

Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction

**Report on the Workshop
on Migration, Development
and Poverty Reduction**

Dakar, 8-10 August 2006

Organized jointly by the African Capacity Building
Foundation (ACBF)
and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
for West and Central Africa



IOM International Organization for Migration



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

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IOM is committed to the principle that human and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Introduction

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized a workshop on the theme of “Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction” which took place in Dakar, Senegal at the Méridien Président Hotel from 8 to 10 August 2006.

Following a similar workshop on “Migration and Development in Southern and Eastern African countries”, organized in Harare, Zimbabwe in October 2005,* the Dakar meeting focused on Western and Central African States. The overall objective of both the Dakar and the Harare workshop was to strengthen the capacity of participating governments, to identify synergies and points of contact between migration and development agendas and to develop a common policy language. It also aimed at identifying possible responses to issues relating to the migration and development nexus.

The Dakar workshop offered participating States the opportunity to share best practices on migration management and to enhance their knowledge of international migration and development issues, in preparation for the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006.

The Dakar workshop brought together delegates from 22 countries, representatives from regional (African Development Bank – AFDB; Economic Commission for Africa – ECA; Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS, European Union) and international organizations (World Bank, International Labour Office – ILO; World Health Organization – WHO, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO; United Nations Children Fund – UNICEF; International Development Bank – IDB), as well as associations from the African diaspora (African Axis, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Remittance Tax Relief for International Development/ African Foundation for Development – RemitAid™/AFFORD-UK), non governmental organizations, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Dakar and representatives of the business and academic world.

The workshop in Harare adopted a plan of action that called for bold action in the years ahead to address the continent’s capacity-building challenges. Governments, diaspora organizations and private sector representatives attending the Harare workshop had stressed the importance of:

- fostering national partnerships between state and non-state actors, including the private sector;
- initiating bilateral and multilateral migration agreements within an international enabling environment;
- strengthening existing capacity-building institutions as well as ensuring that capacity-building interventions incorporate gender considerations;
- developing indicators of wide applicability to capture and track capacity-building processes and outcomes.

With these outcomes and recommendations in mind, the Dakar workshop focused on raising the awareness of governments regarding the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, in order to identify concrete measures in policy, service delivery, training and research. These measures can be used to help maximize the benefits of migration for development, and to bring together migration issues with human resource development and capacity building. The main themes presented and discussed by the participants during the workshop in Dakar can be organized around the following main areas:

- How can governments achieve policy coherence in the implementation of human resource development strategies, development agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and migration policies?
- What constitutes effective regional, country, and sectoral approaches to retention, mobilization and utilization of human resources and capacities?

* The Minister for Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Government of Zimbabwe, represented by the Permanent Secretary, delivered the opening workshop address which was attended by more than 80 workshop participants from 20 countries of the Southern and Eastern African regions.

- How can the resources of the diaspora be mobilized effectively to fill capacity gaps in the countries of origin, particularly in terms of health personnel?
- What actions can be developed at departmental and administrative levels to enhance the development impact of migrants' remittances?

The present report is organized as follows: the first chapter presents a review of the workshop proceedings covering the main subjects introduced and discussed. The various sessions summarized therein deal with the relationship of migration to the Millennium Development Goals, regional and interregional strategies, national policy options, public and private partnerships, remittances and developing a migration strategy.

The report outlines the main recommendations of the participants on current migration dynamics in Africa. It discusses the evolution of migration in Africa and its implications at various levels in order to identify future challenges.

The report concludes by looking into the activities and reforms needed to increase the involvement of migrants in the development of the African continent, including capacity building for individual countries. Highlights of individual presentations will be found in the Annexes.



Ms Ndioro Ndiaye
Deputy Director General
IOM Geneva



Dr Soumana Sako
Executive Secretary
ACBF

Synopsis of Proceedings

Opening Ceremony

H.E. Mr Mamadou Sidibé, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development of Senegal, Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General, IOM and Dr Soumana Sako, Executive Secretary, ACBF presided over the opening ceremony. Their statements essentially pointed to the relevance of the Dakar Workshop and welcomed the collaboration between IOM and ACBF. They introduced key issues regarding the relationship between migration, development and poverty reduction.

After stressing the importance of migration for Africa, the Executive Secretary of ACBF, in order to illustrate the dramatic nature of the issue, described the new phenomenon of boatloads of clandestine immigrants heading to the Canary Islands (Spain). He called for collaboration on the problems caused by the growing trend in emigration, particularly among young people. Recalling the positive role of migration in many African countries, he drew the attention of the participants to the brain drain through which Africa is contributing more than its share to the advancement of northern countries, particularly in the areas of health and education, to such an extent that this undermines development in the African continent. He urged the participants to consider alternative solutions.

The Deputy Director General of IOM emphasized the importance of understanding the positive contributions of migration, before focusing on specific challenges, such as sustainable management of migration, the brain drain and migrant rights. Referring to the numerous meetings held to find answers to those problems inherent to migration, she stressed the importance of the forthcoming High-Level Dialogue and the need to prepare a strong African position.

On behalf of Senegal, the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development thanked the organizers of the Workshop and welcomed the participants. Stating that the issue of migration spared no one, he expressed his government's interest in the conclusions and recommendations expected from the present meeting and stressed the activities carried out by the Senegalese authorities in the area of migration regulation, pointing out three priorities of his country:

- collaboration and consensus between countries of emigration, transit and immigration;
- assistance to migrants in local development, in terms of the transfer both of their financial resources and of their skills;
- "Plan REVA" (*Retour vers l'Agriculture/Return to Agriculture*) aimed at discouraging irregular migration by young people and encouraging the return of migrants.

Plenary Session: High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development

In his capacity as President of the African Union, H.E. Mr Valentin Ollenssongo, Ambassador of Congo to Senegal, led the session on the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which included the following presentations:

- Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General, IOM, recalled the multidimensional nature of migration and the need for collaboration and consultation between the various actors involved in its management. She provided valuable insight on the idea of a "Migration Decade" advocated by her Organization and discussed some of the ways in which the African continent could benefit from the High-Level Dialogue (HLD) meeting in New York.
- H.E. Mr Crispin Grey-Johnson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations in New York, reminded the participants of the spirit of the HLD and depicted international migration in terms of both its scope and the tensions it leads to. He also informed the participants of the role played by the African Group and of the actions this group had undertaken so far in the harmonization of the positions throughout the continent on the issues discussed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The African group would take up the outputs of the Dakar workshop and bring them to success.

- Dr Bjor Sandkjaer, Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa, stressed Africa's interest in negotiating the increase in migration linked to globalization. She recalled the objectives pursued by her Institution in terms of optimizing the advantages of migration and minimizing its adverse effects.

The discussions showed an uneven level of awareness of migration issues and varying degrees of preparation for the HLD among African States. The participants recommended the adoption of a common position, which the United Nations Africa group would uphold.

This Session also provided an opportunity to link to the worldwide debate on the issue of migration and its relationship to development in the African continent. The participants denounced the concept of "selective immigration," and adopted the proposal by IOM declaring 2007-2017 as "the Decade of International Migration and Development".

During the pause that followed the opening session, the Senegalese authorities, ACBF and IOM met with national and international journalists based in Dakar. This press briefing – widely attended by the media – helped inform public opinion about the objectives of the Dakar Workshop and the purpose of the conclusions and recommendations it would formulate.

First Session: Migration, Growth, Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals

Dr Meera Sethi, Senior Regional Adviser on sub-Saharan Africa, IOM Geneva and Dr Samba Ka, Programme Team Leader, ACBF, co-chaired this session, focusing on the need to take migration issues into account in efforts to reduce poverty.

Dr Meera Sethi painted a general picture of migration with a particular focus on the African continent. After pointing out the recent trends in African migration, such as the type of migrants, its feminization, its increasingly complex patterns and the trafficking underlying its flows, she drew on lessons learnt to propose possible actions for a sustainable management of migration.

The following two presentations, by Mr Demba Baldé, Social Development Specialist, World Bank, and Ms Ingrid Cyimana, Deputy Representative, UNDP Dakar, analysed the interest of integrating the migratory dimension into development policies.

The last three presentations of this session (by Mr Ibrahima Dia of the PRSP Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Economics and Finance, Senegal, Mr Pape Birame Thiam, Director of Technical Assistance, Ministry of International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation, Senegal, and Mr Desmond S. Koroma, Director, Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, Sierra Leone) focused on national experiences of development policies structured around the positive dimension of migration; while migration cannot be embraced as a development strategy, no development policy can overlook the new aspects it represents. One recommendation issued by the participants was to urge the States to better integrate migration into their development policies and planning, particularly in the second generation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP).

Second Session: Regional and Interregional Strategies and Cooperation

Dr Anthony Barclay, Chairman of the ECOWAS Task Force on Migration and Poverty Alleviation, Human Development Adviser, chaired this session. Mr Sanou N'Faly, Senior Programme Officer, Immigration, ECOWAS and Dr Bjorg Sandkjaer, Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) successively addressed the regional integration process and the opportunities and challenges linked to the management of migration. They mentioned the fragmented nature of the initiatives undertaken, whether in sectoral or geographic terms. Such fragmentation is hardly in agreement with the logic of regional integration, particularly as regards South-South cooperation – the participants remarked that migration must be envisaged at the level of larger regional divisions such as ECOWAS rather than on the basis of microspaces. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has achieved progress in terms of free circulation of persons; so has West Africa, although much remains to be done.

Following discussions, the participants recommended that migration covenants be integrated into national legislations and/or that international protocols and conventions signed or ratified, regarding free circulation of persons and the protection of migrants and their families, be applied consistently. This would improve political stability in the region or sub-region. Indeed, the crisis that Côte d'Ivoire is currently facing and that affects the whole West African region is linked to the perception and management of this instability.

Third Session: National Policy Options Relating to Migration and Development

The session was chaired by Mr Mouhamed Ould Teghre, Deputy Director, Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme, à la Lutte contre la Pauvreté et à l'Insertion, Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Panelists included Professor Sefu Kawayu, Programme Director, Ministry of Employment, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mr Winfred A. Nelson, National Planning Development Commission, Ghana, who respectively discussed the circulation of the diaspora skills in the Great Lakes sub-region and its management at national level, and analysed the case of Ghana. Both presentations highlighted the opportunities available to those States that wish to take advantage of human resources, including highly qualified members of the diaspora, for local capacity building, particularly in the areas of education and health.

Mr Alvaro Apolo, Chairman, Institute of Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cape Verde, demonstrated the contribution and the importance of emigration in a country that has more nationals abroad than on its own territory (450,000 inhabitants in the archipelago as compared to 1 million abroad). He stressed the difficulties of managing migrants spread out in nearly 25 countries as well as the management of the second migrant generation.

Discussions on the complementary relationship of the private sector and the diaspora focused on the need to develop a dynamic partnership between those two groups of actors, both in the host countries and in the countries of origin.

Fourth Session: Public and Private Sector Partnerships – Developing Complementarities

Mr Ange Billong, Representative of the National Council of Employers, Senegal, chaired this session, which included presentations by two leaders of diaspora associations: Mr Gibril Faal, Chairman, AFFORD/UK and Mr Vincent Okele, President, African Axis, as well as by Mr Théophile Turpin, Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie du Sénégal (BICIS). Their experiences illustrated the advantages, but also the limitations, of partnerships between the private sector and the diaspora in the promotion of productive investment, job creation and poverty alleviation.

Discussion led to the conclusion that the high availability of migrants offers a good opportunity to maximize resources such as financial transfers or "entrepreneurial capital" from the diaspora. This is particularly true in the areas of information, including the development of consultation frameworks between the diaspora and the authorities and/or institutions of the countries of origin.

Fifth Session: Increasing the Impact of Remittances on Development

Mr Kaba Sangaré, Ministry of Malians Abroad, Mali, chaired the Session and gave the floor to three panelists: Mr Bernard Ndayirorere, Programme Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Burundi; Mr Fred Kwoba, Vice-President, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Washington, DC; Mr Asholi Chalai, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, India, who shared the lessons drawn from the experience of emigration (the latter from the viewpoint of a country with a diaspora of over 20 million people).

Remittances injected by migrants have a real impact on development and poverty alleviation. The panelists remarked that a major challenge for countries is to make wise use of migrants' remittances into development, even though these cannot replace public development aid.

Sixth Session: Defining a Human Resource Development Strategy

This session, chaired by Ms Siga Sarr Diouf, Ministry for Senegalese Abroad, Senegal, was divided into two. First, three working break-groups each addressed a specific aspect of migration (human resources investment, integrating migration into national frameworks, synergies of public/private strategies). Their reports (summarized at the end of this synopsis) were discussed in plenary and followed by a *tour de table* which gave delegates the opportunity to present the positions, actions or expectations of their countries or institutions in terms of managing migration.

Closing Session

The Closing Session focused on identifying the conclusions and recommendations of the Dakar Workshop; these were recorded in a document known as the "Common Position" (at end of the present Synopsis) – containing the proposals of the African continent for the High-Level Dialogue, which will be submitted to the different States for adoption.

The following major themes emerged from the workshop:

- migration dynamics – current status;
- knowledge of migration issues;
- Africa and the brain drain;
- developing positive aspects of migration;
- continent-wide agreement on migration.

Dynamics of Migration – Current Status

These affect every country on the continent. Poverty, failed economic policies and conflicts of all kinds strongly affect African migration. As an option, migration is increasingly explored in the search for alternative solutions, especially among young people. The figures below provide an idea of the magnitude of the phenomenon:

- Over 3 million Ghanaians live abroad; or 15 per cent of the inhabitants of the country;
- In Senegal, the number of international migrants is estimated at 2 million people out of a total population of 10 million;
- About 4 million Malians (roughly one-third) live abroad and are present on every continent, mainly in Africa (over 3 million) and Europe, with a high concentration in France (120,000).

The migratory dynamics arising from the generalization of population movements have become a burning issue. In recent years, this has led to some confusion because the lines separating emigration, transit and immigration countries were not clearly defined.

Worldwide, as in the case of the continent, the relationship of countries to migration is increasingly complex. Because of the changes affecting the circulation of persons, the migration status of a given country (transit, immigration or emigration) can be varied and complex. A country may have immigration country status, but may also tend to become a land for emigration, or vice versa. Guinea Bissau is an example: it has no tradition of emigration, but with the multiplication of conflicts since independence, it is on its way to becoming a country of emigration towards Portugal, Senegal and Spain. Guinea, although hardly prepared to handle immigration, has become a destination country for citizens of neighbouring countries, particularly Senegal, who are beginning to settle there.

Reliability of Knowledge on Migration Issues

Adequate management of migration issues – including rapid alert and assistance mechanisms – requires reliable indicators. Data on migrant populations often consist of estimates of doubtful reliability, or present serious gaps and inconsistencies (such as for instance the case in Mali, where the Malian community living abroad has never been the object of a complete census).

Statistical data collection can occur either at sub-regional or regional level, along the lines of the survey run in 1992-1993 by the Institut du Sahel and CERPOD (Centre for Research on Population for Development) in coordination with NESMUWA (Network of Survey on Migration and Urbanization in West Africa). This was conducted in eight countries using a standardized questionnaire.

The constitution of a database on migration should be backed up by the institutionalization of training for migration experts qualified in such fields as business law and ethnic sociology. Trainees would be situated in regional poles of excellence attached to universities or high-education institutes, a proposal welcomed by heads of institutions in charge of migration in their countries.

Africa and the Brain Drain

While the principal motive for African emigration is poverty, the continent is widely affected by the departure of highly qualified human resources, particularly in the fields of health and education. Statistics give the full measure of the situation: approximately 80,000 qualified people including 23,000 highly educated professionals leave the continent each year; 12,500 African physicians currently practice medicine in the United Kingdom.

Because of their limited supply of experienced personnel, this is a significant handicap for African countries and a major drain on the qualified human resources of the continent. In Ghana for instance, at least an estimated 60 per cent of the medical doctors trained in the country have emigrated and 2,500 nurses have gone abroad since 1992. Respectively 40 per cent and 60 per cent of teaching positions are vacant in universities and polytechnic institutes

due to massive exodus towards countries that offer better conditions of employment. Not only the attractiveness of rich countries but also the unfavourable nature of the African environment, particularly in the political realm, affect the brain drain, as illustrated by the departures of qualified African nationals from countries where regimes show little respect for democratic principles. The expatriation of a qualified national trained in his or her own country does not give rise to any form of compensation, and some participants maintained that Africa – where the cost of training is higher than in Europe – subsidizes the richer countries.

