

**THE EU-AFRICA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**  
*- Highlights of the Joint Strategy, Plan of Action and Implementation Mechanisms-*

Since the first EU-Africa Summit in Cairo in 2000, Europe, Africa and the world have changed considerably. Yet the ambitions that we set ourselves in Cairo remain to be fulfilled. Time has come to build a joint long-term strategic partnership that is capable of meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**A) The EU-Africa Joint Strategy**

***I - Objectives and New Approaches***

Embraced by a shared vision and a set of common values and principles, the EU-Africa Joint Strategy, to be adopted at the Summit in December, reflects the new nature of this relationship, by establishing:

- a political partnership of equals,
- which will address bilateral issues as well as common global challenges,
- that will promote integrated and “whole of Africa” approaches, and
- will be a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership.

The Joint Strategy therefore foresees different levels of cooperation (domestic, bilateral and global), in an approach which simultaneously encourages multilateral channels and seeks to handle the multiple dimensions of the relationship in an integrated manner.

***II - Policy Priorities***

This strategic partnership encompasses four broadly defined clusters of policy priorities, namely:

**a. Peace and Security**

Although the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is taking shape and the EU has become a political partner that promotes Africa's lead in tackling African crises and conflicts, Africa and EU consider that there are still areas in which both can build on to advance their cooperation, not only to foster peace and security in both continents, but also to address issues of common concern in the global arena, namely:

- increasing the support to African agendas and capacities, specially AU's efforts to fully operationalize the APSA;
- overcoming the challenge of providing sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations;
- strengthen the dialogue and institutional cooperation, i.e., systematically sharing views as well as agreeing and implementing common positions on global issues;
- supporting and promoting the role of civil society and non-state actors in the security agenda.

**b. Governance and Human Rights**

Placing the promotion of democratic governance and human rights as a central feature of the EU-Africa partnership will mean that both sides will join efforts towards the enhancement of the effectiveness of the multilateral system and the promotion of the values of democracy, governance, rule of law and human rights.

The EU-Africa strategic partnership will therefore facilitate an open, intensive and comprehensive dialogue on all aspects of governance, as well as a more systematic and effective use of the existing instruments, mechanisms and funding modalities. This will also enable both parties to define and agree on common positions on issues of common concern and jointly undertake specific initiatives and actions.

### **c. Trade and Regional Integration**

In this area, the EU and Africa will work towards the improvement of economic governance and investment climate in Africa. The key goals pursued by the EU-Africa dialogue will be: (i) private sector development, supported by foreign investments, to strengthen the supply side of African economies; (ii) the development and strengthening of physical infrastructure networks needed for the movement of persons, goods, information; and (iii) trade integration, which is vital to increase both South-South and North-South trade flows.

At the global level, the EU and Africa will seek to promote global economic governance, as well as to sustain Africa's integration in the world economy, namely by coordinating African and EU positions in the international *fora*.

### **d. Key Development Issues**

The EU and Africa will also focus on making a key contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In order to do so, EU reaffirms its commitment to deliver the additional aid volumes, and African countries commit to further progress in addressing key concerns, and both parties reaffirm their commitment to continue to implement the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.

## **B) Action Plan**

The Joint Strategy will be implemented through successive Action Plans that identify the main political priorities for the short-term (2/3 years), plus the policy commitments, programmes and actions that will be needed to achieve them.

The first Action Plan is structured around 8 specific “EU-Africa Partnerships”, devoting special attention to a number of selected priority actions on subjects of common interest, which add value to the existing cooperation and political dialogue and that have a positive impact on the daily lives of citizens in both continents:

#### **1. EU-Africa Partnership on Peace and Security**

- Enhance dialogue on challenges to peace and security;
- Full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture;
- Predictable Funding for African-led Peace Support Operations.

#### **2. EU-Africa Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights**

- Enhance dialogue at global level and in international fora;
- Promote the African Peer Review Mechanism and support the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthen cooperation in the area of cultural goods

#### **3. EU-Africa Partnership on Trade and Regional Integration**

- Support the African integration agenda;
- Strengthen African capacities in the area of rules, standards, and quality control;
- Implement the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.

#### **4. EU-Africa Partnership on the Millennium Developments Goals**

- Ensure the finance and policy base for achieving the MDGs;

- Accelerate the achievement of the Food Security Targets of the MDGs ;
- Accelerate the achievement of the Health Targets of the MDGs ;
- Accelerate the achievement of the Education Targets of the MDGs ;

#### 5. **EU-Africa Partnership on Energy**

- Implement the Energy Partnership to intensify cooperation on energy security and energy access.

#### 6. **EU-Africa Partnership on Climate Change**

- Build a common agenda on climate change policies and cooperation ;
- Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative".

#### 7. **EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment**

- Implement the Declaration of the Tripoli Conference on Migration and Development ;
- Implement the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking of Human Beings ;
- Implement and follow up the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa.

#### 8. **EU-Africa Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space**

- Support the development of an inclusive information society in Africa;
- Support S&T capacity building in Africa and implement Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;
- Enhance cooperation on space applications and technology.

The implementation of the Joint Strategy and the initiatives to be developed in the framework of the Action Plan will be supported by existing financial instruments and by EU financial institutions. Where possible these instruments shall be complemented by further contributions by EU Member States, African financial instruments and AU Member States, and an involvement of the African financial institutions.

### *C) Implementation Mechanism and Institutional Architecture*

In order to ensure the implementation of the political commitments, promote the broadest possible ownership of the process, and create strong multilateral links between the two continents, the EU and Africa will establish an appropriate **institutional architecture and implementation mechanism** that reflects the ambitions and drive behind this partnership, namely through:

- more frequent contacts between **African and EU political leaders**, in particular between the Presidents of the EU and AU institutions;
- Complement bi-annual EU-AU **Troika meetings** of Foreign Ministers with sectorial Ministerial meetings as necessary;
- Establish mechanisms for closer cooperation and dialogue between the organs and institutions of the EU and AU, namely pursue the annual meetings between the College of Commissioners of the **European and AU Commissions** and of the 6-monthly **Joint AU-EU Task Force** meetings and initiate a regular dialogue and cooperation between the **Pan-African Parliament (PAP)** and the **European Parliament (EP)**, as well as between the **AU ECOSOCC** and the **EESC** and local authorities;
- Strengthen the representation of the EU in Addis Ababa and of the AU in Brussels;
- Establish a **mapping** of existing European and African civil society networks;

- Create a **web portal** to facilitate civil society organisations (CSOs) consultation ahead of key policy decisions;
  - Invite representatives from European and African **civil societies** to express themselves ahead of Ministerial Troika meetings;
  - Establish informal **joint expert groups** on all priority actions identified in the Action Plan. These informal Groups will bring together the African, European and international key-actors (including civil society organisations) with the necessary competence and commitment to work on the priority action concerned;
  - Draw up an **annual joint report** on the progress and implementation of the Action Plan to be presented to the Ministerial Troika meetings;
  - Hold a **third EU Africa Summit** at the end of 2009 in Africa. This Summit will review the results of the first Action Plan and approve the following one.
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