



GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

# DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY LAUNCH



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



 **IOM**  
UN MIGRATION

**giz**

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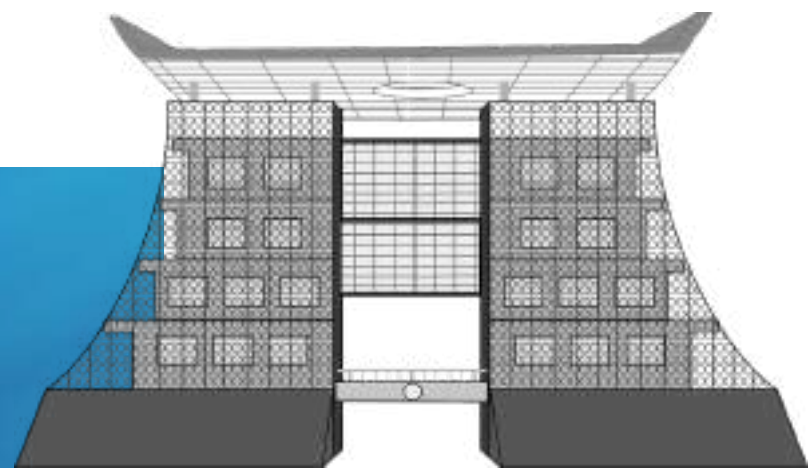
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THE PRESIDENCY  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

# The President



**His Excellency Nana Addo  
Dankwa Akufo-Addo**

President of the Republic of Ghana

“Let us all remember that the destiny of all Black people, no matter where they are in the world, is bound up with Africa.

We must do all we can to derive maximum dividends from our relations with the Diaspora in a mutually beneficial cooperation and as partners for shared growth and development.”

- President Nana Addo Dankwa  
Akufo-Addo



## The Minister of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration



### **Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**

“I am hopeful that participating in this event will enable many of our compatriots to take the bold step of moving back home and contributing to the development of our motherland.”

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (MP)



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**



## **Message from the Chairman of the InterSectoral Implementation Committee (ISIC) The Minister for Information**



Greetings to all,

**Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah**

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I extend my greetings on the occasion of the unveiling of our nation's Diaspora Engagement Policy. The launch of the Diaspora Engagement Policy signifies a pivotal moment in our nation's history, heralding a new era of connectivity, collaboration, and empowerment. At its core, this policy embodies our unwavering commitment to fostering meaningful connections with Ghanaians across the globe and leveraging technology to bridge geographical divides. Through strategic initiatives and leveraging the power of communication technologies, this policy aims to facilitate seamless interaction and engagement with our diaspora community.

I call upon our diaspora community to actively engage with this policy, leveraging the tools of communication and technology to amplify their voices, contribute their expertise, and participate in shaping a prosperous future for our beloved nation.

Together, let us utilize the power of information technologies to transcend boundaries, strengthen connections, and build a vibrant ecosystem where ideas flourish, talents thrive, and collaborations know no limits.

I extend my warmest invitation to our diaspora and global partners to join hands with us in this transformative journey of connectivity and collaboration.

Minister for Information  
**Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah**



## **The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture**



### **Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal**

“Our policy is to have what we call the ‘Ghanaian returning programme’ that will encourage Ghanaians living abroad with some form of capital to invest.”

“We are building a Ghana brand that will be a hub for tourism and culture in West Africa”.



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
ARTS AND CULTURE**

## Message from the Vice-Chair of the ISIC and The Director of Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President



The Diaspora Engagement Policy represents a visionary approach towards fostering a deeper connection and collaboration between Ghana and its global diaspora. It serves as a comprehensive framework that outlines strategies and pathways for our diaspora to actively participate in our nation's development journey. This landmark policy aims to empower and leverage the immense skills and resources of our diaspora community across various sectors. It offers a structured platform for engagement, facilitating partnerships, investments, and knowledge exchange that contribute significantly to Ghana's economic growth, innovation, and global competitiveness.

At its core, this policy is a testament to our unwavering commitment to inclusivity and partnership. It recognizes the diaspora not just as observers but also as active stakeholders in shaping our collective future. Through targeted initiatives and collaborative efforts, we aspire to create an environment conducive to sustainable development, entrepreneurship, and social impact. I urge our diaspora to take advantage of the opportunities presented by this policy. Your involvement and contributions are pivotal in driving positive change and realizing the shared aspirations we hold for our beloved nation.



Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President  
**Akwasi Awua Ababio**



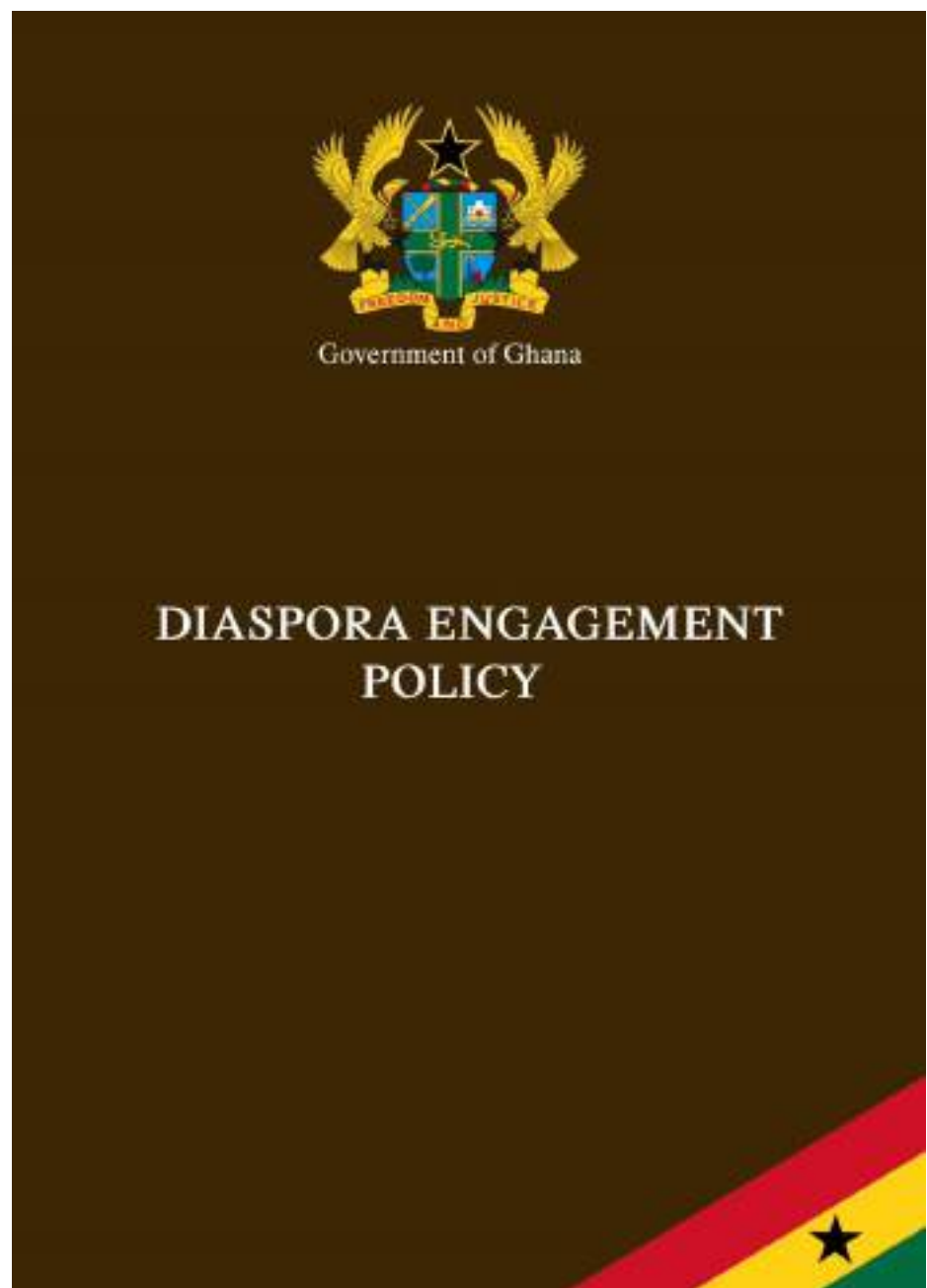
# AGENDA OF THE POLICY LAUNCH EVENT

Registrations
Welcome Reception & Seating
Opening Prayer
Welcome Address by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
Presentation by Chairman of ISIC Minister for Information
Remarks by Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture
Diaspora Engagement Journey Director Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President
Entertainment/ Interlude
Keynote Address by H.E President Official Launch of the Diaspora Engagement Policy
Statement of Appreciation Partner Remarks (German Embassy/GIZ, IOM, GIPC, GTA)
Closing Prayer
Networking Cocktail Reception



# ABOUT THE DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP), for the first time in the history of the country, was developed to provide the necessary framework within which the Ghanaian Diaspora can be constructively engaged in political, social, economic and cultural discourse towards the effective mobilization and coordination of their contributions to the national development process.



The Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) also seeks to harness the human and material resources of the diaspora for the socio-economic transformation of Ghana, and it is consistent with the current trend in many countries where governments are making conscious efforts to tap the development potentials of their citizens abroad.

The policy builds on earlier efforts by the Government of Ghana to boost the relationship between the homeland and its diaspora to symbolically connect the Ghanaian Diaspora with the homeland through programmes such as the organization of the Emancipation Day and the Pan-African Festival of Arts and Culture (PANAFEST), which have been held since 1998, the Homecoming Summits of 2001, 2009, 2017 and 2019 as well as the 2007 Joseph project, among others. The diaspora community also extends to the Historic Diaspora, whose ancestors were forcibly taken from the shores of Africa through the transatlantic slave trade, creating linkages that forge strong bonds between them and Ghana, anchored in our shared heritage.

Finally, the Policy supports harnessing the investment potential of the Ghanaian diaspora. This objective aims to not only effectively mobilize remittances but also tap into the transnational networks and skills of Ghanaians abroad, fostering sustainable economic growth and development.





## **JOURNEY OF THE DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

The development of the Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) involved a systematic collaborative and consultative process with funding support from the Spanish Government and ECOWAS beginning with a comprehensive situational analysis on the Ghanaian Diaspora. This was followed by stakeholder consultative meetings and workshops in each of the three ecological zones in Ghana that brought representatives from all ten regions of the country.

There were also diaspora consultative meetings and diaspora listening engagement in Nigeria, Canada, United Kingdom, and Germany, aimed at soliciting views from the Ghanaian Diaspora while learning from best practices that informed the development of the policy framework. The African Diaspora Community in Ghana was also consulted to solicit their views. Moreover, many Ghanaian missions abroad also collated views from Ghanaians in their countries of operation. Views were also provided by the Universal Pan-African Coalition. In addition, an online survey funded by the EU with technical support from Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) was conducted to solicit additional views from the diaspora.

The Diaspora Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and the Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President, with representation from relevant ministries, departments, and agencies including the private sector and development partners constituted the core groups that reviewed the draft policy from its inception to conclusion.



# ABOUT THE INTER-SECTORAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (ISIC) AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The successful implementation of the Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) requires an institutional framework with all stakeholders fully committed to its implementation.

Several ministries, departments, and agencies have been identified to play key roles in the implementation of the DEP. These have been identified below alongside their expected roles to facilitate the effective implementation of the DEP and its initial first wave of upcoming program activities.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



MINISTRY OF  
INFORMATION



MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
ARTS AND CULTURE



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DECENTRALISATION AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



MINISTRY OF THE  
INTERIOR



REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
MINISTRY OF GENDER,  
CHILDREN AND SOCIAL  
PROTECTION



MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINSHIP &  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



Ministry of Education  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
& MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



MINISTRY OF  
TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY



Republic of Ghana



GHANA  
INVESTMENT  
PROMOTION  
CENTRE



GHANA HEALTH SERVICE  
Visit HealthyOur Community



NATIONAL  
IDENTIFICATION  
AUTHORITY



CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



PANAFEST  
PAN AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS & CULTURE

## The IOM Chief Of Mission, Ghana



**Ms. Fatou Ndiaye Diallo**

‘The policy will be instrumental in the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving Objectives 18, 19 and 20 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) for which Ghana is a champion country. In adopting the GCM, Ghana has also committed to creating conditions for diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development. To create an enabling environment for the implementation of the DEP, we need to integrate the policy into development planning; recognize the social, human, cultural, and economic capital of transnational communities; and collaborate across sectors and countries to support the Ghanaian diaspora.’

**Chief of Mission Ghana (Resident),  
Benin and Togo  
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**





## The Deputy Head of Development Cooperation Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany



**Ramona Simon**

“The Diaspora is a reservoir of Social Capital, a valuable currency needed for the socio-economic development of nations.”

