

AFRICA DAY 2023 CELEBRATION, BERN, FRIDAY, 26.5.2023, 14h30

SWISS - AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY

As part of the activities for the celebration of the Africa Day 2023, the African Diaspora Council of Switzerland (ADCS) and the African Foundation for Migration and Development (AFMD) in collaboration with the "Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO)" of the African Union, want to use this opportunity to put forward a Diaspora Engagement Dialogue on Development. The dialogue will focus on the Swiss International Cooperation Strategy for Africa as implemented on the African continent by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, SDC and its partners. Other development initiatives and tendencies for Africa including the contributions of Diaspora in human capital as well as Remittances will also be examined.

According to Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24, Swiss International Cooperation consists of three pillars that are embedded in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER). These pillars include ***humanitarian aid, development cooperation and the promotion of peace and security***. They constitute an investment in freedom, security and prosperity for Switzerland and elsewhere around the world, and is a key component of the Federal Council's Foreign Policy Strategy 2020-23.

The International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24 aims to be more focused and more effective than in the past. It now prioritizes three criteria for the strategic orientation, sets a geographical focus for bilateral development cooperation and defines four thematic priorities.

The three criteria are as follow: *the needs of the population in development countries, Switzerland's long-term interests, and the value added by its international cooperation compared with other countries*. Thus, four priority regions have been identified, giving the FDFA's bilateral cooperation a geographic - and therefore more effective - focus on 35 countries. The EAER's economic development expertise remains focused on 13 countries. In addition, the strategy defines four thematic priorities: *a) creating descent local jobs, b) mitigating and adapting to climate change, c) reducing the causes of forced displacement and irregular migration, and d) promoting the rule of law and good governance*. Going forward, the aim would be to fully harness the potential of the private sector and digitalization, and to work on strong multilateral system.

With a proposed financial commitment of more than CHF 11 billion over four years, the people of Switzerland are showing solidarity in the face global challenges such as climate change, armed conflict and poverty, all of which are complex phenomena requiring international cooperation and mobilization as part of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The African Diaspora worldwide have been contributing immeasurably in Africa's development process both in terms of human capital and financially through mainly their remittances and other financial instruments like the Diaspora Bonds. These efforts have led to the recognition of the Diaspora by the UN High Level Dialogue in 2013, as one of the principal agents and actors of development.

The organizers are proposing a frank and in-depth discussion on the opportunities as well as impediments in the development of the continent in the light of different interventions and the UN SDGs and proffer innovative solutions and recommendations to major stakeholders. The dialogue will take place at Bern, the Swiss capital (Le CAP, Predigergasse 3, 3011 Bern) in English language. There will be no simultaneous translation. However, questions and comments can also be addressed in French and German languages.

Participation is free and open to all: members of the Diaspora community, development experts, diplomats, policy makers, the private sector and civil society actors as well as the media.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AT THIS EVENT.

Draft Program, Friday, 26.5.2023 / 2:30pm - 7:15pm / Le CAP, Predigergasse 3, 3011 Berne

Time	Subject	Speaker
14:30 - 14:50	<i>Arrival of participants</i>	Celeste Ugochukwu , Moderator, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
14:50 - 15:00	<i>Welcome Remark</i>	Pat Santschi , President, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
15:00 - 15:15	<i>Opening Remark</i>	Ag. Director CIDO- African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (tbc)
15:15 - 15: 45	<i>Keynote Address: "Swiss - Africa Development Cooperation Strategy" Questions and Exchanges</i>	Manuel Etter , Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, SDC, Bern
15:45 . 16:15	<i>Impact of the Diaspora Remittances on African Development</i>	Amadou Cissé , Director, African Institute of Remittances, AU, Nairobi, Kenya
16:15 - 17:15	<p>Panel Discussion on Development initiatives in Africa</p> <p><i>Diaspora Medical Intervention in the rural communities in Africa</i></p> <p><i>Input on Development Experience of Caritas in Africa</i></p> <p><i>Diaspora Intervention in Education sector in Africa</i></p> <p><i>Action on Diaspora Issues and Diaspora Award & Development</i></p> <p><i>Impact of Social Income on Development</i></p>	<p>Prof. Dr. Charles Senessie President, Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) /BE</p> <p>Petra Winiger Head of Operations International Cooperation Caritas Switzerland, LU</p> <p>Annah Lüscher-Njoroge Co-Founder and President Hope for the Children, HFTC / BE</p> <p>Anne Gueye / Vincent Zodogome Coordination, Prix Diaspora & Développement, FEDEVACO / VD</p> <p>Kabelo Ruffo Co-President Social Income / ZH</p>
17:15 - 18:15	<i>Discussions, Observations, Comments, Q&A</i>	All participant
18:15 - 19:15	<i>Aperitif, B2B, Networking</i>	All participants