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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

RATIONALE

Democratic Governance and Human Rights are key for sustainable development and for cooperation between partners, and are an integral part of both the EU's and the AU's core values. The Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights will enable a comprehensive continent-to-continent dialogue and cooperation on aspects and concepts such as local capacity strengthening, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, democratic principles, the rule of law and equitable access to legal systems, management of natural resources, the fight against corruption and fraud, accountable management of public funds, institutional development and reform, global governance, and security sector reform.

Priority action 1: Enhance Dialogue at global level and in international fora

Objectives

- Common positions and specific initiatives on key aspects of the governance and human rights agendas;
- Coordinated positions on global issues in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council, the 2nd and 3rd Commission of UNGA, the Conference of State Parties to the AU and UN CAC;
- Co-operation in the prevention of, and fight against, international terrorism, drugs and organised crime.

Expected outcomes

- Ratification and implementation of the international and continental legislative framework (UN conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Conventions, Financial Action Task Force recommendations);
- Progress in the compliance with international obligations in the field of democratic governance and human rights;
- Enhanced influence through coordinated positions of the EU and AU in the Human Rights Council;
- Enhanced cooperation in the fight against corruption;

- Progress in the areas of prevention of ill-treatment and torture, promotion of international justice.

Activities

- Develop a platform for dialogue on all governance issues of mutual interest, including political issues, human rights, children's rights, gender equality, local governance and on "situations of fragility", as well as on the death penalty;
- Maintain and continue in this context a dedicated Senior Officials human rights dialogue, flanked by an Africa-EU civil society dialogue;
- Enhance co-operation in global fora on issues relating to election organization and observation;
- Enhance cooperation in the fight against corruption under the UN Convention on Anti-Corruption, the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and other relevant instruments;
- Enhance cooperation in the context of international initiatives against the illicit trade in natural resources, such as the Kimberley process and the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT);
- Promote transparency in the management of natural resources and conduct a dialogue on relevant international initiatives such as the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI);
- Step up capacity building and the exchange of information on the fight against terrorism, drugs and organized crime, including trafficking of human beings;
- Enhance cooperation on women's rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHRs) as set out by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD);
- Strengthen the representation of African children networks in the EU Child Forum.

Actors

- African States, AU Commission/NEPAD, Pan African Parliament, African Court of Justice, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, other Pan-African Institutions, RECs, African think tanks;
- EU Member States and Council, European Commission, European Parliament, other EU Institutions and Agencies, European Court of Human Rights;
- Decentralized authorities, Parliaments, and Civil society organizations;
- UN agencies and programmes and specialised international organisations including the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European

Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);

- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank instruments.

Priority action 2: Promote the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) And support the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

Objectives

- A more efficient African governance architecture through enhanced support for the implementation of the outcomes of the APRM process and the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthened capacities to combat corruption;
- More effective and efficient public services and administration in Africa;
- Enhanced awareness of the APRM processes in African countries.

Expected outcomes

- The consolidation of an effective and functioning Pan-African governance architecture through ratification and enhanced implementation of its instruments;
- Improved cooperation on the implementation of the recommendations of the APRM process.

Activities

- Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation on the implementation of the recommendations of the APRM process;
- Step up EU support to the Pan-African governance architecture, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Speed up ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthen capacities of the AU, regional and national institutions and civil society in the fields of election organisation and observation;
- Promote the participation of women in political processes and governance;
- Strengthen the capacities of independent organisations to combat corruption, impunity and fraud.

Actors

- African States, AU Commission/NEPAD Secretariat, APRM Secretariat, Pan African Parliament, other Pan-African Institutions, RECs;
- EU Member States and Council, European Commission, European Parliament, other EU Institutions and Agencies;
- Local and decentralized authorities;

- Civil society actors, universities and research institutes;
- UN organizations and specialized international organizations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank.

Priority action 3: Strengthen cooperation in the area of cultural Goods

Objective

- Enhanced cooperation in the area of cultural goods and enlarged cooperation to include other cultural activities.

Expected outcomes

- Common positions on policies, strategies and cooperation in the area of cultural goods;
- Enhanced cooperation and exchanges between European and African cultural actors, such as museums, artists, experts, research institutes;
- Progress in the implementation of relevant international instruments to facilitate the protection and promotion of cultural goods, and to combat illicit trade of cultural goods;
- Progress towards the return of illegally acquired cultural goods to their countries of origins in line with relevant international conventions;
- Enhanced cooperation to facilitate the protection and promotion of cultural expressions and cultural diversity.

Activities

- Launch an inventory of cooperation in the area of cultural goods between Africa and Europe;
- Enhance the exchange of information on existing African cultural goods in EU and African countries with a view to establishing a database;
- Conduct an effective dialogue and cooperation in the area of return of illegally acquired cultural goods, including the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices;
- Put in place appropriate mechanisms for the fight against illicit trade in cultural goods;
- Encourage the signature and ratification of all relevant international conventions on cultural goods, and support the elaboration of legislation in this field;
- Build capacities in, and provide technical assistance to, African countries, in particular

in areas such as the establishing of inventory systems in cultural goods, training of technical staff, the setting up of security and safety systems to protect and preserve cultural goods and institutions, increasing the awareness among holders, curators and other actors, and the strengthening of institutions;

- Enhance dialogue between African and EU delegations to UNESCO;
- Promote Culture for Development, and reinforce the safeguarding of African World Heritage sites and of the diversity of cultural expressions;
- Engage in effective dialogue and cooperation on culture, the promotion of exchanges and twinning arrangements in the area of cultural expressions and diversity and sports;
- Take necessary steps towards fully integrating local culture in development cooperation.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- UNESCO and other international organisations;
- Civil society actors in the field of culture and sports;
- Museums, Universities and Research institutions.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- Private sector, international organizations.

