

AFRICA-EUROPE



ENGAGING AFRICAN DIASPORAS IN EUROPE ON DUAL CITIZENSHIP



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ADEPT

ADEPT is registered in Belgium as a not-for-profit international association (AISBL), with the aim to 'improve and enhance the capacity and impact of the African diaspora organisations that are involved in development activities in Africa'.

The ADEPT aim is pursued through delivery of services to diaspora organisations and individuals in Europe and Africa. ADEPT will work and engage with 84 countries (28 EU countries, plus Switzerland and Norway, and 54 African countries). In particular, ADEPT will assist Africa Diaspora-Development Organisations (ADDOs) to:

- Optimise their development engagement in Africa
 - 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
-

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EC, SDC, GIZ, or ICMPD.

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Introduction

It is estimated that 30 million individuals of the African Diaspora live outside their country of origin and jointly, they contribute about US\$40 billion in remittances to their families and communities back home every year (Plaza and Ratha 2010 and IFAD 2009). Apart from remitting money home, the African Diasporas are engaged in several development projects in their countries of origin. Some of the development projects achieved their aims, whilst others failed. There are other development interventions which the Diasporas could have engaged with but have no ideas how to go about them. Many African Diaspora in Europe cannot engage meaningfully with their countries of origin after many years away and having acquired another citizenship, which in some cases is not recognized by the governments of these countries. In recent years, many African countries have approved dual citizenship to their Diaspora, some with restrictions or qualifications. As an example, in some African countries dual citizens may not hold specified public office, participate in politics or vote in elections.

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (¹ADEPT) has commissioned this research as part of its wider engagement with the African Diaspora in Europe aimed at developing policies that will inform its work.

¹The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) is a network of African Diaspora Development Organizations (ADDOs) based in 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland, who are active in African development. It serves as a point of contact and reference for anyone interested in African development issues and migration and development policy more broadly. The ADEPT project is funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), and is delivered by the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), a pioneering UK-based diaspora organization, with support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna.



The aim of the survey was to consult diverse range of individuals and African Diaspora development organizations in Europe on dual citizenship; understand the importance of dual citizenship, including the advantages and disadvantages; and examine the challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, it aims to help the ADEPT network in adopting a common position on the importance of Dual Citizenship from the Diasporas point of view, whereby engaging African countries on dual citizenship policies is envisaged.

The purpose of this survey report is to contribute to the ongoing debate on dual citizenship and how policies can be developed to engage African governments willing to implement dual citizenship laws. The report is also aimed to collaborate with governments who have already adopted dual citizenship laws to engage their Diasporas on sustainable development initiatives

“Diasporas” for the purpose of this survey is defined as people or ethnic populations who left their homelands as individuals or members of organized networks and associations that are maintaining links with their homelands. It can also be understood as the scattering of an ethnic group from their home land who settled in foreign land and keep in contact with their country of birth or descent (Isenberg and Kerr 2011). Diasporas are a consequence of transnational migration. Throughout human history, individuals or groups, have moved across international borders (Esman 2009). The term Diasporas was purposely used in plural to reflect the diversity of populations from the African continent that exist in Europe.

“Dual Citizenship” in this survey was defined as a person recognized by more than one country as a citizen under the laws of those states (Isin and Wood 1999). Dual citizenship status is very important for the African Diasporas in Europe, and African countries should recognize the citizenship status of their former citizens and their descendants. Dual citizenship for the African Diaspora has always been about empowerment, for them to have citizenship rights in their countries of origin or descent. It has involved more and more acts, rights and obligations as people have increasingly seen what was necessary in order to be empowered (Castles and Davidson, 2000).

The main message conveyed by the survey is that respondents are African Diaspora who are resident in European countries and want to contribute to the development of their African countries of birth. There have been a significant number of African countries that have introduced dual citizenship laws allowing their Diasporas to return and contribute to the development of the countries. However, there are also some countries that are reluctant to introduce dual citizenship laws, which would allow former citizens to return home freely as visitors, investors or to engage in meaningful development initiatives (Manby 2010).



Survey Background

This first part of the survey presents the background of the survey, the added value of the exercise, the methodology used and a presentation of the responses. There are also analysis at the end of the presentation of responses and conclusions are drawn at the end of the survey report.

I. African Diasporas in Europe on Dual Citizenship of Countries of Origin

The background analysis of the survey, first look at why ADEPT wants to engage the African Diaspora in Europe on dual citizenship to find out if their country accepts dual citizenship, and what steps to take engaging countries that do not accept dual citizenship to adopt policies for better engagement of their Diasporas.

The role of African Diasporas in development, poverty reduction, reconstruction and growth of countries of origin are very significant and are attracting considerable policy interest by many development partners. African Diasporas are not only a source of finance, but also of skills and experience, and they are highly connected both at home and abroad. As a result, it is very important for ADEPT to engage the European African Diaspora to hear their views on dual citizenship aiming to formulate policies that will facilitate dialogue with African countries leading to a working relationship with their Diaspora who are living in European countries.

ADEPT in the last two years has engaged the African Diasporas from the 28 European Union (EU) countries, plus Switzerland and Norway. It facilitates the African Diaspora capacity development and networking to support the socio-economic development of their home countries. It provided African Diaspora organizations and individuals the opportunities to do credible, high standard development work



between African Diasporas countries of resident and countries of origin. It was therefore felt that a survey of this kind would be appropriate in order to find out how African Diasporas in Europe view dual citizenship, and how they assess African countries policies on this matter.

II. The Added Value of the Survey

Despite increased academic and policy interest in the contributions Diasporas can make to the development of their countries of birth, there is a clear knowledge gap at the policy level on how African Diasporas who are dual citizens, who lost their citizenship because of naturalizing, can go back to help facilitate development in their countries of origin without facing difficulties on entering and leaving the countries. The questions in this survey are designed to identify countries which allow dual citizenship; dual citizenship policies that are in place or that are being implemented; institutions in charge of dual citizens; policies which are favorable; and systems that are in place in countries of origin.

To our knowledge, no other survey has been undertaken at European level that focuses on engaging African countries who haven't accepted dual citizenship policies for their Diasporas in Europe, aiming to facilitate Diasporas free movement between countries of residence and countries of birth through policy dialogue. And to pave way for their contribution to development of home countries.

Another valuable feature of the survey was the respondents, some of whom were second generation Diasporas and citizens of Europe who considered the birth countries of their parents as home.

III. Methodology

The questionnaire was based on a literature review of dual citizenship in African countries. It covers areas we are interested to get feedback from the Diasporas on strategies and policies they see important to facilitate their engagement with their countries of birth. The questions also looked at whether countries have dual citizenship laws, what can be done to engage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and governments agencies to get their Diasporas active in national development.

The questionnaire contains 13 questions – 8 multiple-choice questions with leading questions and 5 open questions giving respondents the opportunity for further elaboration. The questions aimed to identify the respondents – either as individuals or representatives of Diaspora led organizations in Europe; identify their countries of origin and whether dual citizenship is accepted in that country or not.

Five of the questions asked respondents to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with the statements by ticking appropriate boxes. The questions in this category were asking how loyal dual citizens can be between their two countries of citizenship; the nature of their movement between the countries; their employment and other legal issues; and how loss of revenue affects countries who do not have dual citizenship and bureaucracies in processing visas, assuming countries do not accept dual citizenship. Diasporas were also asked on their engagement with political processes of their countries of birth and who is responsible for the engagement of the Diaspora in their countries of birth.

