

“Realizing the Development Potential of Diasporas”

Background and Key Contributions

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- FFDO/DESA initiatives on diasporas and development
- Background to the Book
- Key Issues and some findings
- Conclusion

Introduction

1. FFDO Role in Supporting Implementation of :
 - Monterrey Consensus (March 2002)
 - Doha Declaration (Dec. 2008)
 - Crisis Conference (June 2009)
2. Role fulfilled through intergovernmental meetings, analytical reports, and multi-stakeholder consultations.

FFDO/DESA Initiatives on Diasporas and Development

- Rationale for FFDO work on diasporas emanates from:
 - a) Intergovernmental mandates
 - b) Increasing appreciation of role of diasporas in financing development

Key Outputs

- Monitoring and analysis of remittances in annual Secretary-General's report on financing for development
- Staff research on relationship between remittances and economic insecurity
- Staff research on conditions facilitating promotion of entrepreneurship by diasporas
- Workshops on diasporas, development and entrepreneurship
- Collaboration with expatriate networks/organizations e.g. The Indus Entrepreneurs and Chile Global
- Book titled "Realizing the Development Potential of Diasporas"

4. Background to the Book

- Product of collaboration between FFDO/DESA and UNDP
- Catalyst provided by workshop hosted by Rockefeller Foundation
- Aims to go beyond remittances and draw in case studies and private sector activities

5. Key Issues and Contributions

- Develops framework for understanding diaspora diversity and its impact on development.
- Examines the various channels of diaspora contribution and policies to facilitate them.
- Illustrates role of financial institutions in strengthening impact of remittances on development.
- Identifies areas where policy can effectively leverage remittances and other diaspora capital for development.
- Analyses ways governments can strengthen diaspora investment and entrepreneurship.

Key Issues and Contributions

- Assesses possibilities for enhancing and building capacity in expatriate networks and relevant home-country institutions.
- Discusses the conditions under which expatriate networks are likely to be more effective.
- Outlines lessons drawn from case studies of the activities of diaspora entrepreneurs, networks and financial institutions.

Some cross-cutting themes

- Diversity of diasporas in terms of characteristics, engagement and contributions
- Need for nuanced and differentiated policies
- Scope for widening and mainstreaming the role of diasporas in development



Realizing the Development Potential of Diasporas

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6. Conclusion

Book's contribution includes:

- Categorization of diasporas and activities that illustrates increasing importance of non-financial contributions.
- Provides a blend of expert analyses and lessons from case studies.

THANK YOU