

# Recommendations by diasporas<sup>1</sup> in Europe

## to the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

***Recalling** the wide range of competences, skills and qualifications that members of diasporas have, including but not limited to those of development actors, entrepreneurs, investors, technical experts, policy advocates and philanthropists;*

***Emphasising** the unique transnational role of diasporas as catalysts and connectors between countries of origin and destination, and for better development outcomes;*

***Acknowledging** that diasporas are important new partners for global development;*

***Convinced** that a new global partnership for development must be built on terms developed by, adhered to and represented by all parties equally;*

***Stressing** the need to remove barriers that hinder diasporas' engagement for development by facilitating mobility, residence rights and portability of social entitlements, promoting mutual recognition of qualifications and allowing dual citizenship;*

***Underscoring** the role of young people as brokers for change in general and the diaspora youth's potential for job creation in particular;*

***Recognizing** that women in the diaspora are uniquely positioned to use their exposure to different cultural and gender norms to drive transformational development at all levels of society and that changing discriminatory perceptions, attitudes, and cultural values is a process that requires time;*

### We recommend

- 1. Recognition of the role of diasporas as catalysts for global development in all of the post-2015 development objectives.** All developmental achievements should be measured by the qualitative and quantitative engagement of diasporas in development. **Greater visibility** needs to be given to diasporas' contributions through **dedicated media outlets** that feed into mainstream national and transnational media, building on good practices. This should not be limited to the country of destination, but also address governance issues in the countries of origin.

---

<sup>1</sup> 59 participants from diasporas and migrant communities originating from all regions of the world currently living in 14 different European countries took part in the Diaspora & Development Roundtable held on 27-28 June 2013 in Eschborn, Germany, organized and hosted by CIM/GIZ in cooperation with ICMPD and SDC and in association with ICMC.

2. Concrete cooperation is best facilitated by **establishing platforms for and by the diaspora** which are supported by and **act in partnership with key stakeholders at** international, national and local levels. Governments and intergovernmental bodies should support the establishment of such platforms.
3. **Knowledge sharing among diaspora actors, business actors and states** should be enhanced to better link different markets and to build on the diaspora's transnational knowledge. Job creation can be enhanced by **organising professional common spaces** that bring together the **diaspora, the private sector, development agencies and NGOs** in countries of origin and destination.
4. **States and intergovernmental bodies should partner with diasporas in development activities** by including them in the decision making processes and partnering with them in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies at international, national and local levels, both in countries of origin and destination. To this end, every state and intergovernmental body should **assign a focal point** easily accessible to their diasporas.
5. Governments should be encouraged to **allocate a certain percentage of development aid** to developmental work that is conducted by and in collaboration with **diaspora organisations**, including topping off diaspora investments for development.
6. **Grass root diaspora organisations** should be strengthened by offering capacity building programs to enable them to meaningfully contribute to development.
7. National and international **laws and migration policies that put women at risk** and force them into vulnerable and exploitative situations need to be **changed**. Both vulnerable women and women who are already powerful agents of social change in countries of origin and destination need to be supported with appropriate policies and their contributions recognised so that they can realize their full potential and contribute to socio-economic development globally.
8. The **role that migrant women play in peace-building** and conflict resolution needs to be strengthened; representation and participation in peace building processes should be ensured.
9. **Migrant entrepreneurs – women and men alike – should be supported** as drivers of economic and social development and **empowered** to continue to develop sustainable and innovative social enterprises.
10. Address the **misalignment of education systems to labour market needs** by distinguishing between qualifications and skills, and by fostering networking, management and entrepreneurial skills demanded by a mobile world and global job market.
11. As a step towards achieving jobs for all, **promote regional mobility and integration** taking measures to ensure equal access to **labour markets** and social inclusion.
12. The **representation of migrants** needs to be ensured at the local, national and international levels for example in government bodies; **voting rights** need to be provided at the local level and upwards.