Two additional questions in the questionnaire asked respondents whether governments and civil society organizations have a role to get Diaspora active in national development and whether they see any obstacles in that role. Finally, respondents were asked to give general comments on how to better engage Diasporas in the national development of their countries of birth.



Detailed Responses to the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was answered by 119 respondents, who are African Diasporas originating from 35 countries;- 31 of which are African countries, 3 European countries and a Caribbean country.

I. Type of Stakeholders Involved in the Survey?

Respondents were asked what type of stakeholder they are. Of the total respondents 86 (74.1%) are individual Diasporas and 30 (25.9%) were representing organizations. Three respondents did not answer the question.

Diagram 1 below showing *Diaspora respondents ad individuals or representatives of organizations*





II. Country of origin of Respondents

Respondents stated their origin from 35 countries, all of which are African countries except four (France, Jamaica, Martinique and United Kingdom). Those respondents are second and third generation African Diaspora citizens whose parents and great grandparents come from the African continent. Table one below shoes the countries of origin of respondents.

Table 1

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Algeria | 2 Martinique* |
| 3 Burkina Faso | 4 Mauritania |
| 5 Cameroon | 6 Nigeria |
| 7 Central Africa Republic | 8 Rwanda |
| 9 Cote d'Ivoire | 10 Senegal |
| 11 Democratic Republic of Congo | 12 Seychelles |
| 13 Egypt | 14 Sierra Leone |
| 15 Ethiopia | 16 Somalia |
| 17 France* | 18 South Africa |
| 19 Gambia The | 20 Tanzania |
| 21 Ghana | 22 Tanzania |
| 23 Guinea - Conakry | 24 Togo |
| 25 Ivory Coast | 26 Uganda |
| 27 Jamaica * | 28 Uganda |
| 29 Kenya | 30 United Kingdom* |
| 31 Liberia | 32 Zambia |
| 33 Mali | 34 Zimbabwe |
| 35 Marocco | |

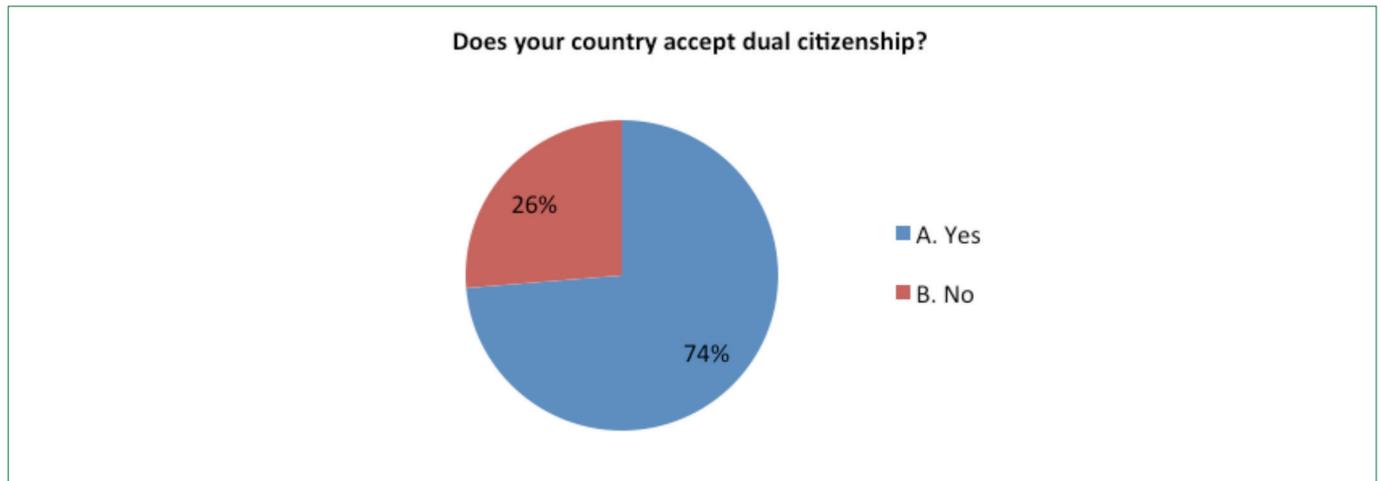
**Countries where 4 respondents came are from outside the African continent*



III. Country of origin and Dual Citizenship

Respondents were asked if their countries of origin accept dual citizenship. Among the 119 respondents who answered the questionnaire 84 of them accounting for 73.7% have their origin in countries who accepts dual citizenship and 30 of them accounting for 26.3% are of countries of origin that prohibit dual citizenships. Five (5) of the respondents skipped the question.

Diagram 2



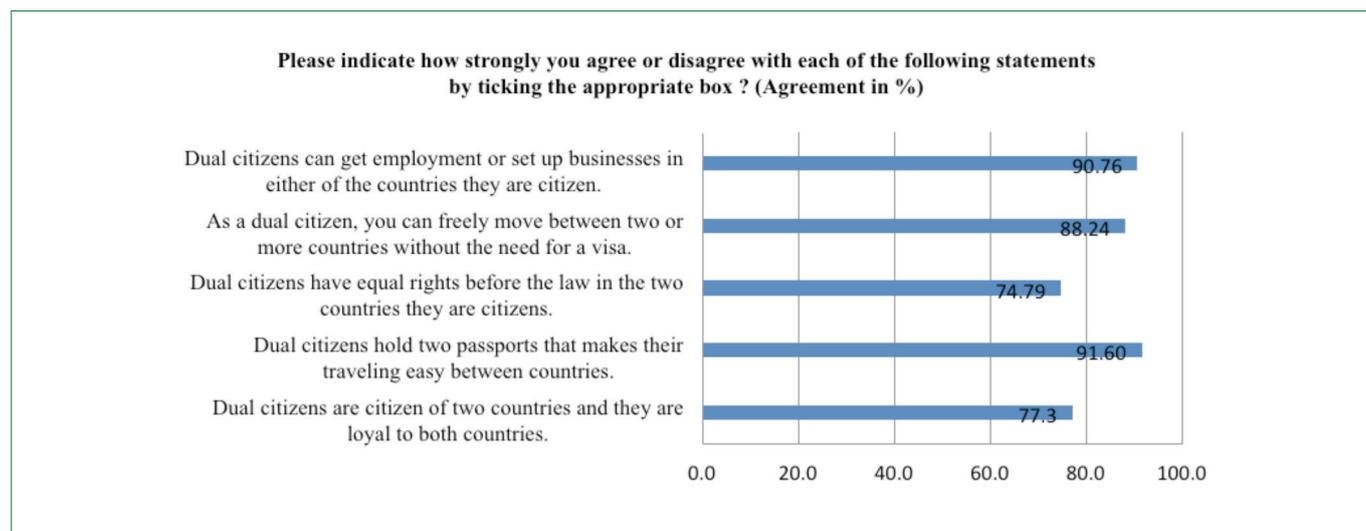
Following up on the question whether the countries of origin allow dual citizenship we asked if they do not, then are they currently in the process of allowing it? Some of the respondents, who answered “no”, do not know if their country of origin allows dual citizenship or not. Others mentioned the introduction of new constitutions that incorporate a provision for accepting dual citizenship, noting that many of the other countries in Africa are moving in to that direction to attract their Diaspora to come home and contribute to the national development.



IV. Benefits of Being a Dual Citizen

Question four asked respondents if they agree or disagree with some statements. The first statement was, if dual citizens can get employment or set up businesses in either of their countries of citizenship and 108 of the respondents (90.76%) agreed with the statement. When the respondents were asked with reference to dual citizenship, whether one can freely move between two or more countries without the need for a visa, 105 of the respondents (88.24%), agreed with the statement.