Developing Positive Aspects of Migration: Remittances and the Brain Gain

As a source of foreign currency, remittances contribute to improving the living conditions and survival of the families of migrants, who often live in remote and impoverished regions. They contribute greatly to the reduction of poverty in rural areas and to the transformation of major cities through investments in real estate. The Ministerial Conference of Least-Developed Countries (LDC) held in Benin in February 2006, indicated that 167 billion US dollars were transferred to LDCs in 2005.

In Senegal, where remittances provide 50 per cent of household budgets, financial transfers recorded in 2002 totalled 270 million US dollars. The major zones of emigration, which receive substantial financial flows, show lower incidence rates of poverty when compared to regions not heavily affected by migration, even though the latter have greater natural resources. Bank transfers to Ghana were estimated at 1.9 billion US dollars in 2004 and 1.3 billion between January and September 2005. In Ghana, migrants inject 6 US dollars for every dollar received in public aid.

Although large amounts of money follow formal circuits, they only represent half or one-third of all financial flows linked to migration. Indeed, the sums of money that travel through underground channels constitute by far the major part of remittances. While the money thus injected into countries of origin contributes to poverty reduction, a challenge lies in its use towards productive sectors, either public or private. A large portion of remittances is spent on household consumption and on symbolic investments such as family ceremonies.

Thus, although migrants contribute to equipping their communities of origin with collective infrastructures, the impact of remittances on the development of countries of origin remains insufficient, according to studies conducted in various countries. Participants in the Dakar Workshop therefore strongly recommended greater involvement of the diaspora in the creation of small or medium-sized businesses. This was closely linked to a certain number of prerequisites:

- carrying out open dialogue – against a backdrop of good governance – between the state, regional private sector organizations, diaspora associations and partners in development;
- developing information on the financing of national and regional development projects (i.e. treasury bonds, purchasing of shares);
- convincing the diasporas to invest in sectors in which they have acquired experience and which correspond to needs in their countries of origin, e.g. urban transport and city cleaning;
- harmonizing African legislation on investments to attract private investors;
- setting up reliable, low-cost instruments for the repatriation of remittances;
- adopting flexible investment or bank investment formulas;
- introducing ad hoc banking products such as planned accounts;
- exempting migrants' savings from tax.

African experts living outside their national borders are essential factors of development and valuable partners in institutional capacity building in their countries of origin. Brain gain is a pragmatic means for compensating the deficit in human resources linked to African brain drain. Three of the programmes presented at the conference illustrate this: the TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) programme, initiated in July 2005 by the Government of Senegal and UNDP; the "Initiative de Codéveloppement" (co-development initiative) linking France and Senegal; the MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa) Programme for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda (IOM).

Other original cooperation formulas include the Italo-Senegalese cooperation in the framework of Commodity Aid which, after having supported the equipping of public institutions such as the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, is now turning to the financing of business creation projects for Senegalese migrants who wish to integrate the economy of their country of origin; the Italian NGO COOPI (*Cooperazione internazionale*), which, with support from the European Union, is involved in capacity building for associations of Senegalese migrants based in Italy who are desirous of implementing development projects in their communities of origin.

The success of the projects will require the adoption of structural reforms by the governments of the countries of origin, without which there can be no concrete results.

Continent-wide Consultation on Migration – Towards the High-Level Dialogue

Desperate people pay a heavy tribute in their attempts to reach Europe in the face of increasingly protectionist measures initiated by the north. Indeed, the recent closure of the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla has led migrants from sub-Saharan Africa – who formerly transited through the desert and Maghreb countries – to embark on dangerous voyages on fishing boats from points of departure situated along the Atlantic coastline.

There is a new awareness of the need for international dialogue on migration, and dialogues have been held on the subject in 2006. The mechanisms established during meetings in Africa include the African Plan of Action adopted by the Experts Meeting on Migration and Development (Algiers, April 2006); the Strategic Framework Migration Policy for Africa adopted by the African Union during the Summit in July 2006 in Banjul; and the Rabat Declaration marking the commitment of the States to develop a close partnership on migration issues (Rabat, July 2006). The participants in the Dakar Workshop maintained that Africa should take an active role in these issues since the High-Level Dialogue meeting is based on collaboration between States and partners in development and civil society – of which diaspora associations are a part. In the opinion of many participants, the HLD marks both a new awareness of migration issues that are not on the list of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and an opportunity to address the opportunities migration offers with a view of achieving these very goals.

The Dakar Workshop also urged governments to join forces with civil society to support the idea of officially establishing 2007-2017 as the “Decade of International Migration and Development”.

Presentations of the Three Working Groups in Session Six

Group I – Investing in Human Resources

Moderator: Dr Mohammadou Sall
Reporter: Mr Baba Touré

The constraints and innovative mechanisms towards a global approach include the creation of a structure specialized in Population, Law and Development that can carry surveys and research on migration and development and share recommendations with opinion leaders. This will imply developing curricula, collecting statistical and demographic data and undertaking surveys and research on migration, development and poverty reduction.

Challenge

Answering the above needs is made difficult because of the insufficiency of training institutions, of experts and trainers in migration and development, and because of financial and other constraints, such as the weakness of intercountry and interregional cooperation, the scattered nature of poverty reduction strategy documents and the lack of a policy regarding the retention of human resources.

Recommendations

Policies should focus on the creation of databases on migration, on-the-job training and assessment of jobs and competencies, through mechanisms such as the creation of partnerships between States and organizations (e.g. IOM), the reinforcement of creation of national/regional training schools, the mobilization of financial resources, as well as the development and reinforcement of regional cooperation. Capacities as regards human resources should be estimated for each country, both at national and international (diaspora) levels, to identify surpluses and deficits in human resources and the consequences brain drain, as well as the root causes of migration. For sectoral deficits, policies should consider training activities and define ways to use the diaspora to absorb the gap.

Group II – Integrating Migration into National Development Frameworks

Moderator: Mr Dakayo Louis Marie
Reporter: Mr Arona Dia

Challenges

Issues concern the image of migration, data reliability and the challenge to stay in the country, which remains an open-ended question. Shortage of timely migration-related statistics and lack of coordination inhibit the setting-up of a migration policy. Migrants' interests and those of their home communities should be analysed, and ways to ensure retention of qualified nationals should be identified.

Recommendations

It is essential to define a policy on migration and to translate it into relevant policy documents such as PRSPs. Another point is to establish coordination between entities and to reinforce human and material resource capacities. The targeted areas for reinforcing capacities are those dealing with migration issues, such as statistics departments in charge of collecting data on migration. The quality of data, the level of analysis on the impact of migration in each area, the development of a consensual action plan for migration that optimizes resources and opportunities offered by migrants for home countries' development must all be considered.

Group III – Public/Private Sector Strategies: How to Develop Synergies?

Moderator: Mr Ange Billong
Reporter: Mr Yamsékré Tiendrebeogo

Challenge

Strategies based on public and private partnerships in order to harness the African diaspora's resources to increase investments in Africa, create jobs and reduce poverty require specific actions.

Recommendations

For African States:

- facilitate private business creation and evolution in Africa, focusing on good governance and the elimination of constraints faced by the African private sector;
- take into account diaspora's concerns during the definition and implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP);
- focus on the creation of mechanisms informing the diaspora of investment opportunities in Africa;
- offer secure, fast and inexpensive home country repatriation systems to the diaspora.

For regional integration departments:

- rationalize their work in the continent so as to avoid conflicts of objectives that may jeopardize the synergy of public/private sector actions and prevent the optimal use of the diaspora's resources;
- increase regional integration and exchanges, harmonize laws at community level, and provide international agreements in favour of the Member States and Africa in general.

For the African private sector:

- pay increased attention to the governance of private goods so as to maximize partnership with the public sector and resources from the diaspora;
- develop synergies between the private sector and the diaspora for a more efficient use of investment opportunities in Africa;
- offer banking and financial support to investment by migrants for business creation in Africa.

For the African diaspora:

- enlarge networks between members for capacity-building purposes to effectively participate in decision making in host and home countries;
- improve African executives' access to international organizations and multinational firms in order to benefit from trade initiatives in favour of Africa and to increase direct foreign investments;
- prepare guidelines to economic operators in Africa for fair strategies of access to European, American and Asian markets.

For international and multilateral organizations:

- enlarge consultation and collaboration with the diaspora in order to provide recommendations for African private sector development;
- support the actions of the diaspora in business creation.

Possible Actions and Recommendations

Aware of the major role migration plays worldwide, participants of the Dakar Workshop identified the migration challenges to be addressed in the coming years and issued recommendations on priorities to be addressed during the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Recommendations underlined the adoption of innovative approaches for improving the positive impact of migration on development in the following areas:

Consolidating the Role of Migrants as Development Agents

Structural reforms can initially foster the benefits of migrants' contribution to development. As migrants are highly willing, individually and collectively, to join the development process, an optimal use of their financial and human resources would be to pursue vigorous efforts in the creation of a dialogue framework to consolidate their capacities and ability to contribute to development policies and programmes.

Turning Brain Drain into Brain Gain

The African continent makes a significant contribution to the development of developed countries, particularly in the fields of health and education. Participants stressed the need for diaspora management, promoting dialogue among peoples as globalization moves forward. Evidences from the IOM-initiated "Migration for Development in Africa" (MIDA) programmes that suggest African diaspora experts are vital intermediaries for development and prized partners in institutional capacity building of their countries of origin.

Making Better Use of Remittances from the Diaspora

Migrants are major sources of hard currency and contribute, to a large extent, in improving the living conditions and livelihoods of families, particularly in out-migration pools located mostly in remote areas. They also significantly contribute to poverty reduction, particularly in the Sahel, as well as in the capital cities of West and Central Africa. While remittances injected into countries of origin are the most visible positive part of migration, development stakeholders are facing challenges to channel these funds to either the public or private productive sectors, especially for job creation and poverty reduction.

Inserting Migration into National Legislation

Enforcing international conventions and protocols signed or ratified on the free movement of persons, the protection of migrants and members of their families, and the combat against trafficking in persons and exploitation may help guarantee political stability at regional or sub-regional level.

Key Action Lines

Participants in the Dakar workshop issued the following recommendations for reconciling migration with development:

- envisage collecting or developing statistical data at regional and sub-regional level;
- build capacities of migrants and their associations to enable them to participate more effectively in national development plans;
- incorporate migration issues in development policies, e.g. in the second generation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP 2);
- harmonize national, regional and international policies to enhance coherence in migration management;
- tackle the factors of irregular migration as a matter of priority;
- improve efficiency in migration management by giving regional institutions a greater role in the integration and coordination of migration policies;
- offer the African continent the time and capacity required to address international migration. In this context, the participants echoed the idea put forward by IOM during the African Union's Banjul Summit in 2006 that the years 2007-2017 be designated as the "Decade for International Migration and Development."

The major conclusions and recommendations of the Dakar workshop have been summarized in a document entitled Common Position, which includes Africa's contribution to the UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (held in New York 14 and 15 September 2006), and should serve as the basis for all future initiatives on migration and development in Africa.

Common Position

In its Resolution Res/60/227 of 23 December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly decided to hold a High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) during its 61st session on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York (United States of America). It will be the first ever high-level UN event devoted entirely to the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, in order to identify appropriate means and mechanisms to maximize its development benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration.

Considering the Objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 which calls above all for the reduction of extreme poverty, its causes and manifestations but also resolves to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families;

Recalling the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which are to eradicate poverty; to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on the path of sustainable growth and development; to halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process, to enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy and to accelerate the empowerment of women;

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration adopted in February 2006 at the Ministerial Conference of the Least-Developed Countries on Enhancing the Development Impact of Remittances in Cotonou, which will be submitted at the high-level meeting on the mid-term Comprehensive Global Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2001-2010, to be convened during the 61st session of the UN General Assembly starting on 12 September 2006;

Recalling the Brussels Declaration on Asylum, Migration and Mobility and the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Brussels Declaration established by the ACP Ministerial meeting on Migration, Mobility and Asylum held in Brussels, 11-12 April 2006;

Recalling:

- Decision Doc.Ex.Cl/277 (IX) by the Executive Council of the African Union on the Migratory Policy Framework for Africa, adopted during its Ordinary Session held in 2006 in Banjul (The Gambia);
- Decision Doc.Ex.Cl/278 (IX) (7) by the Executive Council of the African Union on the African Common Position on Migration and Development, adopted during its Ordinary Session held in June 2006 in Banjul (The Gambia);
- The IOM proposal to launch a Decade on International Migration and Development (2007-2017), first brought to the attention of the African Union Member States at the Banjul summit, the objective of which is to constitute a platform for consultation at the ministerial and States level after the HLD to evolve and strengthen an African regional position on international migration and development;
- The Rabat Declaration and the Plan of Action established by the countries participating in the Europe/Africa Conference held in Rabat in June 2006;
- The European Commission communication entitled Contribution to the EU Position for the United Nations' High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (COM,2006:409,final) and the common European Union position (11740/06) adopted at the Council of the EU on 17 July 2006, both of which state the European Union's commitment to actively support the outcome of the HLD.

Taking note of the necessity to reinforce conflict prevention, peace building and political stability measures as a basis for controlling migratory movements; of the increasing feminization of migration and of the importance to integrate the gender dimension in policies and programmes related to migration; taking note also of the impact of mobility on the vulnerability of migrants and of their communities to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;

Recalling that international migration is intrinsically linked to the phenomenon of globalization and as such increasingly takes on a temporary, circular and multidirectional character and that the lack of employment and economic opportunities for the African youth, along with the lack of sound national immigration policies, are the main causes for irregular migration towards developed countries (accompanied by the phenomena of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons);

Noting the importance of international dialogue and cooperation on migration, particularly in the areas of labour migration; of integration of migrants in host societies; of migrant's remittances; of brain drain and skills transfer; as well as the central role of migrants and diasporas in the development processes of their countries of origin, which lies in the reinforcement of national human resource capacities in priority sectors such as education and health but also in investments in economic ventures and thus employment creation.

The Participants:

Encourage Governments to promote migration as a positive factor of development and to adopt concrete measures aiming at integrating migration in their development policies and programmes, in the PSRP and their efforts towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Encourage Regional Economic Cooperation Institutions such as the ECOWAS, the East African Community (EAC), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union/Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA), as well as concerned sub-regional institutions, to intensify their efforts in integrating migration and development in their regional and sub-regional economic integration programmes;

Recognize the importance of migrants' remittances and their potential impact on development of their countries of origin while insisting on the fact that they are private funds, the transfers of which cannot replace official development aid (ODA);

Recognize that remittances, as a form of funding contributing to development, should attract tax incentives similar to those available for aid and foreign direct investments, and urge host countries to introduce remittance tax relief for development;

Propose, in partnership with development partners, to set up research, studies and evaluation programmes in order to equip African countries with methods and information management capacities to acquire and process the information needed to effectively manage migration for the benefit of national development;

Urge Governments to transpose the international instruments, protocols and agreements they have signed and/or ratified into their national legislations, particularly regarding the rights of migrants and of their families and the free circulation of people, goods and services, the rights of establishment and residence;

Encourage Governments to establish North-South partnerships, particularly but not exclusively with European Union Member States, in support of the countries of origin's development policies, in the fields of labour migration, integration, better use of remittances, and in facilitating the circulation of migrants' competencies and capacities;

Encourage Governments to include migration in bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements between countries of origin and destination, including a review of migrant integration and reintegration policies to render them more effective, associating the private sector and civil societies at local and national level in the discussions;

Encourage the private sector to accept a more important role in programmes aiming towards a better integration of migration into the development policies of States, through their participation in initiatives by governments, development partners, civil society and migrants themselves;

Taking into account the multi-sectoral aspects of international migration and development, encourage governments to adopt an interministerial approach in the definition of policies, administrative frameworks and legislation related to migration, aiming at improved internal and international coherence in migration management;

The adoption of this common position can be a contribution to the participating States' preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and may serve to support governments in their efforts to develop migration and development policies and programmes at national, regional and international level pursuant to the above recommendations.

