed by Ghana, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Mali and Togo. Even on the basis of such fragmentary official statistics, Lesotho, Cape Verde,

Gambia, Senegal, Togo and Uganda all depend for over 5 per cent of their national income on remittance.[17] And in 2008, according to the World Bank, they send remittances of about $20 billion to Sub-Sahara Africa. Despite the current economic downturn, a recent analysis by World Bank expert's estimates that remittance flows to Africa dip only slightly to $19 billion in 2009. The African Development Bank, combining remittances sent back to North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, estimates that Africa receives $32 billion a year from the Africans Diaspora. These estimates represent official channel figures. It does not account for the vast flow of remittances sent back to Africa through unofficial channels. For example, the Central Bank of Nigeria, taking into consideration official and unofficial remittances, estimated that the Nigerian's diaspora sent home a sum of $ 8 million between January and June 2007.[17]

Therefore, in many African economies, remittances are playing an increasingly central role – accounting for 5% to 20% of GDP.[19] In some countries, remittances account for half of the national income. A significant percentage of remittances are informal and difficult to quantify. These financial remittances contribute tangibly towards poverty alleviation, economic development, savings, mobilization, productive investments and emergency aid in the country of origin. Recognizing the economic leverage of remittances from the global Diaspora and the potentially enormous economic, social, and political benefits for the homeland, national policymakers from developing countries and skilled members of their respective Diasporas have seen the need to begin some sort of consultative process with the goal of effectively mobilizing the Diaspora so as to determine how members may best contribute to development of their homelands.

In acknowledging these financial resources of the Diaspora, the African Union took up an initiative to mobilize for the development of Africa. The AU has taken up initiative to improve governments—increasing expertise, reducing corruption, and strengthening

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[17] David Styan, 'The security of Africans beyond borders: Migration, remittances and London's transnational entrepreneurs', by International Affairs 83: 6 (2007). The Author (s). Journal compilation 2007 Blackwell Publishing Ltd/The Royal institute of International Affairs.

democratic ideas and practices—and to regain control over the African economies, resources, and trade.

2.4.1.2 Investment

The Africa Recruit conducted a survey on Diaspora remittances and investment for the Africa Diaspora Investment 2005, pointed out that a potential investment of about 1.5billion US dollars flows annually into Africa by the Diaspora, a massive increase of 20% from the previous year. Areas of Diasporas investment range widely with setting up and running a business, which is still very popular. However the stock market shows an increase of 16% from 8% of the previous year. This indicated the reflection of the increase in investment by the African diasporas.[18]

Despite this improvement, the African's weak economic performance over the long term is reflected in inadequate investment and low productivity growth. Over the last 25 years, investment rates in sub-Saharan African have averaged around 18 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), a performance that when compared, are very poor, to most other developing regions. Therefore, the African Diaspora who has financial resources can contribute by setting up local business as well as private (voluntary) development project. Apart from family business or small scale business, they can invest in macro level to foster development in, and of, the continent. The immigrant communities who often plays an important role in developing new markets and in creating trade links between the sending and the receiving country can act as a "reputational enhancement mechanism", i.e. migrants can help to "market" products or services of their countries of origin to potential customers in countries of destination. Often, Diasporas entrepreneurs themselves invest in their countries of origin, thus helping to channel the investments of others, for example in the context of outsourcing software services and development. Such investments in turn can trigger the transfer of technology, as well as the skills and knowledge required to use this technology. The transfer of technology and skills is enhanced by the temporary or permanent physical return of professionals, who have

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[18] Africa Diaspora Investment Forum, 'Emerging investors in Africa'. 12-19 September 2005, London UK. Organize by The Stock Nigerian Exchange, NEPAD, BEN and African Recruit.

upgraded their skills while working abroad and are able to pass them on to colleagues in their countries of origin, Security considerations related to property rights, financial and economic stability and the protection of human rights in both the countries of origin and the country of destination are key to the success of such endeavors.

2.4.2. Knowledge sharing or transferring of knowledge

Many Africans in Diaspora have professional skills that can contribute to development efforts in African countries, either through short-term placements, sharing research findings or cooperation projects. At the same time, research findings can be shared through networks of scientists without physical relocation of the scientists living in the diaspora. The diasporas can promote scholars exchange and cooperation projects between foreign and African universities, research institutions and the growing numbers of think tanks in Africa. The massive migration of African nationals left many African countries in difficulties in the delivery of basic services in health and education.[19]

Education is one of the key factors to Africa's security, development, and good governance. Through education people gain knowledge, it is knowledge that drives globalization, stock markets, changes in information technology, and strategies to tackle HIV/AIDS. The successful pursuit of democratization, gender equality, environmental management, and sustainable development is predicated upon the rejection of obsolescent knowledge and the promotion of a knowledge renaissance. Therefore the African Union acknowledges that The Diasporas are not just a source of remittances. In addition to their financial engagement, diasporas can help foster innovation, trigger learning processes or facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology to their countries of origin. The African Diaspora possess a potential of expertise, education and entrepreneurship that can be imparted to their countries of origin. They can transfer, ideas, information, knowledge, skills and know how back home in which the African countries are very

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[19] Mr.Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, 'The Role of the Diaspora in Support of Africa's Development'. London. The African Diaspora Leadership Forum, 2006.
http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/speeches/USGDiasporaLdrship%20Forum%203%20Oct%20London.pdf

much in need of. The African countries are in constraint of human resources that needs to address the problem in order to develop the country.

2.4.2.1 Science and technology

The continuous outflow of skilled personnel contributes to a widening gap in science and technology between Africa and other countries. Due to lack of human resources, the African institutions are increasingly dependent on foreign expertise. To fill the human resource gap Africa employs up to 150,000 expatriate professionals at a cost of US$4 billion a year.[20] Kaunda said that there are 200 000 African scientists in the United States, which is more than we have on the entire continent. And "there are 40 000 African PhDs living outside the continent." Recently the World Bank estimates that those leaving their home countries run as high as 70,000 per annum. This led to the continued dependence of the continent on foreign expertise to fill crucial human resources needs, with Africa spending US$4 billion per year – representing 35% of total official development aid to the continent – to employ an estimated 100,000 expatriate professionals.[21]

The African Union (AU) is deeply aware of the importance of science and technology to become an industrialize country of the world. In underscoring the centrality and importance of education in the development of Africa, the AU proposed for the establishment of Pan- African University of Science and technology in the continent. The African Diaspora of highly qualified acquired their knowledge, experience and expertise through former education and training in the knowledge institutions in their host country, will enables them to impart skills and specialized knowledge of valuable quality to the continent. These Africa's intellectual Diaspora has also a great potential to serve as a major conduit for attracting outsourcing, transfer of technology and commercialized knowledge to the continent. Due to this, the African Union (AU) has recently identified the African Diaspora as custodian of valuable skills and expertise that should be involved

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[20] Ainalem Tebeje, 'Brain Drain and Capacity Building in Africa'. 2005,Accessed on Nov. 3.http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-71249-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

[21] Bathseba H. Belai, 'Enabling Diaspora Engagement in Africa: Resources, Mechanisms and Gaps Case Study: Ethiopia', A study by The Association for Higher Education and Development May 2007 Ottawa, Canada (AHEAD).

in the continent's developments programmes and held in consultations with its Diaspora groups in North America, Brazil, and to discuss strategies for designation the African Diaspora world wide as African's 6th region (along the lines of the regional economic commissions) Africans in the Diaspora are important stakeholders in Africa's development.

2.4.2.2 Health Sector

Mostly recently, the African Diaspora begun to represent a unique human resource that comprises specific knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm that can be organized productively to assist with a variety of development initiatives back home. The health crisis in Africa has intensified with the advent of the HIV/ AID epidemic. The heavy lost of health professional posses the threat of collapsed health services and major risks to the lives of Africa's poor. Most of the health professional's emigrant from the sub- Saharan Africa go to a few recipient countries, mainly the United Kingdom and the United States. Countries like Nigeria have more than half their academic personnel working abroad. In Ghana and Zimbabwe, three-quarters of all doctors leave within a few years of completing medical school; more Ethiopian doctors are practicing in Chicago than in Ethiopia; South Africa produces approximately 2,500 nurses per year, but a 2006 study by the Centre for Global Development found that more than 4,844 were working overseas; at least 12,207 South African health workers, including an estimated 21% of doctors produced in the country, were practicing abroad in 2006.[24]

2.4.2.3 Health care expertise

African-American physicians are estimated to be 16,282 while African American Nurses are estimated at approximately 295,080 nurses. It is common knowledge that there are an estimated 6000 to 10,000 Nigerian and 3000 to 5000 Ethiopian healthcare professionals (Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists, Social Workers, health therapists, etc) in the USA. There are smaller but significant numbers of healthcare professionals from other African countries in the USA. Therefore, a huge number of African Diaspora Healthcare professionals who, when mobilized and incentivized, can be available to help meet the

healthcare planning, prevention, education, treatment and care needs of African countries. These are the countries where WHO estimates put the shortage of 2.1 million healthcare workers, and where there is more than 50% of global disease burden but have only 15% of the world's healthcare workforce.

Hence, this departure of health professionals has eroded the ability of medical and social services in several sub-Saharan countries to deliver even basic health and social needs. Thirty-eight of the 47 sub-Saharan African countries fall short of the minimum World Health Organization (WHO) standard of 20 physicians per 100,000 people. [22]Therefore, the African union recognized that the African health professionals practicing in various parts of the developed countries can make a contribution for the development of health workers in Africa.

2.4.3. Advocacy on behalf of continent

The Diaspora can contribute to Africa's development efforts through sustained advocacy for and on behalf of the continent. The advocacy efforts can also be channeled into a strong lobby or pro African policies by the stronger, more developed economies and focus on issues of debt cancellation; renegotiation of the extant trading regime and more favorable policies towards African countries. Through building partnerships with key stakeholders and lobbying as well as incisive research on topical African issues, the fledgling Diaspora 'think tanks' can play a crucial role in influencing the policy debate in their host countries on a range of issues of interest to Africa. Moreover, the African Diaspora can strengthen the bilateral relationship between the host and their countries of origin. They can lobby those policy makers on the issues in favour of their countries of origin in term of trade and investment. They can also advocate for collaboration in the fields of science and technology between the two countries. At the international level, the Diaspora can play a substantial role in shifting the international perception of Africa through avocation for a more balanced and accurate coverage of African issues by international media. Also, the huge presence of African Diasporas in such powerful

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[22] Ainalem Tebeje, 'Brain Drain and Capacity Building in Africa'. 2005,Accessed on Nov. 3.http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-71249-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

centres such as North America and Europe where global policy decisions are made has an especially important strategic significance. They can advocate in the international institution such as World Bank, UNO, and IMF etc on behalf of the continent on various issues regarding the development of African union and its member states.

Underscoring the lack of human and capital resources in the continent and the availability of such resources in the African Diaspora, the AU has started to acknowledge the potential of the African Diaspora for the development of the African union as well as Africa. The African diaspora can play a significant role in supporting Africa's quest and efforts for promoting sustainable development in the context of the African union and its programme, the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD).The African union took up the initiative to harness the Diasporic resources for the development of the continent. Therefore, the AU has taken plans and policy to engage the Diasporas, so that they can contribute to the development of Africa without permanent return to their countries origin. Various outreach activities and/or specific actions targeting the Africans in the Diaspora have been undertaken by the African Union, including meetings and efforts aimed at involving the Diaspora in the debate on the continent and its future

2.4.4. Sustainable development

In order to move forward in the global world, Africa needs the help of international support and more importantly the African Diasporas in making a practical contribution to accelerate growth and development in Africa. As in terms of industrialization, Africa is the least developed region of the world. It accounts for a negligible share of global industrial output and manufactured exports. Only in a few of the countries is the manufacturing value added/GDP ratio above 20 percent. In a large number of African countries, the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP is less than 15 per cent and in some cases lower than 5 per cent. The output of the sector is heavily concentrated on low technology products such as food, textiles, clothing, footwear, etc. The majority of African countries are yet to be involved in any significant sense in the medium- and high-technology segments of global manufacturing that have been characterized by dynamism and rapid growth in recent years. So, the African economy is heavily dependent on the

production and exports of primary products and consequently suffers from the associated risks of this dependence. In order to accelerate growth and development, the continent must take advantage of new opportunities offered by globalization by preparing enterprises, putting in place policies for upgrading, developing human resources, strengthening its capacities for innovation, by accepting the facts, republic of south Africa of industrialization The acceleration of Africa's industrialization requires the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional, continental and international level.

For attaining sustainable development, Africa also needs to look into other issues like health, education, science and technology that are facing the continent. In order to develop human resources, education is a fundamental human right and the most powerful lever for the promotion of welfare, civic and social advancement, the progress of democracy and respect for human rights, the building of peace and the promotion of an environment that allows pluralism, knowledge – including scientific and technological knowledge – and cultural diversity to prosper. As such, it is a precondition for sustainable development, economic growth and poverty reduction.

Industrialization is a critical engine of economic growth and development. Indeed, an essence of development. Africa remain the poorest region of the world, where 34 of the 50 least developed countries are located and in which poverty is on the increase, is a reflection of its low level of industrialization and marginalisation in global manufacturing. There exists a strong linkage between industrial productive capacity, economic growth, and level of development. The developing regions and countries that are sharing in the benefits of globalization, making progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and moving up on the ladder of development are the rapidly industrializing ones. Africa has not benefited much from the process of globalization and risks not meeting the MDGs in spite of its richness in natural resources.

Principally, the African Diaspora, like other immigrant groups, contributes to their home countries in many significant ways: providing much-needed financial support to family

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and communities, establish small businesses, put private commercial vehicles on the road, stimulating new home constructions and artisan enterprise development, serving as cultural ambassadors, helping to extend and maintain public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, and their fledging sector-thematic networks are beginning to deliver services in the health and education sectors in particular. And for more optimal utilization of resources, there are the National Level Provision of incentives to African Diaspora Experts in Science and Technology to contribute to national industrial development and at the Regional Level Mobilization of African Diaspora in Science and Technology for the building of technology design, innovation and adaptation capacity. Yet, this contribution has a long way back to achieved sustainable development in the continent as they are of short term engagement.

2.4.5 Achieving Millennium Development Goals

In 2002, the United Nation has set down a Millennium Development Goals to be achieves by 2015 all over the world. Substantial progress has been made globally in achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals, but many countries remain off track to meeting them by 2015. This is particularly true in large parts of Africa where some states are fragile or emerging from conflicts. The continent as a whole is lagging behind on each Goal despite a very encouraging recent rise in the rate of economic growth, an overall improvement in the policy environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals. Therefore, about 30 or so African countries are judged to be in a position to use external assistance effectively, it is estimated that an increase of $20-$25 billion in official development assistance from the current $13 billion to $33-$ 38 billion would be required to enable them to reach the MDGs.[23] As a result, the African Union recognized that the African Diaspora can also contribute to the efforts of achieving targets set by the MDGs, particularly in sectors relating to poverty eradication, gender, health, sustainable environmental development and global partnerships. The MDG are as follows:

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[23] African Development Bank and World Bank , Global Poverty Report (2002), 'Achieving the Mellenium Development Goals in africa Progress, prospects, and Policy implication, June.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education;

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women;

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality;

Goal 5: Improve maternal health;

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability;

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

2.5. AU initiative to include its Diaspora into the framework of its Organization

After winning legal civil rights protection and experiencing a growing proportion of middle class households in their adopted countries, the African Diaspora is now moving to position themselves as influential political and economic powerbrokers in their adopted countries. The AU has sought to engage the diasporas in recognizing the potential of their resources. Moreover, the phenomenon of globalization, with its gradual erosion of national or regional economic boundaries and the instant capacity to connect people living thousands of miles apart, is accelerating the quest for connectivity among people of shared lineage and history.

Referring to AU engagement toward its African Diaspora, Kaunda the former president of Zambia said that, "The time for talk and romanticizing the necessity for coming together is past. The time is now for action .It is important to do more than lay out a welcome mat to encourage our brothers and sisters to come back home". He encourages the African countries to develop strategies to recruit, to encourage and demonstrate that they are serious about their return to their origin. The African union has taken up a well plan initiatives towards the African Diaspora in reversing the possess human and finance resources for the development of their origin.

Against the backdrop of African development efforts and the need to constructively engage all the African and its Diaspora, the African union took up a historic step to engage the Diaspora for the development of Africa. For the first time, the AU has invited

African's Diaspora (those who trace their roots back to the continent) to actively take part in the Region's development."[24] The African union (AU) recognized that the African Diaspora can play a crucial role in achieving the goals of development in the continent and to accelerate economic development by pooling the resources of African Diasporas if they are willing to do so. The Diaspora possesses potential of skills, knowledge, ideas and also finance which they can offer for the enrichment of Africa. The AU sought to establish a framework to mainstream the Diaspora into its policy making. Their disposal in economic, social and economic resources can make a significant contribution to the development and poverty reduction efforts in Africa.

2.5.1 Civil Society Conference

African Union has recognized the important role of Civil Society. The new institution "guided by the need to build new partnership between Governments and all segments of the civil society, including women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen the solidarity and cohesion among our peoples." as instructed by the Constitutive Act. Therefore, the AU, primarily through the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA), itself a civil society initiative that has become a central pillar of the new Union, has been reaching out to civil societies groups and incorporating them into the mainstream of decision making processes.

The Civil Society groups elected a Provisional Working Group to work with the CSSDCA Process on these matters on a continuous basis in between the larger assemblies. The same meeting reviewed the CSSDCA Processes and Memorandum of Understanding and made adjustments, which were submitted to and ratified by African leaders at the Durban Summit in preference to the document that was concluded by Member States. This marked the beginning of a process of direct involvement of the Civil Society in the decision making process of the African Union.

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[24] Gumisai Mutume (2003). *"Reversing Africa's "brain drain": New initiatives tap skills of African expatriates ".* African Recovery.vol.17#2 .July. page 1.

In recognizing the diasporas as an important stakeholder in Africa's development, the AU embraced the Diaspora in the Civil Society Conferences in order to include them in the working of the AU. As part of the process of transformation and renewal, the OAU/AU held two major OAU-Civil Society Conferences on 11-14 June 2001 and 11-15 June 2002 respectively. The objective of these Conferences was to forge partnership between the OAU/AU and Civil Society Organizations in promoting peace, security, development, human rights and democracy on the Continent. The second Conference in 2002, which focused on the contribution of the Civil Society to the establishment of the African Union, included representatives of the Diaspora. It also elected a Provisional Working Group, with two-year tenure, to work with the African Union Commission on a continuous basis in between larger assemblies, which are to be held on bi-annual basis. The Diaspora was given two representatives on this working Group - one for Europe and one for the Western Hemisphere including the US and other parts of the Americas.[25]

2.5.2 Western Hemisphere –AU Diaspora Forum

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum in which African Diaspora Groups and organizations as well as international development agencies can gain greater knowledge about the African Union. More significantly, the meeting is designed to establish the foundation for a process whereby Africans in Diaspora can be associated with the AU and contribute effectively to the realization of its goals and objectives. Thus, collaboration is not expected to be a one-way activity but established in a sustained and reciprocal manner, in which we take from the Diaspora and offer something in return. Continental Africans and Africans in Diaspora must collaborate so that they can support each other. The African Union would endeavor to find out from what you expect from them and what they can do to promote the interests and well being of the Africans in Diaspora. This meeting is first and foremost a learning process.

