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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Twelfth Ordinary Session**  
**25 – 29 January 2008**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/374 (XII)**

**REPORTS ON AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP**

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
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**REPORT OF THE SECOND EU-AFRICA  
BUSINESS FORUM**

**21 – 22 JUNE 2007 – ACCRA, GHANA**

**Report of the Second EU-Africa Business Forum, Accra, Ghana,  
21-22 June 2007**

1. The Second EU-Africa Business Forum, organized jointly by the AU Commission and the European Commission as part of the pre-Summit Private sector activities, was held in Accra, Ghana, on 21-22 June, 2007. It was attended by about 130 participants, representing businesses and regional organizations in Africa and Europe, as well as international organizations.
2. The objectives of the Forum were three-fold, namely, to Influence improvements in the business and investment climate in Africa through enhanced governance, capacity building and policy coherence in order to render business and investment in Africa easier and more attractive; Give a voice to the private sector through the opportunity to dialogue directly with the African Union Commission and the European Commission, and indirectly with the African Governments and regional organizations with which the two Commissions maintain a permanent dialogue; and Make Africa more attractive to the European private sector by providing a more accurate and positive image of the continent as a place for business and investment.
3. Four topics were discussed during the Forum. These are: Entrepreneurship, Interconnectivity (ICT), Interconnectivity (Infrastructure) and Trade Issues.
4. On trade, the overall goal was to encourage regional African market integration (intra- and inter-regional trade).
5. On ICT Interconnectivity, the overall goals were open and competitive markets for ICT; bridge the digital divide – ICT as a driver for socio-economic growth and competitiveness; focus on local, implementable, holistic projects with design for regional scalability; and increase in speed and flexibility for ICT and development.
6. On Infrastructure Interconnectivity, the overall goals were project prioritization and assessment of appropriate financing structures; infrastructure partnerships between European and African private sector; Project sustainability over the project life-cycle; establish links between the Business Forum and the existing bodies (e.g. AU, NEPAD, ICA, etc).
7. On Entrepreneurship, the overall goal was effective programmes supporting entrepreneurship which are vital for the development of both Africa and the EU.
8. The key outcome of the Forum was a private sector Declaration with a set of recommendations for each of the four topics discussed. For each of these, clear responsibilities of both the public and private sector were allocated.
9. The Executive Council is requested to urge Member States, RECs, the AU Commission and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Second EU-Africa Business Forum.

## I. Introduction

1. The Second EU-Africa Business Forum, organized jointly by the AU Commission and the European Commission as part of the pre-Summit Private sector activities, was held in Accra, Ghana, on 21-22 June, 2007. It was co-chaired by Mr. Richard Morgan of Unilever and Ms. Browyn Wilkinson of BHP Billiton South Africa and attended by about 130 participants, representing businesses and regional organizations in Africa and Europe, as well as international organizations.

2. The objectives of the Forum were three-fold:

- Influence improvements in the business and investment climate in Africa through enhanced governance, capacity building and policy coherence in order to render business and investment in Africa easier and more attractive;
- Give a voice to the private sector through the opportunity to dialogue directly with the African Union Commission and the European Commission, and indirectly with the African Governments and regional organizations with which the two Commissions maintain a permanent dialogue; and
- Make Africa more attractive to the European private sector by providing a more accurate and positive image of the continent as a place for business and investment.

## II. Opening ceremony

3. During the opening ceremony, the Forum was addressed by Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, Mr. Lluís Riera Figueras, Director of Development Policy at the European Commission, and Ms. Jana Orłowski, Chargee d'Affaires of Germany to Ghana, representing the EU Presidency. Hon. Mr. Alan Kyeremateng, Minister for Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and Presidential Special Initiative of Ghana delivered the welcome speech on behalf of the host nation and AU Presidency and he officially opened the Second EU-Africa Business Forum.

4. Hon. Mr. Alan Kyeremateng, Minister for Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and Presidential Special Initiative of Ghana, in his welcome speech, praised the inception of the EU-Africa Business Forum as a welcome catalyst for improving cooperation and dialogue on EU-Africa relations as well as economic development. In his view, immense opportunities were created both for the private sector and policy makers on both sides and therefore, the momentum generated had to be maintained. He reflected on trade links between Africa and Europe and presented statistics to confirm that the existing preferential trade regime under the Cotonou Agreement was not meeting the desired objectives. He indicated that partly to blame were supply side constraints and poor infrastructure which inhibit that Africa's ability to export competitively. He briefly highlighted on Economic Partnership Agreements, currently being negotiated with the EU, and the potential problems facing Africa such as loss of revenue from import duties and unemployment, unless an appropriate safeguard mechanism was put in place. He, however, expressed satisfaction that progress had been made in the EPA negotiations since the first

Forum. He also underscored the need for economic reform in Africa in order to improve economic performance and export competitiveness of African products. He finally declared the Second EU-Africa Business Forum officially open.

5. In his address, the AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs underscored the catalytic role of the private sector in economic development the world over, particularly in Africa. He emphasized the need for public-private sector dialogue, the creation of an enabling environment for private sector development and increased productive investment. He indicated that empowerment of the private sector was crucial for Africa to meet the challenges of globalization and the new world order, and that it was important to put this in the context of the new strategic relationships with key development partners. He further stressed the need for concerted effort to ensure the effective implementation of recommendations that come out of the Forum. He urged all participants to take full advantage of the opportunities created by the Forum for the mutual benefit of both continents.

6. Mr. Lluís Riera Figueras of the European Commission (EC) expressed his satisfaction with the spirit of cooperation between the AU Commission (AUC) and the European Commission in the organization of the Forum. He thanked members of the private sector, particularly members of the task force, as well as other organizations such as European Investment Bank (EIB) and United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) that made presentations at the Forum. He indicated that two main deliverables were expected from the Forum, namely, the follow up to the recommendations of the first Forum and declaration with focused, achievable recommendations. He expressed satisfaction with the fact that the discussion papers for the Forum were more focused and action oriented than those of the first Forum. On the subject of trade, he advocated for more predictable, transparent and non-discriminatory rules for investment, customs procedures, fees and charges and expressed the view that these will be vital for trade, development and poverty reduction.

7. On entrepreneurship, Mr. Figueras expressed the EC's support for companies to engage further in the development of the supply chain. On classic infrastructure, he called for a look at the missing links between countries and regions in order to facilitate trade and business beyond national economies and reiterated the need for proper maintenance of existing assets. Finally, on ICT, he underscored Africa's need for broadband connectivity, clearing houses as well as stable legal frameworks and capacity building. He concluded by calling for an early start to the preparations for the next Forum to be held in Europe.

8. The Chargee d'Affaires of Germany to the Republic of Ghana, Ms. Jana Orłowski, said that Africa needed strong sustainable economic development that will produce broad-based pro-poor growth which was the reason why the German Government had put economic development in Africa very high on the agenda of its EU and G8 presidencies. She recognized the crucial role of the private sector in helping achieve these noble objectives and expressed the view that the Forum was about transparently and conjointly negotiated solutions, giving the private sector an incisive voice, and creating a platform for public-private dialogue. She went on to state that a good business and investment climate and efficient financial sector were preconditions for prosperity of the private sector and further expressed the G8's commitment to support initiatives such as the Investment Climate Facility and

“Making Finance work for Africa”. She stressed the need for intensifying African trade and expressed Germany’s commitment to bring EPAs to a successful conclusion.

### III. Presentations

9. The opening ceremony was followed by two presentations. The European Investment Bank (EIB) presentation was on “Activities relating to the Private Sector in Africa” while UNIDO did a presentation on “Investment Monitoring and Governance Platform for Africa”.

10. In his presentation, J. Reversade of EIB discussed the broad mandate of EIB within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement. He said the development of the private sector was key to alleviating poverty. He said that the EIB supports private sector, the financial sector, foreign direct investment and commercially viable public enterprises. He went on to give a detailed breakdown of the different areas which absorbed EIB funds and reiterated that the distribution was broadly in line with its mandate of support to the private sector. On future perspectives, he indicated that EIB’s second financing protocol (2008-2013) provided for 1.1 billion Euros supplementary funds for the Investment Facility from EDF, own resources of 2 billion Euros and a subvention envelope of 400 million Euros, of which 10% will be for technical assistance.

11. Mr. Yoshiteru Uramoto, Deputy Director General of UNIDO, recalled the historical relationship between his organization and the AU and EU, and their joint efforts in strengthening the business and industrial sectors, as well as enhancing competition. He highlighted the key role of the private sector in Africa in sustaining growth, job creation and wealth creation, all of which are key to poverty alleviation. He stressed the need for the International Community to sustain humanitarian services in Africa and that the UN estimates that 7% growth rate per annum is required to meet the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty by 2015. In recognition of this, he indicated that UNIDO’s strategic partnerships with AU and EU have aimed at strengthening domestic economic foundations and that regard, some positive results have been achieved. He reiterated UNIDO’s interest in supporting trade liberalization, upgrading, modernization and enhancing export competitiveness within the context of ACP and EU Economic Partnership Agreements. He announced that UNIDO and Microsoft had agreed to establish an electronic data platform, which will provide an information tool for both policy makers and private sector in decision making. He concluded by saying that UNIDO was committed to supporting initiatives aimed at bringing prosperity to Africa.

