

AFRICAN UNION

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REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF AFRICA-EUROPE
DIALOGUE

REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF AFRICA-EUROPE DIALOGUE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the framework of the Africa-EU Dialogue, the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the Africa-EU Troikas was held in Brussels, Belgium on 15 May, 2007. This meeting was preceded by Senior Officials meeting from the 12 – 13 May, 2007. The meeting considered the Draft Outline for a Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the preparations for the Second Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal and reviewed issues pertaining to the strengthening of the Africa-EU dialogue, peace and security, good governance, regional integration and trade, and key development issues. The Ministers endorsed the Outline for a Joint Africa-EU Strategy and adopted a Communiqué

II. ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN AFRICA AND EU

a) Draft Outline for a Joint Africa-EU Strategy

2. It will be recalled that in January 2007 at its meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Executive Council decided that the African Troika be enlarged to include the “chef de file”, and any other interested Member State to follow-up on the cooperation mechanisms and preparations for the Lisbon Summit as well as to finalize the joint Africa-Europe Strategy based on Cairo documents, including other relevant documents, to be presented to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2007. Pursuant to this decision, the Commission of the Africa Union and the European Commission worked tirelessly on the outline of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy through a number of brainstorming workshops, consultations with stakeholders such as civil society and the Pan-African Parliament on the African side.

3. In drafting the outline the Drafting team and the Troika Experts recognized that Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture and geography as well as by a community of values to which they all subscribe. These include: the respect of human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of the respective Unions. The outline also takes into account the institutional changes that have taken place in the EU and in Africa as well as those in the international systems.

4. The outline for the Africa-EU Joint Strategy contains four main chapters, namely:

- i) Context, shared vision and principles;
- ii) Objectives;
- iii) New approaches;
- iv) Strategies, Actors, Implementation and Follow-up Mechanisms

5. The first chapter articulates the context and the imperative of developing the joint strategy. It also provides the shared vision of the two partners and the principles that govern the strategic partnership. The second chapter outlines the common objectives, which are meant to add value to the strengthened partnership. These objectives, in brief are:

- i) to reinforce and elevate the EU-Africa political partnership to address issues of common concern;
- ii) to continue to promote peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and regional and continental integration in Africa;
- iii) to jointly address global challenges; and
- iv) to facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership.

6. Chapter three outlines the new approaches to the partnership, which effectively is being elevated at political, social and economic level as well as making it people centred. Chapter four is basically the operational chapter, which has the key strategies that should be pursued in order to meet the objectives. With respect to the strategies, the outline has followed the Vienna instructions of ensuring that the four clusters, namely peace and security, governance and human rights, regional integration and trade, and key development issues that formed much of the dialogue in the last seven years have been clearly addressed. The other component of the chapter touches on the fundamental importance of involving all stakeholders in the process in particular in the implementation of the strategy. The last component in this chapter addresses the issue of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, financing and follow-up mechanism.

7. The Africa-EU Ministerial Troika at its meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 15 May 2007 endorsed the outline of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy as it forms a good basis for the elaboration of a fully fledged Joint Strategy that provides for a solid foundation for an ambitious and long term strategic partnership between the EU and Africa. In this respect, the Troika mandated the Troika Experts to work on the elaboration of the full-fledged Strategy for its consideration at the next meeting in Accra, Ghana. The Experts will also prepare the first implementation plan with specific targets and time frames. The Strategy and the first implementation plan would be endorsed by the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon, Portugal.

b) Preparation for the Lisbon Summit

8. The Troika Ministers were informed of the preparations for the forthcoming Lisbon Summit. They welcomed progress made and once again reiterated the need to expedite work towards the holding of the second Africa-Europe Summit in Lisbon, Portugal in December 2007, where the Joint Africa-EU Strategy would be adopted. The meeting appealed for high-level participation at the Summit by all AU and African States and all EU and EU Member States.

III. PEACE AND SECURITY

9. Ministers welcomed the progress attained by the Peace and Security Council and the efforts being made by different parties to bring peace and stability in conflict countries. They exchanged views on the situation in Darfur, The Sudan, Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire and the Great Lakes. The EU pledged to continue supporting AU led efforts in peace making in the conflict areas and to provide financial assistance to the African and Security Architecture including the African Peace Facility. The EU informed the African side of its intention to develop the RECAMP as one of its instruments. Ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Kosovo.

IV. GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

10. Ministers underlined the need for collaboration between AU and EU on a broad range of governance issues and improving governance in the public and corporate sectors. It was also agreed that there was need to exchange information on the EU Governance Initiative for all parties to have the same understanding on governance issues. The EU indicated its readiness to assist the APRM process from the assessment phase through to the reform stage. Ministers agree that the two Commissions should convene a meeting of experts on human rights as was agreed in the previous Troika Meeting and to also convene a meeting of experts on cultural goods. It should, however, be noted that the meeting on cultural goods was not budgeted for in the current budget.

V. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

11. Ministers welcomed the impetus on the on going negotiations Economic Partnership Agreements with a view to complete the negotiation by the agreed deadline. However, the Africa side recalled the declaration of the AU Summit of January 2007 calling on the EU to consider extending the deadline for the EPA negotiations beyond 2007. Ministers agreed that the EPA process should ensure development and regional integration in Africa. In this regard they agreed to work towards supporting infrastructure for trade and building Africa's productive capacities and addressing the supply side constraints.

12. The time frame for the completion of the Economic Partnership Agreements negotiations remained an area of divergent positions. The EU insists that it intends to finalize the negotiations by December 2007 while the Africa side is of the view that there are still a lot of areas for negotiation in particular the development dimension that calls for the negotiations to go beyond December 2007.

VI. KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

13. The Troika discussed three key issues, migration, energy and infrastructure, and climate change. Ministers welcomed the Declaration of the joint EU-Africa ministerial conference held in Tripoli in November 2006. They called upon the two Commissions to work on an Action Plan to implement the provisions of the Tripoli Declaration and they

agreed that the Action Plan should be presented to the next meeting of the Troika in Accra, Ghana.

14. On energy and infrastructure, the Troika Ministers noted with appreciation that Partnership called for in the Brazzaville Communiqué from October 2006, in particular at the Africa-Europe Energy Forum held in Berlin 6- 7 March 2007. Ministers welcomed the commitments of the EU towards the Energy Partnership, and its integration of the further dialogue into the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, building on the overall framework of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.

15. The Troika Ministers noted the information by the EC and the AUC about the launch in September 2007 of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Steering Committee to support AU/NEPAD-infrastructure Short Term Action Plan (i-STAP) and Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF) programmes in the sectors of transport, energy, water and sanitation and information and Communication Technologies to facilitate interconnectivity and access to services at continental, regional and national levels in Africa.

16. With respect to Climate change, the meeting noted with concern the recent findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), which provide indisputable evidence that human-induced climate change is happening, and will lead to very negative effects particularly in developing regions, including the African continent. The EU welcomed the discussion on climate change at the AU Summit of January 2007, and stands ready to support the African Union in addressing the climate change challenges. Climate change will be one of the main areas of cooperation under the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, and be discussed as a priority item at the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit. "Climate change and development" will also be the theme of the second European Development Days, taking place in Lisbon 7 – 9 November 2007.

17. Ministers also agreed that the issues of ODA, debt and the return of illegally acquired funds be reflected upon and worked on for discussion in future.

VII. CHEF DE FILES

18. The current chef de files have been in office since 2000. It may be necessary to rotate this important function among Member States so that they all learn from the process. It is therefore recommended that the new members be selected as chef de files under the Africa-EU Dialogue. A list of the current chef de files and their areas of coordination are as follows:

North Africa

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Algeria | Peace and Security |
| Egypt | Cultural Goods |
| Tunisia | Agriculture and Food Security and ICT |

West Africa

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Burkina Faso | Migration and Human Trafficking |
|--------------|---------------------------------|

Nigeria Cultural Goods and External Debt
Senegal Migration, Human Trafficking and External Debt

East Africa

Ethiopia Cultural Goods
Kenya External Debt

Central Africa

Gabon HIV and AIDS

Southern Africa

Mozambique HIV and AIDS
South Africa Regional Integration and Trade
Zambia Governance and Human Right

Attachments: Final Communiqué of 15 May 2007
Final Outline for Africa-EU Joint Strategy



FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

In the framework of the EU-Africa dialogue, the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the EU and African Troikas took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 May 2007. The meeting of Ministers was co-chaired by the Secretary General/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the Council of the European Union, Dr Javier Solana and H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Ghana and current chairperson of the African Union (AU) Executive Council.

The African troika was also composed of H.E. Ambassador Raymond Serge Bale, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo, Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Ambassador Said Djinnit, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

The EU Troika was also composed of Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Mr. Gernot Erler, the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, H.E. Luis Amado and Mr Olli Rehn Commissioner for Enlargement, European Commission.

