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'Enhancing diaspora contributions to Africa's development'

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# Diaspora Participation in Nation Building: The success matrix from our involvement with Diaspora Groups

University of Westminster W1B 2HW

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# Diaspora Participation in Nation Building: The success matrix from our involvement with Diaspora Groups

Diaspora contributions

Global diasporas' contributions to nation building – some examples

Pan-Africanism, Continental diaspora & nation building

Pan-Africanism today - the African Union & impact on diaspora

Opportunities for nation-building



#### Diaspora contributions

FINANCIAL CAPITAL

**Remittances / Investment** 

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

Skills / Knowledge

SOCIAL CAPITAL

**Trust / Networks** 

POLITICAL CAPITAL

Lobbying

**CULTURAL CAPITAL** 

Ambassadors / Market for goods eg.

TIME

music, art etc. Volunteering / Passion

\$529 billion globally to low & middle income countries (2018)

\$87 billion Africa remittances (2018)

\$25 billion NGR Diaspora remittances (2018)

83% of national budget



#### Global Diasporas: Nation-building

- China invested one-third of GDP between 1979 and 2000 through FDI
- India developing technical centres eg IT; indianisation
- Israel FDI including diaspora impact bonds, security, etc.

#### Taking away from nation-building

- Tamil diaspora responsible for 26 year old civil war in Sri Lanka from 1983 – 2009
- Diaspora organising coups (eg Gambia failed coup in 2015)
- But what is more interesting is the continental building (pan-African building) and how the diaspora historically have contributed to this.



#### Pan-Africanism and the diaspora

Pan-African Conference - 1900 (London)

Pan-African Congress – 8 meetings

1919 (Paris) 1921 (London)

1923 (London) 1927 (New York City)

1945 (Manchester) 1974 (Dar Es Salaam)

1994 (Kampala) 2014 (Johannesburg)



### Pan-Africanism and nation-building: The 5th Pan-African Congress

- 1945 (Manchester)
- Organised by Trinidadian George Padmore & Ghana's Independence Leader Kwame Nkrumah
- Unlike the four earlier congresses, the fifth one involved people from the African Diaspora, including Afro-Caribbeans and Afro-Americans.
- Scholars, intellectuals and political activists who would later go on to become influential leaders in various African independence movements and the American civil rights movement, including the Kenyan independence leader Jomo Kenyatta, American activist and academic Du Bois, Malawi's Hastings Banda, etc.
- Significance: 5<sup>th</sup> congress advanced Pan-Africanism and was applied to the liberation of the African continent



### **African Union (AU)**

Manifestation of Pan-Africanism at a continental level

 Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA): Create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Continental Customs Union and the African customs union.



#### **African Union (AU)**

#### Impact on sub-regions

- Diaspora as 6<sup>th</sup> region
- Regional economic communities:
  - <u>AMU Arab Maghreb Union</u>
  - <u>CEN-SAD The Community of Sahel-Saharan States</u>
  - COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
  - EAC East African Community
  - ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States
  - ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
  - IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development
  - <u>SADC Southern African Development Community</u>



### **African Union (AU)**

- EAC:
  - Infrastructure (railway)
- ECOWAS now focused on regional development:
  - free movement with ECOWAS passport,
  - moving towards single currency
  - infrastructure
- SADC:
  - Regional Integration
  - E-commerce capacity-building for postal service

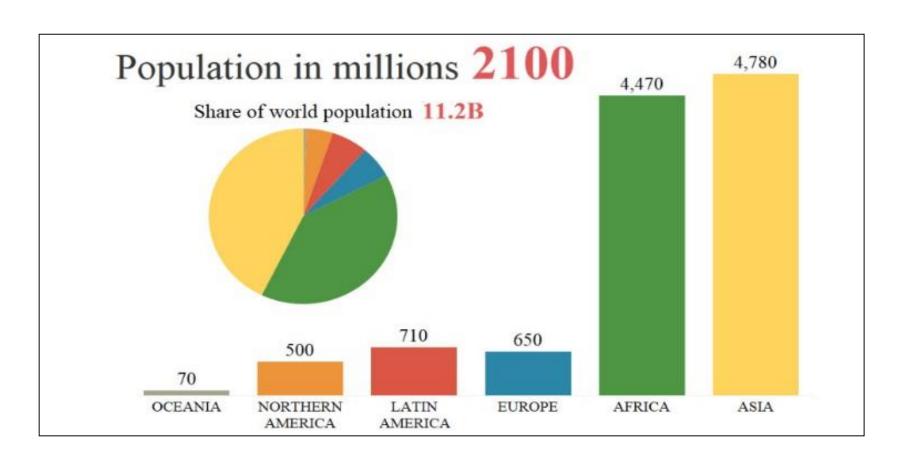


## African Union (AU) Member States

- Diaspora Offices & Directorates (Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria)
- Diaspora Policies & Engagement Strategies (Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Nigeria, etc)
- Dual citizenship (Ghana, Nigeria, etc)
- Diaspora Desks (African Missions, Reserve bank of Zimbabwe)
- Incentives (eg Senegal diaspora funds)
- Diaspora days (Ethiopia, Rwanda, etc), Diaspora Year of Return (Ghana)
- Institutionalisation of diaspora (eg Senegal through representation)



#### **Opportunities for Nation-Building**





#### Contributing to nation-building: Current diaspora themes (not limited to these)

- Job Creation
- Diaspora investment
  - Business and entrepreneurship
  - Diaspora bonds
- Diaspora volunteering and skills transfer (appeals to first generation but even more significant with younger generation)
- Diaspora advocacy
- Diaspora in humanitarian work
- Diaspora remittances

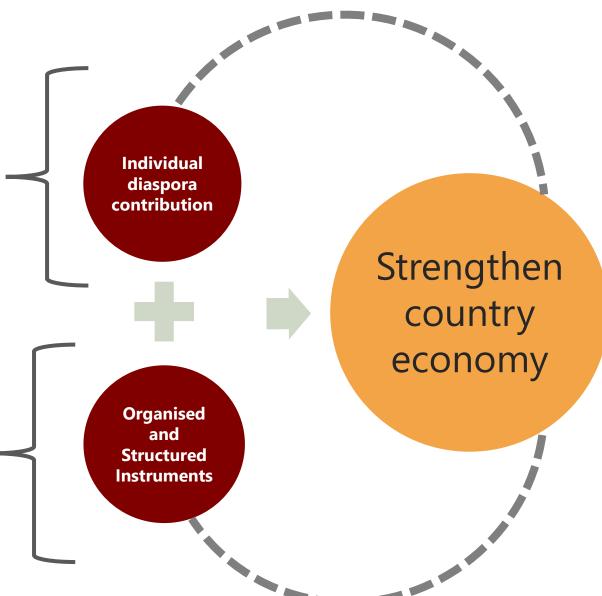


### Success matrix or applying the lessons?

REMITTANCES SKILLS TIME, ETC

Add value Incentivize Support Scale Institutionalise

DIASPORA PRODUCTS





## Thank you

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