



REPORT ON MEETING FOR DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

**GRENADIAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION**

ATTACHMENT 3

This document presents the report on the initial meeting of Diaspora Working Groups for the establishment of a new Grenadian Diaspora International Association. It includes recommendations which incorporates views expressed by members of the Diaspora.

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August 24, 2020**

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Report on the Initial Meeting with Diaspora Working Groups for establishing the new Grenadian Diaspora International Association

Introduction

The Policy Consultant met with working groups from the Grenadian Diaspora to have an initial discussion on the establishment of a New Grenadian Diaspora International Association. These Working Groups included representatives from the following host Countries: UK, USA and Canada. [See APPENDIX 1 for Event Details and Agenda.](#)

The Policy Consultant presented a set of KICK START IDEAS (KSIs), to facilitate the process of the dialogue with the groups on important considerations related to the Establishment of a New Grenadian Diaspora International Association.

KICK START IDEAS

OPENING STATEMENT

Establishing a Grenadian Diaspora International Association should be considered as a *transformational* and *game-changing* initiative for *Effective Diaspora Engagement* with a *global reach*. In thinking about a Grenadian Diaspora International Association there are three fundamental questions that should be explored:

1. What is the purpose of the Grenadian Diaspora International Association?
2. Where should be the locus of Control of the Association – home country or Diaspora?
3. What are the enabling legislations, protocols and incentives needed for maximizing the contributions of the Diaspora to the home country – Grenada- through this International Diaspora Association?

Kick Start ideas were then presented on each of these three major questions. (See *APPENDIX 2 for details of the KICK START IDEAS presented*).

This was followed by a robust discussion. Based on the Kick Start ideas and the perspectives offered by members the Diaspora Working Groups during the discussion session of the meeting, the Policy Consultant consolidated a set of initial recommendations. This was done to encourage members of the Grenadian Diaspora to consider and make comments on these recommendations in their future deliberations especially while the First Draft of the new ***Grenada National Diaspora Engagement Policy Document*** and the ***5-Year Action Plan*** are being reviewed.

The immediate aim, which was indicated to the working groups, is to have the recommendations for this ***Grenadian Diaspora International Association*** included in the ***amended draft*** and Final Version of the New Grenada National Diaspora Engagement Policy and 5-year Action Plan.

INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING THE GRENADIAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (GDIA).

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Grenadian Diaspora International Association should be established within the framework of the following Guiding Principles.

- 1.1. The GDIA should be a transformational and game-changing Initiative for Diaspora Engagement. The GDIA's process for Diaspora Engagement should add significant value to the contributions of the Diaspora to Grenada's long term sustainable development and to those that are currently being made.
- 1.2. The GDIA's core values should place emphasis on ***Integrity, Trustworthiness, Inclusiveness*** and ***Mutuality***.
- 1.3. The GDIA should use a hybrid operational arrangement incorporating three important engagement processes – ***Connecting, Partnering and Facilitating*** with focus on effective partnership between the GDIA and the Government of Grenada (GOG).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the GIDA should be to:

- 2.1. **Maximize** partnership between Grenada and its Diaspora to advance progress in Economic and Social Development.
- 2.2. **Establish** and **Energize** global networks of high profile, passionate and internationally connected diaspora members to increase the scope and level of contributions to Grenada with mutual benefits.
- 2.3. **Inspire** and **energize** 2nd and 3rd generation diaspora members to have greater affinity to Grenada and be involved in social and economic development initiatives both in Grenada and the host countries where they reside.

3. Objectives

The principal **objectives** of the Grenadian Diaspora International Association would be as follows:

- 3.1. Strengthen the links and support systems between Grenadians residing abroad and at home and to deepen the collaboration between the stakeholders that serve them.
- 3.2. Facilitate and increase the scope and impact of the contribution of the Diaspora to the development of Grenada for mutual benefit.