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[25] African union (2003). *The development of the diaspora initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU"*. Executive council Extrodianry Session. Sun City. South Africa. Ext/EX/CL/S(III)."

During the 1st Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council held in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa called for the involvement of the African Diaspora in the programmes of the Union. Consequently, the AU Commission had launched the first Western Hemisphere-AU Diaspora forum, which was held on Dec-17-19, 2002, in US, provides a forum in which African Diaspora groups and organization as well as international development agencies can gain greater knowledge about the African union. The Western Hemisphere Diaspora Network (WHADN) was established to encourage and facilitate the utilization of the collective talents and resources of the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean to advance the collective interest of Africans on the continent and throughout the Diaspora.[26]

2.5.3 Adoption of Article to include its Diaspora

The African Diaspora possesses economic, social, cultural and political potential of resources which can be beneficial for the development of Africa. Recognizing these resources, the African union sought to engage the diaspora in taking part in the decision making in matter of Africa's developmental effort. Therefore, during the 1st Ordinary sessions of the executive Council held in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa mandated the AU to work with the African Diaspora and support their involvement in the programmes of the union. During the Maputo Summit in July 2003, the Assembly of heads of State and Government endorsed this decision and included a new clause in the AU Constitutive Act to *"invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora in the building of the African union"*.

On 3rd February 2003, the Extraordinary Summit of the assembly of heads of states and government was held in Addis Ababa in which, Senegal proposed an amendment to

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[26] Johann Mouton, Nelius Boshoff, Tembile Kulati and Frank Teng-Zeng (2007). *Scientific Mobility and the African Diaspora.* James Martin Institute working paper 6. Project Deliverable#4. *This paper was prepared under Work Package 2 of ResIST- Researching Inequality through Science and Technology-a STREP under Priority 7 of the 6th Framework Programme: Citizen and Governance in Knowledge –based Society.*

formally integrate the Diaspora in the policy framework of the union. The proposed amendment was refined and adopted by the summit in a new Article 3 (q) of the constitutive Act of African Union as it shall "invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our continent in the building of the African union" This amendment was a landmark shift in policy, beginning the long-awaited outreach to African peoples globally in the institution-building of Africa and ensure that Africans in the Diaspora are included in developments in Africa paving the way for continental and national initiatives regarding Diaspora engagement.

2.5.4 Recognized as sixth region

To include the Diaspora into the framework of African union, African leaders took decision to eventually recognize the Diaspora as the sixth region of the AU at the African Union meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2003, thus putting a sense of urgency in organized efforts to develop a durable partnership between Africa and its Diaspora. As one of the integral regions of Africa, the African Union declared the African Diaspora as the 6th region of Africa which consist of north, south, east, west, central Africa and the Diaspora in the America, Europe, Caribbean, Australia and in Asia as one region. Along the same line, the AU creates an economic, social and cultural council (ECOSOCC) which includes Representative of 6th region and 20 seats has been reserved for Diaspora organization. The African union has invited the African Diaspora to become "voting members" of the AU and also in decision-making in matters that affects Africa's development so that they can directly involve in the activities of the AU. The AU asked the member countries to create a conducive environment to attract investment in their countries to implement the Migration policy for Africa.

2.5.5 Encourage Citizenship for the Diaspora

As the Diaspora gain more voice and recognition through the power of their remittances in economic development of their home countries, they have begun demanding participation in their home countries' political process. An increasing number of Africans abroad are seeking elected office in their home countries,

including as members of their national legislatures and even as presidential aspirant. The African Diaspora started demanding that by given them the right to vote in their home countries so that they can actively participate in the development efforts effectively in anticipation of the country's Electoral Commission guidelines, has prepared unofficial Questions and Answers for public information, education and discussion. Acknowledging this, the AU asked the African governments to grant dual citizenship to the Diaspora so that they can actively involved in making policies for the development of their country. Following this, few countries has started adopting, for instance Ghana: The Ghana Government passed laws allowing dual nationality status (Dual Citizenship Act of 2000) followed by the Representation of Peoples Amendment Act (ROPAA) in 2005; the latter will allow Ghanaian citizens residing abroad to vote in national elections from their overseas place of residence.

2.5.6 Common Policy on Migration

Migration in Africa attracts much attention and focus. In Africa, there are an estimated 16.3 million migrants and close to 13.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Recognizing the challenges African countries are facing in regards to the flow of irregular migration, human trafficking, brain drain and migrant right as well as HIV/AIDS and their related issues, the OUA Council of Ministers during its 74th Ordinary Session (Lusaka, Zambia, July 2001) adopted Decision CM/Dec 614 (LXXIV).

- To develop a strategic framework for migration policy in Africa that could contribute to addressing the challenges posed by migration and to ensure the integration of migration and related issues into the national and regional agenda for security, stability, development and co-operation (5);
- To work towards free movement of people and to strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation in matters concerning migration on the basis of the established processes of migration at the regional and sub regional levels; (6) and
- To create an environment conducive to facilitating the participation of migrants, in particular,those in the diaspora in the development of their own countries (7).

In the Executive Council Ninth Ordinary Session 25-26 June 2006,held in Banjul , the Ghambia "the migration policy framework for Africa" EX.CL/276(IX) adopted policy on:

a. Labour Migration
b. Human Rights of Migrants
c. Internal Migration
d. Migration data
e. Migration and Development
f. Inter-state and Inter-Regional cooperation
g. Other Social issues deserving attention

The Migration Policy Framework for Africa in various issues are adopted as a basic guideline and reference document to assist member states and RECs to develop national and regional migration policies and urges its member states and RECs to utilize these framework.

2.5.7. Enabling environment to engage its Diaspora

Over the last two decades global output has grown strongly. Over this same period African output has also risen, with much of it accounted for by South Africa and Nigeria. However, Africa's share of the global economy has fallen from 2.2% in 1985 to 1.6% in 2004. For long, African economies have relied on their extractive industries and the export of primary commodities as the main drivers of growth, making them vulnerable to global shocks.

In order to achieve the development efforts, the most important element is a conducive environment which has been lacking in African countries. The African countries are in chaos and violent had hinders the Diaspora to put their roots in their origin countries. Therefore, the AU asked the members states of Africa to create good governance, active citizenship participation, proper economic policies and their transparent implementation etc to attract Diasporas investment in their country. Also the AU encourages implementing the migration policy framework for Africa and allowed free movement of

people, right of resident and legal employment in host countries. Moreover the AU urges its member states to create a conducive atmosphere for managing migration and to encourage Africans in the Diaspora to invest in Africa in order to create job opportunities for youth of both sexes, thus maximizing the potential of migration for socio-economic development, while minimizing its negative consequences.

2.6. AU Initiative at regional level

As part of the preparation for this great opportunity a number of regional, sub- regional, national meeting were organized for the African Diaspora community in several parts of the define sixth region. Several conferences, forum and meeting have taken place in various regions within and outside Africa. African and its Diaspora in Europe, Caribbean and Americas are determined to develop concrete and integrated measures that would extricate them from the conditions of underdevelopment. Thus, through pan-African linkages based on their common history, descent and destiny in opposition to racial discrimination and colonialism, and the creation of a new Africa, the AU is determined to strengthen the linkages between Africa and its Diaspora. The overall understanding is that the African Diaspora should get directly involved with AU activities and vice-versa, including those regarding integrated development and the sharing of technical and financial expertise. A number of national, regional, and international initiatives have been taken, even though limited in their impact, to stem the outflow of highly educated African. And since the formation the leaders of both the Diaspora as well as the AU had their meeting such as in the united state of America, Latin America, Brazil, Canada, and the Caribbean and in European (in the UK and the Holland).

For the first time, the 1st western Hemisphere-AU Diaspora forum was held in Dec-17-19, 2002, USA. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum in which African Diaspora groups and organization as well as international development agencies can gain greater knowledge about the African union. The regional meeting between the African union and the Caribbean was also held to create linkages between Africa and the Diaspora; establish mechanisms for building stronger political and economic relations between Africa and the Caribbeans; and develop an agenda for confronting common

challenges in order to support the implementation of the African Union decisions on the African Diaspora. The Extra-Ordinary Session of the Executive Council that first established the roadmap for the Diaspora Programme was held in Sun City, as earlier noted. This was followed in 2005 by the 1st African Union (AU)-South Africa Caribbean Diaspora Summit. The Decision of the Executive Council and the Assembly in Khartoum,Sudan, on the African Diaspora process took note of the results of the 1st AU-South Africa Caribbean Diaspora Summit and decided on the hosting of the 2nd Africa-Caribbean Conference in the Republic of South Africa. It also requested "South Africa and the Commission to cooperate in this regard".

In July 2004, the Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with the Foundation for Democracy in Africa and the Emancipation Committee of Trinidad and Tobago, convened the AU Technical Workshop on Relations with the Diaspora, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Delegates representing Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, Canada and the United States attended the workshop. The Technical Workshop was convened in terms of Executive Council Decision on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative in the African Union (Ext./EX/CL/5(III), adopted in Sun City, South Africa, in May 2003, to address the following issues:

a. Definition of the Diaspora;

b. Role of the Diaspora in reversing the African brain drain in line with NEPAD recommendations;

c. Modalities for the creation of a Diaspora Fund for investment and development in Africa;

d. Modalities for the development of scientific and technical networks to channel the repatriation of scientific knowledge from the Diaspora to Africa, and the establishment of co-operation between those abroad and those at home;

e. Establishment of a Diaspora database to promote and facilitate networking and collaboration between experts in their respective countries of origin and those in the Diaspora.

In April 25, 2005, a historic African Diaspora Community Forum was also held at the National Library and Archives, in Ottawa,Canada, attended by more than 160 people including the diplomatic corps, academia, international relief organizations, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and other religious and community organizations. Along the same line, the 1st and 2nd Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora was held in Darker, Senegal in 2004 and later in Salvador-Bahia, Brazil, on 12-14 July 2006 to engage the Intellectual African Diaspora.

Similarly, in 2006 AFRICANDO Hemispheric Summit on science, technology and research for Africa's development was held from the 20th to the 22nd of July 2006 at Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida, USA. The Conference deliberated on how Africans in the Diaspora could contribute and collaborate with the African Union and its Member States in implementing Africa's Consolidated Science and Technology Plan of Action, CPA. The aim of this Forum was to heighten awareness of the role the African Diaspora can play in improving the quality of life of the African communities. As well, it was intended to mobilize much needed resources from the Diaspora, the Canadian Government and NGO's for the purpose of confronting challenges of development in Africa.

Accordingly the AU executive meeting in Sudan, 2006, endorsed South Africa as the host of the 2nd African-Caribbean Diaspora Conference (decision 269). Pursuant to the implementation of this mandate, South Africa, in consultation with the AU Commission, decided on a three-phased approach, namely the Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs), the Ministerial Conference and the Summit. In collaboration with South Africa, in 2007 the RCC was convened in various part of the following region:

- Latin America: Brasilia, 16 April 2007;
- United Kingdom: London, 23 – 25 April 2007;
- North America: New York, 22 – 23 June 2007;
- The Caribbean: Barbados, 27 – 28 August 2007;

- Europe: Paris, 12 – 13 September 2007; and

- Africa: Addis Ababa, 15 –16 October 2007

The RCC discussions were guided by the following sub-themes which emanate from the first SAAU-Caribbean Diaspora Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2005 (i) international affairs, peace and security (seeking strategic response to globalization); (ii) regional development and integration(joint venture mechanisms to transform manufacturing industries and ensure Africa as favorable investment destination); (iv) historical, socio-cultural, and religious commonalities (identifying concrete projects or areas of cooperation); (v) women, youth and children (exploring new models and initiatives to protect the vulnerable and people with disability); and (vi) knowledge sharing (including communication technology to address the digital divide; research collaborations on energy, environment, agriculture and food processing, science and technology; health; emphasizing mathematics in education, intra-Africa and external trade etc).

2.7. In return for the Diaspora

During the Washington Forum ,the diasporas initiatives of the African union outlined 'what the diasporas may expect' from the AU as a measure of credible involvement in the policy making processes, some corresponding level of representation, symbolic identifications, requirements of dual or honorary citizenship of some sort, moral and political support of diasporas initiatives in their respective regions, preferential treatment and access to African economic undertakings including consultancies , trade preferences and benefits for entrepreneurs, vis-à-vis non-african, social and political recognition as evident in invitation to summits and important meeting etc.[27] Also, in 2003, Maputo Summit, Mbeki said that AU relationship with the diasporas should not be a one-way affair that focuses on financial source for Africa, but a reciprocal relationship.[28]

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[27] African union (2003). *The development of the diaspora initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU*". Executive council Extrodianry Session. Sun City. South Africa. Ext/EX/CL/S(III)."

Accordingly, the AU asked the member countries to grant dual citizenship to the Diaspora so that they can actively involved in making policies for the development of the country. The AU also invites the African Diaspora to become its "voting members" and in decision- making in matters that affects Africa's development so that they can be directly involved in the activities of the AU.

4

CHAPTER THREE

CONTEXT AND PROGRAMMES OF AU FOR ENGAGING ITS DIASPORAS

3.1. Diasporas in sixth region of Africa

Several hundred years ago the African were transported to America, Europe and the Caribbean as a slave and after the decolonization of the continent, some migrated to other parts of the world for economic, political, educational factor. Accordingly, the African Diasporas are divided into two categories:

(a). Africans in America, the UK, Brazil/Latin America/ Caribbean as a result of involuntary immigration and identify themselves with the entire region and

(b).The new African immigration after the second world war, chiefly in north America and Europe, and to smaller extents in Australia and Japan etc as a result of voluntary migration often for higher education and such career prospect.[1]

Therefore, those Diaspora who were transported to Atlantic during the era of slave trade are so called involuntary migration or the historic African Diaspora. And the new African Diasporas are exclusively on recent African migration from the postcolonial era, departing from the dominant African Diaspora discourse

The AU estimates that the African Diaspora are about: 112.6 million people in South America (primarily Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela); 39.2 million people in North America (USA and Canada); 13.5 million people in the Caribbean; and about 3.5 million people in Europe.[2]

3.2 The structure of African Union

The structural framework to engage the diaspora by the African Union is follows;

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[1] World Bank, *'Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development'*. Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C 2007.World Bank Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT.DIASPORA/General/21686696/conceptual

[2] World Bank, 'World Bank official engage African diaspora in Development Efforts', Washington,DC, Dec.3 2007.

- The African Union: The African Union will act as the coordinator between the various diaspora network and its members states

- ECOSOCC: it will be the vehicle for building a strong partnership between government and all segments of African civil society. It consists of a General Assembly, a Steering Committee, Sectoral Cluster Committees. In the general assembly, all the representatives of CSOs selected as members of ECOSOCC and shall meet once every two years to review the activities of ECOSOCC and the union, and to propose appropriate actions and recommendation. In Steering Committee will be composed of 12 members including 10 representatives of the Sectoral Cluster Committees, a representative of the diaspora and the president of ECOSOCC and the Sectoral Cluster Committees act as key operational sector for CSO members of ECOSOCC.

- CIDO: The secretariat of the Union and executives Instrument. It will mainstream civil Society participation of the work of African Union

- Civil Society: African social groups, professional groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and cultural organizations of diasporas from the sixth region of Africa.

3.2.1 Objectives

- To harness the human and capital resources of the Diaspora for the development of African continent

- To return the knowledge, experiences, skills, expertise of the diasporas to the country of origin to accelerate the development of the continent

- To achieve the target of millennium development goals

- To advocate a favourable policy in the host country towards their countrries of origin in terms of trade and investment

- To advocate a policy on behalf of the continent at the international level such as UN, WTO, IMF etc in favour of the continent.

3.2.2. Modalities for transferring of knowledge

The AU has taken up initiatives to harness the resources of its diaspora to accelerate the social and economic development of the continent. Adding to this, there are diaspora groups and individuals interested in contributing to home country capacity development efforts. Therefore, In order to transfer the social resources, the AU proposed different modalities in transferring skills, expertise, knowledge etc in areas of education, health, science and technology, through which it will be suitable for both the diasporas and their respective countries of origin.

These can be transfer through a mode of:

Short- term assignments, which can be used to fill skills-gap in home countrys' institutions. Experts from the Diaspora can be temporarily placed in areas where severe shortage of resources have been identified, such as in education, or the African health sector.

Permanent returns, where the diaspora member relocates to the home country. This is suitable for those immigrants who are approaching retirement and would like to return to their country. This permanent transfer to their countries of origin should be based on the decision of the diasporas members to return permanently in order to contribute to the development of his or her country.

Virtual participation, imparting knowledge, skills and expertise, regardless of its distance and location, the Diaspora can contribute towards the development of the continent. Information and Communication Technologies development in recent years provides opportunities for involvement hitherto unavailable, such as long distance teaching, sharing of information with local counterparts via electronic means, formation of academic, scientific and all types of professional networks for collaboration on researches, and other projects, etc.

Resource mobilization, which involves the collection and channeling of financial and other material resources from the diasporas to their countries of origin – books to equip a university library or medical equipment for a local hospital, for example – in response to identified needs.It can be Investments, purchasing of commercial or residential property in their countries of origin, depositing savings in home countries financial institutions and the support of local development projects.

3.3 The AU's Programme and its Functions to engage its Diaspora

To mobilize their human and other resources of the diasporas towards the development of African countries, the African union has set up a various programme to actively engage the diasporas. The ECOSOCC, one of the main organs of AU has reserved seats for the Diaspora to take part in the organization of AU. The African Citizens Directorate (CIDO), to mainstream Civil Society participation in its work, and also collaborates with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to reverse the skills and expertise back to their origin. Moreover, the African Union Diaspora Initiative (AUDI), to engage the diasporas in Americas and the World Bank partnering with African countries and assist or support them to meet their obligations and expectations under the AU agenda.

3.3.1 ECOSOCC

The AU constitutive Act create an Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and under the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the African Union's Constitutive Act, ECOSOCC is the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil societies. It represents one hundred and fifty (150) CSOs, including different social and professional groups in Member States of the Union and the African Diasporas. To actively engage the diasporas in the function of the African Union, the AU in conformity with the Article 5 of the status: twenty (20) CSOs were reserved for the African Diaspora as defined by the Executive Council, covering the sixth region of Diaspora. The elected Diaspora societies will participate at the highest

decision and policy-making body - its General Assembly so that they can influence policy and decision making on issue pertaining to the development of the continent.[3]

During the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2004, the Statute of ECOSOCC was adopted by the Heads of State and Government as an advisory organ of the African Union. It composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the African Union *[Assembly/AU/Dec.42 (III)]*, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and cultural organizations and various groups of diasporas for the contribution of development efforts of the continent.

