

## **The IOM and FDA sign a Memorandum of Understanding to reverse the effect of “Brain Drain” on African Countries.**

**Washington DC – April 04, 2005**

*For more information contact:*

*The Foundation for Democracy in Africa*

*202 331 1333*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, entering into a cooperative relationship recently in Washington DC.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the IOM (a United Nations institution) is the leading International organization working with migrants and governments to provide humane responses to migration challenges. The FDA is a Washington DC based, non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan developmental organization.

Both the IOM and the FDA recognize the negative impact of “Brain Drain” on African countries. The outflow of skilled professionals from Africa to developed countries has placed African countries at a particular disadvantage by broadening the technological gap with developed countries.

The FDA and IOM are looking to jointly develop a program to reverse the effects of the “Brain Drain” by drawing on the experience and expertise of skilled professionals in the African Diaspora. This program will facilitate the participation of African Diaspora professionals in exchange programs, to spend an indefinite or set period working on a project in an African country. The program will provide placement, logistical assistance in moving and assistance in integrating into the local milieu. Under this program, the two organizations also plan to develop projects in areas such as health care, science and technology, industrialization, education, private sector development, capacity building and other priority sectors identified by African Governments.