

*Concept note*

**Commissioner Urpilainen's dialogue with civil society organisations and local authorities ahead of the meeting of AU-EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Kigali**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**15:00 – 17:00**

**On the initiative of EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, and in the framework of the [Policy Forum on Development](#), civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs) are invited to discuss the future of EU-Africa relations.**

**Context:** The dialogue will take place ahead of the meeting of AU-EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs that is convened on 26 October in Kigali, Rwanda. Ministers from both continents will meet, together with EU's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell Fontelles and EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen. Talks will be held in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership and in view of the next EU-AU Summit due to take place early next year in Brussels.

Upstream consultation with civil society and local authorities will be crucial to ensure their full involvement and effective participation in the political process leading to the EU-AU Summit and setting new ambitions and defining new priorities.

**Objectives:**

- To engage and exchange with Members of European and African CSOs and LAs on key issues that will shape the Africa-EU Partnership.
- To provide the opportunity for European, African and global stakeholders to make a valuable contribution to enrich the overall political debate.

**Format:** Online

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Participants:**

The consultation is open, but not limited, to PFD members from global and regional networks present in both Europe and Africa (including North Africa) as well as at a global level.

**Methodology and structure:**

The on-line meeting will start with remarks from EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, followed by a short state of play by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA - A1) and an exchange between members of CSOs, LAs and representatives from the EU institutions.

The discussion will be guided by a set of questions (listed below) in order to focus on the key challenges, priorities and opportunities, but also the multi-stranded areas of work that lay at the

heart of the Africa-EU Partnership and countries' future relations. AU and EU ministers will address these particular questions at the 26 October ministerial meeting in Kigali.

The exchange with CSOs and LAs will provide an opportunity to gather views and collect suggestions to be brought to the attention of Commissioner Urpilainen, ahead of the AU-EU ministerial meeting.

#### **Draft agenda**

<b>15:00</b>	<b>Welcome words and introduction of the dialogue</b>
<b>15:05</b>	<b>Remarks from Commissioner Urpilainen (TBC)</b>
<b>15:10</b>	<b>Brief state of play by European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA - A1)</b>
<b>15:20</b>	<b>Moderated discussion based on the following questions:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How can the EU and Africa work together to strengthen human capital and contribute to more prosperous, inclusive and resilient societies?</li><li>2. Within the scope of priorities of Africa and the EU, how can both practically support the critical economic sectors for a sustained economic recovery and increased investment and trade?</li><li>3. How can the EU and Africa improve and focus their cooperation more for economic recovery?</li><li>4. How can EU and Africa deepen their partnership in the field of peace and security, especially in the regions where tensions and vulnerabilities are highest?</li></ol>
<b>16:50</b>	<b>Concluding remarks by Domenico Rosa, European Commission, DG International Partnerships</b>