12. The presentations were followed by three more presentations by the AU Commission, the European Commission and the private sector on the Follow-up of the Recommendations of the first Forum. These focused on what each of the respective parties did in response to the recommendations that came out of the first Forum, held in Brussels in November, 2006. The recommendations centred around three topics: Governance, Infrastructure and Economic Partnership Agreements. Achievements were reported as well as challenges and bottlenecks in respect of each of the three areas. It was also noted that the recommendations tended to be of a general nature and therefore their implementation was rather difficult to ascertain. Participants welcomed the follow-up reports.

#### IV. Working Groups

13. Participants were divided into four break-out working groups. Each group discussed one of the following topics:

- Entrepreneurship
- Interconnectivity (ICT)
- Interconnectivity (Infrastructure)
- Trade Issues

14. Following intense discussions, each of the working groups came up with a number of recommendations, accompanied by the following declaration:

“The EU-Africa Business Forum – meeting in Accra, Ghana in June 2007 – reinforces the commitment of the private sector to working with the African Union, the European Union and their respective governments, to further strengthen Africa’s economic development.

It recommends the attached specific actions to help achieve this in the fields of trade, ICT, infrastructure and entrepreneurship, aimed at benefiting the full cross-section of society including women.

We believe that business has a wide and valuable contribution to make and we look forward to an ongoing practical partnership”.

15. The **recommendations** from the break-out working groups were as follows:

##### A. Trade

###### **Overall goals:**

Encourage regional African market integration (intra- and inter-regional trade).

###### **Key recommendations**

- i. The four African EPA regions must deepen their regional markets to create more trade and investment opportunities through improved trade-related governance.

###### **Public sector responsibility:**

- Agreeing, developing and enforcing relevant enabling laws, regulations and protocols, and in particular: establish transparency of procedures and regulations; set up transit rules and benchmarks as well as fines for countries that cause transit problems; harmonize trade procedures; facilitate regional customs cooperation; eliminate or minimize fees and charges; enable legal recourse for appeal of customs decisions; establish single administrative windows for documentation formalities; simplify procedures for the clearance of goods. Close coordination with WTO negotiations and rules is essential.

- Developing capacity of law enforcement stakeholders in the trade chain and providing information on cross-border trade at posts of entries and borders.
- Establishing SOLVIT-like systems or platforms of similar functionality to facilitate intra- and inter-regional trade.
- Organization and capacity of African private sector at regional and continental level must be strengthened for better advocacy, representation and business capacity development.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Regional communities and national governments to reduce border delays by 50% on average. Private sector to monitor the progress. AU to assist as appropriate.
  - National governments to set up training programmes for customs and police officials and to launch public awareness programmes. Private sector to monitor.
  - Regional communities to launch feasibility study with the support of the AU and in consultation with private sector.
  - African business groups to form regional platforms.
- ii. With the EPAs, work towards effective liberalization of goods and services with business support for asymmetrical trade liberalization between EU and Africa.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- The EU and Regional Communities should urgently conclude EPAs on terms ensuring that liberalization contributes to development. In order to ensure this, liberalization should be phased in as appropriate over a fifteen year period. Essential goods required for industrialization as well as goods which strengthen the competitiveness of African industries should be liberalized from the entry into force of the EPAs. Sensitive products should be liberalized within a period of up to 15 years. Safeguard mechanisms could be included in the EPAs to give the Parties the option to deal on a temporary basis with unforeseen surges in imports threaten local producers.
- The EU and regional communities should include clear and achievable rules of origin that facilitate trade and investment.
- With aid for trade, support African exporters in meeting SPS, TBT regulations/standards (including infrastructures such as laboratories, conditioning centres, etc) and develop trade-related infrastructure.
- Organize private sector in Africa in order to identify specific non tariff barriers (NTBs), gather information and delivery effectiveness of taxation policies and trade-facilitation programmes.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- African negotiators to ensure close consultation with African business, and African business to make concrete proposals to identify priority and sensitive sectors.
  - Donors, regional communities and national authorities to conduct needs assessments involving private sector.
  - Set up or consolidate business networks in each region.
- iii. Create the conditions to increase investments generating local added value in Africa through harmonized legislative and regulatory frameworks and better governance.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- EU and regional communities should ensure that EPA rules for investment include right of establishment, national treatment, non-discrimination and address the incentives/disincentives for investment and include bilateral dispute settlement;
- African regions should establish pro-competitive service market regulations in development priority sectors;
- African countries should establish or strengthen the capacities of investment promotion agencies to assist investors in meeting administrative requirements.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Regional communities to identify, in collaboration with the AU, strategic priority areas in consultation with private sector;
- National governments to review current situation in close cooperation with private sector and with assistance of the AU.

**B. ICT Interconnectivity**

**Overall goals:**

Open and competitive markets for ICT; Bridge digital divide – ICT as a driver for socio-economic growth and competitiveness; Focus on local, implementable, holistic projects with design for regional scalability; and Increase speed and flexibility for ICT and development.

**Key recommendations**

- i. Define and implement programme for Institutional Capacity Building for ICT.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- AU to identify network of training and education network (PPP);
- EU and International Donors to fund + resource training & education;
- Create an observatory for the development of ICT to create indicators, measure progress and share best practices (PPP).

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Provide content and resources for training (PPP);
- Provide data and input for observatory (PPP);
- Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team.

ii. Rural Access Programme.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Local country to reinforce microfinance institutions and fund with donors;
- Link to local regulatory framework;
- EU and International Donors to fund pilots (PPP).

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Select Pilot Countries;
- Engage Local Operators;
- Training on Franchise Business Model;
- Industry to co-fund pilots (PPP);
- Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team.

iii. Raise awareness of ICT for policy-makers and ensure the provisioning of more funding for ICT.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- EU and AU to create awareness programme on ICT and funding possibilities (series of seminars/demos/roadshows/workshops);
- Organize regional conferences with ICT themes (PPP) with EU/AU/UNDP.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- To provide content and resources for campaign;
- Regional conferences on ICT themes (PPP);
- Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team.

iv. Roll out of NEPAD e-Schools project.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Ownership by African Union;
- Incentivise private sector with sustainable regional plan by AU;
- AU drive funding decision from EU and International donors;
- Harmonise licensing for radio frequencies across Africa.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Continue to invest in technical capacity;
- Encourage open standards;
- Involve local partners;
- Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team.

**C. Infrastructure Interconnectivity**

**Overall goals:**

Project prioritization and assessment of appropriate financing structures; Infrastructure partnerships between European and African private sector; Project sustainability over the project life-cycle (O&M); Establish links between the Business Forum and the existing bodies (e.g. AU, NEPAD, ICA, etc).

**Key recommendations**

- i. Prioritise infrastructure projects according to their impact for regional integration and development potential for the continent ("Trans-African Networks").

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Partner countries must identify projects of paramount importance for regional integration and development potential; international donors can act as a "catalyst" in identifying priorities with regard to regional /cross-border projects.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Private sector should voice its views and give feedback through a formal procedure into the consultation process.
- ii. Define appropriate financing arrangements depending on the project's commercial viability and its potential to attract private finance.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Partner countries and international donors acknowledge the PPP concept as a tool for modernizing infrastructure delivery and ensure the necessary framework;
- Legitimate concerns of stakeholders have to be addressed;
- African states should introduce adequate legislation for PPP, e.g. which allows pension funds to invest in infrastructure.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Private sector must adapt the experience gained on PPP projects globally to the realities on the African continent, since there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach;

- Private sector should identify projects which would be interesting in terms of PPP in Africa.
- iii. Involve the local private sector better than in the past into the project cycle; Increase the "local content" depending on the project specifics.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Facilitate access to credit facilities and other means allowing African private contractors to function effectively and develop their operational skills;
- Partner countries and international donors need to establish coherence between their development policy objectives (Ownership, CSR, international standards, etc.) and the procurement process

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Establish joint ventures or other forms of partnerships between European and African infrastructure providers;
  - Transfer know-how to African companies;
  - Involve local suppliers in the supply chain;
  - Employ a maximum of the local workforce
- iv. Ensure project sustainability over the project's life-cycle by integrating the operation and maintenance phase into the project.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- Partner countries and international donors need to develop innovative procurement methods and selection procedures

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Private sector needs to transfer its experience on such projects to the partner countries and to the Commission/bilateral development banks

## **D. Entrepreneurship**

**Overall goals:**

Effective programmes supporting entrepreneurship are vital for the development of both Africa and the EU

**Key recommendations**

- i. Create a network of one-stop-shops that help company start-ups.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- African states to fund the creation of this network.

