



Seminar: The Potential of Diaspora Advocacy

Date: 25 October, 2016
Venue: Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague
Time: 10:00 – 16:00

Background

There is a growing realisation that diasporas can play a remarkably important role the development of their home countries, and that there are great advantages to working with diaspora. In the recent past, diaspora have therefore become recognised as an important player within civil society. Despite these development, diaspora still struggle to find an adequate 'space' to work in and engage within the development arena.

To help bring the positive role of diaspora to the forefront in the development field, in May 2014, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with The Hague Academy for Local Governance and The Network University launched the Diaspora Academy. The overall aim of the Diaspora Academy is to strengthen professional skills and competences of diaspora organizations in Europe engaged in social and economic development in their countries of origin. As part of its activities, the Diaspora Academy is to build capacities of diaspora organizations through advocacy and lobbying workshops.

Objectives

In the context of the above background, the workshop will promote viable dialogue between diaspora development practitioners and mainstream development actors such as NGOs, the private sector, municipalities, and local governments. Dialogue is the logical start to interaction and information exchange. Through this workshop diaspora and other development actors will be able to establish direct contact and networks to learn from each other's experiences, unique strengths and added values as regards lobbying and advocacy. The workshop will facilitate sharing of best practices, experiences and extend the diaspora network in the Netherlands.

Expected outcome

The workshop provides the opportunity for development practitioners within The Netherlands to engage, network and share experiences. At the end of the workshop, it is expected that diaspora will have: i) shared best practices/lessons learned; ii) expanded their networks and; iii) where possible explored opportunities for collaboration.

Tentative programme

Moderator: Babah Tarawally, Diaspora Journalist and Trainer

Time	
09h30-10h00	Registration & coffee
10h00-10h30	<p>Welcome and Introductions Following welcome remarks this session provides participants with the opportunity to introduce themselves</p> <p><i>Awil Mohamoud, Director, African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)</i></p>
10h45-11h55	<p>Setting the context: Why is diaspora advocacy important? This session is a presentation on the above topic.</p> <p><i>Connie Formson, Programme Coordinator, ADPC</i></p>
10h55-11h10	Discussion
11h10-11h25	Coffee break
11h25-11h40	<p>Importance of civil society advocacy: A government perspective This session is a presentation on the above topic. What from a government/policy maker's point of view is the importance of civil society advocacy?</p> <p><i>To Tjoelker, Civil Society Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (TBC)</i></p>
11h40-11h55	Discussion
11h55-12h10	<p>The Strength of Lobbying and Advocacy: Practical Tips In this session the Fair, Green and Global Alliance shares their practical experiences on lobbying and advocacy in effecting socio-economic change.</p> <p><i>Sabina Voogd, Bothends</i> <i>Niels Jongerius, The Transnational Institute (TNI)</i> <i>Members of The Fair, Green and Global (FGG) Alliance</i></p>
12h10-12h30	Discussion
12h30-13h30	Lunch
13h30-15h15	<p>Case studies: Diaspora advocating for socio-economic change This session showcases select diaspora who have successfully advocated for positive socio-economic change:</p> <p>The case of Sierra Leone Central Union <i>Abubakarr Bangura, Chairman Sierra Leone Central Union (TBC)</i></p> <p>Lessons from The Netherlands Ebola Campaign <i>Babah Tarawally, Diaspora Journalist and Trainer</i></p> <p>Presentation to be confirmed <i>Elizabeth Njeru, Youth on the Move Foundation</i></p>
15h15-15h45	<p>Discussion: Strengthening diaspora networks for enhanced advocacy Drawing from the presentations and discussions thus far, what are four concrete steps towards strengthening diaspora advocacy and networks for advocacy?</p> <p><i>Awil Mohamoud, Director, ADPC</i></p>
15h45-16h00	<p>Wrap up and closing <i>Nienke Vermeulen, The Hague Academy for Local Governance</i></p>
16:00h00	Networking opportunity