



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
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Public consultation on the Joint EU-Africa Strategy

**Report of the internet consultation,
5 February - 19 April, 2007**

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Table of contents

Acronyms	2
Summary.....	3
1 Introduction	7
2 Observations on the contributions received	11
3 Comments on the consultation process	15
4 Shared vision for a Joint Strategy	17
5 Governance, democracy and human rights	20
6 Key development issues	25
7 Trade and regional integration	33
8 Peace and Security	36
Annex 1: Contributing organisations	41
Annex 2: Position papers by organisations	44
Annex 3: Main conclusions and recommendations from African Civil Society consultation in Accra, Ghana	46
Annex 4: Comments by organisations and individuals.....	54

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of the public consultation. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not represent any official view of the European Union, the African Union or the European Centre for Development Policy Management

Acronyms

ACPLGP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Local Government Platform
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CONCORD	the European NGO confederation for relief and development
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
LGA	Local Government Association for England and Wales
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PDP	Product development public-private partnerships
UN	United Nations
VENRO	the Association of German development NGOs

Summary

This report summarises the ideas that have been raised in the first phase of the public consultation on the joint EU-Africa strategy. Contributions have been made mainly through the internet. A draft of the report was presented as an input into the conference: 'Civil Society and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy' in Bad Honnef (Germany, 23 - 24 April 2007). It was also geared at the African and European officials taking part in the negotiations at their drafting meeting on 26-28 April.

The context

The European Union and the African Union have decided to further strengthen the ties linking the two continents by developing a co-owned 'joint strategy' which reflects the needs and aspirations of the peoples of Africa and Europe. The purpose of this joint strategy is to develop a political vision and practical approaches for the future partnership between the EU and Africa, based on mutual respect, common interests and the principle of ownership. The strategy should be adopted at the second EU-Africa Summit which is planned to take place in Lisbon at the end of 2007.

Both Unions recognize the need to associate civil society in all its diversity to this important process. To this end, consultations have been launched in both in Europe and in Africa to collect opinions about the future of EU-African relations. These initiatives should provide an opportunity for the broad public on both continents to address challenges or suggest solutions to issues that may shape the future EU-Africa partnership. The first phase of the consultation is now coming to an end with the joint EU-Africa Ministerial troika meeting on 15 May, where a first outline of the joint Strategy should be approved.

The **internet consultation**, whose outcome is presented in this report, **is one of these initiatives geared at involving civil society. It was launched on behalf of the European Union and the African Union in February 2007.** The process is supported by the Finnish and German EU presidencies of 2006 and 2007, the European Commission and the African Union Commission. The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), an independent foundation specialised in EU co-operation with Africa, facilitates the process.

The process, its methodology and limitations

Various events have been organised on both continents, but the public consultation takes place mainly through the internet. ECDPM set up two websites for this purpose, one in English and one in French (www.europafrika.org and www.europafrique.org). They have been online since 5 February and had by 19 April the websites had had 15061 visitors. **The consultation received a total of nearly 200 comments and positions papers. This includes 37 position papers, 18**

other contributions from organisations in Europe and Africa, as well as nearly 100 individuals have contributed¹. The position papers were mainly submitted by civil society organisations and networks, a majority of them being based in Europe, whereas individual and other organisational comments have arrived from both continents.

Several comments on the initiative to consult civil society on the new strategy have been positive. However, a number of organisations commented on the limitations they perceive in the process, and noted the **challenge of ensuring full and equal participation by non-state actors from Africa considering the limited time-line and the internet-based approach.** Some doubted whether the concerns raised in the comments would be taken into account by decision makers. European NGO networks questioned the added value of their participation in the consultation process, and have expressed that they would rather encourage the involvement of their African partners. An extension of the time-line has been called for, where the Lisbon Summit would be a milestone, but not a final goal.

On top of the limitations mentioned above, it should be stressed that this report mainly reflects ideas and recommendations that have been made in the framework of this public consultation. Other debates relevant for the future joint EU-Africa Strategy taking place in other fora are thus not fully reflected².

The main messages

Many interesting contributions have been formulated presenting a wide range of ideas and topics of concern. Comments have been spread across the five thematic cluster areas: Shared vision; Peace and security; Governance, democracy and human rights; Trade and regional integration; Key development issues, as well as on the consultation process itself.

The overall political message coming out of this internet consultation is clear: civil society (both in Africa and in Europe) expressed a wish for real change in EU-Africa relations and for a new relationship based on:

- **a new set of principles (e.g. respect, equality);**
- **clearly defined common interests;**
- **a joint strategy that goes beyond aid to include a wide range of global issues;**
- **a people centered and people driven partnership.**

¹ Some individuals and organisations have sent several comments, which explains why the total amount of position papers and comments received does not correspond to the total number of organisations and individuals that have contributed.

² An obvious example is the EPA negotiation process which is debated at the moment in other fora.

Concrete suggestions were made by participating actors on how to translate this call for a 'real change' in EU-Africa relations in each of the five clusters. The bullet points below summarise the main messages per cluster.

Shared vision:

- Call for an equal partnership based on principles such as respect and mutual accountability.
- Necessity to move away from a fragmented to a coherent EU-Africa relationship and to adapt the existing policies and instruments accordingly
- Increased participation of non-state actors, such as civil society, local governments and the private sector, in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation through a structured multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanism
- Upgrade the EU-Africa partnership by building alliances within global fora

Governance, democracy and human rights:

- Governance needs to be owned and African grown initiatives and instruments should be supported by the EU.
- Key governance players, such as Parliaments, Courts of justice and the police as well as other accountability bodies, need to be supported. The local level and civil society are of particular importance in ensuring governance and should be associated to all initiatives.
- Attention has been called to the widespread violations of human rights in Africa. The joint Strategy provides an opportunity for the EU to strengthen its support to African human rights mechanisms.
- The joint Strategy should provide a framework to discuss contentious issues such as Zimbabwe.
- Governance is a reciprocal concept and proper 'governance of aid' is a key element of it.

Key development issues:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should provide the basis for the joint strategy.
- The EU should deliver on its aid levels and aid effectiveness commitments.
- Africa should be granted total debt cancellation.
- Equal access to development programmes by all people, including vulnerable groups, needs to be ensured in order to achieve the MDGs. Gender also needs to be mainstreamed.
- Root causes of migration need to be addressed. Issues such as brain drain and foreign remittances as well as the role of diaspora should be better integrated. Europe should ensure the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees.

- Health and education must remain a priority.

Trade and regional integration:

- The increased competitiveness and productivity of African agriculture needs to be supported and the EU should modify its agricultural policy in a more development oriented manner.
- Strong recommendations on EPAs have been voiced: to integrate safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements; to grant the developing countries preferential treatment; to omit Singapore issues; to extend the timeframe for the EPA negotiations; and to respond positively to the requests of ACP countries.
- Supply side constraints should be further addressed and public-private partnerships enhanced.
- Private sector could be more structurally associate to policy formulation and implementation.

Peace and security:

- There is a close link between development and security, which needs to be strengthened in the respective agendas. Policies in other sectors, such as on trade and natural resources, also have a fundamental impact on conflicts and all EU engagements should be conflict sensitive.
- EU commitments have been acknowledged but an increased coherence and predictable funding are required.
- Conflict prevention as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts should be prioritised.
- Building African capacity and assuring African ownership of conflict prevention and resolution through the African Peace and Security Architecture is a priority.
- Local / civil society participation and ownership is fundamental for sustainable and effective peace and development efforts.
- Control of arms trading and mercenary pursuit should also be addressed.

1 Introduction

The European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) have in the past years strengthened their relations and since the first EU-African Summit in Cairo in 2000 participated in a structured dialogue. The international, African and European contexts have greatly evolved since 2000 with the rise of issues such as security and migration on the international agenda, the birth of the AU and the EU enlargement. Africa is a priority for the EU as stated in the EU strategy for Africa adopted in December 2005 by the European Council,³ and now both continents are heading towards a second EU-Africa Summit that is planned take place in Lisbon at the end of 2007.

The EU and the AU have decided to further strengthen the ties linking both continents by developing a co-owned 'joint strategy' which reflects the needs and aspirations of the peoples of Africa and Europe. The purpose of this joint strategy is to develop a common political vision and practical approaches for the future partnership between the EU and Africa, based on mutual respect, common interests and the principle of ownership.

Public consultation: timeline, components and role of ECDPM

A public consultation process is taking place in order to collect opinions about the future of EU-African relations. It provides an opportunity for the broad public on both continents to address challenges or suggest solutions to issues that may shape the future EU-Africa partnership. The consultation was jointly launched on 5 February 2007 by the European Commission and the African Union Commission. The process is supported by the Finnish and German EU presidencies of 2006 and 2007, the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

The public consultation is based on **an internet consultation** as well as on **various events** organised on both continents. As mentioned several times by EU and AU officials, it will have **several phases** with the first one just reaching its end in order to feed in the joint Ministerial Troika Meeting on 15 May that is to approve an outline of the future joint Strategy. The second phase of the consultation should take place from May until the Lisbon Summit at the end of 2007. As part of the first phase, **ECDPM** (European Centre for Development Policy Management) as an independent foundation and neutral broker has been asked by the EU and the AU **to facilitate the joint internet consultation**. ECDPM's mandate was also **to facilitate more broadly the European consultation**, especially through the organisation of a civil society event, while remaining closely in touch with the AUC, which kept the initiative to start the consultation process in Africa.

³ For more information see: <http://www.europe-cares.org/>

Consultation

The internet consultation was launched on 5 February 2007. It consisted of two websites, one in English (<http://europafrica.org>) and one in French (<http://europafrique.org>). The **websites** have been a platform on which issues have been raised and ideas shared and discussed. They are structured according to the five themes on which the EU and AU officials base their negotiations, namely: Shared vision; Peace and security; Governance, democracy and human rights; Trade and regional integration; Key development issues. Issue papers drafted by the ECDPM and approved by the EU and the AU were presented on the websites and participants were encouraged to respond to questions raised in these. The consultation has also made space for participants to raise other questions, priorities, or challenges that they would like to put on the agenda. New questions for discussion were formulated on the basis of these suggestions and the progress of the institutional negotiations. Comments could be made directly on the websites and contributions could also be sent in the form of position papers. These were published on the website by the facilitators.

The websites as well as other communication tools set up (automatic e-alerts and a bi-monthly bulletin) have also been used **to link to the extent possible the institutional negotiations and the public consultation**, providing some information on the progress of the negotiations whenever possible. Inputs made to the internet consultation have also been regularly presented to EU and AU officials during the negotiation sessions.