1) EU/AFRICA DIALOGUE

a. Discussion and endorsement of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy outline

Ministers welcomed and endorsed the Joint EU-Africa Strategy Outline as elaborated by the EU/Africa Expert Troika. They recognised it as an excellent basis for the elaboration of a fully fledged Joint Strategy that provides for a solid foundation for an ambitious and long term strategic partnership between the EU and Africa that delivers concrete positive results for the people in Africa, Europe and beyond. They agreed that it also provides a clear framework for the future relations of the two continents with value added in the pursuit of the four objectives identified in the outline, namely: (1) to reinforce and elevate the EU-Africa political partnership to address issues of common concern; (2) to continue to promote peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and regional and continental integration in Africa; (3) to jointly address global challenges; and (4) to facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership.

Ministers tasked the EU/Africa Experts Troika to continue its important work and to draft without delay, and in continued consultations with all stakeholders, including the civil society, a Joint EU/Africa Strategy and an initial action plan to be presented to the next EU/Africa Ministerial Troika in the second half of 2007 with a view to its adoption at the second EU/Africa Summit in Lisbon. The next EU-Africa Ministerial Troika will review progress in this regard.

Both sides agreed that the Joint Strategy would have to be a concise document, which will embody an EU-African consensus of values, common interests and strategic objectives. Both parties stressed that this document should comprise political, economic

and social as well as operational elements including a mechanism to monitor its implementation.

b. Preparation of the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon

Welcoming the intensification of the EU-Africa dialogue, Ministers agreed to expedite work towards the holding of the second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007, which should mark the beginning of a new strategic partnership for the 21st century.

Both sides agreed that the Summit will need to secure broad and high level participation from the AU and all African countries and the EU and its Member States, and that it has to focus on substantive outcomes among which should figure most prominently a Joint EU/Africa Strategy and an initial action plan.

c. Joint Implementation Matrix

Ministers endorsed the recommendations made by the Senior Officials, that in view of the progress currently being made in the elaboration of the envisaged Joint EU- Africa Strategy, any updates of the Joint Implementation Matrix should be temporarily postponed until the experts tasked with the elaboration of the Joint Strategy have developed and formulated proposals on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the Joint EU Africa Strategy, and on the use of the Joint Implementation Matrix.

d. Developments within the EU and the AU

Ministers informed each other of developments within the EU and the AU respectively.

2) PEACE AND SECURITY

a. African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

Ministers recalled the African Union engagement in the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and stressed the need for continuing adequate, coherent and sustainable support to be provided by the EU for the establishment of the APSA, including predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations.

In this context, Ministers stressed that the Africa Peace Facility (APF) remains by far the most important source of funding for this support and welcomed the EU commitment to provide an amount of €300 million for the Facility under the 10th EDF for an initial three year period (2008-2010).

In order to strengthen the coherence of EU support to the APSA, Ministers further emphasised the need for the EU to support long term capacity building, including military and civilian crisis management relating to African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. Ministers welcomed the ongoing discussions on the "EU concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts" and highlighted that, in order to ensure an effective implementation of the actions proposed in this plan, both parties had to deliver on their

respective commitments; namely: (1) on the EU side, flexible implementation, closely coordinated with other international partners; a commitment to develop sustainable solutions for supporting African Peace Support Operations in general and, in the short term, for specific missions, including via the recent establishment of an EU fund to support AMIS. (2) On the African side, a commitment to activate efforts towards the establishment of the Africa Standby Force (ASF) and to further enhance coordination and lines of responsibility between the AU and Sub-Regional organisations; increase the capacity in the planning and the conduct of Peace Support Operations, and ensure the early operationalisation of the Continental Early Warning System and the Panel of the Wise.

Both sides referred to the need for EU to continue to provide support in the field of training and exercises of the African Standby Force. The AU welcomed the proposals by the EU in this field, including the development of RECOMP into a European instrument, in order to support, *inter alia*, the full establishment of the ASF and national programmes that might be offered by EU Member States.

b. Discussion on crisis/country situations

Sudan: Situation in Darfur

Ministers welcomed the outcome of the AU–UN–Government of Sudan (GoS) consultations on the Heavy Support Package for the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and stressed the need to proceed expeditiously with its implementation. They looked forward to constructive AU-UN-GoS consultations regarding the implementation of the AU/UN Hybrid Operation. In this context they also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Rodolphe Adada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo, as joint AU-UN Special Representative for Darfur.

Ministers gave their full support to the AU/UN efforts led by AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim and UN Special Representative Jan Eliasson to launch an inclusive political process leading to sustainable peace in Darfur and called on the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the non-signatory movements to enter into negotiations constructively and without delay. Ministers commended the Tripoli Consensus of 28 April 2007, which underpins the modalities for achieving durable peace in the region.

Ministers strongly condemned the killing of the AMIS personnel in Darfur and any attacks against AMIS, and underlined the vital importance of continuing support to the mission until the transition to the AU-UN Hybrid operation is accomplished.

