



**AFRICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION**  
*Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e.V.*  
*Fondation de la Jeunesse Africaine*

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ORGANISATIONAL

AYF/JCM/2007/1  
1 April 2007

English

## **Joint Consultative Meeting**

### **African Diasporas: Migration and Economic Development (ADMED)**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007**

**·Centro Cittadino per le Migrazioni,  
l'Asilo e l'Integrazione Sociale  
Via Assisi 41**

**Rome - Italy**

#### **Scope:**

The role of the African Diaspora in the African intellectual, political, cultural, and economic renaissance in this era of globalisation, seems to have been reduced to the level that the African Diaspora, however defined, are not in a position to contribute positively to the African continent. It has been alleged from some quarters that, the most the faithful amongst the Diaspora can do, is to maintain the usual ties of solidarity, contribute financially to the development of their countries and nothing more. The past few years has however introduced us to an increasing awareness that there are several ways in which Diasporas can stimulate economic development in their homelands, although a focus on their role in economic development is recent and the state of knowledge is far from systematic.

Most of the Diaspora more often than not, have the urge and the will to contribute to the development of their countries. Yet to find information, Institutions and individuals in African countries frequently "look north" to seek information from industrialized countries, while ignoring their Diaspora in the north. Dialogue between the Diaspora and the citizens of Africa hardly ever takes place and if it by chance happens, those in the Diaspora are seen as "traitors".

Achievements and contributions of African Diasporas are not acknowledged in both western and African countries. In the Western countries, Diasporas are often seen as running toward Africa while in Africa they are also often seen as running toward western countries.

The African Diaspora thus becoming increasingly recognised as a growing force for development in their countries of origin, has become an issue which the AYF has decided to address and raise some awareness as to potentials that would benefit all.

### **Aim**

The aim of this meeting is to address core concerns of Diaspora inclusion, economic development, migration governance such as policy, legal framework and operational systems, as well as developing strategies that will allow Diasporas to transfer knowledge and proficiency in specific areas of business, investments and entrepreneurial focus in African and European development structures.

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives are to find solutions to:

- The effects of economic development in Africa
- The roles of diasporas and labour market responses in Africa
- How migration can be effectively curbed and coordinated through identified Infrastructure projects and technology options needed to integrate the continent and its Diasporas;
- How benefits can be gained from legal migration.
- How Diasporas can be efficiently involved in the various African governance systems; and
- Forming a Diaspora investment network/funds for African youth.

### **Who can participate?**

- Policy makers;
- Representatives of International and Non-governmental organisations;
- Representatives of Diaspora Organisations
- Youth Organisations;
- Representatives of Private Sector Institutions
- Civil Society Organisations
- Journalists;
- Students; and
- Interested individuals.

### **Language**

Conference language is English. Translation services for French will be provided in certain cases.

### **Registration Fees**

A limited number of scholarships and waivers will be available for AYF members. Interested participants should please contact the secretariat for further details on scholarships and registration fees.

### **Visas**

Participants who are not citizens of Schengen countries, or countries which does not have visa waiver agreement with Italy, must apply for visas from the Italian Embassies or Consulates in their country of origin. For information concerning visitors' visas kindly visit:

[http://www.esteri.it/visti/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp)

### Insurance

The organisers shall not be responsible for health insurance coverage. Participants must have adequate insurance to cover any medical services required.

### Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation reservations. A servicing fee of Euro 20,- per head will be charged for those who would want the Secretariat to reserve rooms for them.

### Travel

Organisers are not responsible for participants travel and other expenses.

### Contact

Intending participants are encouraged to contact the AYF Secretariat for all registration and general enquiries.

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