**Deputy Head of Development Cooperation  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of  
Germany, Accra**



**German Embassy  
Accra**

## The GIZ Ghana, Country Director



**Dr. Dirk Aßmann**

“The diaspora is not merely a resource; it is a bridge that connects us to a wealth of knowledge, skills, and connections that can propel Ghana to new heights of inclusive development.”

**Country Director  
GIZ Ghana.**





## FLASHBACK OF THE DAOOP



**Diaspora Celebration & Homecoming Summits** – The iconic series of summits in 2017 and 2019 by the DAOOP brought together thousands of Diaspora from around the world to Ghana and engage for investment and growth of Ghana.



**Year of Return Campaign**- Launched in 2019 by H.E. President of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the “Year of Return” is perhaps the most recognized “connect to africa” movement of modern times. The DAOOP facilitate the global tour and series of events in Ghana during the year welcoming thousands of diasporans back to Ghana. The program success served as a blueprint for the DAOOP to support Diaspora event organizers in Ghana with on the ground logistical insight and program endorsement.



**The Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP)** accepted by cabinet in August 2023 and launched in December 2023. The Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) was created to promote constructive engagement between Ghana and its diaspora. This landmark policy aims to empower and leverage the immense skills and resources of our diaspora community across various sectors.





## HomeComing Summits

- In July 2017, the Diaspora Affairs Office welcomed over two thousand Ghanaians living abroad to attend a three-day summit in Ghana. The objective of the summit was to harness capital for development by encouraging Ghanaians living abroad to invest in Ghana. The second Diaspora Celebration and Homecoming Summit was organised in July 2019, further catalysing the impact of the Year of Return.

## Homecoming Awards

- In 2019, there was an awards gala awarding key personalities who have been instrumental in galvanizing diaspora. The awards are an important way to highlight the achievements of those who inspire and support diasporans to reconnect back home.
- In 2022, another citizenship ceremony was held granting African descendants citizenship with awarded certificates and Ghanaian Passports. Thus giving them the chance to have dual citizenship.



## Surgeons and Physicians

- Working with different groups, one of which was the Ghana Surgeons and Physicians Associations in LA with the aim of rallying more diaspora into the homeland in the aspect of surgical treatment. We now see an increase in surgeons returning to Ghana and providing delicate and vital treatment for people in need of operations across different regions of the country.





## Diaspora Appointees

- The President has appointed a historic amount of Diaspora Appointees across varying sectors of the nation. This milestone encourages the diaspora to continue to play a prominent role in the development of the nation and also recognises the varying skill set that the diaspora offer such as during disaster relief efforts, providing healthcare treatment, placing financial investments, improving industries such as agriculture, energy and more.

## Citizenship Ceremonies

- In 2019, H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo led a swearing-in ceremony granting citizenship to members of the Historic Diaspora actively engaged in Ghana which was part of the activities to celebrate the Year of Return.
- In 2022, the Government of Ghana led another citizenship ceremony granting citizenship to Afro Descendant people which enabled people to relocate to Ghana and thus invest, engage in developmental efforts, build businesses, and work across different sectors such as health, aviation, civil engineering and more.



## Diaspora Reception

- The President has received diaspora communities at the Presidency from different organizations such as the NAACP and the Speaker of the House of Senate (USA) - Hakeem Jeffries. Iconic influencers and celebrities like Dave Chapelle, Danny Glover, Steve Harvey, Boris Kodjoe, Idris Elba, Michael Jai White, Bozoma St John, Chance the Rapper, Footballer Memphis Depay and more have also been welcomed by the Presidency. Government leaders and activists who also visited include H.E Kamala Harris (USA Vice President) as a member of the historic diaspora, H.E Frankia Marquez (Colombia Vice President) as a member of the historic diaspora and Viola Fletcher and Hugh Van Ellis- survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre.





## Return, Readmission & Reintegration

Ghana subscribes to the UN Global Compact for Migration for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, the first intergovernmental agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration holistically and comprehensively. In supporting this mandate, the DAOOP has worked with IOM, GIZ and developmental partners on the Migration Coordination Platform. The DEP policy thus makes provisions to help people who are leaving challenging and hostile environments return, doing so in a secure manner that enables their reintegration and readmission.

## Reparations & Racial Healing

In 2023, given Ghana's leadership in the diaspora dialogue the African Union selected Ghana to host the historic "Accra Reparations Conference". The President welcomed leadership from the AU, Union of Comoros, Kenya, Burundi, Togo, and Guinea Bissau to progress the dialogue on reparations. Convening on a shared commitment to address historical injustices and injurious crimes against Africans and people of African descent.

