



## African Students European Forum on circular Migration and voluntary return for the Development of Africa

# STUDENT DECLARATION

WE, STUDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN STUDENT DIASPORA, coming from Italy, France, Germany, Holland, United Kingdom, Scotland and Austria,

**Recalling** we are united here on 18th, 19th, and 20th June 2009 in Senigallia (Italy), as part of the concluding conference of the Project A.V.O.I.R. (Voluntary Action for Orientation and Information on the Return to homelands for students of Sub Saharan Africa on completion of studies).

**Recalling** the Millennium Declaration (8<sup>th</sup> September 2000), and particularly the Objectives for Development of the Millennium (ODM), which aim to combat poverty;

**Recalling** the Lomé agreement (7<sup>th</sup> July 1999), in particular article 19 – chapter 1 title 1, where it is highly emphasised that the central objective of the ACP-CE cooperation is to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development and progressive integration in ACP countries in the world economy;

**Recalling** the joint declaration by the Council and Government Representatives of EU Member States united in the Council of Europe with the European Parliament and the European Commission on Politics and Development entitled “*The European Consensus*” (2006/C

46/01) ratified on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005, which clearly expresses the need to make migration a positive factor for development through promoting precise measures determined to improve migrants’ contributions for combating poverty;

**Recalling** the Rabat Action Plan established at the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held at Rabat on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006, where amongst other proposals on promoting development in Africa, it was recommended to encourage technical support to migrants who wish to set up a business project in their homelands, especially considering the (CDE) for business development within the UE-ACP;

**Recalling** that on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in Paris, during the second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, a new three year, (2009-2011) Cooperation Programme was unanimously adopted and Member States are committed to carrying out specific action to improve synergy between migration and development, in particular:

- Improving employment politics and organisation of migration,
- Greater participation by emigrant students towards economic and social development of their homelands,
- Easier terms for transferring funds and the practice of circular migration;

**Emphasising** the importance of associating the phenomenon of African student migration in Europe to the management of development problems in their homelands;

**Affirming** the necessity to assist circular migration, the voluntary return to their homelands of African students on academic graduation through funding of enterprise projects with the aim of favouring return and circulation of “African brains” with the prospect of a greater contribution to development;

**Considering** the results of a survey conducted on 2000 African students in 10 EU countries within the frame work of the European project A.V.O.I.R, from which it clearly emerges the need for African graduates to use to advantage, in their countries of origin, skills acquired in Europe;

**Recognising** the importance that African students can have in transferring knowledge, in intercultural dialogue between Africa and Europe, in the internationalisation of European companies in Africa, in the promotion of democracy and human rights;

**Underlining** that developing adequate policies for setting up businesses in countries of origin will have a real impact on the fight against poverty;



## Granted all this: WE APPEAL

1. to the **African Union** to apply pragmatic, inspiring and realistic politics aiming to encourage circular migration and the voluntary return of Diaspora students to their homelands;

2. to the **governments of Sub Saharan Africa** so that they establish means and strategies to favour the voluntary return and circular migration of Diaspora students. With this objective we ask every African country to set up an appropriate Ministry or Secretary of State;

3. to the **European Union** so that considering the Lomé Agreement of "**The European Consensus**" (2006/C 46/01), of the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development and general politics on aid to development, to establish specific means to encourage voluntary return and circular migration of African Diaspora students on graduation. The creation of business enterprises and research centres deserves equal support as does means for professional introduction of African doctors, architects, engineers and agriculturalists in their countries of origin;

4. to the **governments of European countries** to allocate investment of part of their resources dedicated to bilateral cooperation and non profit organisations, to finance voluntary return and circular migration projects of African graduates who wish to return to their homelands;

5. to **local authorities** (Regions, Provinces and Town Councils) to allocate in-

vestment of part of their annual resources dedicated to decentralised cooperation to support voluntary return and circular migration projects of African graduates;

6. to **European associations, to European non profit organisations** to point their interest towards research for subsidies in order to support and finance voluntary return and circular migration projects of African graduates;

### **MOREOVER, WE, STUDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN STUDENT DIASPORA,**

**7. ask** governments of homeland countries and those welcoming migrants, International, national and regional finance and banking institutes, United Nations Organisations, International Organisations, Organisations operating in favour of the fight against poverty in Africa and all other competent institutions to:

- operate together to reinforce the institutional frame work and to use financial resources to support voluntary return and circular migration projects of Diaspora students ;
- promote direct cooperation with Diaspora students to establish structures to manage development cooperation;
- develop capacities to improve methods for encouraging voluntary circular migration of Diaspora students;

**8. encourage** the establishment of aid support programmes for African student associations to provide awareness campaigns on issues and programmes concerning voluntary return and circular migration to homelands;

**9. propose** the creation of a European Observatory on voluntary return and circular migration of Diaspora students to their homelands;

**10. ask** that the present Declaration be brought to the attention of all the International Institutions, in particular The African Development Bank, The World Bank, The African Union, The European Union and the United Nations;

**11. invite** all countries, Institutions and Organisations involved and interested in African development to actively and jointly commit themselves to effective and speedy action of terms established in the Senigallia Conference;

**12. propose** to set up a Technical Committee to activate decisions made in the Senigallia Conference;

**13. invite** the Town Council of Senigallia and the Marche Region, to ensure diffusion of this appeal with International governments and institutions within development politics, in particular in the framework of the G8 Summit 2009.

**Senigallia 18th June 2009**



University Joannina



Agir ici, Servir là-bas



Comune di Senigallia



Integration e.V.  
Oldenburg

