

Annex 4: All comments

This document contains all comments received during the first phase of the public consultation. They are sorted according to where on the website they were posted, i.e. the following pages:

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Shared vision

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

[1. Victor Onoviran \(Nigeria\)](#) - February 1, 2007

To be absolutely honest and fair to both Euro-African Leaders, there is hardly any “shared vision”! Neither in democracy, accountability, justice or economy. Otherwise why do you have social security in the West and poverty tax in the other? Why do you subsidize generously in Europe and use the IMF?World Bank, Paris/London Clubs to slam market prices on Africans? Why do you have prudent public servants and accountable elected officials as well as democracy-draped/obedient military in the West while their African counterparts are not only the direct opposite but are aided to loot/keep/laundry public funds? Why is education/research & development such a big deal in the West but is being killed in Africa? Where will the manpower to motivate, mobilise, drive and sustain CHANGE, including the new joint-Strategy come from for us in Africa, in the face of the persistent/pernicious BRAIN & BRAWN DRAIN?

Does it mean we shouldn’t consult and help the new process for 21st century EU-Africa Partnership (even if it seems reactive!) as you now propose? Hell, no! We must. But we must do so from very fresh and innovative perspectives.

The vision must be redefined and owned. Luckily new leaders and actors/forces are emerging on both continents. These must be fully and truly embraced/engaged. I support these consultations.

For resounding success, you need to commission specific panels and experts (including anonymous/conscience actors) to fast-track and pigeon-hole/focalise the intervention. In particular because of time constraints.

And, believe me, I wish you all the best. Thanks for this independent initiative.

Submitted by Victor Onoviran (Nigeria)

see also <http://www.onoviranseries.blogspot.com>

2. Catherine Kithinji (Kenya) - February 6, 2007

What are the principles that should guide the Africa-EU partnership?

1. Honesty
2. Integrity
3. Determination
4. Time keeping

What agreements and mechanisms should be put in place to frame the relationship?

1. Trade and economic agreement to help improve trade between Europe and Africa without any side losing what it already has from the Cotonou Partnership Agreement
2. Medical and health agreements to enable easy access to medical facilities in Europe to save lives
3. Agriculture agreements to improve Africa's main forex earner and employment sector of the economy
4. Services sector to enable free movement of services in the two continents

What are European and African common interests on which to base the Africa-EU partnership in the future?

1. Trade and Economic development
2. Agriculture, extension, research and development
3. Infrastructure
4. Human resource development

How can the fragmented Europe-Africa relationship be overcome to enter into a continent to continent relationship that has practical meaning and value for both parties?

1. By deciding to consider both side's requirements and trying to at least sort some out mutually and with the blessings from both sides
2. By training Africans with a view of developing their capacity to the same level as that of the Europeans to make them make informed decisions and meaningful contributions in debates concerning the two continents
3. By considering the important issues that affect the two continents and ignoring the diversities of the two continents, and taking issues as they come and treating them independently

What are some of the key issues that the two Unions should prioritize and seek to tackle together in their cooperation?

1. Common areas of interest
2. Prioritise the interests
3. Involve all stakeholders from both continent
4. Avoid unnecessary delays in decision making from both sides

Lets work together for the benefit of our continent, at least to reduce poverty and dehumanization that is rampant in Africa.

3. Mustapha Sanneh (Italy) - February 12, 2007

The first link of any relation between AU and EU is the acceptance of proximity. Proximity in a shared language, geographical proximity and hundred years of relationship. Multilateral, bilateral or global relationship should be a point of departure. But transparency should be the point. The creation of a mathematical module of valuation is a must. Past experience and good practice have showed that during the years millions of Euro or dollars have been spend for development projects. We are still here looking for still more better aid while we all know that the problem is a willingness to make changes happen.

Our contribution from Milano can be that of presenting a document and sustaining a meeting that will tackle the problem of transparency and e.government.

This will include all the arguments regarding the strategy to define what can be a shared vision between AE and EU.

Our best interest is to know and then prepare the solutions to what kind of development will be best suited to Africa in this multilateral and global economy lead by China who might be our best partner if things dont change in time .

4. Muhwana Wilberforce - February 13, 2007

There should be transformation of unity among AU member states from just mere rhetoric to reality to be seen and felt that it is working, is being implemented. In past it has been rhetoric, only highlighted at some fora while AU members states place more importance on individual affairs, later on justifying the artificial causes/hindrances to emancipation and promotion of unity. This must be inbult into the vision and strategy.

5. Lawrence Michelo (Zambia) - February 13, 2007

European Union is a good and genuine partner with firm belief in the ending of poverty in Africa. Some organisations have taken this assistance and good faith to bad use. At times due to lack of information, well intentioned programmes have ended fueling that which they are supposed to fight - in this case poverty. It is through information sharing, debating and making contributions that we can both make informed decisions and better choices that benefit everyone and make the world a better place.

6. Geert Laporte (ECDPM) - February 15, 2007

I would like to share some personal impressions from an interesting meeting that was held in Ouagadougou on 6-7 february 2007, that could also be relevant for the Joint EU-Africa strategy process.

Please read full comment:

<http://europafrica.org/2007/02/10/geert-laporte-shares-his-impressions-on-new-roles-in-eu-africa-relations/>

7. Ingvar Flink (Sweden) - February 16, 2007

The current EU Africa strategy stipulates that succesful development requires adherence to human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. I take it for granted that this includes international law. It is also underlined that without peace there can be no sustainable development and without African leadership to end African conflicts (good

governance) there can be no lasting peace and security.

Considering these prerequisites put up by the EU Commission it is a surprise that the strategy document does not reflect the fact that Africa is not yet decolonised. According to the UN, AU and the International Court in the Hague Western Sahara is still a colony. The de jure colonial power is Spain and de facto Morocco, who since 1975 illegally occupies two thirds of the Western Sahara territory, thereby breaking international law. More than 80 states recognise Western Sahara as a sovereign state, no state recognises the Moroccan right to this territory.

A future common EU-AU strategy for Africa must not overlook the fact that Africa is not decolonised. According to a decision by the UN General Assembly colonialism is to be considered as a threat to world peace.

The situation in northwestern Africa is not stable. Since 1991 there is a ceasefire between the liberation front Polisario and the Moroccan occupants, but the basic situation is a war situation. If this state of affairs allows to prevail the instability will very easily deteriorate into war, or even worse - into terrorism as the situation created by the Moroccan occupation provides a fertile breeding ground for terrorism. The only guarantee against such a development is Polisario and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic government (SADR).

Apart from the problem of treating Africa as a unit it must be noted that Morocco is not a member of the AU. The vice president of the AU is the president of SADR. Morocco is by their acting in Western Sahara splitting the African unity, making it problematic for EU to treat Africa as one entity.

A common EU foreign policy, of which a strategy for Africa is a part, is vital for a future EU. It is of extreme importance that such a policy will practice international law and not work against it. Therefore EU must in its Africa strategy in accordance with the decisions on Western Sahara taken by the International Court in 1975 and by the UN Security Council at several occasions since then.

8. Rogier van 't Rood (Netherlands) - February 17, 2007

To my experience most African professionals in education I met so far, still keep the “European format” of formal education as a guiding principle (and so do many western consultants). This format was introduced during colonial rule and it was more or less just a copy of European systems at the time. Already in those days this system was not capable of servicing all African children, neither quantitative nor qualitative. When it was introduced in Europe, the European countries were (and still are) able to finance it by themselves, due to their strong economies and reliable state structures. Most probably, formal education as it functions in Africa today, will never be capable to reach the Millennium Goals. Therefore, I would like to suggest to “rethink” the format of formal education, and relate it properly to real needs and possibilities in Africa. Maybe Africa is in need for a new paradigm on education? It would be another step towards de-colonisation, wouldn't it ...?

Rogier van 't Rood is an education consultant



9. ecdpm - February 22, 2007

Reply to Gbolahan Olubowale (Nigeria), a comment of the role of ECDPM in this process.

“It is a pity that ecdpm secretariat does not include any credible African voice and this is urgently needed for the whole process to be adjudged credible.”

Read the [full comment](#).

Following some comments on the role of ECDPM in this process, we would like to clarify a few points. The Internet consultation on the future EU-Africa joint Strategy has been jointly launched by the European Union and the African Union (see the common AUC-EC press statement) the 6th of March. ECDPM has been mandated by both the African Union Commission and the European Commission to facilitate on their behalf the Internet consultation as an independent foundation. In that context, ECDPM is collaborating very closely with both the relevant departments of the African Union Commission and the European Commission. Apart from the Internet consultation, some events will be organised on both continents to gather Non State Actors’ opinion on the future EU-Africa joint Strategy (see calendar).

[10. Dominic Haslam - February 27, 2007](#)

Disabled people make up approximately 10 per cent of any population (WHO) and 20 per cent of the world’s poorest (World Bank). Disability is both a cause and effect of poverty, and 82 per cent of disabled people live below the poverty line in developing countries (UN). These figures can be higher in countries devastated by civil war or natural disaster. The EU’s own guidance note on disability and development states that governments exclude persons with disabilities from their activities, a key governance issue. It also states that the MDGs cannot be reached without including the needs of people with disabilities and yet they are insufficiently included in the EU’s own development work.

In general, in its work in Africa, the EU must work to enshrine the principles in its own guidance note in all the work carried out and support delegations and programme decision-makers in implementing the 10 key recommendations.



[11. ecdpm - February 28, 2007](#)

On the [French page](#), **Dr. Tamokwé (Cameroon, 16/2)** suggests a joint European-African strategy to increase the participation of the African Diaspora in the continent’s development. The discussions should be focused on how to create secure institutions that can stimulate investments in Africa by the Diaspora. This requires Europe to insure potential investors against the risk of expropriation by authorities and/or elites in the target countries.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Maman Laminou Tata (Niger, 18/2) mentions that a shared European-African vision can only be defined if the following issues are addressed:

1. Interdependence in the context of globalisation;
2. Reciprocity between continents: the goals should be justice and equality among citizens.
3. Creating wealth: We should recognise the limitations of aiming purely for economic growth, which is increasingly unevenly divided among both continents and citizens.
4. Good governance is based on strong, universal values and should therefore have the same requirements (in terms of democracy, justice, etc.) everywhere.

5. Communication and intercultural dialogue: people will only identify with the official Euro-African relationship if exchanges of information and culture take place, as well as dialogues and mutual understanding.

6. The environment: nature does not keep itself to national or continental borders.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Orphé (20/2) believes that a shared vision should rid itself of mundane and ineffective ideologies and focus instead on:

1. Defining and attaining well-defined, time-bound targets for economic growth and development;
2. Promoting African entrepreneurship;
3. Large-scale and direct investments in Africa's basic infrastructure;
4. Structured industrialisation and the creation of regionally concentrated competences;
5. Promoting ecological agriculture and bio-technologies;
6. Encouraging free trade in the sub-regions and providing duty-free access to the European market for at least 400 African products in a similar vein to China, without denying the legitimacy of ACP-EU agreements.

[Read the full comment in French](#)



[12. ecdpm](#) - March 1, 2007

Sophie Beaumont from Light for the World has submitted a comment emphasising the rights of people with disabilities.

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.

For full contribution, download [doc](#).

[13. Eva Tänneryd](#) - March 1, 2007

If EU wants to establish the prerequisites of development in Africa the following must be done:

Stop the development towards war or terror in Western Sahara by

- a) Making Morocco execute the decisions taken by UN and the International Court.
- b) Stopping all arms dealings with Morocco.
- c) Stopping all foreign aid from EU to Morocco.
- d) Supporting those forces in the area following international law and being a guarantee against terrorism.

[14. Julius Okelo](#) - March 5, 2007

The following factors, in my opinion, would be necessary bridge points to address for the success of EU - Africa Strategy to be realistic and have meaning to both parties:

1. Africa is underdeveloped and needs to address the reasons why this status quo is being perpetuated first before engaging in talks with EU on how to be partners on development and reorganization agenda.
2. Europe needs to come with a new strategy towards relating with Africa. The

contemporary approach has not worked since majority of African countries attained this so called Independence from “Colonial Yoke”. Transfer of power was made with least regard to the future governance of Africa.

3. Globally information age is slowly kicking in. Africa has not reached there yet. Most of the structures are still in manual form and / not existing in some cases.

4. Europe has to begin paying back to Africa, the equivalent of present day value of resources taken from Africa. Some sort of agreement should be on the table to address this issue i.e. debt write off.

5. Europe has to actively help Africa to recover lost billions of pounds that ” The Greedy & Corrupt” have stashed abroad. There has to legal framework, amendments to resolve this predicament.

6. Europe has to involve Africans in the Diaspora in the process since these people already have significant understanding of how the economies and governance of most European countries work. For Africa to be at par with Europe, there ought to be similarity in policy structures.

7. Africa Union needs to come with a task force that understands the premise of a working strategy and engage its citizenry on an educational or awareness campaign to promote common interests.

8. Political structures within Africa and especially in single party dictatorial countries must be addressed first, before there can be a level playing field with Europe.



[15. ecdpm](#) - March 7, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Jacques Gerard (France, 25/2)** is concerned about the political and socio-economic differences among African countries: having the same rules governing cooperation with the EU seems unreasonable. He wonders if different types of cooperation should be established, and if so, how many would be needed to allow for efficient and mutually beneficial cooperation. In the case of differentiated cooperation, which criteria should be retained as part of a shared vision?

Finally, Mr Gerard argues that the shared vision should also address the place of the EU and Africa in the world at large. About which global issues can the EU and Africa develop and defend common views?

[Read the full comment in French.](#)

Durand Felicien Prosper (WPSA Benin, 26/2) argues that African states should allow other key actors to fully exercise their influence on the sustainable development of the EU-Africa partnership. Specifically, private enterprises should be called upon to ensure that development objectives are met.

The guiding principles of the EU-African partnership should include: administrative transparency, the win-win principle, the rule of law and respect for human beings, public-private dialogue, anticipating societal needs and initiating development-oriented diplomacy.

Socio-economic emancipation cannot be separated from political independence. There is a need for effective economic systems that ensure social justice. This is a common responsibility shared by state and non-state actors alike.

[Read the full comment in French.](#)

[16. shiikha](#) - March 9, 2007

I honestly and strongly believe in cleaning my own backyard before I can approach my neighbor in expanding our yard as one in order to benefit from one another, I believe that unity with Europe is not impossible but would rather settle unity first amongst home base fractions. African Union is the greatest role inspiring organisation to set a lead, EU is fairly new itself and has a lot of obstacles to overcome. I believe Africa is self-sufficient, it has enough resources to supply for the whole planet. Today African leaders have a responsibility more than ever to bring Africa to Basic Standard such as clean water, public schooling and standard care facilities, and end unwholesome political ruffle. More encouraging peace and understanding of differences needs to be done, in first recognising that peace brings stability and once that's achieved progress of any kind can also be grasped.

17. James Nyawo - March 12, 2007

I am very skeptical about this notion of shared vision between Africa and Europe. I am not yet convinced that Africa on its own has a common vision. Having said that I also need to appreciate the work done by the founders of the then Organisation of African Unity now the AU. In my view what held this organisation during those days was the shared vision to liberate Africa from the yoke of colonisation. I applaud that. However, the vision did not go beyond that, hence after the democratic elections in SA in 1994, the OAU's shared vision became a little bit irrelevant. There was no colonised country to support. Since then African States have found it difficult to come up with a clear vision to take the continent on the international map. In fact the continent became so infested with civil wars and intra-state wars such as the one in Congo which involved seven countries.

The Arab states tend to identify themselves differently from the rest of Africa. They tend to prefer the Arab league rather than the AU despite the rhetoric of Gaddafi for United States of Africa.

There is a lot that Africa has to do to have a common vision. The first is to cherish diversity especially in addressing the ethnicity problem. We need to belong to a nation first before belonging to an ethnic group. Perhaps the model of Tanzania can be used, where most Tanzanians identify themselves as such not as per their ethnic group as is the case in Uganda where one is first Buganda before being a Ugandan or in Zimbabwe where one is either Shona or Ndebele and not a Zimbabwean or in Angola where one is either Umbundu or Tchokwe before they are Angolans.

We need to develop a philosophy as a people something that brings us together first as a nation then as a continent otherwise we will not get anyway.

18. Wolfgang Schonecke - March 14, 2007

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. EU-Commissioner for Development, Louis Michel, demonstrated perfectly this lack of respect for the civil society and for African "partners" during an international conference in Bonn on 13.03. Partnership is before all else an attitude of respectful listening to what the other has to say. Europe has not yet learned this lesson.

19. Sophie Peresson, European Advocacy Manager, Marie Stopes International - March 16, 2007

We welcome the European Commission's decision to reassess and improve its strategy entitled "The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership".

In order for the EU-Africa strategy to be meaningful, it needs to be inclusive, integrating the input of civil society from the North and particularly from the South. However, in the context of this new consultation we are skeptical that the format (on-line consultation), the limited number of very general questions on development issues and the short timeframe will allow for an inclusive or effective consultation that could lead up to a relevant/valid joint EU-Africa strategy.

The undersigned organizations have consistently responded to on-line consultations organized by this Commission, but it is not clear how our input feeds into the consultation process, or what the Commission has done with the comments previously provided. We therefore hope that this time the consultation process will be taken seriously and that our input will be taken into consideration.

It is equally important to provide information on how the Commission will effectively integrate comments of civil society in the final strategy and what the concrete steps in follow up of this consultation will be. Lack of meaningful consultation results in lack of ownership, a principle which this Commission has consistently said to be key to its partnership with Africa. Without a real consultation, this strategy will not be a 'joint' strategy, but an imposed one.

We sincerely hope that these concerns will be taken into account and we look forward to a meaningful and constructive cooperation.