4. Operational Structure for the Work of the GDIA

The work of the GDIA should be done through 3 major International Networks

- 4.1. Grenada International Knowledge Network (GIKN)
- 4.2. Grenada International Philanthropy Network (GIPN)
- 4.3. Grenada International Investment Network (GIIN)

5. Initializing the Work of the GDIA

- 5.1. Start with the Grenada International Knowledge Network (GIKN)
- 5.2. Use a mix of strategies for identifying and engaging Diaspora members for the ***Grenadian International Knowledge Network***. These include headhunting, referrals related to person–person relationships, data from the current ***IOM-GOG Mapping Exercise***, to identify key members of this Network, in particular ***Diaspora Champions***, social media platforms for example LINKEDIN, and a special space on the ***Grenadian Diaspora Website***.
- 5.3. Demonstrate early success as a strategy for energizing and motivating members of the Knowledge Network. In this process, select Special Sustainable Development projects in Grenada that are in the greatest need for Human Capital Transfers from the Diaspora. Examples of these which are indicated in the First Draft of the ***Diaspora Policy*** are ***Climate Change***, ***Research and Development for Renewable Energy*** and ***Youth Entrepreneurship***.
- 5.4. Use the Grenadian Diaspora International Knowledge Network to demonstrate the successful evidence of core values such as ***mutuality***, ***Integrity***, ***Inclusiveness*** and ***Trustworthiness***, as well as recognition and appreciation of the contributions of the Grenadian Diaspora to Grenada, and the timeliness and responsiveness by the GOG to offers from the Diaspora to assist Grenada's Development.

This strategy will be of value to the success of the Knowledge Network and most importantly create a platform for launching the other two Grenadian International Networks for ***Philanthropy*** and ***Investment***.

APPENDIX 1

EVENT DETAILS AND AGENDA FOR MEEETING WITH DIASPORA WORKING GROUPS FOR ESTABLISHING THE NEW GRENADIAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 16, 2020

EVENT DETAILS

Event Title	<i>Organizing Diaspora in Host Countries – Creating an International Diaspora Association for Grenada</i>
Target Group(s)	International Diaspora Working Groups
Proposed by	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Grenada, International Organization for Migration
Hosting Organization	Government of Grenada
Event Date(s)	Sunday August 16, 2020 3pm EST/8pm EDT (London)
Venue (s)	Virtual via Zoom
Meeting details:	https://Zoom.us/ Meeting number: 933 1154 6801

EVENT DESCRIPTION

This Focus Group Discussion is intended to invite the input of the Diaspora via the location working groups for the preparation of a proposal for the establishment of the Grenada International Diaspora Association.

This proposal will be included in the finalized Grenada National Diaspora Engagement Policy and 5-Year Action Plan to be submitted to cabinet by the end of September/early October.

The agenda feature a short presentation by Policy Consultant, Dr. Neville Ying and will conclude with an interactive discussion which will address some important questions, namely.

- 1. What is the purpose of the Grenada International Diaspora Association?**
- 2. Where should be the locus of Control of the Association – home country or Diaspora?**

3. What is the enabling legislation, protocols and incentives needed for maximizing the contributions of the Diaspora to the home country – Grenada?

AGENDA

15:00 – 15:05	Event Welcome Derrick James, <i>Ambassador, Diaspora Affairs</i>
15:05 – 15:25	<i>Organizing Diaspora in Host Countries – creating an International Diaspora Association</i> <i>Dr. Neville Ying, Policy Consultant</i>
15:25 – 16:10	Interactive Session/Q & A Moderators: <i>Trisha Mitchell-Darius, Project Manager, IOM, Derrick James, Ambassador, Diaspora Affairs</i>
16:10 – 16:20	Quick review – stakeholder survey (Policy & Action Plan) <i>Dr. Neville Ying, Policy Consultant</i>
16:20 – 16:30	Summary & Project next steps <i>Trisha Mitchell-Darius, Project Manager, IOM</i>

APPENDIX 2

DETAILS OF KICK START IDEAS PRESENTED TO THE GRENADA DIASPORA WORKING GROUPS FOR ESTABLISHING THE NEW GRENADIAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 16, 2020

Establishing a Grenadian Diaspora International Association should be considered as a *Transformational* and *game-changing* initiative for *Effective Diaspora Engagement* with a *global Reach*. In thinking about an International Diaspora Association for Grenada there are three fundamental questions that should be addressed:

1. What is the purpose of the Grenada International Diaspora Association?
2. Where should be the locus of Control of the Association – home country or Diaspora?
3. What is the enabling legislation, protocols and incentives needed for maximizing the contributions of the Diaspora to the home country – Grenada?