It should be clear that this internet consultation is but one of the many activities that are taking place in relation to civil society participation in the EU-Africa process of defining a new strategic partnership. Likewise, the internet consultation does not hinder organisations and individuals to send contributions and input directly to the EU and AU officials.

Related events that have taken place include:

- Consultation on the EU-Africa Strategy of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee, 8 March 2007, Brussels.
- International NGO conference: 'Prospects for Africa - Europe's policies', 12 March 2007, Bonn, organised by VENRO.
- Open Civil Society Forum with Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, 20 March 2007, Brussels, organised by the European Commission.
- Informal 'Brain Storm' meeting of European and African parliamentarians on the joint EU-Africa Strategy at the European Parliament (EP), 21 March, Brussels.
- African Civil Society Forum, 22-24 March, Addis Ababa.
- African Civil Society seminar on the joint EU-Africa Strategy, 26-28 March, Accra, organised by the African Union Commission.

- Conference on: 'Civil Society and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy', 23-24 April, Bad Honnef, Germany, organised by ECDPM and the Association of German development NGOs, VENRO.

The African civil society conference in Accra marked the first event of the **African civil society consultation**, and a steering committee was elected to follow up the process and make sure that African civil society is properly involved in this process. They are planning to spread relevant information as much as possible through appropriate networks and steer the discussions from an African civil society perspective. Several events leading up to the summit in Lisbon could be organised, including a joint Africa-Europe civil society conference later this year.⁴

The **civil society conference that took place in Bad Honnef** organised by ECDPM and VENRO, was the final step of the first phase of the public consultation. It built on the topics raised in the internet consultation, as well as in the institutional negotiations. This conference brought together around 100 African and European civil society actors as well as AU and EU officials. The aim of the conference was to formulate clear expectations of a representative sample of key Civil Society Organisations vis-à-vis the EU and AU regarding the contents of the EU-Africa strategy and their role in it.

The viewpoints and recommendations resulting from the conference have been presented to the official negotiators together with the draft of this report of the internet consultation. These were taken into account in the deliberations of the EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting that will take place on 15 May in order to adopt a first outline of the Joint Strategy.⁵

Report

The objective of this report is to present the main ideas, opinions and suggestions voiced in the contributions received. It is based mainly on the comments made on the website, but the material also includes issues raised in other forums where the strategy has been discussed that have been brought to our attention. The views expressed are those of the contributing organisations and individuals and do not represent any official view of the European Union, the African Union or the European Centre for Development Policy Management.

The report starts with a short description of the number and type of contributions received. The following section presents views expressed concerning the consultation procedure. Subsequently, the contributions made on the five clusters are presented: Shared vision; Governance, democracy and human rights; Key development issues; Trade and regional

⁴ See report from the conference in Accra in Annex 3

⁵ See report from the conference in Bad Honnef at: <http://europafrika.org/2007/04/21/conference/>

integration; Peace and security respectively. A list of the position papers sorted according to their theme of focus can be found on page 2 of annex 2. The position papers in full are included in this annex. See annex 4 for other comments by organisations and individuals.

2 Observations on the contributions received

The launch of the internet consultation was announced through a joint press release by the EC and the AUC.⁶ ECDPM contacted a number of civil society networks to make sure they would circulate the information within their networks and information about the consultation was also spread through an invitation e-mail to 7500 contacts in Europe and Africa. Apart from contacts already identified by ECDPM in earlier work, a list of 800 strategic contacts was drafted, with the aim of including big networks and platforms across different fields. The invitation asked the recipients to spread it through their networks and to publish it on their websites in order to take advantage of existing networks. Confirmation that this has been done has been received by several organisations.⁷ Information about the consultation has also been spread through a bi-monthly bulletin, which reported on the progress and encouraged people to participate. It was sent to the list of 800 strategic contacts as well as to people who subscribed since. At the end of the first phase of the consultation 1,400 contacts receive this bulletin.

On 19 April the two websites had together had 15,061 visitors. The majority of visitors came from Europe and Africa, but also from other parts of the world.

	Total	English site	French site
Unique visitors:	15,061	10,242	4,819

Top ten countries of origin (based on number of visitors)

African

Burkina Faso

Morocco

Senegal

South Africa

Ethiopia

Cameroon

Kenya

Benin

Cote d'Ivoire

Mali

European

Netherlands

Belgium

France

Portugal

United Kingdom

Germany

Luxembourg

Italy

Spain

Sweden

⁶ See: <http://europafrica.files.wordpress.com/2007/02/joint-press-release-au-eu.doc>

⁷ For example: CONCORD, IFAP, CAT, ACPLG, IAVI, SNV

The consultation received 37 position papers⁸ from 34 organisations and networks, spread over the various topics of the consultation: ⁹ 2 contributions focused on the process (which was however mentioned in many other contributions); 3 were about the shared vision; 10 concerned governance, democracy and human rights; 22 discussed key development issues; 6 analysed trade and regional integration; and another 6 contributions dealt with peace and security¹⁰. A majority of the position papers were submitted by civil society organisations and networks based in Europe. In addition to these, there are also 3 position papers that were presented by CODESRIA and Oxfam International at the African civil society conference in Accra.¹¹

Type and geographical origin of these 37 organisations and networks			
Type		Geographical origin	
NGO networks	26	Africa ¹²	11
Local governments	2	Europe	17
Research institutes	4	Multinational	8
Private sector, trade unions and affiliated	2		
Multilateral/public organisations	3		

Apart from sending position papers 18 other organisations posted shorter statements on the website.¹³ Many of these organisations are located in Africa, with the francophone part of the continent particularly well-represented. The majority of shorter comments were about the consultation process, key development issues and governance (with a particular emphasis on human rights).

The consultation has also received **contributions from nearly 100 individuals**.¹⁴ About **65 percent of the commentators have an African origin**, with a majority coming from the francophone western and central parts. Together with those from organisations, comments **have been received from 32 countries in both Africa and Europe**. Contributions to the consultation were submitted directly on the website or through e-mail and posted on the website by ECDPM

⁸ Extensive comments posted on the website have been considered as position papers

⁹ Please see annex 2 for these papers in full.

¹⁰ Several contributions addressed multiple issues.

¹¹ Please see annex 4 for these contributions.

¹² ACP networks have been categorised as 'African'

¹³ Please see annex 1 for a list of all contributing organisations.

¹⁴ Please see annex 4 for these contributions.

as facilitators. In total, the consultation has received nearly 200 comments and position papers¹⁵.

Countries of origin of commentators (both organisations and individuals)

Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain (Ceuta, Africa), Sweden, Uganda, UK, Zambia, Zimbabwe

A brief assessment of the internet consultation and its limitations

The website seems to have played its role in terms of awareness raising given the number of visits and the references made through other organisations' communication tools (e-alerts, websites, events, etc). The consultation has received substantial inputs from wider networks and organisations, even though the majority of comments posted have been sent by individuals. The level of the comments thus varies a lot among the contributions. Readers should also recognise that an internet based public consultation has both advantages and disadvantages as a methodology. It is a relatively rapid and low cost way of collecting ideas and reaching people in far flung places, but **has its limitations in terms of variable accessibility in different regions and social groups**. Caution should therefore be exercised in the way the results are used and particular attention should be paid throughout to the source of any comments received.¹⁶

It should be stressed that this internet consultation reports mostly reflects ideas and recommendations that have been made in the framework of this public consultation. Although **contributions made in other fora** on relevant topics for the elaboration of this joint Strategy have also been taken on board to the extent possible, they are not fully reflected in this report. For instance, the number of contributions received on EPAs is relatively limited whereas a very active debate takes place on this issue on other fora.

¹⁵ Some individuals and organisations have sent several comments, which explains why the total amount of position papers and comments received does not correspond to the total number of organisations and individuals that have contributed.

¹⁶ It should also be clear that the results emanating from an internet consultation cannot be seen in the same way as those from an opinion survey using statistically controlled sampling techniques.

Several **events** on the joint EU-Africa Strategy, mobilising Non State Actors and institutions such as the European Parliament, have taken place¹⁷ and the outputs are taken into account in the report. A second phase of the consultation will consist to a larger extent of events and seminars, in both Africa and Europe, and it will be necessary for a link to be made between these contributions and the institutional negotiations.

¹⁷ See list on page 9.

3 Comments on the consultation process

Key messages:

- The limited time-line provides a challenge for African stakeholders to properly consult their members and the time-line of the consultation should thus be extended.
- The relevance of an internet-based approach is questioned considering the limited internet accessibility in Africa.
- Broader and more in-depth consultations building on seminars and conferences have been called for.
- How will the contributions provided in the consultation process influence the negotiations?

Generally, comments on the initiative to consult civil society on the new strategy were positive. However, several contributors noted the challenge of ensuring full and equal participation by non-state actors from Africa considering the limited time-line and the internet-based approach. Some doubted whether the concerns raised in the comments would be taken into account by decision makers. Most contributions received from organisations comment on the limitations of the consultation process, and many received in the early stages focused entirely on this aspect rather than elaborating on the possible content of the strategy.

When talking to representatives of several NGO networks in Europe all **questioned the consultation process, pointing specifically to the limited time-line and how to ensure that African institutions and civil society would be involved**. Several expressed the view that they would not contribute to the consultation, but would instead support and encourage their African partners to the extent possible to ensure an extensive participation. This view was also voiced in a newsletter by Aprodev, Cidse and Caritas Europe, EU NEWS - Issue 1, February 2007¹⁸. Here European NGOs questioned whether the process leading to the adoption of a joint Strategy would leave enough time for Africa to agree on its own expectations of its relationship with the EU. The European party has already gone through a thinking process on this matter with the adoption of the EU Strategy for Africa in 2005. CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, has proposed **extending the process until the end of 2008, where the possible Lisbon summit can be a milestone**. On top of the issues mentioned above, CONCORD concludes that the process is an opportunity to launch broad national debates in Europe and Africa about the future relations. The ACP Local Government Platform as well as the Islamic Relief Worldwide also submitted contributions voicing concern

¹⁸ Read article at: <http://euforic.blogspot.com/2007/02/from-eu-strategy-for-africa-to-joint.html>

about how views of African and European citizens will be included in the drafting of the new strategy, calling for in-depth discussions with representatives of the various stakeholders through meetings across Africa. They appreciate the participative approach of the consultation, but also warn of threats if it is not done thoroughly and in a democratic manner.

“To achieve real partnership, the EU must be ready to learn from African experience and analysis.” CONCORD

13 organisations working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the response to HIV/AIDS¹⁹ have jointly submitted a comment asking for clarification about **how the contributions provided in the consultation process will influence the outcome of the negotiations**. Individual commentators have likewise questioned to what extent the negotiators will take the views raised by civil society into consideration when drafting the strategy.

