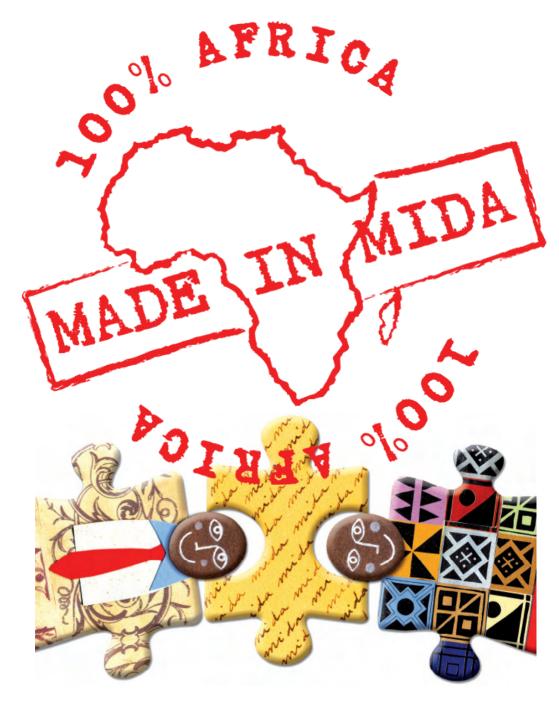




## **Migration for Development in Africa**

MOBILIZING THE AFRICAN DIASPORAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA



IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration,
- Advance understanding of migration issues,
- Encourage social and economic development through migration, and
- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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# MIGRANTS AND DIASPORA AS AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT

Thousands of African nationals leave their home country each year to pursue better economic prospects within or outside Africa, depriving the continent of its vital human resources. Despite this enormous loss, the African diaspora, equipped with their competencies, new ideas and expertise gained abroad, are a tremendous asset to the development of their countries of origin as well as to their host country. They bring new vision and represent positive forces for change.

MIDA was initiated in 2001 as a demand-driven institutional capacity-building programme to facilitate the transfer of vital skills and resources of the African diaspora to their countries of origin. Over the years, based on its policy and programmatic responses, MIDA has evolved as the comprehensive guiding framework for migration and development in Africa. The overall objective of the MIDA framework is to assist African governments to realize their development goals through the creation and strengthening of sustainable links between migrants and diaspora, on the one hand, and their countries of origin, on the other. MIDA focuses on the circulation of competencies, expertise and experience of migrants and diaspora, without jeopardizing their legal status in their host countries or newly adopted home countries.



#### **MIDA TARGETS THE AFRICAN DIASPORA**

#### TOTAL STOCK OF FOREIGN BORN BY REGION OF ORIGIN

	Country	Africa	Of which North African countries
1	Australia	191,501	2,573
2	Belgium	247,515	139,799
3	Canada	323,580	52,485
4	France	2,862,569	2,296,979
5	Japan	5,742	421
6	Mexico	1,214	262
7	New Zealand	39,351	273
8	Portugal	349,859	1,596
9		423,082	343,819
10	UK	838,459	26,088
11	US	988,253	58,530



Source: OECD Trends in International Migration, 2004.

# MIDA AS A FRAMEWORK FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The MIDA framework offers various approaches that are compatible with the desire of migrants and diaspora to contribute to the development of their countries of origin. With the support and collaboration of the different stakeholders, the MIDA framework has been translated into various operational projects, according to identified priorities in the countries of origin. Since the inception of the MIDA programme, projects have been implemented in various countries of origin: Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, the Great Lakes region, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.1

Within the MIDA framework, the operational projects cover broad strategic areas for the diaspora to make a contribution as a positive force for development, by:

- assessing country-specific needs and the resources of the diaspora in the host countries;
- engaging all stakeholders through targeted information campaigns;
- building capacity through the transfer of intellectual and socio-professional resources;
- enhancing dialogue with the diaspora;
- implementing partnerships for community and entrepreneurial development;
- optimizing the development impact of migrant remittances to Africa;
- promoting policy coherence for migration and development.
- <sup>1</sup> IOM is currently implementing various other projects worldwide engaging the diaspora for the development of their countries of origin. Additional information on IOM's projects can be found at: www.iom.