Annexes

Speeches and Presentations

- **Welcoming Remarks**
Dr SOUMANA SAKO, *Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)*
Ms NDIORO NDIAYE, *Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)*
- **Opening Speech**
H. E. Mr MAMADOU SIDIBÉ, *Minister of Plan and Sustainable Development, Senegal*
- **High-Level Dialogue: Bringing a Regional Dimension to the Global Debate – the Perspectives of the Economic Commission for Africa**
Dr BJORG SANDKJAER, *Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*
- **Migration and Development in Africa: Reconciling Two Policy Agendas**
Dr MEERA SETHI, *Senior Regional Advisor for sub-Saharan Africa, IOM*
- **Migration and Poverty: “How to Turn Migration into a Microeconomic Goal”**
Dr DEMBA BALDE, *World Bank*
- **Migration, Growth, Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals**
Ms INGRID CYIMANA, *Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, Senegal*
- **Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Migration**
Mr IBRAHIMA DIA, *DRSP Follow-up Unit, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senegal*
- **A National Programme for Food Security, Job Creation and Good Governance, 2005-2007**
Mr DESMOND S. KOROMA, *Senior Officer, Director, Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, Sierra Leone*
- **Joint Development and Poverty Control**
Mr PAPE BIRAME THIAM, *Director of Technical Assistance, Ministry of International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation, Senegal*
- **Bringing the Regional Dimension to the Global Debate – Regional and Interregional Strategies**
Dr BJORG SANDKJAER, *Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*
- **The Programme for Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) in the Great Lakes Region: Experience of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Prof. KAWAYA SEFU PAPA, *Programme Director, Ministry for Employment, Democratic Republic of Congo*
- **National Policy Options in Migration and Development: Ghana’s Experience**
Mr WINFRED A. NELSON, *National Development Planning Commission, Ghana*
- **Diaspora Engagement in Public/Private Partnerships for African Socio-economic Development.**
Mr GIBRIL FAAL, *Chairman, AFFORD, United Kingdom of Great Britain*
- **Migrant Remittances**
Mr THÉOPHILE TURPIN, *Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l’Industrie du Sénégal (BICIS)*
- **Harnessing Diaspora Skills & Resources for the Development of Africa’s Private Sector**
Mr VINCENT OKELE, *President, African Axis, Belgium*
- **The Great Lakes Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Programme: the Experience of Burundi**
Mr BERNARD NDAYIRORE, *Programme Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Burundi*
- **The African Diaspora as Key Partner in Sustainable Development of their Home Countries**
Mr FRED KWABA, *Vice President, Strategic Planning, Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), Washington, DC, USA*
- **Closing Speech**
H. E. Mr ABDOU MALAL DIOP, *Minister for Senegalese Abroad, Senegal*

Agenda

- **Day One: 8 August 2006**
- **Day Two: 9 August 2006**
- **Day Three: 10 August 2006**

Welcoming Remarks

DR SOUMANA SAKO

Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Dear Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Representatives of the International Organizations,
Ladies and gentlemen
Dear Participants and guests,

After the first ACBF-OIM joint Workshop, organized from 25 to 27 October 2005 for Southern and Eastern African countries, we are gathered for the second joint meeting, dealing with West and Central African countries.

Allow me first to pay tribute to the Government of Senegal, in particular His Excellency the President of the Republic, for having Senegal host this meeting, and for helping ACBF and IOM in the organization of the Workshop.

I should like to congratulate IOM for its partnership with ACBF on the subject "Migration, Development, and Poverty Reduction", which corresponds to the mandate of ACBF – building capacities for African countries to address development challenges. I hope this ACBF-IOM partnership can be extended to other international bodies or NGOs interested in migration issues, so that questions of regional and international migration are treated in the framework of a development process beneficial to Africa.

I should also like to thank all participants at this Workshop as well as their governments for their contribution to debates, exchanges and propositions. Your presence here shows the strong degree of awareness among African Governments as regards the economic, social, cultural and environmental consequences of migration.

The media coverage of irregular migrations to the Canary Islands, the statistics and available results from various studies illustrate the importance of migration and call for vigorous and urgent actions from governmental and non-governmental actors. In the field of health for example, studies indicate that over 50 per cent of healthcare posts are vacant in Ghana, 53 per cent of nursing posts are vacant in Malawi while at the same time over 12,500 doctors from African countries work in the United Kingdom. This massive export of human resources embraces all areas of expertise and all categories of the African population.

In the same way, however paradoxical it may appear, migration indirectly induces a subsidy of rich countries by poor ones.

The consequences of migration effects are not purely negative. Migration can generate important profits shared by the countries of origin and by migrants themselves. In Africa, migrant remittances constitute an important source of hard currency, allowing a country to acquire vital imports or to pay foreign debts. A study in Ghana showed that banks in this country received about 1.9 billion US dollars in 2004 and 1.3 billion between January and September, 2005. According to some estimations, the value of remittances transferred through informal ways is two or three times superior to official figures. By comparison, international public aid to development in Ghana amounted in 2004 to 630 million US dollars. In other words, for one dollar resulting from the international assistance, at least six were provided by Ghanaian migrants. Another example from Senegal show that household budgets may include up to 50 per cent of payments from abroad. These examples illustrate the scale and complexity of migration consequences.

The objective of this Workshop is to set up a framework to discuss and analyse issues related to migration and development, to share lessons learnt and to develop practical mechanisms to face this challenge.

I should like to draw your attention on the following points:

- how to help African Governments set up human resources development strategies coherent with the Millennium Development Goals, with Strategies of Poverty Reduction and in connection with migration policies;
- the effective regional, national and sector-based approaches to be set up in order to ensure the mobilization and good use of resources and capacities;
- the mobilization of diaspora resources to fill the deficits of capacities in migrant countries of origin, particularly in the field of health;
- the actions to be developed at the administrative level in Africa to increase the impact of remittances on development.

The ACBF has strong expectations regarding the exchanges that will take place during these three days. The results of your work should help us identify means to strengthen national and regional capacities in the analysis and management of migration. At the end of this Workshop, we are hoping for valid proposals to set up programmes directed to capacity building in order to reduce the negative impact of brain drain on Africa and to maximize the advantages linked to migration. Finally, we hope that our Governments will have substantial and concrete proposals to contribute to the High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development, to be held on September 14th and 15th 2006 during the General Assembly.

I wish you full success in your work.

Thank you.

Welcoming Remarks

MS NDIORO NDIAYE

Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Dear Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Dear Participants,

First of all, I should like to wish you a warm welcome to Dakar for this workshop co-organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). I should like also, on your behalf, to express my great thanks to the Foundation, specially its Chairman, Mr Soumana Sako, for accepting to fund this second workshop, the topic of which concerns all our Member States.

The topic of this workshop is timely, since migration is one of the most important of today's challenges. All around the world, more and more people will be asked to discuss the factors that trigger migration and their impact on societies.

Through its A/Res/60/227 resolution of 23 December 2005, the UN General Assembly decided to hold its very first High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development dedicated to international migration and development on 14-17 September 2006 in New York. The HLD will give us an opportunity to implement a consistent migratory policy at international, regional and national level, through the promotion of a better integration of migration impact on development policies.

HLD is a unique opportunity for Member States to share each other's best practices of migration management as well as to promote cooperation in the key areas of migration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration, with its complex historical, political, socio-economic and cultural factors, provides many opportunities and challenges for Africa. Let me list some of the frameworks that underpin the legitimacy of migration dialogue:

- the Meeting on Migration and Development in Algiers, April 2006, which led to the adoption of an African action plan on migration in preparation for further discussions with the European Union;
- decision Ex. Cl 28 (IX) of the African Union Executive Council approving the Strategic Migration Policy for Africa during the Summit of the African Union (June 2006, Banjul), in which the international organizations are asked to support Member States in defining migration policies;
- the Rabat Declaration of July 2006, which committed Member States to work together so as to create and develop a close partnership on migration issues between countries of origin, transit and destination.

Other important declarations are decision CM/Dec. 614 approved by the AU Council of Ministers in 2001 and the Durban Declaration proclaiming a Capacity-Building Decade in Africa, approved in 2002.

What are the challenges to be taken up by African countries?

- Management of migration: This involves capacity building within various governments in order to better address migration. Including migration management in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) would make it easier to take into account government expectations for better internal, intra-regional and international migration management, in a spirit of partnership. For migration to be considered positive, all stakeholders in host and home countries should know and understand it. Within organizations that create knowledge, education and training programmes should be put in place to that end. Curricula and training in migration management must be set up in education centres, excellence centres – in fact every place that knowledge may be generated from.

- Brain drain: Many African regions are today lacking in skilled human resources, partly because of the massive emigration of professionals and university graduates. This slows down sustainable development. Poverty reduction strategies and development programmes should include policies to address brain drain and these policies should be adjusted to the specific needs and challenges of each affected country.
- Peace and stability: Spontaneous and irregular migration flows can have a significant impact on national and international stability and security. Controlling irregular migration and building overall migration management systems can help improve security and stability at the national and international level.
- Migrants' human rights: The efficient protection of migrants' human rights is a key component of any overall and well-balanced migration management system. It is becoming increasingly evident that working migrants can help develop both their country of origin and that of destination. Their contribution will be even more relevant if their human and labour rights are respected. This can only be achieved through improvements in labour migration policies, actions to prevent negative practices, and the provision of decent and productive jobs for migrants.
- Working migrants can also play an important role in building national capacities in higher education, strengthening cooperation and cultural exchange between their countries of origin and of destination, and supporting democratization and human rights.
- Migration and development: Development, or the lack of it, is one of the main causes of migration. Migration can be an efficient means of poverty control through the improvement of income distribution, the promotion of productive development and labour for Africa's growth, the strengthening of women's empowerment and of gender equity. Creating development opportunities can help minimize the main reasons that encourage young people to migrate, and thereby help contain brain drain.
- In our globalized world, diasporas play an instrumental role in connecting nations and establishing relationships between them. They should be recognized as a driving element of economic and social development for their country of origin. Co-development arrangements should facilitate this role of diasporas in order to allow them to take part in the development processes and in the struggle against poverty in their country of origin.

It is therefore essential that migration policies be part of development policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of this workshop is to explore the role that migration can play in achieving national development plans and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as in the poverty reduction process. The workshop will also identify means to build national and regional capacities in analysing and addressing issues related to migration and development.

The implementation of capacity-building policies in migration management should be promoted at all levels. Many of our compatriots are involved in South-to-South migration, going from one developing country to another. These policies will help reduce the problems caused by such migrations and support the management of flows in the relevant countries so as to maximize their advantages.

In order to manage migration better, African countries must build capacities within different ministries: Foreign Affairs to manage citizens abroad, Home Affairs to deal with issues related to technical cooperation, home security and stability as a whole, Labour to deal with instruments and laws related to technical cooperation and human resources training, Economic Affairs to deal with money transfers (data collection, use of remittances, cost of transfers and investments), Gender Ministries to deal with specific issues related to migration of men and of women.

Dialogue must be strengthened at sub-regional and regional levels. Regional and international cooperation is critical to reach a multilateral and bilateral consensus that takes into account the concerns of governments as regards the impact of migration on labour markets, on health and on security.

Migration expert training must be institutionalized; this will eventually allow experts not only to help African governments but also to take part in migration management at regional, continental and international levels.

Capacity building can also help administrations, civil society and institutions assume their responsibilities in all aspects of migration management. It is important to take into account civil society in the capacity-building arrangements, since it plays an important role – especially in the promotion of integration and employment, in the prevention of discrimination and in the promotion of good interethnic relationships within society.

Another topic that deserves our attention is that of remittances, the importance of which has been highlighted during the Ministerial Conference of LDC (Least-Developed Countries) held in Benin from 9 to 10 February 2006. This has shown that remittances are an important source of foreign financing for many LDCs and therefore constitute a direct link between migration and development. As potential development agents, migrants can contribute to the control of poverty through investments, business creation and even through their own consumption, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). World Bank figures show that working migrants transferred 167 billion US dollars towards LDCs in 2005, including nearly 8 billion towards sub-Saharan Africa. These figures are much lower than the actual ones; it would thus be advisable to further study the phenomenon in order to control its volume and to provide ways and means of investing such funds in development financing.

I finally wish to inform you that the proposal to declare the 2007-2017 decade as the International Decade for Migration and Development has been submitted, for the first time, to the attention of governments at the African Union Summit in Banjul. Such a decade would not only facilitate the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions of the High-Level Dialogue, but also lead to a better integration of migration in development strategies through the promotion of relevant policies and coordination between agencies and between various sectors.

I should like to renew my thanks to the Foundation again for its role in capacity building in Africa, and to all the participants that made the effort to come to Dakar. I shall be fully available and receptive as regards your concerns in the skill areas of IOM.

Thank you.

Opening Speech

H. E. MR MAMADOU SIDIBÉ

Minister of Plan and Sustainable Development, Senegal

Your Excellency the Ambassador of Congo,
Mr Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation,
Madam Deputy Director of the International Organization for Migration,
Representatives of international Organizations,
Dear Participants,

The Government of Senegal is delighted that a large-scale dialogue on Migration, Development, and Poverty Reduction is held today in Dakar. On behalf of His Excellency, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Senegalese Republic and Mr Macky Sall, Prime Minister, Head of Government, I should like to congratulate the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its partners for choosing the subject of irregular migration, a burning topical issue that is at the heart of our present concerns. By discussing this topic thoroughly during this three-day conference, you will help governments to find the right solution to the phenomenon of uncontrolled migration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration has always existed worldwide but as globalization features speedy information exchange and economic framework facilities, it has recently taken an upward trend.

The rapid spread of information on opportunities for accumulation accounts for this movement, mainly from very poor areas. The phenomenon affects all classes, ranging from illiterate to highly qualified people. These movements are sometimes organized by networks facilitating regular or irregular entry into countries.

Faced with this upsurge, States are progressively adopting migration management policies. Host countries control these movements and their effects on domestic security while home countries should watch trends such as remittances or knowledge and skill transfers. Over the past years, because of the slump in Public Development Aid, the excessive volume of external debt and the weakness of direct foreign investments, migrants' remittances have been considered as a major potential development financial resource, in accordance with the Statement issued during the World Finance conference held in Monterrey. It is therefore important to develop strategies that involve migrants in the economic life of their home countries.

International migration may have significant influence in terms of its effects on the local and national economies of the home countries, especially through remittances. If the right incentives are set up through strategies based on the improvement of services offered to emigrants, such transfers may contribute to accelerate economic growth.

Focusing on the successful experience of countries such as Italy, Portugal and Spain, the Government of Senegal – who has created a Ministry of Senegalese abroad – seeks to involve migrants in development through their contribution to the transfer of financial flows, through the improved organization of these flows and through their participation in the national building effort.

The first cause of emigration is economic. That is the reason why contributions from Senegalese people living abroad are very important, because of the diversity of actions benefiting both families and communities. Many achievements realized under decentralized cooperation (set as a national Department) were undertaken by Senegalese living abroad. Such achievements are also visible in their home communities, whether in religious, social or cultural life.

In the political field, Senegalese living abroad take part in national and in local elections, provided they are at home for this last category. They can also actively participate in their grassroots community life, as councillors involved in their home rural communities. Yet some points need to be improved:

- creating a reliable information system towards a better understanding of peoples' movements worldwide;
- creating a fast alarm and assistance system in conflict zones. Although globalization tends to abolish barriers – thanks to information communication technology – this has paradoxically led to a kind of withdrawal, both in Western countries, with a stepping up in visa and residence permit delivery rules, and in African countries, with frequent major and violent expulsions and repatriations. The implementation of an efficient alarm and fast care system for nationals abroad experiencing desperate situations is a necessity.

In this respect, the REVA (Return to Agriculture) Programme, initiated by President Abdoulaye Wade and implemented by the Government under the lead of the Minister for Agriculture and Hydraulics, offers interesting opportunities to young people tempted to experience migration, which in some cases is a fruitless adventure.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Minister in charge of Population and of the Economic and Social Development Plan, I can state that my department will follow the results of this conference with great interest.

I thank you for being present and hope this workshop will be successful.

I now declare open the international Workshop on Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction. Thank you for your kind attention.

High Level Dialogue: Bringing a Regional Dimension to the Global Debate – the Perspectives of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

DR BJORG SANDKJAER

Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

The purpose of HLD on migration and development is to discuss multidimensional aspects of international migration in order to be able to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative development impacts.

The HLD central messages of the Secretary General's report conclude that international migration is a key component of the globalization process, that it is a positive force for development (both in countries of origin and countries of destination), and that it is possible and advisable to strengthen international cooperation on migration.

There are many actors in migration:

- workshops/seminars/conferences conducted by the African Union, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and CESPI (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale)/SID (Society for international Development);
- AU, ILO, IOM and CESPI/SID activities where ECA participates;
- a report on international migration and development in Africa drafted by ECA;
- a position paper for dialogue with the EU produced by AU.

