

Towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy

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ECDPM

- Independent foundation specialising in ACP-EU and AU-EU relations
 - Facilitation of dialogue
 - Practical analysis and information
 - Capacity and partnership development
- Organisation of public consultation on Joint Strategy
- Non partisan support to players involved in Joint Strategy process
- Longstanding cooperation with Portugal (IPAD) and IEEI



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Structure of presentation

- I. Revival of EU-Africa relations
- II. Existing framework of EU-Africa relations
- III. Why a Joint EU-Africa Strategy?
- IV. Process of elaboration of Joint Strategy
- V. Key areas of the Joint Strategy
- VI. Critical issues in the Joint Strategy
- VII. Opportunities & Risks
- VIII. Monitoring & implementation



Revival of EU-Africa Relations

- Dialogue with SSA in framework of ACP-EU Agreements (Lome & Cotonou)
- First and only EU-Africa Summit (Cairo 2000)
- Rise of Pan-African institutions since 2000
- Intensified EU-Africa Dialogue
 - EC-AUC Commission to Commission dialogue
 - Brussels/ Addis dialogue involving EU member states
 - More regular EP-PAP exchanges
 - Dialogue EC-African Regional Economic Communities
- EU Strategy for Africa (2005)
- Joint EU-Africa Strategy (2007)
- Second EU-Africa Summit (Lisbon 8-9 Dec 2007)

Fragmented framework of Africa-EU relations

- 3 EU-Africa Agreements
 - Cotonou Partnership (ACP)
 - TDCA – South Africa
 - Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
- Different EC management structures
- Different funding mechanisms (ENPI, EDF,..)
- + EU Member States policies on Africa

Why a joint EU-Africa Strategy?

- Adapt partnership to new global challenges since 9/11 (security, migration, trade, climate change,...)
- Emerging Pan-African institutions
- New players with strong interest in Africa (China, India, Arab World, Latin America...)
- Ambition to make 'joint' strategy after 'unilateral' EU Strategy for Africa
- Forge new and comprehensive partnership beyond aid

Process of Joint Strategy

- Institutional dialogue at Troika & Commissions experts levels
- Joint Strategy Outline (15 May)
- Parallel public consultation process via internet and meetings
 - <http://europafrika.org>,
 - <http://europafrique.org>
- Drafting Strategy (Sept-Nov)
- Lisbon Summit adoption (December)

Joint strategy - content

- Overarching discussion
 - Shared Vision & common interests
- 4 clusters of topics
 - Peace & Security
 - Trade & Regional Integration
 - Governance, democracy & human rights
 - Key Development Issues
 - Incl: migration, social, infrastructure, debt, ...



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Shared Vision: building a new political partnership based on:

- Recognition of historic links and neighbourhood
- common values and interests (respect, equality,...)
- Mix of policies beyond aid (trade, security, migration, environment, culture,...)
- Mutual accountability
- People centred & people driven
- Joining forces in more effective multilateral system



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Peace and Security

- Enhance political dialogue to better respond to peace and security issues
- Holistic approaches (crisis mgt, LT peace building, conflict prevention, governance,..)
- Support to African Peace and Security Architecture (Africa Peace Facility)
- Capacity building in Africa to prevent and resolve conflicts



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Governance, democracy and human rights

- Clarify concept of 'fragility' of states
- Support AU Governance Agenda/ African growth initiatives (e.g APRM)
- Address issues of economic governance return of illegally acquired funds, illegal trade in natural resources)
- Mutual accountability and enforcement of mutual commitments

Trade and regional integration

- Strengthen Africa's productive capacities
- Trade = development oriented
- Promotion of investment and business friendly environment
- Support to regional integration
- Fully integrated pan-African market



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Key development issues

- Development cooperation (increase ODA, aid effectiveness, PCD, debt cancellation...)
- Human and social development (employment, health & education for all, S&T, R&D, cultural cooperation,..)
- Migration-brain drain
- Agriculture-food security
- Environment & climate change
- Infrastructure & Sustainable energy

Critical issues in the new EU-Africa partnership (1)

- **Key question: Will there be a real change in partnership culture?** (joint dialogue, mutual accountability, effective joint monitoring and implementation,...)
 - ‘Treat Africa as one’: Will EU adapt its cooperation instruments to take account of new pan-african reality?
 - ‘fragile states’ concept = ‘stigma’: How to develop differentiated approaches towards different types of fragility?

Critical issues in the new EU-Africa partnership (2)

- Trade-EPAs coherent with pan-african integration and with development orientation? How to develop synergies between EPAs and EU agreements with North Africa?
- Will EU governance initiatives ensure reciprocity and ownership of African home grown initiatives?
- Will EU commitments on policy coherence, increased aid levels and aid effectiveness be put into practice?
- Quid return cultural goods?
- Protection right of migrants and refugees?

Opportunities for new EU-Africa Partnership

- Openness to dialogue on all sensitive issues on equal footing
- More balanced partnership because of strengthened bargaining power of Africa
- New and stronger African institutions
- Increasing pressures civil society



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Risks

- ‘Business as usual’ ?– unilateral decision-making, lack of mechanisms for effective implementation?
- Incoherence with existing partnership frameworks?
- Will strategy reach out to grassroots?

Monitoring and implementation of Joint Strategy

- Measurable indicators to monitor progress with implementation in all key areas
- Regular evaluations
- Parliament and civil society should be part of the monitoring process
- Financing: Pan-African envelope (e.g out of EDF and ENPI)

Conclusions

- First time that attempt is made for genuine joint and inclusive process
- Openness in pointing out issues of consensus and divergence
- Will Joint Strategy fundamentally change EU-Africa relations beyond aid ?
- **Ensure delivery of commitments and put emphasis on monitoring and implementation mechanisms!**

Thank you for your attention...

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*For more information on
ECDPM's work on ACP-EU and AU-EU
relations:*

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