



Draft Communiqué

9TH AFRICA - EU MINISTERIAL TROIKA MEETING

Accra, Ghana, 31 October 2007

In the framework of the Africa-EU dialogue, the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas took place in Accra, Ghana, on 31 October, 2007. The meeting of Ministers was co-chaired by H. E. Akwasi Osei Agyei, MP Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana and current chairperson of the African Union (AU) Executive Council, and H. E. Luís Amado, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Representative of the European Union Presidency.

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The EU Troika was also composed of Mr João Cravinho, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal; Mr Mitja Drobnič, Political Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia; Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission, and Mr Koen Vervaeke, Head of the Africa Task Force, EU Council Secretariat.

The African Troika was also composed of H.E. Madame Adelaide Mondele NGollo, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Congo; Dr Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, and Ambassador Said Djinnit, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

1. AFRICA-EU DIALOGUE

a. Discussion and endorsement of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

Ministers welcomed and endorsed the Joint Africa-EU Strategy as elaborated by the Africa-EU Expert Troika and commended by the Senior Officials Troika. They underscored the need to ensure that the Joint Strategy is implemented once adopted by the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon. They agreed that the Joint Strategy provides a solid foundation for an ambitious and long-term strategic partnership between Africa and the EU and should deliver concrete positive results for the people in Africa, Europe and beyond. Ministers then agreed to recommend the Joint Strategy for adoption by the Lisbon Summit in December 2007, which will be preceded by an Africa-EU Ministerial meeting in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt.

b. First Action Plan

Ministers welcomed and endorsed the First Action Plan derived from the Joint Strategy, which identifies critical priorities that should be implemented in the next 2/3 years for the benefit of the people of Africa and Europe. Ministers noted that the priority areas jointly selected for implementation in the First Action Plan are at the core of the Africa-EU partnership. They noted that all existing initiatives and partnerships would continue to be implemented without disruption. They also welcomed the proposals on the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the Action Plan, which will involve a variety of critical institutional and civil society stakeholders. Ministers agreed to recommend the First Action Plan for adoption by the Lisbon Summit in December 2007, which will be preceded by an Africa-EU Ministerial meeting in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt.

C. Preparations for the Lisbon Summit

Ministers welcomed the briefing on the preparations for the Africa-EU Lisbon Summit, namely its agenda and programme. They expressed their commitment to work towards a successful Summit that clearly reflects the ambition and maturity of the

relationship between the two continents. Ministers, therefore, reiterated the importance of launching a strong Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on this occasion.

1) PEACE AND SECURITY

a. African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

Ministers noted progress made in the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and emphasised the need for sustained efforts by AU Member States to fully operationalise the APSA, and for adequate and sustainable EU support for this process. Ministers agreed that Africa and EU should work together for the establishment, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, of a UN mechanism to provide predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority, and with the consent of the UN Security Council.

b. Sudan

Ministers strongly condemned all attacks against the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) personnel in Darfur, and underlined the vital importance of continuing support to the Mission until the transition to the AU-UN Hybrid operation is fully accomplished. In this respect, the AU once again expressed its appreciation for EU support for AMIS, including the replenishment of the African Peace Facility (APF) and additional bilateral EU Member States contributions.

Ministers deplored the precarious security, humanitarian and human rights situation prevailing in Darfur. They further condemned the ceasefire violations by all parties and, in particular, the violence directed against civilians. They strongly urged all concerned parties to put an end to the acts of violence and facilitate the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance. In this regard, Ministers noted the decision of the Government of Sudan to proclaim a ceasefire.

Ministers reiterated their support for the efforts deployed by the AU and the UN, including through their Special Envoys, to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur. In this regard, they gave their full support to the AU/UN-led peace talks in Sirte, Libya, between the GoNU and the non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement, and appealed to all the parties to the conflict to seize this opportunity to engage in a genuine dialogue that will lead to lasting peace and security in Darfur. Ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Libya in support of the peace process in Darfur, including the hosting of the current talks.

Ministers reiterated that they stand ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party that violates the cease-fire or obstructs the political process and ongoing AU-UN efforts.

