



# AU-EU CSO & YOUTH FORUM

## *Consultative Group*

First online meeting  
Thursday, 23 October 2025

# Welcoming Words by EU and AU officials



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# Presentation of Taskforce



# Objectives of the EU-AU Taskforce

- Organise joint EU-AU CSO-Youth events and activities to foster collaboration and gather insights prior to EU-AU high-level policy events
- Establish an EU-AU Mechanism for dialogue of CSO and Youth Organisations in both continents
- Facilitate dialogue between civil society, youth representatives, Africa and EU decision-makers to propose recommendations, and generate innovative solutions to global challenges
- Increase participants' understanding of the EU and Africa region's work on strengthening interregional partnerships, including under the EU-AU Joint Vision 2030.

# Objectives of this first online meeting

- Gain a better understanding of the programme, ask questions and provide suggestions within the given framework
- Presenting the main topics of the Summit and Forum
- Initiate discussions on how these the ministerial recommendations could be improved for greater impact
- Sharing tools to initiate online collaboration

# The EU-AU Institutional partnership

The Africa-EU Partnership was formally established in 2000 at the first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo. It is guided by the Joint Africa-EU strategy, adopted in 2007. To tackle the challenges of the times and set political priorities, the EU and African Union have been meeting over the years in different formats:

- **Specific sectorial meetings (EU-AU High Level Dialogue on Human Rights)**
- **Inter-parliamentary meetings**
- **Commission-to-Commission meetings**
- **Ministerial meetings**
- **EU-AU summits of heads of states**

# EU-AU Ministerial meetings

The AU-EU ministerial meetings take place on an ad-hoc basis to exchange views, take stock of the commitments and advance cooperation in certain fields.

The 2nd meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the AU and the EU took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 25-26 October 2021. Ministers focused on the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital and green transitions, peace, security and global governance, migration and mobility.

The 4th agricultural ministerial conference took place on 22 June 2021.

The 3rd European Union - African Union Ministerial Meeting, 21 May 2025, civil society and youth recommendations were presented during the plenary by 2 Forum rapporteurs.



# EU-AU Summit

The summits of EU and AU heads of states and governments take place traditionally every two-three years, alternating between Africa and Europe. These summits provide the political guidance for further work.

The 6th EU-AU Summit was held in Brussels on 17-18 February 2022. EU and AU leaders agreed on a joint vision for a renewed partnership.

The Africa-Europe Week was held alongside the 6th EU-AU Summit 2022. It brought together over 10,000 online delegates to strengthen people-to-people and business ties between the continents, notably through Forums involving civil society and youth. The outcomes of these discussions were synthesized in joint declarations from youth and CSOs, and were presented to political leaders to inform the future of the AU-EU partnership.

# The 7th AU–EU Summit: 24-25 November 2025 in Luanda, Angola

- Highest-level political event between Africa and Europe
- Brings together Heads of State and Government from all 27 EU and 55 AU countries
- Held every three years to provide strategic direction and shape joint priorities
- 7th AU-EU Summit to take place on 24-25 November
- Tracks progress since the 2022 Summit using:
  - Joint Vision for 2030
  - Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package
  - AU Agenda 2063
- Marks the 25th anniversary of the AU-EU partnership (#AUEU25)
- A moment of convergence, renewal, and strategic alignment
- Timely opportunity to reaffirm and reinvigorate the partnership amid global fragmentation



## 6<sup>th</sup> European Union - African Union Summit: A Joint Vision for 2030

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) met on 17–18 February 2022 under the Co-Chairpersonship of H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council and H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union.

We recall the 5<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 29-30 November 2017 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> AU-EU Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 25-26 October 2021.

1. Aware of unprecedented and mounting common challenges and opportunities, the leaders of the EU and AU commit to a Joint Vision for a renewed Partnership to build a common future, as closest partners and neighbours.
2. **Two Unions, a joint vision.** We agree that the aim of the Joint Vision is to consolidate a renewed Partnership for solidarity, security, peace and sustainable and sustained economic development and prosperity for our citizens and for our future generations, bringing together our people, regions and organisations.

This renewed Partnership will be founded on geography, acknowledgment of history, human ties, respect for sovereignty, mutual respect and accountability, shared values, equality between partners and reciprocal commitments.

