



DECLARATION OF THE EIGHTH DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (DDD8)

We, delegates representing African Diaspora Development Organisations (ADDOs), attending the Eighth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD8) organised by ADEPT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, and Coordination des Association Sénégalaises de la en Catalogne on 26 April 2018 in Dakar, Senegal:

1. RECALL that in 2005, the African Union declared that: “The African Diaspora consists of people 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.”
2. COMMEND the African governments that have taken the step to declare their diasporas as non-resident regions of their countries, and endeavour to facilitate full, productive and progressive participation in the processes of local and national policy formulation, development, review and improvement.
3. NOTE that on 30 July 2017, the Republic of Senegal held parliamentary elections and fifteen (15) members of the Senegalese diaspora from across the world took seats at the National Assembly in Dakar, as non-resident elected parliamentarians, representing the diaspora; this being a bold and practical example, which Africa and the world can emulate.
4. FURTHER NOTE that electing parliamentarians is one of the many formal mechanisms through which the diaspora can expand and enhance their role in the policy and practice of development of country of origin and heritage, and that people in representative roles need ongoing technical and capacity development support so as to make them more effective and efficient.
5. URGE governments to actualise diaspora voting and representation, not only as a practical mechanism for recognising rights, but as a progressive and proactive instrument to maintain, expand and enhance the role of first generation migrants and multi-generational diasporas, in the sustainable development of countries of origin and heritage.
6. RECOMMEND that governments be deliberate and purposeful in de-politicising diaspora representation, as a matter of principle; and that a diaspora parliamentary caucus and network be created, working in collaboration with ADEPT, so as to focus efforts and resources on reducing and mitigating diaspora challenges, optimising and maximising the positive contribution of the diaspora, within the context of technical competency and operational excellence.
7. FURTHER RECOMMEND that diaspora organisations, international institutions, governments, diplomatic missions and other stakeholders be purposeful and ambitious in deepening their partnerships and collaborations, so as to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic limitations, and create a positive, inclusive, innovative and result-oriented environment for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Declaration was adopted on 26 April 2018 in Dakar, Senegal.