

# The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate

---



Nigerians In Diaspora Organisation  
Europe – France

In partnership with,



Le Club Effcience

## EFACAM

Elus en France d'Origine ou de  
Nationalité Camerounaise



L'Association des Médecins  
Africains de France



**The Group (Collective) of African diasporas  
At the National Debate**

---

**Summary of grievances and proposals of the group of  
African Diasporas to the National debate**

**Meeting –Debate of March 2, 2019**

**SUMMARY**

1. Presentation of the DND collective..... P.3
2. Program of the meeting-debate of March 2, 2019.....P.4
3. Introduction.....P.5
  
4. Recall of the main points of the speech by Mr Franck Paris during his  
Goodwill message at the International Department of the Movement of  
French Entrepreneurs (MEDEF INTERNATIONAL).....P.7
5. Immigration and Diaspora: what realities of figures? ;.....P.8
6. Immigration and social cohesion; what models / integration leverage of  
the Diaspora in France?..... P.10
7. Immigration and promotion; what is the position of the Diasporas in  
France?.....P.15
8. Conclusion.....P.20

# **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

## **1. Presentation of the DND group**

The group of African Diasporas denominated “DND” is comprised of the following organisations:

- *The association of local elect of Cameroonian descent or nationality “EFRACAM”, created in 2013, comprising of personalities of Cameroonian diaspora in France with the particularity of currently serving or haven exercised an electoral mandate in politics or in professional fields.*
- **Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe, France chapter « NIDOE-France » created in 2001 and made up of professionals, personalities, physical persons of Nigerian diaspora in France.**

**In partnership with:**

- **The “Club Efficience”, a think-tank group and French societal and economic initiatives, an organisation meant to promote the talents of the Diaspora. Created in 2008, made up of senior executives and company managing directors, opinion leaders of African-French diaspora background. It’s vocation is to imagine the France of tomorrow and demonstrate by its engagement, that diversity will lead to “better living together” (better common values)**
- **The association of African medical doctors in France created in 2010 that is made up of health professionals of African origin practising in France.**
- **The association of African pharmacists in France, created on June 6, 2005, is made up of pharmacists of African origin practising in France.**

Close to hundred contributions were collected before and during the meeting of March 2, 2019, from divers members of African Diasporas from the entire French metropolitan territory where they exercise different activities in various sectors of the economy and of the French societies.

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

### **2. Program of the meeting – debate of march 2, 2019**

1.30PM to 2.30PM: Arrival of participants

2.30PM :

- Welcome address by Serge BAKOA, President of EFRACAM and moderator
- Introductory remarks by Pierre de Gaetan NJIKAM, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of EFRACAM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy mayor of Bordeaux and mayor of Bordeaux Maritimes
- Introductory remarks by Solomon OGBAJI, President of NIDOE-France

2.15PM Presentation of the main grievances and proposals addressed by the African Diasporas

2.45PM Recall of the main points of the speech by Mr Franck, the African advisor (councillor) in Elysée palace, during the goodwill message at the International Department of the Movement of French Entrepreneurs (MEDEF)

3.00PM Interventions (speeches) by participants (in chronological order)

- Ibra Y (General Delegate eastern CAC Val d'Oise and member of the FORIM)
- Aderic G (Banker)
- Ghislain N. (Neurologist – Deputy Mayor of Touques)
- Jean-Marie T. (chattered (certified) accountant / Auditor)
- Ibrahim ORIDOTA – Nigerian Diaspora
- Cécile H. (Journalist, Town councillor in Normandy)
- Ajala O. (Airbus expert engineer – Toulouse) Nigerian Diaspora
- Abiodun Comfort Y. (consultant, computer sciences) Nigerian Diaspora
- Karim B. (Secretary General, the association of Moroccan entrepreneurs)