The AU expressed its appreciation for EU support for AMIS, including the replenishment of the African Peace Facility (APF) and additional bilateral contributions to the financing of AMIS.

Ministers expressed their deep concern about the continuing conflict and the appalling human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur. They condemned the ceasefire

violations by all parties, and in particular the violence directed at civilians, and urged in the strongest terms all actors to halt the violence, to protect civilians and to ensure safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Somalia

Ministers deplored the recent fighting in Mogadishu, which has caused the loss of many lives and tremendous suffering in the civilian population. They urged all parties to commit themselves to a lasting cessation of hostilities to avoid further bloodshed and to guarantee unhindered access for humanitarian relief work.

Ministers reiterated the urgent need for a genuine political process. In this regard, they urged the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to launch an inclusive political dialogue based on the Transitional Federal Charter. They called on the TFG to ensure that the National Reconciliation Congress is convened as soon as possible and is truly representative of all the parties and stakeholders in Somalia. Ministers urged all Somali stakeholders to support the Congress and to participate in it constructively.

The EU reiterated its support for the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Ministers emphasised the importance of full and effective deployment of AMISOM, welcomed deployments made so far and called on potential troop contributing countries to deploy as soon as possible. The AU expressed its appreciation of the EU's financial contribution to AMISOM and appeals for further support to enable the full deployment and sustenance of AMISOM.

Great Lakes Region

With the successful conclusion of the transition process in the DRC, prospects for the future of the Great Lakes Region have become brighter. Both the AU and the EU are committed to continue their active cooperation with the new Congolese authorities in consolidating peace and democracy, allowing for addressing the urgent challenges of improving the governance system, including the respect of human rights, and of undertaking reconstruction and sustainable development. Deploring the violence that occurred in Kinshasa in March 2007, Ministers called upon the government and the opposition to cooperate to achieve lasting peace in the DRC. They emphasised the importance of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and urged all armed groups to integrate into the national army or be demobilised. The EU reiterated its engagement to continued support in the field of SSR, based on an early agreement with the Government on priorities and coordination. Both sides welcomed the extension of the mandate of MONUC.

On Burundi, Ministers welcomed progress made towards the enhancement of political stability. The EU expressed appreciation for the AU's efforts towards the consolidation of peace, including South Africa's facilitation of the process. In line with the efforts by the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC), Ministers called for broad international support.

Ministers recognised the need for the region to work together in order to achieve lasting stability and development. In this respect, they welcomed the countries working together in the framework of the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission, the *Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs* (CEPGL) and the Peace, Security, Stability and Development Pact for the Great Lakes Region.

Côte d'Ivoire

Ministers welcomed the signing of the political agreement of 4 March 2007 in Ouagadougou between the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Secretary-General of the Forces Nouvelles. They commended the personal engagement of Burkina Faso's President H.E. Blaise Compaoré in his role as facilitator.

They called upon all parties to respect the agreed timetable for its implementation. In this respect, both parties welcomed the formation of a transitional government and the establishment of an integrated army command centre and looked forward to the early start of the electoral process. In order to bring the crisis in the country to an end, both parties reiterated the need for the effective identification of populations and for the disarmament of armed groups, to create conditions conducive for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections. The meeting also expressed concern about increasing violence in the West of the country and called for the consolidation of peace in the entire country. In this context, Ministers called on the international community to maintain its presence in and support for Côte d'Ivoire.

Both parties commended the UN and the International Working Group for their continued contribution to stability and progress in Cote d'Ivoire. Ministers called for the appropriate participation of the international community and in particular the UN, AU and ECOWAS in the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement.

3) GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

a) AU Governance agenda (AU charter)/APRM/EU Governance initiative

Ministers reiterated that promoting democratic governance is an essential bases for the cooperation between Africa and the EU. They emphasized that democratic governance is an integral part of the EU's and Africa's common challenges at global level as well as for their envisaged political and people-centred partnership which will lie at the very heart of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy.

Ministers insisted that respecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, consolidating efficient, responsive, transparent and democratic institutions, as well as empowering non-state actors, are of fundamental importance for peace, security, sustainable development and regional and continental integration in both Africa and the EU. They underlined their commitment to continue supporting governance reform efforts at all levels. Respect for ownership, dialogue between partners and focus on incentives for reforms were recognised as the main principles of an EU-Africa common approach.

Ministers also committed to apply the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to their shared vision on governance.

Recalling that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has emerged as a genuine African self-monitoring mechanism on political, economic and corporate governance standards, Ministers encouraged the widest participation in the process. They will continue supporting the review processes, facilitated by the APRM Secretariat, as well as the implementation of reforms decided by African countries.