The distinctive character of the African Union's ECOSOCC is that it is an opportunity for African civil society to play an active role in charting the future of the Continent, organizing itself in partnership with African governments to contribute to the principles, policies and programmes of the Union.

Objectives

ECOSOCC shall amongst other things, and in conformity with the objectives of the African Union as provided in the Constitutive Act, Article 2 performs the following functions:

- Promote continuous dialogue between all segments of the African people on issues concerning Africa and its future;
- Forge strong partnerships between governments and all segments of the civil Society, in particular women, the youth, children, the Diaspora, organized labour, the private sector and professional groups;
- Promote the participation of African civil society in the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Union.

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[3] African Union, '*Draft Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African union.Expert*'. Meeting on Statutes of the ECOSOCC of the African Union 12-14 May 2003, Addis Ababa-Ethopia, Exp/Draft/ECOSOCC Statutes/ Rev.2.

- Support policies and programmes that will promote peace, security and stability in Africa, and foster development and integration of the continent;
- Promote and defend a culture of good governance, democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, human rights and freedoms as well as social justice;
- Promote, advocate and defend a culture of gender equality;
- Promote and strengthen the institutional, human and operational capacities of the African civil society;

Functions

According to the article 7, ECOSOCC as an advisory organ, shall:

- Contribute, through advise, to the effective translation of the objectives, principles and policies of the Union into concrete programmes, as well as the evaluation of these programmes;
- Undertake studies that are recommended or deemed necessary by any other organ of the Union and submit recommendations accordingly;
- Carry out other studies as it deems necessary and submit recommendations as appropriate;
- Contribute to the promotion of popularization, popular participation, sharing of best practices and expertise, and the realization of the vision and objectives of the Union;
- Contribute to the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, good governance, democratic principles, gender equality and child rights;
- Foster and consolidate partnership between the Union and CSOs through effective public enlightment, mobilization and feedback on the activities of the Union;
- Promote, across the continent and in the diasporas, strong reflection groups on Africa, in order to forge Pan-African values towards enhancing an authentic African social model and ways of life

The ECOSOCC which was launched during an historic event in Addis Ababa in 29 March 2005 had not been successful in it implementation regarding the representation of

the Diasporas. The Diasporas has not been involved in various consultative and subsequent electoral processes. Hence, this policy briefly examines the challenges facing the effective representation of the African Diaspora in the General Assembly of the AU's ECOSOCC.[4] Even though it allocates 20 seats to the Diaspora, the practical organization of proper elections that will permit their membership into ECOSOCC has failed to represent in the ECOSOCC till the last election. Referring to this problem Dr. Jinmi Adisa stated that he hoped that by 2010, we will see at the very least the adoption of an adequate formula for Diaspora participation on elected basis.

The key policy and institutional obstacles constrain its ability to deliver the promise of a civil society voice within the AU. First, the structures of ECOSOCC are not sufficiently supported at the continental level. The Interim Standing Committee of ECOSOCC remains too reliant on the African Citizen's Directorate for funding, advice and administrative support. Secondly, the processes for election of ECOSOCC national chapters and continental representatives are unclear and flawed, while eligibility criteria established by the ECOSOCC Statutes exclude many civil society organizations with a contribution to make. Thirdly, despite sub-regional and national consultations, there is need to increase publicity and knowledge of ECOSOCC. A number of national chapters are yet to be activated or are poorly functioned. Finally, ECOSOCC's legal framework as an organ with only advisory status, and without its own treaty, significantly weakens its position. For these reasons, as currently constituted, ECOSOCC is unable to speak credibly as an independent civil society voice. If the ECOSOCC and civil society leadership are able to break through these obstacles, ECOSOCC has the potential eventually to become a genuine voice for Africa's citizens within the AU system.

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[4] Francis N. Ikome, 'The challenges of diaspora representation in the African Union's ECOSOCC Assembly'. Policy Brief 55. February 2009. Published by the centre for policy studies, an independent research institution, incorporated as an association not for gain under section 21 of the companies Act.

3.3.2 CIDO

The African Citizens Directorate (CIDO) is a branch of the commission designed to mainstream Civil Society participation in its work. The Commission, just like ECOSOCC, the African Union has created the African Citizens Directorate (CIDO), as an organ of the African Union to facilitate implementation of decisions. Its responsibility is to mainstream the participation of the African Diasporas in the Work of the Union. It is both the Secretariat of the Union and executives instrument. CIDO is its sectoral arm focused on the implementation of directives related to partnership with African Citizens in general including the African Civil Society and the African Diaspora. This includes follow-up on the support and advice offered by ECOSOCC itself, to ensure that they are actually taken into account in the spirit of partnership with civil societies as instructed by the Constitutive Act.[5]

The objective of CIDO is a second-order objective and its sole focus is to follow-up on civil society participation activities. Some of these activities would necessarily take place outside ECOSOCC. In the critical brainstorming session held in ILRI, Addis Ababa, in November 2003, the consensus was that AU-CSO relations cannot and would not be confined to ECOSOCC. There would be room for bilateral engagements, relationship with networks and other processes outside ECOSOCC. CIDO would also follow up on these processes. It is also significant that certain civil societies organizations, such as faith-based groups, were not allowed in ECOSOCC by the executive policy organs. CIDO would also seek to collate inputs of these elements by feeding their work into the affairs of the Commission as the implementing arm of the Union. Other Organs, such as the PSC have also created instruments for civil society participation under their protocols and CIDO would also follow-up on this sectoral engagement.

CIDO was established under Article 20 to serve as a civil society parliament. Since the establishment of CIDO, under the guidance and able leadership of His Excellency, Prof.

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[5] Dr.Jinmi Adisa, 'ECOSOCC Agenda: Reflection on the past and future challenges', 2nd of the Interim Standing Committee of ECOSOCC, Cairo, Egypt, 24-26 February 2007,Rev.1.

Alpha Oumar Konare, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, we have developed a "civil society first tradition" through which all our gatherings begins with civil society consultations as evidenced in the AU pre-Summit meetings. This is a consolidation of Africa's tradition that seeks to establish a people-driven community in the African Union

Even though ECOSOCC Statute does provide for Diaspora participation in the work of ECOSOCC, the organization of Diaspora networks and the task of designing frameworks for harnessing their inputs is that of the Commission and the Member States of the Union. Therefore, CIDO is the executive instrument for the facilitation of this enterprise.

Regarding the differences between the ECOSOCC and CIDO, it is necessary to take two things into account. First, the relationship is best constructed on a mutually reinforcing basis rather than competitive. This would facilitate interoperability and add value to the ECOSSOC process. Within the framework of the Union Government proposals, attempts are being made to recommend the upgrading of ECOSOCC to a consultative rather than advisory body and to increase its relative autonomy. There are issues associated with this as would be seen when we consider the ECOSOCC perspective on the Union Government. Meanwhile, it would be useful to ensure that a supportive and close working relationship would add value to the objectives of ECOSOCC and the Commission in this mutual regard.

Second, is the need to further underline the fact that there is no basis for competition between CIDO and ECOSOCC. Their objectives and spheres of concern are co-related. ECOSOCC is an organ of the entire Union. CIDO is an instrument of the Secretariat that can facilitate and support the task of ECOSOCC but which has its own set of priorities and actions within the framework of the Commission.

3.3.3 NEPAD

The Africa Union is a bold vision for the continent, and one of the most important Components of it is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is an economic development program of the African Union. It was adopted at the 37th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 in Lusaka,

Zambia. NEPAD aims to provide an overarching vision and policy framework for accelerating economic co-operation and integration among African countries. Recently, the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) has sought to involve the African Diaspora in Africa's development. The African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have identified the importance of Diaspora to the continent's efforts to reinvigorate social, political and economic life for the betterment of its peoples. NEPAD aims to immediately reverse some of the "haemorrhaging" of Africa's best talent as a short-term measure to begin the process of building human capacity in Africa. Its medium term strategy is to attract the skills to Africa and those retained those developed within Africa. Long-term strategy is to address the development of the talents and careers and to ensure that policies in place address the work force for the 21st Century. The huge number of Africa's professionals now living outside the continent naturally makes an engagement with the Diaspora a key NEPAD objective. The Commonwealth Business Council and NEPAD Secretariat have established Africa Recruit to provide a platform for debate with the African Diaspora on how to contribute to an Africa's wide human resources/ skills strategy, and ensure that governments and employers work together to make skills transfer and employment opportunities easier to match. The African Union (AU) has expressed its appreciation for the initiative, which supports the AU's policies on the role and contribution of the Diaspora.

Under the NEPAD initiative the African's Diaspora contribution has been mainly associated with the ambitious goal of turning the brain drain "phenomena into a brain gain" potential. Due to the failure in tackling two key structural impediments to Africa's development in the 21st century of trade and debt, it arise a question whether the NEPAD can harness the African Diaspora's development effort?.

3.3.4 AUDI

The African Union Diaspora Initiative (AUDI) is a program of AU mission in the USA and the organization of African professionals and associate in the Diaspora (OAPAD)

Inc. USA. The African Union in recognizing the Africans in the Diaspora as its sixth Region, the A.U. proceeded to establish in Washington D.C. its Mission with a broad mandate that includes the mobilization of Africans in the Diaspora as a vibrant constituency that can contributes to the development efforts of the continent and Participates in the mission of the A.U continentally and globally.

In 2002, the Organization of African Professionals and Associates in the Diaspora (O.A.P.A.D.) was incorporated about the same time as the AU resolution, with the objectives of developing a theoretical and practical macro-framework for Africans in the Diaspora to contribute to Africa's development and poverty reduction Efforts. These separate but related perspectives eventually converged under the AUDI Initiative in 2008 after several meetings between Mr. Nwaneri (founder of OAPAD) and the new Ambassador of the African Mission in Washington, H. E. Amina S. Ali.

The goal of the initiative is to set up in Washington DC a platform with the necessary structure to:

- To mobilize Africans in the Diaspora

- Assist the AU mission through technical advice and other means to undertake its mandate

- To confront other challenges and concerns of Africans in the USA and across the globe

The objectives of AUDI

- Mobilize Africans in the Diaspora under one representative umbrella organization that builds their capacity to be effective in the following activities

- Engagement with the U.S. public and private agencies like other constituencies in the US polity, economy and society.
- Strengthening the bonds between the Africans and the African-American communities in the Americas

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- Engagement with the multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies in the US and across the globe that are involved in Africa's development efforts

The Organizational framework consists of the following;

- An Umbrella Assembly that meets once a year to review progress is more enlightened and sanctions decisions on the initiative.

- A Council that oversees and coordinates the implementation of its mandate
- Committees of the Council that undertake various tasks assigned to them

- Full-time Management that undertakes the Research, prepares the work of the council, its committees and partners as well as directing its overall relations with the A.U. Mission and other outside entities.
- A group of associated NGOs that partner with the AUDIC in implementing its mandate

The AUDI Program is driven by a team of expert advisers (the AUDI Council--AUDIC) assembled by the OAPAD from various Africans in the USA with experience and exposure in Africa and across the globe.

Challenges

However, the AUDI faces challenges confronting from the directions of global, continental and institutional as well. The current global economic recession in the developed countries is threatening Africa's march towards economic development, poverty reduction, integration and good governance. To confront this global challenge, Africa must exploit its vital and rapidly growing resources of human, technical and financial capital in the Diaspora like many other continents. Mobilizing these resources towards that effort is a great challenge to the AU Mission and Africans in the Diaspora.

At the continental level, the African Union is gradually transforming itself towards a Union Government. The United States of Africa, which will consolidate and expand its economic, political and social achievements and move towards continental renaissance. The A.U resolved to embrace its citizens in the Diaspora and also currently implementing its resolution to integrate Africa's financial system by establishing one African Union Central Bank in Abuja Nigeria and ultimately having a common currency for its people.

The election of a new African- American President in the United States had transformed the political environment for Africans in a way never dreamed of before. This is a challenge of immense proportion to both the A.U. and Africans in U.S. Diaspora to reach out to the new US Administration

Inspite of the mention above, the continent is confronted by growing poverty in Africa despite their past efforts and threatened by global depression that may worsen the plight of these countries, international development institutions like the World Bank and IMF are facing some degree of transformation in the way they do business .Therefore, they are looking toward a new areas to expand their outreach and engaging the Africans in the Diaspora appears to be a good option to explore. This is posing some challenges of organization, enlightenment and capacity building. The AU and Africans in the Diaspora are responding to this development by mobilizing themselves to be effectively engaged with these development institutions.[6]

3.3.5. World Bank World Bank Efforts to Engage Diaspora

The African union has called on the World Bank to engage the African diasporas. In response to the AU initiative, the World Bank launched its African Diaspora program in September 2007 and has been using its convening power and information and technology resources to help Africa engage its Diaspora. The Bank is also keen to engage with other development partners to help further the Diaspora's efforts on the continent. Therefore,

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[6] The African Union Mission 1919 Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 7001 N. Washington D.C. 20006 USA.

on December 3, 2007 World Bank officials, members of Washington's diplomatic community and about 300 representatives from African Diaspora organizations in the United States and Canada, and African American and Caribbean organizations, gathered at the World Bank on Nov. 29, to discuss increased efforts by the World Bank Group to engage the African Diaspora in aiding development in Sub-Saharan Africa in concert with the strategy outlined by the Africa Union (AU). The aimed is to highlight the central role of this group in drawing financial and professional resources back to Africa. The World Bank's strategy to engage the African Diaspora focuses on three pillars: working with the African Union Commission (AUC) and providing technical support to its African Diaspora program, working with the partner country governments to assist in creating the "enabling environments" for Diaspora engagement, and working with development partners to establish a mechanism to provide grant and technical assistance support to Diaspora development projects in Africa. As part of this, the Bank has undertaken the following:

- In November 2007, an Open House for the African Diaspora was held at Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Several hundred participants spent a full day discussing ways in which the Diaspora could aid in African development.

- A high-level seminar of the African Diaspora under the auspices of the Joint African Institute (JAI) and the World Bank was held in South Africa in February 2008.

- In May 2008, a workshop for Diaspora entitled "Understanding the World Bank Group – How to do Business Together", was held at the Bank in Washington, DC to provide Diaspora with relevant information on engaging with the World Bank. The response was very encouraging.

- In June 2008, the Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in Europe (D-MADE) was held in Brussels, Belgium. Over 500 businesses submitted proposals. A jury awarded nearly $1 billion to sixteen projects in 11 African countries.

- In July 2008, the Bank signed an agreement with the AU in Washington, D.C., to assist in the development of the AU's capacity to focus on Diaspora issues.

- In September 2008, the AU launched the African Diaspora Health Initiative aimed at linking specific health expertise among Africans in the Diaspora with health needs in designate geographical locations in Africa
- .Also, in September, World Bank Group President Zoellick and Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU, signed an Memorandum of Understanding that includes partnering on Diaspora engagement.
- The Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in North America (D-MADA) is under preparation for North American Diaspora and will be launched later in 2008.

Through its activities, the World Bank hopes to develop policies of engagement with the Diaspora in order to serve as a catalyst of activities by the Diaspora as individuals, groups or networks. In collaborating with African union strategy, the World Bank aims to exploit the continent's valuable resources abroad. Among other initiatives, the Banks announced that it will collaborate with the AU in exploring the possibilities for the development of a Diaspora Remittances to finance Diaspora-led development activities.

The Bank also said it would work with members of the Diaspora to, among other things such as,

- Engage them, in collaboration with African member countries, in the design and implementation of the Bank's ongoing portfolio of projects in the region;
- Form partnerships with multi-national corporations with strong business ties in Africa;
- Build on ongoing efforts to provide "virtual" participation that would allow Diaspora members in North America and Europe to connect with groups in the continent.
- Work with international donors on a proposed African Diaspora Engagement and Facilitation Fund; and
- Support the idea of short, medium and long term placements, as well as the return of Diaspora members, in Africa and promote retention of professional resources on the continent.

The World Bank also hopes to use its engagement with the African Diaspora to strengthen the performance of its extensive portfolio of about US$22 billion in investment and development policy loans in the region. And the four key elements of the

World Bank's program for the African Diaspora that covered during the open house, included "World Bank Portfolio", "African Diaspora Remittances Investment Fund", "Enabling Environment & Country Ownership", and "Knowledge Sharing".

The event, held at World Bank headquarters in Washington, USA, also aimed to highlight the central role of this group in drawing financial and professional resources back to Africa. "A partnership with Africans in the Diaspora for the continent's development is essential to enable Africa to increase its capacity to acquire, use, and apply knowledge and increase its access to financial resources," World Bank Africa Region Vice President Obiageli Ezekwesili said during her speech.[7] Strengthening and enhancing the involvement of the African Diaspora in the development process is a key aspect in fostering the migration-development nexus and has been identified in NEPAD as a sectoral priority within its Human Resource Development Initiative.

The World Bank in partnering with the African union has taken up initiatives in solving health problem such as malaria, HIV/AID etc. According to the Heads of State at the Abuja 2006 Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria noted that Countries south of the Sahara constitute 10% of the global population but account for more than 60% of the estimated HIV infected people in the world. Africa accounts for 77.4% of AIDS death worldwide and 90% of all AIDS orphans (0-17 years of age) in the world. Africa accounts for more than 25% of all TB reported cases in the world and is the only region in the world where TB incidence rates are increasing despite the availability of effective TB control strategies and implementation programs. More than 600,000 people die of TB in Africa and at least 2 million contract TB every year. Rather than the World Bank, the international organization like International organization for migration (IOM) has been mobilizing the Diaspora to reverse back the potential of Diaspora to the development

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[7] World Bank, 'Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development initiative', Washington. D.C. World Bank.USAID,2008
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,contentMDK:21936148~pagePK:146736~piPK:226340~theSitePK:258644,00.html

effort of Africa. The IOM has taken up a policy regarding the migration so that both the sending countries and the host countries can benefit from it.

3.3.6 Civil society organization

In 26-27,2004, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), from across Africa and the Diaspora attending the 3rd AU Civil Society Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It encourage the AU's decisions as reflected in the preamble of the AU Constitutive Act, Article 3(a), (g) (h) (k), and Article 22 to engage CSOs in the development, strengthening, and operationalization of the AU at all levels . It also reaffirms the commitment of CSOs in Africa and in the Diaspora to actively work with the AU as full fledge partners for the realization of the objectives, and principles of the AU. In order to work in close relationship between the Union and CSOs, it emphasized in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. As article 90 of that Treaty states inter alia: 'the community, in the context of mobilizing the human and natural resources of Africa, shall establish relations of cooperation with African non-governmental organizations with a view to encouraging the involvement of the African people in the process of integrating and mobilizing their technical, material and financial support.' Article 90 further enjoined the African Economic Community to therefore 'set up a mechanism for consultation with such non-governmental organizations.'