Sincerely,

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)



[20. ecdpm](#) - March 16, 2007

In response to [Sophie Peresson, European Advocacy Manager, Marie Stopes International](#), and other comments raising similar issues:

This public consultation is **initiated jointly by the African Union Commission and the European Commission**. The joint EU-Africa Strategy that is being prepared is a completely new document, with the aim to guide and enhance the partnership between the

two regions. The strategy does not build on the EU Strategy “The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership”. Please see the [joint press release](#) for further information.

As independent facilitators of the public consultation ECDPM will make sure that the ideas and comments raised on the website will be brought to the attention of the African and European officials developing the strategy. They in turn have voiced their commitment to take these views into consideration in the negotiations.

In addition to the website, **several events are taking place on both continents where the contents of the strategy are discussed**, organised by civil society as well as by the commissions. The AUC are planning a [civil society consultation in Accra](#), Ghana on the 26-28 March, and the EC intend to initiate further dialogue with civil society at an [open forum in Brussels](#), Belgium, on the 20 March. Please see the [calendar](#) for more information about events.

[21. Sophie Peresson](#), European Advocacy Manager, Marie Stopes International - March 19, 2007

Dear Sirs,

We are aware that the current public consultation is going to lead to a completely new document. We have referred to the “The EU Africa Strategy” (Dec 2005) because it is the last document referring to the relationship between the EU and Africa (cf. “key documents” on this website).

Moreover, the comments we have posted clearly refer to the methodology followed by the EC. We do not believe this type of online consultation will allow for an inclusive or effective consultation that could lead up to a valid joint EU-Africa strategy. As this exchange of emails shows, it is possible to misunderstand postings and misinterpret ideas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sophie

[22. onono patrick](#) - April 5, 2007

The partnership should be on global development network, advocating for change and connecting African countries to knowledge, expertise and resources to help build a better life. EU investment in high technology and scientific research will be a crucial factor in achieving this. Globalisation was once perceived as a way to make rich and poor countries benefit from worldwide economic integration. What is clear today it produces both winners and losers.

[23. Mariana Abrantes de Sousa](#) - April 5, 2007

The shared vision Europe-Africa will be based on a shared history, but even more importantly on a shared future with common interests and shared impacts. On the aid front, progress towards meeting Africa’s needs could benefit from sharing best practices from the most effective countries and institutions experienced in working in good partnerships locally.

24. EU International Disability & Development Consortium Task Group - represented by Sophie Beaumont - April 15, 2007

EU International Disability & Development Cooperation Task Group: contribution to the EU-Africa Strategy Consultation

The EU IDDC Task Group welcomes the opportunity to participate in this EU-Africa Strategy Consultation. However, we share the concerns expressed by many of the contributors about the limitations of the process which certainly is not designed in a way which can reach out to persons with disabilities in the local communities in Africa.

The EU IDDC Task Group would, therefore, support the call for an extension to the timeline of this consultation in order to give more possibilities for local participation from our partners in African countries.

We wish to draw attention, in particular, the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention.

“This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and is the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organizations. It marks a “paradigm shift” in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities.”

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/conventioninfo.htm>

-This Convention, is the first international instrument which gives explicit recognition to disability as a human rights issue.

-It is the first time, that an international human rights Treaty contains a stand alone provision on international cooperation (Article 32). This Article explicitly recognizes and seeks to promote and ensure that international cooperation actions and activities are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.

The International Cooperation Article 32 requires that all phases of the development programs (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) include a disability dimension to ensure that such programs are inclusive of all. The Article requires proactive measures to be taken in support of capacity building, information sharing and training, by all States who sign up to the Convention as well as by international and regional organizations (such as donors) and by civil society organizations.

The EU-Africa Strategy has an obligation to recognize this International Cooperation Article and to incorporate the terms of Article and the wider Convention.

-Disability representatives from our partner countries in Africa recently attended the African Civil Society Forum Conference in Addis Ababa in March 2007. The local disability representatives are less accustomed to such large events and found the Conference intimidating and, therefore, found it difficult to make commentaries and to take the floor, in particular during Plenary Sessions.

In light of this fact, we ask that, as part of the EU-Africa Strategy Consultation, there must be a specific and targeted consultation event for persons with disabilities and their representative disability organisations to be held in Africa. This will ensure a more accommodating environment which will give DPOs and persons with disabilities from African countries the room to express themselves and make their views known.

[The International Disability and Development Consortium is a consortium of 19 international NGOs supporting disability and development work in over 100 countries globally. IDDC website: www.iddc.org.uk/

Within IDDC, the EU IDDC Task Group works to raise awareness of disability at EU level in respect to development cooperation policies and practices and to highlight the concerns disability and development NGOs have in this domain.

The EU IDDC Task Group works to ensure EU development cooperation policies support and advance the interests of persons with disabilities living in the poorest communities as well as promote actions which reduce the high prevalence of disability existing in developing countries due to malnutrition, poor sanitation and poor access to health care of the poorest communities.]

Governance

Comments received between 31 January and 19 April, 2007

1. Peter Ballantyne (Netherlands) - January 31, 2007

Talking about Darfur, a leading article in the UK's Independent newspaper argues that "Africa needs strong European partners if the agenda to promote democracy and development is not to founder. Without that, China - whose economic tentacles are spreading through the continent - will offer an alternative in which considerations of democracy and human rights play no part."

see: http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading_articles/article2198384.ece

submitted by Peter Ballantyne, Euforic (Netherlands)

2. Victor Onoviran (Nigeria) - February 9, 2007

What does "Good Governance" mean...to EU or AU? Are you kidding me! We all - including our leaders - KNOW what it means!! Same with "Democracy" and "Human Rights".

The best test/proof? When our leaders quarrel amongst themselves or lose out in power struggle or are been investigated/prosecuted they scream about "political persecution", "violation of their human rights", "denial of due process", "disregard for rule of law", etc. They head for the courts to seek refuge/justice and ultimately flee abroad - most likely to Europe! But when the going is good, they flagrantly and blatantly breach each and every one of the above pillars!!

If an EU-Africa Partnership must be viable and credible, Europe has to be on the side of the African Continent (Lands & Peoples) NOT merely its Figure Heads (Political & Bureaucratic Leaders). To do so means fulfilling all UN Global Thematics, AU Treaties and a revamped NEPAD Action/Business Plan.

Good Governance, Democracy & Human Rights must be anchored in Parliaments and secured by the Courts. The EU must not back the travesty we endure today across the continent.

THREE critical areas of investment in this regard are EDUCATION, YOUTH and MEDIA. These are areas of reckless neglect in many countries right now. I call them the Tri-BOMBS! Supporting their development will also help Europe: Assure enduring democracy, protect human dignity, deliver mutually beneficial work-force AND reduce illegal immigration.

THREE institutions for renewed support and investments by the EU in our continent are PARLIAMENTS, COURTS and POLICE. Very very urgent. Our polity is undermined by their inadequacies. This is not just about money, it goes far beyond. Say, technical assistance, capacity building, exchange programmes, etc. Let's make them as robust and clean as we have in Europe and the West, and the world will be soon proud of our finest spirits!

Finally, we need to urgently TWIN European and African peoples at multiplex levels: public, private, civil, local, provincial, regional, national, academia, media, traditional, etc. It must be done in very creative and competent ways to broaden and sustain trans-sectoral INTERFACE. After all, Europe is more known to Africa and Africans than any other continent, why are we so distant and non-BONDED???

People own the continent and its sovereignty, return BOTH to them!

[3. Artur Victoria \(Portugal\)](#) - February 19, 2007

Europe spent a lot of money in Africa without monitoring the results. However much less than WB.

China does not act like that. Foreign investment policy always get back the investment with a return add value.

At the moment an analysis about what went wrong (we all know it) and develop a strong implementation about in the programs and partnerships that still are going on is the only way to stay there with the cooperation statue and not as investors as China do.

Still much work to be done and very few to do it.

Remember the case of Angola – the huge China investment getting in return the oil. But there are much more resources and Countries that aren't still under the oriental finance control and there is still an opportunity for Europe

[4. Vincent Forest \(Belgium\)](#) - February 20, 2007

Governance, human rights and democracy are indeed key issues for future EU-Africa relationship. 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.

In this respect, human rights enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights must be promoted and respected. And the role of human rights defenders should be acknowledged as they are the genuine heroes of our times. Unfortunately, in many countries, human rights defenders are still being harassed, intimidated, detained, ill-treated... tortured or even killed. The EU and African leaders should commit themselves in working for the protection of all human rights defenders, not only for those who work non violently for civil and political rights, but also for economic, social and cultural rights, e.g. access to water and education; better governance in management of natural resources, improved share of wealth, etc.

The EU has, at its disposal, a set of practical guidelines re the protection of human rights defenders, in Africa and elsewhere. A better implementation of these guidelines would help improve democracy, human rights and governance.

Vincent Forest, Head of EU Office of Front Line

5. James Nyawo (Zimbabwe) - February 21, 2007

In my view the main crisis faced by African Continent is the crisis of governance or simply the respect of rule of law. Most African leaders are caught between trying to embrace modern forms of governance such as democracy when underneath, they practise/ show strong traits of pre-colonial kingship kind for governance, which is riddled with patronage behavior.

For me the starting point for a meaningful relationship between the EU and Africa should focus on developing accountable governance systems in Africa. The systems do not necessarily have to be to be a straight jacket for all Africa countries as Africa is complicated, but tailor made systems that make leaders accountable to their own population.

6. Okeke, Adolphus - February 23, 2007

Good governance, not just governance is when the government of the sees herself as the servant of the people and not themaster. This entails being responsible to the people she governs and being accountable to the people and ensuring that everybody in the society including the disabled is taken care of.

In Europe, the government of the is responsible to the entire, people. It is not so in Africa, where the disabled persons are still highly marginalised, Matters of disability are still treated as charity and not as of rights which subjugate to the discretion of the person executing it and gives for question by the disabled.

Eu can make the disability rights one of the major requirement for any African country especially Nigeria from where I am sending for any cooperation

7. Tilder Kumichii Ndichia - February 25, 2007

I think any Africa - EU joint venture must be well elaborated, with all parties actively taking part at all levels of discussions. This will enable the views of all involved to be considered. Often such ventures do not take into consideration the problems of the poor

Africans. Look at the trade negotiations, what has Africa to gain with such negotiations going on? The basic human rights of people are not taken into consideration. When I look at all this I keep asking myself: Who benefits from all these joint ventures? The poor, the rich., the EU or the African countries? What are the main objectives of such ventures? To alleviate poverty in Africa or to further push the Africans into poverty? Most African leaders do not practice participatory governance, making it impossible for the citizens to benefit from such ventures

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. African leaders are not yet convinced that true and meaningful leadership must be based on good governance through which the rights of all their citizens are ensured.

8. Tilder Kumichii Ndichia (Cameroon) - February 25, 2007

Democratic guidelines based on human dignity must be elaborated and put into force by the African countries.

9. Kate Gooding - February 27, 2007

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. As stipulated in the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, states should ensure that international cooperation is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

[They should facilitate and support capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices; facilitate cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge; and provide technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.]

As part of this, the EU should take action to raise awareness, amongst all actors involved in EU development cooperation, of issues relating to disability and the fundamental human rights of disabled people; and ensure that these rights are addressed in development cooperation.

Work in support of good governance should include strengthening representative Disabled People's Organisations and enabling their participation in policy discussions, including formulation of future Country Strategy Papers, as advised by the European Parliament (European Parliament resolution on Disability and Development, 19th January 2005). It should also include ensuring that electoral processes supported by the EU are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

At the continental level, the EU should increase dialogue with the Africa Decade for Disabled People, a NEPAD programme to mainstream and integrate disability issues across all sectors of governments and within all development aid programs to benefit Africa. The Decade aims to raise awareness about the situation of the estimated 60 million people with disabilities in the region, and to identify solutions tailored to the African experience that enhance full participation, equality and empowerment. Partnership with

the Decade could help to ensure that EU development co-operation becomes inclusive of one of the continent's poorest groups.



10. ecdpm - February 27, 2007

From 24 to 26 November 2005, the Forum on governance in Africa took place in Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia). This joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Alliance for rebuilding governance in Africa, brought together participants from different sectors of society (including local authorities, public institutions, regional organisations, civil society, trade unions, pan African networks, the private sector, researchers and traditional authorities), different institutions from the African Union as well as development partners and international organisations.

The main objectives of the Forum were to identify the limits and structural bottlenecks for governance in Africa; to agree upon priority actions needed to improve governance, particularly in the framework of the African Union governance agendas and ongoing programmes; and to build commitment among African and non-African actors to support ongoing and possible new frameworks for dialogue and concerted action, in partnership with the AUC.

A Final declaration and a Plan of actions were issued which – among others:

- insist on the role of the African Union as a relevant (pan African) level to promote governance (through the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the APRM...);
- insist on the importance of dialogue between the AU and its members (including civil society, private sector, local authorities...);
- recall that the local level should be the key strategic level to renew governance in Africa;
- recommend the organisation of (sub)regional workshops/governance forums with the different stakeholders;
- propose to create and reinforce links between local and regional peace initiatives in order to give impulses to and strengthen the Council for Peace and Security, particularly via ECOSOCC;
- propose to create an interafrican research group on modes of governance in Africa;

For full documents see <http://www.afrique-gouvernance.net/compilations/mtcl-compil-2.html>

11. David Kato Kisule (Uganda) - February 27, 2007

As an LGBTI Human Rights defender I recommend that Governments stop their hypocritical actions. They commit themselves in signing International covenants on civil and political rights ICCPR, committing themselves to freedom from unfair discrimination and right to privacy under whatever provisions. Later on they arrest and pass constitutional bills discriminating and putting people at life imprisonment due to their sexual diversity. These governments should be given laws and penalties for this such that covenants do not appear a club of people going there to pass time when people are incited in carrying out hate crimes on people due to their sexual diversity.

Public service should stop discriminating people and chasing them off, deleting them from payrolls due to their sexual orientation!

Educational curriculums and the UNESCO should include sexorientation lessons in school early enough for people to grow with tolerance of sexual diversity.
Religious leaders should get science lessons to add onto their biblical teachings of the make up ones sexuality like the xx,xy and x0 chromosmos to stop pretending that its a myth being gay in Africa.
Global funding like supplying ARVS should also be accessible to Lgbti people, current discriminatory practice often denies sexual diversity people access.

David Kato Kisule

[12. Josef Pampalk \(Austria\)](#) - February 27, 2007

Congratulations first to your own and the many participants' efforts.
My contributions is on the role of parliamentarians in this issue:
For me in a constructive African-European partnership, the question is less the IF? or the What? but the HOW? and the WHO?

Although there is a lot of talk about civil societies here and there (my encouragements to the Forum in Addis March 2007). Yet only governments are so far, talking with one another - bypassing the parliaments (both in Africa and in Europe)!
Therefore my challenge to this public consultation for a joint EU-Africa Strategy is:
HOW will you involve the parliaments, at the national and local level? What do you contribute to enable elected representatives to follow and support this consultation and how to monitor the joint strategy?

National parliaments are practically excluded in the government-donor relations (e.g. in direct budget aid, in its controlling). Where high aid dependence is coupled with practically no accountability and pressure for from parliament, civil society or the media...

That is why I'm asking are we too forgetting parliamentarians?
(Josef Pampalk, Austria
working with NGOs)

[13. Josef Pampalk \(Austria\)](#) - February 27, 2007

I encourage the Civil Society Forum's method in nailing down each point of the MDG with some very concrete analysis and proposals in each sector and making the politicians accountable for implementing the MDG.
Otherwise they remain just rhetoric, like all other great promises of past development decades. In order to effectively monitor governments, our parliaments must be more strengthened on local, national and regional levels in their information, capacity building and networking regarding this Africa-Europe-Strategy.

[14. Samantha Chuula \(Zambia\)](#) - February 28, 2007

Samantha Chuula, Programme Manager, InterAction Leadership Programme has sent a submission focusing on leadership as fundamental to the success of any form of co-ordinated action in a joint Europe-Africa Partnership Strategy. It emphasises the themes the InterAction programme recognises as important to its success: a Democratic Africa, A Peaceful Africa, A Connected Africa and a Green Africa.

Download the submission:

<http://europafrica.files.wordpress.com/2007/02/submissionbyinteraction.doc>

15. Moses Chege - February 28, 2007

I think the issue of human rights and governance has not been given much attention by the EC. The fact that the EIDHR is still managed from Brussels. Most of the local missions are not willing shy away from the controversial human rights projects and the EC is not using it's muscle to fight corruption in Africa eg individuals who are known to have looted their economies should not be allowed to invest or bank the money in Europe,

Secondly the EU has been unfair to the African continent interms of trade and migration policies. Several produce from the African continent mainly flowers, fruits and vegetables have been denied entry based on allegations of meeting the standards. We would want a more proactive EU fighting the structural causes of poverty-e.g. looking at the longterm effects of denying flowers entry, supporting locals to engage in business, asking it's members to review the migration laws as to allow inflow of unskilled labour.

We would want to see more funding going through the civil society sector in the countries where there corruption is institutionalised. We want to see a higher commitment interms of flow of aid to Africa. We want to see fairer trade practices and a reduction in the subsidy to farmers in the EU market.



16. [ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Mohamed Fall (Senegal, 7/2)** stresses the importance of developing new policy tools for implementation, followed by evaluation and capitalising on good governance. New ways to incorporate the priorities of non-state actors should also be explored. It should be assessed in how far the subsidiarity principle can be used as a basis for refocusing cooperation during EDF 10.

[Read the full comment in French](#)



17. [ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Flaubert Djabateng (Cameroon, 13/2)**, on behalf of the Zenu Network, argues that resource exploitation and the interests of European companies seem to take precedence over governance and transparency in the current EU-Africa relationship. He mentions resource exploitation as a cause of conflict and abuse by corporations, preventing the protection of African countries' interests. Djabateng sees decentralised governance as useful to provide basic goods and services to communities. Yet currently such initiatives are hardly supported by the Unions.

[Read the full comment in French](#)



18. [ecdpm](#) - March 1, 2007

Sophie Beaumont from Light for the World has submitted a comment emphasising the rights of people with disabilities.