Commending the APRM initiative, the EU will continue to provide support for the process. Through its Governance Initiative, the EU will also provide additional financial support to African countries that decide to engage in the path of reforms. In view of the Governance Initiative's potential to support African-owned governance reform strategies, Ministers look forward to being informed on the Governance Initiative review process and encourage regular AU/EU mutual information and intensified cooperation on the full range of governance issues.

b) Human rights dialogue at expert level

With reference to the 6th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika meeting, and confirmed at the subsequent 7th meeting, the parties agreed to hold, at the earliest possible date, a first EU-AU Human Rights experts' meeting, which will be an opportunity to discuss how to implement joint commitments in this field and how to increase EU-AU coordination on such matters in international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council.

The establishment of this dialogue will also allow to discuss ways in which the EU can support African-owned human rights and democracy-building efforts on the basis of *inter alia* the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections, and initiatives such as the EU-Africa Plan of Action on the Trafficking of Human Beings.

c) Cultural Goods

Ministers reiterated commitments made at previous EU-Africa Ministerial Troika meetings and looked forward to a new momentum on this issue in the context of the elaboration of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy.

Ministers tasked experts from both sides to meet and to discuss how to facilitate the implementation of the decisions and commitments made on the issue of cultural goods in the framework of the EU-Africa dialogue, including on their legal aspects, and to present respective recommendations to the next Ministerial Troika meeting.

4. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

a) Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

Both parties welcomed the fresh political impetus given to the EPA negotiations by the regional ministerial meetings earlier this year with the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion within the agreed timeframe.

They confirmed the fundamental objectives of the Economic Partnership Agreements which are to fight against poverty, promote sustainable development in the ACP countries and increase their participation in the global economy.

The AU side recalled the Summit declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the AU which called on the EU to extend the dead line for the completion of negotiations beyond the December 2007 timeframe.

Ministers reiterated their strong interest in the development dimension of trade policies and negotiations, the need to support regional integration processes and the importance of access to the EU markets for products of export interest to African countries.

In efforts to deepen African regional economic integration and the promotion of intra-African trade, both parties agreed to cooperate on infrastructure development, in particular local and cross-border initiatives, and to inject a new impetus in measures to address supply side constraints.

b) WTO/Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

Both parties agreed to continue their collective efforts to advance the Doha Development Agenda within the WTO framework and to further cooperate on matters of common interest.

5) KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

a) Migration

Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Africa-EU Conference on Migration and Development, held in Tripoli on 22 and 23 November 2006. They reported on progress made and reaffirmed their commitment to continue implementing the broad agenda of measures agreed in the final joint Declaration of this conference which constitute the political framework of the Africa-EU partnership in this matter. Ministers called on the AU and European Commissions to develop an implementation roadmap for the joint Declaration, to be adopted at their next Troika meeting.

Ministers also noted the Declaration adopted by the Euro-African Ministerial conference held in Rabat on 10-11 July 2006.

Furthermore, Ministers highlighted the importance of facilitating remittances by migrants to their countries of origin and called upon the EU to put in place the appropriate frameworks as well as to facilitate the lowering of the cost of such remittances.

b) Energy and Infrastructure

Ministers noted with appreciation that progress has been made in the dialogue on the comprehensive Africa-EU Energy Partnership called for in the Brazzaville Communiqué from October 2006, in particular at the Africa-Europe Energy Forum held in Berlin 6-7 March 2007. The EU informed about the Conclusions on Energy Cooperation between Africa and Europe adopted by the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on the 14 May 2007. Ministers welcomed the commitments of the EU towards the Energy

Partnership, and its integration of the further dialogue into the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, building on the overall framework of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.

The EC and the AUC informed the meeting about the launch in September 2007 of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Steering Committee to support AU/NEPAD-infrastructure Short Term Action Plan (i-STAP) and Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF) programmes in the sectors of transport, energy, water and sanitation and Information and Communication Technologies to facilitate interconnectivity and access to services at continental, regional and national levels in Africa.

c) Climate change

Ministers noted with concern the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which provide indisputable evidence that human-induced climate change is happening, and will lead to very negative effects particularly in developing regions, including the African continent.

The EU welcomes the discussion on climate change at the AU Summit of January 2007, and stands ready to support the African Union in addressing the climate change challenges. Climate change will be one of the main areas of cooperation under the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, and be discussed as a priority item at the forthcoming EU-Africa summit. "Climate change and development" will also be the theme of the second European Development Days, taking place in Lisbon 7-9 November 2007.

