



EARN Roundtable
Chatham House, London – 12 December 2008

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership
one year after Lisbon

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The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership
one year after Lisbon

*Major achievements and constraints
in the implementation
of the Joint Strategy and its first Action
Plan (2008-2010)*



The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership one year after Lisbon

- An **ambitious** policy framework
- A **complex** institutional architecture
- A **multitude** of stakeholders
- 2008: first key **achievements**
- Some constraints and **challenges** ahead



An ambitious policy framework

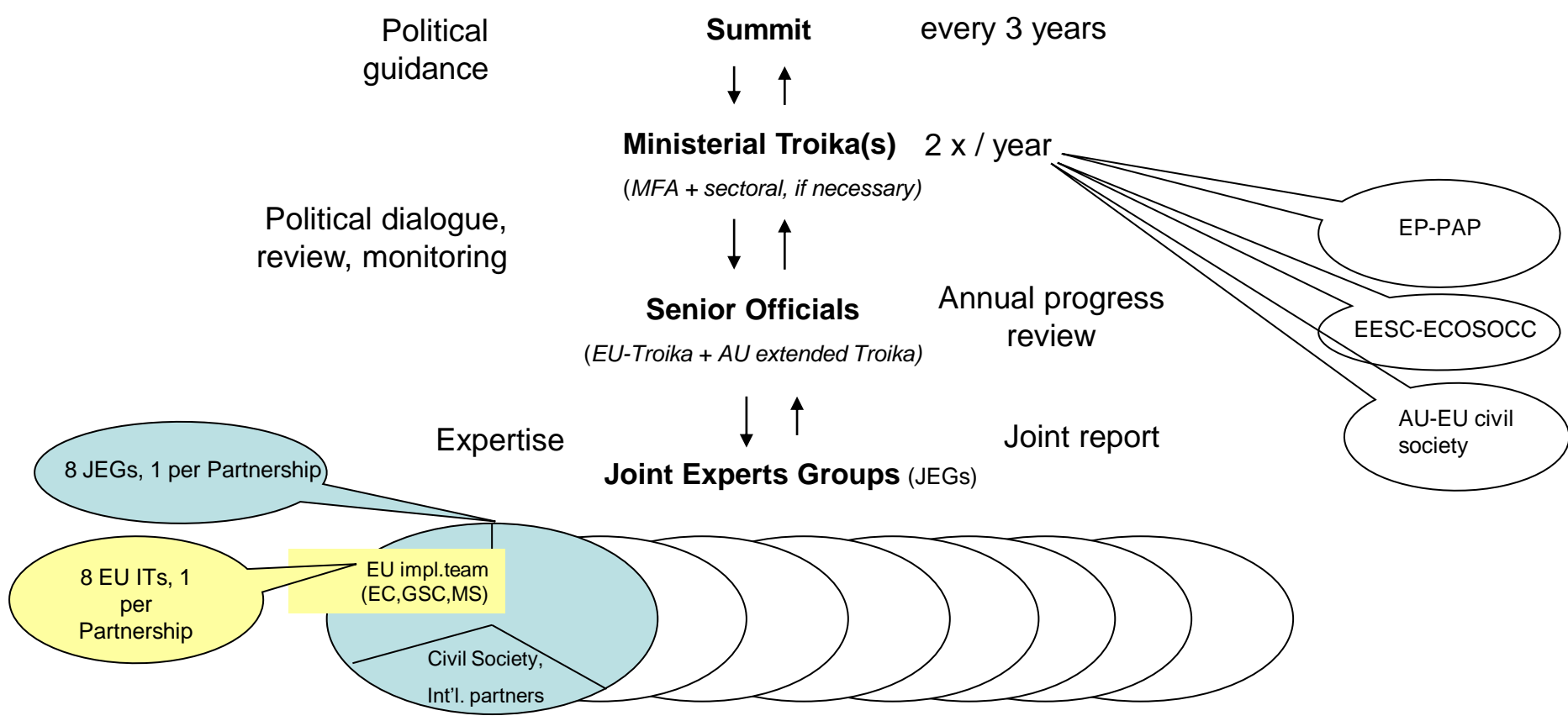
Outstanding features:

- A **Strategic Partnership** between equals, moving away from the traditional donor – beneficiary relation
- A **Political dialogue** for
 - Discussion of issues of common concern (eg. regional integration)
 - A joint response to global challenges (eg. climate change, energy, peace & security);
 - Promoting key issues for development (eg. MDGs, governance);
 - Tackling new areas of cooperation : S&T, space, information soc.
 - Promoting a broad-based people-centred partnership.
- 8 thematic partnerships for concrete action with tangible results



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A complex, multi-layered institutional architecture





2008: first key achievements (1/7)