PURPOSE OF THE GRENADIAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

In seeking to determine the **Purpose of the Grenadian Diaspora international Association** it is important to consider the approaches used by other countries such as the Philippines, Mexico, India , Kenya , Nigeria , Israel , Scotland, Ireland , China and the Dominican Republic for their global outreach. The approach of these countries has been to focus on International Diaspora Networks for three major areas:

1. Investment e.g. Ireland, Scotland, Israel; Nigeria
2. Knowledge Networks e.g. India, South Africa, China
3. Philanthropy e.g. Israel, Nigeria, Mexico

LOCUS OF CONTROL

1. **Homeland country:** e.g. Scotland, China
2. **Diaspora** e.g. Ireland, Nigeria

Aciena, Boyle & Kinchin (2009) made the following important observation:

What government structures and programmes are best suited to the establishment of new relations with diasporic populations? The Irish approach to its diaspora is relatively successful, particularly with respect to business, because it is light and flexible in structure, gives ownership and freedom to its members, and is developmental without being muscular. The state's role is to nurture and incubate, not manage, and over-determine. Scotland, in contrast, has pursued a strategy that is more muscular, state-centric, and centrally managed. If it is true to say that the Scottish diaspora is less well articulated and organized.

ENABLING LEGISLATION, PROTOCOLS AND INCENTIVES

The different areas of Diaspora contributions through international Diaspora Networks require different types of enabling legislation, protocols and incentives by the homeland countries. In reference to Scotland and Ireland the following pertinent observation is made by Aciena, Boyle and Kinchin, op cit:

In both Scotland and Ireland sustained attention is now being given to the potential benefits which might flow from renewing and refreshing relationships with overseas diasporic populations. This has manifested itself in a raft of diaspora related policy initiatives.

Four important strategic actions for homeland countries are:

1. Providing a definition of the Diaspora
2. Developing Strategies for Reducing the cost of Transfer of Funds
3. Inclusion of the Diaspora in Policy Development and Implementation
4. Negotiating Portable and transferable Social Security benefits

Definition of the Diaspora

The starting point for determining enabling legislation, protocols and incentives for International Diaspora Networks is usually the Definition of the Diaspora.

The IOM Ionescu, (2006) provides two examples

1. INDIA: The Indian Diaspora consists of Non- resident Indians (NRI) and People of Indian Descent
2. AFRICA: The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent.

In the Grenada National Diaspora Engagement Policy, First Draft, the following definition is provided:

The Grenadian Diaspora consists of Grenadians and persons of Grenadian origin that live outside of Grenada

Reducing Cost of Transfer of Funds

An important issue of concern to International Diaspora Networks is the cost of Transfer of Funds. The First Draft of the ***Grenada National Diaspora Engagement Policy*** includes a Strategic Action which is a collaborative approach with other CARICOM countries, with similar problems, to find workable solutions for the problems of ***Correspondent Banking and Arrangements and FATCA*** (Foreign Accounts Transactions Compliance Act) to address this issue.

Inclusion of Diaspora in Policy Development and Implementation

The IOM, Ionescu, IOM, Geneva, (op cit) refers to this as a **Co-Development Strategy**.

One of the illustrative examples is Ghana:

Ghana initiated a Poverty Reduction Scheme promoting SMEs in the agro-industry that explicitly recognizes the diaspora as a source of mobilizing funds to finance the anti-poverty strategy

Portable and Transferable Social Security Benefits

The IOM, Ionescu, (op cit) indicated that the World Bank (2005):

Emphasizes the significance of portable social security benefits, in particular pension and health benefits. However, this portability is usually achieved through bilateral social security agreements between the sending and the receiving countries.

APPENDIX 3

References

- Aciena, D. Boyle, M. & Kinchin, B. (2009). The Scottish Diaspora and Diaspora Strategy: Insights and lessons from Ireland. Department of Geography and National Regional Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis National University of Ireland.
- Ionescu, D. (2019). Engaging Diaspora as Partners for home and destination Countries: Challenges for Policy Initiatives, Prepared for IOM, Geneva, 2006. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica., Returning Citizens Information Guide.
- Newland, K., Terrazas, Aaron & Munster R. (210). Diaspora Philosophy: Public Giving and Private Good, MPI: Migration Policy Institute.
- World BANK (2016). Investing back home: The Potential Economic Role of the Caribbean Diaspora. World Bank Paper on Caribbean- Barbados, Trinidad, St Lucia, Jamaica.
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