

The African Union Diaspora Division

The African Union Diaspora Division is under the Directorate office of the Department. It takes directives and instructions from the Directorate office. The African Diaspora refers to the communities throughout the world that are descended from the historic movement of peoples from Africa; predominantly from the Americas, Europe and the Middle East, among other areas around the globe.

With regard to all historic migrations (forced and voluntary), the African Union defines the African Diaspora as "Consisting 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." Its constitutive act declares that it shall "invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our continent, in the building of the African Union."

Thus the Diaspora Division serves as the focal point and hub for implementing the African Union decision to invite and encourage the African Diaspora to participate in the building and development of the African continent. Its main task therefore, is to serve as a catalyst for rebuilding the global African family in the service of the development and integration agenda of the continent.

Within this context, it serves as the counterpart of the Civil Society Division for the Diaspora. As such, it carries out responsibilities that its counterpart performs for civil society for the African Diaspora. These include:

- Mainstreaming Diaspora participation in the African Union agenda across departments, partnership frameworks and the wide range of policy activity including the flagship Agenda 2063.
- Strengthening the operational capacity of the African Union to support Diaspora involvement in AU activities through regular communication and flow of information on AU events and activities and vice-visa, cross-fertilization of AU program with Diaspora activities and mapping of African Diaspora around the world.
- Serving as focal point for accreditation of Diaspora organizations and networks as observers, delegates and participants at AU Summit and other meetings.

- Managing and coordinating other forms of interaction between the AU and Diaspora organizations worldwide. This includes collaboration on policy and advocacy efforts of Diaspora networks and coalitions, technical support and assistance, enabling framework of cooperation and working relations.
- Enabling participation of Diaspora in the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) pre-Summit forums and promoting effective collaboration between Diaspora Civil Society Organization and approximate bodies on the continent.
- Promoting of effective linkages between the Diaspora and various organs of the union including, the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Peace and Security Council (PSC) and Pan African Parliament (PAP) among others.
- Interfacing the African Diaspora with the work of different departments of the AU Commission and their programs and efforts.

The program of activities are however, adapted to the context in which the program for Diaspora participation in AU activities of the Diaspora Division developed within the context of the protocol on the amendment to the Constitutive Act of 2003.

