**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Strengthening the Government of Eswatini's Capacity to Engage the Diaspora for Social and Economic Development TWG Meeting**

1. **Background**

The Kingdom of Eswatini in taking full cognizance of the valuable potential of its diaspora in contributing to the social and economic development of the country, partnered, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on a two-year project to engage the Diaspora. The overall objective of this project is to facilitate, enable and encourage meaningful communication between the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Emaswati diaspora, with the aim of promoting diaspora engagement in the national development agenda.

Thousands of Emaswati have left their home country to settle abroad and are today very successful in their career. The Kingdom of Eswatini strongly believes that its dispersed community abroad are an asset to its national development. The immense knowledge and experience which members of the diaspora have acquired in their host countries represent invaluable potential resources for Eswatini. However, there is a need for better understanding of the size, skills, and expectations of diaspora communities, and to create strong platforms for interactions and engagement to leverage the possible socio-economic contributions to development to its full potential. There is great importance in harnessing the valuable potential of the Emaswati diaspora, however, the mobilization of the Emaswati diaspora will require determined efforts, constant and innovative outreach, and collaborative strategies to establish regular communication channels that would enable involving diaspora members more prominently in various socio-economic efforts. Therefore, the establishment of a fully-fledged governmental body for diaspora affairs is considered a priority to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of diaspora-related programs and policies, and to mobilize and harness the diaspora’s intellectual, cultural, social potential, capital, and skills.

**Technical Working Group Meeting**

IOM, and the Government of Eswatini have agreed to organize a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting with the purpose to finalize preparations of the 1st Migration Development Forum in the Kingdom of Eswatini, to review and finalize developed diaspora social media platforms and to strategize setting up of the diaspora unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

1. **Objectives of the meeting:**
* To finalize the Concept Note and Agenda of the 1st Migration Development Forum
* Add content for the diaspora website
* Setting up the Diaspora Unit
1. **Venue**

The workshop will be held at Summerfield Botanical Garden

1. **Dates**

The workshop will be between the 10 and 12 January 2023. All participants are expected to arrive on the 9th of January and departure on the 13th of January 2023.

**Proposed Agenda**

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| **TIME** | **ACTIVITY****Day 1** | **SESSION FACILITATOR(S)** |
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Arrival and Registration  | Protocol |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Opening Remarks and Objectives | Mr. Jeremias Mendes (Chief of Mission, IOM Eswatini) |
| 09:30-10:00 | Keynote Address | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Principal Secretary |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break  | Protocol  |
| 10:30– 13:00 | Reviewing Concept Note and Agenda draft for the 1st Migration Development Forum in Eswatini | Jeremias Mendes  |
| **13:00 - 14:00** | **LUNCH** | **Protocol**  |
| **14:00-16:00** | Finalization and adoption of the Concept Note and Agenda for the 1st Migration Development Forum in Eswatini  | **All participants**  |
| **16:00 – 16:15** | Tea Break  | **Protocol** |
| **16:15-17:30** | Assigning roles and responsibilities to be undertaken during the 1st Migration Development Forum. | **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**  |
| **DAY 2** |
| **09:00- 10:30** | Briefing on the diaspora communication platforms (Website, WhatsApp Group and Facebook Page) | **Protocol** |
| **10:30 - 10:45** | Tea break  | **Protocol** |
| **10:45 - 13:00** | Information sharing session: * Uploading content on the Diaspora website and Facebook page
 | **All participants led by Ayanda and Antonio**  |
| **13:00-14:00** |  Lunch | **Protocol** |
| **14:00-16:00** | Information sharing session: Uploading content on the Diaspora website and Facebook page  | **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**  |
| **16:00 - 16:15** | Tea break  | **Protocol** |
| **16:15 - 17:00** | Definition of the Terms of Reference for the use of the website, WhatsApp Group and Facebook Page  | **Protocol** |
| **DAY 3** |
| **09:00-10:00** | Importance of a having Diaspora Unit and its significance | **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana**  |
| **10:00 - 10:30** | Tea Break | **Protocol** |
| **10:30 - 13:00** | Setting up the Diaspora Unit for Eswatini * Definition of the Terms of Reference
* Definition of the roles and responsibilities
* Diaspora Unit Manangement
* Diaspora Unit Sustainability
 | **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eswatini**  |
| **13:00-14:00** | Lunch | **Protocol** |
| **14:00-16:30** | Setting up the Diaspora Unit for Eswatini * Definition of the Terms of Reference
* Definition of the roles and responsibilities
* Diaspora Unit Manangement
* Diaspora Unit Sustainability
 | **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eswatini** |
| **16:30-17:00** | Closing Remarks  | **IOM and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eswatini** |