Access to basic needs and services by ALL persons in society is a fundamental indicator of effective government. Disabled persons are largely excluded from basic services in developing countries.

For full contribution, download [doc](#).



[19. ecdpm](#) - March 2, 2007

Related news:

A new network was launched in December designed to support citizen involvement in demand-side governance initiatives in Africa. The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)-Africa supports the engagement of citizens and civil society in building more effective states through social accountability approaches.

[Read article by the World Bank Institute ANSA-Africa website](#)

[20. Farai Maguwu](#) - March 8, 2007

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. Its only that guns are very silent in Zimbabwe but the death rate is very high due to structural violence and alarming levels of human insecurity. 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. Human life is precious and we are tired of seeing thousands dying of malnutrition and preventable diseases each week.

[21. Joyce Dimakatso Mpofo](#) - March 8, 2007

Joyce Mpofo (Accents International (Researchers & Evaluators), South Africa) I fully support Sam Chuula's comments. I wish to add that strengthening civil society participation at political, social and economic levels, focussing on making public leaders accountable at local, national and international levels is critical to move Africa to a different level. The AU-EU strategy has to incorporate citizen mobilisation & participation, accountability as well as trade promotion in Africa and between AU-EU especially for smme's, the engine of growth. There is need for more trade less aid and engage Africans in the diaspora in finding alternative, creative solutions. Old debates, old issues, what is required are new ways of engagement! We can all play a role in making a difference.

[22. Okeke, Adolphus O](#) - March 8, 2007

In addition to what Kate Gooding said and my earlier contributions, of special mention is the issue of women with disabilities in Africa who are the poorest of the poor. By the way ,how many of the humanright organisations in Africa more especially in Nigeria is taking special interest in issues of disability let alone that of African women with disabilities?

You see, persons with disabilities have serious problem in Africa, more especially women with disabilities who has been badly exploited. These are serious issues that must be discussed. I think EU, has a lot to do to help this group in any partnership with any African countries.

[23.](#) James K. Saybay - March 11, 2007

I strongly think that the issue of Human Rights education needs to be taken seriously in Africa than it is now. Human Rights Defenders need to be more pro-active in Human Rights Education than advocacy. When people know their rights then they know which is violated or not.

[24.](#) [Greg Ngethe](#) - March 26, 2007

The EU can best support civil society by being more proactive ,by being more responsive, and by willing to work with as many civil society actors as possible with a view to covering a lot of ground.

The EU also needs to be more open-minded to civil society.

Greg Ngethe, Nairobi, Kenya

The National Centre for Research on White Collar Crime (ncrwcc)

[25.](#) ONDOUA ABAH GABRIEL - March 27, 2007

MERCI BCP DE NOUS ACCEPTER DANS CET IMPORTANT ECHANGE.

Moi je suis une personne handicapée chargée toutefois de la promotion de tous les droits humains en faveur des personnes handicapées en Afrique Centrale et même dans le monde, en ma qualité de membre élu du Conseil mondial des p.h..

En remerciant la Communauté Internationale de nous avoir enfin dotés d'une Convention Internationale, NOTRE GRAND SOUHAIT :

- Qu'elle rentre rapidement en vigueur par la signature et la ratification de 20 Pays ;
- Que les personnes handicapées et leurs besoins spécifiques fassent partie des conditionalités pour les financement des Programmes de développement dans nos Pays, pour une réelle INCLUSION INTEGRALE ET GLOBALE DE NOS DROITS, favorisant ainsi notre PLEINE PARTICIPATION ET REPRESENTATION A LA VIE DE NOS PAYS.

[26.](#) Farai Maguwu - April 4, 2007

Talking of development before sorting out the governance crises is putting the horse before the cart. The humanitarian disaster in Zimbabwe is a reflection of the governance crises in the country and the failure by SADC and the AU to halt the Man-Made disaster reflects and awful leadership crises on the African continent. Hotspots such as Somalia, DRC and Sudan all bear testimony to the fact that despite being endowed with rich natural and human resources, Africa is short of mature leaders who use public offices to serve the people. The mass exodus of professionals, economic and political refugees and millions of internally displaced persons means the joint EU/Africa partnership must place much focus on leadership training from grassroots levels. Credible organisations doing this work need

the financial and material support to train as many Africans as possible. This task must not be given to serving politicians as the result is predictable: the funds will be misused. The partnership must focus into capacity building for the future of Africa. Institutions such as the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance at Africa University in Zimbabwe should be supported and their capacities to train more young Africans should be boosted by the EU/Africa partnership. The partnership should identify potential leaders in war-torn countries such as Somalia and train them for leadership.

Africa does not only need democratic leaders, but a democratic citizenry as well. Since the continent has embraced the western style of choosing leaders, that is elections, there is need to adopt the western type of limiting the power of leaders through the creation of space for civil society. Ironically many African dictators such as Mugabe have religiously clung to the western model of choosing leaders by the way of ballot but shamefully reject the western model of democratic participation of citizens in governance. There is need to harmonize the relationship between elections and active citizen participation after the elections have come and gone. The new partnership should invest more in civic education so that citizens make informed decisions and demand good governance from their elected leaders. Elections alone are not a good measure of democracy because they can be abused as is the case of Zimbabwe. The new partnership should try as much as possible to work with grassroots based organisations to increase checks and balances in governance.

The new partnership should also agree with the African Union and other sub-regional groupings on acceptable methods of governance, below which sanctions will be imposed. The African Union must make an undertaking to uphold the standards of good governance and do all to protect the people's economic, cultural and political rights. This must be upheld in principle and in practice. The AU should, with all due respect, be willing to move with speed to address the crises of human security with the assistance of the EU. The current precedence of national security over human security must be addressed and be relegated to history. Solidarity with governments that have presided over the deaths of millions of people due to both direct and structural violence, as is the case in Zimbabwe, should be stopped. Finally the EU/Africa partnership, like any other partnership, must be conditional on the commitment of both parties to implement all agreements in earnest.

[27. onono patrick](#) - April 5, 2007

The partnership that fully supports institutional reforms and restructuring of ministry and transport network on a more commercial and autonomous basis. In order to ensure transparency of operation and to obtain desired quality at the best possible price, the European Commission should govern the awards of contract works and supplies through competitive calls for proposals and award of grants through competitive calls for proposals.

[28. Mariana Abrantes de Sousa](#) - April 5, 2007

Good point about strengthening the local parliaments so that they can reinforce their supervision of the political and budget process, the overall resource allocation and the results achieved for the population as a whole. In some countries, general government tax revenues, which are monitored by the parliament, are less important than the inflows from natural resources or aid grants which may by-pass parliament altogether.

[29. Francis Bainomugisha](#) - April 8, 2007

If your questions on Governance point toward good governance, then I can comfortably say that governance support needs the involvement of all the Key stakeholders. Currently most of the governance support efforts have focused on government sectors. On the contrary we see more of economics determining the politics thus the state is threatened and any efforts to ensure transparency will be disrupted. My view of this whole partnership approach advocates for a peaceful co-existence between the private sector and the government. Let's focus on the agency theory, let the state ensure human security and the private sector be boosted. In this way the governance support will yield much more results. Therefore the EU-ACP partnership should work with both the public and Private sector if accountability, professionalism and corporate responsibility (values of good governance) are to be achieved.

[30. ROSELYNN MUSA - April 12, 2007](#)

My comments are affirmative action for women in politics and decision making as a way of moving Africa forward in governance and human rights:

The political landscape in Africa needs to change if it is to comply with development and democratic principles. To state that women and men do not enjoy the same freedoms and are not treated as equals is tantamount to announcing that the Second World War has ended. Who does not know that! Yet despite the introduction of universal suffrage several decades ago in most African countries women remain absent and under represented in politics and public office.

Rather than enjoy our full human rights as far as politics, decision making and other human rights are concerned, African women are experiencing what a friend of mine has referred to as "human left" because we are being left behind.

Antagonists of affirmative action as stated in the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, etc have often argued that positive discrimination equals discrimination; and that race, ethnicity and/ or gender take precedence over merit; and that affirmative action under values the people it is supposed to benefit.

To my mind, these arguments do not apply to affirmative action policies for women because in the first place we cannot be referred to as a minority group and because we constitute a larger percentage of the population. Secondly, to pretend that the problem is lack of leadership qualities is both untrue and an insult to women. It is a glaring fact that it takes a lot more for a woman to launch herself into the political arena which is almost a reserve for men. Countless number of women have had to struggle against considerable odds in order to succeed in politics as well as attain key positions in government.

Please do not get me wrong. I am not making a case for affirmative action, neither am I advocating for it. As much as I believe in it I feel that this is not relevant because this was achieved a long time ago. Rather, I am only asking that the promise be kept and the commitments transferred from paper to reality in the lives of African women.

We have often been told that as women we will be disappointed if we wait for anybody to offer us our rights and that the only way we can realize our rights is to grab it. This sounds

very empowering and motivating even if inciting. Anytime I hear this I immediately see in your mind's eye the last nail being driven into the coffin of patriarchy in Africa and I visualize myself taking my oath of office this weekend as Africa's second female president. (Whether democratically or undemocratically elected is another matter all together).

My take on this is that there 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. We should keep in mind that the Millennium Declaration is not only about nice speeches on utopia. They include to a great extent the realization of gender equality and this promise will only be kept if we take concrete steps to transform rhetoric into action.

If we are to make any headway, women's rights organisations such as FEMNET should not relent in advocating for women's rights and particularly, women's right to hold public office. Lobbying must target political parties and urge them to appoint more women. Other measures we could take to ensure higher percentage of women's participation include, but are not limited to; awareness raising campaigns, creating a list of potential female candidates for public office, provide special funding for political parties sensitive to women's issues, implement quotas and amend electoral laws to guarantee that political parties appoint certain percentage of women. It is essential that democratic principles are applied in schools so that girls and boys are equally empowered to take part in the social life of the school such as debates. This will give girls and boys the chance to empower themselves and discuss issues that affect them with confidence.

The media is also a powerful instrument in promoting this cause. It could portray cases of gender imbalance that exist in the society with a view to naming and shaming the perpetrators.

Finally, the need to educate and sensitize society about gender issues cannot be overstated. This will play a catalytic role in bringing about positive changes in cultural beliefs, attitudes and customary practices which have tended to repress women for ages.

[31. Suzette Mudeshi- Uganda - April 19, 2007](#)

Governance as now referred to as governance and anti- corruption has risen to become a part of our day to day activities. But recently my Boss explained the 2 concepts as " a culture to accept i.e. bribery, theft... so long as one is successful". This I should say is and has for along time been the order of the day atleast in Uganda. Therefore if communication through education is enabled at the grass root level (communities) where by they are equipped with knowledge on governance issues and anti- corruption, only then can the primary responsibility of Africa in promoting governance be strengthened!

Key development issues

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

[1. Franklin Cudjoe \(Ghana\) - February 7, 2007](#)

How best Europe and African countries can help increase access to basic services, such as health and education, in Africa.

How can this be done in countries where the government is unwilling or unable to do so?

As it is deemed to be one of the most essential services, governments in Africa have assumed the responsibility, and usually the monopoly, of providing water to their populations. However, public sector water systems are all marred by heavy physical and financial losses and have proven incapable of extending networks beyond peripheral urban areas to rural populations, a significant problem in a continent where 70% of the population earns its living off the land.

In the face of these obvious inadequacies, there have been several examples, in Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Guinea, where private water networks have effectively compensated for public sector failings. Furthermore, where even urban areas are badly served by politically-managed water systems, "informal" (deemed illegal) entrepreneurs have addressed artificial water scarcity created by government mismanagement, and have provided people with reliable supplies.

These powerful illustrations bear lessons that should be learned if development assistance is to improve the quality and the extent of local water supplies in African countries. Governments in Africa have for too long claimed that water is a commodity that is too important to be controlled by the market. But governments have proven incapable of extending basic services and have managed to create artificial scarcities. In some instances, political forces have deliberately manipulated them in order to achieve political and financial gains. Specifically, governments make land tenure a prerequisite of access to a government-supplied water connection yet they deny land tenure to a large majority of urban dwellers, especially those who live in informal settlements (slums or shantytowns). Secondly, governments prevent informal entrepreneurs from owning and operating legal businesses.

However, across urban Africa, people are not waiting for their governments to deliver water. A more effective method of providing reliable water to a greater percentage of Africans is to formalise the tenuous rights held by informal entrepreneurs who are already achieving some success despite great legal obstacles. Instead of providing governments with funds that are plundered or poured into the mismanagement of water supplies, aid should instead be tied to strict conditions that emphasise the systemic decentralisation of other areas of economic control held by governments. Specifically, aid could be used to extend formal land tenure and property rights to the poor, in addition to reforming public policy to enable poor entrepreneurs to own and operate legally sanctioned businesses.

The freedom to trade property and for entrepreneurs to own formal businesses is the best way to ensure that wealth can be created by investing resources where they can be most efficiently applied. Empowered with legal rights, decentralised owners of water resources would then have the incentive to seek local solutions to water provision by responding to local demand. This not only drives competition between providers but has proven to deliver more water to more people.

Our enclosed chapter, "The reality of water provision in urban Africa" [<http://www.sdnetwork.net/files/pdf/chapter7-cudjoe-okonski.pdf>] published in a book

entitled *The Water Revolution* by International Policy Press (London) in March 2006, answers this question in greater detail.

Franklin Cudjoe
Executive Director
Imani: The Centre for Humane Education

2. Silvestre Baessa Jr. (Mozambique) - February 8, 2007

Dear All,

Think in a strategy, means that we agree that there some or alot of obstacles in the relationshipo between Africa and EU. For this reason, i think that the point of departure to a full Africa EU joint strategy should be the recognition that the power relation between Africa and Europe both in the past and currently are against Africa progress, because EU is getting richer and richer, and Africa is getting poor and poor. Issues related with progress and poverty, such as: governance, debt, aid and trade that for long oriented the so called EU-Africa partnership must be on the top of the priorities of this strategy, but we need first to desconstruct the current framework and model of cooperation. The way how those issues mentioned above, were discussed and implemented in the past and now, did not help Africa at all, but Europe.

Look for instance, the case of debt and aid. Despite all debt relief initiatives, include HIPC I, II and MDRI, we still face the same challenges of debt unsustainability, that we faced 30 years ago. After 30 years of structural adjustment programmes in Africa and some innovative aid initiatives, the globality of africa economies remains weak and facing endemic crisis. So, for the best of this strategy we must to go back to the very questions, such as, what is working and what is not working in Africa- EU partnership and why it so? what are the causes behind the failure.

3. Lawrence Michelo (Zambia) - February 8, 2007

The EU should direct its support to government and state structures in Africa. It should stop funding the following:

1. United Nations Development Agencies-UNICEF, WFP, UNDP (they must be five). There is need to revisit the global trust invested in these UN institutions.

2. Donor agencies with consultancy offices all over the continent claiming to promote liberal values.

3. NGOs and the 1990 tamac elitist civil society groupings.

These are today Africa's greatest huddle to development and impediment to ending poverty, hunger, disease and underdevelopment.

4. Victor Onoviran (Nigeria) - February 9, 2007

First, let me politely and respectfully suggest to my brother, Lawrence, that help cannot and must not be limited to governments and their structures in the 21st century! In no part of the world will sustainable development flourish without a concert of forces: public,

private, civil. This is a settled global practice. That is why Western Leaders come on state visits with full complement of their tri-sectors while many African Leaders parade officials, relatives and fronts! Pity.

Second, no donor today will be that gullible considering the track records of third world (especially African!) governments, in shameless graft and unconscionable corruption. Where is all the money they have collected in the past? Stolen! Even in his own country, Zambia, I'm sure Lawrence is not unfamiliar with such very well-publicised cases!

I agree that too many actors are "eating" in the name of "AFRICA" all over the place! But we can't shut our eyes because of few bad guys lest we lose seeing the many good souls (African Proverb).

Now, to the question of who owns development: The PEOPLE. Period. Thus neither the EU or any donor can impose on Africa. This has been the bane of donor assistance over the decades. Which is why the new initiative must be mutually beneficial: A true Partnership of EQUALS! Nothing less.

Reason? A prosperous African is a boon and blessing to Europe, our nearest neighbour!!

What to do? Make development assistance an Africa-INVEST basket, based on grants, loans, equities, trade and tourism. Stop extracting natural resources and unprocessed commodities from our continent. Stop dictating prices of resources you do not produce (coffee, for example!).

Most importantly, stop condoning and supporting rogue regimes and looters/plunderers of our patrimony!!!

Let the proceed, and I shall be keen to return to this timely market of ideas.

Cheers.

5. Torgny Ekengard (Sweden) - February 10, 2007

Better payment to african farmers through better african agricultural policy is urgent.

6. Artur Victoria (Portugal) - February 14, 2007

Citizenship a strategic perception on the structure of power and national development.

We are doing E – Learning courses for Lusophone Countries, specially Africa, giving grants for applicants. However dealing with long distance learning, makes necessary the availability of personal computers and the training about their uses. We are finding difficult to get a segment for this new kind of participation, just because using the diplomatic services for information and publicizing it seems not to be enough. Also most e – mail addresses are changing day to day and contacts are difficult to keep.

We strongly believe that sharing educational and training resources , making them suitable for each Country needs, specially when this is located at high level of public or

civil central or local servants and strategic production or natural resources private companies.

We are studying how to keep a flowing stream of connection between our institution and those who can get a real benefit of our contribution.

7. Valentina Mazzucato (Netherlands) - February 14, 2007

African migration to Europe is a key issue.

Migration has been shown to provide developmental benefits for African economies and households yet it can also lead to the 'brain drain'. EU migration policies can greatly influence the developmental potential of migration as well as the brain drain effects.

Migration policies, thus, need to be designed together with development policies. Until now, these two areas have remained separate.