“We therefore hope that this time the consultation process will be taken seriously and that our input will be taken into consideration.” Marie Stopes et al²⁰

The **relevance of using an internet-based approach** has also been questioned by several organisations and individuals. The limited accessibility by the general public in Africa has specifically been brought up as a constraint. The difficulties for people with disabilities to participate has also been presented as a critical problem.²¹ Other comments have made suggestions to move away from rather traditional forms of consultation, for instance by allowing for the inclusion of African media.

“The participative approach is without a doubt best suited to mobilise diverse ideas ...but it does not guarantee ownership of the process”, Jean-Jacques Quairiat (Belgium).

¹⁹ The 13 organisations are: Marie Stopes International (MSI), International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU), Austrian Organization for family Planning (ÖGF), World Population Foundation (WPF), InterAct Worldwide, Family Planning Association Portugal (APF), Sex og Samfund, Väestöliitto, Stop AIDS Alliance, Equilibres et Populations, German Foundation for World Population (DSW). Please see annex 2 for contribution in full, under the name of: Marie Stopes et al.

²⁰ For comment in full see annex 1.

²¹ EU IDDC etc

4 Shared vision for a Joint Strategy

Key messages:

- Call for an equal partnership based on principles such as respect and mutual accountability.
- Necessity to move away from a fragmented EU-Africa relationship and to adapt existing policies and instruments accordingly.
- Increased participation of non-state actors, such as civil society, local governments and the private sector, in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation through a structured multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanism.
- Upgrade the EU-Africa partnership by building alliances within global fora.

Many interesting contributions have been formulated on the shared vision. A call for real change in the EU-Africa relationship has been quite strongly voiced in a number of comments. Yet how can this be achieved? Several valuable proposals were made including: (i) **to start with an assessment of what works and what does not work in the present EU-Africa relationship;** (ii) **to acknowledge the differences between the regions;** (iii) **to base the ‘new’ EU-Africa partnership on a new set of principles** (e.g. respect, equality and mutual accountability); (iv) **to acknowledge both continents’ requirements and to redefine common interests;** (v) **to rethink EU-Africa relations in non aid related matters as a way of entering into a new kind of partnership.**

The necessity of developing a new kind of partnership has been voiced by several individuals as well as organisations. Strong historical ties bind the continents together, but the relationship has not been one of equals.²² In ‘The EU must do more and better for Africa’ CONCORD calls for a genuine political dialogue on equal grounds, where the EU is prepared to learn from African experience and analysis. This includes moving away from traditional donor-recipient roles and avoiding pushing a European agenda based on migration, counter-terrorism and free trade to better take into account African interests in the definition of these policies and thus increase the coherence of European policies in a development perspective (i.e. implementation of EU commitments on policy coherence for development).

“I am sure we can learn a lesson or two from the experience of the EU. We do not have to do it the same way by adopting every aspect hook, line and

²² ACPLGP, CONCORD, International Federation of Red Cross et al

sinker, but we have [to examine] their experience to ascertain what will work for us, where, when and how.” FEMNET²³

“The common interests in the partnership need to be raised. Both continents’ requirements need to be taken into consideration, and priorities mutually agreed.” Catherine Kithinji (Kenya)

In particular, several contributions emphasise African unity as a condition for development. Questions raised include: (i) **how can better unity among the African states be reached and diversities within the continent dealt with?** (ii) **when will the EU start to treat Africa as one and move away from a fragmented EU-Africa relationship?** The conclusions and recommendations from the African civil society meeting in Accra²⁴ also call for an emphasis on regional integration and continental unity as pillars of the partnership arrangements, with particular attention to be focused on the indivisibility of Africa. In a report by the Southern African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) the added value of a strengthened partnership with the EU on the pan-African level would be in areas that can not be dealt with efficiently on a national level, such as peace and security, migration, terrorism and global warming.²⁵

Another issue that has been raised by commentators is **how the new strategy shall deal with other agreements between the two continents.** CONCORD expresses the view that “there is an urgent need to increase the consistency between the various policy and financial frameworks governing EU relations with Africa” and mentions the Cotonou agreement, the European Neighbourhood policy, EU’s strategy for Africa as well as how to respond to NEPAD.²⁶ At the African civil society conference in Accra attention was drawn to **existing African instruments and frameworks, which should be adapted to reflect the commitments made in the joint Strategy and insert the pan-African dimension.**

“Africa and the EU should move away from a fragmented relationship and enter into a continent to continent relationship. Existing legal instruments should be adapted accordingly and the pan-African dimension integrated in all themes and at all levels the Africa-EU partnership.”²⁷

²³ African Women’s Development and Communications Network. Posted on the website by Roselynn Musa, under trade and regional integration.

²⁴ African civil society meeting organised by the African Union Commission in Accra, Ghana, on the 26-28 April 2007.

²⁵ SAIIA Report No. 51, *Sidiropoulos E & Chevallier R (2006): ‘The European Union and Africa: Developing partnerships for peace and security’*. For more information see: <http://www.saiia.org.za/>

²⁶ CONCORD: ‘The EU must do more and better for Africa’

²⁷ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations’ consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa’s development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007. See annex 3.

Regarding how to develop a shared vision and meet the development challenges a majority of the organisational contributions request **increased participation of non-state actors, such as civil society, local governments and the private sector, in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation.**²⁸ EUROCHAMBRES argue that this would ensure that policies correspond to the needs of the citizens and thereby really contribute to poverty reduction. In order to ensure effective participation empowerment and capacity building of these various actors is widely called for. One method which is repeatedly suggested is the increased sharing of experiences between the various actors, at local, national and international level within Africa as well as through twinning and peer-to-peer relations with European counterparts.²⁹ Related to the implementation of the joint Strategy and more generally to the Africa-Europe relationship, some organisations and networks have called for a multi-stakeholder monitoring mechanism that would allow for African and European civil society to make regular inputs in a structured manner into institutional dialogue on this topic³⁰.

There have also been contributions concerning Africa and Europe's place in the world at large and the question has been raised about which global issues the EU and Africa can develop and defend common views. Africa is often given a marginal position in global systems and policy making, despite that such institutions often intervene in African 'problems'. A reinforced EU-Africa partnership could entail developing Africa's role in the global arena and forming Euro-African alliances in global fora on issues such as climate change, trade, global governance. In their suggestions to the German EU presidency, the German Development Institute (DIE/GDI) suggests that a strengthened African role in global policy processes is also fundamental for the successful implementation of these policies.

“Global policy processes are doomed to eventual failure unless they have the backing of those who have hitherto been hardly involved in them, but have often been directly affected by them.”³¹

²⁸ ACPLGP, EUROCHAMBRES, VENRO, CONCORD, LGP UK, Islamic Relief Worldwide, LGA, International Federation of Red Cross et al, SFP, EPLO etc

²⁹ EUROCHAMBRES, LGA,

³⁰ European Youth Forum

³¹ DIE, *Dirk Messner*, 'African Agenda for 2007'. See annex 2 for summary.

5 Governance, democracy and human rights

Key messages:

- Good governance needs to be owned and African-grown initiatives and instruments should be supported by the EU.
- Key governance players, such as Parliaments, courts of justice and the police, as well as other accountability bodies, need to be supported. The local level and civil society are of particular importance in ensuring governance and should be associated to all initiatives.
- Attention has been called to the widespread violations of human rights in Africa. The joint Strategy provides an opportunity for the EU to strengthen its support to African human rights mechanisms.
- The joint Strategy should provide a framework to discuss contentious issues such as Zimbabwe.
- Governance is a reciprocal concept and proper 'governance of aid' is a key element of it.

Contributions concerning governance, democracy and human rights have mainly focused on how good governance can be promoted. Issues raised include: (i) the need for governance to develop from the local level; (ii) governance of aid; (iii) support to key players including: local governments, parliaments, courts of justice, the police and civil society; (iv) the importance of leadership to promote good governance; (v) the importance of accountability to promote good governance; (vi) in addition to necessary financial aid, the importance of political support that the EU could provide to governance in Africa; and (vii) monitoring commitments made to 'good' governance.

Several comments have addressed the question of what 'good governance' means, for example:

"For countries and intergovernmental organisations such as the EU and the AU, governance means - as I understand it - being accountable to its population and to the international community regarding the implementation of basic principles commonly agreed", Frontline³²

The Local Government Association for England and Wales draw attention to the World Summit on Sustainable Development³³ where governments agreed that good governance should be based on: sound environmental, social and economic policies; democratic institutions responsive

³² The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

³³ Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, 2002

to the needs of all people; the rule of law; anti-corruption measures; gender equality; and an enabling environment for investment

The concept of **governance can not be imposed by external actors, but should be developed from the local level and preferably monitored by the people themselves. Support should be provided to the African-grown initiatives that exist, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the various instruments put in place by the African Union**, from which lessons could be learned. Good leadership at all levels is fundamental to promote a democratic environment and motivate people to engage in a people centered development.³⁴ An all inclusive leadership, ensuring especially an access to decision making positions by women is essential to ensure good governance.

“[T]here cannot be genuine democracy as long as this trend is allowed to continue in which women are directly or indirectly excluded in the political arena and positions of power.” FEMNET³⁵

“The EU should support African governments in meeting their obligations, and ensure that its own development co-operation meets international requirements”, Sightsavers International

“For any meaningful joint venture between the EU and Africa to work smoothly, all the African leaders must be called to accountability and transparency. This will ensure meaningful development, which will get the populations on board.” The Global Education and Environment Development Foundation (GEED), Cameroon³⁶

Additionally, governance is not just an issue for the African continent, but should also include questions of **governance of aid** and mutual accountability. Governance is indeed a reciprocal concept and Africa-Europe dialogue on governance should also cover governance of aid.³⁷

In order for governance to be implemented at the global, national and local levels, an increased collaboration between the actors of the different levels as well as an effective decentralization should be enforced. The ACP Local Government Platform, the Local Government Association for England and Wales and the ‘Alliance pour la Réfondation de la

³⁴ ACPLGP; LGA; Interaction Leadership Programme (Zambia); Alliance pour la Réfondation de la Gouvernance en Afrique; etc. See full contributions in Annex 2.

³⁵ Posted on the website by Roselynn Musa under Governance, democracy ad human rights.

³⁶ Posted on the website by Tilder Kumichii Ndichia.