**2022 - August 2022 - Accra Summit.** The Government of Ghana (DAOOP) and the AU, in collaboration with global civil societies, held the "Accra Summit on Reparations and Racial Healing" to explore ways to create a platform for the adoption of a single transcontinental plan for Reparations. The ACCRA DECLARATION was formed to chart a path for the Global Reparations Movement.



## Diaspora Brain Gain & Youth Engagemnt

DAOOP encouraging the diaspora to visit, work, and contribute to the workforce of the nation with their expertise. The President met Ghanaian students at leading academic institutions globally such as Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Harvard, SOAS, as part of the awareness campaign to help decrease brain drain by encouraging post-graduates and students from Ghana who go to study abroad to return home.





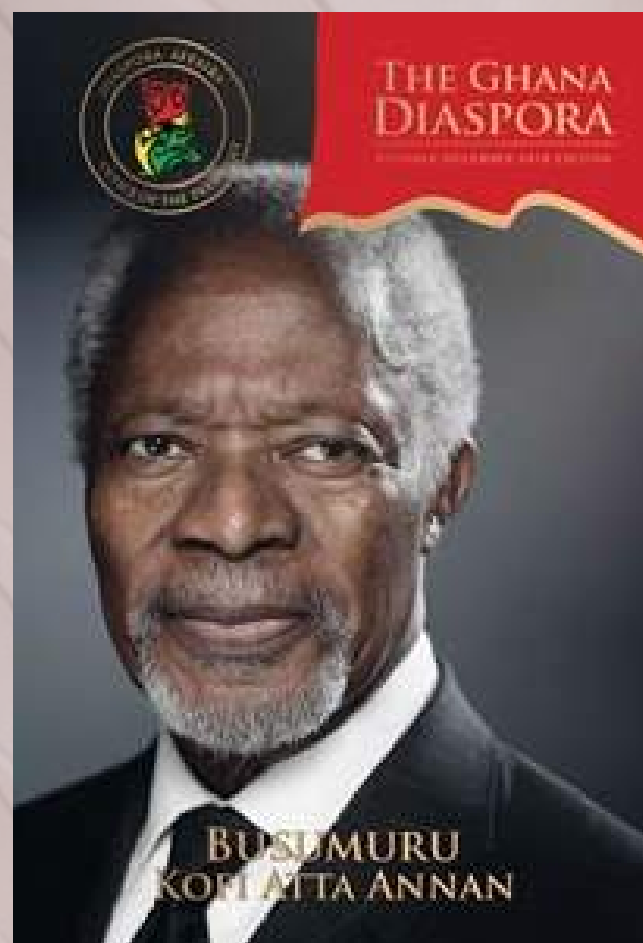


## Bi Lateral Relations

- Ghana is recognised as a beacon for diaspora engagement and as such has supported the activation efforts of other nations such as Botswana, E-Swatini, and Malawi just to name a few. Many countries send delegations to Ghana to learn about the methodologies for diaspora engagement year round. Nations interested to learn from Ghana, have hosted a Ghanaian Delegation to understand the Diaspora activation mechanisms include Togo, Senegal, Kenya, Swaziland, Kosovo and more.

## Diaspora Magazine

- The DAOOP launched the Diaspora Magazine as a series of publications aimed at providing periodic information about government activities to our compatriots abroad and a source of feedback to the government on activities of the Diaspora.
- The publication in addition to the DAOOP newsletters serves as a mouthpiece of the Ghanaian Diaspora, for sharing ideas, concerns, showcasing enterprises, achievements both home and abroad and serves as a channel of communication for businesses to showcase investment opportunities in Ghana.



## Facilitation of Diaspora led program and initiatives

- The DAOOP has facilitated and supported a series of diaspora led initiatives with the mandate to accelerate exchange, entrepreneurship, and investment in Ghana. Such programs include the Full Circle Festival, Black Starline Festival, Ghana Tech Summit, ADNINA Conference, Black History Festival, Taste of Ghana, AfroFuture Festival, Countdown Africa, Afro Future Summit, and Taste of Afrika.