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

- Pierre de Gaetan N. (3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux – Mayor of Bordeaux Metropolis)
- Lenna A. (Journalist FM 98)
- Raimondo E. (Engineer, Oil & Gas)
- S.B. (Notary)
- Natacha N. (financial engineer)
- AKINPETIDE G. (Consultant, Civil engineer) Nigerian Diaspora
- Jean-Michel O.N. (Project Manager, Groupe A.)
- Juliette T. (Medical Doctor – President of the AMAF)
- Moustapha G. (Research fellow in economics)
- Georges A. (engineer, Telecom)
- Nathan K. (Company CEO)
- Bocar K. (Lawyer)
- OKOROAFOR K. (Civil engineer) Nigerian Diaspora
- Boubacar S. (Manager, Human Resources)

5.45 PM Closing remarks by Pierre de Gaetan NJIKAM for EFRACAM and by Solomon OGBAJI for NIDOE-France

6.00 PM end of the Meeting-Debate

### **3. INTRODUCTION**

By a letter to the French people, dated the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, His Excellency Emmanuel MACRON, President of the French republic, launched a national debate that was going to last till 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, in order to welcome the opinion of all the vital forces of the nation on the important issues of general interest on the future of France. In this letter, the four, but not exhaustive, preoccupations of the national debate include: (i) The taxes, expenditures and public actions (ii) the organisation of the nation and public entities (iii) ecologic transition and (iv) Democracy and citizenship

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

The letter specifies: be it the issue of citizenship, that the welcome tradition of the various population by France is today, quivered (shaken) by tensions and by doubts related to immigration and to defaults in the French integration system. The Head of State therefore asked the following questions: ***“What do you propose to improve the integration in our country? In terms of immigration once our exile obligations are fulfilled, do you wish that we fixed annual objectives by the parliament? What do you propose so as to address this challenge that is going to last?”***

In its summary dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the association of French rural mayors presented grievances and proposals collected directly from the citizens, the mayors and the departmental association of mayors. Out of the eleven thematic tackled (broached) by this summary, those that concerned international matters (page 25) mentioned among others, what follows:

- The problematic stand of strangers in France today (too much of attention given to “strangers”, “migrants”, “immigrants” in France. How (why) welcome the strangers into an impoverished France? The assistance to strangers is more important than that to the French people in difficulties; “the indirect cost of immigration should be calculated” If rare testimonies evoked the necessity to welcome strangers, others, the majority, asked for the suppression (cancellation) of the territorial rights. “Right of the soil”.

The French nationality can only be obtained after “5 years of living in France, passing of an exam that proves the mastery of the French language and the history of France and no judicial condemnation” “ that the contributions for a detached worker be identical to those of a French worker” as well as that of a retired worker living abroad (outside France)

- The means of bringing immigration under control: The main request is: “to no longer welcome strangers in these difficult times” or to no longer allow entry of migrants” re-establish “control at the borders” so as to fight against illegal immigration” carry out a reflexion process on a long term; “permit immigrants to live peacefully in their home countries” carry out new analysis of immigration flux because “they are poorly managed” the “taking into account of the migratory flux due to climatic changes”.

It follows from the above that the issues concerning the Diasporas are a part of the preoccupations that the citizens would like to tackle within the framework of the Great National debate.

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

Thus, according to the tables of the French economy (edition of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018) published by the INSEE, in 2014, 4.2 millions of strangers and 6.0 millions of immigrants live in France, that is, respectively 6.4% and 9.1% of the total population.

It is therefore in consideration of these realities and their importance for better common values (better living together) in France, that the DND collective has decided to respond to the call made by His Excellency, the president of the Republic to contribute to the Great National Debate launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2019, and make proposals that will permit to build a new indenture for the nation, to structure the action of the government and of the parliament, but also the stand (position) of France at the European and international level.

The participants of the meeting-Debate of March 2, 2019 were gathered together and engaged in this Grand National Debate as African Diasporas and accept themselves as such. They are natives of a continent, Africa, that sees it's inhabitants leaving because of, amongst others, the harshness of climatic environment, of a never ending migration, and the diversity of our status that make African issues those of France and vice versa.

For the past two years, it is recognised in high places that the question of the Diasporas is at the centre of the France-African relationships and of the French public policies. There is a high conscience of the destiny of Africa and the recognition of the fact that Africa is a part of the French identity.

It is on the strength of these observations that the collective of African Diasporas at the National Debate (hereby abbreviated "DND collective" was constituted to federate the contributions of these Diasporas to the Grand National Debate, an important event for the French nation in all its components.