Ministers reviewed with concern the current development relating to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM. They urged both parties to spare no efforts to ensure the timely and scrupulous implementation of the CPA.

c. Chad/Central African Republic

The EU informed the African side of the preparations for the deployment of an EU military operation to Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic in support of the UN presence there and wider regional stability. The African side briefed the EU side on the AU's efforts in support of peace building and post-conflict reconstruction in the Central African Republic. The two sides stressed the need for appropriate co-ordination between all actors concerned and continuing strong engagement of the international community.

d. Somalia

Ministers stressed the importance of an inclusive political process as the basis for durable peace. While welcoming the results of the National Governance and

Reconciliation Congress, Ministers urged the Transitional Federal Government to pursue and intensify efforts and to reach out to opposition groups that renounce violence and commit themselves to dialogue within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter. Discussing the most recent political crisis in Somalia, Ministers called on the Transitional Federal Institutions and Somali political leaders to show statesmanship and unity of purpose to achieve the effective functioning of the institutions in order to facilitate an inclusive political process and to start implementing the recommendations of the Congress and prepare a road map for the remainder of the Transitional period.

They expressed deep concern about the continued violence and the grave humanitarian situation prevailing on the ground. They urged all parties concerned to refrain from acts of violence and to guarantee unhindered and safe access for humanitarian assistance and respect human rights.

Ministers reiterated their appreciation to the AU for its efforts in support of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia. In this respect, they appealed for a stronger support for AMISOM to enable it to reach its authorized strength and effectively discharge its mandate. In this context, they expressed their conviction that a strengthened AMISOM would contribute to the creation of the conditions for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation to take over from AMISOM and support long-term reconstruction and stabilisation in Somalia.

d. West Africa

Ministers welcomed recent progress in the consolidation of the democratic process in Mauritania, Togo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. They called for continued efforts in the preparations of elections and improvement of economic governance in Guinea. Regarding Guinea Bissau, they welcomed the improved political stability and encouraged the Government to strengthen efforts aimed at combating all threats to long-term stability, with security sector reform as an important part of this effort.

Ministers reiterated their support for the Ouagadougou political agreement. While expressing appreciation for the steps taken so far by the parties in pursuance of the agreement, Ministers urged the parties to accelerate the implementation process, including with respect to the identification exercise and the preparation of the elections. They emphasised the need to create favourable conditions for the holding of free, fair, democratic and transparent elections. Ministers moreover welcomed the recent appointment of a new Special Representative of the UNSG in Côte d'Ivoire.

Ministers also raised concern about the deteriorating security situation in the northern part of Mali and Niger, and expressed their support for the Governments of both countries in their effort to safeguard peace.

e. Comoros

Ministers expressed concern at the persistence of the institutional crisis in the Comorian Island of Anjouan, and at its serious political and socio-economic consequences.

Ministers reiterated their appreciation for the tireless efforts deployed by the AU to promote lasting stability and reconciliation. In this context, the EU expressed support for the AU Peace and Security Council Decision of 10 October 2007 and its readiness to examine how best to support its implementation.

f. Great Lakes Region

Ministers welcomed the significant progress made in the DRC, which strengthens the prospects for long-term stability and development in the Great Lakes Region as a whole. At the same time, they expressed concern about the prevailing situation in Eastern DRC, and called for renewed efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the problem of the armed groups in that part of the country. They called for a

comprehensive approach to the problems in this region and to avoid any action likely to aggravate the humanitarian situation, which affects notably women and children, and further affects the peace-building efforts in the DRC, with far-reaching regional implications.

Both the AU and the EU are committed to continue their active cooperation with the Congolese Government in consolidating peace and democracy, improving governance, ensuring the respect for human rights, and promoting post-conflict reconstruction and development. They emphasised the importance of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and the ongoing efforts to establish a national army. The EU reiterated its engagement to continued support in the field of SSR, based on existing agreements with the Government.