Therefore to involve the CSOs, the 1st OAU – Civil Society Conference held between the 11th and 15th of June 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia signaled strong approval of the Secretary General's recommendation under the theme *"Building Partnerships for Promoting Peace and Development in Africa"*. The main objective of the Conference, apart from improving and consolidating the collaboration between the OAU and CSOs in Africa, was 'to assist in promoting a homegrown African Civil Society and enhance its contribution to the fulfillment of the Union's mission. The 2nd AU – Civil Society Conference was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between the 11th and 14th of June 2002, under the theme *"Developing Partnerships between the OAU and African Civil Society Organizations"*. The Conference was convened to consolidate the progress made at the

1st Conference, to develop modalities and mechanisms of collaboration between the OAU and CSOs in Africa, and to assess actions undertaken so far to implement the framework drawn up at the 1st Conference. **CONSCIOUS** of the important role that can be played by Civil Society on the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Durban, South Africa in July, 2002, Organizations in Africa and the African diaspora, and the specific role assigned to them in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the CSSDCA as well as the role they are expected to perform in the realization of the objectives of the New Partnership for African Development.

In the code of conduct, article 5: Good governance

- CSOs shall be legally constituted in their country of operation.

- CSOs shall operate under the terms set out in a written Constitution or any other such instrument (the Constitution), which amongst other things shall clearly articulate the organization's vision, objectives and organizational structure.

- The members of the apex governing body must set high personal standards for themselves and others within the organization.

- The governing bodies shall govern the organizations in a fair, impartial and responsible manner. The apex governing body shall be the final approving authority for all policy statements and annual programs of the organization.

- The apex governing body shall, amongst other things, put in place policies that determine the membership of the organization, promote gender and minority equity and social inclusion.

Article 6: Organizational Integrity and Independence

In article 6, it stated that the constitution or any such documents under which a CSO in operation shall stipulate the tenure of members of the governing bodies with provisions for democratic processes for change in tenureship.

- The principles of transparency and accountability shall be applied to all the affairs and activities of the organizations, whether with the government, the target population, donors and/or other stakeholders. The activities of the Organization

shall, upon request, be open and accessible to scrutiny by its respective donors, except for personal matters, legal matters and proprietary information, as provided by law.

- The apex governing body shall establish clear and unambiguous guidelines, which shall serve the purpose of ensuring that the personal interests of the members and volunteers do not conflict with those of the organization or influence, or affect the performance of their duties. In dealing with complaints of misconduct, abuse of office or other irregularities leveled against any member, staff or volunteer of the organization, the equitable principles of fair hearing shall apply.

- CSOs shall not discriminate against any person in terms of race sex, religion, and ethnicity.[8]

3.4 Regional African Diaspora network and its program

The African countries are in shortage of human and capital resources to achieve the target of MDGs. Therefore, the AU acknowledged that the diasporas possesses the necessary intellectual, material and social capital that can be transfer to their countries of origin to boost development efforts in the continent. Also, the huge present of African diaspora in US, England, France etc where global policy decision are made has an especially important strategic significant to engage the diasporas. They occupy a strategic position that links the developed north with Africa in a more connected manner. Due to this reason, the AU sought to engage the diaspora and called for fuller participation in development efforts of Africa.

In order to mobilize the diasporas in various region across the globe, the regional diasporas network were established to link the diasporas organization to have effective contribution to the development of Africa.

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[8] AU, 'Draft Code of Ethics and Conduct for African civil society Organizations'. June 2003

3.4.1. North America

The African diasporas have long contributed to their countries of origin through pan-Africanism, and remittance they sent home after the decolonization of Africa. Further, the link between the African Continent and North America continue to remain strong based on their common history, decent and destiny, in opposition to racial discrimination and colonialism, and the creation of a new Africa. The AU estimates that there are 39.2 million people in North America (USA and Canada) and about 13.5 millions of African Diaspora in the Caribbean.The AU recognized the potential implication of the African diasporas in the north, In order to actively engage the diasporas, Regional diasporas network such as WANDH, CARICOM and DMADE were established in northern America for effective utilization of the human and capital resources so that they can contribute in building socio-economic development in Africa.

3.4.1.1 The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network

The Western Hemishpere African Diaspora Network (WHADN) was established, at a meeting in Washington D.C. as an outcome of the first African union-African Diaspora forum. It is to interface with the African union commission in regard to different programmes in areas ranging from health, education, science and technology etc. and the network set up permanent working groups made up of experts and resource persons in each area. It is an AU initiative aimed at providing a platform for the African Union to engage with the diaspora. It was created to implement Article 3(q) (amended) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU): [The Union shall] invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our continent, in the building of the African Union." This initiative was launched during the historic First African Union Western Hemisphere Diaspora Forum held in Washington, D.C. from December 17-19, 2002, an event convened by the AU and coordinated by Africa. The network has also decided on the establishment of an AU education Endowment Fund and

an AU Trade and economic development forum for the US Diaspora and agreed on a series of measures for contribution to these findings including elements of salary. [9]

Objectives

The objectives of WHADN are as follows;

- To encourage and facilitate the enduring cultural, social, and economic ties to Africa within the Western hemisphere Diaspora Communities

- To develop and in indentifying funding for capacity building projects by Diaspora civil society organization in the western hemisphere Diaspora and the AU

- To work with the AU to create mechanism to represent the views, concerns, and interest of the African Diaspora within the African Regional organization, representing the following geographical locations: Latin America including Mexico and Central America ,the Caribbean, Brazil, the US and Canada.

Therefore, the Education Working Group's Vision of an Africa is to consistently provide quality education for all. Toward this goal, the working Group's activities focus on providing human and material support for Africa's efforts in education for self-reliance and sustainable development on the continent and extend the efforts to the Diasporas. The education working group aimed to achieve this through the following objectives: to increase literacy in African languages, develop curriculum, facilitate technology exchange and capacity building, expand education opportunities, and facilitate inter university collaboration and funding

The trade and economic development proposed a framework for recommendation as prerequisites to effectively and meaningfully participation in African trade and development by Africans in western hemisphere. This recommendation included considering the African diasporas as a business partner with the African union, and in promoting the African Growth and opportunities Act, developing capital market,

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[9] African union. *The development of the diaspora initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU'.*
Executive council Extrodianry Session. Sun City, South Africa,2003,Ext/EX/CL/S(III)

commodities markets, and commodity pricing and to involved in reparation and loans issues. The WHADN secretarial organizes the participation of its network members at national, regional, and international events and organizes delegations from the diasporas to participate in the AU Summit of Heads of state and government to meet and discuss issues of interest with members of the African diaspora.[10]

In 2004, "African union Technical workshop on the relationship with the diaspora" Mr. Oladeinde noted that the conference, held in Washington, D.C. from 17-19 December 2002, defined the mission of WHADN as the encouragement and facilitation of the use of the collective talents and resources of the African Diaspora in North America, the Caribbean, and Latin America, to support economic development and sustained growth on the continent. WHADN was established as the coordinating network to link the Diaspora and the AU to promote social and economic growth in Africa. The objective is to empower the diaspora to become more associated with AU objectives, growth and development so that they can contribute effectively to the realization of its goals. This will be accomplished through joint projects by the WHADN and the African Union.

Mr Oladeinde observed that WHADN identified 3 basic objectives to guide its mission, including:

- Encouraging and facilitating the enduring cultural, social and economic ties of the Diaspora to Africa
- Developing and identifying funding for capacity building
- Working with the African Union to create representational mechanisms for the Diaspora within the AU structures.

He noted that WHADN has established regional secretariats in Latin America, the Caribbean, Brazil, the United States and Canada.

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[10] African Union. *The development of the diaspora initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU'.* Executive council Extrodianry Session. Sun City, South Africa,2003,Ext/EX/CL/S(III)

The ensuing discussion elicited comprehensive contributions from the participants, and the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- Technology transfer, and the contribution of the Diaspora to this transfer, has a crucial role to play in development.

- It is important to expand research and use the Diaspora in research institutions to exploit their research for Africa's development.

- For the Diaspora to maintain its engagement with Africa, there is need to provide incentives and a relationship of mutual reciprocity.

- The Diaspora should refrain from national associations within the Diaspora as this weakened the Diaspora's bargaining power. The Diasporas were, however, encouraged to strengthen the umbrella organizations within the different countries to increase the voice of the Diaspora.

- The AU commission is also working with the WHADN network to create a corporate framework under US laws to enable the diaspora to contribute resources to the endowment funds.

- The role of Cuba in supporting Africa through different exchange programmes and through its role in the liberation struggles on the continent was underscored, and a call was made to ensure its participation in the Diaspora network.

Some participants however, expressed concern about the depth and reach of WHADN among the African-American community in the US and its organizational structure. Within this context, other participants urged the need for development and consolidation of sub-regional or regional networks as a basis for representation and formation of hemispheric coalitions.

3.4.1.2. CARICOM

There have not been many high profile Africa-Caribbean-Community (CARICOM) summits since South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki spoke to the University of West Indies in Jamaica, in 2003. Still there have been a low-level behind the scenes efforts that

have underscored the importance of the historical links between continental Africa and the Diaspora that have sought to strengthen their social and economic ties. There is a real need for the AU and the CARICOM to formulate alternative media and communication models to effectively communicate with each other and the world at large, and to create an effective outreach strategy to disseminate their policies, positive images, programmes and ideas. These initiatives should include: the sharing and promotion of the knowledge of history, especially among the youth, through all learning institutions; development of a data bank of experts and research institutions in Africa and the Caribbean, to encourage further collaboration between these two players; the use of science and technology as a tool of integration and development. Another notable priority is cooperation in the area of science and technology which should be explored with the view to establishing centers of excellence for the mutual benefit of the Caribbean and African peoples, as well as a basis for developing and creating opportunities for the absorption of human capital in a manner that would be advantageous of both regions.

The need to address economic, trade and regional integration has permeated every development along the way. The AU has also expressed support for the efforts of CARICOM to accelerate its integration process, especially in the implementation of the Single Market Economy, the facilitation of the freedom of movement of peoples among its Member States and the co-ordination of the foreign policies of its Member States. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala, Uganda—November 22-25 was another opportunity for members of CARICM who are also part of the commonwealth to advance the AU-CARICOM agenda.[11]

Meanwhile, Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines   proposed   the granting of the African Union observer status at CARICOM and the granting of CARICOM observer status at the African Union as first steps to a greater bonding between these two entities and leading towards a permanent, intergovernmental African-Caribbean Commission to spearhead the collaborative efforts.

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[11] Peter Madaka, 'African Union Social and Economic Ties with CARICOM'. Kemet music Radio, wed. 11 June 2008. http//kemetmusicradio.com.

3.4.1.3. Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in North America (DMADA)

The Development Marketplace for the African diasporas in North America (DMADA) was launch on February 27-2009, by the African Region of the World Bank as part of its ongoing "mobilizing the African diasporas for Development" initiative. The World Bank will be implementing its program, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) starting from January to December 2010. The Program will seek proposals from members of the African Diasporas living in the USA and Canada, who wish to implement projects related to Youth & Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa countries. They can submit a proposal through a legally registered organization or enterprise (foundations, research institutes, academic institutions, non-government organizations and private business). According to the World Bank's 2008-09 Africa Development, there are 200 million Youth in Africa, of whom approximately 120 million are unemployed and 144 million live on less than $2 a day, between the age of 15 and 24.[12]

This program seeks to address the challenges of youth employment in a sustainable manner and will therefore accept proposals on expanding job opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship, and improving access to education, addressing demographic issues such as young motherhood and the provision of public services, infrastructure and health. Since its inception in 1998, the Marketplace has awarded roughly US$54 million to more than 1,000 projects through global, regional and country-level Marketplaces. Using Development Marketplace funding as a launching pad, many projects go on to scale up or replicate elsewhere, winning prestigious awards for social entrepreneurship.

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[12] On February 27, 2009, the Africa Region of the World Bank will launch the "Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in North America" (DMADA), as part of its ongoing "Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development" initiative

3.4.2. Diaspora Network in Europe

The African Diaspora in Europe presents a strategic position for the African union. According to the World Bank, there are 3.3 million African diasporas in Europe. This huge presence of diasporas who possess considerable amount of knowledge, skill and expertise are a great assets for the development of Africa. Therefore, diaspora program and network were established in Europe in order to mobilize the resources for the benefit of the continent. In recognizing the importance of diapora resources, a regional Consultative Conference co-organized by the African union and the government of South Africa was held in Paris, France in 2007. The delegate of African diaspora in Europe were present at this meeting to create sustainable partnerships between the African daspora and the African continent through a realizable programme of action and to create sustainable dialogue, partnerships and strengthening of pan African solidarity for a better Africa and its diaspora.

3.4.2.1. African Recruit

African Recruit was formally launched in 2002; it is at the forefront of mobilizing skills and strengthening human resource capacity in Africa. It also facilitates the African Diaspora towards capacity building in Africa either through skills or investment in areas such as remittances.

Africa Recruit also seeks to engage with the African Diaspora's human, social and financial capital and provide a platform to enable them contribute to Africa's development. *"Africa Recruit advocates the return of migrants to offer their skills and assist in capacity building through working in Africa on a temporary, interim, consultancy or permanent basis"* [13]

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[13] African Recruit, 'Who we are '(April 2008). W.w.w.africarecruit.com.

Structure

The African recruit structure consists of:

- A global database of over 1,500 African Diaspora organizations on the form of national, professional, community and interest groups and a mailing list of over 150,000

- Over 1,300 human resources practitioners within and outside Africa

- Over 500 organizations and institutions with investment interest in Africa

- Extensive database of 269 African universities

- 356 universities based in Europe ,North America and Asia that includes the top management universities, entries on African Diaspora members in Europe and the Americas

- NEPAD partners such as IOM, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and many others

Objectives

Africa Recruit has thus set a number of key objectives.

- To enable private and public sector African employers, and global companies with footprint in Africa, to work together to boost skills inflow into key managerial and technical areas.

- To create the largest interactive database of job seekers and job opportunities for Africa as a resource for companies and governments.

- To foster debate in Africa and internationally with the African Diaspora on how to contribute to an Africa-wide skills strategy - to change attitudes and perspectives, and to ensure that governments and employers work together to make skill transfer easier including opportunities to self employed Africans

It services includes Knowledge management on human resource/skills development in Africa, Diaspora capacity building:

- Building a robust data base of Africans skills inside and outside Africa to determine what and where these skills are, in addition to identifying the constrains and challenges faced in retaining the skills within Africa

- Enabling the retention of skills in Africa

- Redirecting the skills of the Diaspora to Africa in areas of deficiency and gaps using various outreach tools

- Enhancing remittance capacity using surveys, research, policy formulation and recommendations

- Facilitating the private and public sector engagement with the African Diaspora

- Events on human resources, skills building inside and outside Africa

- Identifying , sharing and disseminating best practices in relation to human resource development

- Mobilizing and facilitating Diaspora investments at policy and operational level at government and private sector level inside and outside Africa

- Engagement with International governments on policy formulation to ensure benefits of migration are captured by African countries

- Facilitating and enabling human and financial capital with a focus on the African Diaspora

- Establishing and working in partnership with various African communities and Diaspora groups to enable effective engagement with African governments and international organizations this could be in the form of seminars, roundtable events or conferences.

- Establishing a policy group of companies to draw on private sector enterprise and experience, and produce research and policy recommendations. The Group will work with African governments to improving the regulatory environment and address the complex social and economic issues involved in meeting the human resources challenges facing African employers in creating jobs and developing the economy.

- Research to inform the developmental and investment potential of the African Diaspora in view of the remittances and current policies by both African and international governments.

- The initiative aims to develop:

  • a global data base of skilled African professionals/technocrats in and outside Africa

  • strategic alliances with various global organisations such labour advisers, head-hunters, recruitment agencies, professional bodies and education institutions in mobilizing skills for Africa

- To priorities jobs in Africa using a global platform (www.findajobinafrica.com)

- To facilitate and manage employers recruitment process by matching employers with the most appropriate recruitment agency

- To work in partnership with organized business in mobilizing human resources for Africa.

- To create a platform to engage citizens of African in the formation of human resources policy

Since its inception in the year 2000, Africa Recruit has achieved a distinguished record of, first, addressing the issue of skills capacity in Africa. Second, Africa Recruit has organized workshops, seminars and conferences, both in and outside of Africa, to link skills and development with issues and problems in the ground inside and outside Africa. Third, Africa Recruit has produced a number of reports, data bases, working papers and position papers on skills and human resource issues, which have been used by policy makers and Overseas Development agencies as well as corporate. Fifth, and as a result of the four achievements listed above, Africa Recruit has successfully fused itself into credible organizations, such as NEPAD, in order to enhance its capacity to reach out and collaborate with public, private and non-profit entities worldwide, for the purpose of pursuing its mission of building human capacity in Africa. *"When Africa Recruit was launched in 2002, I provided an endorsement in the firm belief that its objectives were not only noble but also realizable. Since then, the initiative has performed creditably and become a key part of the NEPAD programme to mobilize quality skills for Africa."* H.E. *Chief Olusegun Obasanjo Ex President Federal Republic of Nigeria 2005*[14]

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[14] African union, *"NEPAD Presentation on African recruit"*. Third ordinary of the African union Labour and social Affair Commission, 18-23 April 2005, South Africa.

Africa Recruit uses information technology and other modern communication techniques to provide information about opportunities in Africa to African professionals in the Diaspora and Africans' in Africa. It also uses these techniques to promote reforms in Africa that should make it more attractive for professionals and technocrats to consider pursuing careers in Africa.

3.4.2.2. African Diaspora policy centre (ADPC)

The ADPC was established in the Netherlands in 2006, ADPC is an independent organization that provides a platform to enable African Diaspora in Europe to connect more closely with the continent as a collective force, pool their resources and proactively undertake initiatives for the promotion of peace, better governance and pursues its brain gain in Africa. ADPC pursues its goals by facilitating and effective harnessing of the considerable, and largely untapped human and capital resources and social capital of the huge African Diaspora population in Europe for the promotion of peace, better governance and brain gain.