#### **4. Recall of the main points of the speech by the African advisor to the Elysée (the presidency) during the goodwill message of the MEDEF International**

The 4 pillars of the actions by President Emmanuel Macron with Africa are as follows:

- Multiply trips to Africa, particularly to countries or zones where he was rarely present these last years (Madagascar, Egypt, the horn of Africa, southern Africa)

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

- Place Africa in the European agenda: The president's ambition is that the relation with Africa be also part of the European project. That the relationship with Africa, that should not be reduced to the sole migratory problematic, be the subject of awareness amongst our European partners, that the relationship with Africa be taken into account as a priority in the new majority emerging from the next European elections and the new commission.
  
- Associate Africa with the preparatory works of the next summit of the G7, as well as with the summit itself of August 2019; talk about Africa in all-international meetings of France.

Cultivate the African portion of the French identity. We will mobilise African Diasporas in this relationship that we are in the process of constructing with the African continent, demonstrate a new consideration to these Diasporas (start the restitution of cultural property, circulation visa for students trained in France, reinforcement of means of cooperation in health and education sectors, the adoption of a new law of the programming of the public development assistance, assist to revive the African integration)

### **5. Immigration and Diaspora: what facts and figures?**

#### 5.1. Available figures

**The official public statistics by INSEE currently available on the number of strangers and of immigrants living in France date from 2014!**

#### **Immigrants by country of birth in 2014**

<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>France Metropolitan</b>	<b>Entire France</b>
Portugal	615 132	615 573
Italy	286 187	286 709
Spain	246 409	247 019
Other countries of the European union	719 324	722 238
Other European countries	285 356	285 880
Algeria	773 742	774 266
Morocco	721 963	722 627
Tunisia	265 549	265 760
Other African countries	833 032	848 958



## The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate

Turkey	249 591	249 619
Other countries	852 030	948 709
<b>All Together</b>	<b>5 848 314</b>	<b>5 967 359</b>

(Source INSEE, 2014 populations' census)

On these statistics, the migrants of African origin represent 2611611 inhabitants in 2014

**(Population of immigrants and strangers in France since 1992)**

	1982	1990	1999	2014
<b>Immigrants</b>	4 037 036	4 165 952	4 306 094	5 848 314
<b>Of which men</b>	2 178 816	2 166 271	2 166 318	2 851 592
<b>Of which women</b>	1 858 220	1 997 681	2 139 776	2 996 722
<b>Strangers</b>	3 520 568	3 595 026	3 258 539	4 078 093

(Source: INSEE, Population census and annual inquiry of census)

Thus, as at the date of the launch of the great national debate on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the citizens and particularly the mayors of the rural communes, that make immigration and the presence of strangers in France a major concern, don't have up to date statistics on these issues.

For most of the contributors and participants of the meeting-debate of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, this situation (absence of viable statistics and update on immigration) is totally paradoxical and incomprehensible in terms of the importance of the subject matter, apart from the Moroccan Diaspora in France that has viable statistics, available and at the disposal of the public at the embassy of Morocco.

Is the fact that the no availability of up to date official statistics, not an implicit way to recognise the mistrust of the French integration system?

### 5.2. The Proposals

**The first proposal to the national debate on the issue of strangers and the migrants in France is the publication by INSEE, in their annual economic table, the updated data on the number of strangers and immigrants living on the national territory for each year, as well as their repartition:**

**By country of origin**

**By social-professional category in France**

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

**By department of implantation in France**

**By contribution to annual GDP of France**

**Since the mayors of France have declared that « the strangers cost a lot to France » it is proposed to His Excellency, Mr President of the Republic that he should ask each town hall (mayor's office) in France to publish each year, what Africa brings to France (what France stands to gain from Africa) from the following perspectives:**

**Economical**

**Cultural and artistic**

**Diplomatic**

**Through her international dimension**

Taking into account the fact that the red jackets talk about money (buying power, taxation, tax on fuel, minimum wage, tax on wealth among others) monetise the aggregates of the INSEE on immigration and circulate to the general public is by nature to change the people's perception in France on immigration and strangers

**The government is also invited to collaborate with the African embassies in France in order to share their available statistics and provide their respective Diasporas with actualised and exploitable viable figures.**

### **6. Immigration and social cohesion: what models / integration leverage of the Diasporas in France?**

#### **6.1. *Context and the stake***

The weight of history has shaped the relationship between France and the African continent since the middle age to current days. During the two great world wars, the African continent has made its contribution to the defence of the western world against the Barbary, the Nazism and the xenophobia.