It aims to be the driving force in promoting our common priorities, shared values, international law, and preserving together our interests and common public goods. This includes inter alia: the security and prosperity of our citizens, the protection of human rights for all, gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of life, respect for democratic principles, good governance and the rule of law, actions to preserve the climate, environment and biodiversity, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the fight against inequalities, support for children's rights, and the inclusion of women, young people and the most disadvantaged. We recognise the importance of food security and nutrition and welcome the AU Theme of the Year 2022.

3. **A renewed Partnership.** Our renewed Partnership addresses both the immediate opportunities and challenges, as well as the long-term possibilities offered by our partnership.

# Policy background: A Joint Vision for 2030

English:

[https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54412/final\\_declaration-en.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54412/final_declaration-en.pdf)

French:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54411/final-declaration-fr.pdf>

# The EU-AU Civil Society and Youth Forum

## Objectives:

- Provide a platform for exchange on the agenda of the Summit
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of existing policies amongst stakeholders
- Present **Civil Society and Youth** recommendations to EU-AU Summit Plenary
- **Celebrate the achievements of 25 years of AU-EU collaboration** and the important contributions of CSOs and Youth
- **Serve as a building block for future collaboration** and outreach as part of the Africa-Europe Partnership.



# The Consultative Group

The Consultative Group brings together civil society and youth organisation representatives from Africa and Europe to exchange ideas, identify shared priorities, and propose actionable solutions.

These contributions will inform the high-level presidential debates at the forthcoming Summit in Luanda.

Members of the Consultative Group will engage in online consultations as well as attend the Forum in person.

The PFD will serve as the main tool to reinforce this dialogue, its members have been invited as well as additional organisations.

# The Consultative Process

**First online meeting:** Presenting the Forum, ministerial recommendations and online collaboration tools to initiate the process.

***Between first and second online meetings:*** Gathering comments and suggestions online

**Second online meeting:** Thematic breakout rooms, consolidating feedback gathered online, designating a notetaker.

***Between second online meeting and Forum:*** Possible online collaboration

**Forum day 1:** Finalisation of thematic recommendations and preparations of plenary presentations the next day.

**Forum day 2:** Presentation of thematic recommendations in plenary for feedback and final updates.

**AU-EU Summit:** Presentation of recommendations in plenary by 2 Forum Rapporteurs.

# First online meeting

Time	Content	Details
10:00– 10:15 (15 min)	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcoming Words and Introduction by AU and EU officials</li> <li>- Presentation of the importance the Summit itself</li> <li>- Objectives of this meeting by the facilitator</li> </ul>
10:15- 11:00 (45 min)	Online Consultations and Forum Programme Overview and Presentation of main topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the foreseen programme: Consultative group meetings, in-person Forum, and expected outcomes (20 min)</li> <li>- Presentation of the main topics of the Summit and Forum (10 min)</li> <li>- Q&amp;A session for clarifications from participants and suggestions in the given framework (15 min)</li> </ul>
11:00- 11:30 (30 min)	Building on the CSO and Youth Ministerial Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation and feedback on ministerial recommendations from AU and EU (10 min)</li> <li>- Facilitated open discussion: How can we improve these recommendations for greater impact? Are there other topics of relevance that should be included? (20 min)</li> </ul>
11:30- 11:50 (20 min)	Framework for online collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing list of members of the four thematic groups</li> <li>- Presenting online tools for collaboration (shared documents)</li> </ul>
11:50- 12:00 (10 min)	Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reminder of the next meeting and invitation to initiate exchanges on the different thematic sections of the recommendations through the online shared documents.</li> </ul>

# *Between first and second online meetings: Gathering comments and suggestions online*

Members of the Consultative Group will be invited to contribute ideas and comments online, based on their selected theme. These inputs will be jointly reviewed during the second online meeting.