- European Commission to ensure the creation of one-stop-shops can be supported financially through funding programmes.
- EU Commission to organize study visits for AU Commission staff to see existing one-stop-shop operations in the EU

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Support networks to manage / operate the network of one-stop-shops, ensuring introduction of start-up entrepreneurs to existing business networks
- ii. Devise national programmes promoting clusters.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- African states to develop and publish 5-year national programmes of support for clusters. Such programmes must have clear objectives in terms of the number of clusters, enterprises and sectors to be supported, tax (and other) incentives offered to companies locating in clusters, and also addressing questions on ownership of property within the clusters. European Commission to ensure the creation of clusters can be supported financially through funding programmes.
- EU Commission to organize study visits for AU Commission staff.
- AU Commission to develop cluster programme 'template' - to be adapted and customised as appropriate by states.
- AU Commission to research and produce annual cluster 'scorecard' on implementation of programmes.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- NCs to develop own 'cluster' policies with suppliers, and other SMEs in the value chain - mentoring, coaching, training, quality control...
  - Support networks to manage clusters.
  - Business support networks to draft MoU template for use between MNCs and SMEs in cluster.
- iii. Entrepreneurship banking.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- EIB to insist on % allocation of funding to be devoted to start-up loans.
- EIB also to insist on greater transparency on origin of EIB funds.
- AU Commission to investigate the feasibility of creating an 'SME Bank'.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Private sector (African based banks) to develop simplified risk assessment criteria and methodologies for start-ups/SMEs.
  - Banks to increase training of staff to better understand SME needs.
- iv. Entrepreneurship in education.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- African states to consult, develop and publish long term programmes (10 years?) supporting entrepreneurship in education. Such programmes should cover from primary school on; have 5 and 10 year targets; clearly involve the private sector and educational authorities in concept and roll-out; allow for a range of tools/methods (for both literate and illiterate); focus on IT skill development.
- AU Commission to instigate consultation process with states to prepare programmes, develop palette of targets; and subsequently publish scorecard on implementation of programmes.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- The private - and educational - sectors to play significant roles in helping to develop and implement the national programmes.
- The MNC sector, in particular, to create/support technical training schools; develop vocational training programmes; and include entrepreneurship training in such vocational training.

v. Red tape.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- African states to agree target of 1 week maximum for the procedures to create a company.
- AU Commission to 'map' the procedures currently in force in all states.

**Private sector responsibility:**

- Private sector agreement on terms of code is necessary.

vi. Public procurement – payment.

**Public sector responsibility:**

- African states to agree code of conduct - inter alia - concerning payments by public sector (at all levels): setting payment terms; agreeing late payment penalties; ensuring contracts amended to include provision for penalty claim in case of late payment.

**V. Closing Session**

16. The closing session was addressed by Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Mr. Louis Michel, EC Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

17. Dr. Mkwezalamba reiterated the need for an effective follow up mechanism for the Forum, given that each of the four topics discussed at the Forum were key to the African development agenda. He said that entrepreneurship was crucial for the

continent to succeed in its struggle to alleviate poverty. By enhancing entrepreneurship skills, Africa could tap into the productive potentials of its people and ensure stronger economies. On ICT interconnectivity, he stressed that the digital divide continues to hamper the continent's progress. He also stressed the importance of good quality information and its impact on decision making, enterprise efficiency, innovation and competitiveness. On classic infrastructure, he brought the Forum's attention to the current poor state of infrastructure in Africa. He indicated that it impacted negatively on business and reduces the continent's competitiveness. He gave the example of how high transportation cost affects both exporting and importing countries, particularly within the context of intra-Africa trade, and how high energy costs deter investors from investing in Africa. He urged the private sector to explore possibilities of PPPs to reduce infrastructure bottlenecks for business.

18. In the area of trade, he acknowledged the progress that has been made so far in EPA negotiations but stated that more difficult decisions will have to be made in the months that lie ahead. He highlighted great opportunities for trade exist between Europe and Africa and urged a continuation of the ongoing dialogue in order to reach a successful outcome. He finally reported that the AU Commission was undertaking a number of initiatives such as the micro-finance study, investment study and harmonization of business law in the continent as well as progress on the establishment of the three financial institutions.

19. Mr. Louis Michel expressed his satisfaction with the precise recommendations that came out of the Forum. He indicated that the EU development policy and had its emphasis on the key role played by business climate and adequate infrastructure facilities. He stressed that promotion of governance should not be limited to the fight against corruption, but should be expanded to include justice, solid legislative institution building, institutional and macroeconomic framework which support private initiatives. He announced that the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF will devote 20% of the envelope to governance issues. He highlighted the importance of infrastructure for Africa and announced the creation of a 90 million Euro Fund dedicated to this purpose. On entrepreneurship, he expressed his support for the gender dimension to be taken on board, and on the financing of SMEs, he expressed the view that the European Investment Bank (EIB) was well equipped to handle this. He also expressed his satisfaction with the recommendations made in the area of ICT and the readiness of the EU to support developments in this area. He finally expressed dissatisfaction with unethical behaviour of some foreign investors, citing the Chinese in particular, and further expressed the strong need for balanced competition and upholding of ethics.

20. The Forum ended with a Press Conference attended by Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba of the AU Commission, Mr. Louis Michel of the European Commission and the two co-chairs, Mr. Richard Morgan of Unilever and Ms. Browyn Wilkinson of BHP Billiton South Africa.

## FINAL DECLARATION

### **2nd EU-Africa Business Forum: 21 - 22 June 2007, Accra, Ghana**

The EU-Africa Business Forum – meeting in Accra, Ghana in June 2007 – reinforces the commitment of the private sector to working with the African Union, the European Union and their respective governments, to further strengthen Africa's economic development.

It recommends the attached specific actions to help achieve this in the fields of trade, ICT, infrastructure and entrepreneurship, aimed at benefiting the full cross-section of society including women.

We believe that business has a wide and valuable contribution to make and we look forward to an ongoing practical partnership.

2nd EU-Africa Business Forum: 21 - 22 June 2007, Accra, Ghana				
WORKING GROUP: Trade				
Overall Goals	Encourage regional African market integration (intra- and inter-regional trade)			
RECOMMENDATION	PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME/ CONCLUSION
<p><b>The four African EPA regions must deepen their regional markets to create more trade and investment opportunities through improved trade-related governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreeing, developing and enforcing relevant enabling laws, regulations and protocols, and in particular: establish transparency of procedures and regulations; set up transit rules and benchmarks as well as fines for countries that cause transit problems; harmonise trade procedures; facilitate regional customs cooperation; eliminate or minimise fees and charges; enable legal recourse for appeal of customs decisions; establish single administrative windows for documentation formalities; simplify procedures for the clearance of goods. Close coordination with WTO negotiations and rules is essential.</li> </ul>	<p>Regional communities and national governments to reduce border delays by 50% in average. Private sector to monitor the progress. AU to assist as appropriate.</p>		End 2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing capacity of law enforcement stakeholders in the trade chain and providing information on cross-border</li> </ul>	<p>National governments to set up training programmes for customs and police officials and to launch public awareness programmes. Private sector to monitor.</p>		End 2008
		<p>Regional communities to launch feasibility study</p>		Mid-2008

	<p>trade at posts of entries and borders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing SOLVIT-like systems or platforms of similar functionality to facilitate intra- and inter-regional trade</li> <li>• Organisation and capacity of African private sector at regional and continental level must be strengthened for better advocacy, representation and business capacity development</li> </ul>	<p>with the support of the AU and in consultation with private sector African business groups to form regional platforms</p>		<p>Mid-2008</p>
<p><b>With the EPAs, work towards effective liberalisation of goods and services with business support for asymmetrical trade liberalisation between EU and Africa</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgently conclude EPAs on terms ensuring that liberalisation contributes to development. In order to ensure this, liberalisation should be phased in as appropriate over a fifteen year period. Essential goods required for industrialisation as well as goods which strengthen the competitiveness of African industries should be liberalised from the entry into force of the EPAs. Sensitive products should be liberalised within a period of up to 15 years. Safeguard mechanisms could be included in the EPAs to give the Parties the option to deal on a temporary basis with unforeseen surges in imports threaten local producers.</li> <li>• Include clear and achievable rules of origin that facilitate trade and investment</li> </ul>	<p>EU and regional communities</p> <p>African negotiators to ensure close consultation with African business, and African business to make concrete proposals to identify priority and sensitive sectors.</p> <p>EU and regional communities</p> <p>Donors, regional communities and national authorities to conduct needs assessments involving</p>		<p>December 2007</p> <p>September 2007</p> <p>September 2007</p> <p>December 2007</p> <p>10th EDF programming</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With aid for trade, support African exporters in meeting SPS, TBT regulations/standards (including infrastructures such as laboratories, conditioning centres, etc) and develop trade-related infrastructure</li> <li>• Organise private sector in Africa in order to identify specific non tariff barriers (NTBs), gather information and delivery effectiveness of taxation policies and trade-facilitation programmes</li> </ul>	<p>private sector.</p> <p>Set up or consolidate business networks in each region</p>		<p>Mid-2008</p>
<p><b>Create the conditions to increase investments generating local added value in Africa through harmonised legislative and regulatory frameworks and better governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA rules for investment should include right of establishment, national treatment, non-discrimination and address the incentives/disincentives for investment and include bilateral dispute settlement.</li> <li>• African regions should establish pro-competitive service market regulations in development priority sectors</li> <li>• African countries should establish or strengthen the capacities of investment promotion agencies to assist investors in meeting administrative requirements</li> </ul>	<p>EU and regional communities</p> <p>Regional communities to identify, in collaboration with the AU, strategic priority areas in consultation with private sector</p> <p>National governments to review current situation in close cooperation with private sector and with assistance of the AU</p>		<p>December 2007</p> <p>Mid-2008</p> <p>Mid-2008</p>

