

Adewale Aderemi, author of “The African Crisis, ‘Development Partnerships’ and the African Diaspora: Constructing the Synergies”, examines the roles that the African Diaspora may serve in the socio-economic development of Africa. In the process, Aderemi provides a fourfold classification of the African Diaspora. The first category consists of Second Generation Africans (those born outside of Africa and do not hold official African citizenship). The second category consists of the Brain Drain Diaspora (African professionals, specialists and experts, born in Africa living outside of Africa). The third category consists of African Economic Migrants who for economic survival reasons leave Africa in search of any type of jobs. Many live as illegal immigrants in western countries working several odd low paying jobs. The fourth category consists of the Associate Diaspora (Africans including political refugees and newly arrived Africans who live legally outside Africa but who are not favorably integrated in the host economies in terms of employment and income). The author contends that all four categories have specialized, maybe overlapping roles to play in Africa’s development process. Aderemi believes that the Diaspora can provide for Africa a strong lobby for pro-African policies, especially with regards to debt cancellation, reparations, trade renegotiations, and improved microeconomic policies at national levels. He convincingly argues that unless Africans, including the wealthiest of the Diaspora, develop the continent, the 21st century could very well claim Africa. Therefore, African-Americans should consider direct involvement in the political processes of Africa, taking up citizenship, or perhaps, in time, even making themselves available for political leadership. And, he suggests that African governments welcome African-American migration to Africa.