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*Abstract Submission by*

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Title: Diasporic Synergies: Conceptualizing African entrepreneurial teams based upon trans-continental networks

Within the turn of the century, the concept of the *African diaspora* is increasingly shaping emerging ideas in African development discourse within and beyond the continent. This study seeks to explore how the globalization of African citizenry has formulated trans-national networks of Africans that inform a novel emergence of diaspora-driven entrepreneurial teams. Acknowledging the variation of political and structural conditions across African regions, this paper will attempt to postulate how regional geo-political, cultural, and historical trends have lent to distinct and context-specific features of trans-national networks for respective African regions, and in turn, the diverse development of diasporic entrepreneurial teams. This paper aims to build a compelling argument for propositions across four major themes towards the construction of a general conceptual framework. 1) the relationship between regional political, structural, and institutional conditions and the movement of peoples that results in the spatial and cultural areas of group interaction and network formation, and consequently, the various compositions of African entrepreneurial teams; 2) the relationship between regional conditions and regional success in forming and harnessing trans-national networks to establish local entrepreneurial endeavors; 3) the consideration of how entrepreneurial teams of various African regions may facilitate internal processes of collaboration and cooperation towards the success of their enterprise; 4) the consideration of the means by which diasporic teams of various regions engage with their home societies ~~so as~~ to administer their progress. Ultimately, the paper combines a macro-level analysis of the globalization of the African person and identity to the micro-level analysis of the localization of economic empowerment and development. In reconciling these levels of analysis – via the methodologies of historical and context analysis - the authors attempt to convey propositions that will lay the groundwork for future empirical examination in hopes of accurately depicting Africa's global presence and its contributions to development through enterprising ventures and the building of local economies.

