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The Assessment of Nigerian Diaspora in the USA and Exploring its Potential Contribution to Sustainable Development

Binyam Shimelis Aseffa

**A Capstone paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Master of Arts in Sustainable Development at School of International
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Abstract

Increased migration is inevitable in an integrating world economy; Nigeria is one of these developing countries with a high migrant or diaspora population. This research is conducted to assess Nigerian Diaspora in the USA and explore its potential contribution to sustainable development. The research used secondary data collection and analysis to come up with the findings. The major findings of the research include; Nigeria is one of the developing countries with the highest migrant population all over the world. Nigerians have left their home in the last few years in droves and today can be found in every part of the world. London's Peckham can be called "Little Lagos" while Houston, Texas in the United States also has a sizeable population of Nigerians. However, the migration of Nigerians to the United States can be dated back to the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The American Christian Science Monitor in 2002 estimated that 15 million Nigerians live abroad; however, the Nigerian Ministry of External Affairs estimate that there are approximately 20 million Nigerian living in Europe and the United States. Currently, the USA has the largest Nigerian community that is estimated to be about 3.4 millions. Nigerians are among the most educated immigrant groups in the US. The research also shows that the Nigerian diaspora plays a major role in the development of their country of origin through remittance and engaging in different development programs. However further researches are needed that explore the diaspora engagement in politics, democratic process building, business and other social sector development.

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