Diagram 3



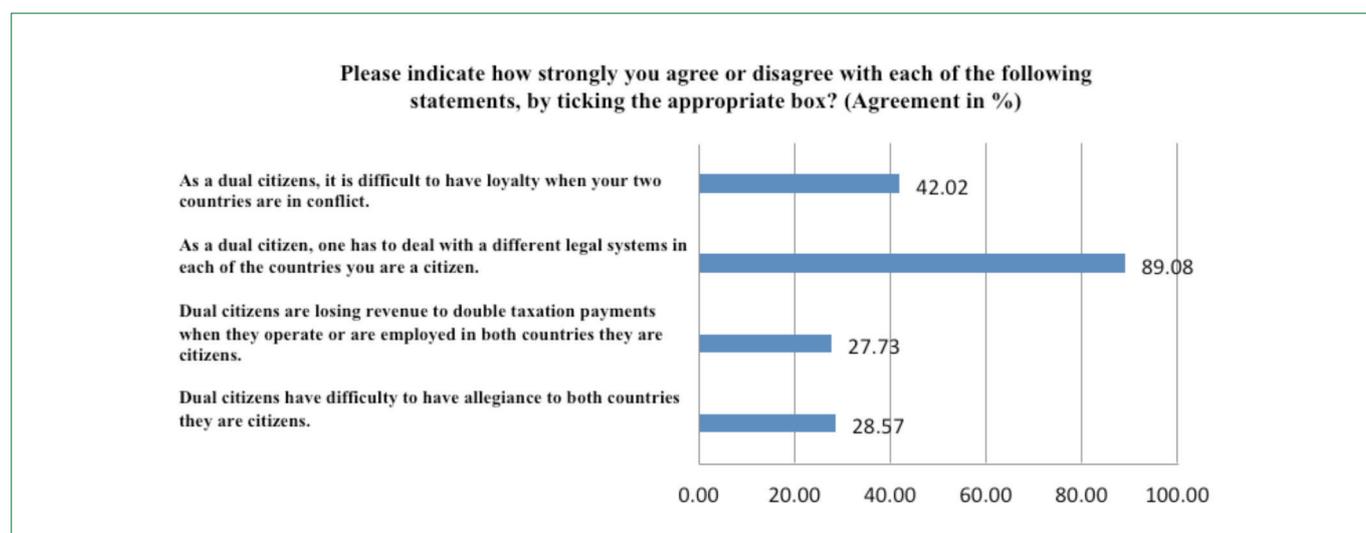
The respondents were also asked if dual citizens have equal rights before the law in both countries of citizenship. A total of 89 respondents, which was 74.79% of the respondents agreed with the statement. However, 16 respondents disagreed with this statement, while 14 respondents were undecided on the question. In a similar way the respondents were asked if dual citizens holding two passports allows for easy travelling between countries. 109 respondents, which was 91.60% of the 119 respondents agreed with the statement. Finally, respondents were asked if dual citizens who are citizen of two countries can be loyal to both countries and a total of 92 respondents, which was 77.30% of the total 119, agreed with the statement.



V. Challenges of Dual Citizenship

The respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with the following statement. The first question was: As a dual citizen, is it difficult to have loyalty when your two countries are in conflict? Only 50 (42.02%) of the 119 respondents, agreed with the statement. There were 41 respondents (34.45%) who disagreed with the statement. A total of 28 respondents (23.53%) were undecided, they have not disagree nor agreed.

Diagram 4



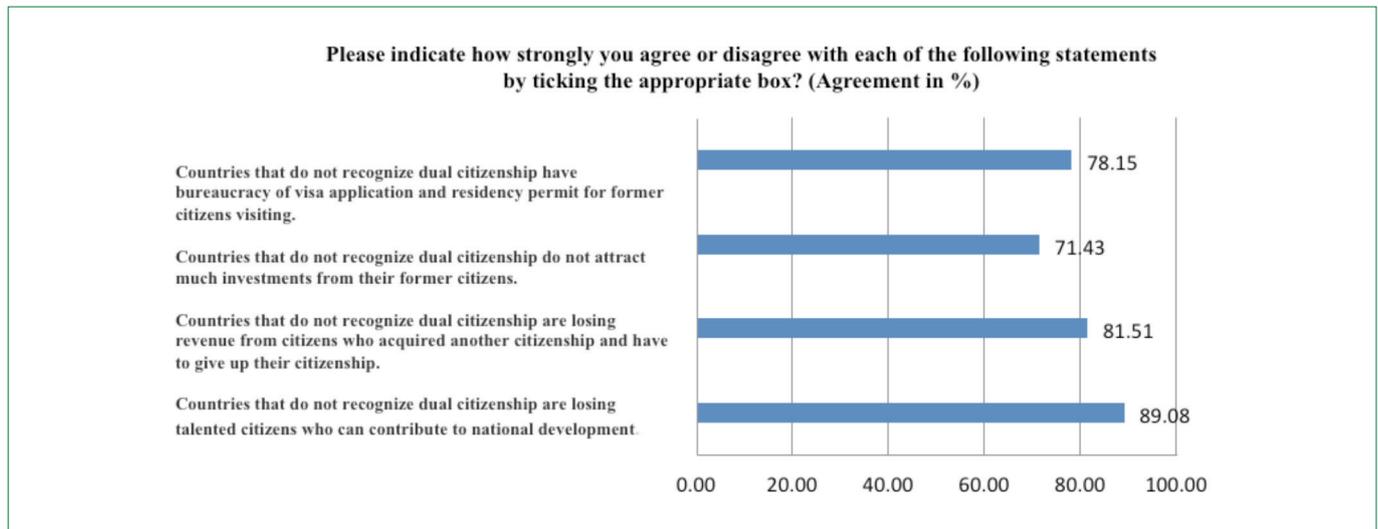
The next statement asked whether dual citizens, have to deal with different legal systems in each of the countries you are a citizen. Among the 119 respondents 106 (89.01%) agreed with the statement, The third statement was; as a dual citizen, one has to deal with losing revenue to double taxation payments when they operate or are employed in both countries in which they are citizens. Within the 119 respondents 33 (27.73%) agreed with the statement while 40 respondents (33.61%) disagreed with the statement, leaving 46 respondents (38.66%) have not answered the question. Finally, a question was dual citizens have difficulty to have allegiance to both countries of citizenship. Out of the 119 respondents 34 (28.57%) agreed with the statement, whilst 69 respondents (56.78%) disagreed with the statement, showing that dual citizens can have allegiance to two countries. A total of 16 (14.1%) respondents were undecided.



VI. Challenges in Countries not Recognizing Dual Citizenship

The first statement under this question was, do countries that do not recognize dual citizenship have bureaucracy of visa application and residency permit for former citizens visiting? Among the 119 respondents who answered this statement 93 (78.15%) of them agreed with the statement.