Africa is in need of collaboration and coordination. This includes activities ranging from sub-regional to regional and it involves the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). It is necessary to assist Africa in reaching a common African position for HLD.

ECA has developed several activities in the past:

- It conducted and continues to conduct policy analysis and advocacy on regional integration and free movement of people;
- It took part in consultative group meetings on international migration (organized by the UN Department of social and economic Affairs/Population Division) and in the Commission on Population and Development debate on international migration;
- It drafted a background report on international migration and development in Africa;
- It held a round table discussion on migration and the MDGs in Africa, at the international Symposium, 28-30 June 2006, Turin, Italy (organized by the Government of Italy and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – DESA/Population Division).

As we move ahead, we shall focus on:

- highlighting the need for data and institutional capacity building for managing migration;
- promoting harmonization of national, sub-regional and regional policies and relating them to international legal frameworks for migration (including those on migrants' rights);
- managing international competition for human capital;
- recognizing the need for bilateral/multilateral mechanisms to compensate developing countries for trained human resources attracted to and taken by the developed countries;
- dealing with the social and economic impacts of migration;
- recognizing the impact of international migration on peace and stability;
- analysing the impact of international migration on the achievement of the MDGs in Africa;
- dealing with the impact of poverty and conflict on the refugee phenomenon (including internally displaced persons), and reducing the push factors to promote migration by choice;
- mitigating the effects of globalization on the movement of skilled and unskilled labour;
- harnessing the African diaspora for Africa's development;
- channelling remittances into African development (especially human capital-intensive activities);
- meeting the challenges of international migration to individual, state, regional and global security.

Migration and Development in Africa: Reconciling Two Policy Agendas

DR MEERA SETHI

Senior Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM

Migration and Development Interlinkages

Now more than ever, international attention is focused on the multifaceted reciprocal relationships between migration and development and policy coherence. Although analytical research on the link between migration and development is rather limited, there is a growing awareness that development affects migration and that migration influences development.

The ways in which migration affects development depend essentially on the migration patterns in question and the capacity of countries of origin, transit and destination to adjust to the particular migration phenomena. At the same time, the level and prospect of development in the countries of origin influence migration patterns and the capacity of these countries to manage their migration phenomena. Hence economic development can contribute to decreasing the pressure on potential migrants to permanently migrate to more developed countries.

Migration and development are essentially interlinked and in this sense greater policy coherence between migration policies and development cooperation is necessary. The major challenge for policymakers is to find innovative and effective ways to enhance the benefits of migration whilst mitigating its adverse development implications.

Migration and Development in Africa

There is no lack of examples to illustrate the links between migration and development. We must keep in mind that these links are complex and should not be subjected to generalization. Migration, although it can be an effective tool in the fight against poverty by promoting development, is not a development strategy. Neither is migration a Millennium Development Goal or Target, yet it is inherent to each one of them.

In Africa, migration and the lack of development are a result of political and ethnic conflicts, violations of human rights, slow and uncertain democratization processes, an absence of human security and social and economic factors such as poverty and unemployment. Historical, environmental demographic conditions as well as both traditional and new phenomena that co-exist in any specific context prevent us from making generalizations of the African context. Moreover, the impact of migration on development varies not only according to the stage of the migration cycle and the length of the migration process, but also depends on migrant characteristics and local conditions – especially in labour and credit markets. The impact of migration depends on the policies of both host and home countries and at the same time influences the policy choices to be made by these countries.

Migration Triggers Multiple Impacts

As we can see in the African context, migration triggers multiple impacts. Mismanaged or unmanaged migration can have serious negative consequences on the welfare of countries and migrants. The reduction in highly educated and skilled human resources and vital labour has a negative effect on productivity and therefore also on the development of the countries of origin. The shortage of qualified human resources is especially critical in the health and education sector of many African countries. Moreover, the shortage, as a direct result of the aggressive recruitment by developed countries in order to fill their domestic shortages, leads to the deterioration of basic social services in both the educational and the health sector.

Other important impacts of the outflow of skilled nationals are the increasing inequity in development, trade and investment and a maldistribution of services particularly in the rural areas and for the poorest. Moreover, the out-migration of skilled resources is an obvious obstruction to economic growth (lack of investment, jobs and wealth creation capacity) and results in a decline in research and technological innovations. All these factors lead to an increased dependency of African economies on foreign expertise and technology.

Well-managed migration, on the other hand, may have a significant positive impact on the development of African sending countries and yield important benefits to destination countries. The adverse effects of brain drain must be reversed to maximize positive aspects of migration and development and build human resource capacity. The integration of migration considerations into development strategies is a prerequisite for enhancing the capacity of countries of origin to adjust to international migration and to benefit therefrom.

Key Migration Trends in the West and Central African Regions

West and Central African countries have generated significant outflows of intercontinental migration, mainly to Western Europe but also to North America and the Middle East. Many of these outflows traditionally were directed towards former colonial powers and included mainly migrants going for higher education and specialized training. More recently, migration flows have diversified and increasingly include poorly educated labour migrants. Moreover, Africa has experienced a feminization of its migration as women have also started to migrate in search of greater economic opportunities. These women are more vulnerable to exploitation – as shown by the growing regional phenomenon of trafficking in migrant women and children.

One of the dramatic changes and challenges in the last decade has been the increasing irregular migration through transit countries of the Maghreb. Poor economic conditions, desertification, declining agricultural production and expanding foreign debt have prompted many Sahelians to leave their home countries. African migrants have increasingly adopted more daring and evasive methods to enter Europe, as the European countries tighten their border controls. Spain, for example has seen the number of irregular arrivals – mainly from sub-Saharan nationals – increase from 4,700 in 2005 to around 25,000 in the first nine months of 2006.

West and Central African Diaspora in Europe

Europe's highly skilled migrants mainly come from Africa. In the case of West and Central Africa, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Senegalese, Congolese (DRC) and Angolan health workers, teachers, engineers, scientists and technicians make up a large part of the foreign migrant population in OECD countries.

In the last five years more than 16,000 nurses and about 12,500 doctors from sub-Saharan Africa registered to work in Britain.* For Western African countries, Nigeria and Senegal have a particularly important outflow (88,000 Nigerians in UK and 82,000 Senegalese in France). Ghana has lost 50 per cent of its doctors to Canada, Britain and the USA. In Central Africa, Angola has the most important migration outflows (174,000 Angolans in Portugal) and DRC takes second place (50,000 Congolese in Belgium).

Lessons Learned: Policy Messages

The role of diasporas in development strategies, poverty reduction and economic growth attracts considerable policy interest, driven by the growing awareness about the positive development impacts of diaspora contribution, as well as by active lobbying from diaspora groups.

Diasporas are an expression of civil societies, and governments can play a catalytic role creating an environment conducive to diasporas' involvement. This implies that policymakers should identify and address the major obstacles preventing the diaspora from engaging in development projects. Dual citizenship is a significant measure adopted by countries of origin to formalize the fact that their diasporas belong to the home country. Not only does this provision have numerous implications on diasporas' contributions to development, but other policy measures such as lowering transfer costs, alleviating the bureaucratic burden, simplifying procedures, identifying investment projects, offering security for business transactions or ensuring the portability of rights also facilitate the impact diasporas have on the development of their countries of origin. The well-being and status of the migrant in the host country has a direct impact on strategies and potential contributions to the home country. Policies in the host countries can ensure the recognition of diaspora members as full citizens, recognize their inputs, address major image problems and build trust.

* *Recent Trends in International Migration in and from Africa*. Aderanti Adepaju, Human Resources Development Centre, Lagos, Nigeria, 2006.

“Diaspora” is usually understood as a collective notion, implying organized groups and collective identities. However, diasporas are not homogenous entities: policies should recognize the heterogeneity of expectations and skill levels and refrain from producing a unique response. Male and female diaspora members, for instance, can face different opportunities and often draw on different resources, networks and institutions.

Migration and development policies are at the crossroads of home and host country interests. Collaboration and dialogue between origin and host countries are thus necessary. Countries should consider sector-based approaches and comprehensive human resource strategies in order to attract returning migrants and to retain skills. Training and exchange of skills programmes can be effective migration and development strategies.

Policy Coherence for Migration and Development: What is Needed?

In order to obtain a coherent policy in the migration and development policies, a better understanding of migration patterns is needed. The obvious lack of statistical and socio-economic expertise on international migration allows for structural discrepancies in the perception of migration phenomena between sending and receiving countries. Additional research and analysis of the effects migration has on inequality and poverty, as well as an improved coordination of migration, trade and development cooperation policies should therefore be put in place.

Irregular migration flows due to poverty and unemployment and the lack of opportunities can be more effectively countered by long-term economic development outlooks, such as sustainable growth, increase in employment and poverty reduction, rather than by repressive control or short-term national policies. Migration and development policies should be put in place in order to manage increased labour mobility and promote innovation and investment through brain gain and migrant remittances. Policy options should mitigate the risks of irregular migration and at any time respect human rights and human security.

Migration and Poverty: How to Turn Migration into a Microeconomic Goal

MR DEMBA BALDE

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Introduction

In the scope of this panel, and since I am not a migration expert, I shall not deal particularly with migration causes – such as poverty – that are widely known. But I should like to address some essential aspects of the interlinkage with the struggle against poverty before concluding with a question.

Dynamics and Trends

We can point out that migrations are an integral part of economy's globalization. Indeed, liberalization of world trade and capital mobility needs labour. Moreover, migrants play most of the time a major role in creating new markets and trade relationships between countries.

The development of information technologies requires open and globalized markets. The differences of demographic dynamics between developed and developing countries are also another key factor. Let us look at the links between migration and the struggle against poverty.

Migration and the Struggle Against Poverty

Migration resources are now more than gap struggle strategies; they are real local investment strategies. Migrants' remittances are the second most important transfer source after aid for development, and they are safe even when there are conflicts. Migration is not only a source of trade exchange but also of technologies, skill and grassroots community capacity transfers.

The links between migration and poverty struggle are obvious. We know for example that in Senegal, regions with great migration trends are those that suffer less from poverty. This is due to investments by migrants in basic social services (education, health, water). Synergies between OCBs (organisations communautaires de base/basic community organizations) and migrants' associations are key institutional development factors. Furthermore, the promotion of decentralized cooperation is a major local development lever as regards decentralization.

Another important factor is the aspect of local governance promotion by migrants who come back as local authorities. This aspect of local governance also exists in host countries where migrants get more and more involved in town halls and other decentralized offices.

We have here the relationship with MDGs through the positive impact of remittances on poverty, foreign currency reserves and balance of payment, and unemployment. The question that remains to be answered is: "How do we turn migration into a microeconomic goal?"

Migration, Growth, Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals

MS INGRID CYIMANA

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Introduction

In Africa, people are raising awareness as regards migration challenges in building an economic growth context favourable to poor people. We must make sure these transverse issues become integrated in the global approach of poverty reduction and MDG achievement. If they are well managed, migration can contribute to reduce disparities by: (i) limiting the tension on the home countries' labour market and (ii) contributing to create extra growth. Favourable policies should be developed in the countries of origin to provide for incentives in favour of "productive transfers" and investment.

Migratory Flows and Economic Challenges of Home Countries

Migration affects almost all the human resource potential of southern countries and the resulting outflows go towards all countries, from Western Europe to North America and to some African states. However, it is difficult and even illusory to assess migratory flows from the countries of origin. It would be better to state prosaically that it is vain to try to measure the intensity of these flows even if it is possible to know their main characteristics. The quality of available data is unequal and depends on the source of information.*

In Senegal, migratory trends have been sensitive to the influence of climatic conditions and external constraints (exogenous shocks that negatively influence the domestic economic situation). So far, there is no specific migration policy, even if a population-based policy determines goals and strategies. The inquiry on migration and urbanization in Senegal (1993) is the first inquiry with a specific migration-related goal. This inquiry indicated the duration, place, causes of migration and the participative contributions of internal migrants to the economic activity. The regions of Dakar – as a springboard to migration – Saint-Louis, Diourbel, Thiès, Louga and Kolda are particularly concerned with international migration. When referring to the national poverty map, we can make a link between areas affected by poverty and those affected by migration. The areas of Ziguinchor and Kolda record the highest poverty rates (more than the national average): 67.1 per cent and 66.5 per cent respectively. These are followed by Kaolack (65.3%), Diourbel (61.5%) and Tambacounda (56.2%). The shortage of jobs directly resulting from the pauperization process is a major reason encouraging Senegalese migrants to go overseas.

Can Migration Be Considered as a Tool in the Struggle Against Poverty and in the Achievement of MDGs?

Is there a link between regularly sending money to the family in the home country and the main reasons why people migrate? With the devaluation of the CFA franc in 1994, financial transfers became more and more significant. These transfers are the main source of income in areas strongly affected by migration. In 1991, they were estimated by OECD at 652 million French francs, which at that period was half of the French public development aid in favour of Senegal. Between 1996 and 2001, these transfers were equal to the overall public development aid received by Senegal from its partners, as decentralization support (300 billion CFA francs).

In Senegal, the financial results of migration may be considered as an absorber of food crisis (MDG 1) in the affected areas. In 1998, the average annual transfers of Senegalese migrants living in France amounted to 8,800 FF; in the region of Louga, transfers represented 90 per cent of income received. According to experts, these transfers are "an aid that reaches its destination" and efficiently help improve standards of living.

* Migration et coopération au développement, Etudes démographiques n°28, Department of social and economic affairs, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1994.

Among other things, transfers make it possible to: acquire land and houses (contribution to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation – an indicator that measures essentially the material investment for a given year – and thus economic growth, MDG 1), and to increase collective community-based investments (basic social services, MDG 2 and 3). According to the IMF database (1997), the overall Senegalese migrants transfers amounted to 92.5 million US dollars, i.e. 10 per cent of the current operations income or about 2.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. The effect of migrants' transfers on local development is obvious in the current context of decentralization (access to social equipment, initiation of decentralized cooperation). At a macroeconomic level, these transfers contribute to limiting the crises of public finance by encouraging currency transfers and the constitution of savings in a difficult exports context.

Conclusion

The major question is to understand whether migrant financial accumulation dynamics could be the basis on which the seeds of a productive economy can develop and create a strong and sustainable growth in order to reduce poverty.

To answer this question, the government must create a flexible and favourable institutional and economic environment and entities that efficiently manage and mobilize their savings, in accordance with the migrants' prospects of development.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Migration

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Introduction

In 2000, the World Bank Institute (WBI) initiated the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) programme, asking eligible countries to produce an economic policy paper for growth and poverty reduction entitled Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The state has to draft a PRSP according to a set periodicity (3 years, 5 years). However, a PRSP may be improved through an annual Stage Report (progress report). In 2002, a 2003-2005 PRSP was drafted by Senegal and approved by its partners. It resulted in an 800,000 US dollars debt reduction. After three years of implementation, the Government of the Republic of Senegal has decided to update the PRSP, in accordance with the commitments of the government and partners for development interventions.

Contents of the PRSP-II

Vision

A philosophy, shared by all Senegalese citizens, based on ancient values that:

- sacralize work, considered as the first form of freedom and the personal achievement tool to get out of poverty;
- consider solidarity as a development paradigm;
- consider peace and human security as a prerequisite for any development.

Social capital, economic capital and human capital building go hand in hand. The vision takes into account:

- trends at economic, socio-cultural, internal and external levels;
- commitments taken up in the framework of the MDGs, Declaration of Paris, the strategic plan of AU, NEPAD, ECOWAS, UEMOA, etc.

Prospects for the forthcoming 20 years (by 2025) are:

- a reduction of the obstacles to fair and balanced exchange;
- significant capital flows towards the south;
- a more efficient aid for development, in accordance with commitments undertaken to achieve the MDGs.

Goals

In the long term:

- by 2015, reducing by 30 per cent the effect of poverty on populations through strong, accelerated, balanced growth, better distributed by at least 7 per cent, in real average terms;
- accelerating access to basic social services and improving food security of people;
- protecting people, particularly vulnerable ones, against social risks and catastrophes;
- reducing disparities and eradicating all kinds of marginalization in the nation, especially through implementation of gender equality in all sectors.

PRSP and Migration

The migration challenge was taken into account in the diagnosis according to four main axes:

- wealth creation;
- access to basic social services;
- social protection and management of risks and catastrophe;
- good governance, decentralized and participative development.