(For more information, see <http://www.gcim.org/mm/File/GMP%2048.pdf>)

8. Andrew K. Dube (South Africa) - February 16, 2007

Introduction to African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

The African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009), is a decade declared by the African Union to highlight the lives of people with disabilities. It is an initiative inclusive of civil society, governments, and other interested groups. It is undertaken in collaboration with the African Union, African Governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs working with disability and development.

In order to coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the decade a Secretariat was established. The mission of the Secretariat of the African Decade is to empower Governments, DSCs, DPOs and development organisations to work in partnership to include disability and persons with disabilities into policies and programs in all sectors of society in Africa.

The Secretariat of the African Decade African Decade calls upon all member states of the African Union, as well as international donors, to review the situation of disabled persons with a view to developing measures that enhance the equality and full participation of disabled persons as well as the empowerment of the disabled people. Some 80 million Africans live with a disability. These people are too often disadvantaged because of governments' and civil society is inadequate awareness of their abilities and needs. This in its turn leads to non-inclusive policies and programmes.

Disability inclusion and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy

It is of key importance that disability and persons with disability are fully included in the process to develop a Joint EU-Africa strategy.

Consultation with Civil Society is one of the underpinning principles of the Cotonou agreement. We question the current process for laying the agenda for a joint EU-Africa strategy. Is an on-line consultation carried out over such a short period the best way to

consult people living in the poorest communities in Africa, and in particular, persons with disability and their families?

The Africa Strategy (December 2005) states the EU's commitment to supporting the work of the NEPAD and the AU. The African Decade of Disabled People is an initiative of the AU; a priority area of their work, and therefore requires the EU's attention. The Decade provides a unique opportunity for African States to contribute to efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities on the African Continent. The Decade also provides African countries with an even bigger and broad-based opportunity to highlight the successes made in terms of integrating disability at country level.

If the main goal in partnership with Africa is achievement of the MDGs, we cannot hope to achieve this without explicit inclusion of disability. UNESCO estimates that 1-2 % of children with disabilities have access to schooling. Universal primary education will never be achieved if there is no commitment and investment in education of children with disabilities.

March 30th this year marks the opening for signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of person with disabilities. This Convention, the first Human Rights convention of the 21st century clearly lays down our obligations to respect and protect the rights of persons with disability- and Article 32 specifically requires attention to disability in development cooperation activities. The Joint EU Africa Strategy must also take the new Disability Rights convention into consideration and recognise and support Africa's interest in taking a leading role in its implementation. We welcome all efforts made by ECDPM to create a more inclusive framework for developing the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, and specifically including the perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Further details about the African Decade can be found on website:
<http://www.africandecade.org.za>

Andrew K. Dube, CEO SADPD

9. Geert Vanneste (Belgium) - February 21, 2007

It is my opinion that the EU should prioritize the following attitude change and activities:

1. 95% of African people were born after the decolonization. If any colonization really does exist these days, it is how African leaders are disconnected from their people, and from their duties towards them, political leaders from their people, teachers from their pupils, doctors from their patients. What to do? See 2.
2. Therefore, EU representatives should consider African leadership (receivers of EU support) not just as 'representatives' but most of all as CEOs, who are accountable to their Board of Directors for the objectives set by the latter. A CEO who doesn't deliver is replaced before the tap can be reopened. Let's get serious. What the EU did in Kenya: well done! Why not elsewhere? Because of budgets? See 3.
3. Development aid should not function as a reverse bank: first allocate and then try to spend well. AT ALL TIMES, the criteria for budget allocation should be a conducive environment, i.e. a qualified manager, good accounting reputation, qualified staff,

tradition of achieving the objectives. If these are not there, the budgets should not be allocated! If leaders don't accept formal control: fine, then stop support. Normal, isn't it? But how? See 4.

4. Free movement of people in the EU is the most fantastic opening of a human resource market in the world. (what an exciting exchange of people, cultures etc...!) It puts the EU in a very good position to get across the message to the African leaders and intellectuals, that they are too reluctant to open up their human resource market to other nationals, Europeans or other Africans. WHY those old-fashioned reactions against foreign people – although taking foreign money doesn't seem to be a problem... Why is the perception that foreigners make more money!? Isn't the problem with the African labor market the fact that it is like an army of generals and soldiers. Where is the mid-level management!? If it isn't present, get it from where it is. The 'invisible hand' rules the labor market too... So then, what to prioritize? See 5.

5. Before anything: be aware that, if one really asks people, that the nun in the dispensary or the teacher in his school objectively had more impact on improving lives of African people, rather than the regional multi-million dollar program. What should be prioritized? a. Strengthen human resource at all levels, and see it as a short and long term goal. But create competition!: put as condition that the labor market 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. b. Be transparent about received support : inform the people at large in detail of any support and donations: how much, for what, who is responsible for implementation, when to be implemented, where can you write with complaints c. Much more formal monitoring of project/development results, and reinforce consequences. d. Judiciary: it is not acceptable that almost anywhere in Africa, one gets jailed for stealing a banana on the market, but after stealing millions of dollars, one seems untouchable. Did we mention 'disconnection'? e. Want to prioritize some direct service delivery? Then improve the quality of child birth, and support programs empowering women and persons with disabilities: the most cost-effective work in Africa if you intend to improve lives.

6. Debt relief? Yes of course, but only in case it is impossible for African governments to engage in new loans. It is simply unethical to give loans, and to make money on giving out loans, to leaderships whose corruption is well documented. Would a bank in Europe give a loan to someone who has been bankrupted, or treated for drug addiction? No. Should his/her debts be cancelled in case some strange system provided him with a loan whilst he can't pay back? Yes: for the sake of his children. But stop giving loans!

7. Last but not least. It may not be wise if the EU would feel that a month long consultation on the internet will result in taking into account the opinion of the majority of the African people, and certainly not of the ones the EU claims to support: the poorest.

By the way: EU: thanks for believing in Africa! One day, we will beat poverty !

[10.](#) Dorothea Katharina Rischewski (UK) - February 22, 2007

Focus on vulnerable groups of the society to reduce poverty:

In order to achieve, or at least getting close to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the joint EU-AFRICA strategy should invest in finding out more about the

needs of particularly vulnerable groups in the African societies. Persons with disabilities, women and children have so far not been adequately addressed by national programmes and international development assistance. Poverty reduction will remain unachievable if considerable parts of the population are not being included in the design and planning of strategies and programmes. How can it be assured that these groups access education, health care and safe employment? What are the barriers they are facing to fully participate in their communities and exert their rights and all capabilities? Three crucial issues should be addressed:

- 1) Situational analysis and knowledge creation are the foundations of any sound planning process. More effective alliances of the development sector with academia, where the necessary skills are provided, can lead to fruitful results, as seen in the past. The EU, where excellent academic institutions and many of the development agencies and organisations are based, is perfectly placed to foster this process.
- 2) Data on needs/barriers can only be effectively used in the countries of origin and by the people involved and concerned if distributed, utilised and translated by the right people into the right policies. This process involves three key elements: A) In order to assure ownership of activities, local stakeholders should be leaders in identifying information gaps, designing and conducting research, analysing and distributing research findings. B) To guarantee efficient working and to obtain sustainable results, a regional/continental database needs to be created pooling all the already existing knowledge on disempowered, excluded and mostly poor population groups. Country databases should be built up and linked in order to best utilize the existing knowledge to allow planners to quickly identify information gaps and best practice. C) In order to reach the poor and excluded and to improve their quality of life, thus created knowledge needs to be shared with policy makers and translated into effective and inclusive policies.
- 3) Identifying needs, conducting research, assessing the information, translating it into policy: this requires manpower. The joint EU-AFRICA strategy should contribute to sustainable development by capacity building on all levels required: community leaders, national researchers, bureaucrats, project/programme managers, politicians.

Thanks to the EU for asking for ideas and comments. However, a one month internet based consultation might not be the most adequate way of discussing the views of excluded and poor parts of the civil society in Africa. A more inclusive process to make sure their voices are being heard and integrated would have been desirable.

11. Elly Bernard (South Africa) - February 22, 2007

I would encourage the full participation of people with disabilities in all initiatives to promote good governance, democracy and human rights, trade, poverty alleviation, peace-building, health etc.

There are an estimated 500 million disabled people in the world and the fact that they are systematically denied their rights to rehabilitation and assistive devices means that they are routinely excluded from consultations such as this. For example, the majority of mobility disabled people in Africa cannot access an appropriate wheelchair - let alone access an internet consultation to give their opinions! In low-income countries, many disabled people's voices are even excluded from the disability movement because assistance to meet their physical needs is unavailable, or too expensive, or of poor quality and unsuitable for their environment and disability. This means that their needs, opinions

and experiences do not form part of the global debate on development, and their exclusion is compounded by the very structures that drive the debate.

There needs to be resources, research, awareness and positive action committed to ensuring that consultations and ensuing partnerships are inclusive of disabled people. The African Disability movement has many experienced advocates, and the EU should the movement and work to empower the millions of disabled people whose rights are consistently abused.

12. Kate Gooding - February 27, 2007

Health

The EU recognises that health must be a priority for development co-operation. Many of the developing world's health problems are best dealt with at primary level: investment in primary care is both cost-effective and more likely to reach poorer populations. Given the high incidence of eye conditions in Africa and the strong relationship between blindness and poverty, childhood mortality and exclusion from education, provision for primary care should support integration of eye care in health systems. The potential for action is enormous: an estimated 80% of eye disease can be treated at the primary level and 75% of blindness is avoidable, using highly feasible, extensively tested and cost-effective strategies. A combination of prevention, early recognition and intervention can provide an enormous reduction in the incidence of impairment and its impact upon the individual and society.

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.

Inclusion

To ensure that development co-operation reaches the poorest, the EU must ensure that disability is considered throughout the implementation of the Africa Strategy, as demanded by the European Parliament. One in five of the world's poorest people have a disability, and 82% of disabled people in developing countries live below the poverty line. In total, disability affects the lives and livelihoods of 25% of the world's population. Much greater recognition is needed of its magnitude and consequences. The European Commission's Guidance Note on Disability and Development provides a reference point for a more inclusive approach, and much more should be done to support its implementation by country delegations.

One area for EC support is investment in Community Based Rehabilitation. This critical to promote social and economic inclusion of disabled people. Only a tiny proportion of disabled people in developing countries currently have access to rehabilitation services. The EC should work with the UN agencies that are currently in the process of developing comprehensive guidelines on CBR, together with governments and other stakeholders, to support the effective implementation of the guidelines and integration of relevant rehabilitation services within primary health care systems.

To promote a more inclusive approach, the EU should support enhanced collection of data on disability in Africa. Data on disability is critical for informed policy making, programme implementation and monitoring, yet often severely lacking. Any data collection and monitoring mechanisms related to the EU-Africa Strategy should include specific attention to impacts on disabled people.

According to a World Bank study disability is a greater barrier to participation in education than gender, household economic status or urban/rural residence. It is estimated that of the 80 million children currently out of school a third are disabled. If Education for All is to become a reality urgent action must be taken to ensure disabled children are included and prioritised in all education plans. Specifically the EU should support the Fast Track Initiative and ensure that its plans are inclusive. Support must also be given to families of disabled children including early intervention services. Further information must be gathered with national governments encouraged to obtain data on the proportion and status of disabled children in education.

13. Dominic Haslam - February 27, 2007

Health:

There appears to be a big consensus building up around the importance of the Neglected Tropical Diseases to meeting development commitments. It is really good to note that these neglected diseases (such as trachoma, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis) are finally getting some attention. Its important to recognise action on them is key to tackling HIV/AIDS and malaria, as they are often co-occurring. There is also lots of potential to make huge progress with little money.

However, in the EU's involvement in this issue within Africa, it is important to note that there are tried and tested approaches that have demonstrated success and cost-effectiveness as well as potential new approaches which focus mainly around mass drug administration (MDA) to the population. These approaches should not be marginalised in the rush to find solutions and MDA should be followed in coordination with addressing other necessary elements, such as improvements in basic hygiene and access to clean water.

14. Joanna Campion - February 27, 2007

The UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities was approved by the UN last year. This is the first ever human rights treaty for disabled people and provides those formulating the EU-Africa strategy with a unique opportunity to ensure that development policies in Africa truly focus on fully inclusive strategies. There is much talk within this document about the need to focus on the poorest and vulnerable groups. It is therefore important for those formulating the strategy to realise that these groups include large numbers of disabled people.

Disability Mainstreaming:

A substantial problem at the present time is that EU-Africa development projects do not properly mainstream disability. This means that important projects that are needed to build capacity and alleviate poverty amongst disabled people in Africa are not getting funding because EU funding is not available for such group-specific projects. However at the same time, existing funding is not being spent in a fully inclusive way, which means

that disabled peoples' needs are falling through the gap between the theory and the practice of disability mainstreaming.

To ensure the EU-Africa strategy address this fundamental problem, I would recommend the following actions:

- Data must be gathered about how countries are monitoring targets of inclusion of disabled people
- EU funding streams and the funding of EU member states need to specifically target programmes that include disabled people
- The new UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities should be signed and ratified by members of both the EU and African countries. Countries should recognise the importance of supporting the rights of disabled people and honour their commitments to provide international cooperation between states to ensure these rights are progressively realised.
- International partnerships should be encouraged to ensure that the rights of disabled people are mainstreamed across all areas of work. There is an important need for a twin-track approach so that until mainstreaming is fully realised, disability focused projects still receive the attention needed.
- The EU-Africa strategy should review older strategies and identify strengths and weaknesses. It would be helpful to review programmes such as the Action Programme on Disability (1983-1993) and now the Africa decade to ensure that future programmes are more than just statements of good intent without positive substantial gains.

Finally in terms of process it might also be important to recognise that an internet based consultation will reach very few people in Africa, in particular it will not reach the poorest and most vulnerable groups which include disabled people. It is important to look for ways of ensuring that the views of these groups are heard.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this vitally important area of work.

15. Catherine Naughton, CBM EU Liaison Office - February 27, 2007

CBM is an international Christian development organization whose primary purpose is to improve the quality of life of all persons with disabilities, and those at risk of disability, living in low income countries and communities, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or creed. CBM is working in all aspects of disability prevention, treatment, education, rehabilitation and empowerment of disabled peoples organisations across Africa.

We welcome the initiative that is been taken to develop a joint EU-Africa strategy, and welcome a consultation with Civil Society, North and South, as a first step. We are fully in agreement with the statement of Olivier Consolo from CONCORD, that this process should not be rushed; there are too many important issues at stake. We hope that it is foreseen to extend this consultation, and expand it, to ensure that people living in the poorest communities have the chance to have their voices heard and their issues recognized.

As an opening to this consultation, we would like to make some comments on two key development areas.

Since Aid delivery is increasing moving towards budget support, there is a danger that Education and Health programmes may fall short of the resources they need to reach the MDGs. With reference to the Europe Cares article 'Investing in People' we would like to point to some opportunities which exist in health and education programmes to ensure that we invest in all people, and achieve the MDGs by really improving the lives of people living in the poorest communities.

Education:

The Europe Cares article issued on the Commissions web-site states that only six out of ten African children go to primary school. UNICEF estimates that this is as little as 2% for children with disabilities and it is known that 40 million of the worlds out of school children have some form of disability (UNESCO 2004). Girl-children with disabilities are less likely to attend school than boy-children. If we are to achieve universal primary education it is imperative that education programmes systematically address the inclusion of children with disabilities- ensuring that their right to education is respected along-side their peers. In practical terms this requires a huge shift in attitude, but more than that- it requires policy commitment, resources for training and supporting teachers, material support to schools.

Health:

The EU is committed to replenishing the Global Fund. CBM would like agree with the point made by Dominic Haslam (feb 27th), who made a case for including neglected tropical diseases in tandem with our commitment to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Diseases such as Lyphatic Filiarisis, onchocerciasis, guinea worm, leprosy and trachoma are responsible for 25% of the poor state of health in developing countries. CBM advocates for health programmes which link the control of neglected tropical diseases with control programmes for the 'big three', since control of neglected tropical diseases could actually help in combating HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis and malaria. A combined approach does not add much to the cost of these programmes, contains little risk; maximizes resources and will have a significant impact on morbidity, mortality and disability of the poorest people, and especially of children.

Human resources and Health:

In 2003 ten countries in Africa had only one or fewer ophthalmologists per million population; Sierra Leone only has one psychiatric doctor; in Malawi there are no possibilities for physiotherapists training in the country; there is no provision for assistive devices in the Malawi Ministry for Health budget so they have to rely on donations; UNICEF estimates that 60% of all mine victims in Mozambique die before they can get appropriate first aid. The crisis in human resources in health care needs to be tackled, if the MDGs are to be attained. Particular attention needs to be paid to ensure that access to basic health and rehabilitation services is guaranteed to all people. It may also be of value, when we consider the state of health systems across Africa that this consultation is also expanded to bring in the perspectives of public health workers, including those working at grass roots level.

We support the previous statements made arguing the need to include disability, and persons with disability in the Joint Strategy; the statement made by AK Dube from the African Decade of Disabled People reminds us of some key concerns of persons with

disabilities in Africa; Mr Vaneeste referred to the cost-effectiveness of programmes empowering women and persons with disabilities; Ms Rischewski has then gone on to point out that if we even intend to get close to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the joint EU-AFRICA strategy should invest in finding out more about the needs of particularly vulnerable groups in the African societies. Elly Bernard from South Africa has reminded us that the African Disability movement has many experienced advocates who should be included in these processes.

The inclusion of these actors and issues in the process of developing a Joint EU-Africa Strategy will of course require an extended and expanded consultation, which CBM looks forward to taking part in.

16. Shareef Malundah - February 28, 2007

It would be worthwhile if the EU could ensure that before supporting any development issue in African governments, it looks at how the criteria for selection of the issues was set in each country, because in many African countries the tendency has been to use the civil society on the consultation table ONLY to legitimize their proposals and not necessary to have their contributions echoed in them.