And the generation of workers, seasonal workers and migrants thereafter have participated in the efforts of the reconstruction of France and its economic and social boom (upswing) since the end of the Second World War. In their great

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

majority, the migrants account for the essential handwork (labour force) in the industry, the transformation and services sector. Often settled in dormitory residences and hotels. They live thus far from their families who have stayed behind in their respective countries of origin.

Account taken of the aforesaid implies setting up of a social and family protection mechanism in conformity with the cooperation conventions signed between France and the different countries of emigration (social security, family allowances, right to circulation and settlement, access to education for students, etc....)

Within the framework of the implementation of the terms of the conventions, we have noticed differences or deviations in the payments of pensions and family allowances, to the benefit of families staying behind in their countries of origin with respect to families living in France.

These situations are sources of distortions, if not situations of discrimination in the payments of these same pensions and family allowances, the government authorities of the countries of origin often have the tendency of aligning these benefits with the regimes of local recipients. The case of contributions paid by the enterprises that use strangers in irregular situations who never benefit from any pensions or social welfare are not even considered as potential source of financing.

### 6.2. The Concerns

Quotas or affirmative actions?; which, like in the USA, had permitted among other things, that Obama became President of this country, the sector of excellence...

**What solution for the youths coming from immigration or born in France to foreign parents and belonging to the third or fourth generation?** How are they oriented (what tools) for a better integration in France? These questions were subject to three interventions by youths during the meeting-debate of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. These generations are conscious of their potentials (youth, open to the world, bicultural), of their economic and cultural added values, of the necessary adequacy training-employment. They regretted that the participants in this meeting-debate did not come along with their children. These generations wonder:

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

- In the next twenty to thirty years, will their youths come together in France to talk about the subjects and the preoccupations of the African Diasporas?
- How do we make these third and fourth generation of immigrants participate in the society in which they live daily? How should it be done such that they are equal to any other French citizen? What can one propose to the government in this wise? What structure can the French government set up in a concrete manner at their disposal?
- How can these third and fourth generations of immigrants in France contribute to development of French economy in France and in Africa? How do we set up synergies between French and African universities? How do we get down to our territories and communes with common projects such as the new investment club France-Nigeria created recently in Paris?
- Why does the current system in France give the impression that our children don't have the same chances as others? Why take an appointment at the police headquarters (prefecture) remains a battle? Why are all the processes in which the immigrant is implicated are complicated in France?
- The French cultural diversity must be taken into account in the territorial and local management, for a better integration of strangers. In fact, it must be recognised that a part of the French African identity by France is not yet addressed at various levels (municipal halls, Friday funeral activities, worship (cult));
- Can one talk of social cohesion or of Diasporas as integration leverage when the problems of precariousness in employment or spatial segregation are not resolved?
- The city council of Cergy, for example, had set up an advisory council within which the diversity of population of the city was represented where diverse questions concerning the city are discussed. Is it not worthwhile to emulate this type of model at the scale of all the territories, of all the towns or districts so as to permit a better insertion and integration of immigrant populations in their living space?
- What does the government envisage (i) to facilitate access, of the children of immigrants, to profession of notary, court bailiffs, auctioneers, and judiciary administrators, in the context where, "random draw" that

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

intervenes in these professions is not favourable to the Diasporas? (ii) Promote within the Diasporas, devices such as life insurance and the dissemination of information on the unclaimed assets (funds)?