Diagnosis

- There are more than 2 million Senegalese overseas. Regions like Louga, Matam, St-Louis and Dakar that receive substantial remittances record the lowest poverty incidence rates. The poorest regions are those with the greatest natural potential but without migratory tradition.
- Financial transfers through official channels are estimated at more than 300 billion CFA francs. They amount to up to 65 per cent of the revenue of the migrants and 30 to 80 per cent of the budget of families in Senegal.
- Migrants play a great role as regards local population organization, financial transfer, both private and collective (schools, health, power generation) investment, contributing thus to the struggle against poverty in the country and to participative development.

Constraints

- lack of knowledge of socio-geographic, socio-professional, socio-economic characteristics;
- lack of organization of migrants and authorities, apart from efforts by the associations of nationals and members of organizations in receiving countries;
- lack of information about entities, procedures and business opportunities for Senegalese abroad.

Early Actions Needed

In order to address these constraints, the following early actions are recommended:

- elaborate and implement a policy and a strategy mobilizing Senegalese abroad in development efforts; with a well-performing system and monitoring of the Senegalese population abroad;
- raise awareness and encourage migrants to invest in the productive agricultural sector;
- promote migrant involvement in local development;
- orient investment flows from Senegalese abroad towards productive sectors;
- create an entity giving information about Senegalese abroad;
- raise awareness and provide information on the risks of irregular migration;
- ensure social assistance and repatriation of Senegalese abroad in case of distress;
- build capacities of personnel and associations of Senegalese abroad;
- ensure the social protection of migrants as well as their families;
- review the coverage of the non-structured sector so as to get migrants involved;
- set up health insurance for migrants' families;
- investigate retirement issues.

Other items include research/studies on the type of mobilization strategy to be used (relevant strategies such as investment funds; a permanent space for dialogue; a task force to monitor implementation).

A National Programme for Food Security, Job Creation and Good Governance, 2005-2007

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Introduction

Since the mid-1980s Sierra Leone has suffered dramatic economic decline. It has gone through a brutal ten-year armed conflict, with ever-worsening poverty. Civil conflict brought a breakdown of civil and political authority, and human tragedy: over 20,000 people were killed, 2 million displaced, and thousands injured or maimed, with human rights abuses including abduction of women and children. GDP per capita halved, with 80 per cent of the people in poverty. Social, economic and physical infrastructure was destroyed. Poverty was worsened by rising disease, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Sierra Leone ranked bottom in the 2004 UNDP Human Development Index.

Successive peace processes finally ended hostilities in 2001. Reconstruction programmes reintegrated ex-combatants, refugees and displaced persons into active community life. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Special Court were established for war-related "wounds". Peaceful national elections were held in May 2002.

An Interim PRSP (IPRSP) was finalized in 2001 and a National Recovery Strategy (NRS) in 2002, to support transition to equitable growth and sustainable development. In 2003, Sierra Leone articulated "Vision 2025" an overall vision of its longer-term development agenda. Vision 2025, prepared with wide stakeholder participation, provides a long-term strategic vision. The IPRSP and NRS resulted in economic recovery in 2001-2004. With much international support, progress was made in consolidating security, rebuilding social sectors and economic capital, and supporting the vulnerable. Now a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy is needed to support Vision 2025 to deliver economic growth. The PRSP is that strategy.

Preparing the PRSP

The PRSP has been prepared through extensive national consultations led by an interministerial committee, chaired by the Vice-President. Preparation involved an open dialogue among key stakeholders, supported by radio and television. Focus groups provided stakeholders' perceptions about poverty determinants and gender dimensions, identifying a vision and priorities for poverty reduction. Thematic and sector working groups reviewed and designed programmes, identified gaps, and developed indicators. The approach developed popular ownership; it generated information to define policy priorities on poverty, including mainstreaming gender and child-rights issues.

Poverty in Sierra Leone

The PRSP shows that poverty is widespread and deep. About 26 per cent of the population cannot afford a basic diet; 70 per cent live in poverty. About 66 per cent of the 4.8 million population live in rural areas, three-quarters of the poor are rural. In the poorest districts (where war destroyed tree crops, or where there is reliance on poor subsistence agriculture or small-scale mining) more than eight out of ten people live in poverty.

Sierra Leone's poor social indicators reflect a low level of human development, with high levels of poverty among rural women. Maternal mortality, infant mortality and fertility rates are among the worst in the world. Contraceptive prevalence remains low, as does female school attendance. Household poverty is high among subsistence farmers and in households whose heads have little formal education. The high poverty rate among youth indicates the lack of economic opportunities for this potentially productive group.

Macro-Economic Developments and Structural Reform

War destroyed most economic and physical infrastructure. Social services outside Freetown virtually stopped. The restoration of security has facilitated economic recovery. Post-war macroeconomic management has been acclaimed for maintaining stability and achieving growth. However, poverty is pervasive, and there is a wide national determination that policy should now aim at poverty reduction. Real GDP rose by an annual average of 15 per cent p.a. from 2000 to 2004, spurred by reconstruction work. Domestic revenue increased. Inflation fell sharply in 2001, and continues low. The official exchange rate and interest rates remained stable from 2001 to 2003. However, inflationary pressures are re-emerging. Exports are growing, but imports also remain high due to reconstruction and higher oil prices. The current account deficit was projected at 25 per cent of GDP in 2004.

After the Peace Agreement, the Government adopted further economic recovery programmes, supported by the IMF, the World Bank, the European Union and UK-DFID (Department for International Development). In 2001, the IMF approved the PRSP and the first Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) programme, up to June 2005. Sierra Leone met the HIPC conditions in 2002 and began receiving relief. Development partners supported programmes for governance, security, agriculture, health, education, and capacity building. The forthcoming IMF review will determine the elements of a successor PRGF arrangement.

Macroeconomic policy, following policies of the so-far successful PRGF, is calculated to sustain high growth, maintain a stable macroeconomic and financial environment, and, above all, to reduce poverty. Real GDP is expected to grow between 6 and 9 per cent p.a.; inflation to stay at single digit rates; and the current account deficit to narrow.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

To reverse poverty and its underlying causes, Sierra Leone is following a new strategic direction, to build towards the MDG targets and Vision 2025. The 2005-2007 PRSP provides bold sectoral policies and institutional reforms to achieve economic growth. It proposes actions to address both the short-term living conditions and the long-term causes of conflict and poverty. By linking the PRSP to attaining the MDGs, government expects maximum cooperation and support from the international community.

The PRSP is Sierra Leone's first – if late – step towards the MDG 2015 targets. It complies with the World Bank comprehensive development framework, with stakeholder and community ownership. It is results-oriented towards long-term poverty reduction, monitorable, multidimensional, prioritized and feasible; there is coordinated development partner participation. Risks include possible shortfalls in aid, investment, and domestic revenue; regional insecurity; delays in providing social services and re-launching economic activities; collapse of fiscal and monetary discipline; weak commitment to devolution; a failing anti-corruption agenda; and weak implementation capacity. The three-year PRSP framework will be updated continually, with full stakeholder participation, to provide follow-up strategies as objectives are met and priorities change. It will roll over every three years.

The PRSP has three pillars, each with objectives closely tied to the MDGs. They are:

Pillar One: Promoting Good Governance, Security and Peace

- good governance including: speedy public sector reform based on a review of public sector needs and civil service pay structure; decentralization of governance; capacity building in public management; and measures to fight corruption;
- consolidating peace, including: judicial reform to improve the administration of justice and access to justice for the poor, reforming laws relating to women and children, countering violations of human rights, improving the legal environment for private sector development;
- strengthening national security: the armed forces will be restructured to be smaller in numbers but more robust and flexible; the police force will continue to hire, train and equip personnel to enable it to deliver internal public safety, and help resolve community-level conflicts.

Pillar Two: Pro-poor Sustainable Growth for Food Security and Job Creation

Food security is at the heart of poverty reduction: it contributes to reduced child malnutrition and mortality, and improved maternal health. Pillar Two programmes include:

- Food security strategy, empowering poor rural and urban households to improve the food they consume and encouraging farm families to produce more. Government will help small-scale subsistence farmers diversify and increase production, and encourage private agriculture investment. Inter-sectoral linkages will support agriculture, fisheries and allied sectors.
- Development of supportive infrastructure: improving energy supply and of transportation and roads network; developing information and communication technology.
- Private sector development. Government will disengage from commercial and industrial activities, concentrating on supporting – rather than competing with – the private sector.
- Mining – the largest contributor to foreign earnings and a major source of employment; for small-scale mining, the goal is to improve miners' standards of living.
- Programmes to support the tertiary sector, particularly tourism.

Pillar Three: Human Development

After food security, the priorities of the poor are access to education, health and water:

- Basic education for all and manpower development in key sectors. The New Education Policy focuses on access to basic education, especially for girls; providing school feeding; improvement of books, materials and teacher education; tertiary training to meet human resources for poverty reduction programmes; and HIV/AIDS prevention education.
- Equitable access to affordable basic health services, improving quality of service and restructuring delivery mechanisms, especially for the poor and vulnerable. Devolution of health management will encourage community participation. The government plans to strengthen secondary and tertiary services where they support the basic level and to establish nurse training schools.
- Priorities are safe water for deprived communities in Greater Freetown, district headquarters towns and rural areas, rehabilitating water supply; providing waste disposal, and increasing community awareness of hygiene practices.
- Providing low-cost housing, facilitating micro-finance, land ownership, sustainable self-help construction and environmental upgrading of slums. Despite important contributions, current programmes are far from meeting the needs.
- Improving quality of life for the vulnerable, including inclusion into mainstream society, through programmes set up by Government and its partners.
- Youth's needs must receive attention in peace building and poverty reduction. Training opportunities are provided, but youth development issues remains a challenge.
- Sierra Leone has the conditions for a potentially devastating AIDS epidemic; despite ongoing donor support, it needs further urgent assistance.
- Women's status has traditionally been low and radical progress is required. Gender issues have been mainstreamed into each pillar's strategies.
- The PRSP recognizes the links between poverty and the environment. Multi-sectoral environmental measures have been mainstreamed into pillar strategies.

The PRSP is a medium term strategy for the next three years. Follow-up strategies are expected as objectives are met and priorities change. These will form the building block to the MDG targets and Sierra Leone's Vision 2025. By linking Sierra Leone's PRSP to the attainment of the MDGs in 2015, government expects maximum cooperation and support from the international community.

Cost and Financing of the PRSP; Linkage with MDGs

SL-PRSP Pillars	MDGs	IOM Activity
Pillar 1: Good governance, security and peace building.	Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction-both nationally and internationally.	Partnerships between countries of origin and destination, public and private sectors and the civil society at large, including diaspora associations, basis of economic growth, joint business ventures, trade and increased flows of investment.
Pillar 2: Promoting pro-poor growth for Food Security and job creation. Promoting Food Security Job Creation. Sound macro-economic management.	Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.	If harnessed, migrant remittances can offer poor families the opportunity to invest in education and health and to participate in self-employment schemes and in the financing of local infrastructures.
Pillar 3: Promoting Human Development – Education – Health and Nutrition – Housing – Water and Sanitation – Vulnerable – Youth Development Cross-cutting Issues – Child first – HIV/AIDS – Gender Equality and Empowerment – Environment	Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.	Migrant women as economic decision makers are key players in the migration and development equation, in particular through the use of their diverse capacities and through their remittances that are in a much larger proportion than those of their male counterparts. The attainment of primary education can be reinforced through the utilization of skills and knowledge of nationals in the diaspora and contribute to the training of teachers.

Building Capacity for Implementing the PRSP

For the PRSP to succeed, special implementing mechanisms will be needed, under national coordination led by the Inter-Ministerial Committee and Poverty Reduction Strategy Secretariat. Decentralization will give a significant role to local councils, each of which will have a local planning function. Many institutions will be involved at all levels to reflect the diversity of interests. NGOs, civil societies and community-based organizations will continue to play an important part.

Donor Partnership

The close coordination of donor relations must continue; donors are coordinated, within the framework of the Consultative Group, by the joint Development Partnership Committee. Donors have funded a series of strong capacity-building programmes; support is now shifting from technical assistance towards building indigenous human and institutional capacity. Additional help is needed, especially to upgrade capacity of the newly established local councils, to meet the local governance challenges implied in wide-ranging devolution.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In the immediate post-conflict phase, the IPRSP provided a limited monitoring and evaluation system, focusing on recovery during the transition. The wider, more detailed programmes of the PRSP call for more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation, and for a mechanism to this end. Detailed indicators have been developed to monitor progress towards objectives and implementation in each pillar. Particular attention will be given to monitoring decentralized PRSP management, as new local councils take on planning, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation.

The PRS Secretariat will lead coordination of monitoring and evaluation, which will build on sector-specific programmes in different agencies. It will work through specialized monitoring and evaluation working groups of public and non-government agencies, who will collaborate on resource allocation and expenditure; data and surveys; community-based monitoring; and dissemination and policy analysis. The participatory mechanisms used to prepare the PRSP will also be used to assess progress.

Joint Development and Poverty Control

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Co-development

Migrants have kept alive a strong attachment and solidarity towards their home countries and proved this through spontaneous actions alongside public authorities to finance infrastructures for economic and social development. All along the Senegal River valley, many achievements are proving the commitment of this community to support their home area development. The Co-development approach was conceived in this framework.

The idea of a global partnership, in which everyone works for the improvement of socio-economic life conditions, is the basis of Co-development. This approach of development through the Co-development concept is now seen as a way of bringing migrants to take part in the development of their home countries through a cooperation policy larger than the classical one, by integrating solidarity to the core interests of cooperation and enabling a coordination of institutional, association and economic partners.

As part of its policy to bring expatriate Senegalese into the national development effort, the Government of Senegal, under the impulse of His Excellency Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic, held a Symposium on "Partnership between the State and expatriate Senegalese" in 2001.

With assistance from UNDP, the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme ensured the use of expatriate Senegalese skills, the listing of available and mobilizable expertise and, since July 2005, the "Co-development Initiatives" bilateral plan.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), prepared for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt reduction programme and officialized in April 2002, the Regional Integrated Development Plans (RIDP) and the Local Development Plans (LDP) clearly underline the need to gather migrants for development actions. The use of the co-development concept is also noted in the implementation of development programmes led by bilateral or multilateral international organizations.

A new partnership between "host countries" and "home countries", favourable to the setup of a development-innovating finance, is being created through migrant contribution in country development. Contributions from the expatriate Senegalese community can directly support the economic and social development of the home country and the mobilization of development partners.

Presentation of the "Co-development Initiatives" Plan

Component One: Support of Migrant Economic Initiatives in Senegal

A support strategy will help project holders whose investment is not financed by own funds but through other sources (bank loans or reinsertion aid from the National Foreigner Reception and Migration Agency, etc.).

Support is organized as follows:

- advice on plan design and setup (professional balance, administrative procedures and professional contacts in France and/or in Senegal, technical and financial studies etc.);
- capacity building that fits the targeted sector and/or management according to needs;
- monitoring actions, for at least 12 months, to help project holders.

Component Two: Mobilization of the Highly Qualified Diaspora

The Plan aims at mobilizing the Senegalese diaspora elite living in France in order to create and support initiatives aiming at developing the country. This support consists in financing short and medium-term missions of selected Senegalese experts. Participation in the operation and purchase of the required equipment can be financed.

Component Three: Local Development in Home Regions

This component is designed to implement collective development plans initiated by migrants and approved by people from the selected areas. It is based on the involvement of civil society, in its local governance promotion aspect. In this context, the benefiting associations contribute 20 per cent of the whole required finance, the rest is provided by the “Co-development Initiatives” plan or potential partners (the Senegalese State, local communities, associations, etc.).

Component Four: Implementation and Support to Project Holders

This component ensures the coordination of the programme and involves:

- a component setup: the steering committee plan defines the policy, ensures the financial follow-up, keeps track of the overall plan and calls for its assessment;
- in Senegal, the coordination department hosted in the Technical Assistance Secretariat (General Secretariat of the Government) is responsible for programme implementation, with the support of French technical assistance;
- in France, the relay committee ensures a liaison between project holders and associations of Senegalese living in France, and participates in implementation.

The “Co-development Initiatives” plan is ready to help fight poverty, promote private economic investment initiatives, support community grassroots infrastructure development, but above all mobilize skills and expertise of Senegalese living in France for development promotion actions.

