

Report of GFMD Side Event – 15 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

## From Engagement to Cooperation: Diaspora-Development in Africa and Europe

ADEPT in partnership with AFFORD organised a side event on 15 October 2015 during the Government Days of the Eighth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Istanbul, Turkey. The event was supported by the governments of Mali and Rwanda. Dr Boulaye Keita, head of the Malian delegation, welcomed the attendees and introduced the chair of the session Mr Gibril Faal, Interim Director of ADEPT and Director of GK Partners. Gibril explained the aim and objectives of ADEPT and summarised its services and activities. He then introduced the guest speaker H.E. Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, the African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs and thanked him for coming to the GFMD in Istanbul specifically to participate in the AFFORD/ADEPT side event and meet the African diaspora delegates.



(AU Commissioner Dr Kaloko addressing GFMD side event – 15 Oct 2015)

### Delegates from 34 Countries

The theme of the session was 'From Engagement to Cooperation: Diaspora-Development in Africa and Europe', and this side event was one of the best attended at the 2015 GFMD. About 75 delegates from across the world attended, with 69 registering their details. Delegates were senior officials from governments, international agencies, NGOs, academia and diaspora organisations. They came from 34 countries<sup>1</sup>; 18 from Africa, 11 from European Union countries and five from other countries, including Switzerland.

*'What is the thinking of African countries in relation to Africa-Europe relations and the EU-Africa summit on migration in Valletta, Malta in November 2015'*

*'How can Africa-Europe development cooperation be enhanced from the perspectives of migrants and the diaspora'*

Also in attendance were representatives of the European Union, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (UN SRSG) on International Migration and the ACP Secretariat.

The side event discussed two main issues: 'what is the thinking of African countries in relation to Africa-Europe relations and the EU-Africa summit on migration in Valletta, Malta in November 2015' and 'how can Africa-Europe development cooperation be enhanced from the perspectives of migrants and the diaspora'. Commissioner Kaloko's presentation was an informal reflection, with him thinking aloud on the themes of the session and engaging in dialogue with delegates.

## Social Affairs in Development Cooperation

Africa's strategic focus should be to provide and facilitate access to adequate social and welfare services. This will create the level of civil contentment required to prevent political unrest as witnessed with Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, or the desperation driving migration across the Mediterranean. Dr Kaloko noted that the European Union puts much emphasis and financial support on the 'peace and security agenda', which is the biggest part of AU programmes. This is often reactive, whilst adequate socio-economic provisions would prevent security problems. He referred to the comprehensive approach of the African Union's Agenda 2063 which includes plans for continental infrastructure development and extensive industrialisation. He opined that appropriate action is needed on fair trade terms for Africa, to enhance economic development and job creation to make Africa a more attractive home for its citizens. Support to Africa should be concentrated on the diverse social and related services that create stability and address the root causes of civil strife as well as the migration of young Africans through the treacherous Mediterranean route.

Dr Kaloko also stated that the AU wants free movement of people within the continent through an 'African passport' scheme. The side event was attended by two delegates from the European Union. Mr Erwan Marteil, First Counsellor responsible for migration and asylum at the EU delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, responded to some of Commissioner Kaloko's remarks. He stated that the AU should see the Schengen visa regime as a possible model for intra-African mobility.

A diaspora delegate from the Netherlands observed that young Africans risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean due to lack of livelihood opportunities and prospects at home. The Ethiopian government delegate stated that the relatively high levels of economic growth in the continent need to be increased. Africa has new socioeconomic partners including Japan and China. Africa-Europe relations should move from an aid-based narrative. The Somali government delegate observed that he does not expect long term development to arise out of aid as it has not happened in the past.

## Queries about the Valletta Summit

Dr Kaloko queried several aspects of the Valletta summit on migration. Firstly, he was clear that it is not a joint AU-EU event. It is an EU summit to which African countries that are part of the Rabat and Khartoum processes are invited. This means that only 36 of the 54 African countries are invited. Secondly, it is odd that Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which represents Horn of Africa countries were not invited despite the fact that this is a region of Africa confronted with severe migration challenges. Thirdly, the submissions made by the African Union at the preparatory meeting in Rabat on 14 October 2015, were largely rejected by the EU. Fourthly, he encouraged the EU to seek long term collective African agreements on migration issues, rather than short term bilateral deals. The AU would prefer multilateral agreements based on model frameworks.

Dr Kaloko indicated that despite the fact that there was a preparatory meeting of Regional Economic Commissions in Accra, Ghana in September 2015<sup>2</sup>, there is more of an 'African perspective' rather than an African common position in relation to the Valletta summit. He expressed the continued commitment of the AU to maintain engagement irrespective of the unsatisfactory circumstances. However, he seemed rather pessimistic.

Mr Marteil of the EU Delegation in Geneva stressed that the Valletta summit will not by itself resolve all the migration related issues but will be an important occasion to discuss common challenges and opportunities. He stated that through the preparatory meetings, the plan of action<sup>3</sup> and declaration has already been subject to thorough exchanges of views by all parties. However, these documents are not yet finalised and that changes can still be made up until the summit. Moreover, IGAD are on the current summit invitation list. The co-host of the event, Dr Keita of the government of Mali, expressed hope that there is still time for an African position. He wondered 'if the Valletta summit is about Europe's security rather than Africa's development, why should Africa participate at all?'