- The question of the increase, in France, of school (tuition) fees of foreign students is in the centre of the preoccupation of the Diaspora. This project risks depriving thousands of foreign children of benefiting from quality education. Thus, several diaspora parents currently realise that their children do not benefit the same educational system as theirs, generating thus the risk of the definitive downgrading of the third and fourth generations of children of immigrants. We are at the heart of the advocacy of the “yellow vests”. Several lecturers and presidents of universities (chancellors) seem opposed to this increase;
- France as of today is second in the world digital profession. In spite of this, these professions are currently experiencing labour shortages in France, at such a point that the French enterprises are obliged to go to Africa to look for the necessary manpower under the coverage of the needs of France on the matter. The same observation for professions related to service to individuals (human services), such as caregiver (auxiliary nurse) in scarcity at the horizon of 2025. Should tuition free schools be created in France and Africa in these domains to help meet these needs, and thereby facilitate the integration in France through working?

Where are we as regards digitalisation in the transfer of knowledge and technology within the African Diaspora and in its relationship with Africa?

- The report by Bartolone on the migrants already identifies 80 recommendations. Should we not take a close look at this report, take stock of its recommendations (in particular on the minimum old age pension, housing of workers and older people) and implement them?
- Several initiatives, partnerships (for example the partnership BPI/AFD in terms of R&D) and entrepreneurship support programs on the African continent already exist. They are however poorly understood by the general public and are in insufficient quantity; (the IDE stock with skill transfer to Africa for example), the entrance tickets (AFD, PROPARCO, BPI, BUSINESS France, CIAN, MEDEF International, Chambers of Commerce amongst others) are financially high for the African Diaspora

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

entrepreneurs. Should they not be multiplied and the eligibility financial threshold reduced?

### 6.3. Grievances and proposals

**In order to take a better care of the family and social obligations of the beneficiaries, it is proposed:**

- To orientate the differential of the resources of the family allowances to a support fund for economic initiative by immigrants (individual or collective) in favour of local development in the land of origin.**
- To favour the creation of economic activities in the territories of residence (social and solidarity entrepreneurship, Start-ups in green economy, etc....)**
- Train youths in neighbourhoods in highly sought-after skilled professions (digital, service to individual) in order to facilitate social-professional insertion in France.**

**Submit to referendum the question of annual quota of immigrants in France**

**Submit to referendum the question of the participation of strangers with resident permit in local elections**

**Abrogate the increase of tuition fees in France for strangers, or find remedies compatible with the buying power of their families.**

**Encourage and scale up youths' professional insertion actions: insertion through internship and first employment must be intensified; the**

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

**guaranteeing internships for the youths must be stricter and more constraining.**

**Intensify and improve recognition devices for foreign degrees and foreign professional experiences in France in order to favour a better professional integration of professional immigrants**

### **7. Immigration and promotion**

#### **7.1. *What position in France for the Diaspora?***

##### **7.1.1. Context**

The participants of the meeting-debate of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 observed the indisputable existence of a political problem in France, of which the crises of “yellow vests” is an illustration. It is because of this crisis that is also of political nature, that the great national debate is organised and that we are gathered this 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Within this context, the African diasporas can not circumvent the French and African political issues, and must let their voices be heard, objectivise their preoccupation. The necessity to get organised amongst the African Diasporas appear henceforth as an absolute imperative.

##### **7.1.2. The preoccupations**

Define the position of the Diaspora in France

- Recognise the Diasporas as integration factor
- Recognise the Diasporas as creation and development factors of national wealth (the ratio of the Diaspora contribution to the French GDP)
- Set up a reference structure, like the general public, that will serve as a political instance, of representation of interests and spokesperson of the African diasporas, in relation with the French, African public authorities and internationals (European union, African union mainly)

How does the Republic envisage to promote her French citizens coming from immigration?

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

- At governmental and administrative levels
- At the parliamentary level? Senatorial? Divers and varied councils
- At local level?
- At the level of the “captains of industries”? Non-governmental organisations?
- At the cultural level? Artistic? Media? Touristic?

At the political level, it is well observed, judging mainly from the results of the last elections opinion poles, and divers acts relayed by the media, that there is a rise of xenophobia. Under these conditions, mustn't the government scale up promotion and recognition actions of the contributions made by the African Diasporas in France?