Co-development Mechanisms and Poverty Control

The plan between France and Senegal represents an important lever in:

- guiding savings raised by migrants;
- guiding their solidarity actions to grassroots communities or home regions;
- putting at Senegal’s disposal their experience and skills for development actions.

Promoting Productive Investments

Migrant savings allow investment in income-generating activities; these are not always adequate in their setup and/or implementation process, overly stressing speculative actions, particularly in real estate. The “Co-development Initiatives” plan implements a mechanism that provides expert support to the migrant investor, from investment identification to implementation and financing. This component aims at strengthening the small and medium size enterprises sector in various regions of Senegal. The immediate effect expected is to ensure the sustainability of investment and win back the trust of Senegalese migrants.

This component is aligned with the programmes that fight poverty. Many developers are working for job creation in rural areas, so as to favour their home region. The various businesses already set up or ongoing use innovative technologies for the benefit of local people in the area, e.g. in information technologies, renewable energies, housing, particularly in rural areas, modern production means, etc. Investors mainly deal with agriculture, cattle breeding and bovine fattening, poultry farming, fishing (transformation and export), hotels and tourism, industrial cleaning, ITC (information technology and communication), metallurgy and welding, professional training.

Local Infrastructure Financing

The migrant communities gathered in citizen associations of their countries are working to mobilize financial resources. However, the lack of detailed studies during setup has too often led to non-upgraded infrastructures, such as schools without teachers, health services without paramedical staff, technologies and equipment unsuited

to local conditions, an unexploitable overequipment that does not take into account population size and available investment. Investments are often based on subjective considerations rather than on relevant and sustainable aspects. The 80 per cent financial contribution of the “Co-development Initiatives” plan for infrastructure development is based on some prerequisites ensuring sustainability. The following criteria are particularly to be met:

- participation in the improvement of population life and socio-economic mainstreaming conditions;
- contribution to more favourable productive investment conditions in the selected areas;
- focus on concrete achievements;
- line up with ongoing local development initiatives by local communities, public authorities or private actors;
- focus on a work ensuring participation of beneficiaries and a reinforcement of actors’ capacity.

Through its mechanisms, the “Co-development Initiatives” plan is giving priority to deprived areas. As such, Tambacounda, Matam and Kolda regions, among others, are privileged intervention zones of the “Co-development Initiatives” plan. These areas are fortunately showing great development potential. Such is the context in which the “Co-development Initiatives” plan brings institutional and financial support to the grassroots communities and migrant associations originating from these areas.

Many development infrastructures have already been implemented, especially as regards water availability through the purchase of microdams: these help develop breeding, horticulture and fish farming while favouring the restocking of ground water. In other areas, the plan contributes to promote drinking water availability by acting on water conveyance networks and related infrastructure. To promote human resources development, the “Co-development Initiatives” plan supports initiatives by migrants aiming to create professional and initial training schools.

To ensure health care availability, the “Co-development Initiatives” plan contributes to the creation of child health and maternity services.

Partnership among migrant associations, local populations, decentralized services, local French and Senegalese communities and other development partners is a mechanism needed to promote local governance and improve people’s living standards. The support of migrants and their associations in sensitizing bilateral and multilateral partners and non-governmental cooperation including civil society and local communities deserves notice.

Using the Expertise of Senegalese Living in France

The project plans to mobilize the available expertise of Senegalese living in France, to support economic and social development actions initiated by public or private Senegalese services. This may take the form of exchanging professional trainees between Senegal and France and enabling them to experience professional training for 3 to 18 months.

In accordance with the recommendations and conclusions of the partnership symposium between the State and expatriate Senegalese, the available and mobilizable expertise census has, since 2001, identified potential Senegalese experts with specialized training and experience in economic and social development. The plan aims at linking this highly qualified diaspora to services needing its expertise and has already identified 100 short-term missions.

The identified needs work mainly towards supporting public and private services in implementing their anti-poverty strategy in sectors such as information and communication technology, biotechnology, quality and standardization, medical research and telemedicine – plus other non-health sectors, e.g. road infrastructures, professional training, fisheries, national and regional development, tourism, small and medium size business support. For this, the expert must get involved in issue-solving and use a human resource-strengthening approach to ensure durability.

By enabling migrants to get acquainted with economic and social progress through expert short-term missions, the plan can urge experts to meet professional challenges alongside their counterparts.

In a globalization context that marginalizes southern countries, migrants in northern areas are key levers in leading adapted technologies transfer and ensuring the economic promotion of decentralized industrial and commercial activities in home countries.

Conclusions and Prospects

Co-development is a strong home and host countries mechanism in upgrading migrant capacity to mobilize economic and social needed factors as regards human resources and financial resource-raising. The core reason of co-development is its volunteers' will, through individual (expert) or collective (migrant association), free action and sense of sharing and solidarity, wherein a migrant is considered a home country development project holder.

The co-development expertise of "forerunner" nations (Senegal, Mali, Morocco and France) should inspire other countries. European partners are advocating for a larger consideration of this development aspect in the European Union's policies for developing countries:

Host countries could promote technology transfer to home countries, especially with the implementation of bilateral development programmes and associate migrants to technical assistance procedures. The French Development Agency has planned to integrate this into its actions in Senegal. Other host countries could be asked to take incentives in favour of public or private services to get their migrant staff take part in development actions through solidarity holidays in France. The plan particularly deals with creating incentives to help migrants use a greater part of remittances in productive investment in home countries, e.g. by:

- setting up more credible, speedier and less costly money transfer mechanisms;
- organizing mutual security systems;
- facilitating guaranteed fund transfers (through conventions that determine banks' obligations);
- creating a development savings plan designed to achieve investments in home countries;
- getting businesses involved in creating branches with their expatriate employees;
- facilitating credit access for small and medium enterprises.

The trend towards increased emigration among young people today implies a dialogue between migrants and those standing for emigration. A mechanism based on the concept "one migrant/one young economic interest group" should be supported by host and home countries. Such "volunteer participation in co-development" ensures the mobilization of young migrants in development activities in their parents' home countries. The implementation of the "Co-development Initiatives" plan, if supported by all involved parties, can encourage the migrant community to take part in the national struggle against poverty.

Bringing the Regional Dimension to the Global Debate: Regional and Interregional Strategies

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African Migration

- challenge: dearth of data;
- Africa: 17.1 million migrants within + at least 5 million African-born outside continent;
- great sub-regional variation in stock and flow over time;
- several distinct subregional migration systems.

Women and Migration

Between 1960 and 2005, the proportion of female African migrants increased from 42 per cent to 47 per cent (blue-collar workers, e.g. domestic workers, factory workers and skilled workers, e.g. nurses). Women constitute important independent economic actors, but are also vulnerable to abuse.

Forced Migration

- key component of African movement of people;
- conflicts and environmental reasons, varies in sub-regions;
- most stay on the continent. (Africa had about a third of the world's approximately 9 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate in 2005).

Why Migrate?

Migration within (and out of) Africa is a complex process that responds to a variety of push and pull factors at the macro and micro levels. It is related to strife for economic betterment, but economic disparities are not enough to explain international movements.

Policies

- the opportunity to migrate is mitigated by policies and frameworks;
- limited African policy response, maybe because many countries view migration levels as "satisfactory";
- global framework: Human rights;
- regional and sub-regional entities are taking steps to manage migration;
 - African Union: "Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration" (2004);
 - NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development): Action plans on education and health incorporate need to stem "brain drain";
 - RECs (Regional Economic Communities): Measures to promote labour mobility and facilitate movement.

Migration and Economic Integration

Governments should move towards African economic integration: AU/NEPAD, African Economic Community and RECs. Peace and stability, and movement of labour, are also key components of economic integration and development.

Challenges to Migration Management

There are many challenges as far as migration management is concerned. These are mainly:

- lack of institutional capacities to regularize and manage migration;
- limited employment opportunities for migrants;
- duplication of work and conflicting commitments as countries are part of many RECs;
- lack of data to inform policy decisions.

Managing Migration: The Way Forward

In order to better manage migration it is necessary to collect and analyse data to understand migration better and inform policies; implement legal frameworks to ensure migrant rights; eliminate abuse and trafficking and enable people to migrate through regular channels.

Another set of actions is to integrate migration into national planning instruments, channel remittances towards development but also to harmonize migration policies between countries and sub-regions.

The Programme for Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) in the Great Lakes Region: Experience of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Overview

Three countries (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda) are concerned by the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Programme.

The first stage of this programme consisted in identifying partner institutions in developing priority sectors and qualified human resources and expertise needs. Three priority sectors were selected: health, education and rural development.

A census of the skills and availability of qualified Africans in the European Union and beyond identified more than a thousand Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan members of the diaspora, which were recorded in the MIDA database. The main host countries were Belgium, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

In 2002-2003, 102 missions were achieved – priority was given to teaching. The diaspora did not know much about the MIDA Programme and, generally speaking, about the relationship between migration and development.

The second stage (2005-2006) focused on physical transfers (52), particularly in the education sector.

For stage III (2006-2008), the goal was to ensure a link between human resource needs and the availability of qualified Africans in the diaspora.

An important point of the MIDA Programme deals with financial transfers, particularly to offer the diasporas financial investment prospects in the private sector and community-based projects.

The Experience of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

A study carried out on fund transfers showed that the volume of fund transfers in the DRC amounted to 96,820,000 US dollars in 2004. This figure is certainly underestimated. Apart from the MIDA Programme, DRC has neither institutional framework nor specific policy regarding money transfer promotion or diaspora involvement in development. Some NGOs, microfinance institutions and savings firms have shown interest in fund transfer activities, but not in connection with the diaspora. The diaspora's funds are used for basic needs (food, clothes), education, healthcare and organization of family meetings. A small percentage is invested in development projects. Money transfers are not charged by the government and customers may have a foreign currency account.

To improve the positive impact of fund transfers and investment of the diaspora for development, some challenges are still to be met. Economic and political stability are a prerequisite, but other elements are of importance: information about fund transfers and their impact, the cost of transfers, the need to develop the banking and financial system. MIDA links to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly as regards hunger and poverty eradication (money transfer), education (physical transfers), gender and health promotion. Moreover, the MIDA Programme was explicitly integrated in the GPRSP (Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) passed by the government in July 2006.

National Policy Options in Migration and Development: Ghana's Experience*

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Introduction

Despite the apparent linkages between migration and development, migration issues have not fully and coherently been integrated into Ghana's Strategic Development Framework. What are the critical policy options with respect to skills and human resource management in Ghana? This paper highlights key efforts by Ghana in tackling challenges emanating from the utilization, retention and mobility of vital skills and human resource management. It attempts to share experiences and generate discussions with colleagues within Africa during the current workshop.

Migration Trends

It is estimated that more than 3 million Ghanaians, representing 15 per cent of the total population, live outside the country. This positions Ghana fifth in Africa on the migration table – and much of this migration deals with qualified persons. A major challenge of the emigration dimension is the high exodus of professional health and education workers. An estimated 60 per cent of Ghana-trained doctors practise outside the country. Since 1992, more than 2,500 Ghanaian trained nurses have left for overseas. At the tertiary level, 40 per cent of positions in the University faculties and 60 per cent in the technical colleges are vacant. Furthermore, child trafficking has been on the increase in the last few years.

Estimates of Vacancy Levels in the Ghana Health Service 2002**

Staff Type	Number	Workable No.	Shortfall & %	Ideal No.	Shortfall & %
Doctors	633	1,200	567 or 47%	1,804	1,171 or 65%
Professional Nurses	4,319	10,000	5,681 or 57%	13,340	9,021 or 68%
Pharmacists	161	280	119 or 42%	371	210 or 57%

Instances of Utilization, Retention and Mobility of Skills

The importance of migrants' remittances is demonstrated by their quick increase and the proliferation of money transfer institutions in Ghana. According to Bank of Ghana statistics, remittances correspond to 15 per cent of Ghana's GDP. In 1990, private remittances were about 400 million US dollars, rising to 680 million US dollars in 2002. This amount surged to over 4.5 billion US dollars in 2005, making it the largest source of foreign exchange. One-third of this amount, almost 1.5 billion, came from individuals, while the remaining two-thirds were from faith-based and non-governmental organizations.

The key challenge associated with remittances is how to reduce transaction costs, facilitate transfer earnings and use them effectively to reduce poverty.

* This paper was jointly prepared by Ms Adelaide Anno-Kumi of the Ministry of Interior and Mr Winfred Nelson of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

** Professor A.B. Akosah, Director General, Ghana Health Service: Memo-Re-Staffing Situation in the Ghana Health Service. November 2002.

Noteworthy Efforts

- A Migration Unit was established under the Ministry of the Interior and is responsible for coordinating national efforts to ensure that migration issues are taken into consideration in development activities. An Inter-Ministerial Committee of Senior level representatives of relevant stakeholders assists the Unit in developing appropriate policies and Programmes.
- A Migration Information Bureau was established to provide data on Ghanaian migrants as well as immigrants coming to Ghana, thus ensuring better information and services to intending migrants about the conditions and regulations in selected destination countries.
- The University of Ghana has constituted a Committee to recommend the establishment of a centre for Migration Studies at the University.
- Ghana became a member of IOM in November 2005 and requested funding to integrate migration in the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- A Ministerial edict (2002) doubled the intake of training schools in recognition of severe shortages.
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with the support of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFUND) started a scheme to retain young PhD students two years after graduation. By 2007, there should be about 60 PhDs annually.
- The Citizen legislation (2003) has been revised to make it feasible for Ghanaians in the diaspora who have acquired other nationalities to maintain their Ghanaian citizenship. So far about 2,400 Ghanaians have benefited.
- An Act of Parliament known as the Representation of the Peoples Amendment Act was passed in February 2006 to facilitate participation of Ghanaians abroad in electoral processes at home.
- A Homecoming summit for about one thousand Ghanaians living abroad was organized in 2001. The theme was "Harnessing the Global Ghanaian Resource Potential for Accelerated National Development". One outcome was the formation of the Non-Resident Ghana Secretariat in May 2003 to strengthen links with Ghanaians abroad and encourage return. Subsequent to the Homecoming Summit, a conference on migration and development in September 2004 focused on encouraging Ghanaian nationals to take up appointments at home.
- Emancipation Day is an annual pilgrimage programme for people of African descent in the diaspora. These people are exposed to citizenship and settlement opportunities in Ghana.
- In the health sector, incentives packages for health personnel have been introduced. A College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ghana has been established, as well as new programmes for nurses and allied health professionals.
- The Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Programme aims at developing synergy between earnings of African migrants and demand from countries by facilitating transfer of vital skills and resources of African diaspora back to the country of origin, with a pilot project on its involvement in the context of human resource development for the health sector. About 300 Ghanaians have taken advantage of this programme. Currently, four Ghanaian doctors resident in the United Kingdom work in two of the country's medical schools. A leading Ghanaian cardiologist who returned a few years ago has spearheaded the establishment of a Cardio-Centre in Ghana which serves the entire sub-region. The government is also discussing the signing of protocols/memoranda of understanding with countries that benefit from the services of Ghanaian skilled professionals.

Challenges

Although efforts are being made to address the migration challenges, care must be taken as the design and implementation of the very packages might worsen the situation. For example although the Additional Duty Hours Allowance may have slowed emigration of doctors, it may have increased that of nurses given the comparatively low rates offered to nurses. Another challenge posed by the implementation of some of the incentives is the creation of a high recurrent health budget which reduces the scope for enhanced service delivery.

Remittances must be made safer, cheaper and faster. Donors could also assist in household surveys to capture other channels of transfer, e.g.:

- provide skills and entrepreneurial training for Youth Projects;
- provide micro-credit for women who are breadwinners;
- address the migration of women within and outside Ghana, which is increasing.

Conclusion

The relationship between migration and development is complex and must be properly managed. With the right policies and strategies coupled with commitment from all stakeholders, Ghana stands to neutralize the negative impacts of migration and enjoy its long-term benefits.

Diaspora Engagement in Public/Private Partnerships for African Socio-Economic Development

The RemitAid™ Case Study

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Introduction

In order to improve and develop the African diaspora's involvement in Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for African development, practicable frameworks of engagement must be created. These frameworks should be mechanisms through which the diaspora may channel its resources in the most effective and efficient way. They must take into account the characteristics, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the diaspora. As such, it is important to have a shared understanding of what the African diaspora is and what its resources are.