The ADPC achieve its objective through the following activities

- applied policy – related research and information

- organizing meetings and conferences

- facilitating links and networking

- capacity building training

- publications

On October 24, 2007, ADPC organized a policy seminar on Diasporas and Policy Dialogue to facilitate an open policy dialogue in which migrant leaders opinion can be shared and exchange of information, new insights, experiences and best practices with other stakeholders such as policy makers, development practitioners, academic

s, civil society organizations and the private sector on diverse issues in the and development field. Likewise, in 1-2 October 2009, the African Diaspora ntre (ADPC) hosts a policy seminar, co-organised by the International Centre tion Policy Development (ICMPD), and supported by the Netherlands Ministry 1 Affairs. The seminar is the second phase of a programme initiated by the further strengthen the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership programme by the considerable potential (capital, knowledge and networks) of the huge iaspora in Europe to play a valuable bridge-building role in the process. The bilization of the Diaspora is critical as the Diaspora are now in a better position ute to the overall development of Africa. More importantly, the African in Europe occupies a vital strategic position that links Europe with Africa in a iected manner. This position enables the Diaspora to build up valuable bridges wo cultures and societies as well as the space to mediate the transfer of values between the two continents.

frican Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

)RD was formed in 1994, Netherlands. It is a UK-based, African Diaspora-led on that work to maximize the contribution that African migrants & diaspora s & communities make to Africa's development by connecting Africans and mizations abroad working for the development of Africa and her peoples ith organizations on the continent working towards the same goals. It harnesses ora's resources to support small & medium sized enterprises in Africa with a iproving business performance & creating jobs, especially for young Africans. a is to expand and enhance the contribution that Africans in the Diaspora make development. In addition to being a consultancy that assists companies and ons in engaging with the African Diaspora, AFFORD also implements projects ams such as Supporting Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development in Africa , which mobilizes the Diaspora and other partners to support and invest in e enterprises, particularly SMEs, that generate wealth and jobs and respond to crisis in Africa. AFFORD is also a think tank that produces knowledge, and policies on migration and development issues (remittances, brain 1, identity), particularly as these issues affect Africa and her global Diaspora.

One of its latest policy proposals is RemitAid – a campaign that advocates Remittance Tax Relief (RTR) for International Development.

By 2008 AFFORD have mobilized African diaspora communities/groups in the diaspora to invest their time, as well as their financial, intellectual, cultural, political and social capital to create/support small, micro & medium sized enterprises (SMMEs) that focus on providing employment opportunities for young people in DRC, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda.

AFFORD seeks to achieve its mission through five strategic goals:
Shift balance of power to Africa

- Enable young people in Africa to live in hope & dignity by securing decent jobs, mainly through their own enterprise
- Work in transparent way with partners around shared values & goals
- Add value to young people's own efforts rather than impose our own
- Combine African diasporas resources & home-based resources to support young entrepreneurs in Africa
- Support African entrepreneurs in food & creative/cultural industries to expand markets among African diasporas consumers for win/win of jobs in diasporas & Africa

AFFORD is present here today as a member of connections for development (CFD), a network of migrants, diasporas Minority communities in the UK with a shared interest in supporting international development in the global south.[15]

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[15] Joseph Gueron and Anne Marie Spevacek, "*Diaspora-development Nexus: The Role of ICT*". (2008)This document was produced by the USAID Knowledge Services Centre for review by the US Agency for International Development. It is operated by Bridgeborn LLC and Library Associates, and funded by M/OCIO/KIM and M/HR/TE under contract RAN-M-00-00005.

3.4.2.4.African Axis

The African Axis is an organization aims at mobilizing and harnessing the intellectual and financial resources of professionals of the African diasporas in Belgium to contribute to public debate on Africa in Europe, influence policy making on Africa at the European level and contributes to the development of the African continent. Its objectives is to encourage and channel the entrepreneurial efforts of the Diaspora.

The organization strives to:

- create opportunities for African diaspora groups and individuals to interact and share the learning and experiences with each other
- strengthen and mobilize African diasporas input into Africa-focused policy processes and initiatives at the EU level
- advocate for adoption of positive policy approaches to Africa at the Belgian government, EU and other international levels
- provide a platform through which the African diasporas can contribute to the economic and social uplifting of the African continent

So far the program is engaging with the members of the African diaspora community, members of the wider European public, the African diplomatic representation in Brussels, European Union institutions, other Brussels-based international and multilateral institutions, Non-governmental organizations, and with the media. And realizes its objectives through three sets of activities: building and sustaining a diasporas network, advocacy and capacity building. The Membership in this organisation is open to a large spectrum of committed people and organizations that share the goals and objectives of the organization, without any presumption in opinions and affiliations.

Programmes

The African Axis programmes includes:

- In collaboration with a number of Belgian national institutions, the organization is working on establishing an up to date database of professionals, teachers, etc of the African diaspora.

- It strives to contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for investment by the African diasporas in the continent's private sector.

Activities:

- Identify and provide members of the diaspora with business opportunities in which they can invest solely or in partnership.

- It also helps to gain access to the international capital market where they can create an investment fund from which they can draw capital later on.

- It manages and monitors the performance of commercial ventures resulting from partnering efforts.

- Maximize the development impact of remittances made by the community.

- Educate the migrant community on the real cost of remitting and the different options available.

- Encourage African governments to support practical remittance management solutions that facilitate investments in the entrepreneurial and other job-creating activities.[16]

Besides the above program and regional diaspora network to engage the diasporas, several European countries have team up with International Organization for Migration (IOM) to promote the temporary return of skilled African professionals from Europe. The MIDA Great Lakes programme, founded in 2001, has targeted health, education, law and engineering professionals living in Belgium, encouraging them to return home for a period of 1 to 6 months to provide short-term assistance and expertise in the Great Lakes region. By early 2009, more than 400 experts had taken part in the programme, and around 20 professionals had returned permanently. The MIDA Ghana programme, meanwhile, began in 2005 and encourages the temporary return of health professionals

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[16] African Axis, 'African Axis aims at mobilizing', http//www.african axis.org, accessed 30 June 2010.

from the Netherlands and other EU countries. By early 2009, 65 health professionals had returned under MIDA Ghana. There is also a MIDA pilot programme in Italy, and IOM is working with the African Development Bank, ECOWAS and SADC to build additional MIDA partnerships with EU countries.[17]

The Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and Action Plan was adopted in Lisbon in 2007. This new strategy, which is often referred to as a 'people-centered partnership', was launched with the purpose of scaling-up political dialogue between the African Union (AU) and the EU in the interests of building a solid and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership. Even before the partnership,the African diasporas in Europe currently contributes huge financial resources in excess of the level of the official development assistance (ODA) to the social welfare and economic growth of their respective homelands. Therefore, significantly, this new Partnership formally recognizes the African diasporas as an important stakeholder in the development efforts regarding Africa. In 2009, on the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and Action Plan, the African Diaspora Policy Centre organized a consultation meeting in The Hague, in order to solicit the perspectives of the diasporas to strengthen the partnership by mobilizing the considerable potential (capital, knowledge and networks) of the huge African diaspora in Europe to play a valuable bridge-building role in the process. Despite the AU policy to engage the Diaspora in Europe, the African Diaspora has to stand up the challenges they face in their host country.

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[17] Migration, Globalisation&Poverty, 'Diaspora and Development: Building Transnational Partnerships', Briefing,August 2009.

CHAPTER FOUR

ASSESSMENTS OF AFRICAN UNION DIASPORA INITIATIVES

4.1 Diaspora contribution to Africa's development

The African Diaspora has always played a significant role in the development and political emancipation of the African countries from the colonization of western countries. The African nationals who had migrated to various part of the world especially toward the west and Europe for pursuing better social and economic prospects has been contributing to their families and relatives by sending money back home. Their potential contribution in term of remittance is huge and became glaring evidence in many of the African countries. By acknowledging this, the African union has taken up huge initiatives to actively engage the Diaspora for the development of Africa. Like other immigrant groups, the African Diaspora contributes to their home countries in many significant ways:by providing much-needed financial support to families and communities, establish small businesses, put private commercial vehicles on the road, stimulating new home constructions and artisan enterprise development, serving as cultural ambassadors, helping to extend and maintain public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, imparting skills and know-how in science and technology and delivering services in the health and education sectors through virtual and short-term visit. Moreover some Diaspora organizations' in Europe and America were actively engage in development activities in their countries of origin by providing material support, advocacy and lobbying in their host countries on behalf of their countries of origin, giving them institutional support, and capacity-building. It also focus on their countries of origin through mediating actors and include disseminating information to decision makers and 'the public at large' about the situation in the home country, engaging in peace building process, lobbying with intergovernmental and state institutions to place an issue on the international agenda or to take action unilaterally, and pressuring NGOs to start campaigning against human rights abuses and the likes.

4.1.1 Politically

The African Diasporas experiencing good governance and democratic form of government in their host countries contribute to the emancipation in their homeland.

Some Diasporas returned back to their homeland in establishing democratic form of government in their countries. They are also involved in the country's national political reforms and drafting of constitutions from the overseas. For instance, the recent efforts by the Eritrean Government to mobilize overseas nationals have built upon a long-standing tradition for the Eritrean diasporas to contribute to the state. During the struggle for independence, Eritreans in the diaspora were mobilized by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) to campaign and increase public awareness in their host countries. The EPLF also ran an NGO network – the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) – targeted on raising money from NGOs and other donors in their host countries. After independence, they participated in the 1993 Referendum for Independence, in which, the vast majority of Eritreans in the diasporas were eligible to vote. After the referendum, overseas nationals were also closely involved with the drafting of Eritrea's Constitution, and its ratification in 1997. The diasporas had formal representation in the Assembly of the Constitutional Committee, amounting to six out of the total of fifty members. Three separate drafts were circulated to Eritrean communities overseas (as well as within Eritrea), and on each occasion feedbacks were invited and incorporated into the next draft.[1] Similarly, the Nigerian Federal government invited NIDO to participate in the country's national political Reforms Conference to present its views and advance its interest in a national constitutional review conference. Also in some countries such as Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia etc the diasporas returned back to their origin in order to set up democratic form of government.

4.1.1.1 Engagement in peace building

Despite their contributions in term of economic and social development, they also contribute in building peace in the country. As most of the African countries were facing conflicts, violents, civil –wars. The African diasporas who had experience good governance in the host country were engage in bringing resolution to the problem of their countries. For instance, Somali diaspora organizations in Norway engage in peace building through activities that are largely directed at specific regions in Somalia and

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[1] Koser, Khalid, 'New African Diasporas,' (2003)London and New York: Routledge, Taylor & Frances groups.

labeled 'humanitarian aid' or 'development aid'. Projects to improve education in Somalia, for example, are presented as important peace building initiatives, as the lack of educational opportunities in Somalia puts young people at risk of engaging in violent conflicts, either as a livelihood strategy or as a way of passing time.[2]

4.1.2 Economically

The most significant contribution of the Diaspora is the economic power of their remittances. It is estimated that the following remittance data for some African countries such as morocco $ 4,589 million (9% of 2005 GDP); Egypt $ 5,017 million (5% of 2005 GDP); Nigeria $ 3,329 million (4% of 2005 GDP) and Kenya 4 524 million (3% of 2005 GDP).These figures only reflects the "official or traceable remittances.[3] In some of the African countries, remittance constitute the largest source of financial flows exceeding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and also more stable than other capital flows such as FDI, ODA and capital market flows.   According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) data collection on remittances in 2002, the country receives nearly 65 percent of officially-recorded remittance flows to the region and 2 percent of global flows. Nigeria is the largest recipient of remittances in SSA. It reported approximately US$2.26 billion in remittances for 2004 despite the deficiencies of data collection and the prevalence of informal transfer mechanisms(50 percent of total remittance flows to the country). In Ghana, remittances from abroad have emerged as one of the foremost contributors to Ghana's GDP. Private remittances were estimated to constitute more than one-sixth of the GDP in 2008. Ghanaian migrants in Germany support their families with regular money transfer on a monthly basis with over half of them of sending money to Ghana eleven times a year, often in smaller amounts of less than 100 Euros.[4] In some country

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[2] Cindy Horst and Mohamed Husein Gaas, "Diaspora Organizations from the Horn of Africa in Norway: Contributions to Peacebuilding?". Policy Brief 2/2009 International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO).

[3] Kimani-Lucas, 'Harnesssing African Diaspora remittances and Skills to drive growth in Africa.' CAPafrique, Oct. 2007, www.capafrique.org

[4] Mariama Awumbila, 'Integration of the African diaspora in development cooperation', speech presented at the 2nd Bonn conference on International Development policy, head of the centre for Migration studies university of Ghana, Legon,August 28 to 29, 2009.

like Eritreans, this remittance send back were used to pay the cost of army which were engaged in a protracted conflict. It also used to provide relief assistance to the refugee.

Through remittances, the African Diaspora contribute to community development – providing financial support for building schools, hospitals and other service centers in their hometowns and villages – much more consistently and to a higher level than delivered by governments and donors through community-driven development (CDD) instruments. For example, members of the Council of Ewe Associations of North America (CEANA), an umbrella group of Ewe people of Ghana, Togo and Benin recently (July 2007) provided communal labor and $25,000 toward construction of three-unit classroom complex for a junior secondary school in Ghana. CEANA had in the past undertaken various activities, including donation of about $3.4 million worth of medical equipment to ten hospitals in Ghana and Togo. The items included an electro-cardiogram and large quantities of hospital supplies. Many African immigrant groups operate scholarship programs for needy students pursuing secondary education in their home communities.

4.1.2.1. Small business investment

One notable way in which Diasporas are involved in development in their 'homeland' is through collective investment in community projects through hometown associations. Examples of the types of project funded by diaspora organizations in their home countries include literacy programmes, hospitals, schools, roads, plumbing systems and internet cafés like the Ghanaian hometown associations in the UK, the rationale for such philanthropy is complex. Ghanaians who are part of UK hometown associations – many of whom are first generation migrants – generally feel a strong obligation to improve the living conditions of those back home. Not surprisingly, however, the scope of these associations' contributions to development varies widely from one to another, and according to the size and wealth of the association's membership.[5]

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[5] Briefing, 'Diaspora and Development: Building Transnational Partnerships' ,Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation&Poverty,August 2009.

Moreover, MIDA, Ghana/ Senegal programme which was funded by the Italian government supports entrepreneurial projects and non-financial services for enterprise creation. The programme offers Ghanaian and Senegalese Diaspora living in Italy the possibility of creating small or medium- sized enterprises in their countries of origin in order to enhance the social-economic development of these countries. In 2006, IOM launched a call for project proposals addressing the Senegalese and Ghanaian diaspora in Italy.[6]

4.1.3 Intellectually

The highly skilled professional African diasporas has been contributing to their countries of their origin in field of science and technology, also imparting knowledge in health care education and its services and educational sectors through a short term visit and virtual return to their homeland.

4.1.3.1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Through the initiative programme of the country of origin to engage its Diaspora or without the express concern of AU initiatives, the African Diasporas has been contributing immensely by setting up information and communication technologies by introducing to the application of the new tools of communication in media development. For instance, in Kenya, the Information and communications technologies (ICTs) Africaonline, was started by Kenyans who were then students at MIT. Today, the business has become one of the major ISPs on the continent. Similarly, Ghana's Network Computer Systems (NCS, owners of www.ghana.com and initially the principal domain extension .gh as well), is the brainchild of a Ghanaian who had spent some time in the U.S. NCS claims on its website, "... Internet Service was introduced in 1993 ... Ghana's first Internet Service. The pioneering effort of Network Computer Systems ... is recognized in the sub-region as the first ISP in West Africa." Nigerians (members of

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[6] IOM (2007), Migration for Development in Africa Moblizing the African diaspora for the development of Africa, http://www.iom.int.

Association of Nigerians Abroad - ANA) were reported to have put their expertise in electrical engineering at the country's disposal when this sector was being privatized. Those involved were said to be nonpartisan, which is a key factor in the context of ethnic and political tension in Nigeria.[7]

Similarly, the Abidjan.net. website was initiated by a member of the Ivorian diasporas in Washington D.C; Ghanaweb, who was working for Nokia in the mid-1090s.Other multimedia sites include Abidjantv.net, and radiodiaspora, all targeting the Ivorian diaspora serving as data hubs for people seeking information about African countries

4.1.3.2 Education sector

In term of imparting knowledge, the diaspora has been contributing to their countries of origin through short- term visit and virtual return which they had gained ideas, skills and expertise from their host country. It also provided occasional face-to-face tutoring, collecting and distributing materials (books, computers, medical supplies, etc) and mobilizing their host countries to assist in these efforts. For instance, Professor Wazi a researcher at the University of Rouen in France lends his knowledge and experience to Goma University by undertaking several MIDA mission for the university between January 2006 and February 2007. The University of Rouen's geology department in France contributes six scientific books to Goma on a weekly basis for a period of 18 months. The association "the friends of Goma" sent 100 books and scientific publications in a container to help researchers; students and research assistants emerge from their scientific isolation. And the MIDA Great Lakes programme has developed – in close collaboration with the University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and with an expert from the Congolese diasporas in Belgium- a comprehensive e- learning course for the faculty of medicine of the university of bubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo.[8]

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[7] World Bank. *Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development.* Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C World Bank(2007) Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT.DIASPORA/General/21686696/conceptual.pdf

[8] IOM, 'Migration for Development in Africa Moblizing the African diaspora for the development of Africa, (2007), http://www.iom.int.

Similarly, in Nigeria, the NIDO delegates recently (July 2007) traveled to Abuja for the 2nd Science and Technology Conference under the theme, *"Connecting Nigeria with Her Diaspora"* to dialogue with their home based colleagues and officials of the federal, state and local governments on the best and most practical, efficient and cost-effective ways to impact the Nigerian economy.

Also, within the frame work of the MIDIA Great Lakes programme- in collaboration with the national University of Rwanda (NUR) and the ULB, IOM- a round table was organized in Butare to discuss "information and Communication Technology in the field of Education (ICTE)" and the role of diaspora teachers.[9] Moreover, A Biotechnology Internship Program was designed to expose faculty members from historically black universities in South Africa to cutting-edge biological research in the U.S. The program enabled the African participants to form collaborative relationships with their U.S. hosts (Towson University Department of Biological Sciences). Six professors from six institutions took part in this program, which was fully supported by the U.S. Information Agency; a South Africa Professors Summer Research Program was also funded by USAID. Also, the Diasporas work through a friend or friends in their areas of origin in order to undertake development initiatives. Such initiatives were the Pwalugu education project and the Bonaboto skills training initiative. Therefore, the efforts of the diasporas feed into processes of organizational development.[10] Likewise, Kenyans in the Diaspora contributions through information and knowledge exchange with Kenyans on the ground is immense. Moreover, the James Madison University (Virginia, U.S.)-University of Cape-Coast (Ghana) Summer Research Program, funded by the National Science Foundation, enables undergraduate students at James Madison University to conduct selected research in sub-Sahara Africa, extending their educational experiences at the global level. The areas of emphasis are ecology, environmental science and conservation biology. Each year, seven students and a high school teacher are selected to participate in the program.

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[9] ibid

[10] Samuel Zan, 'One nation, one people, one destiny', The Ghanaian diaspora's contribution to national development using diverse channels.' Send foundation of west Africa. Report prepared as part of the 'Hellow africa'. Shifting power, tackling poverty by connecting Africa and the African diaspora'project funded by comic Relief.