Diagram 5



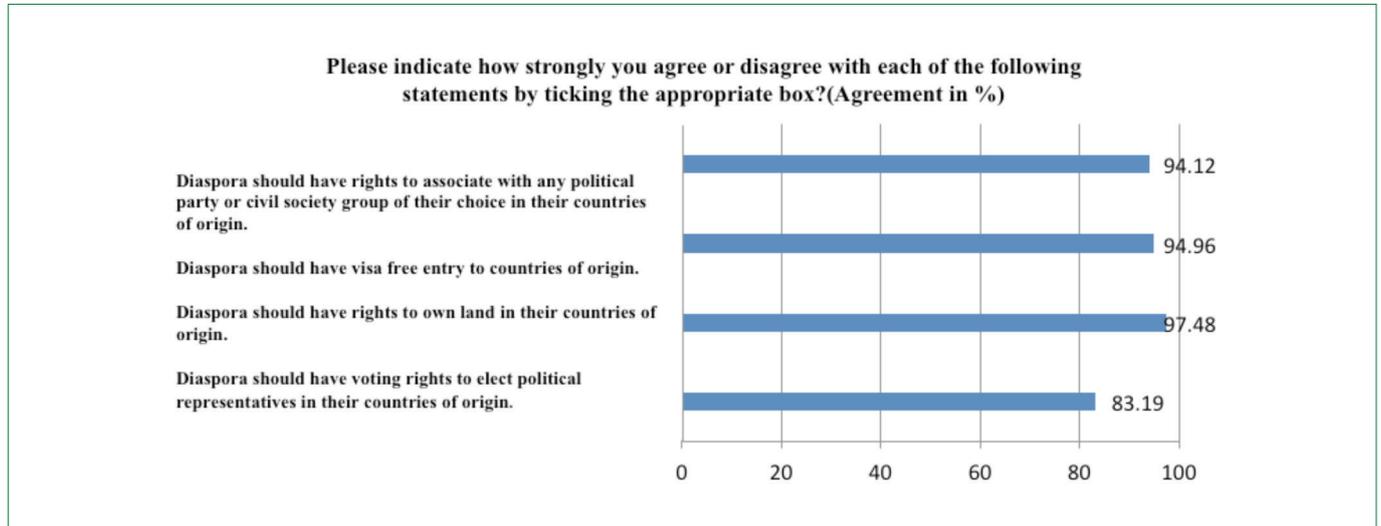
The second statement under the question was countries that do not recognize dual citizenship do not attract much investments from their former citizens. There were 119 respondents, 85 (71.43) agreed with the statement, showing citizenship is very important to attract investment from the Diaspora. A follow on statement asked that countries that do not recognize dual citizenship are losing revenue from citizens who acquired another citizenship and have to give up their citizenship, generating 97 (81.51%) of the 119 respondents who agreed with the statement.. And finally, respondents were asked if countries that do not recognize dual citizenship are losing talented citizens who can contribute to national development. A higher percentage of 89.08% (106) respondents among the 119 who answered the question agreed to the statement.



VII. African Diaspora Rights in the Country of Origin

As seen in diagram 6 below, of the 119 participants responded on the statements, which were mainly related to rights African Diaspora should have in their countries of origin.

Diagram 6



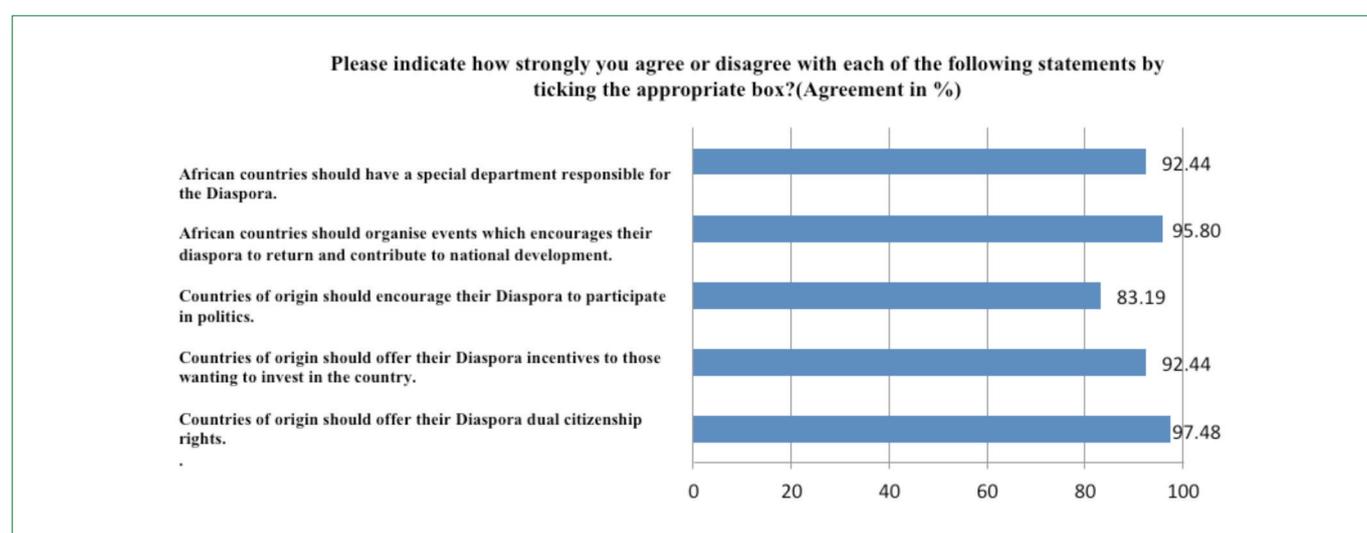
In the first statement, respondents were asked if African Diaspora should have rights to associate with any political party or civil society group of their choice in their countries of origin? Out of the 119 respondents, 79 (94.12%) agreed with the statement. The second statement, respondents were asked, should Diaspora have visa free to countries of origin and 83 (94.96%) respondents agreed with this statement. Respondents were also asked should Diaspora should have rights to own land in their countries of origin and 91 (97.48%) respondents agreed with the statement. Finally, respondents were asked Diaspora should have voting rights to elect political representatives in their countries of origin and 63 (83.19%) of the respondents agreed with the statement.



VIII. African Countries and their Diaspora

The statements below were asked in the survey to 119 participants who took part and submitted their answers to all the questions as seen in the statements and the diagram below. When they were asked whether African countries should have a special department responsible for the Diaspora, a total of 92.44% (110) of the respondents agreed with the statement. This is already in place in some African countries, for example in Sierra Leone Ghana and Mali and it will be a good practice for other countries to emulate as stated by a respondent. The second statement asked whether African countries should organize events which encourage their diaspora to return and contribute to national development, to which 114 respondents (95.80%) agreed. Similar statements were posed; countries of origin should encourage their Diaspora to participate in politics, and should offer their Diaspora incentives for those who want to invest in the country-. The two statements were agreed by 99 (83.19%) and 92.44% (110) respondents respectively.

