



# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Engaged diasporas : Catalysts for Development. Perspectives and initiatives in North and Western Africa

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### Background and Rationale

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This side event builds on past discussions and open question during the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) in connection with its round table 3 "Diasporas: actors in the economic, social and cultural development of regions". North and West Africa attract attention in terms of diaspora engagement thanks to their high concentration of investment initiatives, representing 33% of the practices identified, and to the diversity of their engagement which extends beyond financial investments. In addition, diaspora in these regions have contributed significantly to a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explored various partnership modalities, illustrating a substantial impact on the socio-economic development of these areas.

This exchange has thus been designed as a follow-up of previous discussions during the 14<sup>th</sup> GFMD Session that have showcased several challenges on how to engage and mobilize the diasporas for development, such as:

- Need for more commitment from mechanisms supporting diaspora initiatives;
- Need for reliable and updated data on diasporas and their interests and needs;
- The proximity between diasporas and trade union organisations must be strengthened;
- Avoid the creation of new structures or programmes and the duplication of actions;
- Pay particular attention to the perverse effects of diaspora mobility in the context of development projects;
- Communication: make better use of the media and popularise diaspora actions.

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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This side event aims to explore ways of optimising the contribution of diasporas to the development of countries of origin and destination, highlighting effective practices of mobilisation and engagement at both national and regional levels. The event will reflect the views of different stakeholders - institutional actors, civil society, the private sector and diaspora entrepreneurs. It will highlight the fact that while diasporas generally make a major contribution to the economic growth of their countries of origin and residence, they should no longer be considered solely in terms of their financial resources, but rather as genuine players in

development. During this event, different approaches will be explored to optimise the contribution of diasporas:

- Offering investment opportunities and business partnerships to diasporas, whether for solidarity or productive projects;
- Supporting diaspora initiatives and investment ideas;
- Providing support for the management of relations between countries of origin and their diasporas, thereby promoting better coordination and collaboration to maximise the impact of development efforts.

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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** Enabel, Belgian Development Agency

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## Agenda and Structure

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*Event will be held in French only with no live interpretation. Nevertheless, questions might be asked in English and will be translated to French to the panellists if needed.*

Activity	Speaker	Time
<b>Introductory remarks</b>	Enabel – Raffaella Greco Tonegutti	5 min
<b>Interactive discussion</b>	Guinée-Conakry / Direction générale des Guinéens de l’Etranger - Mamadou Saitou Bary  OECD Development Centre – Jason Gagnon  AFFORD – Bora Kamwanya  GRDR – Marie-Chiara Tort  ICMPD – Fanny Tittel-Mosser  FORIM – Mackendie Toupuissant  <i>Moderator : Enabel</i>	40 min
<b>Q/A</b>	Moderator : Enabel	10 min
<b>Conclusive remarks</b>	Enabel	5 min



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## List of Panellists

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### **Panellists :**

- Jason Gagnon, OECD, Head of unit / Senior development economist - *OECD Development Centre* ;
- Bora Kamwanya, Diaspora Experience & Mobilisation Manager - *African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)* ;
- Mamadou Saitou Barry, General Director for Guineans living abroad (Guinea-Conakry MFA) ;
- Maria-Chiara Tort, Project Officer - GRDR Migration-Citoyenneté – Développement
- Mackendie Toupuissant, Director - Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)
- Fanny Tittel-Mosser, Knowledge Management and Research Officer - ICMPD

### **Moderator :**

Raffaella Greco Tonegutti, Head of Human Mobility - Enabel

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## Sign-up / Registration Link

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<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/31599ab8-628d-48fe-b700-74af69c2eec6@8552ee09-2fab-421d-9ef7-664207bcf596>