

**Statement at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference
Geneva, 19 June 2018**

In 2008, the European Commission and the United Nations set up the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (EC-UN JMDI). This provided grant funding to diaspora and migrant organisations working on development projects in 16 countries of origin and heritage, in partnership with civil society organisations or local authorities.

Given the need for ongoing support to diaspora and migrant organisations, we believe that there should be permanent schemes for grant funding of diaspora and migrant organisations.

Kenya is now making a historic constitutional transition to a two-tier system of government, with a national government and 47 county governments. This new system of government provides an excellent avenue for engaging the Kenyan diaspora through innovative partnerships appealing to them to invest in their counties of origin or interest. Funding schemes for diaspora and migrant organisations shall facilitate enhanced diaspora participation in various development projects spread throughout the country.

We urge this Diaspora Ministerial Conference to place the issue of permanent grant funding schemes for diaspora and migrant organisations on the agenda of the United Nations High level Dialogue for International Migration and Development (UNHLMID) in order for states to deliberate on it at the highest level.

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