



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

7th College-to-College meeting

Joint Declaration

Brussels, 22 April 2015

1. The political, economic and social changes that impact both Africa and Europe reinforce the relevance and importance of our Partnership as embodied in the 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). The European Commission and the African Union Commission share a common cause in tackling global problems, including social and economic development, climate change, terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crime. Our partnership is designed to address common challenges through frank dialogue and joint initiatives.
2. In April 2014, leaders from the European Union and Africa came together during the 4th EU-Africa Summit and adopted a Roadmap structuring our cooperation and mutual commitments for the period 2014-2017. Leaders also agreed to pursue and deepen political dialogue and cooperation, complemented by regular contacts between European and African leaders on common challenges including crisis situations.
3. It is in this context that the 7th College-to-College meeting took place in Brussels on 22 April 2015. We welcomed the ongoing efforts in all areas of the Partnership since the Summit and we agreed to demonstrate to European and African citizens the tangible benefits resulting from our relationship.
4. The participation of African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) was warmly welcome.
5. We welcomed the adoption of Africa's Agenda 2063 and took note of the ongoing elaboration process of its First Ten Year Implementation Plan and of its financing strategy.
6. The Africa-EU Partnership is people-centred. We agreed to broaden the space for dialogue with civil society organisations, think tanks, youth organisations, economic and social partners, and the private sector and to involve them in the implementation of our joint strategy. Bearing this in mind, we agreed that the first Joint Annual Forum, in which stakeholders of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy will be invited to participate, will be convened later this year in Addis Ababa.
7. During our meeting, we, the European and African Union Commissions, have in particular agreed to pursue our cooperation in the following areas:

Peace and Security

8. Within our respective competences, we will intensify joint work to address conflict and crisis situations such as support to the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes; the completion of the transitional roadmap in the Central African Republic; the pursuit of the inter-Malian dialogue and reconciliation process as well as the implementation of the broader Sahel Strategy, including addressing challenges in the Gulf of Guinea and the Lake Chad region; the consolidation of peace and security in Somalia notably through the African Peace Facility; and supporting mediation efforts to overcome the crises in South Sudan and Libya, where we call for the parties to reach an agreement as a matter of urgency. We welcome the first joint mission by the African Union Peace and Security Council and the European Union Political and Security Committee to Mali in February 2015 as well as the close cooperation between respective Special Envoys/Special Representatives in the Horn of Africa, Mali/Sahel, Libya and the Great Lakes Region.
9. We will also work together to address the root causes of complex and multiple crises, investing in sustainable development policies and strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations as well as to fight all forms of organised crime, piracy, terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism.
10. The recent events in Kenya demonstrate the need for increased cooperation in our joint fight against terrorism in all its forms. We shall coordinate closer between the EU and Africa but also with a wide range of other partners in order to sustain comprehensive efforts against terrorist threats in the regions of North Africa, Sahel, Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. We shall endeavour to further develop counter-terrorism efforts that comply with human right standards and the rule of law and consider, amongst others, the challenges posed by the foreign terrorist fighters.
11. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of human rights in conflict situations, in particular those of women and children. We welcome AUC's efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of abuses and sexual exploitation in the framework of peace support operations, including by ensuring the training of AU military and police staff on human rights and gender.
12. We will continue to work together to combat the spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the fight against illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms in Africa. We would welcome the participation of EU and African States at the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in Mexico in August 2015.
13. We will pursue our joint cooperation towards the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including African-led Peace Support Operations, as well as Security Sector Reform in post-conflict countries. We agreed to continue working together towards more sustainable and predictable funding for AU-led peace support operations, building on the experience of the African Peace Facility (APF) and taking into account the evolving context of peace and security in Africa and the need for renewed efforts to mobilise resources, both from within and outside the continent in support of AU's peace and security efforts.

Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights

14. We reaffirm our joint commitment to the operationalisation of the African Governance Architecture and to a strong African Human Rights System that is accessible to African citizens. We will join efforts in encouraging AU Member States to ratify and domesticate all AU legal instruments, in particular in the area of democracy, good governance and human rights, and will further collaborate in the area of elections, including between our observation missions on the ground, and on the fight against corruption. We reaffirm our particular determination to achieve the objectives of the 2015 African Year of Women's Empowerment and will pursue our efforts to reduce gender inequality, to end violence and discrimination at all levels against women and girls, and to enable women and girls to play their full role in political, economic and social development. We will ensure the full participation of civil society in our joint efforts in these areas on our continents.
15. We agree to hold our next human rights dialogue in the margins of the Banjul Commission in the coming months to continue discussing these and other human rights topics of mutual interest for Africa and Europe.
16. We reaffirm our joint commitment to promote social and economic rights in line with relevant international standards. We will expand our cooperation to ensure the full respect of human rights in business activities, and to further promote responsible business practices. We welcome the new EU legislative frameworks on disclosure by large undertakings of non-financial information in relation to human rights, anticorruption, and environmental and social matters.

Human Development

17. We will continue to cooperate to maximise the benefits of science, technology and innovation to address the joint challenges of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. In this regard, the progress made towards a jointly funded EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership with a focus on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture is most welcome. It responds to our respective policy goals for agriculture and food systems as set out in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and the long-term AU Agenda 2063 with its instruments, namely the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA - 2024) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). We have agreed to mobilise adequate resources for the implementation of the Research and Innovation Partnership and motivate our Member States to do likewise.
18. We recognise that a coordinated research effort is a crucial element of preparedness. Countries are encouraged to actively participate in the existing frameworks of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.
19. We acknowledge the efforts made to fight the Ebola outbreak especially the deployment of the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak to West Africa (ASEOWA). We will prioritise actions to help bring Ebola to an end, implementing the strategy "Getting down to and staying at zero". We will work to prevent any such crisis in future and to help the countries affected recover from the damage caused by the pandemic.

20. We will cooperate on strengthening regional and global health security including the establishment of a reserve pool of experts for rapid deployment and welcome the establishment of an African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDC) which supports AU Member States implement the International Health Regulations.
21. We will intensify our dialogue and cooperation to implement the EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility adopted at the Summit in April 2014, giving particular attention to cooperation in this area as a shared responsibility. We will cooperate on legal migration and mobility; preventing and tackling irregular migration in particular by reinforcing the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants; strengthening the synergies between migration and development including the role of the African diaspora; and promoting international protection; with full respect for fundamental human rights of migrants. We will engage in particular to address root causes of irregular and forced migration. This will be done through Africa-EU dialogue, and concrete actions at the continental, regional and national level. We welcome the engagement of countries of origin, transit and destination in the Khartoum and Rabat processes and we wish to engage together in better cooperation, including through development of actions in the field of trans-border cooperation, the fight against smuggling and trafficking networks and international protection. Furthermore, we will cooperate in the operationalisation of the African Institute for Remittances to enable safer, faster and cheaper remittance flows and help leverage remittances for the social and economic development of Africa.
22. We will pursue our efforts to support the Harmonisation of African Higher Education, with emphasis on Tuning and Quality Assurance and Accreditation including extending the process to 120 universities across Africa. We will also continue to cooperate in the development of centres of excellence under the Pan-African University (PAU), notably the establishment of the PAU Institute for Space Sciences in South Africa. We attach high importance to student and academic staff mobility, both within Africa and between our continents and will continue our cooperation in this area. Moreover, we underline the importance of technical and vocational education and training so as to ensure youth employability and empowerment. In the aftermath of a series of terrorist attacks and increased radicalisation, we agreed to join efforts to promoting social inclusion and the fight against violence and intolerance.

Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth and Continental Integration

23. We initiated a dialogue on economic and financial affairs and agreed to deepen our discussions towards identifying joint priorities for economic policies which promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
24. We reaffirm our strong commitment to regional and continental integration, as an engine for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We will support the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in Africa, building on existing regional integration processes. We are committed to a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA), with substantive outcomes on all DDA areas including development. We reaffirm our commitments towards the implementation of the trade facilitation agreement. In this regard, we call in particular on all parties to accelerate the ratification and entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Protocol, that can significantly contribute to the objectives of the CFTA and we encourage those in a position to do so to provide support for its implementation.