Diagram 7



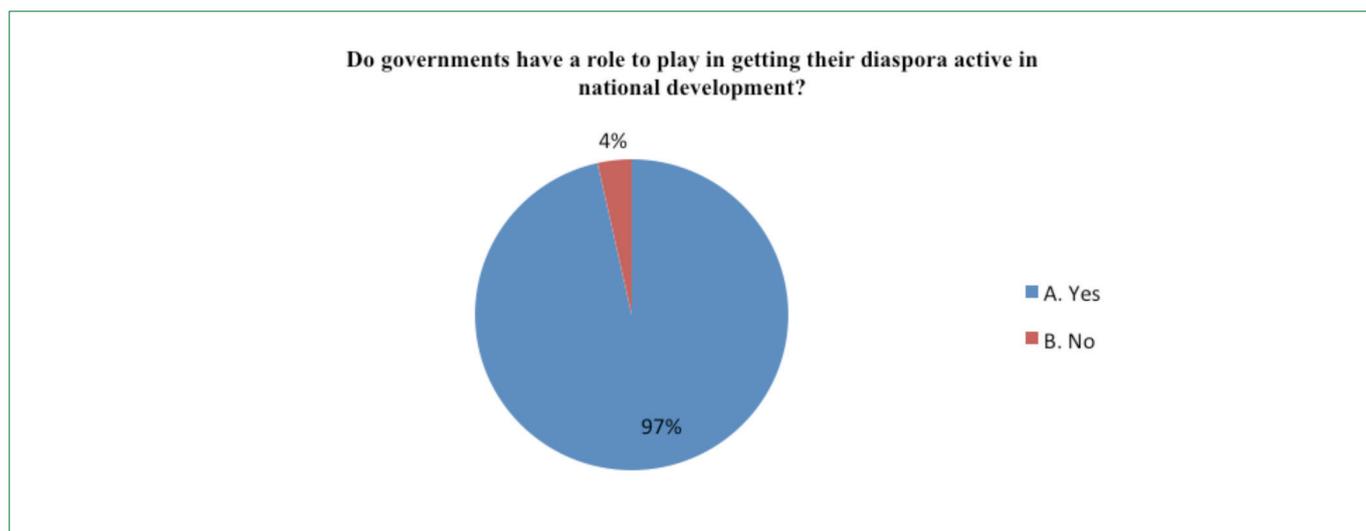
The final statement asked respondents whether countries of origin should offer their Diaspora dual citizenship rights. This statement received the highest percentage responses where 116 respondents agreed at 97.48%.



IX. Governments Getting Diaspora Active in National Development

Section A. The question asked was whether African governments have a role to get their Diaspora active in national development and 110 (96%) of the 119 respondents had said “yes” they do, whilst 4 (4%) of the respondent answered “no” in disagreement to the question. Five respondents did not answer this question.

Diagram 8



Section B. The second part of the statement posed that assuming the answer was “yes”, governments should have a role to get their Diaspora active in national development, what initiatives could the government take?

The respondents felt that governments should accept dual citizenship for its Diaspora, set up well resourced directorates or departments within their Ministry of Foreign Affairs to handle all diaspora matters. The department under the ministry or any government department responsible should do the following:

- Act as a catalyst for encouraging inward contribution of the Diasporas into political stability, democracy, security, socio-economic activities and growth of the country.
- Promoting national issues to the diaspora, use the diaspora connections abroad to help growth and development, international trade, diplomacy and increase remittances to help fight poverty and improve healthcare.
- Tapping into diaspora talents, attracting skilled and highly qualified personnel in the areas of health, education, infrastructural development, energy and investment.
- Work with embassies abroad to register their nationals and organize business and other forums to engage their national abroad, making the process easy for those who want to come back and help.

The respondents highlighted that, the overall government approached to build partnership with the Diaspora should be based in the following areas:

- Drawing mechanism to encourage Diaspora investment by having low corporation tax regimes creating networking links between the Diaspora and in-country local entrepreneurs
- Free visa to re-enter country of origin if dual citizenship is not allowed by the country.
- To organize platforms through their embassies abroad to encourage dialogue, attract investments and



streamline friendly policies that can promote Diaspora as a viable source of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and granting Visa-free status for entry into our countries of origin.

- To support volunteering and exchange programmes, internships and placements for the Diaspora, especially youths who have completed their university education and are between jobs or have summer holidays volunteering programmes for Diaspora youths.
- To put in place mechanisms to deal with the returning Diasporas, and also have a structure at regional and sub region level that create the condition of opportunities for initiatives that encourage 'brain gain' of the Diaspora, to come home and use the skills learned abroad.
- Have a clear policy to facilitate Diaspora investment in their country of origin and some of these initiatives can be discussed at business events, like economic forum and trade fairs bringing international investors. And Diasporas at these forums to present different possibilities from their own experience of sustainable development models from their countries of residence, which can contribute to national development.
- To organize annual meetings, seminars and symposia outside their countries or regionally, that will facilitate business creation. One of the key aims of these gatherings will be showcasing incentives such as delaying of customs fees and taxes for some years: establishment of free zones to encourage cooperation in the economic, social and academic field and transfer of knowledge opportunities, which all makes it attractive for diaspora to return and invest.
- To take a whole government approach to Diaspora engagement to also augment capacity by capitalizing on the resources already existing in various government agencies, as Diaspora engagement covers many traditional areas – from finance and trade, health, community development to education and tourism and culture.
- To create intergovernmental or stakeholder committees including the civil society and private sectors to support diaspora initiatives at the local government level in order to create synergy among different development actors.

“We want incentives from the governments by accepting dual citizenship, or to have policies that will encourage us, the Diaspora to participate in nation building, where dual citizenship is already obtainable” said a respondent.

“Our governments should develop databases of professionals and technical expertise from our communities, the Diasporas, who can help in specific areas like health, agriculture, energy and infrastructural developments” according to respondents.

“We want develop programmes that will encourage Diaspora youths, especially second and third generation to come and learn from countries of origin but also have financial benefits to encourage investments, which might attract the youths - like what India, Ireland, China, Singapore have in place for their Diasporas” according to a second generation Diaspora .

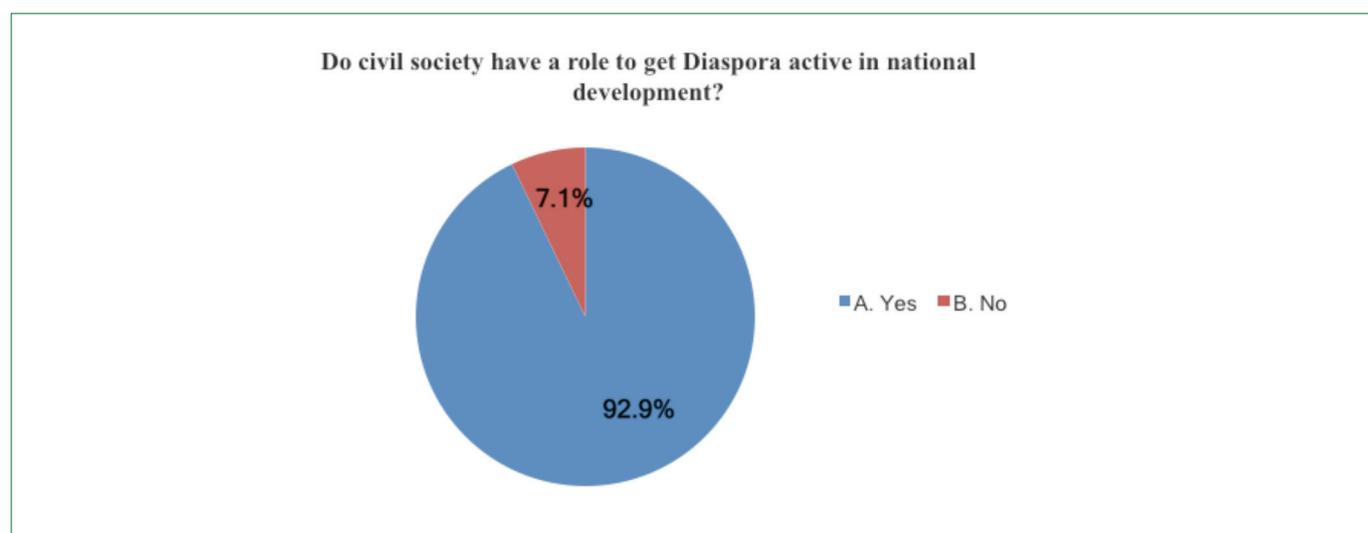
“We urge our governments to develop web resources to show where the investment opportunities are, headhunting diaspora technocrats with wider global outlook and less encumbered by domestic politics, particularly for sensitive areas like health and natural resources”.



