



THE RAMPHAL CENTRE
SOCIETIES | ECONOMIES | ENVIRONMENT | GOVERNANCE



‘Commonwealth Connections and Commerce’: Diaspora Opportunities for Trade, Investment and Remittances

Aims:

- To generate practical steps that businesses and governments can take to engage Diasporas in the economic development of home countries, particularly through trade and investment.

Objectives:

- To integrate the findings into the recommendations for CHOGM.
- To identify areas for further development and research, for example to pursue in accordance with the Common Ground Initiative.
- To encourage public and private financial institutions to develop innovative and marketable financial products and services, which channel the cost of remittances towards enterprise and business development projects.
- To explore and begin to address the barriers that inhibits the Diaspora’s engagement with the economic development of home countries.
- To develop a strong case for funding and be clear on funding criteria for a range of funders, for example EU, DFID etc.

Target audience:

- Former Heads of Commonwealth Governments; Ramphal Commissioners.
- Financial Institutions; for example; Standard Charter, HSBC, Venture Capital companies, The African Development Bank, microfinance associations.
- Development Agencies, for example Comic Relief, DFID, Africa UK.
- Individual Diaspora Businesses and Organisations, for example Afford, Diaspora Volunteers Alliance.
- Trading Associations, such as Fair Trade/Twin.