4.1.2.3 Health Care Services

The highly educated Diaspora has established a link with their home countries institutions such as universities and research centers to contribute to the development of health care service which has been lacking in the continent. Some of the notable examples are the 4,000 member Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA), 10 Ethiopian diaspora's medical networks such as P2P (people to people) and Ethiopian North American home country, including public health and preventive services delivery to the pharmaceuticals product, books and journals, ENAHPA has sponsored over 600 (primarily HIV/AIDS) orphaned children by providing food, clothing, shelter and education. The group also undertook three medical/surgical missions to Ethiopia in 2006 alone, and performed 203 surgeries, most of which were complex procedures, e.g. cardiac, neurological, oral maxillofacial and reconstructive surgeries, and interventional radiology. These groups also conduct workshops and hands-on training for medical professionals in the home country. Also, medical professionals belonging to the Nigerians in the Diaspora Organization (NIDO), which recently held its 2nd Nigeria Diaspora Day / 3rd S & T Conference in Abuja, also delivered the following services while in Nigeria: a Pain and Arthritis Clinic, Training of Trainers on Emergency Medical Response and Life-saving Skills, Free Medical Missions to two General Hospitals, and Molecular Science and Technology Show. Various agencies of the Nigerian Government, including the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency, the Nigerian Police Service and Armed Forces.

The MIDA Ghana Health Project mobilizes skills, experience and resources from the Ghanaian diasporas within the European Union for the development of the health sector in Ghana. Through temporary return assignments, health professional from the Ghanain diaspora assist hospitals and other health institutions in Ghana in such areas as human resource development and medical care and management. For instance, in 2006, Barima Asamoah Kofi IV a Ghanian diaspora went to Ghana for three months to work as a health information counselor in the field of basic health care and HIV/AID prevention. While evaluating his missions, Barima told IOM "I had meetings with groups of people,

informing them on infections, prevention hygiene and sexual relations. There is so much need for this information. But it takes professional skills to inform people in the right way. That is why I'm writing a proposition to train voluntary health information counselors.[11] For example, it has been estimated that in the last three years over 30 medical missions have been undertaken to Nigeria, particularly from America by the Nigerian professionals.

4.1.4. Cultural ambassador:

One of the main activities of African Diasporas is extension of their culture to their host countries. African Diaspora groups are usually organized around their hometown/villages and ethnic groups, which could be viewed in terms of cultural and artistic survival in the age of globalization where survival of ethnic cultures might be threatened by the universality of dominant modern cultures. For example, Ghanafest held in Chicago (IL, USA) in July 2007 featured the various cultures and ethnic groups of Ghana; the gathering was addressed by Ghanaian ministers who came from the home country. African crafts and arts (including clothing) are also popularized by these ambassadors.[12]

4.1.5 Lobbying in the host country

The advocacy efforts were channeled into a strong lobby for pro- African policies by the stronger, more developed economies, particularly the United States, and focusing on issues of debt cancellation; re-negotiation of the extant trading regime and more favorable policies towards African countries. For instances, the black congressional caucus, African studies Association, Historical black universities such as Howard University, was instrumental in the passage of the United States Africa growth and

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[11] IOM, 'Migration for development in Africa(MIDA): Mobilizing the African Diaspora for the development of Africa'. (2007).

[12] World Bank, 'Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development'. Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C 2007.World Bank Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT.DIASPORA/General/21686696/conceptual

opportunities ACT (AGOA) and the allocation of US $15 billion to fight against HIV/AID in 2003. The African immigrant organizations, such as Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), Washington-DC-based NGO, lobby for their host nations to develop policies favorable to trade with Africa. Each year, under the brand name *Africando* (Africa can do), FDA brings together African immigrants, U.S. policymakers (including members of the Congressional Black Caucus), U.S. businesses and chambers of commerce, African-Americans and Miami-Dade County officials together to discuss trade and development opportunities in Africa.[13] Moreover, black congressional caucus, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people (NAACP) were advocate for African refugees to allowed undocumented immigrants who had been in the country since 1982 to legalize their status and remain in the country. Therefore, thousands of African immigrants were benefited from the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) in 1986, which regularize their stay in the United State.[14]

Similarly, in Europe, a number of innovative policies have been introduced with the support of EU government in the past decade, Since 2006, Oxfam Novib, which is partly funded by the Dutch government, has focused on undertaking capacity building with diaspora organizations, focusing on providing them with the practical knowledge need to set up micro-finance programmes and initiate women's empowerment campaigns in their home countries. The UK Department for International Development (DFID), meanwhile, announced a plan in July 2008 to help 600 diaspora members to return to their countries of origin to share their skills and expertise. The programmes, which is run in partnership with the Volunteers Services Overseas, aims to support diaspora organizations in planning and implementing their own volunteering programmes in their countries of origin. This follows previous initiatives by DFID to improve remittance transfers and identify investment opportunities for diaspora groups on the UK.[15] The Development

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[13] ibid

[14] Isidore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu (2009), "the New African Diaspora" Indiana University press.

[15] Briefing, 'Diaspora and Development: Building Transnational Partnerships' ,Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation&Poverty,August 2009.

marketplace for African diaspora in Europe (D-MADE) initiative born out of various African Diaspora organizations in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and other European countries, hopes to generate momentum around innovative ways to mobilize the diasporas' ideas and activities that lead to development in their countries of origin. For example, many individuals within the Somali diaspora in Italy are part of the former elite in Somalia who left the country before or shortly after the collapse of their state remained connected at high levels of political life in both Italy and Somalia, increasing their ability to lobby successfully.

4.2 Initiatives taken by African countries

Besides the African union initiative to engage its diasporas, a numbers of countries have taken steps to bolster networks of skilled diasporas, creating the potential for the exchange of skills some of the African countries such as the Nigeria, south Africa, Ghana and Kenya have taken up a major initiative to harness Diaspora resources to accelerate the development of their countries. They have made specific efforts towards mobilizing the Diaspora in the continent's development process.

4.2.1 Nigeria

As a part of the government's efforts to mobilize and encourage the participation of Nigerians in the Diaspora in the country's development process, the 25 July as the Nigerian Diaspora Day has been set aside to recognize Nigerians in the Diaspora as stakeholders in the Nigerian Project, acknowledging their contributions to national development and celebrate their individual as well as collective successes.[16]

In an effort to collaborate with Nigerians in the Diaspora, the Nigerian Government has provided the Nigerians in the Diaspora Organization (NIDO) office space within its

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[16] Johann Mouton, Nelius Boshoff, Tembile Kulati and Frank Teng-Zeng (2007). *Scientific Mobility and the African Diaspora.* James Martin Institute working paper 6. Project Deliverable#4. *This paper was prepared under Work Package 2 of ResIST- Researching Inequality through Science and Technology-a STREP under Priority 7 of the 6th Framework Programme: Citizen and Governance in Knowledge –based Society.*

Embassy in Washington DC for NIDO coordination, despite, the organization manages its own affairs, including election of executives and board. The emphasis of this workshop was on practical projects covering numerous scientific and technological fields. Nigerian President, Yar-Adua addressed this workshop and called for collaboration with qualified Nigerians in the Diaspora to put science to use in national development and tasked the ministers of science and technology, education and health to work with Nigerians in the Diaspora in creating platforms in science for Nigerian institutions of learning. Also, the Government also recently made available for sale, federal government housing and land in Abuja to NIDO members.[17]

Moreover, the Nigerian Government recently launched the *Linkage with Experts and Academics in the Diaspora* (LEAD) program aimed at attracting qualified Diaspora to contribute to development of the Nigerian University System through short-term (3-12 months) academic appointments. The first phase of the service, commenced in August 2007, was limited to the following disciplines: information and communications technology (ICT), management science and business administration, mathematics, medicine and dentistry, and mining. Diaspora participants will receive: a return economy class air ticket, and accommodation duration stay in Nigeria that would be provided by the University of Attachment. The program will also cover local travel expenses relevant to the program and a professorial salary in Nigeria (US $1,250 - $1,750 per month) depending on field and candidate's level of experience.

The Nigeria bank UBA has also developed a "Non-Resident Nigerian" banking service and some products on offer include local bank account maintenance, loan facilities e.g. for real estate development, asset management products and private equity facilities. The private equity product aimed at encouraging participation of non-resident Nigerians in local small & medium size enterprises. [18] Some other programme such as Nigerian

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[17] World Bank, *'Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development'*. Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C 2007.World Bank Available at
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT.DIASPORA/General/21686696/conceptual

[18] Maureen Kimani-Lucas, 'Harnesssing African Diaspora remittances and Skills to drive growth in Africa.'(2007) CAPafrique, Oct. www.capafrique.org.

National Volunteer Service (NNVS) and Association of Nigerian Physician in the America were also established to facilitate the involvement of the Diaspora in the development of the country. It was also created to explore more ways to integrate Nigerians abroad in national development; they plan to compile a database on the contributions of Nigerian groups abroad to various programmes and events at home.

4.2.2 South Africa

Several initiatives have evolved in South Africa to reverse the skill and of their diasporas for the development of their countries of origin. One initiative is the Homecoming Revolution, a non-profit organization encouraging and assisting South Africans around the world to return home. The activities of Homecoming Revolution were sponsored by the First National Bank and involve work with other strategic partners to make the journey home as easy as possible. In January 2003 the Homecoming Revolution was launched across the internet to 27000 South Africans worldwide, in partnership with THOS (The House of Synergy) and SAW (South Africans Worldwide). This Homecoming Revolution also set up a lifestyle management service which is offering relocation, car hire, property and immigration services that can assessed the areas where people need help on their return journey by setting up partnerships with local businessmen who are also committed to helping South African's return.

The South African Network of Skills Abroad (SANSA) is one of the instruments set up to achieve this transfer of skills. It was established to link highly skilled South African professionals living abroad with their South African counterparts. Although starting off as an independent initiative, it has now been adopted by the government as a key vehicle for linking up with the South African scientific Diaspora network and is now being managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Other initiative like the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI), funded by the Department of Science and Technology RESIS was also established to link the skill

professional diaspora in various part of the globe. The main objective of the programme is to increase the number of world class researchers at South African universities; the ultimate goal is to establish 210 Research Chairs at various higher education institutions by 2010 and 55 Research Chairs that are on offer in the first round of the initiative in 2006 were filled according to a ratio of 3:2 between international and local candidates. In other words, this means that approximately 33 Research Chairs will be filled by researchers from outside South Africa,expatriates or non-South Africans.

Likewise, the South Africa also launched a new initiative - *where are you in the world?* to reach its Diaspora. The initiative seeks "to understand the 'who, where and why' of South Africans living abroad and ultimately to encourage the skills, if not the people, to return to their home country. There is an incentive for the Diaspora to complete the online survey – they stand a chance of winning two return flights to South Africa.) The project is managed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and Homecoming Revolution, a nonprofit organization sponsored by First National Bank. The government has said that it plans to encourage skilled expatriates to play a part in the socio-economic development of the country of their birth, as part of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for SA (Asgi-SA). The survey intends to gather information crucial to building the database of South African skills required by Asgi-SA.(WB) .Also, the First National Bank is encouraging and helping South Africans living abroad to return home by providing financial support to the Homecoming Revolution, an independent non-profit initiative, aimed at touching the hearts of South Africans overseas and assisting them in their journey home.

At the heart of the initiative is a new-look website to assist ex-pats who wants to return home. FNB will be using this website to support them by providing home comers with all the informations and supports they need. This may include opening bank accounts, securing home loans, obtaining vehicle finance and medical aid information to providing help and advice with starting a business

4.2.3 Ghana

Among sub-Saharan African countries, the Government of Ghana has been proactive in highlighting the key role that the Ghanaian diasporas does and can play in national development. The Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, the policy framework for supporting growth and poverty reduction in the short term, identifies the Ghanaian diasporas as a potential source of funds for the GPRS. The Ghana Homecoming Summit was an innovation that has inspired other countries. Individual High Commissions have undertaken their own initiatives to mobilize the Ghanaian diaspora's resources for national development. Also, the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) and National Economic Dialogue established the Non-resident Ghanaians Secretariat (NRGs) in 2001, to collaborate with International Organizations like the Commonwealth Business Council in their "Africa Recruit" programme which seeks to work with African Governments to remove obstacles and create incentives to attract skilled African personnel back to Africa. Also, in July 2001, *Ghana* held a Homecoming Summit to explore among others the investment potentials of Non-Resident Ghanaians both in terms of financial investments and technical skills and followed by this, in 2005, with an award scheme in recognition of the great contributing to economic and social development, under the theme "Leveraging Skills and Resources of Non-Resident Ghanaians for National Development. Further, the Government passed laws allowing potential Non-Resident Ghanaians dual nationality status (Dual Citizenship Act of 2000) followed by the Representation of Peoples Amendment Act (ROPAA) in 2005; the latter will allow Ghanaian citizens residing abroad to vote in national elections from their overseas places of residence. The Electoral Commission of Ghana is expected to develop the necessary instrument, subject to Parliament's approval, to put this law into effect. The Ghana Government has also developed Joseph Project, primarily targeting Africans who are descendants of the Slave Trade in America, Europe, Caribbean and Latin-America. The Joseph Project seeks to "reconcile and unite the African Peoples so that their positive spirit and strengths are released in a focused manner to elevate Africa and Africans worldwide." According to the government, the Joseph Project will "establish a pilgrimage to Ghana, one that every African in the Diaspora must undertake at least once

in their lifetime. This pilgrimage will be the re-introduction of the Diaspora African to the homeland."

4.2.4 Kenya

The Government has begun consultations with Kenyans abroad on how best to facilitate their participation in national development. The Kenyan President is encouraging the country's diplomatic missions abroad to market Kenya through the Diaspora communities. A series of high profile Diaspora meetings have been launched by the Kenya Government in collaboration with Kenyan Diaspora Associations to advance discussions of the Kenya Diaspora Bill 2007. A draft paper has been produced by the Government and Diaspora representatives on Maximizing the potential and input of the Kenyan Diaspora in the political process, wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction. In order to mobilize the resources of the diasporas, a meeting was held in U.S. and U.K., featuring the Minister for Planning & National Development, the Chair of the Diaspora Bill Drafting Committee and Kenya Private Sector Alliance chair. To engage the diaspora many meeting were held so that the resources of the diasporas can be harness for the development of the country. The 2nd Kenya Diaspora SME Trade & Investment conference held in 2007, in Nairobi and the 10th Kenya Community Abroad Conference was also held in Delaware. USA.

Moreover, the government offers investment opportunities in the production and export of flowers, fruits and vegetables in agriculture. coffee, tea, sisal, pyrethrum in Agro-processing of natural products, Hotels and resorts, tourism information and business advisory services in Tourism, manufacture of domestic and industrial products in Manufacturing and data network operators, broadcasting sub-sector in Information & telecommunications. Besides, many of the African government has started taking up an initiatives to engage its diaspora.

4.3 Initiatives undertaken in the sixth region of Africa

Several numbers of initiatives have been taken up both at national and global levels. At the continental level in Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development, the World Bank has taken up an initiative in response to the African Union (AU) Executive Council directive (May 2003) to actively engage the African Diaspora in the Development efforts of the continent. A High Level Seminar on the African Diaspora was held in February 2008 under the auspices of the Joint African Institute (JAI) of the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank and the IMF. The goal was to promote Diaspora-led investments as viable sources of financing for enhanced growth and development in Africa. And in November 2007, WB officials, members of Washington's diplomatic community and representatives from African Diaspora organizations in the U.S. and Canada, and African American and Caribbean organizations, gathered to discuss increased efforts by the World Bank Group to engage the African Diaspora in aiding development in Sub-Saharan Africa in concert with the AU's strategy. Moreover AU Diaspora initiative in working with the international organization active to use i.e. WB, WHO, USAID, UN secretary General special envoy for malaria and his staff. Moreover, the diasporas were also involved in selected bank leading operations-tourism project in Ethiopia which is currently under preparation.

2.3.1 Initiative in Health care

The Heads of State at the Abuja 2006 special Summit on "Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by 2010" directed the AU Commission to develop an implementation plan for achieving universal access to these disease services by 2010. The African Union Commission developed a 13-step implementation plan for achieving universal access which was approved at the 3rd African Union Ministerial Conference in 2007 at Johannesburg. It also launched Africa Health Strategy 2007 - 2015 with a theme of "Strengthening of Health Systems for Equity and Development in Africa". Recognizing that the African health systems are very weak and services are under-resourced in order to alleviate major health problems and to achieve universal access. The African Ministers of Health pointed out the weaknesses in areas such as;

- Shortage of appropriately trained and motivated health workers;
- Gaps in governance and ineffective leadership of the health sector;
- Inadequate use of available evidence and information to guide action;
- Poor management and operation of health systems;
- Insufficient sustainable financial resources and its efficient allocation and use.

Therefore, the AU, African governments, the World Bank Group and other development partners on Africa, recognized that the African Diaspora must become full partners in the continent's development. The African Union Commission, answering the clarion call for action has established the African Diaspora Health Initiative (ADHI), the first of several African Diaspora Initiatives it plans to create.

The African diaspora health initiative (ADHI) was launched on September 26, 2008, by H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Chairman of the African union in Washington, DC to link specific healthcare expertise within the African diaspora with specific health needs in specific geographical locations in Africa. It mission is to assist African countries to reduce their heavy burden of disease and premature death through: (i) help increases the number and quality of the health workforce, (ii) support of best practices in clinical care and public health; (iii) sustained advocacy for better health for African in USA, Canada, the Caribbeans, Latin America, and in Africa. In order to carry out the mission, the diaspora and continental Africans will cooperate on common purpose to achieve common goals and objectives.

The goals of the ADHI are as follows;

    i). To Support and Enhance the Healthcare Workforce in Africa

    ii). To Support Best Healthcare Practices in africa

    iii). Advocate for better health in Africa

2.3.2 Initiatives on education

On the second session of the bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF III) 18th November to 20th November 2008, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union (AU) was deeply aware of the importance of education in the

attainment of its vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa. The AU has underscored the centrality and importance of education in the development of Africa. Increasing Africa's visibility and influence in the global arena requires systems and packages of education and research that are in tune with local needs and aspirations, as well as global views and imperatives. If the contribution to economic growth of education in general is significant, that of higher education and research is even more remarkable.