³⁷ Alliance pour la Réfondation de la Gouvernance en Afrique; Dr Tamokwé, and Gerard Turbanisch, both posted on the French website under governance. and others

Gouvernance en Afrique' call attention to the fact that the value of the EU-Africa strategy will primarily be tested at the local level, and therefore asks for the recognition of the role and added value of local governments in the strategy. Parliaments, courts of justice and the police have been mentioned as **key governance players** and should be given the mandate and means to act accordingly.

“Democratic governance should be considered, not only at national and global levels, but also at local level... It is indeed at local level that the strategy is tested with the life of local populations, including the poorest, and it is at this level that the new strategy's credibility is at stake.” ACP Local Governments Platform

“Promoting good governance at the local level requires targeted attention by the EU. The EU should therefore incorporate the OECD DAC recommendations on decentralisation in their report on ‘Lessons learned on Donor Support to decentralization and local governance’ (OECD 2004).” Local Governments Association for England and Wales

Apart from increased financial support from the EU to Africa, participants also call for increased political support. A majority of the organisational contributions suggest that more contacts are needed between both continents. This entails between leaders as leadership plays an important role towards legitimate governance, but most of all between people, who are the ultimate beneficiaries. Through shared experiences capacities can be built and better mutual understanding developed.³⁸

The role of civil society is presented as essential: as ‘producers’ of governance and as ‘watchdogs’ monitoring practice, but also as beneficiaries. Contributors have therefore asked for more space and capacities to be made available for them. Civil society should thus be systematically associated to formulation and monitoring of EU support to good governance in Africa through its various instruments, In the conclusions and recommendations of the Accra conference, African civil society organizations have thus expressed their interest in engaging into a dialogue on the European governance initiative (through a series of concrete proposals) in order to ensure proper ownership and that it will be programmed and implemented in a consultative manner. The need for civil society itself to respect the principles of ‘good governance’ has also been mentioned.³⁹

³⁸ ACPLGP, EUROCHAMBRES, VENRO, CONCORD, Islamic Relief Worldwide, LGA

³⁹ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations' consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa's development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

“Les acteurs de la société civile doivent respecter les lois, éviter les fraudes fiscales, éviter de corrompre, soutenir l’Etat de droit.” Union pour la Paix Permanente, DRC⁴⁰

Human rights

Contributions have also highlighted the significance of human rights, and called for attention to be given to the UN Declaration of Human Rights. It was pointed out that violations of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, are widespread throughout many parts of Africa including through: armed conflict; widespread impunity; unlawful killings and torture by law enforcement personnel; and discrimination against vulnerable groups.⁴¹

“The principles of the Africa-EU partnership should include: The principles of democracy and human rights which properly recognise the inherent nature, the universality and indivisibility of those rights for ALL persons.” Light for the World, Austria

“Respect for international human rights law is a key aspect of good governance. The EU should support African governments in meeting their obligations, and ensure that its own development co-operation meets international requirements.” Sightsavers International

The EU-Africa strategy provides an opportunity for EU to strengthen its political and economic support to African human rights mechanisms, such as the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights and the African Court on Human and People’s Rights. It has also been argued that the EU and Africa should develop their collaboration at the global level, and together work for the promotion and protection of human rights in, for example, the Human Rights Council at the UN. The EU should also support the African countries to identify their own priorities within human rights.⁴² Apart from the regional mechanisms the role of Human Rights Defenders has also been brought up. Frontline, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, argue that human rights defenders play an “essential role to improve democracy, human rights and governance” in Africa, and that their rights need to be protected through the strategy.⁴³

⁴⁰ Posted on the website by Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwami

⁴¹ Especially emphasized by Amnesty International. See further on vulnerable groups under Key development issues

⁴² Amnesty International

⁴³ Frontline.

Commentators clearly also feel that in a shared vision it should be possible for the AU and the EU to discuss contentious cases together, and the examples of Western Sahara and Zimbabwe were raised.

“I hope the AU-EU strategy has something to offer to the suffering masses of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is in a similar, if not worse off scenario, than Darfur... The AU should show the world that it will not tolerate bad governance by dealing with Mugabe once and for all. Sanctions are killing more Zimbabweans whilst at the same time helping Mugabe tighten his grip on power.” Center for Research and Development (CRD), Zimbabwe⁴⁴

“Repression of dissent manifests itself in various ways in different countries, including restricting the work of journalists, the use of anti-terror and public order laws, and restriction of the work of human rights defenders. Amnesty International has condemned in the strongest terms recent reports of continuing brutal attacks on opposition activists in Zimbabwe” Amnesty International

⁴⁴ Posted on the website by Farai Maguwu. See annex 4.

6 Key development issues

Key messages:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should provide the basis for the joint strategy.
- The EU should deliver on its aid levels and aid effectiveness commitments.
- Africa should be granted total debt cancellation.
- Equal access to development programmes by all people, including vulnerable groups, needs to be ensured in order to achieve the MDGs. Gender also needs to be mainstreamed.
- Root causes of migration need to be addresses. Issues such as brain drain and foreign remittances as well as the role of diaspora should be better integrated. Europe should ensure the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees.
- Health and education must remain a priority.

The key development issues cluster is very dense, covering a wide range of policies. The participants of the conference in Accra recommended divide this cluster into several since it contains some of the most important challenges for Africa.⁴⁵

The main focus of the contributions has been on the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which provide a globally agreed framework and relevant basis for the EU-Africa Strategy and an already agreed shared vision for development.** The eradication of poverty would eliminate the main obstacle for Africa's development.⁴⁶ Health, education, migration, infrastructure, and debt are areas that have been put forward as key for EU-Africa collaboration, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. There have also been comments concerning aid modalities, and that the donor-recipient relationship has to be over-come once and for all. It has to be a true partnership of equals, which takes its starting point the people, not the leaders. Local actors and decision-makers need to mobilised, as well as the diaspora.

“The EU must demonstrate its unswerving support for achieving and going beyond the Millennium Development Goals rather than trying to advance its own short-term political and economic interests in the fields of free trade, security and migration.” CONCORD

⁴⁵ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations' consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa's development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

⁴⁶ UN Brussels, International Federation of Red Cross et al, Marie Stopes et al (b), the Royal College of Nursing,

Food shortage is a great problem in Africa with negative impacts on health, environment, education, migration etc. Several organisations highlight it as one of the key issues that should be included in the strategy, and that **food security should be tackled in a holistic manner looking at availability, access and utilisation.**⁴⁷ In this perspective the importance of supporting agriculture is apparent. Realising the linkage between agriculture and health, investing specifically in rural small-scale farmers and supporting women are presented as essential aspects of relevance for the joint strategy.⁴⁸ Other aspects of agriculture are discussed further under the trade and regional integration cluster.⁴⁹

Environmental sustainability and preventing **climate change** are presented as essential for improving livelihoods, peace and stability. The impacts of climate change will most probably affect Africa deeply, and will first be noticed locally, but action needs to be taken at all levels, local, regional and global.⁵⁰

Access to energy and improved infrastructure are also prerequisites for development. Support of continental infrastructure projects; increased private-sector participation in air and rail transport; and improving telecommunications are brought up as priorities for the development programmes.⁵¹ Sustainable urbanisation has also been raised as an area where improvement is of increasing urgency.⁵²

Education and health

Concerns have been expressed that health and education might not receive the same level of funding as a result of the increased use of budget support. These areas should remain a first priority.

Several comments have stressed the importance of strengthening human resources and building capacity, including that of vulnerable groups. Suggestions made include a proposal to reform the format of the formal education system in Africa to better suit its specific needs and

⁴⁷ International Federation of Red Cross et al, UN Brussels, CONCORD

⁴⁸ Among others – European Food Security Group (CONCORD and EuronAid): ‘Submission to the European Commission on its Discussion Paper *Advancing African Agriculture*’ February 2007. See: http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/3_CONCORDs_positions_and_studies/Positions%2020032006/EFSGsubmissionECAdvancingAfricanAgricultureFeb2007FINAL.doc

⁴⁹ See chapter 7 on Trade and regional integration

⁵⁰ UN Brussels, VENRO, CTA, DIE

⁵¹ DIE

⁵² UN Brussels, VENRO, CTA, DIE

possibilities.

Primary and secondary education is often seen as fundamental for development, but in order for countries to build their own, sustainable development, a broad base of people with a higher education is needed. An example of how local capacity can be supported is through systemically linking development cooperation to local knowledge institutions.⁵³ **Gender** equality is also seen as an important issue in the area of education.

A large number of the organisational contributions received focus on health and how ill-health and disease have an effect on development. Three MDGs concern health-issues, and these have repeatedly been referred to. Specific areas that have been brought up include HIV/AIDS; malaria; maternal health; sexual and reproductive health and rights with a focus on women and youth; problems related to tobacco and alcohol; the quality and availability of health care; health education and sensitisation; access to clean water and nutritious food; as well as health related research and development in developing countries.⁵⁴

“Good health, as defined by WHO, is crucial for economic growth and sustainable development”, The Smoke Free Partnership and the Framework Convention Alliance

On **HIV/AIDS** suggestions have been made for inter-governmental working groups to better share information and tackle the problem regionally. A long term response to HIV/AIDS is essential, where prevention, treatment, care and support are dealt with comprehensively. **Sufficient and predictable funding and consistent policies are a prerequisite for this which needs to be discussed in the context of the joint strategy.**⁵⁵ Attention has also been called for on the ‘Neglected Tropical Diseases’ which often co-occur with HIV/AIDS and malaria, where action has the potential to make significant progress with little money to meeting development commitments.

A stronger political commitment and more resources are needed in order to raise awareness and prevent diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. Apart from basic health care, access to clean water and food security are key.⁵⁶ A holistic approach is called for dealing with prevention and cure; the situation and opportunities for patients, health workers and researchers; as well as national, regional and global measures.

⁵³ DIE

⁵⁴ International Federation of Red Cross et al, RCN, SFP, International coalition of PDPs, UN Brussels etc

⁵⁵ Marie Stopes et al (b), RCN, VENRO etc

⁵⁶ International Federation of Red Cross et al

Another issue raised is the importance of improved **primary care and school health**.

“The EC must support a multisectoral approach to services - this is critical for successful primary care. One particularly important area is school health, especially early identification of disability and school-based refractive error and low vision services. Many millions of children perform less well in school because of a visual impairment. Early identification and support would enhance their educational achievements and thus the value and effectiveness of EC investment in schooling.” Sightsavers International

Vulnerable groups

The topic which has dominated the contributions made on key development issues is the need to focus on vulnerable groups of society, referring specifically to people with disabilities, women and children. According to the UNDP Human Development Report of 2003 on the MDGs women, rural inhabitants, ethnic minorities and other poor people make less progress than the national average even in the countries that are moving towards the MDGs. It is therefore **necessary to ensure equal access to development programmes in order to achieve the MDGs.**⁵⁷

Policies addressing disability, and persons with disability should be mainstreamed and included in the Joint Strategy. Key concerns of persons with disabilities in Africa, including empowerment, equality and full participation should be taken into account given the cost-effectiveness of programmes empowering women and persons with disabilities. In order to progress on the MDGs, the joint EU-AFRICA strategy should invest in finding out more about the needs of particularly vulnerable groups in the African societies.⁵⁸

“Some 80 million Africans live with a disability... If the main goal in partnership with Africa is achievement of the MDGs, we cannot hope to achieve this without explicit inclusion of disability”, The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (South Africa).