2nd EU-Africa Business Forum: 21 - 22 June 2007, Accra, Ghana				
WORKING GROUP: ICT Interconnectivity				
Overall Goals	Open and competitive markets for ICT			
	Bridge digital divide - ICT as driver for socio-economic growth & competitiveness			
	Focus on local, implementable, wholistic projects with design for regional scalability			
	Increase speed and flexibility for ICT and development			
RECOMMENDATION	PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME
<b>Define and implement programme for Institutional Capacity Building for ICT</b>	1) AU to identify network of training and education network (PPP) 2) EU and International Donors to fund + resource training & education. 2) Create an observatory for the development of ICT to create indicators, measure progress and share best practices (PPP)	1) Provide content and resources for training (PPP) 2) Provide data and input for observatory (PPP) 3) Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team	300 trainers trained, Establishment of Observatory	1 year
<b>Rural Access Programme</b>	1) Local country to reinforce microfinance institutions and fund with donors 2) Link to local regulatory framework 3) EU and International Donors to fund pilots (PPP)	1) Select Pilot Countries 2) Engage Local Operators 3) Training on Franchise Business Model 4) Industry to co-fund pilots (PPP) 5) Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team	Number of jobs created with self-sustaining pilot franchises. Increase number of people in rural communities with access.	1 year

<p><b>Raise awareness of ICT for policy-makers and ensure the provisioning of more funding for ICT</b></p>	<p>1) EU and AU to create awareness programme on ICT and funding possibilities (series of seminars/demos/roadshows/workshops) 2) Organise regional conferences with ICT themes (PPP) with EU/AU/UNDP</p>	<p>1) To provide content and resources for campaign 2) Regional conferences on ICT themes (PPP) 3) Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team</p>	<p>2 regional conferences on ICT and attendance of key gov't officials</p>	<p>1 year</p>
<p><b>Roll out of NEPAD e-Schools project</b></p>	<p>1) Ownership by African Union 2) Incentivise private sector with sustainable regional plan by AU 3) AU drive funding decision from EU and International donors 4) Harmonise licensing for radio frequencies across Africa</p>	<p>1) Continue to invest in technical capacity 2) Encourage open standards 3) Involve local partners 4) Co-chairs to create steering committee and program team</p>	<p>50 schools connected now in pilot, increasing to 2000 (1-2 years) but main target is 50,000 in 5 years</p>	<p>2-5 year</p>

2nd EU-Africa Business Forum: 21 - 22 June 2007, Accra, Ghana				
WORKING GROUP: Interconnectivity – Infrastructure				
Overall Goals	Project prioritisation and assessment of appropriate financing structures			
	Infrastructure partnerships between European and African private sector			
	Project Sustainability over the project life-cycle (O&M)			
	Establish links between the Business Forum and the existing bodies (e.g. AU, NEPAD, ICA, etc.)			
RECOMMENDATION	PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME/CONCLUSION
<b>Prioritise infrastructure projects according to their impact for regional integration and development potential for the continent ("Trans-African Networks")</b>	Partner countries must identify projects of paramount importance for regional integration and development potential; international donors can act as a "catalyst" in identifying priorities with regard to regional /cross-border projects	Private sector should voice its views and give feedback through a formal procedure into the consultation process	Intensify the public-private sector dialogue on project priorities	Consider a private sector representative as observer in the Steering Committee of the EU-Afrika Partnership on Infrastructure
<b>Define appropriate financing arrangements depending on the project's commercial viability and its potential to attract private finance</b>	1) Partner countries and international donors acknowledge the PPP concept as a tool for modernising infrastructure delivery and ensure the necessary framework; 2) Legitimate concerns of stakeholders have to be addressed; 3) African states should introduce adequate legislation for PPP, e.g. which allows pension funds to invest in infrastructure	1) Private sector must adapt the experience gained on PPP projects globally to the realities on the African continent, since there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach; 2) Private sector should identify projects which would be interesting in terms of PPP in Africa	1) Share experience with African countries and institutions 2) Identify potential PPP projects in the "classic infrastructure" sector on the African continent and enter into a structured discussion with other stakeholders	Create a structured dialogue on PPP between the African Union, the NEPAD Infrastructure Investment Facility and the European infrastructure providers

<p><b>Involve the local private sector better than in the past into the project cycle; Increase the "local content" depending on the project specifics</b></p>	<p>1) Facilitate access to credit facilities and other means allowing African private contractors to function effectively and develop their operational skills; 2) Partner countries and international donors need to establish coherence between their development policy objectives (Ownership, CSR, international standards, etc.) and the procurement process</p>	<p>Establish joint ventures or other forms of partnerships between European and African infrastructure providers; Transfer know-how to African companies; Involve local suppliers in the supply chain; Employ a maximum of the local workforce;</p>	<p>1) Strengthen the sectorial and/or regional dialogue between European and African companies; 2) Procurement rules which foster the involvement of the African private sector, e.g. Prequalification / evaluation criteria</p>	<p>1) Identify suitable forms of partnerships which foster a closer collaboration between European and African contractors 2) Organise a dialogue between the Forum and the Commission on procurement policy</p>
<p><b>Ensure project sustainability over the project's life-cycle by integrating the operation and maintenance phase into the project</b></p>	<p>Partner countries and international donors need to develop innovative procurement methods and selection procedures</p>	<p>Private sector needs to transfer its experience on such projects to the partner countries and to the Commission/bilateral development banks</p>	<p>1) Prepare a list of potential Design-Build-Operate and performance-based projects; 2) Joint analysis of the pilot projects which have been implemented</p>	<p>Use the EU-Africa Partnership meetings to review and monitor the experience gained with innovative procurement methods</p>

2nd EU-Africa Business Forum: 21 - 22 June 2007, Accra, Ghana

**WORKING GROUP: Entrepreneurship**

<b>Overall Goals</b>	<b>Effective programmes supporting entrepreneurship are vital for the development of both Africa and the EU</b>			
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS INDICATOR</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME/ CONCLUSION</b>
<b>Create a network of one-stop-shops that help company start-ups</b>	African states to fund the creation of this network. European Commission to ensure the creation of one stop shops can be supported financially through funding programmes. EU Commission to organise study visits for AU Commission staff to see existing one stop shop operations in EU	Support networks to manage / operate the network of one stop shops, ensuring introduction of start-up entrepreneurs to existing business networks	Budgets allocated to programme? No. of one stop shops created? No. of entrepreneurs assisted? No. of women entrepreneurs assisted?	National plans published within 1 year. Implemented over 3 years
<b>Devise national programmes promoting clusters</b>	African states to develop and publish 5-year national programmes of support for clusters. Such programmes must have clear objectives in terms of the number of clusters, enterprises and sectors to be supported, tax (and other) incentives offered to companies locating in clusters, and also addressing questions on ownership of property within the clusters. European Commission to ensure the creation of clusters can be supported financially through funding programmes. EU Commission to organise study visits for AU Commission staff. AU Commission to develop cluster programme 'template' - to be adapted and customised as appropriate by states.	MNCs to develop own 'cluster' policies with suppliers, and other SMEs in the value chain - mentoring, coaching, training, quality control... Support networks to manage clusters. Business support networks to draft MoU template for use between MNCs and SMEs in cluster.	No. of national programmes published? No. of clusters formed/funded? No. of clusters addressing specifically women entrepreneurs' needs created? No. of MNC-to-SME MoUs created?	AU Commission template by next Business Summit. National programmes published within 18 months.