Therefore, the Pan African Univerisity (PAU) is proposed to be a continental flagship institution of higher education (IHE) predominantly offering advanced graduate and research programmes in key fields of science, technology and engineering to the cream of the crop body of African students from all over the continent. It is to be a reference university constituted by a main campus linked to a network of satellite campuses scattered across a particular region of Africa. The key mission of the institution is to link up economic development with scientific and technological research. The main focus of the PAU is science, technology and engineering.[19]

Regarding this, a number of worthy initiatives on the continent such as the regional centres of excellence set up through inter-university collaboration and donor support have been active in building capacity and promoting research. Examples of such centers abound in Africa, i.e., the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) based in Nairobi in Kenya which initiated the African regional postgraduate program on insect sciences; the Water Resource Engineering postgraduate program at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) based in Cape Town. Under its new Core Program, the Association of African Universities (AAU) has also developed a Masters Program on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution for the African Great Lakes Universities Network. A similar program is to be launched in Ghana for West African universities under the project West African Universities Conflict Studies Network. Some African governments especially South Africa and Nigeria in collaboration with UNESCO

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[19] Association of African universities Tripoli, Statement on the brain drain and the African Diaspora as a resources, Tripoli, Libya 25 Oct 2009

have also been promoting regional collaboration for building research capacity and mobilizing financial resources to support activities in science and technology in Africa, through an endowment fund whose seed money was provided by Nigeria to the amount of 5 Million USD. Even more substantially, the AU 'Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action' proposes the establishment of consortia of universities for postgraduate training, building the infrastructure of leading universities and research centres to strengthen their research capacity in specific areas of science and technology, funding support for S&T research projects, and facilitating information sharing and mobility of scientists within the continent.

4.3.3. Science and Technology

In 2006, AfrICANDO Hemispheric Summit on science, technology and research for Africa's development was held from the 20th to the 22nd of July 2006 at Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida, USA. The summit was a collaborative effort by the African Union HRST Department, the Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN), Florida Memorial University, Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), Miami Dade College, Miami Dade County, and other Minority Serving Institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Conference deliberated on how Africans in the Diaspora could contribute and collaborate with the African Union and its Member States in implementing Africa's Consolidated Science and Technology Plan of Action, CPA. On the summit, the African Diaspora deliberated on AU S&T Plan of Action and observed that the Diaspora could be part of the implementation process by:

(a) Providing human and technical resources;

(b) Lobbying governments, institutions, and foundations to support the programs;

(c) Being represented in government structures;

(d) Providing policy and technical advice; and

(e) Participating in networks to benefit communities and nations.(africnon Summit)

4.3.4. African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM)

The African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM) was launched on June 11, 2009 in Denver, Colo., Washington, D.C. by the organization of United States Agency for international development (USAID), Western Union, a leading global payment network and Ecobank, the Pan African Bank, counting on innovative thinking and entrepreneurial ideas to help alleviate poverty in Africa. It is a business-development program that will support U.S. based African diaspora in creating plans for sustainable start-up and established businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. The program will also provide grant funding to 10-20 small-and-medium businesses with the strongest proposals for boosting economic opportunity and job creation in Sub-Saharan Africa through Diaspora-driven development. As Alonzo Fulgham, the Acting Administrator of USAID said, "The African Diaspora has unique insights into its home countries and the motivation to encourage direct investment into Africa and considered this as an exceptional opportunity for African Diaspora in the U.S. to help alleviate the disparities surrounding Africa's economic situation." In the same way, Christina Gold, CEO, Western Union said that, "Harnessing the strength of this population, estimated at 1.4 million strong, is critical to reducing poverty in Africa." Furthermore he added that, "this innovative model for corporate, government and nonprofit collaboration will support entrepreneurial solutions that creates jobs and opportunities." "Western Union supports migrants' investment in their home countries and also helps to power the world economy through our business model. Through this program, we can leverage Western Union's expertise on migration trends and our vast network and resources to help create lasting social and economic impact."

Likewise, Ecobank will be partner in this initiative to accelerate the economic development of Africa. As Arnold Ekpe, Group CEO of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), parent company of the Ecobank Group pointed out, "for us, the African Diaspora Marketplace is consistent with our objective of reaching out to the millions of Africans resident abroad and encouraging their investment in Africa's future."

The initiative hopes to demonstrate the impact that entrepreneurs from the world's Diaspora or migrant communities can have on development in their home countries.

Throughout the program, the level of support provided to participants and the role that support may play in the development of each enterprise will be monitored. This research will help to identify best practices around the support needed to help small businesses thrive in developing markets.

Proposals will be implementing in one of the following Sub-Saharan African countries where USAID has both on-the-ground presence and potential technical assistance programs for entrepreneurs: Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Following the rigorous two-round review and selection process, 10-20 qualifying entrepreneurs will be awarded grants of US$50,000 to US$100,000 each to support the execution of their business plans. These will be awarded from the initial ADM grant pool of nearly US$1.5 million, financed jointly by USAID, the Western Union Company and the Western Union Foundation, as well as through Western Union Agent Giving Circles. One Agent Giving Circle, featuring Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) in Africa and Irv Barr Management in the U.S., already has contributed US$250,000 to support this initiative. The ADM will facilitate access to technical assistance, as available, capacity building and information on a range of financing options for all finalists. Through July 21, 2009, individuals in the United States will also be able to contribute to the Academy for Educational Development (AED), in support of the grant pool for ADM, at any Western Union Agent location in the United States.

4.3.5. D-MADE

The Development Marketplace for African Diaspora in Europe (D-MADE) was launched in 2007 to Promote Diaspora Investment Projects and Innovative Entrepreneurial Activities in Africa. It is a grant mechanism opportunity to help finance entrepreneurial projects that are designed by Africans in order to supports the development of Africa by allowing entrepreneurs from the African Diaspora in Europe to participate in the development of their countries. And aims at supporting forms of investments geared to achieving economic and social benefits targeting the poor in Sub-Saharan Africa. For the

first time, such a Development Marketplace will target Sub-Saharan Africa-wide members of the diaspora living in Europe. The D-MADE seeks proposals from diaspora business entrepreneurs with a social mission by generating employment, business support, training and incomes for the poor and disadvantaged. It follows a process of consultations with African diaspora organizations in Belgium, The Netherlands, France and other European countries, to generate momentum around innovative ways in mobilizing diaspora support towards their countries of origin.[20] Therefore, in order to provide grants for Diaspora, entrepreneurs who want to implement business activities in Africa, Belgium is providing E150, 000; Netherlands E350, 000; France -E50, 000; and Italy has expressed an interest in providing E250, 000. Germany will contribute in kind by hosting the launch of an event in Bonn. Spain and Portugal are also considering support. Italy is supporting also, the Ethiopia Diaspora country program in the amount of $140,000; and will provide an additional $200,000 for extending the program to under-serviced areas in the regions and districts. Lessons will be drawn from the D-MADE to guide subsequent use of this channel for promoting Diaspora entrepreneurship. The first D-MADE ended in June 2008 and awarded nearly $1 million to sixteen investment projects. The winning projects will be implemented in eleven African countries: Mali (4), Cote d'Ivoire (2) Benin (2) and one each for Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

4.4. Outcome of AU Initiative

4.4.1. Reducing the cost of Remittance

Remittance is considered as one of the important source of income for most of the African countries, therefore, reducing the cost of remittances and improving data on remittances flows to African countries e.g. Uganda and Nigeria. Further, at a meeting "to discuss the UK priorities for Africa leading to the Gleneagles Summit", at 11 Downing Street, London in June 2005, they raised the issue of remittances with the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown (former United Kingdom's Finance Minister). As a follow

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[20] Joseph Gueron and Anne Marie Spevacek (2008), *"Diaspora-development Nexus: The Role of ICT"*.
This document was produced by the USAID Knowledge Services Centre for review by the US Agency for International Development. It is operated by Bridgeborn LLC and Library Associates, and funded by M/OCIO/KIM and M/HR/TE under contract RAN-M-00-00005.

up, in July 2005, they called for the UK government to introduce tax relief on 'development' remittances sent to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), similar to tax relief currently available for both charitable donations and economic regeneration investments. The AU call on the UK government to introduce 'RemitAid™', along the same lines as Gift Aid, as a tax incentive for development remittances. In the UK, a number of tax relief schemes such as Venture Capital Trust (VCT), Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR) exist in order to encourage investment in business innovation and development, economic regeneration and social enterprise. These schemes provide investors with tax relief of up to 40% on investments of up to £200,000.the call on the UK government to introduce an International Development Tax Relief (i.e. Enterprise Remit Aid™) along the same lines as VCT and EIS, as tax incentive for investment in development projects in LDCs. Such projects would include community and social enterprise ventures in health and educational facilities and services, as well as investment in qualifying business start-ups, innovations and developments.

In case of Ethiopia, they were awared that unofficial transfers of funds inhibit productive use of remittances, the National Bank of Ethiopia has, in a bid to make the formal remittance transfer system more attractive to diaspora Ethiopians, has taken steps to reduce remittance costs, and increase access to reliable and efficient services. Likewise remittances were channels toward poverty alleviation projects in Sierra Leone and in Tunisia to promote the development of a database of local development projects, for use by potential Tunisian investors abroad. Moreover, the International agencies as well as developed country governments have also joined in the efforts "to promote a more equitable, orderly and development friendly remittance marketplace." Leaders in this field include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) as well as multilateral agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the World Bank. For instance, DfID launched the "Sending Money Home?" website in March 2005 with the aim of filling the information gap that hinders migrants' use of official remitting channels. The site includes a list of various money transfer agents to help remitters choose the most competitive one, based on price, speed of delivery,

convenience, etc. On the regional side, the Multilateral Investment Fund of the IADB has been very active in this arena and has been supporting, since 2000, projects in Mexico and other parts of Latin America seeking to increase the development impact of remittances, notably those seeking to link capital thus transferred with needs in the small and medium enterprise sector.

4.4.2. Dual citizenship

The African governments in recognizing the potential of its diasporas' as a resources has started to extent dual citizenship towards its diaspora in order to retain its social, economic and political power. Due to their significant contribution towards the development of their homeland, the Diaspora, in return, retain its dual citizenship to maintain ties with their origins. Some of the African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde have granted dual citizenship to its Diaspora.

However, no state currently has a specifically designed policy that addresses dual citizenship for the Diaspora, except for Ghana and Liberia. Even then, the legal history only addresses the incidental rights associated with full citizenship. Moreover, most of the African governments have absence of dual citizenship right. Inspite of its assumption, only a few diaspora can make an important venture to foster economic growth in the country. Therefore, most of the African countries are yet to take up such an initiative due to limited resources and the diasporas contribution were minimal, for instance, in sub-Saharan countries their contribution has been only 10 percent. The SSA region channels a limited proportion of remittance inflow into private sector investment.

4.4.3. Youth training course

Encouraged by the successful experience of the first training Course, held in Almada, in December 2009, the North-South Centre will be organising a second training for the Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe. The Course will be held in Cape Verde, in the framework of the 2nd African University in Youth and Development. This will be a new opportunity to carry out a capacity building programme for the Diasporas living in Europe but to do it in Africa, and in a wider context where that can

exchange with other youth leaders from Africa and from Europe, by sharing the same space of the AYUD.[21]

4.4.4.. National Resource Fund for Nigerian Diaspora

The current Nigerian Government has made available a total of 80 billion Naira in the NRF (National Resource Fund) for Nigerians in Diaspora who are interested in investing in the Nigerian economy. According to the proposal unfolded by the minister in Berlin, Germany, any Nigerian citizen interested in participating in the country's industrialization but lacks the means could draw from the fund. The money is part of the National Resource Fund (NRF) meant for local capacity building, technology transfer, and product standardization as a means to boosting the country's export in manufactured goods. In the course of the discussion in Berlin, the minister also revealed that the country needed the expertise of Nigerians in the Diaspora in such fields as meteorology, metallurgy and petrochemicals in order to aceralerate growth of the national economy.Moreover, the Nigerian Investment Promotions Commission was established with its objectives of sensitising the public on investment opportunities in the country, the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) has lined up series of activities to sell the Nigeria investment profile to Nigerians abroad. The purpose of the forum is to present to Nigerians and their foreign investor allies the business opportunities in Nigeria which many of them may not know about because of their long absence from the country.

4.4.6. UK-based Organization

According to the report of Afford, there are thirteen UK- grassroots identify based African organization members from Nigeria and Cameroon. Out of this, only two organizations have received funding from external donors. These organizations have used funds raised to build hospitals, maternity wards, vocational centers, bridges to link remote villages to services; to provide clean running water and electricity; to supply books and computers to schools; and to support at income generating activities.

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[21] 2nd Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe 4 – 12 July 2010 – Tarrafal, Cape Verde .In the Framework of the 2nd African University on Youth and Development, Organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in the frame of the Youth-Partnership between the Council of Europe & the European Commission

Some examples of projects include:

- Nyemoni Improvement Society spent £5000 developing a vocational training centre and employed staff to run training programmes and £3000 to supply books and computers to deprived schools

- Ogidi Women Association contributed £2,769 towards supplying clean water and refurbishing the general hospital

- Nigerian Nurses Association spent £750 on needs assessment and donations towards habilitation centre for disabled children

- Metta Cultural and Development Association contributed £5000 towards constructing an operating theatre, they also helped to build bridges to link remote villages to services and setup schemes to assist farmers.

As a result, the contributions made by these diasporas organization to their communities of their origin are often short of and relatively in modest term. Despite, there are a number of obstacles that undermines effective participation in and implementation of projects. Time constrains, inability to focus on activities due to pressure of work, some members not financially viable to contribute much, being mothers and wives at the same time gives little time to concentrate on issues of organizations, members cannot go home to supervise projects so the feedback from Africa may not be accurate, high cost of transferring remit funds as money, Problems with local expertise, lack of funding and reliable structure in home countries to collaborate with and lack of project management skills.

For instance, due to lack of reliable structures back home to work with, as one group noted: "Last year our organization told a school that we could only send them computers under the condition that they would be able to have finances to pay for custom duties and they assured us that they had made all the necessary arrangements. But when the computers got home, it turned out that that was not the case... We also contributed

money to a women's co-operative association but the transaction never materialized because of poor communication. The money came back"

4.5. Limitations

In recognition of this potential African and rich-country government, pan-African and international organization such as the African Union ,NEPAD, the world Bank, etc , and others have made numerous pronouncements about facilitation and more effective utilization of the African diaspora toward African development. However, it remains to be seen whether they will implement anytime soon substantive, large-scale, and high-impact initiatives that can have powerful transformational effects. Given the unconducive political and economic climates and poor professional working conditions that persist in most African countries, and the resultant high economic and professional risks and in some case personal danger involved, hindered for parmenent relocation in their origin. No doubt some, perhaps most, diaspora groups and organization do make vital contributions to development in their homelands and may deliver 'better' outcomes than other development NGOs. However, the AU initiatives need to focus in building democracy in the continent.

The constraints in transferring the diasporic resources more effectively and in a large scale manner to their countries of origin can be mainly due to lack of capacity, both at the institutional and organisational, of the African diaspora organizations as well. The lack of well-formulated and applicable policy is a barrier to Diaspora engagement. A policy framework is essential to link national development needs with Diaspora resources and to guide respective activities more systematically. A clear national policy should be developed and widely communicated that will serve as basis for implementing government's Diaspora-related activities. All relevant stakeholders including Diaspora communities, local institutions, concerned international development partners, and government policy makers should be involved when drafting a national Diaspora policy.

Clearly, it is noted that, for many years, Africa's growth and development has been bolstered by the African Diaspora, however the contributions of the Diaspora have often

been overlooked, unaccredited and unappreciated by African and International institutions. The added value in terms of insights, knowledge of local conditions and networks, cultural experience, empathy and sensitiveness, intellectual capacities and skills that the African Diaspora gain and subsequently offer to the enrichment of Africa is relatively substantially.

4.5.1 More Active at higher level than lower level

Even though the AU has recognized the African diaspora as a resource for the development of the continent, the initiatives taken by the AU are more actively engage at the macro level as the unconducive domestic environment in the African countries impedes the Diaspora led development effort. The AU in collaboration with the international organization has taken an initiative to mobilize the resources of the diaspora, little has been implement in some of countries. In spite of several Regional meeting, summit and conference were held in various part of the sixth region of Africa, the African governments are yet to formulate a diaspora policy to attract the diaspora investors. Moreover, some countries did not trust the diaspora leading to suspicions and tension as in case of Guinea where the political leaders' fears that expatriates could finances separatist, and the image of "traitor" disseminated by the old regime to ostracize the diaspora has not disappeared and prevents the creation of a common workspace. And also in case of Ethiopia , the relationship that relies on a client-centered approach does not encourage university- wide diaspora initiatives, fearing that it might turn out as in case of Liberia where the diaspora who returned home only to treat their very people by controlling and dominating in their own country by treating them like the slaves in the united state.

4.5.2 Few Diaspora were actively Engage

Most of the interest about the engagement of African diaspora in development is focused on those living beyond the continent, in particular in Europe and North America. This is not surprising as they tend to be the wealthier, better educated and more highly organized groups. They have much easier access to high-level networks which bring them into contact with global elites such as African and donor government officials, and business

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people across the world.However, it is important to recall that these Diasporas outside Africa may only represent the tip of the iceberg, in terms of numbers of people. There is very little information about the development activities and interests of the diaspora within Africa who constitute about 66% of African migration within the African continent.

Moreover, the activities of the African diaspora aimed at fostering the development of the continent have been undertaken by the diaspora itself even without the express invitation of the AU and African governments as they are usually made by individual African immigrants for personal, family or other private express purposes and not for the purposes of boosting the African development project in the manner sought and defined by the AU. Despite the expectation and optimism of their potential, they were not able to do so in such a way for the rapid progress of the African due to a variety of reasons (limited resources and capacity etc) and only a small fraction of them are actually involved in high-impact initiation, which therefore remained largely small-scale and of limited scope. Thus the African diaspora collective impact on African development has remained far short of what is potentially achievable if their resources were more effectively harnessed and leveraged.

Despite the AU initiative to actively engagement the Diasporas, the African diaspora institutions and organizations in Europe have minimal presence in development circles because they are not seen as 'mainstream' development agents. African diaspora scholars, researchers, opinion leaders and practitioners are in a position to contribute intellectually to the advancement of the policy dialogue between Africa and the EU within the Partnership framework, but their stakeholder perspective has not yet been consistently provided nor sufficiently sought. This is primarily due to a lack of organization among diaspora-led development initiatives, a lack of access to the policy making process, and the lack of a platform for formal representation at the European level. Moreover, it focuses mainly on material development and not in the non-economic aspects such as promoting democratic life in their home country which is the domain of government. Therefore, the critical resources were missing in the African development

efforts such as leadership, good governance, active citizenship participation, proper economic policies, and their transparent implementation, which the diaspora possess and has not been sufficiently harnessed.

4.5.3 Lack of Legal Affirmation on its policy

The AU policy has lack it affirmation as the AU declaration did not include an affirmative statement on the legal status of citizenship for Diasporans wanting to return home to the continent. The declaration clearly reflects that the Diaspora is inclusive of nations regardless of nationality and whether Diasporans were born in the continent. What was also not made clear by the declaration was what rights and duties go along with this inclusion as the 6th region. The designation as the Sixth Region does recognize the millions of persons who reside outside of the continent, but as persons from the North, South, East and West of the continent are legalized citizens of the various African states, the designation of the Sixth region, raises the issues of how far do African states intend to go in social reunification efforts directed at Diasporans. Whatever their intent is, Diasporans should participate within the AU functions as spelled out in the Sixth Region Designation to legitimize their claims to AU status, but they should not be prohibited from obtaining citizenship and other ancillary rights related to their ancestral homelands and the nations to which they can trace their heritage. Moreover, same as in the policy of migration, the AU lack of mandating its member's state to implement its policies.