Defining the African Diaspora

In April 2005, the African Union adopted a general definition of what constitutes the African diaspora. This refers to Africans who left the continent before, during and after the transatlantic slave trade. For the purposes of this paper, we shall distinguish between the "New World" African diaspora based in the Caribbean, South and North America, and the "New" African diaspora. The latter refers to the few million African emigrants, settlers and migrant workers who left Africa in the past 30-40 years and are based mainly in Europe, North America and to a lesser degree the Middle East. Members of this "New" African diaspora have a living memory of Africa as a natal and parental home, reflected in their affinities and links with the African continent. It is important to create workable frameworks and mechanisms of engagement now (and in the next few years) as a means of maintaining developmental links between the continent and the second and third generations, who will become the most productive age group among this "New" diaspora.

The Resources of the African Diaspora and Framework for PPP

For the purposes of Public Private Partnerships for African development, the two most tangible and relevant diaspora resources are its financial remittances and its technical and professional skills. However, the new African diaspora is neither a hegemonic entity nor is it highly formally organized. It is a diverse, disparate or even "individualized" set of Africans, ranging from leading scientists to undocumented cleaners to world class footballers. Individual disposable incomes, like the technical and professional skills of the new members of the diaspora, vary from the lowest to the highest quartiles. Although the new diaspora shares its income with the continent through regular financial remittances, it is more difficult for it to share its skills and expertise to address the developmental needs of the continent. Remittances themselves do not currently operate in a framework that optimizes their impact on job creation and poverty reduction. As such, we propose that a framework for Public Private Partnership harness the resources of the new African diaspora (remittances and skills), with the following key features:

- facilitate pooling of resources to create a critical mass and to optimize impact;
- facilitate circulation of resources to create secondary and supplementary benefits;
- create tangible short, medium and long-term outputs and outcomes.

Case Studies – PPP on Diaspora Remittances and Skill Circulation

The Africa Foundation for Development (AFFORD) is a diaspora charity based in the United Kingdom. In the past 12 years, it has undertaken various exploratory and capacity-building programmes linked to its goal of extending and enhancing the contribution Africans in the diaspora make to African development. It is currently implementing two major programmes on how to optimize African diaspora remittances: RemitAid™ and African diaspora enterprise skills (SEEDA) – for the purposes of socio-economic development, job creation and poverty reduction.

RemitAid™ (Remittance Tax Relief for International Development)

Remittances have a direct impact in reducing poverty and creating jobs:

- Financing of essential family needs: The bulk of remittances are spent on food and subsistence, education, shelter, clothing, medical services and products for extended family and friends.
- Increase in household income: Remittances are sent to private households, often on a regular periodic basis. In some countries, these inflows represent over 50 per cent of the household income for a significant percentage of the population.
- Micro-Enterprise and SME investment: As responses to requests, as well as proactive attempts to reduce dependency of remittances, a significant number of remitters make “extraordinary” remittances as seed capital funding for micro and SME businesses.
- Purchase or construction of houses: The biggest sums remitted by members of the African diaspora relate to the purchase or construction of houses for themselves and their families.
- Larger enterprise investments: A small number of individuals with high disposable incomes or those who access capital through their networks and connections in countries of residence make major corporate investments in Africa.

They also have an indirect impact on economic development:

- Remittances have become a significant source of foreign currency for many African countries. Foreign currency is purchased by businesses and other organizations to pay for imports. Increase in the supply of foreign currency through remittances lead to reductions in exchange rates, which in turn increases the buying power of African importers. Remittances as a source of foreign currency are so important that some African businesses have set up money transfer operations offering competitive rates for the principal purpose of accumulating foreign currency rather than making a profit on the money transfer deals.
- General economic multiplier effect: Irrespective of what remittances are spent on, if they are spent in the local, regional and national economy, they contribute to a multiplier effect.
- Circulation of money in deprived areas: In many African countries, previously impoverished areas and localities have in recent years been regenerated and transformed through intense remittance inflows.
- The increase and regularity in remittances have created new business opportunities in the African finance sector. In many countries, a new money transfer sector has arisen outside the mainstream banking and financial institutions.

Framework for Improving the Impact of Remittances

RemitAid™ seeks to reform and improve the structure of the remittances sector through the financial instrument of tax incentives. This shall lead to the creation of a development fund to be used on the types of poverty reduction schemes that private remittances do not normally fund.

RemitAid™ works within a Public Private Partnership framework. Each of the partners and stakeholders in the Re-mitAid™ PPP would need to undertake and discharge specific roles. It is the sum of the different efforts that would lead to the reform and improvement of the current remittance structure. The partnership tasks include the following:

- The diaspora should be organized and consult amongst itself in order to develop a shared understanding of the benefits and imperfections of remittances, and raise awareness about the need for structural reform of the sector (AFFORD & RemitAid™ have undertaken initial consultations with numerous diaspora remitters and several Home Town Associations in the UK). Diasporas must also participate in research and consultation exercises to express their views, needs, wants and expectations about RemitAid™ and the RemitAid™ Development Fund and undertake effective policy lobbying and advocacy for the purpose of securing the required statutory and regulatory amendments needed for the actualization of the RemitAid™ idea.

- Private and social enterprises must create appropriate business, legal and corporate structures that facilitate investment in MDG – related ventures and develop capacity to receive loan or equity investments from RemitAid™ or other development and enterprise Funds. Schools, health insurance schemes and other relevant organizations working in MDG-related fields should register as “Recognized RemitAid™ Receivers” (RRRs) such that direct remittances to them would trigger a remittance tax rebate claim. Money transfer agencies should support, adopt and be accredited as RemitAid™ agents and set up systems so as to become aware of remittances to “Recognized RemitAid™ Receivers” (RRRs), and provide RemitAid™ with documentary evidence of remittances, usable for rebate claims.
- Government, tax and other statutory bodies in host countries should review and amend regulatory and statutory frameworks, and undertake reform of the remittance structure through introducing the RemitAid™ tax relief scheme. Governments in developing countries should simplify investment and enterprise regulatory frameworks, and participate in PPP co-financing schemes with RemitAid™ and other development Funds, raising public awareness of the benefits of managed migration and formally recognizing that remittances are a significant, reliable and growing form of self-help development financing that deserves structural support similar to those given to foreign development investment and charitable donations.

Migrant Remittances

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Introduction

The development of African countries cannot be achieved without the involvement of people. African countries need resources to finance development. Moreover, it is necessary to consider the savings potential of migrants and get them involved in small trade or industrial businesses that create jobs and GDP. Africans living abroad must also take part in this process and this requires the prior creation of mechanisms ready to give them information about economic opportunities in their home countries, channels of revenue repatriation and a banking procedure for the investment of their savings and business creation.

Migrant Economic Benefits: The Senegalese Experience

Senegalese people living abroad were considered as a source of "policy good will" whose leaders knew their electoral weight. A Ministry was thus created to deal with specific problems faced by our counterparts living abroad and high-level officials visited communities in host countries. The integration of the economic dimension required that the banking system take part in the visits to communities and offer services towards the creation of a well-structured money transfer system. According to one estimate, 270 million US dollars were transferred to Senegal in 2002.

Migrant money transfers are mainly designed for family consumption, real estate investment for rental use and small social investment achievements (schools, health services, etc.) As they are not taken into account as small and medium-sized businesses or industries that create jobs and are a revenue distribution medium, the benefits of migrant remittances remain insufficiently noted.

Other non-harnessed opportunities exist in Senegal, such as taxi drivers who can invest in transport, workers specialized in cleaning urban places – an alternative to the creation of cleansing departments in our cities – people specialized in new technologies, medicine and many sectors open for investment in the development of African countries. It is necessary to convince migrants about the relevance of preparing their homecoming.

Government and Banking System Involvement in Enhancing the Diaspora's Resources

A stronger synergy between public and private sectors is needed. Entities like the Development Agency for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, who might be intermediaries of migrants' investments, are not well-known among migrants. However, Senegalese banks are becoming more accessible and understand migrant reactions better. Migrants are getting closer to the banking system thanks to spot actions by the various banks, an initiative to be continued.

Upstream, a planned account designed for collecting migrant's savings is to be proposed for the future needs of business creation. Negotiations are to be entered with the authorities to exempt the interest from taxes. Downstream, at the end of its planned account, the migrant could benefit from an accompanying additional loan to finance business creation. Favourable interest rates should be proposed with measures from the public authorities, such as tax relief of debtor interests charged on the loan.

The success of a banking initiative for business creation finance lies in the efficient organization of migrants' remittances towards bank account provision. Firms dealing with money transfer in Senegal are, for the time being, oriented towards cash transfers for families, hence the necessity to consider other institutional channel setups in Europe and America.

Conclusion

Thanks to this new profile and the potential capital it can mobilize, migrants become major actors of development and poverty reduction. They are well introduced in the heart of the State's life, and ready to take part in a sustainable way in economic activity.

Harnessing Diaspora Skills and Resources for the Development of Africa's Private Sector

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Migration and Development: Overview

The link between migration and development is now well established. African migrants provide various forms of developmental capital to their countries of origin, whether social (networks developed in their host countries), intellectual (skills and know-how), political (lobbying and advocacy), cultural (dissemination of the cultures of their origin countries) or financial (remittances, consumer products, etc.). The question is how to maximize developmental impact.

The term "development" has several meanings, running the full gamut of what governments do for their people, through what sympathetic outsiders can and should do for helpless poor people, to a set of favourable economic, social, political and cultural indicators. For the purpose of this paper, the term will be used to refer to improving the economic and social conditions of poorer people in a sustainable way. Development measures will lead to the creation of jobs, an increase in per capita income and consequently to an improvement in social conditions as more people become productive members of the society. This is only possible through local investments. Measures and initiatives designed to improve the continent's potential to attract foreign direct investment as well as to support investment initiatives are thus welcome. A number of such recent initiatives include:

- the new International Finance Cooperation strategy for Africa, with enhanced support to small and medium enterprises (SME) through the Private Enterprise Programme for Africa, direct lending to SME schemes and investment improvement initiatives;
- the EU infrastructure trust that will fund trans-border infrastructure projects linking countries and regions of the continent;
- the Investment climate facility for Africa – a public-private initiative designed to help improve the investment climate in the continent.

Role of the Diaspora

What role can the millions of people of African origin active in the public and private sectors of Europe, America and Asia play on this front? The African diaspora is a key component of the equation. Not only does it have the potential to invest in its own right, it also has the knowledge, expertise and experience that could be deployed in enabling foreign direct investment in the continent. African diaspora organizations around the world have embraced this idea and are now leading initiatives to foster investment into the continent.

During the month of June 2006, our organization, African Axis, hosted the African diaspora investment forum with the objective of encouraging the diaspora community and key stakeholders to invest and to serve as a catalyst for investment into the continent. This attracted about 200 participants from the private and public sectors of African and Europe, with a sizeable attendance by members of the community. Recommendations designed to enable and encourage investment in general, and diaspora investment in particular, were made to the African and European governments, African regional organizations and trade blocks, international multilateral organizations and the diaspora community.*

* The list of recommendations is contained in the forum report available at the organization website: <http://www.africanaxis.org/diaforum/diaforum2006.htm>

Migration: Obstacle or Opportunity for Development?

The pull factor of economic and demographic challenges in Europe and the push factors in Africa mean that the African diaspora community in Europe is set to grow. With the new set of initiatives in several European countries designed to encourage the migration of skilled migrants, this community will increasingly be made up of skilled work force.

Both negative and positive impacts of this on home countries' development prospects have been well documented. However, the damage caused by the brain drain on the continent's social and economic development is hardly offset by the financial and knowledge transfers from this community.

What can Africans in the diaspora do in order to tip the balance towards a more positive impact on the continent and thus make migration an opportunity for development? This paper posits that the community should be actively engaged in programmes that will strengthen the continent's private sector. Not only should it take the lead to invest in the continent, it should additionally serve as a catalyst for foreign direct investment by making use of its network and knowledge resources over time. In so doing, it will contribute to the creation of enterprises capable of absorbing the continent's workforce and ultimately contribute to the continent's development. Investment in the continent might constitute the first step towards the reversal of brain drain. African governments should make internal changes to enable the diaspora to remain emotionally tied and economically attracted to their countries of origin.

A recent conference by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and partner agencies concluded that a robust brain drain strategy requires three components:

- retention: creation of the conditions that will deter people from leaving in the first place;
- retrieval: tapping into the knowledge, ideas, and resource networks created by the diaspora;
- reversal: enabling and encouraging those who wish to return to do so.

We are convinced that diaspora investment and diaspora-enabled investment can kick-start the process of brain drain reversal, lead to the creation of much needed jobs and contribute to poverty reduction. It can also contribute to public debate on Africa abroad, influence policy making on Africa at the EU level and to contribute to the development of capacity building for Africa.

The Great Lakes MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa) Programme: the Experience of Burundi

MR BERNARD NDAYIRORERE

Programme Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Burundi

Genesis of the MIDA Programme

At the end of the 1990s, migratory movements and relations between migration and development were at the basis of debates held at international scale. The Cotonou Agreement, signed in June 2000, is at the heart of this issue. In this context, and in order to favour the preparation of a migration-related mechanism for African development, IOM and the Government of Gabon held, in April 2001, a three-day workshop of over 100 representatives from 20 African countries. They concluded that it is necessary to develop a strategy and methods in order to improve institutional capacities of home countries, through the contribution of the African diaspora.

The recommendations of the workshop were adopted in July 2001 by the African Heads of States during the AU Summit held in Lusaka. In its decision 614 (article 7), the AU called upon IOM to “continue supporting African countries to favour and facilitate their qualified and expatriate citizen homecoming, and take part in the launched migration programme for development in Africa (MIDA).”

Concept of the MIDA Programme

The MIDA Programme is designed to build capacity for development of potential synergisms in accordance with the African migrant profile and the countries’ needs. It is based on capacity building, virtual transfers and fund transfers of the African diaspora in favour of home countries.

The Great Lakes MIDA Programme

The Great Lakes MIDA Programme is financed by Belgium and implemented by the Brussels IOM Office. It aims at gathering members of the Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan diasporas regularly living in the European Union countries for the development of their home countries. The Programme organizes capacity transfers through spot missions of information technology and communication (distance learning). It also works in the sector of fund transfers. The objective is to orient diaspora fund transfers towards development projects. IOM-funded expert missions may last between two and 12 months. The Great Lakes MIDA Programme went through three phases:

2001-2003

The trial phase of this programme lasted from 2001 to 2003 and concerned Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan citizens living in Belgium.

The people of Burundi showed a will to contribute to their home country’s human, social and economic development. Of 163 missions organized by the programme in the three countries, 71 took place in Burundi in sectors such as education, health, management, nutrition, food transformation and preservation, environment, water, computing and good governance. Virtual transfers and financial transfers could not be organized during this trial phase.

2005-2006

Following successful implementation of the pilot phase and after an assessment led with the Belgian government, the IOM brought into play a second phase (February 2005-March 2006) aiming at mobilizing resources from the Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan diaspora in the European Union, particularly in Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The MIDA programme developed analysis mechanisms for priority development sectors needs in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The consultation of governmental authorities and development partners allowed identification of sectors with a resource gap. Health, Education and Rural Development were selected as the three priority sectors.

At the same time, the Great Lakes MIDA Programme implemented a mechanism recording the available resources of the Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan diasporas. Establishing a correlation between supply and demand ensured improvements in resource mobilization so that the needs of services working in situ could be met better.

Three types of transfers are proposed to meet the needs and priorities identified by institutions:

- Physical transfers: 16 missions were organized in ten institutions: two universities and one paramedical school, three public administrations: (Civil Service, Work and Social Security Ministry, Agriculture and Cattle Breeding Ministry, Civil Engineering and Equipment Ministry), two private sector organizations, one civil society platform. The sectorial schedule included seven missions for rural development, six for education, two for health and one for joint sectors. There was also one permanent return to the University of Burundi (Department of Agronomic Sciences).
- Virtual transfers: In February 2006, a panel on Information and Communication Technologies in Education (TICE) and the role of the diaspora teachers was held in Butare, Rwanda. The panel aimed at launching a Regional Plan of Action on distance learning. The panel's recommendations are available on the web at www.midagrandslacs.org
- Financial transfers: The objective of the Great Lakes MIDA Programme is to provide financial investment policies for private sector and community based-projects. A survey of fund transfers of the Great Lakes diaspora in Europe, published in March 2006, includes recommendations to increase the positive effect of diaspora fund transfers and investments on development.