17. ecdpm - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Jean-Louis Boppe (France, 2/2)** asks whether co-development, interpreted as making optimal use of educated Diasporas from developing countries residing in the EU, would be one of the priorities.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Moussa Bagayoko (Mali, 7/2) notes that development policies should take into account peoples' cultural identities if they are to succeed. He also calls into question the EU's underlying motivations of engaging with Africa, noting discrepancies between official (Summit) statements and actual implementation in the field.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Rosalie Ouoba (Chad, 12/2) points out that successful development anywhere cannot take place if people continue to live in uncertainty elsewhere. Equal opportunity and respect for diversity around the globe are crucial. She expressed hopes for the voices of all African citizens to be heard.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Bitomwa Lukangyu (DRC, 14/2) suggests Euro-African cooperation to protect natural resources. Since Africans are deprived of proper means to exploit these resources, European entrepreneurs should step in to help African agriculture.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Michel Boye (France, 20/2) believes that development requires effective mobilisation of local actors and decision-makers that are productive and provide employment. This approach should entail three complementary dimensions: economic development, social inclusion, and finally initiative and responsibility. In this context, co-development and the mobilisation of Diaspora are particularly relevant.

[Read the full comment in French](#)



[18. ecdpm](#) - March 8, 2007

German and African civil society organisations are through their manifesto [“Prospects for Africa - Europe’s Policies”](#) calling for poverty-oriented development policy. The manifesto was written specifically to influence the German Federal Government, in their role as EU Presidency, but is also of relevance in the drafting of a joint EU-Africa strategy.

They specifically call for a **focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. Other issues they raise are the need to reach an agreement on a **sound financial strategy for European development cooperation**, and improved **coherence of European policies**.

The manifesto calls for action on the following key development issues:

- **Change in energy policies:** Promoting renewable energy and making renewables work for development,
- **Climate change:** Supporting Africa in adapting to climate change,
- **HIV/AIDS:** Ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment and care,
- **Gender:** Implementing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a cross-sector task,
- **Role of civil society:** Strengthening civil society as a political force in its own right.

Read the full manifesto - [pdf](#)

[19. Artur Victoria](#) - March 9, 2007

African countries with rich natural resources are less receptive to educational and formation help than the ones without them. I believe that to form human capital in poor countries is the main frame for Euro help programs.

The cooperation programs going on show a statistic that small Portuguese speaking countries are very participating. The effort to extend this help to Angola and Mozambique make necessary a government commitments on pre defined targets and results.

[20. Amana Ferro, Marie Stopes International](#) - March 21, 2007

The undersigned organisations, working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the response to HIV/AIDS, welcome the opportunity to contribute to a consultation on the joint strategic partnership between the EU and Africa. We appreciate the EC’s initiative to draft a joint EU-Africa Strategy, in collaboration with its African partners and NGOs in the North and the South.

However, a joint strategy, if it is to work as an effective roadmap for EU-Africa development cooperation, must ensure that all the partners are on equal footing. For a true partnership to be established, the African partners need to be empowered by effectively and thoroughly addressing the poverty divide, with a strong emphasis on African needs. For this, health, and, more specifically, SRHR and the response to HIV/AIDS, are indispensable.

Given that the three health MDGs are the least likely to be achieved by 2015, and that we are fast approaching the mid-term review (07.07.07), this may be the last chance for the Commission and its partners to effectively provide the means to fulfil the commitments made. The strategy should, therefore, explain concretely what measures must be taken so that these MDGs and its targets are met within the agreed timeframe.

The risk of maternal mortality in Africa is 1 in 16, the highest of all continents. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest infant mortality rate and, at the same time, accounts for half of the developing world's maternal deaths (1 in every 100 births). It also has the lowest rate of contraceptive use in the world (19%). 4.2 million unsafe abortions occur in Africa every year, causing 30% of all maternal deaths in the continent, and taking 90 women's lives every day. This can be addressed through existing knowledge and technologies, including universal access to reproductive health care, family planning, care in pregnancy, during and after childbirth, and emergency obstetric care.

Moreover, the untimely and unnecessary death of women has a devastating impact on a country's economy. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), if there is no reduction in maternal mortality and associated disabilities, about 22 billion dollars could be lost over the next 10 years due to maternal deaths, an equal amount due to disability and about 45 billion dollars in productivity losses.

In order to effectively address these challenges, the Strategy needs to incorporate the EU's commitments to 'strongly support' developing countries who agreed to work towards the targets set by themselves for investments in health (as stated in the May 2002 Council Resolution on 'Health and Poverty'). This refers especially to the 47 African Heads of State who, when meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, committed their governments to allocating at least 15% of their annual budgets to improving the health sector and setting aside a substantial proportion of these funds to tackle HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases. Moreover, the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) of African nations need to include sufficient measures to respond to HIV/AIDS and mitigate its impact, and promote SRHR.

Africa is also the region worst affected by HIV/AIDS. The Southern Africa region, with just 3% of the world's population bears one third of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic burden. The social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS are and will be catastrophic for many communities and countries in Africa for years to come, and will be one of the biggest challenges to achieving the MDGs. It is critical that the long term HIV/AIDS response is comprehensive – balancing the need for universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. It needs to be placed within the context of the overall development in support of national priorities, using a rights based approach.

The joint EU-Africa strategy should include mechanisms for ensuring the participation of civil society organisations and communities at all stages of the response to the pandemic, with a specific focus on marginalized people such as women, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as other groups key to the pandemic and faced with enormous stigma and discrimination, such as men who have sex with men, sex workers and drug users. The Strategy should identify the steps needed to fully implement the April 2005 "European Programme for Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through External Action" for the period 2007-2013 [COM (2005) 179 final].

The linkages between HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and SRHR policies and services need to be reaffirmed, since HIV is mostly contracted through sexual transmission. Girls and women lack control over matters related to their sexuality and sexual health and rights. Sexual and reproductive ill-health accounts for almost one third of the global burden of disease among women of reproductive age. SRH information, education and services should be widely available and affordable for all, not only for girls and women, but also for other vulnerable groups and marginalized populations.

Key to this achievement of the health MDGs is the strengthening of health systems and existing SRH service providers, including addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals, ensuring increased access to confidential, voluntary counselling and testing, treatment, care and support, as part of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services. The need for widely available sexual and reproductive health supplies, including male and female condoms, should be emphasized, as well as the support for research and development of microbicides, vaccines and other prevention technologies.

Youth and children represent half of Africa's population, so particular importance should be given to their needs and rights when articulating policy. This especially vulnerable group is faced with early (and/or forced) marriages, unwanted pregnancies, sexual abuse and exploitation, obstetric fistula, female genital mutilation, lack of access to youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services. As the largest ever generation of young people becomes sexually active, there is a greater risk of HIV/AIDS infection, especially in what concerns young girls.

The particular position occupied by women cannot be stressed enough - in addition to their increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, women are also disproportionately affected by poverty, conflict and violence, and are often denied their human, social, economic and political rights. Consistent with high-level EU and African policy commitments, the EU and the AU need to politically and financially support sexual and reproductive health and rights and the full implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action for the operationalisation of the continental policy framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights 2007-2010, and the ICPD Programme of Action. The proposed EU donor harmonization and division of labour among EU donors should lead to an increase of political, financial, programmatic or other support for SRHR or HIV/AIDS in Africa.

In view of the fact that the EU and its partners are very concerned with conflict ridden and fragile states, a special mention to the specific situation of refugees and IDPs should be considered, as well as to the vulnerable position of women in situations of conflict, often exposed to gender based violence and rape as a war weapon. Sexual and reproductive health services, information and supplies become essential in this context.

References to human rights should clearly encompass freedom from discrimination based on gender, race or ethnic origin, religion, age, financial status or sexual orientation. Also, the strengthening of African civil society and communities and their increased participation in political dialogue and in monitoring development programmes and public budgets are of crucial importance. The Strategy should provide for the implementation of Civil Society Organisations' right to participate in the programming process of the ACP-EC cooperation, as reflected in Articles 2, 4, 6 and 7 of the Cotonou Agreement, in the

EU Consensus on Development, in the European Programme for Action for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB, and generally accepted best practices for assuring good governance.

In the context of this consultation, we urge the European Commission and its Southern partners to build on communications and strategies on Africa they have put forward. A joint EU-Africa strategy could offer the EU and its African partners a useful tool to implement development policies. Sexual and reproductive health and rights and the response to HIV/AIDS are critical for poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs, and should, therefore, figure prominently in the EU-Africa Strategy.

Sincerely,

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)

Väestöliitto (Finland)

Equilibres et Populations (France)

International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN)

In the programmes that the signatory organizations implemented, the following references proved particularly useful, and perhaps they can provide a framework for the elaboration of the joint EU-Africa Strategy:

- UNFPA 2003; UNFPA Africa Regional Strategy 2004-2011.

http://africa.unfpa.org/docs/BackgroundDocuments/1_ARS%20Document%20Dec%202003.pdf

- African Union 2006, Maputo Plan of Action for the operationalisation of the continental policy framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights 2007-2010

<http://www.unfpa.org/publications/docs/maputo.pdf>

- Lancet Sexual and Reproductive Health Series 2006, Executive Summary.

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/srh_lancetseries.pdf

References on linking SRHR and HIV/AIDS:

- WHO, UNFPA, IPPF, UNAIDS 2005; Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS An annotated inventory.

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/stis/docs/inventory_linkages_srh_hiv.pdf

- WHO, UNFPA, IPPF, UNAIDS 2005; Sexual and Reproductive Health & HIV/AIDS - A Framework for Priority Linkages.

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/stis/docs/framework_priority_linkages.pdf

References on SRHR and the MDGs

- UN Millennium Project 2006; Public Choices, Private Decisions: Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals.

http://www.unfpa.org/publications/docs/sexual_health.pdf

- Key Facts and Figures on Sexual and Reproductive Health from the UN Millennium Project.

http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/UNMP1_FactsFigures_SRH.pdf

21. Artur Victoria - March 23, 2007

The feeling of economic insecurity is growing from populations in all African Countries at a point when they risk an escape by illegal migration.

A preventive policy has to be taken in a shared effort with governments.

People's feelings of economic insecurity is higher, the lower their level of human capital.

Aside from relatively stable demographic characteristics, such as levels of skill or education, people's assessments of the general economic environment as well as recent experiences of job-related difficulties affect their sense of job security.

First, people are likely to develop a sense of their own personal economic future in the context of varying national economic conditions—that is, relative to how others are doing.

Those who perceive the general economic situation negatively can be expected to rate their own future as more negative than those who view the state of the economy positively.

Support programs have to be established not only to prevent the growing flow of illegal migration but specially to develop Human Capital in those suffering Countries. That is an issue between Europe and Africa institutions.

22. Henryka Manes - March 26, 2007

As a European who has worked in seven African countries, I am frankly impatient with the EU's discussions about Africa. European countries have been in Africa for centuries. We know what works, and what does not (as we have done it all) but we are unwilling to step up to the plate. While we politely debate what should be done in Africa, for the umpteenth time, China is moving in with solid business contracts for extracting natural resources and exchange programs that are not always very advantageous to African countries. China will learn. They will gain experience and the already strong dissenting African voices will force it to do a better job. In Europe, we are like a broken record: revisiting the same issues over and over again.

We must take Africa seriously, which means that we need to offer real opportunities that are solidly structured, and we must demand strict accountability. EU must cut bureaucracy and open participation to small and large entities. We must encourage private / public partnerships. Politics must be aligned with economic development (this is where the EU could have a crucial role if it is willing to undertake this). Economic development must be honest, ethical and transparent in its objectives. Every economic development project must have a comprehensive training program to build local capacity. Every implementing entity whether private or nonprofit must have a clearly stated exit strategy prior to going into an African country to avoid creating dependency and corruption. Local ownership should be a priority. All projects in all fields must be culturally sensitive, environmentally sound, and protective of indigenous cultural heritage. A special focus on women and children should be included in all projects. There is a huge and very well trained African Diaspora. We know from other experiences (China, Israel, India, etc.) that the Diaspora is one of the most important economic growth engine of any country, especially at the beginning. But for the Diaspora to return there must be real opportunities. EU could develop fiscal incentives to help the Diaspora get involved.

An overall African policy is not very effective because each African country is different; it can only be a general outline or a vision that will rally stakeholders and stimulate development. It will be relevant once there are quite a few countries with powerful

success stories so as to organize them into regional markets to create an economic force and a powerful negotiator. A ripple effect approach could work: starting with countries that have been able to establish some political stability and can be considered as emerging democracies and have some economic development under way. Reinforcing them is crucial in creating models and supporting those who move in the right direction. Then focus on developing countries in their immediate vicinity (if they have the potential and meet the criteria above) and create pockets of regional economic force. Then join the pockets to create a tipping point and a regional economic force.

Economic development is at the heart of growth. Multidisciplinary projects need to be implemented along side economic development. For example: healthcare, nutrition, immunization, education, rural development to prevent huge migration toward urban centers, higher education to be aligned with industrial needs; and most of all partnerships at all levels to cross fertilize and create open dialogues. All economic projects should take into consideration how to involve all strata of society. Models exist for this type of multilayered involvement so that all residents benefit from each project.

Most of all, we have to change our mindsets and move from “eradicating poverty” into “BUILDING LOCAL WEALTH”.

23. Agnès (Aggie) Alando-Hoffer - March 28, 2007

Education is a key development issue that would benefit from close scrutiny by the consultation for a joint EU-Africa strategy. The Millennium Development Goal of Education For All is under implementation, more or less, depending. Universal primary education has highlighted three main challenges among others:- quality education, shortage of teachers and limited resources. The shortage of teachers is mainly due to the now infamous structural adjustment programs, which have constrained the ministries of education to maintain a staffing establishment of the exact same number of teachers for a nearly a decade! Addressing the shortage of teachers in conjunction with that of limited resources, would positively impact on the quality of education.

24. Kate Gooding - April 3, 2007

In responding to the challenge of HIV/AIDS, more attention must be paid to previously neglected groups, particularly disabled people. Contrary to common assumptions, research shows that disabled people are at high risk of HIV-infection, with all risk factors associated with HIV higher for disabled people (e.g. sexual activity, rape, substance abuse). (Groce, N. 2004. Global Survey on HIV/AIDS and Disability, Yale School of Public Health).

Despite this vulnerability, disabled people are often excluded from HIV/AIDS outreach and treatment services due to the knowledge and attitudes of health workers and policy makers, and the inaccessibility of outreach information and allied services (e.g. domestic violence intervention activities and condom distribution).

The EU should support the development of more inclusive and accessible HIV prevention and care. Any comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS must take into account those groups who are most vulnerable and often missed in mainstream outreach activities.



[25. ecdpm](#) - April 6, 2007

Lydia Ettema from Marie Stopes International has submitted a comment concerning comprehensive reproductive healthcare for populations in crises.

The EU-Africa Strategy can:

- Lead the policy environment by identifying the need to address reproductive health needs in humanitarian crises.
- Change the funding environment by allocating new resources for reproductive health programmes in humanitarian settings.

Read the [full comment](#) posted on Peace and Security.

Trade & regional integration

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

[1. Andrew Allimadi \(Ethiopia\) - February 7, 2007](#)

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). However, the EU remains Africa's largest trading partner. At a stroke of removing CAP, and granting African countries special and differential treatment in accessing EU markets, policy makers can "make poverty history" and reduce illegal migration that is wrecking both Africa and Europe.

[2. Adolfo Sansolini - RSPCA, WSPA, CIWF, Eurogroup for Animals - February 16, 2007](#)

I am writing on behalf of the 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.

Our document focuses on the need to integrate animal welfare considerations and provisions in the Strategy, and summarises its implications in terms of public health, job opportunities, preservation of traditional systems, market impact and alleviation of poverty in the African countries.

An increasing number of people, both in the European Union and in the African Union, value their relationship with the animals who surround them. Many countries in the world have translated ethical considerations into specific laws aimed to protect animals from cruelty, or to regulate farming and slaughter practices in order to minimise suffering.

Whether we look at domestic animals, animals used for production (e.g. farm animals) or wildlife, there is now a broader and still growing recognition that the way we treat animals has a direct impact on human welfare, too.

Animal health has been widely recognised as a key factor for the protection of human health: the work of the OIE and the WTO SPS Agreement represent two relevant examples of what has been established at the global level to tackle this issue. The

outbreaks of animal diseases, often linked to farming practices which do not take into consideration the basic needs of the animals, now constitute a constant threat to human health worldwide.

In recent years, the OIE has started to develop animal welfare standards, and the European Union has decided to include animal welfare provisions in the SPS section of its Free Trade Agreements, starting from the EU-Chile Agreement. This is because a clear link has been recognised between animal health and welfare.

In terms of job opportunities, traditional extensive farming systems require more workforce than the intensive ones. The extensive systems are therefore linked not only to higher standards of animal welfare, but also to a broader distribution of income among the population whose survival depends on agricultural activities.

Extensive farming can imply higher costs of production, although the the lower incidence of diseases and the fall of the mortality rate partially compensate them. Specific training programmes and subsidies addressed at the consolidation of the traditional extensive farming systems can absorb the possibly remaining higher costs and create broader market opportunities for the local farmers.

Support to traditional extensive farming systems would preserve a positive aspect of local cultures and could be integrated in a broader frame of initiatives to protect the identity of peoples threatened by natural adversities or external commercial challenges.

The increasing demand for animal products obtained in higher-welfare systems, especially – but not only – in developed economies, creates interesting trade opportunities for the extensive productions. A premium is often paid on the market for higher welfare products.

Among the African Union countries, Namibia is a positive case to mention in this respect. The creation of animal welfare standards for beef opened new market opportunities with the European Union. More recently, Namibia has also introduced stricter rules on the transport of live animals, implementing more stringent animal welfare criteria. All these provisions, rather than creating additional burdens to the local farmers, represented a plus on the market and therefore produced additional income.

The consideration of animal welfare offers a consistent approach and a powerful mean both to extend solidarity and to increase farmers income in developing countries.

