

Experience of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia In Diaspora Engagement in Investment, Trade, skill and Technology Transfer

**Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ethiopian Diaspora

Affairs Directorate General

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Introduction

- In Ethiopia the issue of engaging Diaspora is a recent phenomena, with a life span of about a decade.
- It was under taken institutionally in 2002.
- The issue was under taken with a small Research Unit under the then Directorate General of Press, Information and Documentation to respond to requests emerging from Ethiopian Diaspora.
- Shortly after, Unit was raised to a status of General Directorate and consequently Diaspora offices were opened both at regional and focal unit at Federal levels and two city administrations.

Responsibilities of the Directorate General

- Implementating and Following the of Ethiopian Diaspora Policy.
- Serving as a liaison between Federal, Regional Diaspora offices and Ethiopian Diaspora.
- Handling requests of Ethiopian Diaspora.
- Disseminating information to Diaspora through Ethiopia Diaspora website and different media outlets.

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- Encouraging Diaspora to play active role in the socio-economic activities of Ethiopia;
- Mobilizing the Ethiopian community abroad for a sustained image building in line with the government policies and strategies.
- Following up the implementation of various privileges given to Diaspora.
- Working jointly with Federal and Regional Diaspora offices and providing them the necessary feedback.

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- Establishing close working relationship with the Diaspora on issues of national interest.
- Coordinating Diaspora through Ethiopian missions abroad in Participating Investment , Trade, Tourism, Remittance as well as knowledge and technology transfer.

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- Supporting the Ethiopian missions in the implementation of the Diaspora policy abroad.
- Establish working relation ship with returnee Diaspora and rendering assistance to their engagement at home as per the law of the land.
- Coordinating efforts of Ethiopian missions abroad to encourage Diaspora in forming associations like community, Development, Professional, alumni ,etc

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- Collecting and maintaining data's of Diaspora and disseminate it to the relevant bodies.
- Identifying, organizing, collecting and disseminating information it to the Diaspora.

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- Coordinating ,Supporting and following up services rendered to Diaspora at home and abroad.
- Organizing meetings on issues related to Diaspora engagement at home and abroad in collaboration with stake holders.

Measures taken by the Ethiopian Government to encourage Diaspora Engagement in investment, trade , knowledge, skill and technology transfer.

- Ethiopian Government formulated Diaspora policy with the participation of Diaspora.
- Provided them incentives.

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- Encouraged the Diaspora to invest in in any investment opportunities.
- Facilitate and prepare project proposals to encourage and involve the Diaspora individually or in collaborations to invest in their areas of focus and investment priorities.

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- Provided the Diaspora to serve in governmental institutions with their profession and experiences in temporary or permanent basis.
- Rendered incentives for professional Diaspora who want to serve their country.

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- Provide and facilitate internship programs in governmental institutions for young Diaspora students attending their higher education overseas.
- Encouraged Professionals who have skills interest to work on research and consultancy that the government gives priorities.
- Crafted mechanism that could build confidence on returnee Diaspora to come home with their entire capital and property.

Major Achievements

- Diaspora participation in Investment, trade, technology and knowledge transfer increased.
- An issue of Diaspora become an important theme of public discourse.
- Diaspora participation on Image building increased from time to time.

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- Medical instruments were granted to different hospitals.
- Diasporas are teaching in different fields at different Universities.
- Different groups of medical doctors from Diaspora gave medical services to local in different Hospitals they also gave training and shared their experiences to Ethiopian physicians.

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- The Inflow of remittance increased from time to time.
- Opening foreign currency account by Diaspora opened increasing at an alarming rate.
- Ethiopian Diaspora have also expressed their backing for the successful completion of the Ethiopian Great Renaissance Dam.

Thank you