# Second online meeting

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Details</b>
10:00- 10:05 (5 min)	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcoming Words</li><li>- Agenda and objectives of this meeting</li></ul>
10:05- 11:35 (90 min)	Thematic Breakout rooms: Improving recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Selecting one notetaker in each breakout room</li><li>- Reviewing online comments and recommendations</li><li>- Gathering further ideas from the consultative group</li></ul>
11:35- 11:55 (20 min)	Logistical matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview of programme in Luanda</li><li>- Explanation of all necessary logistical considerations before the Forum in Luanda</li><li>- Q&amp;A</li></ul>
11:55- 12:00 (5 min)	Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Invitation to collaborate online in view of finalising draft recommendations during the Forum.</li><li>- Looking forward to the in-person Forum in Luanda.</li></ul>

# *Between second online meeting and Forum*

- Consultative Group members will be encouraged to self-organise and make progress on their recommendations prior to the Forum.
- Thematic rapporteurs will be in charge of compiling all the feedback into a comprehensive proposal to be finalised on day 1 of the Forum.

# Civil Society and Youth Forum: Day 1

Time	Session	Details
14:00 – 14:30	Opening Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening remarks from AU Commissioner</li> <li>- Opening remarks from EU Commissioner</li> <li>- Opening remarks from Host Country Angola</li> <li>- Run-through of agenda by moderator</li> </ul>
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Advancing the EU-AU Joint Vision 2030: Where do we stand, and how to achieve our objectives?</b>	<p>Brief framing of the Joint Vision 2030 and its significance (5 min) AU and EU Officials</p> <p>Acknowledge key achievements (5 min) AU and EU Officials</p> <p>Testimonials or quotes from youth and civil society actors or Short video (5 min)</p> <p>Plenary Panel Discussion: “Where do we stand and what’s next?” (30 min) Panelists from EU and AU Institutions and Civil Society and Youth</p> <p>Questions from the plenary (10 min)</p> <p>Closing words (5min)</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 18:00	<b>Parallel Thematic Roundtables: Finalising recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalisation of first draft thematic recommendations in each breakout room (90 min)</li> <li>- Discussing the presentation of these recommendations at the Forum on day 2 (30 min)</li> </ul>
18:00 – 20:00	<b>Networking Cocktail</b>	<p><i>Opportunity for Consultative Group members, EU and AU representatives to network in an informal setting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short Introduction from EU Official (1-2 minutes)</li> <li>- Short Introduction from AU Official (1-2 minutes)</li> </ul>

# Civil Society and Youth Forum: Day 2

Time	Session	Details
10:00-11:00	<b>Global Gateway and Youth Entrepreneurship in Africa (Parallel session 1)</b>	Introduction from moderator with <u>presentations from</u> : - EU Institutions - AU Institutions - Civil Society - Beneficiary of IYBA Programme Q&A (30 min)
10:00-11:00	<b>Promoting Cultural Relations under the Africa-Europe Partnership (Parallel session 2)</b>	<i>Organised by EUNIC and AU cultural organisation</i> Introduction from moderator with presentations from: - EU Institutions - AU Institutions - Civil Society - 2 Beneficiaries of EU and AU Cultural Programmes (EUNIC & AU-nominated equivalent) Q&A (30 min)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30-12:15	<b>Peace and Security</b>	45-minute facilitated session led by the Consultative Group Thematic breakout room rapporteur(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder <u>led</u> presentation of preliminary recommendations (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Questions and feedback from the audience (30 min)</li> <li>• Wrap up (5 min)</li> </ul> <i>Notetakers capture session feedback and refine recommendations.</i>
12:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:00-14:45	<b>People</b>	45-minute facilitated session led by the Consultative Group Thematic breakout room rapporteur(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder <u>led</u> presentation of preliminary recommendations (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Questions and feedback from the audience (30 min)</li> <li>• Wrap up (5 min)</li> </ul> <i>Notetakers capture session feedback and refine recommendations.</i>

# Civil Society and Youth Forum: Day 2

<p><b>14:45 – 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Prosperity</b></p>	<p>45-minute facilitated session led by the Consultative Group Thematic breakout room rapporteur(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder <u>led</u> presentation of preliminary recommendations (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Questions and feedback from the audience (30 min)</li> <li>• Wrap up (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><i>Notetakers capture session feedback and refine recommendations.</i></p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p><b><u>16:00 – 16:45</u></b></p>	<p><b>Multilateralism</b></p>	<p>45-minute facilitated session led by the Consultative Group Thematic breakout room rapporteur(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder <u>led</u> presentation of preliminary recommendations (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Questions and feedback from the audience (30 min)</li> <li>• Wrap up (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><i>Notetakers capture session feedback and refine recommendations.</i></p>
<p><b><u>16:45 – 17:30</u></b></p>	<p><b>Concluding session: Meet the Leaders (tbc)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary of outcomes from thematic group rapporteurs to decision makers followed by short discussions (4x10 min)</li> <li>- Closing remarks from moderator and AU and EU officials (5 min)</li> </ul>

# Civil Society & Youth Voices at the Summit

The taskforce proposes that the recommendations will be presented during the Summit plenary. Rapporteurs will be appointed by the EU and AU.

Time	Session	Details
	<b>CSO-Youth Rapporteurs Presentation*</b>	<b>Forum</b> Abridged Choreography* <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of Joint Recommendations by Rapporteurs to EU-AU Decision Makers (5 minutes).</li><li>- CSO-Youth Rapporteurs remain as observers in the summit.</li></ul> <i>*More detailed sequencing to follow.</i>

# Roles in the consultative group

- **All consultative group members:** Contribute to one thematic group prior to the Forum, during the Forum all consultative group members will be invited to provide feedback on all the themes
- **Thematic notetakers:** Each thematic group will be assigned one notetakers in charge of taking notes and compiling the feedback from the group
- **Thematic facilitators:** Each thematic group will be assigned one facilitator in charge of facilitating the thematic group's work and leading the finalisation of preliminary recommendations during the Forum's day 1.
- **Thematic rapporteurs:** Each thematic group will assign two to three rapporteurs in charge of presenting the outcomes of the thematic group's work to the CSO and Youth plenary during the Forum's day 2.
- **Forum rapporteurs:** Will present the Forum's overall recommendations to the AU-EU Summit plenary.

**Any questions,  
suggestions?**

# The main topics of the Summit and Forum

The format of the summit is to be decided, EU-AU joint institutions are working on the format of the Summit, topics could be:

- **Peace, Security and Governance**
- **Prosperity**
- **People**
- **Multilateralism**

It is foreseen that leaders will discuss these areas of the Africa-Europe Partnership with the view charting a joint path ahead, for the AU-EU Summit and beyond.

# Building on the CSO and Youth Ministerial Recommendations

Following the EU-AU Ministerial of 21 May and the CSO-Youth Forum which took place on 20 May earlier this year, this event will be the next step in the sequence of consultation of both continents' constituent civil societies, using the joint declaration of the 20 May 2025 from the EU-AU Ministerial CSO-Youth Forum as a basis for further insights and recommendations.

# Ministerial recommendations: Peace and Security

## **1. Strengthen Institutional Commitment and Policy Coherence**

We call on the EU and AU Institutions to:

**Invest** in the development and implementation of National Action Plans for peace and security. **Foster** the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security', adhering with this to the commitment to include youth and women in all levels of peace processes and decision-making.

In order to contextualise such plans, we call on the EU and AU institutions to **link** policies to resources and encourage civic engagement and establish joint AU-EU mechanisms.

## **2. Step up support for democratic institutions and political parties to foster inclusive governance.**

The need for **support and training of political parties** was stressed. It was suggested to **bring parties together and make sure they support pillars of democratic governments**, as well as to accompany the linking of like-minded parties across both continents.

## **3. Ensure evidence-based decision making and Sustainable Approaches**

We call on the EU and AU institutions to **promote** data-informed decision-making and engagement based on local evidence. CSO and Youth organisations call on enhancing evidence-based decision-making processes. Investment in research on peace and security, facilitating knowledge exchange between AU and EU institutions are crucial.

## **4. Integrate ecosystem restoration and climate resilience into peace processes and governance interventions.**

Participants called for **paying greater consideration** to natural resources degradation, and **addressing community-based restoration** efforts, positioning ecosystems as critical for human security. This includes recognising that ecosystems are essential for mitigating livelihood shocks and climate-related risks.

## **5. Promote inclusive and localised peacebuilding**

Participants called for **promoting broad and genuine inclusion of cross-border and local communities** including peace education and capacity strengthening. CSO-Youth participants urged to **advance joint AU-EU advocacy efforts to build local capacity for peaceful dispute resolution**. Youth

# Ministerial recommendations: Peace and Security

## 6. Protection and Crisis Response

CSO-Youth participants call on EU-AU institutions to **enhance protection and emergency support for civilians** in conflict and post-conflict areas. Strengthen African and European mechanisms for addressing conflict-related migration, refugees, and displaced persons. CSO-Youth representatives underline that the **EU and AU must champion justice and accountability**, as well as through international bodies.