The following important developments have evolved from the creation of sustainable linkages between the different stakeholders within the MIDA framework:

- the recognition by national governments and institutions of migrants' positive contributions to the process of developing and strengthening their capacities;
- the integration of projects under the MIDA framework in ongoing national and regional development efforts;
- the strengthening of the positive image of both the country of origin and the host community amongst the migrants and diaspora;
- the reconciliation, where necessary, between the migrants and their countries of origin;
- the exchange of best practices between different stakeholders;
- the opening of possibilities of cooperation and bilateral agreements between the private sectors of the countries of origin and the host countries;
- the enhancement of sustainable livelihood and household income through remittances.

### Assessing country-specific needs and the resources of the diaspora in host countries

Optimizing the development impact of migrant remittances to Africa

Engaging all stakeholders through targeted information campaigns

Forging partnerships for community and entrepreneurial development

# MIDA inte

Building capacity through the transfer of intellectual and socio-professional resources

Enhancing dialogue with the diaspora

Promoting policy coherence for migration and development

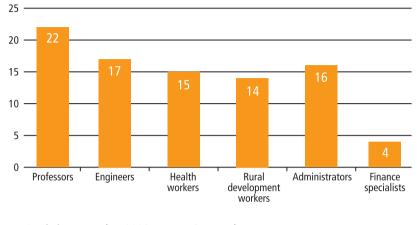


## Assessing country-specific needs and the resources of the diaspora in host countries

As a primary step, the MIDA framework offers **tools to identify and assess the priority development needs** of the countries of origin as well as the resources that migrants and diaspora offer. A range of mechanisms has been developed to:

- map the migrants and diaspora in order to establish the numbers per country, the geographical location and the most efficient ways of reaching them in the information campaigns;<sup>2</sup>
- conduct needs assessments and feasibility studies in the countries of origin;
- conduct surveys on diaspora skills and financial resources in the targeted host countries;
- develop, maintain and update databases of available resources, identified skill needs, assignments and job vacancies and investment opportunities available in the labour market (Figure 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For all mapping exercise reports see: http://www.iomlondon.org/publications.htm



Source: Statistics December 2006 - MIDA Great Lakes.



## **Engaging all stakeholders through targeted information campaigns**

The MIDA programmes utilize information campaigns to advocate the importance of the role of the diaspora as agents of socio-economic development. The following actions are undertaken to reach out to a wideranging group of stakeholders:

- drawing on IOM's existing networks with embassies and diplomatic missions, professional organizations and diaspora associations to promote the MIDA framework:
- setting up country-specific MIDA websites to enhance the efficient exchange of information on the contributions of the African diaspora in the field of development;<sup>3</sup>
- establishing national MIDA desk services to inform and assist migrants and diaspora interested in contributing to MIDA;
- organizing focus group discussions and workshops, by leveraging stakeholders' knowledge about the diaspora.

³ http://www.midagrandslacs.org; http://ethiopiandiaspora.org; http://www.burkinadiaspora.bf/sommaire.php; http://www.iom-nederland.nl/home.asp?langId=2.

## **Building capacity through the transfer of intellectual and socio-professional resources**

By means of the different modes of transfer offered within the MIDA framework, diaspora members can contribute to the development of the African continent by enhancing the capacity of local communities, private and public institutions and the government in their countries of origin (Text box 1).

## TEXT BOX 1: DIFFERENT MODALITIES OF TRANSFER OF INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

MIDA facilitates the virtual, sequenced or permanent transfer of intellectual and socio-professional resources of the diaspora to support the development of the countries of origin. In order to assure sustainability, each transfer is brought into line with the national strategy of the respective countries and coordinated with different stakeholders who meet in national MIDA steering committees.

**Sequenced/Repeat visits.** In some cases, skills or competencies of the diaspora members are required in the country of origin to complement the efforts of colleagues on the job and to bring

their international perspective to bear on a given assignment. The MIDA framework envisages that this type of assignment may require a limited number of round-trips, go-&-see visits, to encourage the circulation of skills.

**Virtual/tele-work.** The use of Information and Communications Technologies has significantly reduced costs, by eliminating – in many cases – the need for physical presence. Digital data broadcasting, distance business



transactions (tele-conferencing) and e-learning are among the most cost-effective options for this type of resource transfer.

**Permanent relocation.** Permanent transfer to the country of origin is based on the voluntary decision of the diaspora member to physically return permanently and to contribute to the development of his or her country.