X. Civil Society Getting Diaspora Active in National Development

Section A. Respondents were asked whether they think the civil society have a role to get Diasporas active in national development? Diagram 9 shows that 8 (7.1%) respondents disagreed with the statement, while 105 (92.9%) of the respondents said yes and agreed that civil society have a role to get Diasporas active in national development and 6 respondents did not answer the question. The respondents in agreement suggested the roles listed in section B.

Diagram 9



Section B. If yes, what initiatives can the civil society take?

Respondents felt that civil society can take the following initiatives getting Diaspora active in national development:

- Respondents believe that a civil society- diaspora partnership can help realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by building partnerships for development funding and to realize the achievement of the goals.
- Civil society and Diaspora collaboration can develop funding initiatives for development projects, develop national strategies on development and improve capacity building and skills transfer and partner in schemes to provide opportunities for skilled Diaspora to work or volunteer on sustainable development projects.
- Some of the tasks Diaspora expatriates can do as consultants can be project evaluations, helping organizations to develop national strategies or development plans in cooperation with civil society and government.
- Respondents believe that, civil society can also work with the media to promote and support Diaspora initiatives, by setting up direct communication with the diaspora and sharing of development, project ideas and information.
- Respondents want civil society groups to help collect information for Diaspora organization on possible interest areas of development work in their country of origin.
- Respondents believed that, Diaspora groups can use the civil society networks as a platform where their voice could be heard, which could be based on good practice partnerships and collaboration for



national and local development getting Diaspora group messages to reach people at the local level where civil society groups are well known, to bring support and change of lives to the locals.

- Respondents felt that, the role of civil society is and should be seen as an advocating ground building for good relations between the Diaspora and the government, and can also raise awareness for the potentials of the Diasporas, such as skills, talents and investment initiatives.
- Civil society can engage in publicity campaigns for governments to develop friendly policies that will encourage Diasporas to participate in national development projects around capacity building/youth exchange /community exchange etc. and international development programmes.
- Respondents felt governments should develop ways to create alliances with civil society organizations and Diaspora organizations in Europe to tackle poverty in communities, set up volunteering activities for young Diaspora graduates and undergrads in countries of origin.
- It was the opinion of many respondents that, civil society networks can encourage active debate and discussions on national economic development plans engaging skilled Diaspora professionals to share their thoughts on the topic. Whilst at the same time important that governments and civil societies or organizations can headhunt the Diaspora and utilize their often underused skills and abilities, creating a platform where diaspora can highlight and share their work experiences.
- Respondents stated that civil society can mobilize, create awareness and build linkages between national and international platforms by creating an enabling environment for investment initiatives that target cases of extreme poverty and seriously disadvantaged populations, engage citizens in the policy-making process at all levels of government and empower citizens to hold officials, both in public and private sectors, accountable.
- A respondent hopes that civil society can get Diaspora involved through social projects for the home country, engage in political participation and political sensitization using skills and wealth and bringing experience of their country's of residence approaches to public services.
- Respondents believe that, acting as an interface, the civil society can describe their specific situation and make the Diaspora aware of problems or suggestions for improvement but as long as the diaspora has no legal power to influence, all actions stay on a private level, such as organizing awareness conferences, workshops and seminars.
- Respondents felt that civil society can facilitate the unconditional participation of the Diaspora communities in political and economic activities, providing forums and opportunities for networking for the Diaspora themselves. And in turn Diaspora expatriates can play key roles as think tanks to identify opportunities and possibilities for participation in their nation's development and providing information resources from which policy makers and national governments can draw inspiration for policy and legislation formulation.
- Civil society can be a bridging gap between public and private sectors. To organize conferences, seminars and skills training courses on national development, building the capacities of Diasporas in raising their awareness to the need for cooperation with other stakeholders to promote the development of countries of origin and have skills to lobby the authorities to make real difference.
- Respondents stated that, the issues that are faced by civil society organizations in African countries must be known so that the diaspora also contributes to research to find sustainable solutions to the ills that plague our countries. As well as issues related to unemployment are example Diasporas can find solutions with the creation of companies by the in their countries of origin creating jobs.



“In order for civil society to be effective, there needs to be an understanding of different models of working and this is what diaspora will bring onto the table, as they have been exposed to different countries and methods” stated by a respondent.

“civil societies and Diasporas collectively can work with policy makers to introduce laws that help facilitate and promote investment from diaspora and encourage them to participate in debates and forums where issues of common interests are discussed” according to a respondent.

XI. Other comments by the Respondents

Respondents were asked if they have any other comments in relations to dual citizenship and the role of African government and civil society to get the African Diaspora active in their countries of birth. These are what they have said:

Respondents felt that, Diaspora has a very important role to play in the development of their countries of origin if the governments in African countries can make them an integral part of the national policies. As Governments tap into the diaspora resource, respondents felt that, there should be deliberate plans for what should be done for the Diaspora, to make them feel appreciated in their countries of origin.

Respondents felt that, civil society organisations engagement with the Diaspora can also serve as a basis for participation through rights and obligations, which Diasporas and government alone can't do certain activities as difficulties can arise in their relationship.

Respondents felt that, more funding and grants should be made accessible to Diaspora led Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and professionals in addition to having clear government policies to



operate successfully as most of these NGOs are funded by Diaspora themselves with little or no financial support from external donors.

For a respondent, Diaspora holding dual citizenship and wanting voting rights, they must have some commitments beyond family connections in the home country; e.g. be involved in charitable, development or commercial ventures and pay taxes in the home country.

African Diaspora can make huge contribution to their Country of origin if they become very successful to their adopted country, it will give them empowerment and capacity to develop their country of origin, especially if they become active citizens and are involved in civic participation, according to a respondent.

“The Diasporas has an expertise in specialized areas. We need to mobilize our Diasporas through the transfer of skills and resources to participate in development” said a respondent.

Respondents felt that, ADEPT should facilitate partnership between diaspora NGOs and those in African countries as at times, there are fragmented development agenda among the Diaspora community which undermines real development. If there is coordination and cooperation among Diaspora entrepreneurs, talented individuals, investors and would-be investors, then the impact would be greater. Equally there should be work done in Europe with Diaspora youths.

“young Diasporas should be given the opportunity to visit their countries of origin through volunteering projects to keep the link, but also take up development jobs and look for investment opportunities so that they can bring their ideas to African countries”, said a second generation Diaspora Youth.



Data Analysis

The individual respondents in the survey are likely to be professionals not working in the Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) sector, while many of the NGOs that responded were African Diaspora led organizations. There were 5 out of the 119 respondents who came from four countries outside Africa and these are descendants of African Diasporas who see themselves as African Diasporas too. Many of the respondents' countries of origin allow dual citizenship. Their experiences have shaped the survey result in a way by highlighting policy areas to engage countries that do not approve dual citizenship and for those who have it, how can they work better with their Diasporas.

The arguments put forward by the respondents in answering questions related to; if countries accept dual citizenship, will the citizens have equal rights to employment, movement and to have two passports as citizens of both countries. It was agreed by the respondents that, dual citizenship is an advantage to both countries. It allows countries to deal with shortage of skills persons to do certain jobs, but also increase the tax intake if citizens are allowed to move around, get jobs and pay taxes where they are employed.