	AU Commission to research and produce annual cluster 'scorecard' on implementation of programmes.			
<b>Entrepreneurship banking</b>	EIB to insist on % allocation of funding to be devoted to start-up loans. EIB also to insist on greater transparency on origin of EIB funds. AU Commission to investigate the feasibility of creating an 'SME Bank'.	Private sector (African based banks) to develop simplified risk assessment criteria and methodologies for start-ups/SMEs. Banks to increase training of staff to better understand SME needs.	Publication of Bank - SME/entrepreneur code? No. of bank staff trained? % of EIB funds to start-ups?	Code: 1 year. SME training for bank staff: Annual figures
<b>Entrepreneurship in education</b>	African states to consult, develop and publish long term programmes (10 years?) supporting entrepreneurship in education. Such programmes should cover from primary school on; have 5 and 10 year targets; clearly involve the private sector and educational authorities in concept and roll-out; allow for a range of tools/methods (for both literate and illiterate); focus on IT skill development. AU Commission to instigate consultation process with states to prepare programmes, develop palette of targets; and subsequently publish scorecard on implementation of programmes.	The private - and educational - sectors to play significant roles in helping to develop and implement the national programmes. The MNC sector, in particular, to create/support technical training schools; develop vocational training programmes; and include entrepreneurship training in such vocational training.	Publication of national programmes?	AU Commission consultation to be complete within 1 year. Plans to be published within 3 years. Implemented over 10 years.
<b>Red tape</b>	African states to agree target of 1 week maximum for the procedures to create a company. AU Commission to 'map' the procedures currently in force in all states.	Private sector agreement on terms of code is necessary.	<b>AU Summit agreement to set 1 week maximum period.</b>	Agreement within 1 year. Achievement of 1 week deadline within 2 following years.

<b>Public procurement - payment</b>	African states to agree code of conduct - inter alia - concerning payments by public sector (at all levels): setting payment terms; agreeing late payment penalties; ensuring contracts amended to include provision for penalty claim in case of late payment.		<b>Publication of code of conduct</b>	Within 1 year
<b>Two final, more general, points: there is a significant - but unquantifiable need to build capacity in the private sector. Too much capacity building is concentrated on the public sector. Donor funding should be diverted for this purpose. Secondly, the summit recommends the creation of economic and social partnership fora throughout Africa, initially at national level, then regional.</b>				

**EX.CL/374 (XII) – b**

**REPORT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE  
PARTNERSHIP , 24 – 25 OCTOBER 2007, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

## **REPORT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP , 24 – 25 OCTOBER 2007, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

The African Union Commission and the European Commission jointly and officially launched the European Union-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure in Africa on 24 and 25 October 2007 at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They also held the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on the theme: “Creating and sustaining regional infrastructure networks and services in Africa”.

The EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure is conceived to be one of the cornerstones of the ever-stronger cooperation between Europe and Africa. This partnership will play a key role in the implementation of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy adopted at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon (8 – 9 December 2007). The AU has become Africa’s main counterpart for the EU. As such, it is incumbent upon the AU to play a key role in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the EU’s Strategy for Africa.

The EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure is the EU’s response to the infrastructure gap that hinders Africa’s economic development. It aims to build the infrastructure networks that will interconnect the African continent and its different regions. Improving infrastructure and infrastructure-related services will contribute to sustainable economic growth, promote regional trade, foster regional integration and reduce poverty. The EU will support Africa’s efforts to identify and address the missing links in existing networks, harmonize transport policies, develop integrated water management, develop cross-border and regional energy infrastructure and promote efforts to bridge the digital divide.

Partnership programmes will be a mix of physical infrastructure investment, institutional development and capacity building, in addition to support for policies, facilitation and regulatory frameworks essential for efficient infrastructure operation and service delivery.

Prior to the Partnership launching events, the African partner organized a consultative meeting on 23 October 2007 in order to be better prepared for the discussions with the European partner and to present a united front. The main issues raised concerned, among others:

- Methods and conditions for obtaining funding under the Partnership;
- Appropriate procedures needed to limit funding bottlenecks inherent in current EU instruments, which are at the origin of the low consumption of resources;
- Eligibility criteria for continental and regional programmes;
- Operating principles for the Partnership Steering Committee;
- Duties of the Steering Committee Secretariat;
- AfDB access to the Trust Fund.

## II. Launch of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure in Africa: 24 October 2007

### II.1 Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was co-chaired by the European Commission and the African Union Commission. It started with an introductory statement by the Director of the Infrastructure and Energy Department of the African Union Commission, followed by statements by the Director of the NEPAD and Regional Integration Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa, the AfDB Vice-President in charge of Infrastructure, Private Sector and Regional Integration, the Director General, Directorate General for Development and Relations with ACP States of the European Commission and by the opening speech made by Dr. Bernard Zoba, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission.

The launch brought together 172 delegates representing: 18 EU Member States (31 delegates), 22 AU Member States (33 delegates), 8 countries with diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa (11 delegates), the European Commission (15 delegates), the African Union Commission (19 delegates), the Regional Economic Communities and specialized institutions of the African Union (16 delegates), the African Development Bank (8 delegates), bilateral and international funding institutions (23 delegates), and consultants and the media (13 delegates).

### II.2 Conduct of deliberations

Following the adoption of the agenda and the work programme, the deliberations were conducted in the following four successive sessions:

- EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure: Interconnectivity and Networks;
- AU-NEPAD Infrastructure Action Plan and Regional Priorities;
- EU Initiatives for Infrastructure in Africa;
- EU-Africa Energy Partnership.

#### a) **EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure: Interconnectivity and Networks**

The European Commission made a presentation on this topic titled “Creating and sustaining regional infrastructure and networks”, which looked at the following points:

- Infrastructure challenges, financing needs and policy framework;
- Concept behind EU-AU Infrastructure Partnership;
- Financial resources and sectoral perspectives.

The presenter said the Partnership seeks to complement national and regional infrastructure programmes and to support the AU-NEPAD infrastructure programme. It will be implemented mainly by the RECs within the framework of the EU-Africa Strategy. The aim of the Partnership is also to improve coordination between African and

European partners and to raise the financial contributions of EU Member States, European banks and financial institutions.

The role of the different partners will be well defined, as well as the different financing mechanisms envisaged, especially for the Trust Fund, including indicative programmes at the regional and national levels. The presentation finished with a discussion of the sectoral interventions of the Partnership.

#### **b) AU-NEPAD Infrastructure Action Plan and Regional Priorities**

Representatives of the African Union Commission and the AfDB NEPAD Unit made presentations on the African Union Infrastructure Programme, the AU-NEPAD Action Plan on Infrastructure and the study on the Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF) for infrastructural development. The presenters notably looked at:

- Needs for regional infrastructure, emphasizing that the development of regional infrastructure and trade are key to economic growth, development and poverty reduction;
- Ongoing studies and actions at the African Union Commission to elaborate continental policies and master plans on transport, energy and telecommunications;
- The AU-NEPAD Infrastructure Programme consisting of a Short Term Action Plan (STAP) in the infrastructure domain and an ongoing study on a Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF);
- Progress in the implementation of the STAP: projects have been implemented in the areas of facilitation, capacity building, studies and investment across various sectors;
- Major implementation challenges in carrying out infrastructure projects in Africa: challenges have been in low private sector participation, weak financial sector, limited capacity of sub-regional, regional and continental stakeholders.

In conclusion, presenters underscored the necessity to pay special attention to facilitation and capacity building projects as well as to the coordination of various initiatives in the infrastructure sector at regional and continental levels in Africa.

#### **c) European initiatives for Infrastructure in Africa**

There were two presentations on this topic. The first was made by a representative of EuropeAid Cooperation Office of the European Commission, and the second by a delegate of the European Investment Bank. Both presenters essentially looked at European Commission supported infrastructure development projects realized or in preparation in Africa.

It was stated, among others, that the EC has financed transport, water, energy and ICT infrastructure in Africa for the amount of 1.4 billion euros over the last decade. This has included physical projects, capacity building and institutional support, notably to the Transport Policy Programme (SSATP), to river basin organizations (RBOs), such as the Nile Basin Initiative, to the Energy Pools and to Regional Economic Communities.

The European Investment Bank representative also presented the new financial instrument recently set up – the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund – focusing on the structure and aims of the Fund. It is a financial mechanism to facilitate grants from the EU Commission and EU Member States, the EIB and soon the AfDB. Part of the grants will be in the form of subsidies.

Concrete actions and projects under way within the context of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure in favour of the African Union include:

- The grant of an amount of 2 million euros to the Infrastructure and Energy Department, under the 55 million euros budgetary support to the African Union Commission for the formulation of continental transport, energy and telecommunications policies and master plans;
- A 10 million euros funding pending approval by the European Commission, under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, intended for financing, starting 2008, preparatory actions and studies on concrete transport, energy and ICT projects.

#### **d) EU-Africa Energy Partnership**

The EU-Africa Energy Partnership aims to build permanent dialogue between the European Union and the African Union on energy issues in order to live up to the challenges confronting this sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to be able to adopt fundable energy projects.

The Partnership Concept is the outcome of the Africa-European Union Troika Ministerial meeting held in Brazzaville in October 2006, which pledged to strengthen political dialogue on energy. This concept was discussed in detail at the Africa-Europe Energy Forum held in March 2007 in Brussels. Thereafter, the European Council approved the idea of the Partnership.

