Initiatives for African Diaspora
The Case of Ethiopia
Exemplary Initiatives for and by Diaspora: The Case of Ethiopia

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Brief Introduction

I. Initiatives in Ethiopia
   A. Government Initiatives
   B. Return Diaspora for Diaspora
   C. NGOs working on Diaspora

II. Recommendations
Governmental Initiatives

A. Policies and Laws *Proclamation 270/94*

-A Foreign National of Ethiopian Origin ID: *Cleaver*

Almost all rights of citizen to Diaspora

Exception:

- Highly Political Rights and Offices
- Military and Intelligence Service to Other Countries
Governmental Initiatives

Bank Account for Diaspora in Foreign Currency of their Choice

To create incentives for Ethiopians in Diaspora to maintain foreign currency account at home country so as to encourage domestic investment and foreign direct investment;

To support the international foreign exchange reserve and

To ease the balance of payments problem of the country;
Governmental Initiatives

Bank Account for Diaspora
The Account Opening through the Embassies, correspondent banks or remittance service providers
Governmental Initiatives

B. Ministries

- In Charge of Diaspora Affairs
- Ministry of Capacity Building:
  Office of Coordinating Ethiopian Diaspora and Friends of Ethiopia
  Knowledge and HRD
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  Ethiopian Expatriates Affairs General Directorate
  Each Embassy Focal Point
Governmental Initiatives

C. Incentives to Invest and Return
Land for developmental investment and residence
- 7,000 Ethiopians in Diaspora land issued in 40 towns
- Addis Ababa is the exception where the city administration is not accepting land requests
Governmental Initiatives

C. Incentives to Invest and Return
   - Investment of More 500 million USD per year
   - Remittance in 2007/2008 (10 months only 1.3 billion USD)
   - Through Formal channels of transfer
   - Horticulture high Exports very high
   - Tax free imports household goods for Returnees
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Saint Yared Health Maintenance Plan (SYHMP) is a healthcare financing mechanism sponsored by Ethiopians in the US to provide comprehensive healthcare services to their relatives in Ethiopia.

Diaspora Ethiopian Buys Health Insurance for 300 USD per a Year
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

SYHMP: Very helpful

For the Hospital: income generation in hard currency

For the Relatives: High quality health care service

For the Diaspora Ethiopia: a means for assisting relatives with relatively low cost

For the Country: contributes for MDGs
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

St. Yared Hospital and Its Health Insurance Initiative

Established by highly trained Return Diaspora Ethiopian doctors

Use Ethiopian Origin Medical Students and physicians from New York City Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Like the SYHMP, similar modalities could be emulated to education other areas.

A Diaspora buying a bond or coupon for relative to attend university education.

Emulate The Health Insurance to Education and other sectors.
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Established by Return Diasporas

St. Yared Clinic: Health

FORUM INTERNATIONAL FOR Ethiopians Living In Diaspora (Field): Development in general

Hibret Lelimat Ma’ekel: Education Sector
Return Diaspora for Diaspora

All of them work with Diaspora Institutions in Diaspora such as:
- Association for Higher Education and Development (AHEAD)
- Ethiopian Professionals in the Diaspora (NEPID)
- Ethiopian Diaspora Volunteer Twinning Program
- Ethiopians in North American Health Professionals Association
- Group Against Poverty-AIDS
Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

Hibret Lelimat Ma’ekel: *Education*

Works Network of Ethiopian Diaspora Return Of Ethiopian Professionals In Diaspora

Works With Local and National Universities

Aims to establish data base
Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

FORUM INTERNATIONAL FOR Ethiopians Living In Diaspora (FIELD):
- Development in General
- Works in Policy Advocacy and Forum for Discussion
Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

Ethiopia Diaspora Investment and Export Center
Facilitates the investment needs of Ethiopian Diaspora
Serve as link between Diaspora and Investment Institutions