At the community level, the diaspora can build the capacity of local community members by:

- enhancing the capacity of teachers, professors and medical personnel<sup>4</sup> (Text box 2);
- providing training and technical assistance in business and micro-enterprise creation and management (Text box 3).

At an institutional and governmental level, migrants and diaspora members contribute to building the capacity of government officials and national institutions by:

- improving and monitoring the national and regional institutional capacities;
- developing selection and recruitment procedures targeting migrants and diaspora;
- establishing guidelines for information dissemination towards the Africans in diaspora.

## TEXT BOX 2: MIDA GREAT LAKES – ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GOMA

The University of Goma hopes to ensure the autonomy of its "applied geology department" by 2011. Professor Wazi, a researcher at the University of Rouen in France, lends his knowledge and experience to help the University attain this objective. He undertook several MIDA missions to Goma between



January 2006 and February 2007. While the MIDA programme had initiated the first steps (i.e., arranging the professor's missions, financing the syllabi, buying microscopes and geological maps, etc.), other partners have since joined in.

The University of Rouen's geology department in France contributes six scientific books to Goma on a weekly basis for a period of 18 months. The association "the friends

of Goma" sent 100 books and scientific publications in a container to help researchers, students and research assistants emerge from their scientific isolation.

Today, local academic personnel are trained to take over Professor Wazi's role in order to assure the independence of the geology department. Based on their personnel evaluation of these missions, both Professor Wazi and IOM are satisfied with the results and progress.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The MIDA Great Lakes is funded by the Belgian government. Additional information and evaluation reports can be found at: http://www.midagrandslacs.org

## Micro-enterprise development for Guinean women through provision of micro-credits and mobilization of women from the diaspora

This project provides micro-enterprise development support to low-income women in Guinea. Women of the Guinean diaspora, residing in the ECOWAS region, are mobilized to train these low-income women in Guinea. Low interest loans are made available to the latter by a local micro-credit institution, the Rural Credit of Guinea. Following an intensive training course delivered by skilled

expatriate Guinean women in the creation and management of micro-enterprises, the beneficiaries proceed by developing business proposals for funding consideration by the project's micro-credit fund. The transfer of skills by the diaspora and the access to low-interest loans assist the beneficiary women in setting up and managing profitable micro-enterprises, thereby assuring the micro-credit fund's availability to a wider segment of the targeted population and enhancing its sustainability. The technical support of the sub-contracted micro-credit entity in Guinea enables the beneficiaries to establish an association of women entrepreneurs who will be capable of taking over the management of the revolving credit fund at the end of the first 12 months of implementation.





To date, the project has contributed to the training of 59 selected

women beneficiaries in three cities in Guinea, resulting in the disbursement of 56 micro-credit loans and the creation or upgrading of the same number of micro-enterprises. All the loans have now been reimbursed and 50 women have been trained in cooperative and revolving fund management.

#### **Enhancing dialogue with the diaspora**

Within the MIDA framework, action-oriented dialogues are organized between the African diaspora and government officials in their home countries, providing the various stakeholders with a dynamic and interactive platform to engage and re-connect with their countries of origin. These events enable participants to explore opportunities for the diaspora to contribute to the development of their respective countries of origin through various partnerships with governments, academic institutions and the private sector in diverse strategic areas. To date,<sup>5</sup> the dialogue events have resulted in:

- initiating sustainable partnerships and an improved level of communication between the African diaspora and governmental bodies;
- increased awareness on the part of African diaspora of the different channels through which they can contribute to the development of their countries of origin;
- confidence-building amongst African governments and institutions to confront the perceived barriers to contributing to development and the possibility of a renewed commitment to attracting diaspora contributions:
- the development of further events focused on harnessing the existing potential of the diaspora.





mobilizing the African diaspora health care professionals and resources for capacity building in Africa:



<sup>•</sup> rebuilding the health sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo;

<sup>•</sup> Sudanese medical professionals residing in the United Kingdom;

<sup>•</sup> diaspora initiatives in Sudan;

<sup>•</sup> business and development: The Tanzanian dialogue.