The Partnership will further boost the existing dialogue on access to energy and energy security, and help to step up investment in energy infrastructure at national, regional and continental levels alike. This will include the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. It will also help to improve income from energy resources and to enhance the establishment of an appropriate statutory framework as well as of cooperation in climate change. An Action Plan has been drawn up to this end and will be implemented starting 2008.

### II.3 Final Declaration

Following the deliberations of 24 October 2007, the participants adopted a Declaration, a copy of which is attached (Annex 1). The Declaration focuses, among others things, on:

- The call on EU Member States to step up funding for infrastructure in Africa as part of their commitment to increase official development assistance (ODA);
- Support to activities under the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, notably financial resources from the Trust Fund which, in its six months of operation, generated 97 million euros from European Commission resources and individual contributions by EU Member States;
- The involvement of European development funding institutions in the activities of the Infrastructure Trust Fund;
- The establishment of the Partnership Steering Committee to define priorities, guide partnership activities and serve as a forum for the exchange of information;
- The establishment of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership to strengthen the Africa-EU dialogue on energy and energy security with the aim to scale up investment in energy infrastructure in Africa;
- More private sector implication and strengthening of the public-private partnership for the development of infrastructure.

III. First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure: 25 October 2007

#### III.1 Launch Ceremony

The launch of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure was coupled with the establishment of the Steering Committee of the Partnership which held its first meeting on 25 October 2007.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was attended by 65 delegates representing African and European Member States as well as African and European Institutions involved in the infrastructure sector.

The Partnership Steering Committee's mandate is to provide strategic orientation, to serve as a forum for the exchange of information, to improve coordination among the various infrastructure initiatives and projects in the Continent, to ensure complementarity and monitor progress of operations implemented by the Partnership and report regularly thereon.

### **III.2 Conduct of deliberations**

Following introductory remarks by the co-Chairpersons, representing the EC and the AUC, the agenda and work programme were adopted as proposed. Accordingly, presentations were made, followed by debates focussed mostly on the principles that should guide partnership operations as well as on the definition of the Steering Committee mandate.

Participants agreed on the draft operating principles of the Partnership Steering Committee and on the establishment, within the Infrastructure and Energy Department of the African Union Commission, of the Secretariat of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Infrastructure, to which adequate resources will be allocated for its functioning.

### **III.3 Final Resolution**

Following the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, a Resolution was adopted, a copy of which has been attached (Annex 2).

The main points agreed upon were:

- the draft operating principles of the Partnership Steering Committee (PSC) presented during the meeting;
- the confirmation of the goals and objectives of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure;
- the nomination of the European Commission and African Union Commission as co-chairs of the PSC until the next meeting;
- the designation of the Energy and Infrastructure Department of the African Union Commission as Secretariat of the Steering Committee and the Director of the Department as coordinator of the Secretariat.

## **IV. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the official launch of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure in Africa and the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Partnership were a total success on account of the heavy participation, the fruitful discussions and the content of the documents adopted.

The two Commissions have to make unrelenting efforts so that actions earmarked in the short term to operationalize the Partnership on Infrastructure, especially the effective establishment of the Steering Committee and of its Secretariat, and the release of the 10 million euros for the African Union Commission in 2008 to finance certain activities and preliminary studies, are realized quickly.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure and the EU-Africa Energy Partnership were adopted at the last EU-Africa Summit held on 8 and 9 December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.



**AFRICAN UNION**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

**EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure**

**“Creating and sustaining regional infrastructure networks and services in Africa”**

**Joint Declaration of the African Union Commission and the European Commission on the occasion of the Launch of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure  
Addis Ababa, 24 October 2007**

**The African Union Commission and the European Commission,**

**RESPONDING** to the development goals and the strategic plans of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in particular the Short Term Action Plan (STAP) and the Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework that complements the STAP and guides the systematic development of infrastructure in Africa;

**RECALLING** the Joint Declaration signed between the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Prof. Alpha Omar Konare, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, in Addis Ababa on October 2, 2006, which underlined the alliance between the European and African Union Commissions and confirmed the establishment of an EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure and a large support programme of € 55 million to build the capacity in the development of AUC;

**WELCOMING** the conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union adopted on 17th October 2006 which EMPHASISE the importance of infrastructure, the related services and the regulatory framework which contribute to sustainable economic growth, trade promotion, employment creation, continental and regional integration, food security and poverty reduction and INSIST that the improvement of infrastructure contributes to the achievement of the MDGs;

**NOTING** that the Council of the European Union emphasized the importance of strategic sector dialogue between EU and Africa on Infrastructure policies and priorities and invited the European Commission, the European Member States and relevant other partners to establish adequate fora where they do not exist;

**AFFIRMING** the relevance and the necessity to establish an EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure ("the Partnership") to support programmes that will facilitate Africa's interconnectivity and will encourage continental and regional integration;

**UNDERLINING** that African ownership, sustainability, economic soundness and debt sustainability should be the core of the Partnership;

**STRESSING** the importance of capacity building and the development of related services, markets and regulatory frameworks to sustain the benefits the investments deliver and to attribute the responsibility of partner countries and institutions to maintain them; and **CONSIDERING** that special emphasis should be paid to good governance, accountability and anti-corruption issues;

**CONFIRMING** that a special attention should be given to the assessment of environmental and social measures in order to ensure sustainable and balanced growth;

**WELCOME**

the establishment of the Partnership on Infrastructure as a concrete step of the Joint EU-Africa strategy and **RECALL** the benefits that imply the development of integrated regional markets;

**CONSIDER**

that the Partnership will contribute to increase regional trade and fuller integration of African countries into the multilateral trading system and that the Partnership should support the implementation of EPAs and help the countries to reap their benefits;

**CONFIRM**

the Partnership's scope to focus on continental, trans-boundary, regional, and national infrastructure in transport, water and sanitation, energy and ICT sectors that secure interconnectivity across the continent and its different regions;

**ENCOURAGE**

the public-private partnership contributing to the development of infrastructure and **REQUEST** proper coordination and cooperation among these actors;

**CALL ON**

the EU Member States to scale up investment in infrastructure in the context of their commitment to raise their ODA to 0.56% of GNI by 2010, with half of the additional €20 billion a year going to Africa

**ADVOCATE**

the Partnership members to work closely together with other stakeholders in the context of the UN MDG Africa Working Group on infrastructure

**WELCOME**

the establishment of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund supporting Partnership activities as an additional instrument of the Joint-EU Africa strategy and the achievements of the Trust Fund in its first six months of operations, where € 97 million have been raised from European Community resources and individual contributions made by EU Member States and LOOK FORWARD for further long-term financial contributions;

**APPRECIATE**

the involvement of European development financial institutions in the operation of the Infrastructure Trust Fund, for which the European Investment Bank and other institutions will make available more than € 250 million in the form of loans in the short term;

**FURTHER APPRECIATE**

the involvement of the AfDB in the development of infrastructure in Africa and **WELCOME** its participation in the activities of the Infrastructure Trust Fund.

**WELCOME**

the establishment of the Partnership Steering Committee, conceived to have the important tasks to define priorities, provide strategic orientation and to serve as a forum for the exchange of information. Notably, the Committee could ensure complementarity between strategic objectives and the various implementation instruments such as the Trust Fund, regional indicative programmes (RIP), national indicative programmes (NIP) and the AfDB.

**CALL UPON**

the EU and the AUC to take further measures to improve the coordination of their work in Africa and to strengthen the capacity to implement the Partnership, in particular through appropriate resources for the Partnership Steering Committee Secretariat;

**SUPPORT**

The establishment of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership to strengthen the Africa-EU dialogue on energy and energy security with the aim to scale up investment in energy infrastructure, including promotion of renewable energy and of energy efficiency and improvement of the management of energy resources in a sustainable and transparent manner,

**ENDORSE**

the EU - Africa Partnership on Infrastructure.

For the African Union Commission,  
Dr. Bernard Zoba  
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

For the European Commission,  
Mr. Stefano Manservigi  
Director General for Development  
and Relations with ACP countries



**AFRICAN UNION**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**FINAL RESOLUTION  
EU Africa Partnership on Infrastructure**

**RESOLUTION n°1 (2007)**

In the framework of the launch of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, on October 25 2007 in Addis Ababa, Partners decided to create the Steering Committee of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, and

**CONSIDERING** that the Partnership will contribute to increase regional trade and the fuller integration of African countries into the multilateral trading system and that the Partnership should support the implementation of EPAs and help the countries to reap their benefits;

**CONFIRMING** the Partnership's scope to focus on continental, trans-boundary, regional, and national infrastructure in transport, water and sanitation, energy and ICT sectors that secure interconnectivity across the continent and its different regions;

**CALLING UPON** the EC and the AUC to take further measures to improve the coordination of their work in Africa and to strengthen the capacity to implement the Partnership, in particular through appropriate resources for the Partnership Steering Committee Secretariat,

1. **APPROVED** the draft operating principles of the Partnership Steering Committee (PSC) presented during the meeting and attached to this resolution;
2. **CONFIRMED** the goals and objectives of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure;
3. **NOMINATED** the European Commission and the African Union Commission co-chairs of the PSC until the next meeting.
4. **DESIGNATED** - on proposal from the African Union Commission – the Energy and Infrastructure Department of the African Union Commission as Secretariat of the Steering Committee and the Director of the Department as coordinator of the Secretariat.