At the cultural level, a lot of artists of immigrant background would like to exercise in France. Many events wished by the immigrant population (spectacles, arts exhibitions) don't meet recipients or receive echo from the relevant specialised public authorities (event halls, museum mainly). THE DND COLLECTIVE COULD NOT SECURE THE AUDITORIUM OF THE IMMIGRATION MUSEUM AT THE PORTE DORÉE IN PARIS WHEREAS IT WAS INITIALLY AVAILABLE AND THE COLLECTIVE WAS READY TO PAY TO HIRE THE HALL, EVEN WHEN THE COLLECTIVE HAD CONFIRMED ITS INTEREST TO ORGANISE THIS MEETING-DEBATE IN THIS HIGHLY SYMBOLIC PLACE.

Are there no dedicated funds likely to fund their creations and other artistic initiatives or to promote them?

While public or private events related in general to Africa and in particular to African arts and culture seem to meet with overwhelming success in France these last years even amongst the immigrant population (the divers arts exhibitions by Cartier foundation and Vuitton, xxxxx), Why is it that the artistic events and mediated projects invited or organised by the diaspora are not successful?

From the media point of view, it is observed that there is an obvious shortage or rareness that characterises the medias referred to as “ethnic”. It is difficult to bring in “big stars” into these medias. (Radio FM for instance) including the personalities from immigration. How can these medias be accompanied? How can ethnic medias accede to available financial allocations, for example, the 1.5 billion euro envelope available for the promotion of the French language?



## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

How does the government intend to promote the strangers living in its land?

Why is central Africa absent in the presidential advisory board for Africa?

What are the institutional tools for the promotion of these Diaspora in the countries of the south?

### 7.1.3. The proposals

**Create a counsel of African Diasporas in France whose role will be, amongst others, to be responsible for economic, social, societal policies of these Diasporas. Play the role of representing the interests and spokesperson of the African Diasporas related to French, African, international public authorities (European Union, African Union mainly) to federate and mutualise the expertise of the Diasporas so as to constitute a pool of support/advice at the strategic level of strategic bilateral cooperation with France. This advisory board should be rapidly operational in order to (i) make its plea to the French government and the African union, and (ii) participate efficiently at the next meetings such as the conclusions of the great national debate. The African Diaspora National Days, Bordeaux from 11 to 14 April 2019, The Africa-France meeting in Bercy of 7 May 2019 on the « challenges (stake) of development », the summit of « the two shores » of June 2019, the forum of African Diasporas 2019, The G7 summit in France, The African cultural season and other economic, cultural, and artistic events programmed for 2019 in France, the summit consecrated to the sustainable cities in 2020 in France, amongst others.**

**It is proposed to the government to participate in the installation and financing of the counsel (in the same manner as an independent authority such as the Mediator of the Republic), in collaboration with African Union and any other interested third party, and grant it the status of an association of public interest.**

**This counsel (advisory board) should intervene on crucial issues such as the education of our children, divers sectorial thematic, the public development assistance, the mechanism of transfer of the migrants' fund, or the African sovereign debt.**

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

**Identify and map what already exist and function amongst the African Diaspora in France**

**Recognise the pluralism of excellence and promote the interconnection of these excellence**

**The government is invited to set up veritable actions for the promotion of professionals from immigration, mainly to key positions of responsibility in the civil service, the big companies, public establishments and organisations (CEO, MD, members of the administrative counsel, supervisory board, Management Board and Board of Directors) and in companies, establishments, private organisations in which the state is a shareholder or defend a particular public interest.**

### **7.2 What position for the Diasporas in the relationship between France and their countries of origin?**

#### **7.2.1. The findings (facts)**

In order to limit the migratory flow in France, a consensus seems to emerge on the necessity for France to intensify its contribution to the development of Africa.

Participants at the meeting-debate had evoked the fact that France can sometimes give the impression of supporting dictators in Africa, the failure of the French development agency, since no African country has been able to develop up to date. ,

Thereupon, What is the solution to curb immigration of countries of the south?

- Marshal plan for Africa?
- New law of programming of public assistance to development?
- What participation modalities by Diasporas in the elaboration, the implementation, the execution, the follow up of the Public assistance to development?
- Dedicated investment funds?
- Co-Development savings?

