



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

The Rome Declaration

Consultative Meeting

on

African Diaspora: Migration and Economic Development (ADMED)
June 2007

The African Diaspora and Civil Society Declaration

22-23 June, 2007

African Youth Foundation Consultative Meeting

Italy, Rome

We, the African Diaspora and members of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), from across Africa and the Diaspora attending the African Youth Foundation (AYF) Consultative Meeting held from 22-23 June, 2007 in Italy, Rome hereby:

Commend and support, in principle, the African Youth Foundation's vision, mission, and strategic plan in the steady process toward the establishment of a Diaspora fund to implement and support projects in Africa. Further, we commend the leadership of this African Diaspora led and African Diaspora defined effort as the requisite steps for African Diasporas to be involved in advocacy initiatives to push fundamentals in both Africa and in the Diaspora to full integration, peace, and global development.

Encourage Diasporas getting out of the project making mode and rather involve in the advocacy mode eg: technical support to governments at meetings and policy making levels; as well as advocacy at the international level as a united front and not individual countries.

Reaffirm the commitment of African Diasporas and the impact in developing strategies that will allow increase in knowledge and proficiency in specific areas of economic development, business, investments and entrepreneurship focus by the Diasporas.

During this consultation, we deliberated upon the draft vision, mission and, strategic plan of the AYF, and also received progress reports on:

- The AYF **Diaspora Investment Fund (DIF)** initiative. An aim to invest funds from Diaspora Africans in both Africa and Europe, to create a “**Culture of Ownership**” by buying into companies that are being privatized and setting-up new businesses, which will replace a culture of dependency on foreign aid.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) MIDA project and other projects helping migrants especially supporting female projects;
- The World Banks D-MADE initiative to support African Diasporas interested in implementing projects;

- The African Investments Infrastructure funds by African countries to support cross border regional projects;
- The Banca della Diaspora: an investing in Africa and receiving returns approach by African diasporas in Italy; and
- The Reformaf Diaspora approach in Switzerland on African Migration and Entrepreneurship in Switzerland.

The sessions were characterized by frank and open deliberations. We identified several appropriate roles and made recommendations for both continents. Those roles include a resolve to:

- Building Networks and cooperation between African Diasporas and European partners;
- Diaspora ministers to represent diasporas; and
- Undertake to interface with the AYF's vision, mission, and strategic plan, as and when appropriate.

It is our collective wisdom that the strategic mission and vision offer opportunities for deepening and widening of African Diaspora engagements in both Africa and abroad. However, we believe this engagement will be most fruitful, and proactive and thereby foster the necessary sense of ownership and complementarity in the future if, and when African nationals work on their country's projects, to enable them build their capacity and contribute their expertise for future projects through a hands-on approach.

We recognize that the vision, the mission, and strategic plan will be meaningless if the AYF and its constitutive bodies do not receive the requisite human and material resources from African governments, the people of Africa, at home, and in the Diaspora.

We also recognize the unique challenges facing African Diasporas in the effort to engage governments, the African Union and its constitutive bodies. These challenges include, but by no means limited to, issues of mutual accountability, transparency, and internal democratic governance. We encourage creative and inclusive means of addressing the various challenges.

The success of the AYF Initiative can only be achieved through the full dedication of the AYF, its constitutive bodies, African Diasporas, CSOs, African people at home, and friends of Africa internationally.

Done in Rome June 23, 2007

Document approved in Italy by the participants below.

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