# Ministerial recommendations: Prosperity

## **1. Accelerate Inclusive Green Energy Access**

The EU-AU partnership should **invest in decentralised renewable energy systems** (e.g. solar mini-grids, biogas, wind) to improve access in underserved areas. Youth and women's participation are crucial, and capacity-building to ensure long-term sustainability and local benefits.

## **2. Simplify Trade and Boost Regional Value Chains**

To **unlock Africa's industrial potential**, both unions must accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA, simplify customs and cross-border procedures, and promote corridor infrastructure aligned with regional needs. Support to SMEs and cooperatives, non-tariff barriers reduction are key.

## **3. Bridge the Digital Divide to Unlock Innovation**

Digitalisation and AI should be leveraged to drive economic growth and inclusion, but must **start with ensuring universal, affordable internet access** — especially in rural areas.

## **4. Align Investment with ESG and Local Ownership**

The EU and AU should **promote impact-driven investment** by aligning all development finance with ESG principles, the SDGs, and local development goals.

# Ministerial recommendations: People

## **1. Expand Legal and Inclusive Migration Pathways**

The EU should streamline and expand visa and work permit processes for legal migration between AU and EU states. We recommend supporting youth mobility through voluntary work, internships, and training programs, ensuring fair reciprocity. Migration governance must uphold human rights and dignity by ending the practice of externalizing border control to countries with poor rights records.

## **2. Invest in Migration Literacy, Resilience, and Legal Cooperation**

We recommend investing in youth-focused migration literacy programs to **counter misinformation and raise awareness about legal migration** pathways, both online and offline. Community-based resilience programs must be funded to create local economic and educational opportunities that reduce irregular migration pressures.

## **3. Strengthen Digital Accountability and reinforce multilateral legal frameworks**

We recommend the EU and AU enhance research on trafficking and online exploitation, while holding social media platforms accountable through stronger digital regulation. Finally, the EU and AU should equip law enforcement bodies with the tools to dismantle trafficking networks and improve intelligence-sharing across borders.

## **4. Reduce the Cost of Remittances and Promote Financial Inclusion, Create Mechanisms for Diaspora Investment**

We recommend reducing the high cost of remittance transfers to Africa by supporting more competitive and transparent financial systems.

The EU should also create instruments such as diaspora bonds and EU–Africa funds to encourage diaspora-led contributions to public infrastructure and small businesses. Including diaspora voices in national development planning and migration policy will ensure that initiatives are relevant, inclusive, and accountable.

# Ministerial recommendations: Multilateralism

## **1. Establishing a permanent AU-EU Youth and Civil Society Advisory Institutionalised Council**

We recommend the establishment of a permanent AU-EU Youth and Civil Society Advisory Institutionalised Council with formal consultative status in AU-EU processes. This council would provide regular input on policies, especially those related to migration, climate, and governance.

## **2. Fostering an inclusive and future-proof global financial architecture**

To enhance global financial architecture, we should focus on fostering cultural exchanges that promote collaboration in finance, AI, and digital technologies, with an emphasis on youth-led innovation and inclusive growth. By establishing cross-border partnerships, innovation hubs, and empowering young leaders, we can unlock untapped opportunities for a more inclusive, resilient, and culturally diverse global financial system.

## **3. Amplifying the voices of the marginalised**

We should delocalise international forums to provide better and equitable access to consultation.

## **4. Ensuring a strong implementation of the UN Pact of the Future**

We call on the EU and AU to support the CSO-Youth representatives in championing the implementation of the Pact of the Future across Africa and Europe and booster the chances of a successful achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**How can we produce  
more impactful  
recommendations?**

**Any other topics of  
interest?**

# Framework for online collaboration

Access to a shared online drive will be circulated, including the following documents:

- Ministerial recommendations
- Online shared document for each theme
- Email of thematic group members for online collaboration

# Next steps

- Consultative Group members begin sharing inputs on thematic sections via the online documents ahead of the next session.
- Next online meeting on Thursday 13 November at 10 am Brussels time, 12 am Addis time.



**Thank you very much!**