Ministers also welcomed progress made in Burundi. The EU expressed appreciation for the AU's efforts towards the consolidation of peace, including South Africa's facilitation role towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of September 2006. Ministers urged the parties to the Agreement (Government and Palipehutu-FNL) to honour their obligations and commitments with a view to accelerating the implementation process. Ministers called for broad and continued international support to consolidate peace and stability in Burundi, welcoming, in this respect, the efforts of the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC).

g. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

Ministers discussed and agreed on the importance of post-conflict reconstruction and development as major elements for preserving and consolidating peace. They called for more resources to be mobilised to facilitate comprehensive approaches including stabilisation, reconstruction and long-term development. As part of this approach, measures such as the reintegration of demobilised combatants should be envisaged. Such support is needed in the DRC, Southern Sudan and other countries emerging from conflict such as Liberia.

h. Security situations outside Africa (Kosovo, Myanmar, Middle East)

The EU side provided a briefing on the **Kosovo Status process**, stressing that the present status quo was unsustainable and underlining the necessity of rapidly finding a solution to the Kosovo Status issue. Ministers agreed that a sustainable solution is key to lasting stability in the Western Balkans. Ministers expressed their support for the efforts by the Troika, comprising representatives of the EU, the US and the Russian Federation, and stressed the importance of Belgrade's and Pristina's full and constructive engagement in the renewed period of negotiations running until 10 December 2007.

On **Myanmar**, Ministers expressed their full support for the efforts of Ibrahim Gambari, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Myanmar, and jointly encouraged the Government of Myanmar to embark on an inclusive dialogue with all parties committed to peaceful transition and national reconciliation. In this respect, they welcomed the statement by the President of the UN Security Council of 11 October 2007.

On **the Middle East**, Ministers stressed the vital role that the EU and its Member States can play in contributing to the resolution of the conflict in that region. The Ministers expressed the hope that the US-sponsored Peace Conference scheduled for November 2007 will lead to a framework agreement which will enable the establishment of a viable Palestinian State, living side by side with Israel in peace and security and within internationally recognised borders in line with relevant UN resolutions. Ministers also expressed concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

2) GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

a) Pan-African Governance Architecture

The African side presented its Pan-African Governance Architecture, which forms the basis for promoting democratic governance, respecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, consolidating efficient, responsive, transparent and democratic institutions, as well as empowering non-state actors. Ministers reiterated

that democratic governance is an integral part of Africa's and EU's common challenges at global level as well as for their political and people-centred partnership. They further emphasised the need for capacity building within the AU Commission and existing democratic institutions in Africa in order to entrench good governance and respect for human rights. In order to strengthen the dialogue on governance issues, both sides agreed to develop a platform for dialogue on all governance issues of mutual interest.

Recalling that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has emerged as a genuine African self-monitoring mechanism on political, economic and corporate governance standards, Ministers, once more, encouraged the widest participation in this voluntary process. They called for continued provision of resources for the implementation of reforms recommended by the review process and stressed the need for a rapid implementation of such reforms.

b) Report of the EU-Africa Human Rights Experts Talks

Ministers welcomed the report of the EU-Africa Human Rights Experts, who met in Brussels on 19 September, 2007. They agreed on the need to hold a regular, dedicated human rights dialogue, to discuss issues of common concern, coordinate positions in multilateral fora and facilitate the implementation of human rights and democracy-building commitments in their respective regions.

(c) Report of the EU-African Experts Meeting on the Issue of Cultural Goods

Ministers received a report on the meeting of EU-African Experts on the issue of cultural goods, which was held in Lisbon, Portugal on 4-5 October, 2007. Ministers welcomed the report and called upon the two Commissions to speed up the implementation of its recommendations, including the study on the inventory of cooperation activities, and to start to work on other detailed actions recommended by the experts. Ministers also stressed the need to broaden cooperation in the area of culture beyond the return of illegally acquired cultural goods. Ministers encouraged

further discussions on new areas of cooperation in order to deepen the cultural relationship between the two continents.

3) REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

a) Rationalisation of Regional Economic Communities and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

Ministers welcomed the new impetus the African side is giving to the issue of the rationalisation of RECs, and in particular the development of the minimum integration programme that would ensure that the integration process is taking place in unison. The EU reiterated its continued support to the regional and continental integration process in Africa.