Dual citizens can have difficulty to be loyal to their both countries, when they are confronted with two different legal systems and double taxation systems if they run a business. These are challenges and they can influence the allegiance of citizens between the two countries. However, when the laws are straight forward and there are double taxation agreements between the two countries to avoid citizens paying tax twice, dual citizens will have allegiance to both countries.

Countries that do not recognize dual citizenship, have a tendency to have bureaucracies in visa application for the Diaspora and this discourages investment from their Diaspora, resulting in losing revenue due to their Diaspora not investing and also losing talented Diaspora as many cannot travel home because they are not accepted as citizens. Which shows that even though countries might not have dual citizenship law in place they need to recognize their former citizenship by means of visa waiver or some form of identification to give them visa free entry and have some form of investment incentive to invest.

Diasporas want to enjoy in their countries of origin; rights to political association, access to visa free entry into the country, right to own a land and to have voting rights to elect political representatives and be elected as well. There is clear evidence that even though Diasporas are away from home, they are interested in the political situation in countries of origin and in most cases they tend to look at opportunities to engage the political process. Diasporas want to have access to land to build a home or have investment and of course they want to visit home to see their relatives and friends and a free visa entry will come a handy way too.

Respondents stated that African countries should have special departments for their Diaspora, organize events for their Diaspora to come home and engage with activities, encourage Diaspora to engage with the political system, create incentives for Diaspora investment in the countries and offer dual citizenship to the Diaspora. Many of the respondents felt Diaspora need to be encouraged to enter into politics of countries of origin. Diaspora wants to participate in the development of countries of origin, but they have



to be recognized as equal citizens and the only possible way to do that is to have dual citizenship laws in place, which will go a long way encouraging Diaspora investment.

Governments and their embassies abroad need to team up with civil society groups to keep meeting the Diasporas on development needs of the government and what Diasporas can do to support the development activities. For the Diasporas engaging with development work in countries of origin, it is not only professional exercise, but a practical form of self help as the first notion they have, that is whatever they do is for their benefit of their communities, which they feel part off as mentioned by a responded and by Gibril Faal (Faal 2011).

Respondents identified strategies and policy areas governments can put in place to get their Diaspora engaged. Some of the identified ideas were; African governments should accept dual citizenship and have policies around investment, taxation, customs and duties and many more that will encourage Diasporas to actively participate in nation building. Respondents have illustrated that the African Diaspora are eager to contribute to the development of their countries of origin and offering them dual citizenship rights will facilitate their contribution immensely.

Civil Society organizations (CSOs) are catalyst getting African Diasporas active in development in their of countries of origin. Some respondent see a role for the CSOs as a bridge between the Diaspora and governments actors. Others felt that, there should be information and experience sharing with local CSOs as a platform for Diaspora engagement.

Respondents identified ADEPT as a link to engage Africa based CSOs and African governments on policy dialogue that will encourage more African Diasporas to actively involved in development issues in their countries of birth.

Most of the Diaspora would have experience working for or with non state actors (CSOs) in Europe and they will be more comfortable to work with similar ones in countries of origin to carry out advocacy and right based activities for their communities than directly with government departments.

These are some of the arguments put forward by the Diasporas respondents that, they want their governments to recognize an environment that will allow their engagement in national development discourse to informed decisions on governance, development policy, capacity development etc.

Usually Diaspora members have a better external view regarding the happenings in their home countries and they have the possibility to get inspiration on best practices to bring an input to their home countries through public private partnership involving the Diaspora, private sector, government and civil society as reported by a respondent.

Respondents felt that, civil society and Diaspora partnership can bring more gender equality and right based approach in development activities when they are working collectively with governments and will positive impact benefiting citizens as also mentioned by David Cesarani and Mary Fulbrook (Cesarani and Fulbrook 1996).



Policy Recommendations

Governments have a key role to play in channelling diaspora resources to meet national goals. At the same time, many of the world's migrants seek positive involvement with their communities at home and abroad. Diaspora individuals and organizations modes of operation, the trans-state networks they establish and operate, and the roles they play in domestic, regional, and international affairs should be viewed as precursors to future developments of African countries that will significantly change international and domestic politics (Sheffer 2003). The policy areas identified by this survey from the Diaspora respondents are as follows;

1. African government that do not accept dual citizenship should strive to have dual citizenship in their constitution or citizenship laws allowing their African Diasporas in Europe to go home easily, have rights as ordinary citizens and contribute to national development as stated by many Diaspora. African countries should accept dual citizenship as a rule in order for the Diaspora to participate in public life and politics, education and employment. As also stated by Thomas Faist and Jürgen Gerdes, respondents felt that naturalised citizen in African countries should be allow to become dual citizens, it will allow them to integrate into the country of immigration and maintain their rights in the countries of origin (Faist and Gerdes 2008).
2. It was recommended by a respondent that, African governments should have dedicated Diaspora departments that will deal with dual citizenship, help citizens to regain their lost citizenship, and if dual citizenship is not allowed to have an identity card system that will give some rights to the Diaspora as ordinary citizens.
3. African governments need to have policies around encouraging investment and capacity development in specific areas like agriculture, Information Communication Technologies (ICT), financial services, infrastructural development, health, education etc. where respondents (Diaspora) felt they can be



encourage to invest and have incentives like tax breaks, taxation agreement, land allocation, etc. This policy will not only encourage investment, but create employment for the growing African youth population. Knowledge and skill development for African countries is vital for their sustainable development and without that, no matter what resources they have it will be equal to nothing. This is one of the reasons why a naturally resource poor country like Japan is wealthier and globally more influential than most naturally rich African countries, which are poor in knowledge (Makinda and Okumu, 2008).

4. African governments should have financial policies to attract Diaspora investors by creating financial guaranteeing schemes, through central banks, by assuring investors the possibilities to transfer their profits outside the country and also access lending services through financial institutions in the country. This policy areas can also encourage Diaspora to increase their involvement in credit unions and microfinance to expand finance access to the poor, particularly in the rural areas with no access to commercial banks. This will support Diaspora initiatives at community level in order to create synergy among development actors (Agunias, 2010).
5. Diasporas, civil society organisations and governments should engage in formulating policy on the representation of Africa in the media in African countries and in Europe. For that reason, civil society can work with the Diaspora to reintroduce Africa in a more positive way that can change the mindset of many Europeans. The rebranding of Africa should be a priority to diffuse the negative representation of Africa in the western media by bringing to light positive stories that are not making the headlines. A respondents felt that, living in the west the images of Africa that confront the African Diaspora are of course western images as (Ackah 1999).



Conclusion

African Diasporas in Europe are key actors in the development of African countries. In most cases Diasporas acknowledges their roots, and they should be encouraged to visit and invest in the countries of origin, since many have learnt skills which can be beneficial to African countries.

African Diaspora access to dual citizenship with their countries of birth or descent is prerequisite for African countries. The African Diaspora in Europe are highly skilled and some African countries are losing these skills to restrictions to dual citizenship.

African politicians must therefore create a financial, institutional and socio economic climate that is conducive to diaspora engagement. Particular attention should be made to ensure that a diaspora policy is also accompanied by a strong development policy in the country of origin. For example, Ghana, Mali and Sierra Leone, to name a few, all have dedicated Diaspora departments in their government and are tracking and maintaining ties with highly skilled nationals abroad: this will hopefully create incentives for their Diaspora expatriates who could be useful in particular fields to work with government planners to inform future strategies that can be inclusive and sustainable.