## Forging partnerships for community and entrepreneurial development

Managing migration for the development of African countries is beyond the capacity of any single country. Effective strategies and partnerships must therefore be established between countries of origin and host countries. Migrants, diaspora members and migrant associations can strengthen the cooperation between different stakeholders involved (Text boxes 4 and 5). Within the MIDA framework, diaspora members and associations:

- promote and establish partnerships at the community level, engaging local authorities, entrepreneurial associations, NGOs and financial institutions;
- design and initiate co-development projects targeting their communities of origin for enhancing their transnational networks;
- capitalize on their capacity to build bridges between their origin and host communities, to benefit enterprises in their efforts at internationalization, remittance channeling schemes, social and economic development projects and e-learning.

#### TEXT BOX 4: MIDA ITALY - TARGETING GHANA AND SENEGAL<sup>6</sup>

MIDA Ghana/Senegal programme, funded by the Italian government, supports entrepreneurial projects and non-financial services for enterprise creation. The programme offers Ghanaian and Senegalese diaspora living in Italy the possibility of creating small or medium-sized enterprises in their countries of origin in order to enhance the socio-economic development of these countries. In 2006, IOM launched a call for project proposals addressing the Senega-

# Agriculture & Breeding Other Tourism ITC Rural Development Energy Education Construction Agroprocessing

**Project Proposals Received from the** 

Senegalese Diaspora by Primary Sector

lese and Ghanaian diaspora in Italy. In the same year, a second call for proposals has been launched, offering co-financing of co-development<sup>7</sup> projects for the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Only those projects based on a strong partnership between local institutions, NGOs and the private sector in both Italy and their countries of origin have been considered for implementation.

Source: MIDA Ghana/Senegal 2006/2007 - Data Analysis



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For further information see the IOM evaluation of the MIDA Ghana/Senegal: "Migrants' SME Project Applications", MIDA Ghana/Senegal 2006/2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The co-development component of the MIDA Ghana/Senegal hinges on the involvement of Ghanaian and Senegalese immigrants for the formulation and implementation of project activities. This provides an indication of their ability to create partnerships of a certain degree of importance with various stakeholders in their areas of residence and origin. (See "Partnership initiatives for co-development. Ghanaian and Senegalese immigrants and CeSPI-IOM research-action", November 2006.)

In the educational sector, MIDA strives to build capacity of the Regional Centers of Excellence which contribute to the creation of knowledge, the pooling of resources and the development of a critical mass of skills for development in the medium and long term.

The MIDA Great Lakes programme has developed – in close collaboration with the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and with an expert from the Congolese diaspora in Belgium – a comprehensive e-learning course for the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Within the framework of the MIDA Great Lakes programme – in collaboration with the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and the ULB, IOM – a round table was organized in Butare to discuss "Information and Communication Technologies in the field of Education (ICTE)" and the role of diaspora teachers. L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), UNESCO, the World Bank Institute and the Conseil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique were partners in the initiative.

## Optimizing the development impact of migrant remittances to Africa

The increasing attention to the issue of remittances in recent years has been due to the growing volume of official financial remittances to low-income countries and their potential contribution to the development of the receiving regions (Figure 2). While recognizing that remittances are private and family funds, the MIDA framework offers different options to channel and optimize remittances from African migrants and the diaspora. These options have as their objectives:

- to analyse and inform the diaspora on the use of remittances as a tool for economic growth and development in countries of origin;<sup>9</sup>
- to enhance the experience of migrant associations in establishing voluntary schemes to channel remittances towards poverty reduction;
- to design viable financial packages and measures to attract remittances, taking into consideration migrants' access to financial services, transaction costs and regulation, incentives, tax breaks, bonds and other financial schemes;
- to inform the diaspora on the investment possibilities and opportunities in the different sectors in order to increase transparency and competition among the different operators.

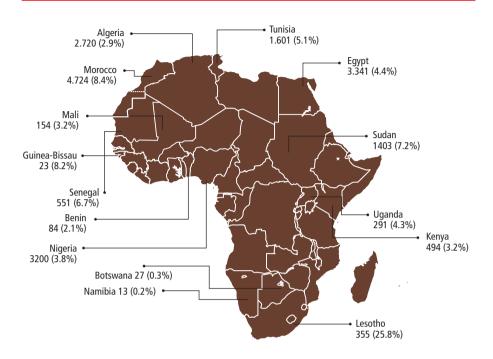


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For more information on the round table, see http://www.belgium.iom.int/mida2/activities.asp?sect=309

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Remittances in the Great Lakes Region, Tom de Bruyn and Johan Wets, KUL, October 2006, IOM Migration Research Series.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Financial instruments for the optimization of the role of remittances in development", Strategy paper MIDA – Ghana/Senegal project, Danielle Frigeri and Anna Ferro, CeSPI, November 2006.