Both parties noted the progress made in the EPA negotiations by the regional ministerial meetings during the course of the year with the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion before the end of 2007. Ministers, however, noted that the December 2007 deadline for the completion of a comprehensive EPA would not be achievable in all regions and called on the EPA negotiating parties to agree on WTO-compatible solutions by 31 December, 2007, that would guard against the disruption of trade between the two parties. Negotiations on all remaining issues would continue with a view to conclude comprehensive EPAs as soon as possible.

b) WTO/Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

Both parties agreed to continue their collective efforts to advance the Doha Development Agenda within the WTO framework and to further cooperate on matters of common interest. Ministers welcomed the adoption of the EU Aid for Trade Strategy and the commitments made, and called for its accelerated implementation, focusing on the main concerns of Africa, such as supply side constraints, product diversification, trade and physical infrastructure, trade facilitation, SPS measures, technical rules and standards, and quality control. Both parties also agreed to extend support and assistance to countries acceding to the WTO.

c. Private Sector Development

Ministers welcomed the outcome and recommendations of the second EU-Africa Business Forum, which was successfully held in Accra, Ghana, on 21-22 June, 2007. They called upon all stakeholders, including governments, private sector actors and RECs to implement the recommendations of the Forum.

4) KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

a) Migration and Development

Ministers welcomed the report on progress made and reaffirmed their commitment to implement measures agreed in the final Tripoli Declaration which constitutes a political framework for the Africa-EU partnership on this matter. Ministers adopted the roadmap on migration and development and committed to ensure that adequate financial resources are made available for the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the Tripoli Declaration.

Ministers also emphasised the need to encourage recipient countries to integrate immigrants and diasporas into the communities in which they live, and address their problems.

Ministers underlined the importance of the Joint Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, adopted by the Tripoli Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, and agreed on the need to rapidly implement it.

b) Climate change

Ministers emphasised that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge to sustainable development as well as to poverty reduction, and recalled that Africa is one of the continents most likely to suffer from climate change. In this regard, Ministers called for urgent measures to be undertaken to adapt to, and mitigate the negative effects of, climate change. Ministers underlined that in order to achieve a global response to the challenge of climate change, international cooperation in the

context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is imperative.

Ministers agreed that Africa and the EU will engage in a dialogue on concrete actions to respond to climate change and an effective channel for holding deliberations on a shared EU-Africa vision, with close links to the proposed Global Climate Change Alliance. They noted that this should take into account African initiatives such as the African Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) Programme and the need to implement and further develop climate change related instruments, especially the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP), as well as the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD).

Ministers furthermore stressed the importance to mainstream climate change into development cooperation.

c. Food Security, Agriculture and Environment

Ministers welcomed the planned launching of the Partnership on Agriculture and further called for the need for the EU and Africa to promote policy coherence for development. They underlined the need to achieve food security, food safety and food quality in Africa. They expressed the importance of promoting risk management and early warning systems for food security. They called for enhanced cooperation in agricultural research for development. Ministers agreed that they have a common interest to address environmental sustainability, aware that environmental degradation represents a threat to achieving the MDGs. They welcomed EU-Africa cooperation in this field, and its links with agriculture and food security but also with economic growth, health and sustainable peace. In this context, Ministers reiterated their commitment to achieving the MDGs in all African countries by 2015.

d) Energy and Infrastructure

Ministers agreed to recommend to Heads of States to launch, at the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, to facilitate cooperation between Africa and the EU on energy issues of strategic importance. Through the Partnership, Africa and the EU will work together to develop a shared vision and common policies and responses to stimulate specific action that addresses the energy challenges of the 21st century.

Ministers noted that the Partnership will strengthen the existing Africa-EU dialogue on access to sustainable energy services and energy security. The partnership will aim at scaling up investment in energy infrastructure, including promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency and improving the management of energy resources, as well as their contribution to development.

Ministers welcomed the launch in July 2007 of the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund (PAIDF). Ministers also welcomed the launch in October 2007 of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Trust Fund and Steering Committee to support AU/NEPAD-Infrastructure Short Term Action Plan (i-STAP) and Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF) programmes in the sectors of transport, energy, water and sanitation and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). These Funds will facilitate interconnectivity and strengthen trade and integration at continental, regional and national levels in Africa.

Ministers agreed to hold the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas in May 2008 in Brussels.

For the African side

For the EU side

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