Diasporas potential to promote the socio economic development of their countries of birth cannot should not be underestimated. Diasporas have been engaged in supporting their home country by sending remittances long before governments took notice and still they will continue doing so. As mentioned by a responded and corroborated by Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias; “even when there are few other building blocks already available, creating an additional single pole of attraction for diasporas can start a foundation for positive diaspora engagement” (Agunias 2010).

Finally, it is also important to recognize that diaspora engagement does not exist in a vacuum. Indeed, despite the optimism associated with the promise of diaspora engagement, there is a pervasive notion that, somehow, the dismal political, economic and/or social conditions prevalent in a number of origin countries have been, and will continue to be, a major obstacle for any diaspora driven initiative. African countries are striving. This is evident in many changes seen in governance, infrastructural development and economic growth in many African countries. All these should be encouraging factors for African Diasporas not only to engage with their countries of origin to cement relationships but also to advance the development processes of these countries.



Appendix: Questionnaire for African Diaspora in Europe

It is estimated that 30 million individuals of the African Diaspora live outside their country of origin and jointly, they contribute about US\$40 billion in remittances to their families and communities back home every year (IFAD 2009). Apart from remitting money home, the African Diasporas are engaged in several development projects in countries of origin. Some of the development projects achieved their aims, whilst others failed. There are other development interventions the Diaspora could have engaged with but have no ideas how to go about them. Many African Diaspora in Europe cannot engage meaningfully with their countries of origin after many years away and acquired another citizenship, which in some cases are not recognized by the governments of these countries. In recent years, many African countries have approved dual citizenship to their Diaspora and some with restrictions or qualifications. As an example, in many African countries dual citizens may not hold specified public office, participate in politics or vote in elections.

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) is a network of African Diaspora Development Organizations (ADDOs) based in 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland, who are active in African development. It serves as a point of contact and reference for anyone interested in African development issues and migration and development policy more broadly. The ADEPT project is funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), and is delivered by the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), a pioneering UK-based diaspora organization, with support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna.

ADEPT has commissioned this research as part of its wider engagement with the Africa Diaspora in Europe aimed to developing policies that will inform its work.

The aim of the questionnaire is to consult diverse range of individuals and African Diaspora development organizations in Europe on dual citizenship; why it is important to have dual citizenship, the advantages and disadvantages; challenges and opportunities and to help the ADEPT network in adopting a common positions on the importance of Dual Citizenship from Diasporas point of view to engage African countries on dual citizenship policies.



1. **Name of the respondent (optional)**

Name _____

2. **What type of stakeholder are you?**

a. Individual

b. Organization

Name of Organisation _____

3. **What is your country of origin?**

4. **Does your country of origin allows dual citizenship?**

a. Yes

b. No

If no, are they currently in the process of allowing it?

5. **Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking the appropriate box ?**

| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. Dual citizens are citizen of two countries and they are loyal to both countries. | | | | | |
| b. Dual citizens hold two passports that makes their travelling easy between countries. | | | | | |
| c. Dual citizens have equal rights before the law in two countries. | | | | | |



| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. As a dual citizen, you can freely move between two or more countries without the need for a visa. | | | | | |
| e. Dual citizens can get employment or set up businesses in either of the countries they are citizen. | | | | | |

6. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements, by ticking the appropriate box?

| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. Dual citizens have difficulty to have allegiance to both countries they are citizens. | | | | | |
| b. Dual citizens are losing revenue to double taxation payments when they operate or are employed in both countries they are citizens. | | | | | |
| c. As a dual citizen, one has to deal with a different legal systems in each of the countries you are a citizen. | | | | | |
| d. As a dual citizens, it is difficult to have loyalty when your two countries are in conflict. | | | | | |



7. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking the appropriate box?

| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. Countries that do not recognize dual citizenship are losing talented citizens who can contribute to national development. | | | | | |
| b. Countries that do not recognize dual citizenship are losing revenue from citizens who acquired another citizenship and have to give up their citizenship. | | | | | |
| c. Countries that do not recognize dual citizenship do not attract much investments from their former citizens. | | | | | |
| d. Countries that do not recognize dual citizenship have bureaucracy of visa application and residency permit for former citizens visiting. | | | | | |

8. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking the appropriate box?



| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. Diaspora should have voting rights to elect political representatives in their countries of origin. | | | | | |
| b. Diaspora should have rights to own land in their countries of origin. | | | | | |
| c. Diaspora should have visa free entry to countries of origin. | | | | | |
| d. Diaspora should have rights to associate with any political party or civil society group of their choice in their countries of origin. | | | | | |

9. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking the appropriate box?

| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. Countries of origin should offer their Diaspora dual citizenship rights. | | | | | |
| b. Countries of origin should offer their Diaspora incentives to those wanting to invest in the country. | | | | | |
| c. Countries of origin should encourage their Diaspora to participate in politics. | | | | | |



| | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Undecided</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. African countries should organise events which encourages their diaspora to return and contribute to national development | | | | | |
| e. African countries should have a special department responsible for the Diaspora. | | | | | |

10. Do you think African governments have a role to get their Diaspora active in national development?

a. Yes

If yes, what initiatives can the government take?

b. No

If no, what do you think are the obstacles for the government?

11. Do you think the civil society have a role to get Diaspora active in national development?

a. Yes

If yes, what initiatives can the civil society take?

b. No

If no, what do you think are the obstacles for the civil society?



12. Any other comments?

13. Please provide your email address below if you are interested receiving the report of this survey?

Thank you for your time answering the questions.



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Trainees
 at DDD1,
 Copenhagen,
 Denmark,
 November 2014

INTRODUCTION TO ADEPT

ADEPT emerged out of the pilot Africa-Europe Platform [AEP] project which ran from 2010 to 2013, as part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership [JASP], agreed at the 2007 Lisbon summit. The ADEPT transition project ran from July 2014 to July 2017 and was implemented and managed by AFFORD (UK), with funding from the European Commission, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). ADEPT has been registered in Belgium as an AISBL since 2017.

ADEPT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

1. **Monthly Digest (newsletter)** of current funding opportunities, jobs and policy events
2. **Monthly Webinar** engagement with ADEPT Executive Director and guest speakers
3. **Accredited Training** on 'Advocacy', 'Optimising Diaspora Return' and 'Planning & Fundraising'
4. **Diaspora Fellowships** for young diaspora professionals (21 to 35), based in Europe
5. **Capacity Development Support (CDS)** for ADDOs, through experienced consultants
6. **Diaspora Technical Support (DTS)** for partners in Africa, through diaspora experts
7. **Pool of Diaspora Consultants** offered to institutional partners seeking diaspora expertise
8. **Diaspora Development Dialogues (DDD)** with governments, civil society and institutions
9. **Social Media Engagement** for information dissemination and ongoing interaction
10. **High-Level Forum** participation at EU, AU, UN, GFMD and other global bodies and processes
11. **Policy Research and Consultation** to reach common positions on policy and strategic matters
12. **Directories and Databases** of members, ADDOs and diaspora-development partners
13. **Showcasing Best Practices** and innovations in diaspora development action
14. **Multimedia Campaigns** to provide positive narratives of Africa and of migrants and diasporas



High Level Panel of ADEPT's Second Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD2), Valletta, Malta, 28 May 2015 – L to R: Gibril Faal (ADEPT), Martine Cassar (IOM Malta), Minister Abdramane Sylla (Mali), Khady Sakho (FORIM/ADEPT), Minister George Vella (Malta), Amb. Hanna Simon (Eritrea)



AFRICA-EUROPE

ADEPT

DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM