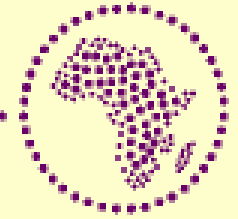


AFFORD



# African diaspora, governments & development

Intersessional Workshop

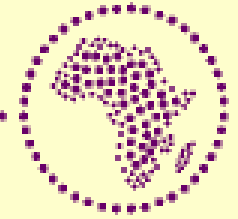
Migration and Development: Mainstreaming  
Migration into Development Policy Agendas

Conference Center of Varembé (rue de  
Varembé 9, Geneva)

2 – 3 February 2005

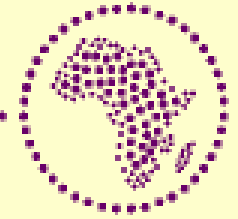
Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie

African Foundation for Development  
(AFFORD)

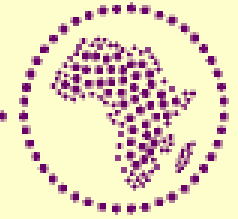


## Three key questions...

- How are diasporas engaged in development activities?
- What are some of the challenges and obstacles diasporas face and how can governments and diasporas work together to overcome these?
- What role can diasporas play in developing government policy? How can diasporas be included in government policy development?

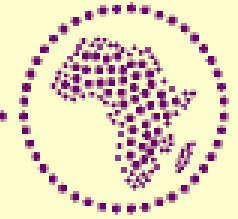


Diaspora are not instruments to achieve governmental aims but potential partners to engage in dialogue, seek common ground & achieve shared objectives



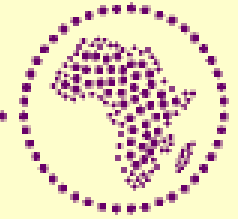
# • What role can diasporas play in developing government policy?

- Shift attitudes
  - Power should remain with communities in Africa on the front-line
  - Diaspora as legitimate stakeholders, (so are governments & citizens at home)
  - Primarily **leadership** issue, not resources
  - Build a team of can-do leaders willing to create dynamic change - effective strategy of engagement
  - Let us go for the easy wins (low-hanging fruit), the rest will follow
- Engage in dialogue to build trust & understanding
  - AFFORD is keen to facilitate dialogue with UK-based African diplomatic corps
- Governments to facilitate relationships between diaspora communities & appropriate counterparts
  - Embark on small pilot initiatives eg enterprise development
  - Build capacity by learning & doing



- What role can diasporas play in developing government policy?

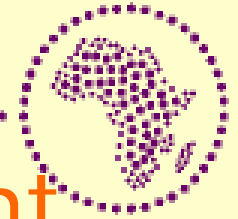
- Policy development
  - Incorporate how diaspora groups really engage with home regions into country poverty reduction strategies
  - Eg next step on from Ghana's GPRS & Ghanaian diaspora
- Enable different tiers of government to engage effectively with diaspora
  - Eg Local, state, federal
  - Eg chieftaincy, decentralized government, central government



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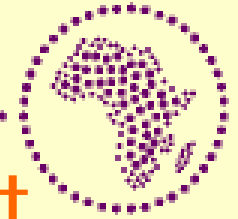
- How are diasporas engaged in development activities?

- Contested meanings of development
- Diversity of approaches - beware of generalizations!
- Diaspora's approach(es) to development
- Resource mobilization - all forms of "capital"



# Contested meanings of development

- Socially constructed
- What people do for themselves?
- What governments do for their people?
- What sympathetic outsiders can/should do for helpless poor people?
- A list of issues that must be addressed?
- An historical process of securing rights & justice?
- A destination/endpoint?
- A process/journey?
- A set of favourable economic, social, political, cultural indicators
- “What good is development anyway if it doesn’t benefit my village?”

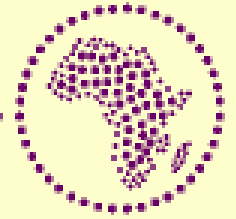


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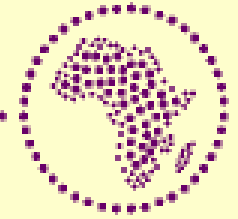
## Contested meanings of development

- We will use the term development in very different ways during this workshop
- Most discourse on diaspora & development proceeds as if the matter is settled & the commentator's own view of development holds
- Therefore, diaspora initiatives are often found wanting: too local, too parochial, too short-term





