



## Regional Meeting Africa

Gaborone, Botswana

Monday, 8 October 2018

### Title of sessions

6. Stakeholder perspectives on the AU-EU Summit held on 29-30 November 2017

7. Roundtables: Issue-focused review of the AU-EU Summit – key outcomes, implications and recommendations

### Objective(s)

The two sessions will review the latest AU-EU Summit (2017) and discuss specifically who was there and what happened, with a look at the key discussions and outputs (Summit Declaration<sup>1</sup>). Panellists in session 6 will share the perspectives of their constituencies, with a focus on the key outcomes and follow up since the meeting. This panel will set the stage for further thematic discussions in smaller groups during session 7, which will aim at identifying recommendations and best practices for integrating stakeholder perspectives into the workings of the future Africa-EU Partnership within the framework of the Post-Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

### Expected Results

- Participants are better acquainted with the Africa-EU Partnership, including processes and outcomes
- The implications of the Summit Declaration are discussed
- Specific recommendations are formulated around the thematic areas of youth, peace and security, migration and mobility, and governance
- Constructive, forward-looking recommendations are brought forward, with a view to identifying recommendations and best practices for integrating stakeholder perspectives into the workings of the future Africa-EU Partnership within the framework of the Post-Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement

### Background

The Africa-EU Partnership<sup>2</sup> is the political framework for the European Union and African continent's relations. It complements existing frameworks of cooperation and overarches existing channels of

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31991/33454-pr-final\\_declaration\\_au\\_eu\\_summit.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31991/33454-pr-final_declaration_au_eu_summit.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For more detail on how the partnership works and who is involved, please see <https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/about-us/how-it-works>

cooperation at the local, national and regional levels in Africa. The Africa-EU Partnership was established in 2000 at the first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo. The partnership is guided by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES),<sup>3</sup> which was adopted by Heads of State and Government at the second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007. The JAES intends to move beyond a donor/recipient relationship towards long-term cooperation on jointly identified, mutual and complementary interests, and is based on principles of ownership, partnership, and solidarity.

The future of the Africa-EU Partnership is inextricably linked to the "Post-Cotonou" agreement, which should govern the relations between the EU, its Member States and the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions after 2020. Any discussions on the outcomes and implications of the 2017 AU-EU Summit should therefore take a forward-looking perspective, taking into account that context.



The partnership includes all major stakeholders, whereby civil society and private sector are notably recognised as part of a "people-centred" approach. Prior to the 5th AU-EU Summit in Abidjan in November 2017, a "civil society forum" was held, which issued a declaration for the attention of Heads of States and Governments of both continents<sup>4</sup>. In turn, local governments organised the first Africa-Europe Local and Regional Government Forum, an initiative bringing together the United Cities and Local Governments Africa, Council of European Municipalities and Regions and PLATFORMA, to share views of local government. The Forum also issued a declaration<sup>5</sup>. However, neither civil society nor local authorities' representatives had an opportunity to take the floor during the Summit itself.

At the AU-EU Summit, leaders of both continents adopted a joint Declaration outlining common priorities for the Africa-EU partnership in four strategic areas:

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/continental-cooperation/joint-africa-eu-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/continental-cooperation/joint-africa-eu-strategy_en)

<sup>4</sup> Africa-EU Civil Society Forum, Tunis, July 2017, see declaration at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23521/africa-eu-cso-declaration.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://uclga.africa-newsroom.com/press/leaders-of-local-and-regional-governments-of-africa-and-europe-send-a-strong-message-to-the-5th-aeu-summit-in-abidjan-on-29-and-30-november-2017>

- **Investing in people – education, science, technology and skills development**
  - Importance of youth - 60% of the African population is under the age of 25, calling for increasing efforts in education and skills development.
- **Strengthening Resilience, Peace, Security and Governance**
  - The partnership supports a cooperation platform among UN, EU, AU and other partners to ensure peace and security and support Africa's Agenda 2063 goal of a fully functional and operational African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).<sup>6</sup>
  - The declaration specifically recognises the role of local governments and the need to strengthen their capacity and coordination
- **Mobilising Investments for African structural transformation**
  - Commitment to attract and promote responsible and sustainable public and private capital and investment, invest in digital infrastructure and establish a structured dialogue with European and African private sector. The EU external investment plan intends to trigger €44 billion investments in Africa by 2020, thereby creating new job opportunities for young people across the African continent.
- **Mobility and migration**
  - Commitment to addressing root causes of migration and upholding UN Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as global frameworks.
  - Although only 20% of migrants to Europe are from Africa, there are still too many Africans losing their lives in risky crossings to reach Europe, fleeing war, persecution and poverty. In recognition of the intersections of migration challenges (the majority of African migrants are hosted in Africa), this issue has been a focus of multiple dialogues.<sup>7</sup> The declaration commits to developing a joint framework to strengthen continental dialogue.

Some of the above-mentioned commitments have been further developed into a wider and more detailed Communication on a new "Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs: taking our partnership for investment and jobs to the next level" published on 12 September 2018.

### Choreography of the sessions

- **Session 6** - Different constituencies will share their perspectives on the AU-EU Summit, including the process leading up to it, the negotiations, and what has happened since. Perspectives to be shared will include: How successful was the summit, taking into account the joint commitments and deliverables? How strong was the participation and representation of each sector? How has the

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<sup>6</sup> Paul Kagame's report "The imperative to reinforce our Union" and Donald Kaberuka's report on "Securing predictable and sustainable financing for peace in Africa" are important stepping stones to this process.

<sup>7</sup> Such as in the JAES, the Rabat and the Khartoum processes, Joint Valletta Action Plan, and AU Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants.

partnership engaged multiple stakeholders since the Summit in working toward its stated aims? What was not addressed at the Summit that would help to reach our shared development goals? What issues should be better addressed in a Post-Cotonou era and how?

- **Session 7** - Discussions in smaller roundtables will follow, where participants will share ideas on what needs to be done or improved in order to strengthen topical sectors (youth, peace, migration and governance) and how better to involve all relevant stakeholders in the future in the future EU-Africa partnership of the "Post-Cotonou" Agreement. Discussions will be moderated by a lead expert on each topic.

## Methodology

Session 6: The Panel will be moderated and participatory, with key questions about the Summit to panellists and time for discussion with the plenary.

Session 7: After panel presentation and plenary discussions, participants will join one of four roundtables, where key experts on each topic will help to guide the group.

- a) The key expert will give a brief introduction reacting to the panel discussion just held. A moderator and rapporteur will be identified and introduced
- b) For 5 minutes each participant writes on a post-it his/her main ideas about point 1: what is working and what is missing?
- c) Division into sub-groups (4 groups of 5 maximum) for 20 minutes to discuss the aspects identified. Each sub-group selects the (positive and negative) most relevant factors.
- d) Back into the large group, each sub-group shares the factors identified. The debate is then opened to analyse the factors and find, if possible, common trends (20 min).
- e) On the basis of the discussion, the group focuses on point 2: are there realistic and concrete recommendations to make for the Africa-Europe relationship to reinforce this work or what needs to be done further? (30 min)
- f) If there are common recommendations that can be taken to the plenary, work collectively to select and develop a clear set of messages, based on evidence, to present in the plenary (10-15 min).