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

- Fluidise / reduce the cost of financial transfer by migrants?
- Reinforcement of capacities? Intensifying training programs, reinforced technical assistance?
- Redesign decentralised cooperation programs?
- Enhancing (valuing) professional experience/success/potentials of the south
- Is Good governance in Africa compatible with the existence of the “Department of African Affairs at the Elysée” whereas, officially, there is no “Department of Chinese affairs at the Elysée” for example?
- The African Diasporas remain less visible in France. How can their actions be relayed through the press organs?

### 7.2.2. The Proposals

**Taking into account the stand of the African Union, plead for the recognition of her Diasporas in the constitutions of African countries**

**On the political and democratic standpoint, African delegations should be invited to each election in France, in order to see and experiment how a transparent and democratic electoral process is carried out**

**France must set up tools permitting to establish a new partnership with Africa, to improve the governance in central Africa, and fight against corruption**

**Make the Diaspora intervene in all cooperation programs and funding cooperation between France and Africa**

**Integrate the Diaspora entrepreneurs in the C2D contracts**

**Integrate the Diasporas in the French economic Delegations in Africa. In this wise, the French government must exercise it's influence on it's institutions present in Africa (AFD, PROPARCO, BUSINESS France, BPI,**

## **The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate**

---

**counsel of external trade, amongst others) in order to reduce or even eliminate the cost of prospection and of development engaged by these Diasporas when they solicited the services of these organisms**

**Set up a program for the transfer of knowledge and technologies between the Diaspora and their countries of origin. In fact the transfer of knowledge and technologies affects the manner in which both their host countries and their countries of origin perceive the Diasporas. For example, there is in England, a Government program permitting the participation of the Nigerian Diaspora in case study, negotiations, conclusions, follows up, and the control of important international projects and contracts and related transfer of technologies. Such a program should be set up between France and the countries of the Diasporas and would reduce much of the structural importations of these countries.**

**Accompany entrepreneurial Diaspora in the development of French activities in Africa, by reducing the funding tickets of financial institutions such as the PROPACO or BPI that are currently very high, and by intervening in triptych funding, tax incentives and training. International volunteers (VIE) and /or Diaspora civil servants should be made available for French projects in Africa.**

**Set up real investment funds or accompany financially the investment funds that are being created in France to fund economic projects accessible to Diaspora project bearers, with simplified access mechanisms to bank funding. This funding could be opened to little (minor) African Diaspora investors, mainly in the form of renewed co-development savings.**

### **8. Conclusion**

Gabriel AKINPETIDE summarised the general state of mind of the contributors and participants at the meeting-debate of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019: For things to change, France must change program (“software”), go with the Diasporas on egalitarian relationship, balanced, shared profit basis. The indications of Franck Paris, the Africa Advisor Elysium, are on the right direction. What is left now is to translate them into facts.

## The Group (Collective) of African diasporas At the National Debate

---

Pierre de Gaetan Njikam specified that the meeting-debate of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 has given us the opportunity to come together. Practically all the different Diasporas (organisations-country, transversal organisations) have participated in this exchange. Most of the questions of today are not new. Each generation of today is faced with its specific issues, taking over things from where the elder generations left them. There is today an unprecedented political statement on African diaspora and as regards Afro-responsibility as well. It is question for us to develop this new conscience and strengthen it. The African Diasporas should resolutely adhere to it in the same way as the Asian, Indian, Irish, Italian and a host of other Diasporas who have largely succeeded in the integration in their host countries and have successfully contributed to the development of their countries of origin. The African diaspora project goes beyond the Presidential period. It is an occasion to seize in order to stimulate our integration in France and our participation in the development of our home countries

Solomon OGBAJI commended the quality of the exchange and precise that it is just the beginning of a process. It is now left for us to get organised and act.

Serge Bakoa mention the calendar of the follow up of the meeting-debate

The Rapporteurs of the DND collective



**Solomon Ogbaji**

President of NIDOE-France



**Serge Bakoa**

President of EFRACAM

**NB: This is an internal translation by Solomon OGBAJI. For any doubts, misunderstanding or misinterpretation of this write-up, please refer to the original text in French which supersedes the present English version**