Provisions to support the preservation and/or development of farming activities adopting high animal welfare standards in Africa are therefore in our opinion a valuable way to promote economical growth and ethical principals at the same time.

This could be also facilitated by differential, more favourable tariffs for the import into the EU of animal products obtained according to animal welfare standards.

Additional provisions to increase animal health and welfare in Africa would both be consistent with the objectives of the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 defined by the Commission, and with a sensible approach to Development, where a longer-term and more comprehensive vision can help create permanent solutions to problems still faced by a large part of the world population.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you are interested to receive more detailed information about the issues we have summarised in this document.

Best regards,

Adolfo Sansolini
Trade Policy Advisor
RSPCA, WSPA, CIWF, Eurogroup for Animals

3. National Council of SPCAs (South Africa) - February 16, 2007

16 February 2007

INPUT FOR THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS ON A JOINT EU-AFRICA STRATEGY

The National Council of SPCAs, South Africa, accentuates the importance of including animal welfare as a pertinent issue to be incorporated as part of the EU-Africa Strategy.

In recent years animal welfare has mostly been put forward as a concern by the European Union (EU), the development of animal welfare standards has certainly accentuated their stance thereon. Similarly, this concern is shared increasingly by many people in South Africa, including our 92 member Societies and their constituent membership, and throughout the world.

In South Africa in particular we are encountering an increased demand for animal products acquired from higher animal welfare systems. There is a definite demand for higher welfare standards and systems to be implemented. The public are not only supportive of such initiatives but are also willing to pay premium prices as they have a genuine concern about animal welfare. They have also seen the correlation between good animal welfare and the importance of feeding people, the trade and for the future.

There is strong business rationale for encouraging good standards of animal welfare. There are real trade opportunities in EU markets for products from developing countries that are sustainably produced to good animal welfare standards. Indeed, such standards could give South Africa significant advantage over our competitors in export markets.

A primary example in Africa is the Namibian beef industry's quality assurance scheme, with its good welfare standards; it has a competitive advantage in accessing the EU market. Namibia also finds that meeting EU welfare standards facilitates access to other markets. The Namibian scheme has brought significant benefits to rural communities where farmers now have a predictable trade on which to build their livelihoods. The formation of this scheme in Namibia has most certainly not only produced access to the international trade but has uplifted and empowered the people, and could likewise in South Africa if implemented.

It is often assumed that welfare requirements of developed countries will be difficult for developing country farmers to meet. We do not believe this to be the case. Extensive and sustainable agriculture, with good standards of animal welfare, is still an important form of livestock production in much of South Africa. Products from such systems would readily meet EU animal welfare requirements.

However, where welfare standards need to be strengthened, South Africa could ask for assistance, and the EU should provide, trade-related assistance and capacity building to help develop good welfare standards on-farm, during transport and at slaughter. This assistance could include the sharing of knowledge, training and technology transfer. The aim should be to work with local farmers and agricultural scientists to develop and then validate systems that are appropriate for local conditions. Provision would also be required for more favourable tariffs for welfare-friendly products to EU markets.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

CELESTE HOUSEMAN
Manager
GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs

[4. James Maringwa](#) - February 27, 2007

EU-AFRICA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CASE FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION

Issues of significance in promoting development in Africa through this initiative demands that:

- 1) Africans are able to define their own priorities in consultation with their constituencies, information which will be used to develop an Afro-centric or Afro-Driven and “Owned” Development Agenda. This would basically require that the EU Redefines what “development” means in the African context rather than championing the case for example “Aid”. What we do not have to forget is that the orthodox development path/paradigm that Africa has taken this far has been strung to the development priorities of the EU (Our former colonial masters) where ownership of such programs would be highly skewed towards sources of aid packages, development assistance, food handouts, emergency deliveries etc.
- 2) Africa’s development path cannot suddenly take a projected growth through services trade because current research points to developing countries benefiting out of services liberalization. What is critical is that Africa, which derives its livelihood from Agriculture, sets its development tone and path around its base (Agriculture) and other primary products. When the foundation is there, industries building up and investments burgeoning, then Africa would eventually move up the value chain, enhancing its capacity to produce more of value added products and eventually liberalizing portion of its services industry. Whilst concrete evidence lays bare every bit of fact that Africa has had a very bad experience with trade liberalization through Structural Adjustment Programs because of structural rigidities and prioritization of efforts amongs a host of reasons, why would the EU want to push for a development agenda for Africa that further liberalizes its service industries when facts on the ground do not support the intuitions of services liberalization?
- 3) Protection of African industries from foreign competition especially the EU and other developing and developed countries through liberalization in the EPA Effort, should not

only be through local initiatives like barricading sensitive and special products etc!
Protection should also be seen in the respect of such developed countries like the EU shedding off their massive subsidy supports for their exports and for local production. So when the EU removes its massively huge agricultural and trade distorting subsidies that implicitly “protects” poor African farmers and families whose only source of livelihood in the impoverished continent is not services driven but Agriculturally premised!

Submitted by James Maringwa

Trade Policy Analyst with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat under the Commonwealth Secretariat “Hub & Spokes” Project: Building the Capacity of ACP Countries in Trade Policy Formulation, Negotiations and Implementation”.

5. Bernard Ancel, International trade consultant - February 28, 2007

about EPAs: several important issues have to be considered:

- how can most LDCs ensure reciprocity in trade conditions as their main sources of revenues remain in many cases customs duties: a long transition period should be granted to enable them to perform fiscal reforms and to strengthen their economy!
- as the EU tends to negotiate with regional groupings, there is a high risk that the interests and priorities of smaller countries (e.g. Comoros, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea...) are not sufficiently taken into consideration while regional leaders are leading negotiations ...

A special programme should be launched in parallel with EPAs to meet development needs of LDCs!



6. [ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Joel Babanguidila (Republic of the Congo, 9/2)** mentions the following conditions for EU-AU partnership: African integration should take place on the continental and regional levels; the unity of Africa should be promoted; the AU should strive for the abolition of trade barriers within Africa; trade should be based on an equal footing; the EU should not allow a single Member State to influence the new partnership; an evaluation commission should assess the results of the new partnership after one year; both Unions will have to aim for support by the peoples of Africa.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

7. Davina Makhan (ECDPM) - March 7, 2007

To stimulate the debate further on the impact of CAP policies on Africa (see comments posted by [Andrew Allimadi on 7/2/2007](#) and [James Maringwa on 27/2/2007](#)), I would draw readers' attention and invite responses to the following article: **“It’s not the CAP that’s hurting the developing countries”**, by Andreas Schneider in the Spring 2007 issue of Europe’s World.

The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy is widely reviled for damaging the livelihoods of the world’s poorest farmers. But Andreas Schneider of the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels argues that the developing countries’ problems stem from structural weaknesses and internal policy shortcomings, and that these should be the targets of reform.

[Read full article.](#)

Putting this in the context of the current consultation, **how could the CAP issue be best addressed in the joint EU-Africa Strategy?**

8. Davina Makhan (ECDPM) - March 7, 2007

End of January, African diplomats accredited to the African Union (AU) brainstormed ways of harmonising taxation and other customs procedures to remove impediments to trade within the continent.

The two-day meeting of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC), chaired by the Congo-Brazzaville's ambassador to the AU, Raymond Serge Bale, considered ways of harmonising customs procedures at AU member states' export, import and transit zones.

See *BusinessinAfrica online* article (23 January 2007): [‘Complex intra-bloc rules hurting African trade’](#)

Should such initiatives fall under the scope of a joint EU-Africa Strategy? If so, how can they best be supported?



9. [ecdpm](#) - March 8, 2007

German and African civil society organisations are through their manifesto [“Prospects for Africa - Europe’s Policies”](#) calling for poverty-oriented development policy. The manifesto was written specifically to influence the German Federal Government, in their role as EU Presidency, but is also of relevance in the drafting of a joint EU-Africa strategy.

On the issue of trade and regional integration the manifesto calls for **“Trade justice: Giving precedence to development in regional trade agreements”**

This specifically entails (see page 5 of the manifesto):

1. Integrating safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements

In order to respond to the development needs of developing countries, especially the ACP 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 these countries should be provided with the necessary policy space to pursue their own development strategies.

2. Granting the developing countries preferential treatment

The EU should table a proposal at the WTO for reviewing the provisions on free trade agreements (Art. XXIV of GATT 1994) so as to allow non-reciprocal and asymmetrical relations within agreements with developing countries.

3. Omitting the Singapore issues

The EU should refrain from the inclusion of agreements in the areas of investment, competition policy, government procurement, liberalisation of trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property as these would undermine local markets and increase monopolistic market power of multinational corporations.

4. Extending the timeframe for the EPA negotiations

- that comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and groups that

may be adversely affected can take place,

- so that a serious analysis of the results of the review process and its incorporation in the negotiating process is guaranteed.

5. Responding positively to the needs of the ACP countries:

- by giving them enough time (at least 20 years) to deepen their regional integration and adjust their national concepts for political action and legislation to the EPA

requirements, by providing additional resources to mitigate the costs of adjustment (“Adjustment Facility”),

- by eliminating all EU export subsidies on agricultural products as an integral part of EPAs,

- by monitoring EPA implementation with a view to achieving the objectives defined at national level.

Read the full manifesto - [pdf](#)

10. John Sevume - March 20, 2007

Much as African Union has changed its name from former OAU to AU, no difference will be realised. The European Union today started with Benelux countries and later Germany France, etc. joined. These countries have fulfilled certain conditions before joining European Monetary Union and later Monetary currency. Why is that Africa is not adopting such a mechanism like that of our fellow colleagues of Europe? Some criteria should be followed before a country applies for a membership i.e. democracy, economical stability, low inflation rate and positive balance of payments. This also applies to regional integration like the East African Community (EAC). If it was possible to dissolve the entire African Union and reshape it, I will be the first to vote for it.

11. ROSELYNN MUSA - March 23, 2007

I would like to add my voice to those that have congratulated the AU/ EU on this initiative. We are all very excited to see it set in motion. This historic partnership could not have come at a better time than now that our beloved continent is discussing (and hopefully) working towards continental integration. 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 sinker, but we have to examine their experience to ascertain what will work for us, where, when and how.

If the AU and the EU in this partnership have the same interest at heart, which in this case is developing Africa, which I am convinced they do, I believe one of the critical issues to tackle as a matter of urgency is the issue of brain drain from Africa to Europe. The fact that European countries have become so magnetic to especially the youth of Africa, which, of course, constitute the larger percentage of its productive population should be considered. It is evident that no country can attain development without this critical mass. In his thought-provoking presentation at the African Civil Society Consultation in Addis Ababa, March 2007 Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem said and I quote “Even though Rome was not built in a day, the Romans were there to build it” No one will build Africa for us, we have to stay and build it ourselves.



12. [ecdpm](#) - April 3, 2007

European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, [EUROCHAMBERS](#), have submitted a contribution to the public consultation focusing on the following questions:

- What role can non-state actors play in the promotion of governance?
- EU support to African export capacity building
- What best can AU and EU authorities do to promote sustainable investment in Africa
- How best can African and EU trade policies be organised and coordinated so as to effectively promote sustainable development and contribute to poverty eradication?

Particular focus is on the involvement of non-state actors and particularly the private sector in policy making and development practice. The contribution calls for increased cooperation between NGOs and the private sector in shaping policy as well as increased exchange between European and African SMEs. Other issues raised include the importance of local ownership for greater effectiveness.

Download the contribution in full - [pdf](#)



[13. ecdpm](#) - April 4, 2007

Henryka Manes has submitted a comment on the Key Development page which is of relevance to the debate on regional integration. He states:

An overall African policy is not very effective because each African country is different; it can only be a general outline or a vision that will rally stakeholders and stimulate development. It will be relevant once there are quite a few countries with powerful success stories so as to organize them into regional markets to create an economic force and a powerful negotiator. A ripple effect approach could work: starting with countries that have been able to establish some political stability and can be considered as emerging democracies and have some economic development under way.

[Read the comment in full.](#)

[14. Mariana Abrantes de Sousa](#) - April 5, 2007

Regarding trade, it would be important to examine the impact of Chinese exports on Africa. It appears that the inflow of cheap manufactured goods could represent barriers to growth of the local African industrial sector, in a more complex and critical manner than the trade Africa-Europe. The trade relations are more triangular than bilateral, so any trade agreements Europe-Africa could be rendered ineffective depending on trends in trade with the rest of the world.

[15. Greg Ngethe, NCRWCC, Nairobi KENYA](#) - April 9, 2007

Early this year, we saw the giant British Supermarkets TESCO announce plans to begin placing carbon labels on each of its products.

To begin with, TESCO has vowed to place an airplane label on every product that has been flown in.

This is on the mistaken assumption that products that have been flown in have contributed to the highest level of carbon emissions.

This proposal also ignores that there is a great difference between carbon foot prints and air miles.

This situation is very disturbing and NCRWCC has written an article on it:
<http://ncrwcc.blogspot.com/2007/04/british-supermarket-tescos-move-to-lock.html>

Sub-saharan Africa exports much of its fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers to the European Union, which contribute to only 0.1% of the total carbon emissions experienced in those countries.

This issue is so sensitive that even the Kyoto Protocol deliberately omitted cutting down on air miles for fresh produce on account of the very large African populations supported by this industry.

The European Union needs to work closer with local Governments and Organisations such as NCRWCC and the Kenya Flower Council, before adopting positions that may spell doom to the livelihoods of numerous people in Sub Saharan Africa.

<http://ncrwcc.blogspot.com>

Peace & security

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

1. Victor Onoviran (Nigeria) - February 9, 2007

Africa needs its own version of NATO. I believe that would have saved us from the various crises we've suffered from over the years. It certainly would have provided a ready anchor for UN interventions in Rwanda, Congo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, etc. in the past; and Darfur and Somalia right now.

We need to also fast-track the "United States/Lands/Tribes of Africa as proposed at the recent AU Summit. This will instantly reduce the areas and levels of conflict in our continent. Let's pursue President Thabo Mbeki's strident call for The AFRICAN Renaissance. It is long overdue.

Nigeria, Benin and Togo have just signed a regional integration partnership Thursday, 9 February 2007 on this subject. It will be an unmistakable fillip to the ECOWAS Project, I believe. Others should follow, for good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and shared prosperity.

The AU has to humbly learn from Europe in this business.

2. James Nyawo (Zimbabwe) - February 21, 2007

I am not sure if talking about a NATO version of Africa is realistic given the current incapacity of the AU to even mobilise forces for Somalia. The same with Darfur. In addition to the AU's inability to physically mobilise forces to protect the citizens of its

member state, I am not convinced that AU has a clear vision of what it intends to achieve. The AU's history is full of inconsistent policies and lack of political will to denounce some leaders.

In my view, African Union needs new vision comparable with the new challenges on this world and shake off the old boys association mentality. They need to denounce in open human rights violations, rigging of elections etc...

3. Luis Manuel Brás Bernardino (Portugal) - February 26, 2007

The phenomenons of conflict have radically changed around the world. The change concerns the transformation from interstate conflicts to conflicts predominantly intra-state, that leads to the appearance of some actors which overpower the State, dominating the attention of the international community. The theme of these conflicts acquired a new relevance, connecting security with sustainable development, because without security it's not possible to have development and without development there is no security.

On the African Continent, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, this geostrategic dynamic led to a growth in intra-state conflicts, contributing to greater intervention by International Organizations and "non-African" States. This necessarily co-operation aims must contribute to a consolidation of the "African Ownership", in order to operationalize the Architecture of Security and African Defence, that guarantees Africans the capacity to intervene in the resolution of "its" conflicts, and is the best contribution for stability and development for the continent.

One of these global actors is the European Union, which intends to lead international cooperation through the reinforcement of its intervention in the African Continent, with the aim of reinforcing African States capacities, namely through co-operation with African Regional Organizations, this is strategically vital for the best development of Africa. This also provides EU the means to retain its status as a credible and privileged member in the liaison between continents, organizations and countries which have power to influence, cooperate and intervene in the prevention and resolution of regional conflicts and to support sustainable development in Africa.



4. [ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Yahya (7/2)** raises concerns about the role of European arms producers, merchants and politicians in Africa's challenges with respect to peace and security.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Amandine (13/2) highlights impediments to the effectiveness of the AU in the field of peace and security. While remaining the partner of choice for actors outside Africa, the AU should redefine its relations with African RECs. The latter often provide a more suitable level on which to address problems, given the importance of knowledge of cultural sensitivities. In this context, Amandine stresses certain prevailing clichés about Africa as problematic, particularly the idea of the African continent as one and indivisible.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

Serge Kamuhinda (19/2) thinks that the AU and the EU should establish immutable common values, starting with the public condemnation of the genocides in Darfur and

Rwanda.

[Read the full comment in French](#)



[5. ecdpm](#) - March 8, 2007

German and African civil society organisations are through their manifesto [“Prospects for Africa - Europe’s Policies”](#) calling for poverty-oriented development policy. The manifesto was written specifically to influence the German Federal Government, in their role as EU Presidency, but is also of relevance in the drafting of a joint EU-Africa strategy.

On the topic of Peace and Security the manifesto focuses on **“Human security: Focusing on preventing violent conflicts and on peace-building”**.

This specifically entails (see page 7 of manifesto):

1. Focusing on prevention and peace-building

The EU has to prioritise the prevention of violent conflict in its policies, action and instruments and implement it in practice. This must also include recognising how European policies and action contribute to the escalation of conflict in Africa. In addition, we demand that the EU develops non-military, political mechanisms to prevent the escalation of crises.

2. Supporting an effective control of trade in small arms and light weapons

The EU has to pressure arms producers in the EU Member States to comply with the code of conduct passed by the EU. We also call on the EU to start implementing the global “Arms Trade Treaty”.