Ministers noted the tight timeframe for the negotiation of a post-2012 international agreement on climate protection, within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both sides recognised that a far-reaching, inclusive agreement will be needed to limit the negative effects of climate change.

d) Issues for further discussion

Ministers noted the need to further reflect and actively work on such important questions as ODA commitment and debt relief as well as the return of illegally acquired funds.

Ministers agreed to hold the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas in October 2007 in Accra, Ghana.

For the African side

For the EU side

signed -

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signed –

**Outline for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy
As endorsed by the Ministerial Troika Meeting of 15 May**

I. CONTEXT, SHARED VISION AND PRINCIPLES

1. Context

Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture and geography as well as by a community of values: the respect of human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of our respective Unions.

Since the historic first EU-Africa Summit in Cairo in 2000, where our partnership was strengthened through the institutionalisation of our dialogue, considerable change has taken place on both continents. Democratisation and reform processes have been launched and are being deepened in both Africa and Europe and efforts have continued on both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents have accelerated – the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) has been transformed into the African Union (AU) and has integrated the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as its socio-economic programme, while the European Union (EU) has nearly doubled in size. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have surfaced, globalization has moved forward rapidly and the world has become increasingly interdependent.

In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU has rapidly developed and diversified. Both sides have developed political strategies and policy documents to guide their cooperation, including the AU Constitutive Act and Strategic Framework 2004-2007 and the EU Africa Strategy of 2005. However, it is now time for these two neighbours, with their rich and complex history, to forge a new and stronger partnership that builds on their new identities and renewed institutions, capitalizes on the lessons of the past and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic and well integrated cooperation. There is now a need for a new phase in the EU-Africa relationship, a new strategic partnership and a Joint EU-Africa Strategy as a political vision and roadmap for the future cooperation between the two continents in existing and new areas and arenas.

2. Shared Vision

The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to take the EU-Africa partnership to a new, strategic level with a strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels. The partnership will be based on a Euro-African consensus on values, common interests and common strategic objectives and will mark the beginning of a new phase in EU-Africa relations. The partnership should strive to bridge the development divide between Africa and Europe through the promotion of sustainable development in both continents, living side by side in peace, security, prosperity, solidarity and dignity.

This Joint Strategy, which will provide an overarching framework for EU-Africa relations, will be implemented through enhanced political dialogue at all levels, resulting in concrete and measurable outcomes in all areas of the partnership, including peace and security, governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, and key development issues.

3. Principles

This partnership and its further development will be guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, and respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development. In the light of this new partnership, both sides commit themselves to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of existing agreements, policies and instruments.

The partnership will furthermore be governed by strengthened political dialogue, co-management and co-responsibility in our bilateral cooperation and towards global issues, burden-sharing and mutual accountability, solidarity and mutual confidence, equality and justice, common and human security, respect for international law and agreements, gender equality and non-discrimination and, not least, a long-term approach.

II. OBJECTIVES

The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership are:

1. To reinforce and elevate the EU-Africa political partnership to address issues of common concern. This includes issues of strengthening institutional ties and addresses common challenges such as peace and security, migration and a clean environment. To achieve this partnership we will treat Africa as one and upgrade the EU-Africa political dialogue to enable a strong and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership, with the AU and the EU at the centre.
2. To continue to promote peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and regional and continental integration in Africa, and to ensure that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are met in all African countries by the year of 2015.
3. To jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism and strong and legitimate multilateral institutions, and the reform of the United Nations (UN) system, and to address global challenges and common concerns such as human rights, trade, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, climate change, energy security and sustainability, ICT-issues, science and technology, terrorism and WMDs.
4. To facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership, we will empower non-state actors to play an active role in development, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes. We also will promote

holistic approaches to development processes, including democracy building, involving all stakeholders, and make this Joint Strategy a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors. Ongoing dialogue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered by this Joint Strategy will be a key component to ensure its implementation.

III. NEW APPROACHES

In order to meet these ambitious objectives, the EU and Africa will need to jointly address a number of key political challenges that are prerequisites for the new partnership, including:

- To work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership, and to set up a framework that better address each others' concerns.
- To move away from a traditional relationship to a real partnership characterised by equality and the pursuit of common objectives.
- To build on positive experiences and lessons learned from our past relationship where successful mechanisms and instruments have been applied in specific policy areas and learn from shortcomings in other areas.
- To recognise and fully support African commitments and leadership to create conducive conditions for sustainable social and economic development and the effective implementation of partner-supported development programmes.
- To promote more accurate images of each other, which are regrettably dominated by inherited negative stereotypes and often ignore the overwhelmingly positive developments on the two continents, and to encourage mutual understanding between the peoples and cultures of the two continents.
- To make better and more systematic use of our shared cultural and social heritage, and the economic wealth and opportunities that exist in the two continents.
- To integrate in our agenda common responses to global challenges.
- To bear in mind that we can only achieve our objectives if this strategic partnership is owned by all relevant actors, including civil society, and if they are actively contributing to its implementation.