FIGURE 2: WORKERS' REMITTANCES, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES
AND MIGRANT TRANSFERS TO AFRICA (US\$ MILLION)





Source: Global Economic Prospects 2006: Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration. World Bank.

#### Promoting policy coherence for migration and development

Enhancing the positive linkages between migration and development requires a degree of policy coherence between potentially competing but cross-cutting policy agendas in the fields of migration, development, labour, health, security and social welfare. Consistent and integrated policy approaches in the field of migration and development of national governments and regional and international organizations will increase the development potential of migration.

The MIDA framework contributes to national, regional and international policy coherence with regard to migration and development.

#### On a **national level**, the MIDA framework:

- ensures the integration of migration into government development policies, such as national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national development plans;<sup>10</sup>
- encourages inter-ministerial efforts in both host countries and countries of origin, bringing together relevant ministries whose fields of responsibility directly or indirectly involve migration and/or development.

#### On a regional level, the MIDA framework:

- enhances South-South cooperation by engaging diaspora members resident in other African countries in contributing to the development of their country of origin;
- promotes the sharing of skills and expertise on a regional level.

#### On an international level, the MIDA framework:



- contributes to the establishment of strategies allowing for greater international cooperation between countries of origin and host countries, and with the migrants and diaspora themselves;
- supports the creation of policies for maintenance of the legal status of the African migrants in host countries;
- contributes to the achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals** (Text box 6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Aspects of migration and the MIDA framework have been incorporated into the PRSP of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The MIDA framework has been incorporated into the Strategy Document of the Ministry of Labour and Public Service (MIFOTRA) of Rwanda.

The Burundese government has adopted a "Strategic framework of growth and the fight agains poverty (CSLP Complet)" which includes the role and importance of the diaspora for the development of the country.

#### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Migrants' trade activities, financial investments and remittances can contribute to national economic development efforts and to covering basic needs of national communities. The financing of local infrastructures also demonstrates the important impact migrants can make if their contributions are harnessed appropriately.

#### **Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education

Migration not only represents an opportunity for migrants to seek higher levels of education, but it also allows migrants to benefit their countries of origin, notably through the mobilization of their skills and the financial support of their nationals abroad.

#### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Migrant women, as economic decisionmakers, are key players in the migration and development equation, particularly through the diversity of their skills and the magnitude of their remittances to their respective home countries.

#### **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**

Migrants, through their investment in health infrastructures and their financial support to cover familial medical expenses, can contribute to the reduction of child mortality. In particular, female migrants can help to introduce new health methods and practices within their families, communities and societies.

#### **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

Migrants, through their financial resources, can contribute to the improvement of maternal health. Their contribution to the health systems is fundamental to ensuring women's access to medical care. Their mobilization can include the introduction of new health practices and the creation of health infrastructures, notably in the rural areas.

#### Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Comprehensive diaspora policies should address the issue of countering the brain drain of health workers. This is critical for rebuilding the health infrastructure and ensuring access to health care, as well as for the development of human resources in the health sector, to tackle the major communicable diseases.

#### **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

In order to achieve environmental sustainability, governmental policies need to address the issue of rural exodus and internal migration, as it has a far-reaching impact on displacement of population. Population stabilization, integration and coping with environmental disasters require a totally new development paradigm. Internal migration and its long-term impact on international migration is an area that needs further study.

#### Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Partnership is an essential tool of development. Migrants represent a bridge between countries of origin and destination and can therefore play a key role in enhancing understanding of common challenges and the establishment of comprehensive strategies at regional and international levels. Diaspora associations can also contribute to creating new opportunities for business, joint ventures, trade and investment flows.

MADE IN MIDA

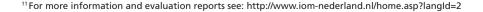
#### MIDA AND HEALTH

The WHO 2006 World Health Report estimates a shortage of nearly 820,000 doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers in Africa. Globally, 57 countries, of which 36 are African, are defined by the WHO as having a critical shortage of health workers. The MIDA framework addresses the challenges that have arisen due to the migration of health care workers by strengthening the capacity of health systems in countries of origin through the transfer of diaspora knowledge and skills.