Statements have also acknowledged AU, EU and UN initiatives which have already been taken, and which need to be further elaborated such as the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities; the EC Guidance note on disability and development which underlines the importance of taking disability into account in the work for poverty reduction;⁵⁹ and the UN Convention on the Rights

⁵⁷ International Federation of Red Cross et al

⁵⁸ EU IDDC,

⁵⁹ See: http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/human_social/pol_health5_en.htm

of People with Disabilities that was approved in 2006 and which should be ratified by all African and European countries.⁶⁰

In their contribution, VENRO draws attention to several policies in place concerning gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women. They argue, however, that there is still a lack in implementation, and call for more gender-sensitive programmes backed by financial as well as human resources. Areas raised where action needs to be taken regarding gender include protecting and realising women's rights; reviewing trade agreements from a gender perspective; ensuring women's access to energy; fighting HIV/AIDS; eliminating gender inequality in education; combating gender-based violence in conflicts; and ensuring women's participation in decision-making.⁶¹

Comments on youth development suggest the importance of quality education; health and nutrition; social protection; as well as increased opportunities of meaningful activities out of school. Attention has been brought to the limited influence young people have in policy-formulation and UN Brussels specifically emphasise the role children have in Africa's future economic growth.⁶²

“Children who are healthy, well-educated and optimistic about the future will themselves bring up the *next* generation to be healthier, better educated and better national and world citizens. [...] **Now is the time to address Africa's biggest ever cohort of children and youth and to involve them closely in formulation of the joint strategy between the African and European Unions.**” UN Brussels

Migration

Comments on migration suggest that from a development perspective migration can have a positive impact through for example **shared knowledge and foreign remittances**, but it can also have negative effects such as **brain-drain**. Particular attention should be paid to the migration of health workers. To address this policy coherence for development has been brought up, and comments stress the need of formulating migration policies together with development policies.

“Partnership between Africa and the EU is essential to improve migration conditions and should promote a comprehensive approach addressing the

⁶⁰ See: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/>

⁶¹ VENRO, FEMNET, LGA, UN Brussels, Marie Stopes et al (b),

⁶² UN Brussels, European Youth Forum

issue of discrimination, integration and reintegration and the brain drain phenomenon.” International Federation of the Red Cross et al.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlights the positive aspects of migration in respect of the MDGs. The areas they present where it can contribute to development include: the fight against poverty through foreign remittances; investment in education through skills transfer; supporting democratisation and human rights; promoting cultural understandings and pluralism; and building bridges between countries of origin and destination.⁶³ They specifically highlight the role of the diasporas as agents for development and their experiences and knowledge should be taken advantage of in development strategies.⁶⁴

Root causes of migration need to be addressed to effectively reduce illegal migration. The lack of full and productive employment is one aspect that affects migration, and as an example where brain drain is a problem the migration of health care workers has been brought up. Specific measures need to be taken to improve the working environment and the opportunities available to refrain people from looking for employment elsewhere. It has also been argued that migration provides different problems and opportunities for men and women, and therefore migration strategies need to be gender-sensitive.⁶⁵

“The labor market [in Africa] should be open to foreigners with qualifications. The impact of braindrain (or should we say globalization of human resource?) can only be eased, by allowing it both ways.” Geert Vanneste (Belgium)⁶⁶

One aspect repeatedly brought up in relation to migration is the **protection and rights of immigrants and refugees**, in Africa and Europe.⁶⁷ Concerning Europe, Amnesty International claims that failure to protect the human rights of immigrants and refugees is due to a tension between the European “immigration control agenda” and Africa’s interest in opening legal channels for migration, which has resulted in a weak debate on refugees’ and migrants’ rights. Europe’s tendency to delegate the management of migration flows to its neighbouring countries, sometimes enhancing the risks of human rights abuses has also been stressed. The EU-Africa strategy thus provides an opportunity to balance the African and European interests and bring the rights of migrants and refugees to the fore.

⁶³ IOM

⁶⁴ IOM, 2006, ‘A global strategy of migration for development’. See: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/page1306.html>

⁶⁵ RCN, FEMNET

⁶⁶ Posted on the website

⁶⁷ Amnesty International, International Federation of Red Cross et al

As one measure to improve the situation for migrants in Europe, several organisations argue that mechanisms to ensure successful integration of migrants into European society need to be developed.⁶⁸

Development cooperation and financing aid

German and African civil society organisations call through their manifesto 'Prospects for Africa - Europe's Policies' for poverty-oriented development policy and the implementation of commitments made so far in terms of aid level and aid effectiveness.⁶⁹

“In our opinion, implementing the EU step-by-step plan for development financing and sticking to achieving the 0.7 percent goal by 2015 represents a minimum requirement.” VENRO

Similar views have been expressed by other organisations, including CONCORD and the Islamic Relief Worldwide, who specifically call for commitments to the least developed countries to be honoured. In the light of these contributions, **the joint EU-Africa Strategy should implement these commitments and relate more clearly to the Millennium Development Goals.** The German Development Institute (DIE), argues, however, that increased aid does not automatically lead to development, but may undermine national initiatives if handled inappropriately.⁷⁰

Ensuring aid effectiveness through coordination between donors and the implementation of the Paris agenda has been argued for through several of the organisational as well as the individual contributions. In order to increase ownership and coherence among the various actors, the Accra seminar has also recommended that the African Union should be more systematically associated to the discussion on aid programming and delivery in Africa⁷¹. Local Governments Association for England and Wales suggests that Europe Aid play a stronger role coordinating EU aid and enhancing its effectiveness. Furthermore they should ensure greater coherence with other international donors as well as with recipients' national priorities and Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs). **Policy coherence of EU aid and policies** is fundamental for effective development assistance, and has repeatedly been brought up by the contributing organisations. The need to analyse previous development programmes and learn from best practices has also

⁶⁸ Amnesty International, LGA, International Federation of Red Cross et al

⁶⁹ VENRO

⁷⁰ DIE. Dr. Gérard Turbanisch from 'Madagaskar und Wir' (Germany) also expresses a similar point of view in comments made on the website.

⁷¹ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations' consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa's development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

been mentioned.

Various suggestions on aid modalities include to better engage the private sector for greater efficiency; increasing **budget support**; diversifying investment; and ensuring that trade is conducive to development. Considering budget support at the sub-national level has also been suggested, following the example of Uganda.⁷²

Another issue raised is that governments need to be transparent about the support received, in order for the people to make them accountable for spending it well. The same is true for the donor countries. CONCORD raises the issue that the growing number of European Funds, Facilities and Instruments are making transparency and accountability increasingly difficult. The strategy should include **concrete deliverables** on commitments made to enable Parliaments and civil society to better monitor its implementation.⁷³ Another way to ensure accountability that has been mentioned repeatedly is through decentralisation and local ownership.

“More targeted and coherent support for decentralisation programmes that strengthens local government is a vital part of improving aid effectiveness and delivery. There also needs to be greater coordination between donors and the partner governments to better integrate decentralisation programmes into the receiving government’s central policies and plans.” The Local Governments Association for England and Wales

A **call for total debt cancellation in Africa** has been voiced by several commentators and it is also one of the recommendations of the Accra conference⁷⁴ as well as the need to stop giving loans when the environment is not conducive. Among the innovative approaches to debt, one contributor (Dr. Tamokwé, Cameroon/France)⁷⁵ suggests to entrust a (semi)private organisation with the management of funds aimed at debt cancellation.

“Debt cancellation should take place immediately, completely and without conditions for historical and political reasons. ... Creditors also carry responsibility for handing out unsustainable loans”, Jacques Gerard (France).

⁷² LGA; UN Brussels ‘Initial contribution’

⁷³ CONCORD: ‘Contribution to the EU-Africa strategy consultation’ and ‘The EU must do more and better for Africa’

⁷⁴ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations’ consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa’s development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

⁷⁵ Comment on website.

7 Trade and regional integration

Key messages:

- The increased competitiveness and productivity of African agriculture needs to be supported and the EU should modify its agricultural policy in a more development oriented manner.
- Strong recommendations on EPAs have been voiced: to integrate safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements; to grant the developing countries preferential treatment; to omit Singapore issues; to extend the timeframe for the EPA negotiations; and to respond positively to the requests of ACP countries.
- Supply side constraints should be further addressed and public-private partnerships enhanced.
- Private sector could be more structurally associated to policy formulation and implementation.

The issue of agriculture has taken centre stage in the comments received under the Trade and Regional integration cluster. Commentators have also discussed structural constraints on the African productive sectors as well as the EPA process.

Agriculture has been presented as the sector where development can have the biggest impact in Africa. It has been approached from different angles in different contributions. The EU and other developed countries' agricultural policies and subsidies were highlighted as a major factor hindering sustainable development in Africa, at a time when the continent derives its livelihood from the agricultural sector.

“If there is one policy alone that is responsible for Africa’s high levels of poverty, it is the common agricultural policy (CAP) in the EU (and other farm support mechanisms in Japan, the US and Australia).” Andrew Allimadi (Ethiopia)⁷⁶

Several organisations mention that the increased competitiveness and productivity of African agriculture, as well as market access, needs to be supported. The expansion of rural infrastructure and ICT are argued as preconditions for an improved situation for rural farmers.⁷⁷ IFOAM specifically highlights the potentials in developing organic agriculture.

⁷⁶ Posted on the website under Trade and regional integration

⁷⁷ IFOAM, CTA and others

The provision of EU's assistance in developing **good standards of animal welfare** was also suggested as a way to opening new market opportunities with the EU and producing additional income for farmers.

In a contribution calling for fair trade between the EU and Africa, VENRO further emphasises that the **implementation of the EPAs should be monitored** to make sure the objectives set at national levels are achieved and thereby respond positively to the needs of the ACP countries. Building on the current debates taking place on EPA (notably with the Stop EPA campaign), VENRO as well as the participants to the Accra conference have strongly recommended the following points: **to integrate safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements; to grant the developing countries preferential treatment; to omit Singapore issues; to extend the timeframe for the EPA negotiations; and to respond positively to the requests of ACP countries.**⁷⁸ No reciprocal removal of tariffs should be accepted until the development benchmarks have been achieved. CONCORD relates the EPAs to regional integration, and argue that regional integration should be enhanced before the implementation of the EPAs. They also call for a genuine discussion on alternative processes with ACP authorities as well as with civil society.