IV. STRATEGIES, ACTORS, IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS

1. Strategies

For the implementation of this new partnership and to meet our objectives we will need to take concrete action and to make significant progress in the following inter-related areas.

a) Peace and Security

- Enhance the partnership and the political dialogue between the two continents to effectively respond to common challenges, particularly in the area of peace and security.
- Formulate and pursue common positions on conflict and crisis situations and other key international political issues.
- Promote peace and human security on the basis of a sustainable and holistic approach encompassing crisis management and long-term peace building linked to governance, conflict prevention and address as a priority the root causes of conflicts.
- Promote long-term capacity building, including military and civilian crisis management and coherent and coordinated support for the African Standby Force, including through the implementation policies outlined in the EU Concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.
- Ensure adequate, coherent and sustainable support for the establishment and functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including PCRD policies, as well as predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations.
- Combine efforts to promote and further international action, and cooperate on issues of mutual concerns relating to security, notably illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Cooperate in the prevention and fight against international terrorism and organised crime, including through the exchange of information.
- Enhance sharing of information, experience and lessons learned through the exchange of personnel, particularly in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

- Promote global and mutual awareness of the impact on security and stability of environmental issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, water management and toxic waste deposit.

b) Governance and Human Rights

- Conduct a holistic dialogue on democracy, governance, the rule of law, and cooperate in the fight against corruption in accordance with the relevant instruments.
- Work together to protect and promote the human rights of all people in Africa and Europe, including through enhanced dialogue between relevant institutions in the EU and Africa.
- Work together for the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law in international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council, and for the effective implementation of international and regional human rights instruments.
- In the context of situations of conflict, crisis or instability, as well as institution-building, and building on discussions in various international fora, decide to start a dialogue on the concept of fragility of states aimed at reaching a common understanding and agreeing on steps that could be taken.
- Support the institutional development, knowledge sharing and capacity building of African public and private institutions at all levels – national, regional and pan-African – and the emerging African governance architecture.
- Support Africa-owned governance reform programs and democracy-building efforts on the basis of *inter alia* the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections.
- Promote enhanced efforts to address the illicit trade in natural resources, including through global initiatives such as the Kimberley process, EITI and FLEGT, as well as issues relating to counterfeiting and money-laundering, and cooperate to facilitate the return of illegally acquired funds to their countries of origin.
- Cooperate to stop the illegal trade of cultural goods, and facilitate and support the return of illegally acquired cultural assets to their countries of origin.

c) Trade and Regional Integration

- Improve economic governance and investment climate in order to move away from continuous donor support and to find a place in global markets.

- Build Africa's technical infrastructure and productive capacities including through the development of a continental industrial strategic framework.
- Continue with the EPA processes to support regional integration and the delivery of their development outcomes, as well as to ensure coherence and consistency between existing and future agreements.
- Respect and support Africa's integration processes on the basis of the Abuja Treaty.
- Support trade integration in Africa, aiming at a fully integrated continental market, through the harmonisation of trade, trade facilitation, customs, agricultural and industrial policies, laws, regulations and procedures as well as through simplification and rationalisation of institutional frameworks.
- Build technical and institutional capacity for negotiations in trade and related areas, such as quality and food safety, industrial goods, TBT/SPS and commodity management in order to promote African trade and safeguard the health and rights of consumers.
- Promote investment and business friendly environments, including through support for the Investment Climate Facility, in order to encourage the development of Africa's private sector and continue to facilitate the dialogue with the private sector on both continents, including through the EU-Africa Business Forum.
- Continue to promote market access of goods and services to the EU and redouble efforts in the framework of the EU-Africa partnership as well as in multilateral trade negotiations to effectively reduce and progressively eliminate all the various trade obstacles for products with export interest to African countries.
- Enhanced joint consultations and develop common positions in multilateral trade negotiations within the WTO, particularly on the development dimension of the Doha round and work together towards an early and successful conclusion of the WTO trade negotiations that take fully into consideration the better interests of Africa and EU.

d) Key Development Issues

Development cooperation

- To increase ODA significantly, to implement the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and to work towards debt cancellation in the appropriate fora.
- Promote Policy Coherence for Development in both EU and African policies having an impact on Africa's sustainable development.

- Promote predictable and sustainable funding for African-led development efforts.