- ✓ Extended AU-EU political dialogue + coop.
- ✓ Setting up the institutional architecture and innovative working arrangements (JEGs) = the biggest ever division of labour endeavour
- ✓ Initial progress on substance in each of the 8 thematic partnerships



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2008: first key achievements (2/7)

✓ AU-EU Political dialogue:

Open and frank, on a wide variety of topics:

- Implementation of the Action Plan and its 8 thematic partnership
- Crisis situations in Africa (eg. Mauritania) and beyond (eg. Georgia)
- Issues of global concern (eg. financial / food crisis, Energy)
- Issues of specific concern to one of the parties (eg. Principle of Universal Jurisdiction)



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2008: first key achievements (3/7)

✓ Setting up the institutional arrangements

➤ Increased coherence at EU level:

- Commission: Africa inter-service group strengthened (>20 DGs)
- Council: coordinating mandate of Africa working group reinforced
- 'Double-hat' EU Delegation to the AU, Addis: interface with AU/AUC
- Meetings of EU Implementation Teams with active participation of Member States
- Test case for policy coherence, aid effectiveness and division of labour



2008: first key achievements (4/7)

✓ **Setting up the institutional arrangements**

➤ **At AU level:**

- New AU Commission: elected in Feb., in service in April 08
- Strong commitment to the Africa-EU Partnership
- Inter-service group set up between the various AUC Directorates involved
- Recent designation of African co-chairs for the Joint Expert Groups, beyond the AUC



2008: first key achievements (5/7)

- ✓ **Setting up the institutional arrangements**
- **At joint AU-EU level:**
 - 16/09: Ministerial Troika, endorsement of instit. architecture
 - Oct-Nov: First meetings of the informal joint expert groups (JEGs) on the 8 thematic partnerships
 - 20-21/11: Ministerial Troika, endorsement of first joint progress report, communiqué and guidelines for JEGs



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2008: first key achievements (6/7)

✓ Initial progress on substance

➤ Peace & security:

- Sept.08: 1st joint meeting of EU Political and Security Committee and the AU Peace and Security Council
- Launch of Amani Africa / Euro-Recamp training cycle for the African Stand-by Force
- New African Peace Facility (APF) agreed, € 300 M
- Enhanced cooperation between EU-AU situation centres



2008: first key achievements (7/7)

✓ Initial progress on substance

➤ Energy:

- Visit of EU Commissioners Michel and Piebalgs to Africa: joint EC-AUC Statement on actions in favour of energy access and services in Africa + energy security

➤ Climate change:

- Joint Africa-EU Declaration, ahead of Poznan UNFCCC

➤ + other thematic partnerships



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Some constraints and challenges ahead (1/4)

- ✓ **Need to move quickly...**
 - from process to concrete action & deliverables
 - from diplomatic to experts level (in joint expert groups)
 - from a Commission- to a more Member State-driven dynamics
- ✓ **Need to keep the political momentum and deliver concrete results**
 - by the next Troika Ministerial, Luxembourg, 28/04/09
 - by 2009 mid-term review (under SW presidency of the EU)
 - by 2010 3rd Africa-EU Summit



Some constraints and challenges ahead (2/4)

- ✓ **Need to better involve:**
 - Member States (AU / EU)
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
 - European and Panafrican Parliaments
 - Economic and Social committees (EESC, ECOSOCC)
 - Other international partners (UN, AfDB, IFIs)
 - EC Delegations in Africa
- ✓ **Need to go beyond institutions and better integrate:**
 - Civil society
 - Private sector
 - Local authorities



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Some constraints and challenges ahead (3/4)

- ✓ **Need to finance the implementation architecture**
(eg. participation of civil society; experts)
- ✓ **Need to establish clear implementation roadmap:**
8 partnerships: identify actors, (financial) resources, calendars, deliverables
(Commissions, Member States, other actors)
- ✓ **Need for JEGs to address all agreed priority actions**
(eg. not migration to the detriment of employment)



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Some constraints and challenges ahead (4/4)

- ✓ **Need for EU MS to increase their financial commitments to Africa**
in line with international commitments (Paris Declaration, Monterrey, Accra, Doha)
- ✓ **Need for EU MS to address regional and continental dimension of the Partnership,**
beyond bilateral cooperation
- ✓ **On the AU side, need to mobilise MS beyond South Africa and North African countries**
in steering the thematic partnerships
- ✓ **Need for African partners to deliver own contributions**
(policy, regulatory, financial, etc.)



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Conclusion

The Africa-EU Partnership:

- ambitious and substantial
- innovative working method (division of labour)
- challenging timeframe
- multi-stakeholders
- ✓ The political ambition must be matched with the necessary resources
- ✓ Make the « people-centred » dimension a reality



More information...

..on the Africa-EU Partnership:

www.africa-eu-partnership.org



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Thank you for your attention!