“In order to respond to the development needs of developing countries, [...] to protect small farmers, local markets and infant industries as well as to create jobs and promote rural development, the EPAs and other trade agreements ought to provide integrated safeguard mechanisms. The governments of [the ACP] countries should be provided with the necessary policy space to pursue their own development strategies.” VENRO

“Partnership means first of all relationship of respect and trust. The way the EU treats its African “Partners” in the EPA negotiations, discards all their requests and threatens them, if they do not sign by the end of 2007, is the old colonial paradigm: We know best, what’s good for you. [...] Partnership is before all else an attitude of respectful listening to what the other has to say. Europe has not yet learn this lesson.” Wolfgang Schonecke (Germany)⁷⁹

The **structural constraints and their impact on the competitiveness of African productive sectors** also came out as a major issue that should be dealt with. This was emphasised by, among others, EUROCHAMBRES, UN Brussels and CTA. It was indeed argued that in today’s

⁷⁸ VENRO and Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations’ consultation on AU/EU joint Strategy for Africa’s development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

⁷⁹ Posted on the website, under Shared vision.

world with low transport costs, African producers barely have 'natural' protection against low-cost producers from other parts of the world. Increased technical expertise and wide scale infrastructure across the continent were also pointed out as key elements towards peace, security and the quality of the societies being built. Other areas mentioned where progress would benefit trade include improved governance in public and private sector and thus enhance investment stability; increased transparency of taxation/customs laws; improved market access; simplify access to finance and procedures of setting up a business; upgrade technology to meet international quality standards; and energy security and efficiency.

As in the other clusters, local ownership and non-state actor participation in policy formulation and implementation has been widely argued for. **Public-private partnerships** are presented as especially important in order to formulate policies beneficial for trade and economic development.⁸⁰ EUROCHAMBRES claim that local capacities should be developed and civil society, local government and private sector empowered to better monitor and promote local investment. This in turn would be conducive to development. EUROCHAMBRES and Local Governments Association for England and Wales highlight respectively the opportunities that twinning of African and European private sector organisations and local governments could provide for development.

“The private sector should play an active role in both the formulation and the implementation of trade policies to assure these policies correspond to the necessities of the targeted enterprises and individuals. [...] European business organisations should [...] be involved in technical assistance and co-operation with the ACP counterparts, with a particular focus on capacity-building and institutional strengthening.” EUROCHAMBRES

UN Brussels and FEMNET point out that even though trade often is perceived as the sustainable solution to Africa's development problems, growth needs to be accompanied by sufficient measures to ensure that benefits really reach the people in greatest need. FEMNET especially elaborates on the different impacts trade has on men and women, and that trade negotiations and policy formulation needs to take into account the specific needs of women, both in rural and urban settings. The contribution calls for mainstreaming of gender into trade policy formulation and brings attention to the convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)⁸¹ and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).⁸²

⁸⁰ EUROCHAMBRES, LGA, World Poultry Science Association

⁸¹ See: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

⁸² See: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm>

8 Peace and Security

Key messages:

- There is a close link between development and security, which needs to be strengthened in the respective agendas. Policies in other sectors, such as on trade and natural resources also have a fundamental impacts on conflicts and all EU engagements should be conflict sensitive.
- EU commitments have been acknowledged but increased coherence and predictable funding are required.
- Conflict prevention as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts should be prioritised.
- Building African capacity and assuring African ownership of conflict prevention and resolution through the African Peace and Security Architecture is a priority.
- Local / civil society participation and ownership is fundamental for sustainable and effective peace and development efforts.
- Control of arms trading and mercenary pursuit should also be addressed.

Most of the contributions made on the issue of peace and security in EU-Africa relations agree on the close link between development and security, and the need to focus on human security, peace-building, and address the root causes of conflict. Therefore, **the strategy should focus on the MDGs also in the context of peace and security.**

« Sans paix (..) impossibilité d'un quelconque développement » Mama Gnilane N'Diaye

“Achieving the MDGs [...] offers the prospect of a more secure, just and prosperous world for all” UN Brussels

VENRO, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations, has submitted a contribution which calls for **greater focus on human security**. The contribution acknowledges EUs commitment to this, but requests **greater policy coherence as well as policy implementation**. On the same note, the Africa Group of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)⁸³ argues that EU support should coherently and effectively utilize all tools at its disposal, ensure that these instruments work in harmony and uphold all previous commitments and policies on conflict prevention, small arms and light weapons reduction,

⁸³ For contribution in full see annex 1.

children an armed conflict, and policy coherence in development. In relation with the coherence issue, the Accra seminar has asked for the EU to reject unilateral external interventions in African conflicts, since interventions should only be based on UN or AU authorizations, as well as a commitment to ensure control of arms from European origin and to jointly pursuit of mercenaries.⁸⁴

“EU trade policies often counteract the objectives of sustainable development in Africa and poverty alleviation. The patterns of energy and resource consumption in Europe, as well as endeavours to gain and secure access to resources, are generating conflicts. The Member States of the European Union are among the biggest producers of small arms and light weapons.”
VENRO

These concerns are also voiced by EPLO in their contribution to the consultation, regarding not only trade, but overall EU policies and engagement in Africa:

“**All EU engagement should be ‘conflict sensitive.’** [...] It is essential that peace and security concerns be woven into every aspect of the strategy. The standard approach to external assistance in contexts of fragility or instability continues to be used even where persistent insecurity and its underlying causes risk rendering it ineffective, or, at worst, counter-productive. [...] Likewise, trade and other policies can have ripple effects that exacerbate existing tensions in and between countries. The EU has the responsibility to adequately assess the impact of its policies and aid with regard to peacebuilding ideals and objectives. The EU and its Member States should develop mechanisms for ensuring that European companies adhere to the principles and values espoused by the EU with regard to human rights and conflict prevention.”

Other issues raised by VENRO include the extraction of natural resources for development; involving African civil society in peace-building; having a gender-based approach; and avoiding to spend money ear-marked for poverty eradication on conflict prevention.⁸⁵ Concern that development funding should not be used to support security related activities has repeatedly been expressed by civil society.

⁸⁴ Main conclusions and recommendations. African civil society organisations’ consultation on AU/Eu joint Strategy for Africa’s development. Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007.

⁸⁵ For contribution in full see annex 2

Many commentators stress the importance of **prioritising conflict prevention** and addressing the root causes of conflict, namely poverty, bad governance, weak capacity of the state administration, lack of democratisation, human rights violations, marginalisation, impunity, illicit exploitation of natural resources, poor productive capacity, trade in small arms and light weapons.

« C'est bien de penser à soutenir les forces de maintien de la paix, mais les actions les plus efficaces résident dans la prévention des conflits » Union pour la Paix Permanente, DRC⁸⁶

ACP Local Governments Platform and the Local Governments Association for England and Wales also mention that community diversity can be a cause of conflict, but can be turned into an asset under the right circumstances. They stress the importance of support to local authorities so that these have the capacity to identify and address risks and thus participate in the early stages of conflict prevention. Local engagement is underlined by various commentators as fundamental to the effectiveness and sustainability of peace and development efforts.

“...investing in development that is rights-based and inclusive of the groups that are often marginalized from the development process - women, refugees and IDPs in particular - can help reduce the probability of conflict.” UN Brussels

Good governance is presented as a fundamental aspect in preventing conflict as well as in peace-building in post-conflict situations. Credible national institutions such as the police and judiciary system are crucial for long-term stability. Sustainable interventions require coherence and complementarity between the different sectors and forms of cooperation. The connection between development and security is widely recognised, but efforts often treat them separately. UN Brussels therefore calls for the strategy to **strengthen the link between development and security agendas while reinforcing the importance of capacity building of core institutions for good governance and the promotion of human rights.**⁸⁷ Continuity is another aspect that is strongly pushed for, where emergency interventions need to be effectively transformed into support of sustainable development.

Promoting dialogue and cooperation on peace and security issues between the EU and Africa should not take place in a vacuum and should be informed by internationally accepted and

⁸⁶ Posted on the website by Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwani

⁸⁷ UN Brussels: 'Contribution from the United Nations team in Brussels to the consultation'. See annex 1 for contribution in full.

shared values, including in the global fight against terrorism, as well as **build on the principles of good governance**. As one commentator puts it:

“It is [...] of paramount importance that any attempts to promote peace and security in Africa should be done within a wider framework of promoting accountable government and good governance build on the principles of the declaration of human rights and International Humanitarian Law otherwise it can be counter productive.” James Nyawo (Zimbabwe)

Collaboration between the AU and the EU on peace and security provides opportunities for both to learn and exchange experiences on building peace and security structures, according to a report by the Southern African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA).⁸⁸ They also highlighted that disparate understandings and priorities between the two need to be identified and dealt with accordingly.

“[The study also found a] difference in the interpretation of human security between North and South. In many instances Africans consider human security (such as poverty alleviation and food security) as the most important element of peace and security, while Northern donors tend to prioritise issues of good governance and legitimate leadership.” SAIIA, p. 36

What is the most adequate framework or level to address the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa?

While all contributors recognize the importance of the AU, some expressed reservations as to the capacity, adequacy and effective political will of the AU to play that role, and call for the AU to redefine its relations with African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the latter often providing a more suitable level on which to address problems, given the importance of knowledge of cultural sensitivities. The EU can play an important role helping to rationalise the RECs, build their capacity, and support the interlinkages between the AU and the RECs.

Building capacity in Africa, assuring African ownership of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and how they can be best supported by the EU and the international community in general in their efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in the continent, is a key issue and a prime priority that many of the contributors highlighted. Interventions in Africa by international organisations and non-African States must contribute to a consolidation of African ownership and the involvement of African civil society in peace-building. In that light ensuring

⁸⁸ SAIIA Report No. 51, *Sidiropoulos E & Chevallier R (2006): 'The European Union and Africa: Developing partnerships for peace and security'*. For more information see: <http://www.saiia.org.za/>

predictable funding for African instruments and mechanisms is a key element.