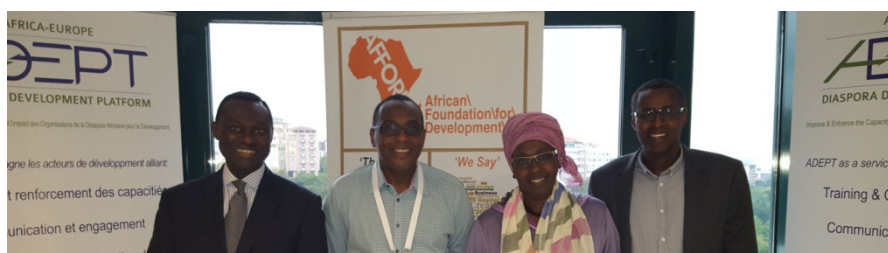
***The Valletta summit on migration is not a joint AU-EU event. It is an EU summit to which African countries that are part of the Rabat and Khartoum processes are invited.***

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## Role of the Diaspora in development cooperation

Most of the delegates who spoke reiterated the importance of the role of the diaspora in African development. A diaspora delegate from France stressed the need for formal roles for diaspora and civil society organisations. It was recognised that the African diaspora has a dual role, both in destination countries and in countries of origin or heritage. The Ghanaian government delegate called for the mainstreaming of diaspora cooperation. This will address some of the coordination problems associated with having disparate engagement in 'isolated' departments.

Dr Kaloka admitted that there needs to be improvements within the unit in the African Union that deals with the diaspora. He noted the Ethiopian delegate's request for the AU to show leadership and provide guidance to African countries on how to engage and cooperate with diasporas. He indicated that through the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (Ecosoc) of the AU, there are 20 seats available for diaspora and civil society organisations and this mechanism need to be used effectively. Mr Marteil also noted the importance of promoting diaspora involvement in Africa-Europe development cooperation.



(Interim director with board members at ADEPT's stand at 2015 GFMD)



(Delegates at ADEPT's GFMD side event – 15 Oct 2015)

## Notes about the GFMD side event and the Valletta summit:

1. Attendees came from the following countries: **Africa [18]** (Burkina Faso, Benin, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland and Togo); **European Union [11]** (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom; **Other Countries [5]** (Canada, Moldova, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey and United States).

2. At the African Union's preparatory meeting in Accra, Ghana 16-19 September 2015, two particular areas of concern were expressed, namely: non-voluntary return of African migrants by European countries and the setting up of 'processing camps' in West Africa.

3. The Valletta summit Action Plan (Working Draft Two) dated 7 October 2015 can be found at:  
<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2015/oct/eu-council-valletta-WD2-12560-rev-1-15.pdf> - retrieved 20 October 2015.

4. AFFORD-UK is a diaspora organisation set up in 1994. It is a pioneer in advocating and developing policy on the development nexus between migration, diaspora and development. It runs job creation and diaspora investment programmes in African countries.

5. ADEPT is a network of African Diaspora-Development Organisations (ADDOS) based across Europe and actively working on African development. ADEPT's aim is to 'enhance the capacity and impact' of ADDOS. It works with 84 countries (54 African and 28 EU countries, plus Switzerland and Norway).

# ADEPT AT THE 2015 GFMD – ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The new ADEPT platform started operations in late 2014. As such, 2015 was ADEPT's first opportunity to participate in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Through partnership with AFFORD and others, ADEPT had a significant and prominent presence at GFMD 2015 in Istanbul (12-16 October 2015).

## ADEPT Plenary Session Speaker:

Interim Director **Mr Gibril Faal** who co-chaired the 2014 GFMD participated this year in the name of ADEPT. He was a **panellist at the opening of the Civil Society Days (CSD)**, speaking on 'Migrants, diaspora and rights in the Sustainable Development Goals'. He also **co-moderated Common Space attended by over 800 delegates** together with Peter Sutherland, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on International Migration.

## ADEPT Working Session Speakers:

**Gibril** and ADEPT board member **Ms Khady Sakho** were **speakers at separate working sessions**. Khady spoke at two working sessions: 'Beyond xenophobia' and 'Civil society's role in implementing and monitoring the SDGs'. Gibril spoke at the working session on 'Civil society's role in fashioning the SDG indicators'.

## Other Side Events:

ADEPT participated in other side events on: **private sector** hosted by the governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh and '**diaspora, migration, governance and development**', hosted by AFFORD and Cordaid. Board member, **Mr Onyekachi Wambu** also **participated** in a Breakfast Session on the **Valletta summit on migration**.

## ADEPT Delegates:

In May 2015, ADEPT encouraged the network to apply for participation in the Eighth GFMD. This led to a significant increase in applications from Nordic and Southern European countries. There were more than 800 applications from across the world and 311 were invited to participate as delegates. **Of those invited, 16 of them (5%) were part of the ADEPT network** – based in 10 European countries (Denmark [1], France [3], Malta [2], Netherlands [1], Portugal [2], Slovenia [1], Spain [1], Sweden [1], Switzerland [1] and United Kingdom [3]). **Seven of the 16 had never participated in GFMD**. ADEPT offered support to these first time delegates and **four delegates took up ADEPT's financial support and participated at GFMD 2015**. Other people from the ADEPT network also attended. *(ADEPT had negotiated for a network delegate from Denmark to be a panel speaker but he could not attend).*

## ADEPT Exhibition Space:

ADEPT had an exhibition stand **during both the Civil Society Days (CSD) and Government Days (GD)**. Information was available in English and French and the stand was a meeting point for the ADEPT network. GFMD delegates came from government, civil society, migrants and diaspora groups, international agencies, academia etc.

ADEPT is a network of African Diaspora-Development Organisations (ADDOs) actively working on African development. It works with 84 countries (54 African and 28 EU countries, plus Switzerland and Norway).

ADEPT's aim is to 'enhance the capacity and impact' of ADDOs, assisting them to:

Professionalise their organisations and activities  
Create effective partnerships in Europe and Africa  
Expand and improve their development activities in Africa  
Influence the policy and practice of development cooperation

ADEPT is implemented  
by AFFORD:



Supported by ICMPD and GIZ:



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