Done in Addis Ababa, on October 25, 2007



**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Twelfth Ordinary Session**  
**25 – 29 January 2008**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/374 (XII) –c Rev.1**

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE AFRICA-EU SUMMIT**  
**(Lisbon, Portugal – 8-9 December, 2007) AND THE WAY FORWARD**

**Lisbon Summit, Portugal, 8-9 December, 2007**

1. The Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government took place in Lisbon, Portugal on 8-9 December, 2007. The meeting was the culmination of a strengthened political dialogue within the framework of which a Joint Strategy and Action Plan were developed. These documents were presented and adopted at the Summit. It was attended by 53 countries on the African side and 26 countries on the EU side.
2. The Joint Strategy reflects the new relationship between the two continents emphasising a partnership of equals, addresses both bilateral and global challenges, recognises a one integrated Africa and covers a broad-based people-centred partnership. The strategic partnership encompasses four broad clusters, namely peace and security, governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, and key development issues.
3. The Lisbon Summit created the opportunity for leaders of the two continents to share views on all issues covered in the Joint Strategy. Specifically, five major themes were addressed in detail, namely governance and human rights, peace and security, migration, energy and climate change, and trade, infrastructure and development. Five Heads of State and Government from each side made presentations on these themes.
4. In the debate that ensued, leaders on both sides made comments and expressed their views on the various themes. Among the key issues were the Economic Partnership Agreements, migration, peace and security, governance and human rights, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals.
5. On EPAs, the view on the African side was that more time was needed to conclude fair agreements. Hence, there was need to extend the 31 December 2007 deadline for negotiation. In addition, it was noted that the division of Africa into clusters in a manner that suited the EU without considering the regional configuration of Africa's integration efforts was inappropriate. EPAs must therefore support Africa's integration agenda as regional integration was key to Africa's development and integration into the global economy. The development dimension should be thoroughly considered, including the need to address issues such as better terms of trade, capacity, supply side constraints, and diversification of economies.
6. On Peace and security, the two sides exchanged views on the subject which they agreed was a common challenge to both continents. The peace efforts at the level of the African continent was very much welcome but both sides agreed that greater collaboration was required between the two to bring about lasting peace and security on the continent. The need for Africa to take a leadership role in solving its own problems was also highlighted.

7. On governance and human rights, leaders contended that democratic governance formed an integral part of Africa's and the EU's common challenges at the global level as well as for their political and people-centred partnership.
8. On migration, leaders agreed that the two continents needed to work more closely together to address the issue. Better management of the migration phenomenon could yield immense benefits to both Africa and the EU and the two sides can work effectively together to fight illegal migration.
9. The Great Libyan Socialist Arab People's Jamahiriya offered to host the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of Africa and the EU in 2010.
10. The Executive Council is requested to endorse Libya's request to host the next Summit and to mandate the AU Commission to coordinate the EPA negotiation process between the various African regional negotiating groups and the European Union.

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE AFRICA-EU SUMMIT (Lisbon,  
Portugal – 8-9 December, 2007) AND THE WAY FORWARD**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Second Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government took place in Lisbon, Portugal on 8 and 9 December 2007. The meeting was the culmination of a strengthened political dialogue within the AU-EU Troika framework which resulted in the elaboration of a Joint Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy reflects the new relationship between the two continents emphasising a partnership of equals, and addresses both bilateral and global challenges, recognises a one integrated Africa and covers a broad-based people-centred partnership. These documents were presented for consideration and adoption at the Summit which was attended by 53 countries on the African side and 26 countries on the EU side.

**II. OPENING SESSION**

The opening ceremony was addressed by the Prime Minister of Portugal as the EU Presidency, the President of Ghana as the AU Presidency, the President of Egypt as host of the First Africa-EU Summit, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the European Commission, the President of the Pan-African Parliament and the President of the European Parliament.

**a. The Prime Minister of Portugal:**

In his statement, the Prime Minister observed that African and EU countries are equal in sovereignty and political standing and emphasised the need for the two continents to work together and said the new partnership marked a new page in the relationship between the two continents. He said Africa and the EU shared a similar vision of the future and had together defined a new path into the future. He said the Joint Strategy was unique in that it has an Action Plan which will ensure its effective implementation. He touched on the importance of a frank and open dialogue in the areas of peace and security, trade, infrastructure and development, governance and human rights, climate change, and migration, all of which are adequately covered in the Joint Strategy. The Prime Minister noted that migration was one of the areas where lack of dialogue and cooperation had been felt most and called for regulating migratory flows through preference for legal migration while fighting illegal migration and also addressing the human rights aspects of migrants. The Prime Minister observed that the summit was postponed for too long because of the situation in Zimbabwe and expressed the view that a way could be found out of the problem through dialogue. He then expressed his strong belief that the level of commitment on both sides was commensurate with the challenges ahead. He concluded his remarks by thanking all Heads of State and Government present, the AU and EU Parliaments, and the AU and European Commissions for their active role in the Summit. He also thanked the President of Ghana for his leadership and wished him a happy birthday.

**b. The President of Ghana:**

In his address, said Africa and the EU had come a long way since the 2000 Summit held in Egypt. The relationship between the two continents had since scaled up and that the Lisbon Summit was a reflection of the close bond between the two. He recalled the difficult past, noting the problems of the slave trade, colonialism, and apartheid, and said the significance of the Summit was that it laid the foundation for mutual respect based on economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, and a recognition of Africa's right to fully integrate into the global economy. He said all challenges could be surmounted if the two sides appreciated each other's conditions. He welcomed the fact that the Joint Strategy covered all key areas of concern to both Africa and the EU and said effective implementation, with the involvement of all key stakeholders, was what remained. He touched on the challenges of globalization and emphasised that Africa needed Europe as much as Europe needed Africa. He also underlined the importance of infrastructure development in Africa and further called for partnerships with credible investors to provide financing for such projects. He said the EU had the capacity to bring in the necessary capital and know-how.

**c. The President of Egypt:**

On his part, recalled that it had been seven years since the first Summit in Cairo and hence, the Lisbon Summit provided the opportunity to review progress achieved since then. He said the new Africa-EU partnership would benefit both Africa and the EU as well as address the challenges of both continents. On the subject of democracy, he said Africa had put in place mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism to promote democracy on the continent. He highlighted some of Africa's most pressing problems, such as trade, infrastructure, disease, the environment and debt. He expressed his hope that the new strategic relationship would help address these problems. He indicated that the partnership had the potential to guarantee investment, education to the youth, addressing the migration phenomenon, controlling desertification and reducing the negative impact of climate change. He finally called on all to take active part in the implementation of the Joint Strategy.

**d. The Chairperson of the AU Commission** said Africa and the EU shared common values, including democratic principles, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. He said Africa intended to act in its own way, draw up its own agenda, and take responsibility for its own future. He said the African Union was an integration organization, unlike its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity, which was basically a cooperation organization. He said the AU was now working towards a United States of Africa. He emphasised that Africa was one and indivisible. He said in addition to the AU, Regional Economic Communities also existed and it was important to avoid playing one region against another. He emphasised the need to involve other stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector and the diaspora, failing which any success will be based on divisions. On trade, he

said this must lead to development. He expressed his concern that Economic Partnership Agreements may not yield the desired benefits for Africa. He said many questions remained unanswered and more time was needed to conclude fair agreements. He underlined that Africa reserved the right to protect its economic fabric and could no longer accept to be just an import market and an exporter of raw materials. He said the growth recorded over the past years was still fragile and needed to be consolidated. In his view, the new partnership should create a win-win situation for all. Among the topics he addressed was the issue of migration. This, he said, was a phenomenon caused by unbalanced development and a global approach was necessary to address this.

**e. The President of the European Commission** portrayed the EU's vision of a relationship of equals based on mutual respect. He called for the serious involvement of all stakeholders, including parliaments, the private sector, civil society and the youth. He called the partnership a relationship of people, not just a political or diplomatic relationship. He urged all to go beyond stereotypes in the new partnership.

**f. The President of the Pan-African Parliament:**

In her remarks, stated that the invitation of the two parliaments to the Summit was significant, in that it portrayed a new dimension in the Africa-EU partnership. She said the two parliaments resolved to work together and further expressed the view that the implementation of the Joint Strategy would impact positively on the lives of the peoples of Africa and the EU. Therefore, she said, the active involvement of the two parliaments was crucial. She noted that people-centred parliamentary dimension needed to involve the parliamentary dimension at all levels. She indicated that the Strategy represented a desire for mutual partnership between Africa and the EU and opened the door for genuine dialogue. She said a paradigm shift was required in the relations between the two continents. She said that two parliaments will work together to give maximum advocacy for the Joint Strategy.