“AU’s ownership and drive of its own peacekeeping capacity building effort is crucial and should be reflected in the joint strategy.” UN Brussels

One aspect brought up was the lack of economic capacity of the AU in this matter, and that predictable funding is essential to build and sustain an efficient African Peace and Security mechanism.⁸⁹ Many contributions called for a greater coherence of international institutions’ policies and means, and the EU support to the setting up of a permanent, mobile, well trained, equipped and well-paid permanent African Peace and Security Force. However, some like EPLO also call up the attention for the need of a comprehensive and sustainable EU support to building the African Union capacity in peace and security: a support that is not limited to crisis response and short-term conflict mitigation, but rather that upholds AU capacity in the multiple aspects of peacebuilding, including in civilian crisis management, transitional justice and addressing the special needs of children and women in armed conflict.

⁸⁹ SAIIA and EPLO to name some.

Annex 1: Contributing organisations

The consultation has received contributions from 54 organisations in African and Europe. Position papers and extensive comments have been compiled in annex 2. All comments can be found in Annex 4 and on the websites: www.europafrika.org and www.europafrique.org

The 54 organisations having contributed on the website are the following:

1. *Action pour la Promotion des Jeunes Filles (APROJEFI)*, human rights NGO, Democratic Republic of the Congo
2. *African Caribbean Pacific Local Government Platform (ACPLGP)*, local government, international
3. *African Decade of Persons with Disabilities*, African Union, South Africa
4. *Afrique et Nouvelles Interdépendences*, international diaspora NGO, France
5. *Alliance pour Refonder la Gouvernance en Afrique*, African movement, Mali
6. *Amnesty International EU Office*, international human rights NGO, Belgium
7. *Anka Huma / Pont culturel Europe-Afrique*, international cultural NGO, Belgium
8. *Association Transparence et Développement (ATED)*, development NGO, Mauretania
9. *Centre for Rural Health and Development (CRHD)*, local development NGO, Nigeria
10. *Christian Blind Mission (CBM) EU Liaison Office*, international development NGO, Belgium
11. *CONCORD*, European confederation of relief and development NGOs, Belgium
12. *Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE/GDI)*, development research institute, Germany
13. *Economic Justice Coalition*, NGO, Mozambique
14. *Etnocom*, Private sector, Italy
15. *EU International Disability & Development Consortium Task Group (EU IDDC)*, network of European disability NGOs, Belgium
16. *EUROCHAMBRES*, European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, private sector, Belgium
17. *European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)*, European network of conflict prevention and peace building NGOs, Belgium
18. *European Youth Forum*, European youth NGO, Belgium
19. *FEMNET*, African women and development NGO, Kenya
20. *Frontline EU Office*, international human rights NGO, Belgium
21. *GAAV (welfare of Africans in the Netherlands)*, faith-based NGO, Netherlands
22. *GALERI-ONG: "groupe d'Appui à la lutte contre l'exode rural et l'immigration"*, development NGO, DRC
23. *Global Campaigns, National Council of Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA)*, animal rights NGO, South Africa
24. *Global Education and Environment Development (GEED) Foundation*, local development

NGO, Cameroon.

25. *Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité (GRIP)*, peace and security research institute, Belgium
26. *Institute for African Studies*, research institute, Slovenia
27. *Institute of Cultural Affairs International Benin*, international institute, Benin
28. *InterAction Leadership Programme*, British development NGO, Zambian office
29. *International Coalition of Product Development Public-private Partnerships (PDPs)*, Amsterdam
30. *International Federation of Red Cross, Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross Societies of the European Union*, international humanitarian NGO, Belgium
31. *International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM)*, Germany
32. *International Organisation for Migration (IOM) EU office*, international organisation, Belgium
33. *Islamic Relief Worldwide*, international faith-based NGO, Belgium
34. Joint contribution : *Association pour les Victimes de la Répression en Afrique; Association pour les Victimes de la Répression en Exile; Ligue des Electeurs*, human rights NGOs, DRC
35. Joint contribution : *Marie Stopes International (MSI), International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU), Austrian Organization for family Planning (ÖGF), World Population Foundation (WPF), InterAct Worldwide, Family Planning Association Portugal (APF), Sex og Samfund, Væstøliitto, Stop AIDS Alliance, Equilibres et Populations, German Foundation for World Population (DSW)*, health NGOs, Europe
36. Joint contribution: *Marie Stopes International (MSI), Association for Family Planning (APF - Portugal), German Foundation for World Population (DSW), World Population Foundation (WPF - The Netherlands), Stop AIDS Alliance, Sex og Samfund (Denmark), Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU), Væstøliitto (Findalnd), Equilibres et Populations (France), International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN)*, health NGOs, Europe
37. Joint contribution: *The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Eurogroup for Animals*; animal rights NGOs, EU
38. *Leonard Cheshire International*, disability and development NGO, UK
39. *Light for the world*, development NGO working with eye diseases and blindness, Austria
40. *Local Government Association for England and Wales (LGA)*, local government, UK
41. *ODECOLA*, NGO, Democratic Republic of the Congo
42. *Regina Mundi - Fondation Monseigneur AGBOKA*, faith-based NGO, Benin
43. *Représentation en France de l'Union des Forces pour la Démocratie et le Développement (UFDD)*, France/Chad
44. *Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom (RCN)*, national union, United Kingdom
45. *Sightsavers International*, international health and development NGO, United Kingdom

46. *Smoke Free Partnership (SFA) and the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)*, international NGOs, Belgium
47. *Spanish Autonomous City of Ceuta in Brussels*, regional administration, Spain
48. *Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)*, international institute, Netherlands
49. *TIC & Développement / ICT for Development*, private sector, France
50. *Tiri*, network organisation, UK
51. *Union pour la Paix Permanente*, human rights NGO, DRC
52. *United Nations Office in Brussels*, international organisation, Belgium
53. *VENRO*, the Association of German Development NGOs, Germany
54. *World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA)*, Benin Branch, private sector, Benin
55. *Zenü Network*, research network, Cameroon

Annex 2: Position papers by organisations

In total, 34 organisations and networks have submitted 37 position papers or extensive comments. These are listed below and included in full in Annex 2, which can be found separately. In addition to these, there are also 3 position papers that were presented by CODESRIA and Oxfam International at the African civil society conference in Accra. They can be found at: <http://europafrica.org/2007/04/16/african-civil-society-consultation/>

1. ACP Local Governments Platform: 'Towards a joint EU-Africa strategy'
2. Afrique et Nouvelles Interdépendances (French)
3. Amnesty International : 'Amnesty International contribution to EU-Africa strategy'
4. CBM EU Liaison Office
5. CONCORD: 'Contribution to the EU-Africa strategy consultation'
6. CONCORD: 'The EU must do more and better for Africa'
7. CTA, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU: 'Contribution du CTA à la consultation publique ECDPM sur la stratégie conjointe UE-Afrique'
8. DIE, German Development Institute : 'Africa Agenda for 2007 : Suggestions for the German G8 and EU Council Presidencies'
9. EPLO, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office: 'Comments on the EU-Africa Strategy from the Africa Group of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office'
10. EU IDDC, EU International Disability & Development Consortium Task Group : 'Contribution to the EU-Africa Strategy Consultation'
11. EUROCHAMBRES: 'Joint EU-Africa Strategy'
12. European Youth Forum: 'Joint EU Africa Strategy. Input from the European Youth Forum'
13. FEMNET, African Women's Development and Communications Network: 'Gender issues and trade in Africa'
14. Frontline, International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders: 'Human rights defenders deserve true protection'
15. GRIP, Groupe de recherche et d'information sur la Paix et la Sécurité
16. IFOAM, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements : 'Public consultation for a joint EU-Africa strategy. IFOAM's contribution'
17. InterAction Leadership Programme
18. International coalition of product development public-private partnerships (PDPs): 'Contribution to the consultation on an EU-Africa joint strategy'
19. International Federation of Red cross, Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross Societies of the European Union: 'Contribution to the EU/Africa strategy'
20. IOM, International Organization for Migration: 'Migration and the MDGs'
21. Islamic Relief Worldwide: 'EU strategy for Africa'
22. L'Alliance pour Refonder la Gouvernance en Afrique: 'Contribution au débat sur le

renouveau du dialogue Europe / Afrique'

23. LGA, Local Government Association for England and Wales : 'Towards a joint Africa-Europe partnership strategy. Local Government Association response'
24. Leonard Cheshire International
25. Light for the World
26. Marie Stopes et al (a): Joint contribution by 13 organisations working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the response to HIV/AIDS
27. Marie Stopes et al (b): Joint contribution by 10 organisations working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the response to HIV/AIDS
28. National Council of SPCAs (South Africa): 'Input for the public consultation on a joint EU-Africa strategy'
29. RCN, The Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom: 'Contribution by the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom to the consultation document: Towards a Joint Africa- Europe Partnership Strategy'
30. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) and Eurogroup for Animals.
31. SFP, Smoke Free Partnership and FCA, the Framework Convention Alliance: 'Consultation for a Joint Africa-Europe Partnership Strategy'
32. Sightsavers International
33. The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities
34. UN Brussels: 'Joint EU-AU Strategy for Africa. Contribution from the United Nations team in Brussels to the consultation'
35. UN Brussels: Initial contribution from the UN team in Brussels to the discussions around the joint EU-AU strategy for Africa'
36. VENRO: 'Prospects for Africa - Europe's Policies'. Development Policy Manifesto for the German EU Presidency 2007.
37. World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA), Benin

Annex 3: Main conclusions and recommendations from African Civil Society consultation in Accra, Ghana

African Civil Society Organizations' Consultation on AU/EU Joint Strategy for Africa's Development

Accra, Ghana, 26-28 March 2007

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

Cluster I: Shared Vision

Recommendations

Process

The participants agreed that there is a wide range of opportunities and issues inherent in engaging with Europe. However, they firmly believe that an enduring partnership must place equal emphasis on process and substance. On process, the consultation decided that a joint Africa-Europe strategy must be one of equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual accountability. Europe must be prepared to change the current mode of interaction in which it is perceived and behaves like a senior partner. On its part, Africa needs to unlearn many things, including the syndromes of dependency that have developed over the years in order to play its role as a full and equal partner with Europe. Accordingly, Africa and Europe should strive for developed continents living side by side in peace, security, harmony, prosperity and dignity.