3. Making use of the extraction of natural resources for development

Concrete steps are required on the part of the EU to pass more binding regulations, for example by applying the “OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises” to companies based in EU Member States. This has to coincide with the Kimberley Process to combat illegal trade in diamonds and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). In addition to EITI, we recommend that companies based in the EU are obliged to publish what they pay to governments in developing countries.

4. Involving African civil society in peace-building

The participation of civil society actors in peace agreements and their implementation has to be ensured. Furthermore, the EU should refrain from policies and practices that would compromise the integrity and independence of civil society. The EU has to develop civilian mechanisms to protect civil society from persecution by conflict parties, as governments are unable to do this or may even be conflict parties themselves in several intra-state conflicts in Africa.

5. Ensuring the integrity of development cooperation

The EU should no longer fund the African Peace Facility (APF) out of the European Development Fund (EDF). The EU must mobilise additional resources for this purpose. The EU needs dedicated financing instruments to support its poverty eradication activities. Other policy areas must be provided with sufficient budgets to be able to implement prevention strategies.

Read the full manifesto - [pdf](#)

[6. Francis Bainomugisha](#) - March 10, 2007

The Underlying question remains “Whose Security”. It’s important to note that in most African states regime security seems to dominate either directly or indirectly. It is in this complexity that most “security specialists” have gone wrong, they tend to use standard measures to evaluate sub-standard situations, the result is expecting too much from practically nothing.

It is paramount that a holistic approach be embarked on when analysing “Africa’s insecurity dilemma”. This of course calls for direct involvement of the Key stakeholders and here I refer to the ordinary citizens because ever since the end of the Cold war the global security measures focus major on “Human Security”.

Therefore it is not until African governments have changed their focus from the traditional approach to favour human security which by way of information is best done through promotion of civil-military relations (a rather neglected area in most African states) that Security and subsequent development will be achieved.

7. Francis Bainomugisha - March 10, 2007

It is imperative therefore that the subsequent dialogue between Africa and the European Union be done free of fear and favour so as to focus more and more on the ordinary citizens to whom the governments are accountable.

8. James Nyawo - March 12, 2007

The majority of African governments feel insecure from their own people, that they invest huge amounts of money on security while their citizens are starving to death or cannot access free primary health care. This makes the concept of security a little bit fluid and requires to be treated with care.

It is of paramount importance that the dialogue between AU-EU should have clear terms of reference to this regard. Otherwise we will end up with a partnership which does not benefit anyone except dictators as it used to happen during the cold war, where the likes of Mobutu (Zaire) and Banda (Malawi) received huge amounts of support to their security apparatus against communism. During this period communism was the number one enemy and whenever someone from these countries was against the government policy he/she was branded a communist and that was enough to silence them using any means necessary.

In Modern day history following terror attacks on Sept 11 it seems branding someone or any organisation a terrorist group gives some governments even in Africa to silence the opposing voices.

It is therefore 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.

9. Lydia Ettema (Belgium) - March 16, 2007

Comprehensive Reproductive Healthcare for populations in crises

Access to reproductive health (RH) services is a basic human right. Everyone requires reproductive health care, including populations in crises. The ICPD/Programme of Action (1994) addressed the RH needs of displaced persons.

Reproductive ill-health comprises one-third of the total global burden of disease for women and one-fifth for women and men combined. These figures, together with the HIV/AIDS crisis and the 10 million women a year who die or are injured due to complications in pregnancy or delivery, help to illustrate the importance of sexual reproductive health services.

During conflict the need for RH care continues to exist and may even increase. Displacement may bring hardship and trauma that could intensify the need to avoid pregnancy or may increase the wish to become pregnant, for various reasons. It may also bring an increased risk of gender-based violence, as witnessed in Darfur and other conflict settings.

And yet it is because they are displaced that millions of IDP and refugees are separated from RH services. Integrated and fully comprehensive RH services are not the norm in most crisis and conflict settings. The consequences include; displaced and host populations left vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other STI and without safe means of preventing pregnancy; pregnant women in disasters frequently left without access to pre- and post-natal care and particularly to emergency obstetric care or to any assistance in delivery; victims of gender-based violence lacking access to appropriate health-care, counselling or emergency contraception

The health risks are serious, often life threatening, but preventable. Displacement need not be an obstacle to quality RH care as demonstrated by MSI's own experience of providing health services in humanitarian settings. Comprehensive reproductive health services can and should be routinely provided, from beginning to end, to those in emergency situations.

A 'comprehensive' approach to SRHR consists of the following essential services:

- Emergency obstetric care: basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care, including post-abortion care,
- Family planning: all methods, including long-term and permanent, and emergency contraception,
- Sexually transmitted infections: prevention and treatment,
- HIV/AIDS: prevention, voluntary counselling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and referral,
- Gender-based violence: medical response and referral.

The EU-Africa Strategy can:

- Lead the policy environment by identifying the need to address reproductive health needs in humanitarian crises.
- Change the funding environment by allocating new resources for reproductive health programmes in humanitarian settings.

Input to the 'Peace and Security cluster' and 'Development and assistance cluster':

‘Investing in people’.

[10. Greg Ngethe](#) - March 26, 2007

In my very humble view, the EU can contribute to reducing conflict in Africa by seeking to empower domestic organisations that work in this area.

Kenya has not had much internal conflict but every now and then, we experience the so called “tribal clashes”, particularly as we approach an election year.

The EU would do well to support organisations such as the National Centre for Research on Crime (ncrwc) or the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) which have developed home grown solutions for conflict prevention in Africa.

[11. onono patrick](#) - April 5, 2007

The partnership for strengthening a framework for multiparty democracy in Africa whereby the key priority is to support government in its endeavour to strengthen the electoral system and system for effective multiparty democracy. Promoting peace and stability with strong commitment to conflict resolution using “development as incentive for peace.”

[12. Seyi](#) - April 7, 2007

Dear Friends,

I believe that Africans don't just want peace on paper, but sustainable and genuine peace. I would like to say that tackling this problem of conflicts in different areas in Africa the root cause of the conflict be addressed. That is the underlying differences be addressed. That is where I believe the real role of women come in. It has been said out loud and written numerous times in paper the need for the participation of women in peace making. I would like to enumerate in what ways women can participate.

In times of conflict African women regardless of their ethnicities are victims of sexual violence and exploitation. Take the Rwandan Genocide for example, there was widespread rape of women regardless of their ethnicity, also in Darfur, Liberia, the DRC. Women of different ethnicities have that in common, many have experienced the same sexual violence. Fortunately, women are the pillars of their community and they have underlying influence, even though they may not be visible leaders or heads of their societies, they have huge influence and ‘THEY LEAD THEIR COMMUNITIES FROM BEHIND’. Therefore, given this, NGOs women can train a specific handful of women in such communities within the countries and regions in the post conflict era, these women can in turn serve as trainers of other local women- to create a network of trained women. These can because of their common past/circumstances can use their influence to then initiate peaceful dialogue between the different ethnicities/communities. This will allow the people and leaders to talk out their problems, to find the root causes of them and begin their process of healing.

[13. Francis Bainomugisha](#) - April 8, 2007

While one would appreciate the insurmountable efforts to end conflicts in Africa, one cannot but recognize the presence if not rebirth of internal conflicts in most of the African states. This means that a lot of the efforts thereof have been directed to wrong causes of

the conflicts. The major underlying issue behind these conflicts is economic Incentive basically because political power is a sure means to economic power. Therefore in my view the state is sometimes not contested because its extremely doing poorly but rather its pinned down with a view of advancing the hidden motives of economic advancement. After this background I feel the best way conflict can be reduced is by strengthening the private sector. The European Union needs to work closely with the Several non governmental Initiatives (those not puppets of the several regimes in power) to boost the private sector because if it is economically independent it wont tolerate undemocratic regimes as it would not desire to depend on them for survival through a kind of Patronage Politics. This will help reduce conflicts and better still allow for involvement of all the relevant Key stakeholders-Government, Private Sector and the Civilian Authorities.

14. Greg Ngethe, NCRWCC, Nairobi KENYA - April 9, 2007

At the present moment, Kenya is undergoing internal conflict in the Mt. Elgon region, where a couple of tribes are fighting each other for land.

This has become a familiar occurrence in Kenya prior to General Elections. It is very sad that this is happening in the year 2007.

Listening to Internal Security Minister John Michuki field questions from a journalist from Kameme FM, a local radio channel, it was disheartening to hear the Minister saying that he was not under any obligation to visit the clash torn areas.

Respect Catholic Archbishop had the previous day said that Mr. Michuki should either visit the war torn areas, or be fired.

Michuki retorted that he cannot be given directions as to how he should carry out his task. He also said there were 605 police officers on the ground.

Clearly, African Governments Kenya included, are in great need of a change in mindset in the way that certain challenges like tribal clashes are concerned.

The European Union, working with local organisations like NCRWCC, can certainly work with the Government in order to get rid of this 'big man' attitude.

Greg Ngethe
<http://ncrwcc.blogspot.com>

About the EU-Africa consultation

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

1. Victor Onoviran (Nigeria) - February 1, 2007

Congratulations on a long overdue innovation! Considering the historical links between Europe and Africa it is appropriate that we develop and maintain 21st century bonds across the board. Both Lome Convention and Cotonou Agreement were designed for this purpose, but alas they have failed!

EU's commitment to NEPAD has been tepid at best, even tentative. We can understand that, especially with the lack of genuine self-pride and owner-commitment of the continent. The huge resources laid on arms and ammunition, for example, should have been part of our deposit or counterpart funding for NEPAD! A major sticking point is the whole idea of government officials deciding EVERYTHING for the peoples of both regions.

In this consultation process, we must genuinely depart from the past and move to a robust future TOGETHER. To achieve this, I humbly recommend the following as my preliminary input:

* Configure a multidisciplinary/multisectoral crack team to do a structured preparatory review, and produce a "BOLD 21st Century Proposal"...in the light of all we now know, and envisage.

* By all means use the "wiki" approach for wider debate, inputs and consultation, but the creative and projectised imperatives won't come that way - considering the digital divide and internet penetration in Africa.

* IT is interesting that this process has not been given due publicity and promotion on our continent, and I wonder how much is known about it in Europe as well - considering the general apathy for EU affairs. With the time constraint, it seems mainly the "converted" can be successfully targeted. Another mistake?

* Which players are an equal part of this exercise in Africa? And how are they coping right now? Who are the African players in ECDPM coordination team? Another EU-dominated/imposed process?

* Since the new relations/partnership will necessarily involve the Cotonou Agreement and its resource implication, what level of field surveys/research must be committed to this process - especially on the African continent? Or are we taking the usual "official" government reports - warts and all - as golden again?

* I have my reservations on the "Critical Areas of Concern" listed as issue papers. The five themes are rather skewed away from the known agitations of Africa and Africans over the years. They seem to follow the failed IMF/World Bank outlook/approach of the past! If non-state actors must buy into the new endeavour, we need to revisit the list. I'm afraid that the African officials who agreed or promoted such prioritisation will be hard put to defend/sustain it at any African Stakeholders Congress!

* A special role needs to be constructed for the African Press/Media in this business. It will enhance its chances of success.

* What is the place of all previous initiatives and compacts in this new strategy?

* Are the AU's known strengths and weaknesses (SWOT Analysis) properly factored into this process?

* Finally (for now!), will both the EU and AU be bold and humble enough to bite the bullet...for CHANGE? For example, now listen to the citizens of Europe and Africa, rather than politicians and civil servants? Or is it business as usual?

* ECDPM should root for TRANSFORMATION not mere consultation on stilted stereotype. If you need more time, so be it!

Submitted by Victor Onoviran (Nigeria)
see also <http://www.onoviranseries.blogspot.com>

2. Joel Baganguidila (Congo-Brazzaville) - February 8, 2007

(Joel from Congo-Brazzaville now in UK)

Hello there,

Thank you for give me a opportunity to submit a point of view regarding Europe-Africa ties.

The past forty years EU-Africa ties produced nothing except coup d'etas and dictatorship egomes in Africa,to change this:
EU-AU should lay down a new foundation based on equality and respect not on domination.

EU-AU ties should be transparent to the people of both continents with no hiden agendas. African civil societies should be supported financially to its best level to stand for the people.

Europe and Africa need to work hard to get again the trust of African people because what characterise the former ralation were hypocrisy and selfishness.

Avoid approching Africans via EU state member.

I really want to see EU-AU ties be focus on trade and development; not Aid. Promoting business in Africa.

For Example what China is doing is unquestionable,Africa needs trade not Aid. China is integrating Africa in the world of business,trade,development etc... (this why china is getting the market.)

I really want to participate in those coming debates.

3. Amr El Hamamy - February 10, 2007

When and where will the next Africa-Europe summit be held?
Please advise

4. Muhwana Wilberforce (Uganda) - February 13, 2007

Who makes the first short in draftign the shared vision - EU is already very cohensive than AU. Maybe EU provides the overall framework, AU just fits. Preparations and consultations within the AU stakeholders prior to conclusion of the EU - AU strategy is likely to be restrictive. Participation amongst AU is by design restricted to top politicians and technocrats, who by and large know what went wrong but also very shy to say why it went wrong and therefore sustain a white elephant kind of strategy. AU members states

have high commitments to human rights and poverty eradication, but are lacking in enforcing and/or implementation for reasons best known to themselves.

[5.](#) Amr El Hamamy - February 14, 2007

When and where will the next Africa-Europe summit be held?

[6.](#) Sara Erlandsson (ecdpm) - February 14, 2007

In response to Amr El Hamamy:

According to the various official declarations, the next Africa-Europe Summit should take place towards the end of 2007. A more precise date should be set in the coming months. It will be held in Lisbon.

[7.](#) Keith Drummond (Ireland) - February 16, 2007

Hello all,

-Maybe the first place to start is who has the final say once the consultation is over? The EU/AU or the individual countries within each union which have their own respective cultural/historical ties? After all, neither the EU nor the AU have any official foreign department that can speak with a single unified voice. This is highlighted by recent events in Sudan and the relative inaction by the EU, but also the way certain EU states treat those AU citizens trying to enter the EU.

-The EU & AU are such large organisations, it would be prudent to find an effective way to interact. Maybe the creation of some sort of "rule book" or forum. Any business or NGO or EU Government agency wishing to operate within the AU would be encouraged to go to a certain area where those services would be best suited/needed. Once established market forces can be let lead the way. This may enable a balanced creation of infrastructure and individual wealth. Simply letting EU agencies set up shop in a hotel and hire a AU countries nurses & doctors then go home is questionable at best.

-Maybe the consultation could take to issue what the average EU citizen thinks when Africa is mentioned? The vast majority of us are used to the the constant appeals in the media and volunteers standing in the street and the ambivalence which has resulted from this. Also keep in mind the constant media footage of war, famine and questionable governments. Maybe this is the most important topic that could be addressed. The average EU & AU citizen. The EU has been shown that if it tries to push ahead with a top down approach, even the best intentions can fail, the constitution being a case in point.

[8.](#) Okeke, Adolphus Nigeria. - February 23, 2007

The disability issues is still a matter of charity in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular and should be made a major requirement for any cooperation.



[9.](#) [ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Aguni Bouchaib (7/2)** mentions that the creation of a direct link between Africa and Europe would help to address many problems, including illegal

migration. Nevertheless, a condition would be that Europe takes into account the diverse problems facing Africa, as well as systematising its approach to African development.
[Read the full comment in French](#)

Mulumba Dido (Belgium, 7/2) believes that the consultation is a good initiative, provided everybody can participate. Small to medium-sized non-governmental organisations in particular are often confronted with a lack of means, which prevented them from participating fully in previous initiatives. Dido therefore wishes that Africans and Europeans work together in a spirit of transparency, mutual respect and, above all, distributive justice.

Hamidou Seko (Bénin, 8/2) is convinced that neither European nor African leaders by themselves will be able to find solutions to problems experienced by their populations. Therefore, public consultation in this EU-AU strategy process is essential. Certain doubts and questions remain: whether efforts to cooperate are sufficient and sincere; how civil society can really influence key decision makers; and what to retain from the strategies that were developed earlier (e.g. NEPAD), including in terms of civil society's participation.

[10. Joel](#) - March 12, 2007

This is just a way of getting African people minds and support over our resources, Europe has find out that Africa new generation knows exactly how Europe or the West came to exploit our minerals leaving us pennies so now they changing a new strategy to consult specially Africans before they make sign new legal contracts to get access to our oil reserves.,the time is of such plans is over,we young generation won't allow this kind of domination over us.

Europe missed its time and era which she could have come up mutual business propostions.

Could now Europe show positives signs of change by just stopping supporting dictators in Africa?

Could now Europe start denounce having proxy regime in Africa? otherwise its just the same game no change,thank you.

[11. Stephen Orubor](#) - March 14, 2007

The advent of this era of policy formulation in the history of EU-Africa relations chiefly characterised by the participation of non state actors on both continents signals the gradual awakening of EU institutions and officials alike and their counterparts in Africa to the sublime merits of, and hence indispensability of the horizontal model of development in contradistinction to the top-down , state-state approach that has been the abiding hallmark of past processes of development policy formulation, implementation and appraisal in relations between the two continents that are closely bound together by geographical and historical ties.

The past spectres of development policy formulation and the substance of the policies that emerged from the crucibles of such processes merely robbed the sublime principle of ownership as stridently stressed in such policies and agreement as the Cotonou agreement, the European neighbourhood policy and the recently adopted EU strategy for Africa of its essence. It is salutary and most welcome therefore, that for the first time in the annals of

EU-Africa policy formulation, that non state actors and individuals alike, both veritable stakeholders in the development co-operation process are afforded the opportunity to fully buy-in to the letters and spirit of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy. This novel process will expectedly result in the formulation of a strategy that will be both people driven and focused. A strategy whose epicentre will, shorn of the deft strokes of political expediency and adhoc manouvrings that has characterised past EU-Africa development co-operation policies, be the enthronement of policies and programmes in all spheres of EU-Africa co-operation- (trade or aid).

