

**BUSINESS SECTION OF THE ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
USA DIASPORA FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
2009**

ECONOMICS/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

A. Human Resources:

- I. Prepare a Directory or data-base of Vincentian professionals, businesses and organizations in the Diaspora;
- II. St. Vincent and the Grenadines should draw upon the insights, expertise, knowledge, and experience of Vincentians in the Diaspora to assist in the business developmental processes;
- III. The Government and organizations of the Diaspora should promote projects, initiatives, and programs to help better prepare Vincentians living abroad become effective entrepreneurs;
- IV. To help improve sensitivity training of Vincentian workers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines working in service sectors that directly serve the Vincentian Diaspora (such as shipping, airports, seaports, immigration, etc), to help foster the right attitude toward business conducted with the Diaspora. This training should be on going; and
- V. There is a fundamental need to review the way business is done with the Diaspora and use the lessons learned to enhance training of Vincentians in the world of business.

A. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs):

- I. Make better use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance business relations between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and its Diaspora. ICT must be a central feature in any business development strategy toward the Diaspora.

B. Favorable and Conducive Environment:

- I. A consultation process must be started between the Diaspora and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on how the Diaspora could contribute to business development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

- II. The government and the private sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines should work in collaboration to ensure a smooth flow of business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines which will also be beneficial to Vincentian entrepreneurs in the Diaspora;
- III. Business and service sectors serving the Diaspora (such as shipping, airports, seaports, immigration) should be more responsible and accountable for the way they handle their transactions with the Diaspora;
- IV. National Investment Promotion Inc. (NIPI) should be allowed to visit the Diaspora once or twice a year to promote its activities and services;
- V. Business in the Diaspora is usually done on a consignment basis, which is a constraint to business development; therefore, efforts must be made to correct this problem;
- VI. The trust issue should be address in the context of the Diaspora investing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and creating employment. This is a deep concern. Effective partnerships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Diaspora could help deal with this issue;
- VII. The issue of cost of shipment acts as a business constraint;
- VIII. Need to foster unity and provide a welcoming environment for Vincentians both at home and abroad;
- IX. Need to have serious dialogue between the Diaspora and the government regarding allocation of funding and other resources for business initiatives – as governments change, Vincentians living abroad need commitments that are sustainable; and
- X. Government should find ways to reduce taxation on export/import to encourage development of businesses by Vincentians living at home and abroad.

D. Infrastructure:

- I. Need for distribution of local Vincentian products in the Diaspora;
- II. Vincentians need to form a Vincentian Business Association in the Diaspora;
- III. Identify markets in the Diaspora and St. Vincent and the Grenadines for distribution of Vincentian products; and
- IV. Promote more and better business partnerships between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Diaspora.