

7TH DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:

NEW TRENDS ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT: ROLE OF THE DIASPORA AS CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT

Saturday, 21 September 2019, UNIA Schweiz, Weltpostrasse 20, 3015 Bern / 09h30-17h30

PROGRAM DRAFT

Arrival of participants 09h30-10h00

Part I: Opening Ceremony 10h00 – 12h15

- Welcome Remark by the President of the African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
- Remark by **Ms Khady Sakho**, president of Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform, ADEPT, Brussels, Belgium
- Opening Remark by **H.E. Mr. Ajay Kumar Bramdeo**, the Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Remark, insight on Swiss-Africa Bilateral Relations, Representative of Swiss Government
- Introductory Remark on Diaspora and Development, by **H.E. Amb. Dr. Arikana Chihombori Quao**, Permanent Representative of the African Union to the USA, Washington D.C (tbc)
- Group photograph session

Part II: Presentation of Papers 13h30 – 15h00

1. Role of the Francophonie in the development of Africa, Secretary General of the Francophonie, **S.E Mme Louise Mushikiwabo** (tbc)

The International Organization of the Francophonie brings together 88 states and governments, including 54 full member states (29 Africans), 7 associate members (1 African) and 27 observers (2 Africans). The OIF Secretariat is located in Paris and is headed by a Secretary General. It aims to promote the French language and cooperation relations between the 88 states and governments members or observers of the OIF

2. Current strategy for African Development

What is the current strategy for African development within the context of the African Union Agenda 2063, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). What are the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area CFTA and its accompanying Protocol on Free Movement of Persons? Which steps do African countries need to take to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda of the United Nations and what are the possible impact of the Addis Ababa Action Plan on the development policies of African Countries?.

Prof. Mamadou Koulibaly, University of Abidjan, Mayor of Municipality of Azaguié, Ex-President of National Assembly and former Minister of Economy and finances, Ivory Coast

3. Africa Debt Sustainability Framework: What is the Impact of national debts in African Development? Is African Debt sustainable?

Ricardo Murillo Gonzalez, UNCTAD, Geneva, (confirmed)

In the past decades, Africa has largely financed its national development strategies with External Public Debt (International Development Assistance, IDA, Grants...), but recently African countries have more recourse to Domestic Public Debt (Sovereign Bonds and Treasury bills). Is African Debt sustainable? What other sources of finance are available to Africa's Development Finance strategy to attend the objectives of Agenda 2030? Providing insight on the role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Public – Private Partnership (PPP), Remittances and Diaspora Bonds. How do illicit financial flows, Capital flight and other factors effect African development?

Questions and answers 15 Mins

Part III: Panel Discussions and Interview 15h15 – 17h30

4. Panel I : Good governance, strong purposeful leadership, development of human capital and building wealth and prosperity have been identified as pillars of sustainable development. How does this apply to Africa?

- Prof. Mamadou Koulibaly, Ricardo Murillo Gonzalez,
- Representatives of African governments: Policies for Diaspora and Development
- Input and interview avec **Mwazulu Diyabanza**, Spokesperson, Yankankus Unité Dignité Courage UDC and

Nathalie Arthoud, the Lutte Ouvrière candidate for the 2012 and the 2017 french presidential elections (tbc)

What type of currency is the Franc CFA? What role does it play in the development of Africa? What is the status of Franc CFA vis-a-vis the independence of Africa? What strategy should be adopted?

5. Panel II: Leveraging Diaspora network platforms and collaborations for enhanced impact of diaspora engagement in the development process

This is a panel mainly to share experience and exchange good practices on building diaspora platforms, diaspora engagement and the nexus between migration and development dialogue. It also aims at discussing and setting up a concrete follow-up program and action plan for diaspora engagement as catalyst to unlocking the potential of development of Africa.

Commitment beyond the financial contribution

- Transfer of "know how"
- Teamwork
- Contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development at the national and local levels, job generator
- Improve public financial management and make the business climate more attractive

- Stimulate the competitiveness of the private sector and support skills that promote employment and income for men and women
- Panel discussants:
 - Bashkim Iseni, Head, Integration Office, City of Lausanne
 - Dr Ahmed Zanya Bugre Board member Adept, Director, Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants, Malta
 - Séverine TSHIMINI, Présidente, Convention des Congolais, Platform RDC, Geneva
 - Awa N'diaye, Présidente, Espace Afrique Internationale

Questions and Answers

Part IV: Closing Ceremony 17h30

- Remark and fatherly advice by Prof. Dr. John Mbiti, Elder and Father of the African Diaspora in Switzerland (tbc)
- Closing remark by the President
- Networking Aperitif, B2B
- End of the conference

Contacts

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