#### MIDA Ghana: targeting health workers<sup>11</sup>

Ghana currently faces a severe brain drain of professional health workers, such as medical doctors and nurses. The MIDA Ghana Health Project mobilizes skills, experience and resources from the Ghanaian diaspora within the European Union for the development of the health sector in Ghana. Through temporary return assignments, health professionals from the Ghanaian diaspora assist hospitals and other health institutions in Ghana in such areas as human resource development and medical care and management. Moreover, specialized training is organized in health care institutions in the Netherlands for Ghanaian health personnel. Based on the specific needs of hospitals in Ghana, members of the diaspora can carry out missions once, or participate in repeated visits to Ghana, or transfer knowledge electronically.







Barima Asamoah Kofi IV was born in Ghana and has lived in Amsterdam for 27 years. He is a health information counselor and has worked for several social and health institutions. A few years ago, he was crowned Chief of the Abrem Traditional Area in the Central Region of Ghana. "Being chief means investing in the socio-economic development of your region", he explains. In November 2006 he went to Ghana for three months to work as a health information counselor in the field of basic health care and HIV/AIDS prevention. His employer gave him special leave to do so. While evaluating his missions, Barima told IOM "I had meetings with groups of people, informing them on infections, prevention hygiene and sexual relations. There is so much need for this information. But it takes professional skills to inform people in the right way. That is why I'm writing a proposition to train voluntary health information counselors."

# MIDA AND THE MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – A WAY FORWARD

The African Union recognizes the African diaspora as key players in its Strategic Plan for 2004-2007. African regional economic communities are also directing their work towards strengthening ties between migration and development in Africa. Donor communities, as well as a large range of multilateral organizations, have confirmed their interest in the MIDA programme and are working closely to reinforce the positive impact of the image of diaspora in both countries of origin and host communities.

The African Union<sup>12</sup> has adopted significant declarations and decisions targeting the involvement of the African diaspora, as follows:

- in 2001, the AU endorsed the MIDA programme during its 74th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers;
- in 2002, the 25th Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, called upon African countries to include MIDA in their national planning processes and in their respective National Indicative Programmes (NIP);
- in 2003, the African Ministers of Health called upon governments to utilize African health workers in the diaspora in a range of interventions aimed at harnessing their skills for the benefit of their countries of origin;
- 2004 was declared the "Year for Development of Human Resources in Africa";

<sup>12</sup> http://www.africa-union.org/

- in 2005, a common definition<sup>13</sup> of what is meant by the "African Diaspora" was elaborated and submitted to the Executive Council for due consideration by the policy organs of the AU:
- in 2006, a common African position on Migration and Development was adopted, as well as a Migration Policy Framework and the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
- 2006 also witnessed the adoption of the African Youth Charter by the African Ministers of Youth, Article 21 of which states that all parties shall recognize the rights of young people to live anywhere in the world, and which generally encourages young people in the diaspora to engage themselves in development activities in their country of origin;
- in 2007, the Executive Council endorsed the Decision on the Africa-EU Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development: Ex.Cl/Dec. 323 (X) and called upon Member States to develop national plans of action, deploy resources and report on progress made in 2008.

All these decisions illustrate the good will and commitment of the governments to include the diaspora and migration in the continent's policies and action plans. However, all the various stakeholders now need to work together to implement the decisions taken by policymakers in order for MIDA to obtain its objectives in a sustainable way. The way forward for MIDA consists in:



- integrating MIDA into a broader development framework;
- strengthening partnerships with a large variety of interlocutors, notably, diaspora associations, the private sector, international agencies, research institutes and recruitment agencies;
- systematically incorporating the gender dimension in all MIDA programmes;
- reinforcing regional integration and cooperation for the mobilization of diaspora.

#### **USEFUL LINKS**

- http://www.iom.int/jahia/page1306.html
- http://www.midagrandslacs.org
- http://ethiopiandiaspora.org
- http://www.burkinadiaspora.bf/sommaire.php
- http://www.iom-nederland.nl/home.asp?langId=2

<sup>13 &</sup>quot;The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union."



#### For further information on MIDA, contact:

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