PRESS RELEASE

Ninth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD9) on Gender and Women Empowerment- Engaging and Strengthening the African Diaspora Women’s Voices

Brussels, 4-5 June 2018 - The Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD), ADEPT’s flagship event and a major part of the ADEPT service delivery framework that brings together and anchor many aspects of ADEPT’s research, policy, advocacy, networking and knowledge-sharing activities, is taking place in Brussels on 4 and 5 June 2018. The DDD is organised in the margins of ADEPT’s Second Ordinary General Assembly Meeting taking place on 4 June 2018.

For this ninth edition, DDD will spotlight Gender and Women Empowerment – Engaging and Strengthening the African Diaspora Women’s Voices. Today, in 89 countries with available data, women and girls account for 330 million of the poor. Women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do and hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats globally1.

These data show, that too many women continue to be economically, politically and socially disadvantaged, having less access to economic resources, quality education, health care, agricultural inputs, justice and social protection. Women in African diaspora are often victims of double discrimination, because of their gender and migrant status. Their rich and diverse expertise, strong backgrounds and contributions to positive and sustainable social change are hardly visible despite the fact that they are known for their sense of social contract in the work they carry out within the continent and in their countries of residence.

1 UN Women report 2018 Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Thus, committed to strengthen and engage African Diaspora Women’s equal participation and leadership status in politico-economic and socio-cultural decision-making, ADEPT is looking, through DDD9, to identify concrete measures and actions to be undertaken by Governments, civil society and diaspora organisations to support the realization of African Diaspora women’s rights and address their needs in every field of their activities.

‘Because changes begin with women, because the fight for gender equality does not belong to women only, nor to any feminist or civil society organisation, but to our common engagement and efforts of all who pledge for human dignity and rights’ – stressed Khady Sakho Niang, President of ADEPT.

The event is structured around two main themes: Empowering women in politics and business and women on the move: what are the enablers for safer work and migration. It brings together representatives of the African Diaspora communities across Europe, international and national organisations, EU institutions and governments from European and African countries, civil society organisations and media.

The DDD9 is also an opportunity for ADEPT to launch and run its ADEPT4She campaign, aimed at demonstrating and promoting the importance of women within the diaspora and their contribution to sustainable development projects in Europe and Africa².

It is also worth mentioning, that DDD9 is organised in line with the EDD18 theme focusing on gender equality, the empowerment and engagement of women and girls in sustainable development. For EDD 2018, ADEPT facilitated and coordinated the participation of Honourable Dr. Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia in two High Level Panels on ‘Women and Girls on the Move: Towards Safer Work and Migration for Women - Assessing Determinants of Vulnerability and Women’s Empowerment through Migration’ and on ‘Raising women’s participation in decision-making: engaging men as change agents - Mobilising more men as allies to promote gender balance in leadership’.

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