However, it will be expedient to mutely sound a note of caution here. We should not be swept away or engulfed by the rare feeling of estactic euphoria occassioned by this novel approach. To my mind, vigilance should be, and rightly so, should remain the watchword till the Lisbon Summit is held and a joint EU-Africa strategy that mirrors the essence of the result of the public consultation emerges from the crucible thereof. We should not be lulled into a state of populist triumphalism. Political wrangling and resort to all sorts of antics that epitomises economic and political expediency may sadly assume centre stage at Lisbon.

Thank you.

[12. Islamic Relief Worldwide](#) - March 16, 2007

EU strategy for Africa

The joint EU – AU Africa strategy offers great opportunities for African civil society to determine their own affairs but also enormous threats if the consultation is not effective.

African CSOs and faith-based organisations should feature prominently in any efforts to improve governance, a key to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Their potential is enormous, and often largely unutilised. Faith-based organisations in particular stand close to the communities they serve – and have long been ignored. In countries with poorly functioning governments, these organisations have a dual role to play. First, they are often able to fill the gaps left by unwilling or unable governments. Second, they voice the opinion of ordinary people. Clearly the EU should find additional resources to support Southern National NGOs and Community Based Organisations as a key to promoting good governance.

But also donor coordination and harmonization is essential, especially given that the EU contributes around 50% of global ODA. However, not only the attempts to improve coordination with other donors by adopting Country Strategy Papers and Regional Strategy Papers are important but also the way that the strategies are conceived. Again civil society must play a consistent role throughout this process to both lend it legitimacy and provide crucial insights.

That said, we are well aware that European Commission external spending is set to increase by 4.5% per annum 2007-13, and that much of these increased funds will be focused on African, and also Caribbean and Pacific countries. We urge that this commitment be honoured in full as it is a fundamental aspect of the 2005 European Consensus on Development (endorsed by the 25 heads of state) which rightly prioritises poverty eradication and least developed countries. This includes of course that new targets for ODA (collectively providing 0.56% of GNI by 2010, as an intermediate step to achieving the UN target of 0.7% by 2015) are kept.

[13. Mariana Abrantes de Sousa](#) - April 5, 2007

African development needs are immense, and most African countries still need to improve their ability to use external aid. Best practices in planning, project development, implementation and monitoring could make a big impact if effectively generalized.

Calendar

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

[1. Eyachew Tefera](#) - Institute for African Studies, Slovenia - February 7, 2007

The concept map is very good, we have to do the public debate and awareness raising on very fundamental issues that matters and affects Africa and Europe, like democratic governance, tyranny, migration, humanright issues, trade, subsidies, war and refugees including extremism, home born civil societies, EU NGOs and their role, etc, the 5 EU-AFRICA or the 5 EU strategies to AFRICA, etc

[2. Juan Luis MUÑOZ ARBONA](#) (Spain) - February 7, 2007

Dear friends:

Please let me offer you my help to collaborate in any issue concerning the new EU-African strategy where the Spanish autonomous City I am working for (Ceuta) has a very important role concerning migration issues, bearing in mind the massive assault by immigrants in September 2005 of Ceuta and Melilla, the 2 spanish cities in the north of Africa.

14 innocent immigrants died that day and the cities were administratively shocked... EC and EP visited Ceuta and Melilla and are starting to really know what are our needs,

One of our main problems is to better manage our immigrant's welcome centers (minors immigrant centers as well) in our city where we give them better conditions to live in dignity while they wait for a better opportunity in Europe.

Please let me offer you our disposal to any working group concerning this area where we're working hard in order to have better coordination and as a african city open to Africa and Europe.

Thank you very much for your attention,

Kind regards,

JUAN LUIS MUÑOZ ARBONA

CIUDAD AUTÓNOMA de CEUTA

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ciudad.autonoma.de.ceuta@skynet.be

3. Ebo Isaac Newton (Ghana) - February 13, 2007

This move needs to be commended. indeed it needs to.

The mind bugging question is what this partnership hopes to accomplish not losing fact of the other partnerships between these two continents. Playing with names and titles is interesting but this doesn't shapen or help raise or achieve the goals already set in such organisations. The resources to be used for this partnership should be used in the assessment of current existing organisations to know their level of impact and correct the greater inefficiencies in achieving the well spelt out aims.

The new partnership as I believe will only try to look at the objectives of some these existing organisations under . Supporting existing with the required technical advice and policy formulation I believe will be beneficial.

The other side will ending other agreements or organisations whose functions are incorporated in the new partnership between the Southerners and some members of the North.

Thank you.

4. [NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine](#) - February 19, 2007

Dear Friends,

It is pleasure to have learnt of this AU-Eu initiative. The first time I got some detail explanation on the initiative especially from the youth perspective was when I met with Pablo of the North South Initiative during the Africa Development Forum V held in Addis Ababa, from November 16 - 18. The African Youth Forum for Peace (AYFP), whose cardinal objective is that of promoting youth initiatives on peace in Africa, look forward to contributing to the success of this AU-EU initiative. Don't hesitate to contact us when ever need arises.

Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine

5. Stephen Orubor - March 13, 2007

The move to develop a joint EU-Africa Strategy is to say the least refreshingly pleasing and accordingly deserves accolades and support from all well meaning observers and commentators on EU-Africa partnership. This epochal move signposts the EU's resolve to deliver on its Strategy for Africa, through forging a robust partnership between the EU and emergent African institutions like the AU and other regional blocks. This development, most salutarly, in my estimation, mirrors the most pointed invocation of the principles of equality, partnership and ownership that have underpinned EU-Africa relations over the decades but traces of which has sadly been missing in the past vistas of EU-Africa relations. The push to develop a joint EU- Africa Strategy should therefore be cautiously hailed as a true turning point in EU-Africa relations!

Contact

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

1. Progressive Future Union - February 6, 2007

Thank the Europe for the helps to Africa. But we as a NGO does not get any benefit from those helps!

2. Tafadzwa Muropa - February 9, 2007

I would like to find out on how the civil society can work with the EU on HIV/AIDS programs in the Southern African region

Contribute

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

1. Gbolahan Olubowale (Nigeria) - February 19, 2007

I will like to align myself to the views expressed by Victor Onoviran from Nigeria which lays on the table some of the important things that should be done by the ecdpm to facilitate an all inclusive discussion that carries all stakeholders along and does not seems to be externally imposed.

It is a great pity that Africa that is abundantly endowed with human and natural resources is the most backward and underdeveloped of all the continents!!!

It is a great pity that after centuries of colonial plundering of the resources of Africa by the various colonial powers; independence was only granted “on paper” while neo-colonialism and imperially instigated destabilisation of emerging progressive minded leadership like Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumubma, Obafemi Awolowo, Nelson Mandela, etc were were encouraged and actively promoted.

It is a pity that ecdpm secretariat does not include any credible African voice and this is urgently needed for the whole process to be adjudged credible.

It is a pity that while at the end of the 2nd World War, Europe which was mostly destroyed by the Nazis was quickly rebuilt by the “Marshall plan” with active assistance from USA which made Germany to re-emerge as an economic super power while most African countries after independence were further destabilised and destroyed e.g Angola, Zaire,Ghana, Sudan, etc.

I want to believe that this is not another attempt at having a huge jamboree with little to show at the end of the day.

Making Africa to work and develop is in the best interest of not only Europe but the entire world as the purchasing power and standard of living of the totally liberated populace on the continent is waiting to be fully utilised.

Africa was meant to be great.

Africa will yet be great; if all hands can come on deck to empower the continent and her people to overcome centuries of entrenched despoilation, destabilisation and underdevelopment.

I and my colleagues at the Centre for Rural Health and Development [CRHD], Saki, Oyo State, Nigeria will like to make our services available to the ecdpm secretariat towards making this process more inclusive and all embracing.

2. Artur Victoria (Portugal) - February 19, 2007

For the last 40 years Africa has faced difficult times and this has been due to various weaknesses in government. One of them is the lack of skills.

The Commission for Africa refers to good governance, by creating the right policies, key people in the right places to make the country to move forwards and also be made responsible for their decisions and actions
Outside help from International institutions have included a legal system and fair police, but none training is done for this to work.

Education and development of skills are areas of great importance for the implementation of proper communication within ministers to improve the general outlook of acknowledgements also the support for National policies and programs.

Countries like Angola are rich in mineral wealth like oil and money comes from the oil and diamonds. However poverty is generalized and refugees and no infra a structure in relocation of populations brings a devastating lack on health and education with immeasurable consequences.

3. F. BUMA (Cameroon) - February 21, 2007

Artur Victoria (Portugal) - February 19, 2007

“The Commission for Africa refers to good governance, by creating the right policies, key people in the right places to make the country to move forwards...”

Point of correction: Africa is not a country !!! Get this right once and for all. It is disgusting and extremely pathetic that in the 21st Century people, mostly Europeans and Americans, keep deceiving themselves and others that Africa is a country. Please get your geography right. Even journalists and government officials are surprising me. Africa is a continent made up of more than 50 countries. Only D.R. Congo alone is more than 1/4 of the whole of Western Europe.

Regarding the EU-Africa Joint Strategy, i must say any consultations and discussions should be on a level-playing field, with equally determined rules of the game. The time has past when European countries, especially France and the United Kingdom would concoct stereotype rules, principles, and solutions to impose or pressurize ‘African heads of States’ to accept them. We see you coming at a distance. While you have spent more than 200 years studying our resources, we have been studying your souls.

I want to believe that the EU will learn from the failures of France in Africa [Algeria, Ivory Coast, Nigeria-Biafra war, Chad, Centrafrique (C.A.R), Cameroon, Congo, Gabon,

D.R. Congo, Burundi and Rwanda]. FranceAfrique (france-a`-fric) is history and will remain so. The rules of the game must to be changed. Any relationship/partnership/cooperation between the EU and Africa should be based on equality, equity, dignity, mutual interests and respect. I mean respect for one another; for human beings, respect for sovereignty, and the rule of law. Watch out, we can already read you coming to preach principles of ownership.

We cannot claim to be supporting democracy in Ivory Coast, while at the same time enforcing tyranny in Chad, Togo, Guinea-Conakry, C.A.R and Congo. We cannot be promoting globalisation while closing our markets, frontiers, and asking others to open theirs for us! Preaching free trade and non-subsidies, while subsidizing our farmers.

I am of the opinion that Africa does not need Aid, because the so-called Aid is worse than the case of the Greeks offering gifts (Trojan horse). Africa needs and deserves TRADE ON EQUAL TERMS. We all know that there is only INTERESTS in international relations. So, please keep your gifts for yourselves because they are encouraging corruption in Africa and hiding your own corruption over there. After all, there are equally a huge number of poor people (junkies) in your backyards as there are in Africa.

EU-Africa Joint Strategy: Equality is Equity. The EU is welcomed if it is coming with clean hands. If you want equity, you must do equity. No raw deals, please. Remember, CHINA, RUSSIA, IRAN, and VENEZUELA are proving more worthy of trust, and are just next door!!!

4. Dr S Abudulai - February 22, 2007

I begin my comments by saying bravo to the EU for providing this opportunity for participation in its policy development process. That is the first thing we need in the relationship between Africa and the EU - sincere, open dialogue on issues of common interest.

Yes I believe there are issues of common interest as follows:

1. Alleviating Poverty and Social Injustice

Many EU countries, through governmental and non-governmental agencies are making massive contributions to addressing problems of access to good drinking water, health services, food security and the protection of freedoms through good governance systems. In my view, the EU should deepen its capacity to support participatory processes so that rural and urban communities in Africa can have a voice in decision-making processes that seek to address their problem. Who else knows how heavy a load is than the person carrying it? We need to fine tune mechanisms for strengthening the links between decentralised government institutions and those of traditional governance institutions upon whom the majority of people depend for access to land, natural resources and day to day governance. For years, lip service has been paid to decentralisations but little done to forge workable, relevant links. This way, service provisions, cost-recovery, management, and other issues can be openly discussed and agreed rather than being imposed on unsuspecting people.

2. Climate Change and Environment

I think the EU should address the issue of climate change from the point of view of current impact on farming communities. It is all well and good exploring ways of claiming carbon credits in future, but what should we do to help farmers affected by the extreme vagaries of climate or those losing livestock from drought and other natural phenomena. Again, consultation with communities on these issues could begin the long process of recuperating degraded environments by communities supported to address current food security challenges and accompanied to protect natural resources for the longer-term good. NGOs, governments, and traditional institutions need to work together.

3. HIV/AIDS

EU policy on this would be timely but the focus should probably be a holistic approach - looking at what leads young women into unequal and often exploitative sexual relationships, dropping out of mainstream education, and not having the right information on the dangers of unprotected sex with multiple partners. This may sound simple, but I see very little done in work with schools, community youth groups, women's groups, men's groups and other fora that exist to promote social development. The use of audio-visual tools to share experience from other parts of the world would enhance access to information. Again, we need to support agencies working with commercial sex workers, street children and other vulnerable groups with information and legal protection. From an EU level, this might mean inter-governmental working groups on finding solutions to these problems which may either already be highlighted in Poverty Reduction Strategy documents, MDG assessment reports and NGO studies; either way there is a capacity for informed intervention.

4. Youth Development and working with vulnerable groups

One important area that I feel we need clear and supportive policies is EU intervention on youth work. Young people get caught up in conflicts, drugs, urban crime and other negative social ills because they are completely at a loss as to what to do with themselves. As children growing up in rural areas, most of our time was spent going to farms, fetching fuelwood, wildfruit chasing and at night listening to stories from our elders. Those are not overglorified days because I then had to walk 6 kilometres to and from school daily and would sometimes travel 150 miles to secondary school without enough pocket money... to stay on campus for 8 weeks...! With the rapid changes experienced with globalisation, some of these value and support systems are dying out and there is no realistic alternative for the youth. I have been involved in programmes, some funded by the EU, to support vocational skills training. This was really helpful in providing skills, building self-esteem, and in some cases leading to young people forming support groups. What is often lacking is ongoing commitment to support youth initiatives with post-training support and also training in leadership and opportunities for leisure and the experience of youth.... 'growing up' in urban environments that are often alien, hostile and unprotective....

Youth development also encompasses relevant education; one that provides support beyond mainstream classroom activities such as attachment to businesses, living with rural communities to experience life and in some cases reconnect with that way of life (the University of Development Studies in Northern Ghana has an excellent example of this whereby students are required to live with these communities for a minimum period irrespective of their course of studies ... excellent!). This also includes access to education by girls, disabled people, nomadic communities and other vulnerable groups....

5. Our mothers, sisters, aunties ... women

This might sound cliché, but I feel we need to find ways of valuing and rewarding women's knowledge. In rural areas, women are often responsible for food preparations, adding value to agricultural products, looking at crops, harvesting, etc. yet I don't know if there are systematic ways of capturing this knowledge and sharing it with the younger generation or indeed building this into development plans and actions. I am not sure how one creates the interface between community level knowledge systems, research work done so far and policy development processes.... I am sure the EU has the capacity to build this into their plans or at least find the right expertise to do so...

[5. Abdulkadir Khalif Sh. Yusuf - February 24, 2007](#)

Europe and Africa share so many things that tie their destinies intertwined for ever. Beautiful and bitter past was shared, including ancient trade links, the incursion of Muslims into the Iberian and Balkan peninsulas, and the infamous slave and colonial legacy. Any discussion towards forming brighter collaborations between the two peoples must be based on fair collaboration, bearing in mind the unique links with their ups and downs. It is a matter of creating more ups than downs.

Mogadishu
Somalia

[6. Tilder Kumichii Ndichia \(Cameroon\) - March 3, 2007](#)

EU-AU cooperation is a key issues, which must be intended to enhance development. But the problems is that AU leaders often go in for any line of cooperation without a proper analysis of the benefits to their populations as well as the danger this can pose to their population.

I think to have a real functional development cooperation, which is sustainable, the needs of the people whose lives will be affected in one way or the other must be taken into consideration. It is good for the EU to base their links to the AU on field realities so that development will be a matter of fact. There are many resources in African, especially human resources, which could be exploited whenever development intended agreements are to be signed. Such development initiatives must be adaptable to the African context.

[7. Seyi - April 7, 2007](#)

DEAR FRIENDS,

I believe that the strategy should be one that recognizes the different objectives of MAJOR African NGOs that work with Women, different national projects for Women. It would be unfortunate if their own specific objectives are swallowed up in the broad objectives of this Joint Strategy. There are many different and 'big' NGOs on the African continent. This strategy can assist by facilitating their networking and dealing with them as a single entity in light of the many identified broad objectives concerning women.

On posts

Comments received between 1 February and 19 April, 2007

Europafrica bulletin - Issue 1 - 27 February 2007 February 10, 2007

1. John Bosco KALISA - March 24, 2007

I think there is a need for paradigm shift in terms of drafting EU-African strategy. the role of private sector is critical in any development strategy therefore there is a need for continuous consultation with the private sector.

we need to rethink our strategies and policies and we have to cope-up with modernisation. The private sector should play a catalytical role in spearheading this strategy therefore lets involve in the initial consultation their views and suggestions in this process is critical because they own resources and wealth of knowledge about how market works in the circumstances of government failure private sector intervenes to correct government failures.

2. John Bosco KALISA - March 24, 2007

Responding to the question 1 what works and what does not work.

One important aspect is that there is a political will and willingness to cooperate on bothsides.what does not work is getting right fundamental principles to cooperate in place.

Launch of the public consultation on Africa-Europe cooperation February 5, 2007

1. Viriato Teotónio e. Tamele (Mozambique) - February 7, 2007

Thanks for this opportunity to participate on agenda setting. I should like to suggest that we should look back on what the civil society involved on EU and Africa relations have been doing even before the cotonou agreement in that revisiting we have all seen that everything collapse under EPAs. we can also link the EPAs with bilateral trade and investment agreements. At the end, as is being suggested we can discuss but that should not be the ultimate task as there is a need to act in solidarity. That means along the year we have to agree on a Plan of Action part of this work is done (just look to the global EPA days of action)