**g. The President of the European Parliament** recalled the Summit held in Cairo in 2000 and said significant progress had been made since then. He said the strong parliamentary dimension of the Strategy was indisputable and emphasised that a strengthening of democracy required a strong parliament. He said the two parliaments will continue to work together for better results.

During the first plenary, introductory speeches were made on the five themes of the agenda. Governance and human rights was presented by South Africa and Germany, Peace and Security was presented by Gabon and France, Migration was presented by Libya and Spain, Energy and Climate change was presented by Uganda and Denmark, and Trade, Infrastructure and Development was presented by Senegal and Italy.

The second plenary created the opportunity for leaders of the two continents to share views on the five themes presented during the first plenary. In the debate that ensued, leaders on both sides made comments and

expressed their views on the various themes. Among the key issues were the Economic Partnership Agreements, migration, peace and security, governance and human rights, including the situation in Zimbabwe, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals.

**a. EPAs:**

On EPAs, the view on the African side was that more time was needed to conclude fair agreements. Hence, there was need to extend the 31 December 2007 deadline for negotiation. Delegates also noted that the division of Africa into clusters in a manner that suited the EU without considering the regional configuration of Africa's integration efforts was inappropriate. EPAs must therefore support Africa's integration agenda as regional integration was key to Africa's development and integration into the global economy. The development dimension should be thoroughly considered, including the need to address issues such as better terms of trade, capacity, supply side constraints, and diversification of economies. The President of the European Commission, in his statement, proposed that early next year, these discussions be pursued at the highest political level with each region taking into account specific needs and economic realities. It was then suggested that African and EU Ministers of Finance and Trade should meet and make a concrete recommendation on this issue.

**b. Migration:**

The Leader of the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya observed that migration in Africa was a result of underdevelopment and encouraged the UK and France to accept migrants from Anglophone and Francophone countries, respectively. He asked the EU to provide resources to African countries to help them fight illegal migration. In particular, he indicated that his country needed US\$1 billion every year to fight migration. The general sentiment was that the two continents needed to work more closely together to address the migration issue. Better management of the migration phenomenon could yield immense benefits to both Africa and the EU and the two sides can work effectively together to fight illegal migration.

**c. Peace and Security:**

The two sides exchanged views on the need for peace and security which is a common challenge to both continents. The peace efforts at the level of the African continent were very much welcomed. Both sides agreed that greater collaboration was required between the two to bring about lasting peace and security on the continent. The need for Africa to continue to play a leading role in promoting peace and security on the continent was also highlighted.

**d. Governance and Human Rights:**

Following a presentation on the Pan African Governance Architecture by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the two sides contended that

democratic governance formed an integral part of Africa's and the EU's common challenges at the global level as well as for their political and people-centred partnership. The importance of having a holistic approach to governance embracing all aspects including political, institutional, socio-economic, cultural and environmental, was buttressed and collaboration between Africa and the EU on a broad range of issues agreed upon, including in the areas of institutional development and capacity building, the promotion of free, fair and democratic elections, respect for and promotion of human and people's rights, constitutionalism and respect for the rule of law, combating corruption, among others.

During the debate on the theme, four European countries expressed concern at the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. African leaders insisted that the Europeans grossly distorted the situation in Zimbabwe and were ignorant of the realities on the ground. The humanitarian difficulties facing Zimbabweans were attributed to the sanctions imposed on the country by the West. Africa, it was emphasised, should be allowed space and time to take ownership of its destiny and proffer home-grown solutions to its development challenges. African leaders reminded their European counterparts that negotiations were under way in Zimbabwe between the ruling party and the opposition within the framework of the SADC initiative. It was strongly felt that the mediation being championed by South Africa should be given a chance.

#### **e. Climate change.**

This item was presented by the President of the Republic of Uganda who underlined that many Africans have no access to electricity and that there was need to move from agricultural sector employment to industrial sector. He observed that Africa needed clean energy and noted that the continent can only produce 500,000 megawatts of the required 900,000.

Taking his turn, the Prime Minister of Denmark, Anders Rasmussen, acknowledged that the world is now experiencing extreme weather and observed that although Africa contributes marginally to greenhouse gas emissions, it is the most vulnerable continent especially considering that harvest will decrease by 50% in Africa due to climate change. He then underlined the need for developing countries to adapt to climate change. He noted that access to energy is a precondition to development and yet only 23% of Africans have access to electricity. He informed the Summit that Denmark will host a UN Climate Change Summit in 2009. He concluded by urging that Ministers should not leave Bali without a concrete agreement.

In the discussions that followed some countries contented that they were already feeling the effects of climate change and that there was need to take actions that would benefit the rest of the world.

#### **f. Millennium Development Goals:**

There was a general agreement that although there had been some achievements, there was still a lot to be done. The Summit underscored that

there was need to fight HIV/AIDS and malaria. It was also observed that Africa remains the poorest country where 100 million children do not go to school and 2,800 deaths occur every day due to malaria. It was also underlined that MDGs are a call to the world to respect human rights and that Europe and Africa needed to be allies.

In the morning of the second day of the EU-Africa Summit representatives from the side-events got the opportunity to present their views to the Heads of State and Government. Civil Society Organisations, Youth, Trade Unions and the Private Sector presented the conclusions of their side events.

#### **a. Civil Society Organizations:**

Civil Society was represented by Fátima Proença, President of the Portuguese NGDO Platform, and Taoufik Ben Abdallah, from ENDA (Environmental Development Action in the Third World), where the latter read the declaration. Their presentation focused on the principles on which the new Africa-EU Partnership relation must be based, especially mutual accountability and trust. These were:

- Any future partnership must be rooted in mutual learning and respect, on an honest political dialogue and on the recognition that Human Rights are universal. Governance must be a political demand for the democracy-building process in both Continents;
- Trust is built upon a common understanding and respect of each other. It is permanently built and strengthened through the implementation of coherent and solidarity policies and the delivery of concrete outcomes

#### **b. Youth:**

The President of the European Youth Forum, Bettina Schwarzmayr, represented the youth, together with Mandela Kampere from the Pan-African Youth Union. In the Declaration read out, the Africa-Europe Youth Summit raised the following points:

- The commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals must be bolstered as they provide a framework for development and poverty eradication, especially in Africa
- Human rights are universal and the Summit urged governments to guarantee political rights as well as cultural, social and economical rights for all.
- a meaningful EU-Africa Partnership should be based on a strategic project and programme of action for young people to strengthen their partnership for development.

#### **c. Private Sector:**

The Private Sector was represented by Jorge Rocha de Matos, President of Portuguese Industrial Association - Business Confederation together with Vincent Maphai, President BHP Billiton Africa, and Co-Chairman from the African side of the EU-Africa Business Forum. In the final statement they:

- Emphasised the importance of an enhanced and diversified private sector for a sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty on the African continent.
- Called upon governments on both continents to deepen the involvement of civil society and non state actors in their policy making processes. Private sector representatives can deliver valuable input for subjects like sustainable agriculture, energy, governance and employment.
- Made recommendations on how to promote trade, interconnectivity and entrepreneurship through the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, as discussed by the EU-Africa Business Forum held in Accra, Ghana, in June, 2007.

**d. Trade Unions:**

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) Deputy General Secretary, Maria-Helena André, addressed the Africa-EU Summit on behalf of the Trade Unions. She presented the declaration adopted at the Africa-EU Trade Union Summit, focusing on the following priorities:

- The crucial importance of decent work, including the setting up and/or strengthening of social protection systems,
- The promotion of democratic governance for a government of peace and free of corruption,
- The specific recognition of social partners as actors in economic and social development, and
- A common strategy on migration and development that respects human rights.

The Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan as well as the Lisbon Declaration were considered and adopted by the Summit. All three documents are herewith attached. The Joint Strategy reflects the new relationship between the two continents emphasising a partnership of equals, addresses both bilateral and global challenges, recognises a one integrated Africa and covers a broad-based people-centred partnership. The strategic partnership encompasses four broad clusters, namely peace and security, governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, and key development issues. The Joint Strategy will be implemented through successive Action Plans. The first Action Plan is structured around 8 specific “EU-Africa Partnerships” covering different priority Actions.

The closing ceremony was addressed the AU and EU Presidencies. The President of the Republic of Ghana thanked the Prime Minister of Portugal for his leadership and also for ensuring that the Summit took place. He said the Summit was important because it adopted the Joint Strategy, Action Plan and Lisbon Declaration which were important in the future Africa-EU relations.

The Prime Minister of Portugal observed that Portugal insisted on the Summit during its presidency of the EU which he said was long over due. He acknowledged that a new page in the history of Africa-EU relations had been written and that the Summit was of mutual benefit to both continents. He expressed his hope that the Summit would be a regular event. He thanked Libya for offering to host the next Summit and reported that the African side would take the final decision on the venue for the next Summit.

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