Human and social development

- Jointly address employment issues and work together to create more, and more productive, decent jobs in Africa, particularly for Africa's women and youth.
- Promote job creation, vocational training and education (VET) and skills development.
- Provide long-term predictable funding for national education plans to help ensure that every child attends school, including through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative and the African Education for All Initiative.
- Build on the 2007 Addis Ababa Declaration to strengthen cooperation on science, technology and research for development.
- Strengthen national health systems to ensure sufficient health workers, infrastructure, management systems and supplies to achieve the health MDGs "HIV/AIDS, health and education".
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 as set out by the International Conference on Development and Population (ICDP).
- Ensure the mainstreaming of gender in all policies, especially regarding access to social services for women, vulnerable groups as well as those with special needs.
- Enhance cultural cooperation, exchange and dialogue between the two continents.
- Promote more accurate images of each other through enhanced exchanges and contacts of non-state actors, including trade unions, the private sector, media, schools, universities, research and cultural institutions, including through support for twinning arrangement between civil society organisations.

Environmental sustainability and climate change

- Work together in the global arena and international fora to effectively respond and adapt to climate change and other global environmental challenges, such as desertification, deforestation, biodiversity, and issues related to toxic waste.
- Assist Africa's fight against desertification, deforestation, and the loss of biodiversity, and support efforts to eliminate problems relating to toxic waste in Africa.

- Promote environmental sustainability and the integration of environmental considerations in the elaboration and implementation of development policies.
- Strengthen cooperation and support capacity building in the management of natural resources.

Migration

- Ensure that migration can work for sustainable development in both the EU and Africa, on the basis of relevant international agreements and declarations, especially the Tripoli Declaration. Building on and implementing these commitments, commit to a partnership between countries of origin, transit and destination to better manage migration in a comprehensive, holistic and balanced manner, in a spirit of shared responsibility and cooperation. To this end, enhance dialogue on migration and development.
- Implement the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking of Human Beings, especially as regards women and children.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Support AU/NEPAD programmes and priorities and reaffirm commitments to cooperate on food security and promote sustainable agriculture in view of ensuring food security for all Africans and achieving the MDGs.

Infrastructure

- Promote interconnectivity of African infrastructure at all levels in line with AU/NEPAD priorities, including through implementation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Trust Fund.
- Strengthen cooperation and support to fight the digital divide in Africa and promote the development of an inclusive Knowledge Economy, including through the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society and relevant AU/NEPAD programmes.
- Further develop ongoing energy dialogue with the overall objective of achieving access to secure, reliable, affordable, climate-friendly and sustainable energy services for both the EU and Africa including through the launch of a comprehensive Africa-EU Energy Partnership.

2. Actors

This strategic partnership will involve and be implemented by a large number of institutional and non-institutional actors in the EU and Africa at continental, regional, national and local level.

Partners should place greater value on the role of their continental organisations in facilitating this partnership and task them to work closely together, including through more regular dialogue between corresponding EU and AU institutions, to prepare and to ensure the follow up to decisions. It should be noted, however, that this strategic partnership, and the effective implementation of the policies and actions outlined in the Joint Strategy, also is the shared responsibility of EU and African States. The institutional dialogue should be complemented by contributions of various stakeholders.

In this context, partners recognise a need for a more defined division of roles and responsibilities between the pan-African, sub-regional, national and local levels and between the different actors on the EU side, as well as for coherence and complementarity with other international actors.

Partners furthermore recognise that the Joint Strategy should be co-owned by European and Africa non-institutional actors and that these actors can play an important role in taking forward the objectives of the partnership.

3. Implementation and Follow-up Mechanisms

The Joint Strategy will be implemented through successive Action Plans which build on the operational part of this Strategy. Relevant programmes, projects and activities will be identified and implemented.

The implementation of this new Joint Strategy also calls for a broadened and intensified dialogue encompassing a larger number of actors, including experts, senior officials, parliamentarians, ministers and Heads of State and Government, meeting at the highest political level, as well as non-state actors, regional organisations and other stakeholders.

In view of the ambitions of the new partnership, as outlined in this Joint Strategy, the various dialogue levels should be articulated in an appropriate way, which will allow partners to address new issues of mutual concern and common interest for the EU and Africa. The frequency of these meetings at political level, namely, of senior officials, ministers and Heads of State and Government, will have to be enhanced in order to take forward the objectives of the Joint Strategy.

Building on the existing Joint Implementation Matrix as a platform, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be jointly established, with a view, *inter alia*, to assess the impact of the Strategy against intended targets and results.

The two sides will work closely together to secure appropriate funding, and to enhance the accessibility of financing sources, to give effect to this Strategy and its successive Action Plans.

The Joint Strategy is for the long term and shall be reviewed on a regular basis and as appropriate.

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Report on the follow-up of Africa-Europe dialogue

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