4.5.4. Lack of coordination

During the ensuing discussions, Dr. Adisa made comprehensive and dispassionate reflections on the ECOSOCC process highlighting the problems, difficulties and challenges confronting the Committee stating that the

- Administrative difficulties as members of the Committee are not conversant with AU rules and regulations on disbursement and use of funds. This difficulty appears to have been responsible for the non-utilization of over $900,000 ECOSOCC fund in 2006 budget;

- Lack of adequate communication between the Commission and the Standing Committee;

- Inadequate appreciation of the roles of ECOSOCC and CIDO, as well as the nature of the relationship;

- Misconception of the one-item agenda of the Interim Standing Committee which is the conduct of elections to the General Assembly;

- Lack of a work programme for the meetings and activities of the Standing Committee, as well as its Credentials and Work Programme Committees;

- Absence of precise procedure and definitive timelines for national and regional elections;

- Non-popularization of the ECOSOCC process; and,

- Problems of funding.

Although there were heated debates on the way forward, most members agreed that the Interim Standing Committee must be able to set a minimum attainable objective for itself, so as to submit appropriate report to the Executive Council and Assembly of Heads of State. The issues of ECOSOCC to be functional and the elections of diaspora. Therefore, questions were also raised on whether Diaspora should be handled by ECOSOCC or CIDO, as well as whether CSOs invited to Pre-Summits do so as members of ECOSOCC or as CSOs accredited to the AU. Responding to the questions on the budget, Dr. Adisa informed members that CIDO had recently distributed the AU Financial Rules and Regulations to all members and expressed the hope that copies of the 2007 budget of ECOSOCC will soon be circulated. On convening the meeting of the Interim General Assembly, Dr. Adisa stated that it will cost over $500,000 to do this and doubts if the current ECOSOCC budget could support this.

4.5.5. Diasporas are not the powerhouse of resources

The African diaspora is not the viable economic power house it seems to be in the eyes of their homelands and particularly, the AU which courts it's potential. A few examples of arguably rich and influential individuals may exist in both the U.S. and Europe that can

and have contributed immensely to the African development question, as they are marginalized in the global economic order. The majority of the diaspora are working in minimal job in their host country. Some of the diaspora in sixth region of Africa are still struggling for the right in the host country. Most of the diaspora are able to sent remittance to their family and relative for the sustenance rather than investing long term project for sustainable economic development of the origin. As for instance,

82% of the 1327 Diaspora respondents remit to Kenya are for sustenance purposes. Out of those, only 24% of those who do not remit for sustenance do send money home for business and investment reasons.[22]

4.6. Challenges and Issues

For the successful benefit of AU diaspora initiative for the member countries as well as the diaspora and the host countries, they have a long way to overcome the challenges they face. The AU diaspora policies are active at the macro level by conducting a several meeting and summit in different part of the sixth region of Africa. Even though, the AU and the African government have began the process of engaging the diaspora, public policy to harness these underutilized resources are lacking when compared with global practices elsewhere. As a result, international relationships between home countries and the Diaspora are very weak or non-existent.[23] Moreover, a variety of issues of strategic economic importance were identified by RCCs, such as the need for collaboration between private sectors in Africa and the Diaspora, especially with respect to issues such as access to capital, micro finance, joint ventures, removing barriers to trade, and investment opportunities in Africa. Important recommendations were made for the successful implementation of the AU's Action Plan on Science and Technology, which include the exchange and sharing of knowledge and professionals, raising of

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[22] Kenya diaspora investment forum Report, Kenyans 4 Kenya held on 9th Dec. 2006. Congress Centre London, United Kindom.

[23] World Bank, 'Concept Note .Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development'. Capacity Development management Action Unit (AFTCD), Operational Quality and Knowledge service department (AFTQK), Washington .D.C 2007.World Bank Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT.DIASPORA/General/21686696/conceptual

sponsorships and investment for the promotion of science and technology cooperation between Africa and the Diaspora including to scientific research and innovation.

4.6.1 In representing ECOSOCC

The election of CSO representatives into the Permanent ECOSOCC Assembly began on 31 October 2007 at the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa, with the election of eight continental CSOs to the ECOSOCC Assembly. This was followed by the election of national CSO representatives of 25 countries, as well as representatives of east, west and southern African regions. Although a partially constituted permanent Assembly was launched in Dar-es-Salaam in early October 2008, it does not contain any elected Diaspora representatives. The only Diaspora presence in the current ECOSOCC Assembly consists of two representatives, appointed by the chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with member states in application of the provisions of Article 4(1d) of the ECOSOCC statutes. Therefore, the diaspora representation has not fulfilled so far, while the status of the ECOSOCC allocated 20 seats to the diaspora.[24] The practical organizations of proper election that will permit their membership into ECOSOCC remain a challenge due to the diversity of diaspora and lack of proper formulation for its participation on an elected basis.

As a result, securing the effective representation of the African Diaspora in the ECOSOCC Assembly remains one of the most serious challenges of the ECOSOCC process.

4.6.2. Unconducive Environment

A conducive environment is very essential for effective and meaningful engagement between the African government and its diaspora. The African union and national government recognize Diaspora as a national resources pool. However, there remain great ambivalence among policy makers in Africa about including them in governance and policy making. Moreover, one of the main challenges is within the member states.

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[24] Francis N. Ikome, 'The challenges of diaspora representation in the African Union's ECOSOCC Assembly'. Policy Brief 55. February 2009. Published by the centre for policy studies, an independent research institution, incorporated as an association not for gain under section 21 of the companies Act.

The internal contradictions in the African domestic development environment pose even more daunting problem for Africa's development quest. Furthermore, to establish an enabling environment to retain and re-attract skilled personnel are daunting as this element has been lacking in many African countries. The negative welcome faced by the African diaspora at home also hinders the Diaspora to put their roots in their origin. Even though, the African governments represent the practical reality of the Africa-Diaspora partnership. It is unlikely to come to fruition without the effort of the government in creating an enabling environment in African nations. These enabling environments include rule of law, right to political opinion and association, sustained macroeconomic growth, right to private property, stable policies for private entrepreneurship, and public policies that promote social progress. Moreover, the African nations need to gear their government developmental policy towards diasporas for mutual benefit for both the diaspora as well as the home countries. And the poor infrastructure in Africa continues to be a hindrance to effective communication and contact by the diaspora with their home communities. Telecommunication systems like mobile phone and internet are expanding globally but Africa is still lacking behind.

Another critical challenge to Africa's integration and development efforts in the past one and a half decades has been the prevalence of conflict and political instability. There exist a number of on-going conflicts in a number of African countries, including The Sudan (Darfur and Southern Sudan), Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Comoros, and the Central African Republic. The destructive and recurrent nature of these conflicts has had far-reaching consequences on the African State, the region and the continent as a whole, creating an environment of perpetual insecurity.

4.6.3 Diversity of Diaspora

The natures of African diaspora are of diverse and unstructured unlike the Diaspora in various region of the world. They are of heterogeneity in character scattering across the globe. The Africans who migrated before the decolonization of the continent and after, in pursued of better economic and social prospect. Moreover, the African immigrants were

also the refugee of civil war and from the conflict torn areas. For instances, in United Sates alone, the ceiling for African refuges for fiscal year 1980 was only 2,000, and in 1981 4,200 African refugees were admitted; ten years later, in 1990, the ceiling had only increased to 7,000, and by fiscal years 2005 and 2006, the number had increased to 20,000. These refugees were mainly from the Horn of Africa i.e. Ethiopia and Somalia, which represented a contested space in the superpower rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Moreover, they also face problem and challenges and problem in the settle country in trying to becoming a part of the host country. Therefore, the diaspora are diverse as it is dispersed: diversity in terms, for example, of its differential generational origins – first, second, and third generations – and dispersal in terms of its nearly global spread, in continental Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. Moreover, the AU envisions engaging the Diaspora in a wide range of issues that would contribute to strengthening the AU and developing the continent.[25]

4.6.4. High cost of transaction

As remittance has been regarded as one of the main source of contribution by the diaspora, the AU and the African countries need to find a solution to increase volume of remittance through official channel and in reducing the cost of transfer. Reduction in the cost of remittance and improving data on remittances started to flow in Africa countries such as Uganda and Nigeria, while it remain high in most of the countries such as cape Verda, Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya etc. Transferring of remittance through informal channels lead to high cost of transaction resulted in low return in its investment. Therefore, the remittance need to be channelizes into long-term productivity and a sustainable form of development rather than a short-term project. Inspite of AU and its members assumption, only few of the diaspora has the capacity to invest in long term project in their country of origin, while the majority of diaspora are economically not viable to contribute to the development of the country. Thus, the African government

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[25] Isidore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu, "the New African Diaspora". (2009), Indiana University press.

policy needs to refocus in utilizing the available resources to as sustainable form of development to accelerate the economic development of their country.

4.6.5. Challenges in the host country

Similarly, in the host country, some diasporas are still struggling socially and economically, experiencing hostility from the host, based on absolute belief in difference which is demoralizing. Even in U.S, African Americans are viewed as violent and in need of law and order and African immigrants and asylums seekers are treated in a manner that reflects how the government and larger society view African American. Post 9/11, with the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) the african immigrant were facing difficulties as the new act can arrest, detain, and deport non-citizenship and also subjected even to legal permanent residents-to deportation for relatively minor offences, even if they were committed in the past.[26] Moreover, in forging ties with their countries of origin it is impossible for some diaspora such as Congolese traders in paris due to their illegal status forcing them to rely more on imformal contacts. Further, there are many African Diasporians that are still, very unfortunately indeed, struggling for civil rights in their host country. For instance, in Brazil, there is a huge African Diaspora population amounting to some 80 million people of the country's 175 million populations. They constitute about 45 per cent of the whole population and thus the second largest black population in the world after Nigeria. But, yet, in 2000, African-Brazilians constituted only 2.2 per cent of the university student population in the whole country. Likewise, while the average monthly income in 1998 for the whites (descendants of the European settlers) was US$393, and for mixed race peoples $182, it was only $180 for the Blacks. Some of the challenges are attitudinal such as lack of interest from government, lack of understanding amongst local partners, bureaucracy, corruption and cultural differences punctuated by market stereotypical views. Therefore, Cooperation with the host government in providing development assistance machinery, to recognize and support the diasporas option as a cost-effective complement or alternative to

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[26] Isidore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu, "the New African Diaspora". (2009), Indiana University press.pp196-210.

conventional means of donor assistance Moreover, due to the diversity of immigrant, among the diasporas, there exist a conflicting view in lobbying toward a favorable policy in the host country toward their origin as in case of' National Summit on Africa' to mainstream Africa into its foreign policy and promote mutual benefit relationship.[27]

4.6.6. Home country

Due to political instability and lack of accountable government, in engaging the Diaspora for the development of the continent faces a lot of obstacles and challenges in many of the African countries .In countries likes Genieu, the diaspora were ostracize as a traitor and prevent the creation of a common workspace. In Senegal, low access to capital by diaspora investors and its judicial system lacks sufficient technical capacity to handle financial matters In Kenya, engagement with the diaspora remains weak, legal and regulatory framework remains weak and lack of financial packages and incentives to attract the diaspora investors. And those Diaspora investing or seeking to invest in Kenya are faced with various challenges. This includes lack of timely information on the opportunities and a step-to-step guide on how to invest with support provided by both public and private sector. The actual implementation on the ground of many initiatives put in place to address the challenges to invest in Kenya. One key factor is easily accessible updated information on the various opportunities in a formal and structured approach.

Moreover, the capacities and desires of the diaspora willingness to contribute are affected by home-country factors. In January 2009, for example, the Ethiopian government introduced a Law on Charities and Societies that defines all organizations receiving more than 10% of their funding from foreign sources as 'foreign NGOs' and subsequently bans such 'foreign NGOs' from carrying out peacebuilding and human rights activities. This legal changes fundamentally reduces the capacity of diaspora organizations to engage, while simultaneously increasing their desire to do so. Although the initiative for successful involvement of diaspora communities in development must necessarily come from within diasporas themselves, there are a number of policies which country-of-origin

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[27] ibid

governments have pursued with a view to strengthening their relationships with diasporas. This reflects a shift in some countries from seeing migrants as 'traitors', to seeing them as 'heroes'. The approaches of country-of-origin governments have unfolded along several different policy strands. Some measures have focused on protecting migrants who are abroad, or encouraging diaspora communities to retain ties with their country of origin. For example, a number of countries provide consular services and other support for emigrants who are abroad, and allow its citizens to vote in home elections whilst they are outside the country. Some country-of-origin governments also promote national or regional culture in host countries, in a bid to reassert cultural ties between diaspora communities and the homeland, and support the creation of diaspora organisations. A numbers of countries have also introduced dual-citizenship programmes for expatriates.

In the UK and elsewhere there has been evidence of Somali clan 'collectors' who extract donations from diaspora members to support clan militia and warlords in Somalia. This practice is thought to have declined greatly since the mid-1990s, but the current incidence of clan collections for factions and the impact of such transfers remain under-researched (Bradbury 2002)

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

The African Union initiative to engage its diaspora for the continental development effort was a clear disposition toward building linkage which many diasporas had been longing for a long time. The massive migration of African nationals to the developing and industrialized countries in post colonial period is indeed the consequences of the deterioration of the political and economic situation in Africa. This phenomenon contributes towards retardation in social and economic development and technological backwardness compared to the rest of the world. For the first time, the AU acknowledgment of African diaspora as potential resources and invited them (those who trace their roots back to the continent) to actively take part in the Region's development. In response, the African diaspora shows willingness to contribute to the development of their origin. They not only contribute human and capital resources but they advocate in their host country in favour of Africa. The AU policy has made a huge impact on the African government perception toward their diaspora accepting them as a developmental resource rather than an enemy. Therefore, the AU initiative to actively engage the diaspora is a policy to bring back the people of African origin to the continent of their origin.

The AU Diaspora Initiative, outlined the potential contribution of the Diaspora to the African Union emphasizing material and technical along with policy and advocacy support. It acknowledge the flow of remittances and the contribution of skills and technical expertise by the people of the Diaspora to the continent, as well as the political support that the Diaspora has provided for campaigns for change in Africa. It also outlined 'what the Diaspora may expect' from the AU as 'a measure of credible involvement in the policy making processes.

Beside the AU initiative, major initiative were taken up by some of the major African countries, establishing a program such as, NIDO,LEAD, NNVS in Nigeria, SANSA, Homecoming Revolution, SARCHI in South Africa, GIPC,NRGs, dual citizenship in Ghana ,and Kenya government in consultation with the Kenyans abroad on how to

participate on national development. Moreover, MIDA play a significant role in imparting knowledge, skills and expertise in the in the horn of African region. Beside these, many African diaspora groups and individuals have successfully implemented several useful project at local, community, sub-national, and continental levels. And remittances of funds from the African diaspora have had major economic impact in their homeland. The African Diasporas are willing to lend their expertise to their homeland in many ways in which they are capable of.

However, while most African diaspora wants to contribute towards the African progress, they were not able to do so, in such a way for the rapid progress of the African, due to the limitation of resources and its capacity. Therefore, only small fractions of them are actually involved in high-impact initiations, which therefore remained largely small-scale and of limited scope. Thus the African diaspora collective impact on African development has remained for short of what is potentially achievable if there resources were more effectively harnessed and leveraged.

Also, the AU diaspora initiatives are actively engage mostly at the macro level without significant impact on most of the African countries. At the macro level, several regional meeting and conferences were held in America, Europe, and Caribbean and within the African continent in order to mobilize its diaspora for the development of the continent. Moreover, the AU in collaboration with the international organization such as World Bank, United Nations development program (UNDP), international organization for migration (IOM) and EU to facilitate contacts between Africa and its diasporas. However, the unconducive political and economic climate and poor professional working conditions that persist in most African countries had hamper the effective contribution of the diaspora to the development effort of africa. In addition to these, legal and regulatory framework for a strategic and institutional link with the diaspora has yet to be implemented in most of the African counties inspite of AU initiative to encourage its member states.

Moreover, the AU-diaspora partnership are not free from limitation and challenges in implementing its policies and programme which undermine its development contribution. The transfer cost of remittances remains high in many of the African countries except in few countries which has pass through formal channel. Despite considering them as a power house of resources, they are marginalized in the global order. While the status of the ECOSOCC allocated 20 seats to the Diasporas, the representation has not fulfilled so far. Hence, it remains one of the most formidable challenges of the ECOSOCC process. Moreover, a conducive environment which is very essential for effective and meaning engagement between the African government and its Diasporas has been lacking in most of the African countries. Also, unlike the Diasporas in various region of the world, the heterogeneity in character makes it difficult to coordinate in the functioning of AU diasporas programme. Therefore, in order to achieve economic development, the African have to adopt a favorable policy toward diaspora which embrace the Diaspora groups in the national development plans and channel the contributions of the diaspora into a sustainable growth of development.

It is also important to note that the AU offer the diaspora the AU- diaspora relationship will not be one sided but reciprocated. The AU suggested involvement in the policy making processes, dual citizenship, trade preferences and benefits for entrepreneurs, vis a vis non -Africans, social and political recognition as evident in invitation to Summits and important meetings etc. However, only few African countries have adopted dual citizenship and its diaspora policies. As the AU diasporas policy lack its affirmative statement on the legal status of citizenship and lack in mandating its member's states implement its policies.

Despite its limitation, the diasporas potential implication as resources for the development of the country of origin are still huge which no one can deny. The effective implementation of its policy is sure a one way of reducing poverty in the continent. Therefore, the initiatives undertaken by AU to engage its Diaspora for the development

of Africa is a favorable policy shifts to realize its goals. These initiatives will induce the Diasporas to invest in the developmental and poverty reduction efforts in their countries of origin. Similarly, in order to strengthen the relationship between the diasporas and their countries of origin, the African governments cooperation with the host governments by *providing development assistance machinery, to recognize and support the diaspora option can promote mutually beneficial relationship between the AU member state and the* diaspora. The policy open a way for the diaspora to contribute to their countries of origin for those who are best positioned and best equipped to lead efforts in their areas of interest and expertise. Moreover, the human resources and strategic potential of the Diaspora of Europe has not been sufficiently harnessed to promote democratic systems of governance in Africa which is a significant element to promote development in Africa. The social and economic development can be achieved in a transparent democratic form of government which most of the African countries has been lacking. Therefore, what the AU member states can play is to embrace an enabling role in removing barriers to Diaspora taking part in development and creating a policy to avoid conflict of interest between Diaspora, sending countries and host counties.

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