25. Recognising the important role of the private sector in attaining sustainable and inclusive growth, we will reinforce ongoing activities to promote private sector development in Africa and engage with the African and European business communities, including through Business Forums and Missions for Growth. We welcome the establishment of a new Africa Investment Facility which will help mobilise investments.
26. We will intensify our dialogue on industrialisation, including cooperation in mineral resources and geological surveys, responsible investment, taxation and domestic financial resources, statistics and infrastructure with a view to contributing to the Accelerating Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) initiative.
27. We will continue our in-depth cooperation on infrastructure and jointly ensure cross-sectoral coordination in relation to transport, energy, water and information and communication technologies (ICT). We endorse the statement by the Reference Group on Infrastructure, and we reaffirm our joint commitment to develop transport and ICTs, access to drinking water and sanitation, and to sustainable and affordable energy with a particular focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency in coherence with the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the European Development Policy and other guiding policy frameworks such as the UN SE4ALL initiative. Furthermore, we will address emerging themes such as sustainable smart cities and the related African demographic dividend issues.
28. We remain committed to our cooperation on information society by scaling up ongoing initiatives, exploiting synergies between the EU Digital Agenda and the AU ICT development frameworks, fostering approximation of legal and regulatory frameworks and enhancing interconnections between Africa and the EU.
29. We will continue our work on the extension of the Global Navigation Satellite Systems to Africa, notably to improve aviation safety.
30. We will keep sustainable agriculture at the forefront of our cooperation and we recognise the ambition and quality of the Declaration of AU Heads of State and Government in Malabo in 2014 aiming at food and nutrition security, ending hunger and halving poverty. We will continue supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as renewed in Malabo. We welcome the cross-cutting policy collaboration of the Contact Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Food Safety that was mandated in the 2014-2017 Roadmap. We take note of the Contact Group report and endorse the commitments therein, to deepen and improve delivery of policy achievements in the future. We urge the Contact Group to continue ensuring coherence and progress in jointly addressing challenges concerning all aspects of agriculture, fisheries, food security and food safety.
31. With the assistance of the “Better Training for Safer Food Programme”, we will focus on strengthening plant health management systems and supporting a robust cooperative framework for food safety as a basis for fostering intra-regional trade, which could lead to the creation of an African Food Safety Authority.
32. We will cooperate on the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking. We will work to strengthen wildlife trade legislation and its enforcement, where necessary, to eliminate corruption associated with wildlife trafficking and to address the supply and demand for

illegal wildlife products, and we will coordinate positions in international agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

33. We will enhance cooperation between European and African Statistical Systems in producing high quality statistical information for integration and evidence-based decision making in key strategic areas such as National Accounts, Trade, Labour, Migration and Post-2015 development indicators.

Global and Emerging Issues

34. We will continue to work together on the post-2015 development agenda. We have a strong common interest in securing an ambitious and action-oriented outcome and in ensuring that it will be implemented. We agree to cooperate closely in this endeavour, notably by encouraging consultations between groups from our two continents in the UN.
35. We look forward to agreeing a new global partnership for implementing the post-2015 development agenda at the 3rd Financing for Development conference in Addis in July 2015. We will seek a comprehensive agreement covering all means of implementation including an enabling policy environment and mobilisation and effective use of all financial resources, as well as addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. This will constitute the means of implementation pillar of the post-2015 agenda.
36. We will continue our cooperation to promote good governance related to tax and to tackle illicit financial flows.
37. On climate change, we will intensify our strategic dialogue and we emphasise the importance of concluding in Paris in December 2015 a transparent and dynamic legally-binding agreement, containing fair and ambitious commitments from all parties. We commit to continue working together towards the shared objective of staying below 2°C of average temperature increase by shifting to low-emission and climate-resilient economies and societies while engaging in necessary adaptation paths. The 2015 Agreement needs to be transparent, dynamic and able to adapt to changing future needs and realities, in respect of countries' respective capabilities and responsibilities. We will support the preparation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.
38. We will enhance our cooperation in Outer-Space programmes. In this regard, we welcome the communiqué of the 6th EU-AU Space Troika, including its recommendations on the implementation of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa initiative on earth monitoring with a view to enhance access to earth observation data for policy makers. We will also further collaborate on Disaster Risk Management and resilience and welcome the adoption of a new EUR 80 million cooperation programme in that field.

Administrative and Financial cooperation

39. We will foster bilateral technical and administrative cooperation in key areas in which both institutions wish to benefit from and share their specific expertise, including financial management, results based management, internal communication, training and exchange arrangements between our services.

40. We welcome the adoption by the European Commission of an indicative amount of EUR 415 million under the Pan-African programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument¹ as a contribution to the implementation of the joint Roadmap for the period 2014-2017 and the continued efforts by the AUC with regard to the mobilisation of alternative sources of financing by the African Union.

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¹ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2010.