## Find out more ...

- Diaspora National Service Program
- Diaspora Financial Inclusion Initiative-One Ghanaian Living Abroad One Bank Account
- Social Programs financed and undertaken by Ghanaians living abroad and Associations Abroad in Ghana (Hope, GAGIF)
- Remittances and Development Finance
- Collaboration with European Commission on Migration Dialogue
- Capacity Building Seminars

Visit our website and contact us to learn about ongoing initiatives, achievements and how to get involved.



[www.diasporaaffairs.gov.gh](http://www.diasporaaffairs.gov.gh)







## IMPACT OF THE DIASPORA

The potential of the diasporan and the impact of the diaspora on Ghana's development is multifaceted, encompassing economic, cultural, and diplomatic dimensions. The Diaspora Affairs Office of the President has been instrumental in channeling this influence into meaningful contributions.

Notable amongst these are the entrepreneurial successes that have arisen from diasporan endeavors in the homeland. The growth of the diaspora's ability to drive economic progress via cutting-edge problem-solving-oriented ventures. Through initiatives such as these, job creation and the reduction of unemployment have become tangible outcomes, showcasing the diaspora's capacity to spur innovation and contribute to Ghana's economic growth.

The diaspora's commitment to supporting their families and communities in Ghana is further demonstrated by the significant economic boost provided through remittances. Funds sent back by diaspora members serve as a lifeline for many, supporting family needs, business investments, and community development projects. During festive seasons like 'December in Gh,' increased spending by the diaspora contributes to the local economy and the growth of businesses, making it a huge economic boost towards Ghana's local trade developments, especially as the global diaspora conversation is becoming more prominent.

Furthermore, cultural enrichment stands as a profound impact of the diaspora, facilitated by the DAOOP. The office has been instrumental in fostering a sense of identity and belonging among the diaspora, leading to increased investments, trade partnerships, and knowledge exchange. Working with GIPC, Beyond the Return, GTA and developmental partners to support economic partnerships commitment towards cultural exchange, and skill transfers.

As we look to the future, the diaspora's impact is poised to expand even further, with the DAOOP also leveraging technology digital outreach efforts and working with MFARI, NIA and partners for database development. Several high impact initiatives have and continue to pave the way for the diaspora to contribute to Ghana's growth in innovative sectors in addition to collaborative efforts in education, healthcare, and other UN Sustainable Development goal areas, position the diaspora as integral partners in shaping Ghana's future, emphasizing the importance of a sustainable and resilient development trajectory.

In conclusion, Ghana's diaspora has emerged as a source of economic support and advocates for diplomatic collaboration driving transformative change across every sector of the economy. As the nation continues to progress, the diaspora remains a vital and dynamic force, contributing to the country's economic prosperity, cultural richness, and resilience in the face of global challenges.



# Statement of Appreciation

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Dear Esteemed Guests,

As we gather for this momentous occasion, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to each distinguished guest in attendance and delegates viewing online. Your presence at this event, graced by the esteemed President, Ministers, Members of the Inter-Sectoral Implementation Committee (iSIC), and honored guests, reflects your unwavering commitment to fostering stronger ties between Ghana and its diaspora.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to H.E President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Your leadership in prioritizing the diaspora engagement agenda has paved the way for this historic policy launch. We are honored to have you with us.

To our distinguished ministers, your presence here adds immeasurable value to this event, and we are deeply honored by your involvement. Special thanks goes to the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey and the Minister of Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah for your active engagements and collaborations throughout the journey of the Diaspora Engagement Policy.

A special acknowledgment goes to the members of the Inter-Sectoral Implementation Committee (iSIC), whose collaborative efforts have been instrumental in shaping and bringing this policy to fruition, including are Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI) and the Diaspora Affairs Unit (DAU), Ministry of Information (Mol), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts (MTAC), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of the Interior (MINTER), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MCRA), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department (OAG/MoJ), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Trade and Industry, National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana Police Service (GPS), Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Ghana Health Service (GHS), National Identification Authority (NIA), Centre for Migration Studies, UG, GIZ, IOM, Beyond the Return, PANAFEST, and many others.

We express our deepest gratitude for your presence, your contributions, and your commitment to making the Diaspora Engagement Policy a cornerstone in our nation's journey toward inclusive development. Indeed, today marks not just the launch of a policy but a commitment to strengthening the bonds between the homeland and its diaspora. Your collective support and dedication to this cause signify a shared vision for a more connected, prosperous, and globally engaged Ghana.

Sincerely,

**Akwasi Awua Ababio**  
**Director of Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President**





GOVERNMENT OF GHANA



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AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