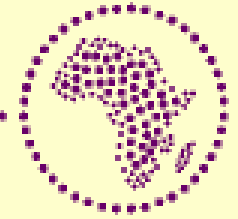
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- Diversity of diaspora engagement in development

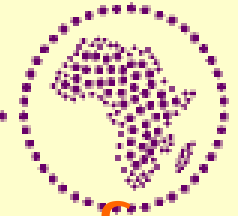
- Forms of organization
- Motives for engagement
- Reasons for migration
- Capacity & will to engage
- Forms of resource mobilization
- Focus of action/desired end goals



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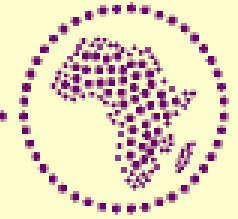
## • Diaspora's approach(es) to development

- Lean towards self-help, self-reliance
- Usually small-scale, local, community based
- Identity is central
- Lean towards a new development paradigm
- Emphasis on people, processes, relationships less so on technical aspects of inputs, outputs
- Greater clarity on two-way give & take - what they give, what they get & their motives

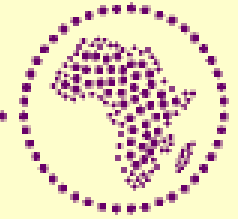


- Resource mobilization - all forms of "capital"

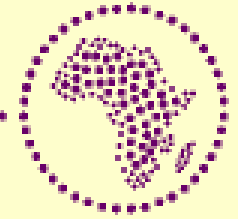
- Social
  - Trust, relationships, values, meanings
- Financial
  - Remittances, investments, consumer products
- Intellectual
  - Skills, know-how, networks
- Political
  - Lobbying, advocacy
- Cultural
  - Ghanaian kente cloth, Nigerian videos



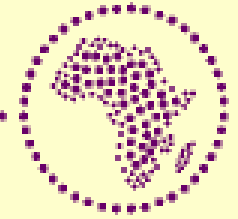
- What are some of the challenges and obstacles diasporas face and how can governments and diasporas work together to overcome these?
  - Host governments
  - Sending governments
  - Diaspora groups



- Host governments
  - Institutional arrogance
    - Assumption that all answers lie within
    - Instrumentality - how can they advance our agenda
  - Lack of capacity
    - Lack of diversity awareness
    - Geared towards engaging with other forms of civil society
  - Policy incoherence
    - Interior + Foreign Affairs/Development + Labour etc
    - Credibility
      - Gordon Brown's speech defending British Empire
    - Anti-immigration policies & posturing
  - Lack of will/desire
    - Discomfort with diasporas
      - Identity-based
      - Specific focus



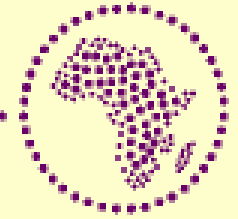
- Sending governments
- Lack of capacity
  - Limited structures for civil society engagement
  - Tend to focus on relations with "northern donors" rather than with citizens at home or abroad
- Lack of will/desire
  - Discomfort with diasporas
    - Identity-based
    - Specific focus
  - Vs "national" focus
  - May raise difficult issues of accountability



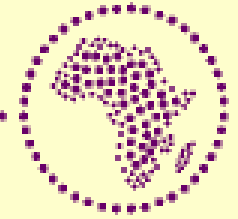
## What unites sending & receiving governments?

- United by “**common hypocrisy**”
- Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Co-Chair, GCIM
- Sending governments
  - Blame migrants for leaving & receiving governments for poaching them
  - Happy to be relieved of the social pressures
  - Happy for remittances income
- Receiving governments
  - Blame migrants for coming
  - Happy to use their skills
  - Happy to have cheap, irregular labour
- It's time for “**common truths**”!



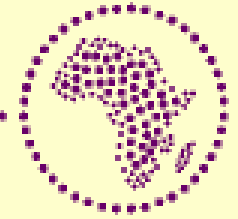


- Diaspora groups
- Generally combine “here” & “there” focus & find policy/funding world divided into silos - not joined-up
- Different ways of working creates capacity constraints in engaging with “mainstream”
  - Mostly volunteer-led
  - Not “development professionals”
  - Focused on immediate/tangible results
  - Combine multiple objectives
- Marginalized from agenda-setting - spoken about, not with



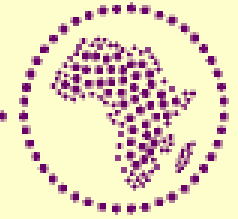
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## Contact us for more information

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- AFFORD's mission is to expand and enhance the contribution that Africans in the diaspora make to Africa's development