Substance

The participants noted that the issue of a shared vision cannot be discussed outside the existing frameworks that capture the essence and aspirations of Africa. Africa and the EU should move away from a fragmented relationship and enter into a continent to continent relationship. Existing legal instruments should be adapted accordingly and the an-African dimension integrated in all themes and at all levels the Africa-EU partnership. African civil society should be involved in the monitoring of the

implementation of the joint Strategy. In this regard the participants resolved to recommend the following seven priority areas to African Union as the centre-piece of the prospects of the continent's development and which should be the main focus or issue areas that would underpin any joint strategy or partnership with Europe, these priorities are:

- Social development imperatives should determine the socio-economic policies to ensure social equity and economic growth;
- Basic needs should be the anchor of Africa's socio-economic development;
- The values of democracy, rule of law, social justice, participation and citizenship, particularly in relation to women, youth and the Diaspora;
- The strengthening of public institutions and service;
- Emphasis on regional integration and continental unity as pillars of the partnership arrangements. In this area, particular attention must be focused on the indivisibility of Africa.
- The need for adequate infrastructure;
- Promote gender responsive policies;
- The requirement of balanced integration into the world economy encompassing trade, labour movements and investments;
- The priorities of the AU in particular and the partnership with the EU should be publicized at different levels, local, national and continental levels. To this extent, the media in the respective countries should be empowered to understand the issues of the AU and disseminate accordingly;
- The necessity for the relationship to bring dividends in terms of development and prosperity for African people.

Cluster II: Peace and Security

Recommendations

In order to enhance the continent's peace and security agenda under the AU-EU Joint Strategy, the participants noted the indivisibility of peace and security and its linkage to development and resolved to recommend the following:

- Africa-EU Strategy should develop a predictable and continent-based funding mechanism to support conflict management and resolution. This would reduce dependence on partners' ad hoc precarious funding arrangements and enable a true partnership. In the interim Europe support for Africa peace support operations must embrace the spirit of partnership and should not involve conditionality;
- Post conflict management must particularly focus on the plight of women and children. The peace and regulation process must include women;
- The joint strategy must place equal emphasis on both conflict resolution and management as well as post conflict reconstruction and development. The critical challenge that Africa faces in this area is the phenomena of return wars because of the lack of continuum for conflict management to development.
- Africa should insist that the EU takes a strong stance on controlling international arms transfers to prevent the escalation of future conflicts as a major component of this joint strategy;
- Negotiations on International Arms Treaty should fully reflect existing standards of international human rights and humanitarian law. It must also focus on the regulation of arms transfer originating from the EU;
- The joint strategy should also emphasize the role of faith-based groups, women and youth as partners in Africa's peace processes in order to promote tolerance and facilitates inter-religious understanding. Emphasis must also be placed given their hallowed positions in society;
- The Africa-Europe strategy must recognize and limit unhelpful external interventions to avert the recurring cases of proxy wars. It should also reject unilateral external intervention in African conflicts, while insisting that interventions must be on the basis of a UN or AU authorization;
- The strategy must contain provisions to address impunity. In this regard, Africa's legal and judicial systems should be strengthened to be able to deal or try perpetrators of impunity in Africa and not at some foreign venue;
- The obligation for joint pursuit and prosecution of mercenaries must be entrenched in the proposed AU-EU Strategy; and,
- The strategy must emphasize the fair treatment of African refugees outside the continent. On-going negotiations between Africa and Europe on migration in the aftermath of the recent Africa-Europe Summit on migration in Tripoli, Libya, and the unresolved issues within this framework must take this into account.
- The proposed strategy on peace and security must reflect and emphasize the need for multi-nationals of European origin to observe and comply with international best standards and practices of corporate social responsibility when operating on the Africa continent.

- The strategy should emphasize and support a holistic conflict early warning and early response system in Africa reflective of state and non-state actors involvement.

Cluster III: Governance

Conclusions

In conclusion, participants noted that governance, both as a process and outcome, should be seen as work in progress confronting both continents. They believed that both Europe and Africa continue to struggle with issues of governance and democracy. Therefore AU's engagement should be anchored on a desire to improve and deepen governance in both continents on the basis of best practices and mutual learning.

Recommendations

The consultation recommended that the joint strategy must be based on the following elements:

- Emphasis on Africa's ownership in the formulation and implementation of national economic policies-economic governance;
- The strengthening of governance and oversight institutions, as well as promotion of integrity. In this regard, the participants called on both African and European governments and regional institutions to fight impunity;
- Respect for and promotion of human, civil, political, social and economic rights, particularly equal playing field for women;
- Equal partners should be able to discuss contentious issues and engage in continuous dialogue and avoid unilateral decisions;
- Promotion of effective constitutionalism, rule of law and popular participation in governance;
- Recognition and involvement of the African Diaspora in the development agenda of the continent as it constitutes a huge resource of finance and human capital;
- Emphasis on Africa's own identity, culture, values, dignity, pride, traditions, and principles as well as existing African instruments and frameworks including the African Charter for Popular Participation and the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance among others;

- Need to strengthen and revitalize public institutions as a key to governance;
- The need for the AU to reinforce its follow-up mechanisms on implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They stressed that the AU should identify and focus on specific priorities in this area in order to ensure effective follow-up.
- The AU should also prioritize its engagement with other regions of the world and ensure that it does not embrace too many multi-lateral commitments. It should also ensure that no region outside Africa can dictate the pattern and structure.
- There is need for Africans and in particular the African Civil society community to engage with Europe's governance initiative for Africa in order to ensure appropriate policy decisions.
- It would be useful to have a specific civil society consultation or seminar to provide policy support for this process in the context of the AU-EU strategy for Africa and preparations for the Lisbon Summit.
- This would involve an in-depth discussion of pertinent issues and how the programming of the 3 billions euros will be done paying particular attention to the need for allocating some of this money to the AU governance agenda. In particular, there is need to avoid any notion of conditionality and to emphasize Europe support for the APRM.
- Once the programming exercise is completed by the end of the year 2006 or 2007, an evaluation meeting at the continental level , involving civil society consultation on the process, should be organised to assess its coherence and harmony with the AU governance agenda. A high level political dialogue on the EC support to governance is a necessity. It is of paramount importance to discuss the "governance of aid";
- The key principles of EC support to governance should be fully discussed in the framework of the joint strategy. This calls for a real dialogue based on a real partnership.

Cluster IV: Regional Integration and Trade

Recommendations

After examination of this item, the following recommendations were made:

- African States should resist the pressure by the EU to sign the EPAs by the end of December 2007 and insist that the deadline for the conclusion of the negotiation be extended by at least three years. In this regard, all African CSOs are enjoined to begin the mobilization of the people to join the campaign to stop EPAs;
- That the period of extension should be used by African governments to conduct independent impact assessment on EPAs;
- No reciprocal removal of tariffs should be accepted until the development benchmarks have been achieved and Africa must insist on its right to use tariffs, subsidies and other measures in support of industrial policy and to modify them as their economies develop;
- The Joint strategy should facilitate the harmonization of fiscal and monetary policies in Africa based on Africa's development agenda;
- The partnership should support African efforts in enhancing energy generation and transmission as well as continental interconnectivity, which are prerequisites for integration;
- Support the development of productive capacities of the African, domestic entrepreneurs, industry and the African people;
- Support the fast tacking of Africa's socio-economic development and eliminate barriers to intra-Africa trade;
- Promote export credit facilities to encourage export production and increase the level of manufactured African exports;
- Essential public services such as education, health, water and sanitation should be excluded from liberalization commitments, African governments must reserve to themselves the sovereign right to effectively regulate the entry of foreign investors in service sectors in the public interest;
- Ensure mechanisms for extensive participation of all stakeholders in the negotiation process, with full disclosure of information to the public. In addition, the AU should catalogue all existing agreements and their ratification status;
- Called on African governments to insist on their right to impose capital controls on foreign investment and performance requirements that encourage joint ventures, technology transfer, and local sourcing, as well as incentives to improve labour practices;
- Women issues with respect to cross border trade must be given priority. The tariffs and regulations on trade affect the mobility of women;
- Include enforceable commitments by governments to protect and promote core labour standards, as set down in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental

Principles and Rights at Work, and commitments to progressively extend this to cover workers, particularly women, in precarious employment;

- Exclude agricultural tariff lines from negotiations as liberalization in this regard would undermine food security and rural livelihoods;

Cluster IV: Key Development Issues

Recommendations

- Participants recommended that the development cluster in the AU document should be unpacked and better integrated as they constitute the key priority for Africa;
- On Education, the participants urged that emphasis should be on higher education and discarded the view that what is good for Africa is primary and vocational education. Special attention should be given to the promotion of girl child education;
- The Africa-EU strategy must focus on health issues such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- The Africa-EU Strategy should support the establishment of the African financial institutions for financing socio-economic development;
- Call on the EU to support total cancellation of Africa's external debt in order to release resources for financing development in Africa;
- Aid to Africa should be increased and quick disbursing instrument should be used. The Strategy should also emphasize the aid flow to Africa from the EU and its governance must be jointly managed by the AU Commission and the European Commission representatives on equal playing field. The adopted aid governance must reflect a conscious and deliberate effort for African private and productive sector in order to guarantee Africa's economic development and sustainability;
- On employment, participants call for the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda adopted by the Heads of State and Government in Ouagadougou in September 2004 and it should be linked with the Basic Needs Development Agenda. There is also need for the revival of production and accumulation as one of the most immediate strategies for the creation of employment. Concerns were also voiced regarding the increased informalisation of African economies. The large informal sector of Africa must be formalized through capacity building to generate more productive capacity;
- The need for the revival of regional and national planning processes and mechanisms that will set targets and restore the social contract. They also rejected the idea that Africa would be the first continent to develop through

markets. Participants also emphasized the need for a change in the pattern of Africa's integration into the global economy;

- Since agricultural development is intrinsically linked to the environment, there is a need to pursue sound and prudent environmental policy in addition to an agrarian policy regimes as vital component of development;
- The AU-EU strategy should encouraged accelerated social infrastructure development;
- Need for integrated transportation system both nationally and regionally including a rethinking of Africa's aviation policy;
- Migration should be made a priority in order to address the question of brain drain, as there is a correlation between capital flight and brain drain. The issue of the Diaspora should be taken into account;
- Emphasis must be placed on the interconnection between social policy and economic development. They called on African states to emphasis development issues in the economic policy formulations and high light the need for more state intervention as basis for social and economic development;
- On the gender question, participants acknowledged the need to mainstream gender in all key areas of development;
- Participants called on AU-EU to use the existing youth led development fora such as the Pan-African youth leadership summit, Pan-EU summit, and AU-EU youth leadership program as immediate strategies for youth development.
- Agriculture was identified as a vital component of development and as such agrarian policy regime need to be strengthened.

Accra, Ghana – 28 March 2007

Annex 4: Comments by organisations and individuals

The consultation has invited comments on the five thematic cluster pages as well as on 'about the consultation' and on the calendar. Comments have been received in both English and French on the respective websites. The comments are presented in full in Annex 4, sorted according to where they were posted. The annex can be downloaded at: <http://europafrica.org/2007/01/01/results/>