

**Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for the Development
of Productive Capacities in LDCs
28-31 July 2014
Cotonou, Benin**

Side event:

**The contribution of migration and diaspora to the development of LDCs:
*Launching of the Diaspora Initiative for the Istanbul Plan of Action
(DIIPoA)***

Thursday, 31 July 2014, from 8.30 to 10.00
Room Laguna 2, Palais des Congrès, Cotonou, Bénin

Organized by the International Migrants Observatory for the LDCs (IMRO), in partnership with the World Diaspora Fund (WDF), Espace Afrique International, Benin Chamber of Commerce and the Government of Benin

The diaspora of developing countries can be a potent force of development for their countries of origin, through remittances, but also, importantly, through promotion of trade, investments, research, innovation, and knowledge and technology transfers. Having taken part to the last United Nations Conference on Least Developed countries, the Diasporas of the LDCs are organizing in order to play a more active role in helping their countries of origin fulfill the main goals of the Istanbul Plan of Action, such as graduating from the statute of LDC.

As shown in the IMRO pilot Project Report (*Migration and Remittances as a development tool for LDCs, edited by Dr. Eric Adja, 2012*) and in the World Bank report (*Diaspora for development in Africa / edited by Sonia Plaza and Dilip Ratha, 2011*), some African LDC countries are pursuing policies to develop links with Africans abroad, either to encourage them to return or to use their skills, knowledge, or financial capital to foster African development. The side event will discuss concrete examples of diaspora initiatives that are being implemented in Africa. There are comprehensive reviews on how the diaspora can promote trade and investment linkages. Some developing countries are using dual citizenship to deepen ties with their diaspora. The event will address the issues of remittances-linked financial instruments, investments by the diaspora, diaspora bonds, contributions of skilled and unskilled diaspora in transferring knowledge, analytical research on return migration, and concrete circular migration experiences.

The organizers will also present and launch the ***Diaspora Initiative for the Istanbul Plan of Action (DIIPoA)***, a project which aims at informing and involving the LDCs Diaspora in general and the African Diaspora in particular, in the efforts of their countries of origin in reaching the goals of the Istanbul Plan of Action.