April 2006-March 2008

This third phase should ensure the link between human resource needs of the three Great Lakes countries and the availability of qualified Burundese, Congolese and Rwandan diaspora members. It plans to hold 30 expert missions in Burundi and entails three permanent returns. Two missions are already organized: one in the Civil Service, Work and Social Security Ministry and one in the Public Health National Institute.

The African Diaspora as Key Partner in the Sustainable Development of their Home Countries

MR FRED KWOPA

Vice-President, Strategic Planning, Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), United States of America

This paper is based on the premise that no single person or institution has a monopoly of solutions to Africa's development challenges. "Business as usual" has not helped Africa in the last 40 years and is not going to help Africa in the foreseeable future unless we change our way of thinking. If we are going to achieve the MDGs by 2015, we need to "think outside the box", both at home and abroad, as regards both the Africans and our friends and development partners. We ourselves as Africans both at home and in the diaspora must ultimately assume the greater burden of our destiny. Speaking as one African to another, we need to advance breakthrough ideas and map out viable implementation strategies on agreeable solutions in order to enhance the quality of life of our people who look to us for salvation from poverty and the misery of underdevelopment.

Poverty Reduction

The phrase "poverty reduction" has gained currency in development discourse and many people use it even in situations that contribute nothing to poverty reduction. In my view, the usual gauge of how rich or poor the citizens of a country are is not improved roads, free education, free healthcare, or even the elimination of corruption, important as all these variables are in a healthy society. It is something called "per capita income" which is the average annual income of individuals in the country. What this means is that even if some magical donor were to enable the government to provide its citizens with better physical infrastructure as well as free education, free health and other goodies (all worthy of MDGs), the citizens would still be as poor as they were before the arrival of the mythical benefactor. What is amiss? None of these free services puts money in the individual pockets of the masses.

On the other hand, if a magic wand created millions of new jobs, entrepreneurs and asset owners, it would most certainly lead to a rise in per capita income. The citizens would be better off. The tax base would expand, meaning more sustainable revenues for the government. From the taxes, the government would have more money for those roads, schools and hospitals.

How do Western countries address poverty in their own ranks? In the USA alone, there are numerous poverty alleviation programmes in the state sector, and just as many in the private sector. And there are just as many in EU countries as well. All these sets have one characteristic in common. They put real money (cold cash) in the hands of the poor, by design, to maintain aggregate consumption levels for a robust economy. Why can't the West apply their age-old proven techniques to poverty-stricken countries in the Third World? Not one of their programmes is promoted in Africa. Is African poverty different from Western poverty?

The HIPC Programme has been in existence since 1996 and is successfully implemented in several countries. Yet no one can identify any post-HIPC countries where poverty reduction has been recorded and by how much. People know poverty when they see it; they also know prosperity when they see it. We need a definition of poverty reduction based on standard measures that everybody can see and that is agreed by all. Not even the World Bank has come up with a concise definition of poverty reduction and how it is measured. So we first need to participate in the definition of this concept and set parameters we can all agree on. "Symptomatic economics" (the tendency to address symptoms instead of causes) arises from the school of thought that sees money as the cure of poverty or food as the solution to hunger. A lack of money is a symptom, not a cause, of poverty. Poverty is cured not with money but by gaining access to the productiveness – the skills, tools and assets, in that order – required to earn money.

Migration and the African Diaspora

The 10 million and 6 million African expatriates living and working respectively in America and Europe today are Africa's most precious and under-utilized resource. Not only are they earning money abroad and sending some of it back to their families – they also represent an incredible human resource of expertise, knowledge, education, experience, entrepreneurship and enthusiasm that could be deployed creatively on a host of development fronts back home, if only we could create attractive incentives. We need ideas that put the nationals of the country in the "driver's seat" under the premise that development is a do-it-yourself proposition. One such idea is called Direct Expatriate Nationals Investment (DENI) and is discussed below.

We are all fully cognizant of the fact that for a long time, African leaders have been gathering in high-profile Summits to discuss African crises on their own terms, but no results have appeared. This ineffectiveness may well lie in official reluctance by leaders to engage their own people in dialogue. The challenge of underdevelopment is too big to leave it to politicians alone. We, too, as Africans in the diaspora, have been conducting our own well-attended conferences in various Western capitals, proposing solutions that never see the light of day. Articulating our problems is the easy part. Our Heads of State are doing it and we are doing it too. There is no point in rehashing African problems at every forum. The hard part is agreeing on solutions. This is precisely where agencies like The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) can play a useful role by bridging the gap between us (the African elite, both at home and abroad) and the African capacity deficit.

The African Presidents who are the prime movers of The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have called for a credible plan to involve the African diaspora in NEPAD. They are right: Africans in the diaspora are clearly underutilized. They could do a lot more if offered the right incentives. This is the community whose aggregate remittances to their home countries far exceed foreign aid. Africans in the diaspora could serve a dual function as a base for external resource mobilization and also as a lobbying group in western capitals to promote increased inflows of foreign direct investment. It stands to reason that foreigners cannot be enticed to invest in Africa if Africans themselves are not investing there.

Remittances

With an economic development plan based solely on grants and loans from foreign sources, Ghana has recognized the importance of its diaspora community as a major source of foreign exchange. This view was confirmed by the current Foreign Minister of Ghana, the Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, during a speech he delivered at Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in February of 2007. He noted therein that "Money transfers for last year alone were around 4.5 billion US dollars. Family members abroad sending money home constitutes over 40 per cent of our total GDP." On 20 July 2006, while speaking at a Media Dialogue on "The Tax Net as it Affects Micro and Small Enterprises", the current Ghana Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Mr Daniel Ablorh Quarcoo, said that "slightly over one million Ghanaians are taxpayers"; out of 20 million of Ghana's population, this is clearly not enough of a tax base to fuel the economy. No amount of financial reform can improve on this situation when the bulk of the population is living on less than a dollar a day. Between January and March of 2007, Ghanaians are estimated to have sent home 1.6 billion US dollars... and there is more where this came from.

Remittances stimulate the economy by increasing currency flows and consumer purchasing power. These are life-saving injections, but we cannot help every individual in the country. Instead, when we help our countries economically and the economy improves, the effects spill over to everybody in the country. That is what DENI is all about. It is the next logical step to remittances. With the DENI programme, we can mobilize expatriate Africans to pool their remittances to purchase one or more of the state-owned enterprises slated for privatization; this will lead to widespread ownership of assets by the nationals of the country and the ploughing back of dividend earnings back into the economy. The African diaspora constitutes an indispensable catalyst in the development of their home countries, because they have a permanent vested interest in the well-being of their people. The ever-growing African diaspora is poised for this role by virtue of its remittances, already a significant portion of the GNP of several countries. We are only limited by our creativity in terms of how best to exploit this external resource of private funds. DENI is one such example of creativity designed to enhance the development impact of remittances.

Ownership Culture

When knowledgeable people speak of indigenous capital ownership as the sine qua non of sustainable development, they point to the right solution. I have in mind a specific new development paradigm, based on broad participation of the population in market-driven economic activities. This is discussed further on DeniAfrica.com where it provides a road map of how Africa can create millions of entrepreneurs and business asset owners, not just a handful of millionaires, by widening the base of Africans participating in the revival and stimulation of their economies. There is no major programme anywhere in Africa that is attempting to do this. DENI was first introduced at the Benin Conference on Remittances in February 2006. It is the first project that positively affects people at the grassroots, precisely where poverty is concentrated.

Initiatives such as NEPAD pride themselves on looking for African solutions to African problems, but nothing in the NEPAD documents speaks of prosperity-sharing. NEPAD has a lot of laudable goals but is based on a wrong premise – that money is the cause of development, not the effect. The strategy should be to impress upon African governments the need to support a privatization and commercialization model that advances broad-based indigenous ownership of income-generating assets – and not simply makes the rich richer. Specific and transparent policy initiatives in this regard are likely to be more fruitful and the results more robust, if all those focusing on poverty reduction would insist on a steady broadening of asset ownership for a steady and measurable alleviation of poverty. An asset ownership strategy – as yet an overlooked component in country PRSPs – holds great promise in turning assetless citizens into proactive stakeholders in the stability of their country.

The virtues of ownership espoused here are not unique to Africa. People create wealth, not the government. This is a classic example of an anomaly where all the planned expenditures on government programmes can be met under the MDGs, and yet the people will still be poor. This is the hidden danger we see facing the MDGs in Africa. NEPAD has failed to inspire ordinary people because of its emphasis on government programmes, not on people-driven initiatives.

Development

Africa's development is linked to its ability to attract investment capital in terms of both money and skilled people who are technologically savvy and who can develop robust private sector economies in Africa. The challenge facing Africa and addressed by DENI is to raise the level of private investment to promote development, particularly in infrastructure and technology. Foreign direct investors are not going to invest in Africa if Africans themselves are not investing in their own economies. Africans both at home and abroad must lead the way and show that we have full confidence in our economies. Foreign direct investment follows a modicum of development, it does not precede it.

Until DENI came along, no programme had ever been designed with this kind of potential to bring about a paradigm shift in the economic development process in Africa. The Debt Forgiveness Campaign spearheaded by Jubilee 2000 inadvertently stymied Africa by infusing the African leadership with the obsession that debt forgiveness is a panacea for all our development problems. It is not. We are learning the hard truth that the debt forgiveness so many fought for has not resulted in poverty reduction. The stroke of a pen can cancel debt, but not poverty. Hence the need to "think outside the box" in order to make economic headway and eradicate poverty. DENI is an African solution to an African problem. Had it received half as much attention as debt forgiveness has, we should have long solved a host of problems and our economies would be booming. What is needed is a long-term self-help recovery strategy based on people-driven programmes such as DENI, that will turn Africa from aid dependency to trade dependency. No nation has ever developed by aid alone. History tells us that most successful nations (even small ones) relied on trade and commerce. Africa cannot be the exception.

Closing Speech

H. E. MR ABDOUL MALAL DIOP
Minister for Senegalese Abroad, Senegal

Your Excellencies,
Madam Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration,
Mr Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation in Africa,
Representatives of international Organizations,
Dear Country Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After three days of reflection on “Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction”, I should like, on behalf of the Senegalese government and on my own behalf, to thank all the delegations for their participation in this high-level meeting. I should like also to seize this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to IOM for its commitment in supporting our Governments in the missions it has been assigned. Allow me also to thank the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) for its valuable financial and technical support, without which this conference could not have taken place.

Finally, I gladly acknowledge the presence of many Ministers and Representatives of different Intergovernmental or Non-Governmental Organizations, which gives this meeting its due stature.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The outcomes of this meeting are indeed the result of intensive experience-sharing, discussing best practices on important issues related to migration. I should like to acknowledge the spirit of openness, goodwill and sincerity that characterized your work over these three days. There is no need to remind you of how much the topics you studied are of interest to all of us. Indeed the cause-and-effect relationships that link migration, development and poverty reduction deserve deeper study in order to take these links into account in the definition of policies and development programmes. Within this framework, it is vital to analyse and approach migration from a global, inclusive, collective and balanced viewpoint.

If we accept today that the brain drain is a cause rather than a consequence of underdevelopment, our governments should promote a political, economic and social environment such that it can help reduce this phenomenon. To that purpose, we should encourage the return of migrants to their home country in order to participate in local development, and promote the use of savings transferred by migrants towards their country of origin. These transfers contribute to the balance of payments and facilitate poverty control through investments in social services.

Since migration issues are topical, I cannot help thinking of the sad images we receive from the news, the heavy toll in human life along the Mediterranean coast or the lifeless bodies of young people that embarked on makeshift canoes to reach the European “Eldorado”. These tragedies demand our action and require that Governments, International Organizations and Civil Society set up a dialogue to provide solutions and concrete results. These events clearly show that the migration issue is tightly linked to the critical one of democracy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is time for us, as governments, to take concrete decisions. Reality requires us to strengthen cooperation among development partners. We cannot build a democracy detached from external inputs and from international community actions. We must therefore improve multilateral and bilateral cooperation in order to support growth in countries of origin and thereby create jobs, the only way to reduce migratory pressure.

We note with pleasure that this meeting is part of an ongoing dialogue towards the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York in September 2006. I am certain that the high-quality outcomes of your deliberations will serve as a fundamental contribution to this Dialogue.

I also acknowledge with pleasure and pride, as part of the international dialogue, the timely regional initiatives that have led to the definition of a framework for an integrated migration policy in Africa, to a common African position on migration and development, and to the definition of an action plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I strongly hope that the outcomes of our discussions will be translated into reality and that the commitments made by our different governments will come true.

I wish again to express my sincere thanks to Dr Soumano Sako and Ms Ndioro Ndiaye for a very successful meeting. With these words, I should like to declare closed the workshop on "Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction".

Agenda

Day One: 8 August 2006

Welcoming Participants & Registration

Opening Session

Chair: H.E. Mr Mamadou Sidibé, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, Senegal

Welcoming Remarks by:

- Dr Soumana Sako, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
- Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- H.E. Mr Mamadou Sidibé, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, Senegal

Plenary **Special Session on the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD)**

Chair: H.E. Mr Valentin Ollessongo, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo in Senegal, as chair of African Union

Panelists:

- Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- H.E. Mr Crispin Grey-Johnson, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, the Permanent Representative Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations, New York, USA
- Dr Bjorg Sandkjaer, Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Discussion

Coffee Break

Press Conference

Setting the context: workshop objectives, expectations and outcomes

Chair: Mr Armand Rousselot, Regional Representative, IOM Regional Office for Western and Central Africa, Dakar

Speaker: Dr Meera Sethi, Senior Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM Geneva

Lunch Break

Session I: **Migration, growth, poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**

Chair: Dr Samba Ka, Programme Team Leader, ACBF / Dr Meera Sethi, Senior Regional Adviser for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM Geneva

Panelists:

- Mr Demba Baldé, Expert on Social Development, The World Bank
- Ms Ingrid Cyimana, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Dakar
- Mr Ibrahima Dia, DRSP Follow-up Unit, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senegal
- Mr Desmond S. Koroma, Senior Officer, Director, Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, Sierra Leone
- Mr Pape Birame Thiam, Director of Technical Assistance, Ministry of International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation, Senegal

Discussion

Coffee Break

Session II: Regional and inter-regional strategies and cooperation

Chair: Dr Anthony Barclay, Advisor, Poverty Alleviation and Human Development and Chairman, ECOWAS Task Force on Migration

Panelists:

- Mr Sanou N’Faly, Programme Officer, Immigration, ECOWAS
- Dr Bjorg Sandkjaer, Associate Demographer, Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Discussion

Reception offered by ACBF and IOM

Day Two: 9 August 2006

Session III: National policy options in migration and development

Chair: Mr Mouhamed Ould Teghre, Deputy Director, Commissariat aux Droits de l’Homme, à la Lutte contre la Pauvreté et à l’Insertion, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Panelists:

- Prof. Sefu Kawaya, Programme Director, Ministry for Employment, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Mr Winfred A. Nelson, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana
- Mr Alvaro Apolo, President of the Instituto da Comunidades, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Cape Verde

Discussion

Coffee Break

Session IV: Public and private sector partnerships: developing complementarities

Chair: Mr Billong Ange, Conseil National pour le Patronat, Sénégal

Panelists:

- Mr Gibril Faal, Chairman, AFFORD, UK
- Mr Théophile Turpin, Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l’Industrie du Sénégal (BICIS)
- Mr Vincent Okele, President, African Axis, Belgium

Discussion

Session V: Enhancing the development impact of migrants’ financial resources

Chair: Mr Kaba Sangaré, Ministry of Malians Abroad, Mali

Panelists:

- Mr Bernard Ndayirorere, Programme Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Burundi
- Mr Asholi Chalai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, India
- Mr Fred Kwoba, Vice-President, Strategic Planning, Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), United States of America

Discussion

Lunch

Break-out groups and plenary session: Defining a human resource development strategy.

Day Three: 10 August 2006

Tour de table

Chair: Mr Kodjo Amissah Michel, Director of Ivoiriens Abroad, Côte d'Ivoire

Wrap up/comments: ACBF and IOM

Coffee Break

Closing Session

Chair: Dr Soumana Sako, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Summary Conclusions and Recommendations

General Rapporteurs: Dr Meera Sethi, Senior Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM Geneva and Dr Samba Ka, Programme Team Leader, ACBF

Closing Remarks

- Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General, IOM
- Dr Soumana Sako, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
- H.E. Mr Mamadou Sidibé, Ministry for Senegalese Abroad, Senegal

Lunch and Departure

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NOTE: List established from the information given by the participants themselves; may be out-of-date for some items, e.g. e-mails.

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