

## Perspectives on public policies affecting African transnational communities at place of origin

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## Types of transnational communities

- Transnational business communities
- Transnational political communities
- Transnational cultural communities
- Transnational social communities (Castle, 2000).
- Transnational religious communities

## Setting the stage

- Interest in the study of transnationalism: transnationals' who develop and maintain multiple relations that are familial, economic, social, organizational, religious, and political that span borders
- Conceptualization and origination of African transnational migrant communities.
- Transnationalism within and outside Africa;
- Transnational social and economic remittances by Africans
- Policies implemented in relation to the welfare/wellbeing of African migrants with respect to their settlement and adaptation
- The way forward, lessons learnt, best practices, and what strategies to adopt to guide policy makers.

## Specificity: the African perspective

viz Oucho, 1990

- The migrant-diaspora-return continuum and its linkages in Africa are both strong and pervasive. During their sojourn abroad, migrants maintain contact by visiting and by sending money home. African migrants, including those residing in developed countries, do not intend to stay indefinitely, and actualise their vision of returning home permanently by keeping their wives and children in their countries of origin, these resident families in effect becoming 'hostages' to guarantee the migrants' return. Migrants thus lead dual lives, socially and economically, by maintaining families, land and other resources at their home-place.
- Policies in apartheid South Africa and the North regarding migration, family unification

## The Diaspora

- The making of the African Diaspora
- The emigration-Diaspora-return continuum
- Diaspora economic and social remittances
- The family in migration, diasporization and transnational communities
- Process of public policy formulation on diaspora and transnational communities

## Case study: Africa

- Ghana: Homecoming Summit; The Ministry of Diaspora and Tourism; Ghana's 11<sup>th</sup> Division; The Right to Vote (Diaspora in the UK)
- South Africa: Homecoming Revolution
- Somalia: Remittances
- Eritrea: Diaspora remittances (Fixed at minimum of 10% of earnings)
- Lesotho: Deferred pay (60% of wages)
- The AU/NEPAD: Africa's Diaspora...Africa's 6<sup>th</sup> Region

## African case studies

- Senegal: Restructuring of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, 1993; Africa Diaspora Summit; Senegalese Diaspora population; remittances and use
- Mali: Restructuring the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad; Diplomatic missions; Malians within and outside Africa (unskilled workers and traders): Group migration (origin and destination)
- Nigeria: Nigeria migration policy; Nigerian diaspora and Remittances; NIDO – Nigerian in Diaspora Organization; Special Adviser to the President on Diaspora; National Assembly Committee on the Diaspora; Diaspora dual citizenship; Right to vote
- Sierra Leone: Office of the Diaspora in the Presidency to link up with Diaspora; encourage participation in country' development

## Lessons learnt

- Best practices and lessons learnt from:
- China
- Philippines
- Mexico
- Etc
- Taming research