

**African Voices on Africa-Europe
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Towards the Lisbon Summit

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Introduction

- Where do we stand in the official negotiation process ?
- Issues raised by the public consultation
- What is new in the joint EU-Africa Strategy?
- Key issues for debate in the run-up to the Lisbon Summit

The negotiation process : where do we stand?

- 2000 : Cairo Summit = 1st EU-Africa Summit
- 2005 : EU Strategy for Africa
- 2007: Start of the negotiations of the joint Strategy
- 15 May : adoption of Joint Strategy Outline
- Since June: drafting Strategy, Action Plan, Political Declaration
- 31 October : adoption of joint Strategy and Action Plan at joint Ministerial Troika
- 8-9 December : Lisbon Summit

Joint Strategy

- Overarching discussion : Shared Vision & common interests
- **4 objectives:**
 - Beyond fragmentation : Treat Africa as one
 - Beyond development cooperation : political partnership
 - Beyond Africa : global challenges
 - Beyond institutions : people to people partnership
- **4 clusters of topics**
 - Peace & Security
 - Trade & Regional Integration
 - Governance, democracy & human rights
 - Key Development Issues



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Action Plan

Eight priority partnerships:

- Peace and security
- Democratic governance and human rights
- Trade and regional integration
- MDGs
- Energy
- Climate change
- Migration, mobility and employment
- Science, information society and space



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Issues raised by the public consultation

- **Consultation process** : lack of inclusiveness, rushed, ...
- What will be the **change** in EU-Africa relations?
- **Added value** compared to existing agreements and instruments
- **EPAs** : Lisbon Summit high jacked by EPAs?
- More pro-development European **agricultural policy**
- Stronger integration of the **role of civil society** as a governance player, EU governance initiative, human rights
- Promotion of **conflict sensitive** policies by the EU and Africa



Issues raised by the public consultation

- **Migration** : outline focusing only on the Tripoli Declaration
- Delivery of **EU commitments** in terms of ODA level and aid effectiveness : 10th EDF
- African **debt** cancellation : double standards
- Definition of **concrete commitments** to beef up the outline
- Civil society “moving from consultation to involvement” : how will the **monitoring** mechanisms be conceived in order to involve civil society?

What is new in the joint EU-Africa Strategy?

Compared to what?

- First EU-Africa Summit (2000)
 - Existing agreements and instruments
- => New context & beyond fragmentation

What is new?

- A more political relationship
 - A continent to continent relationship
 - A people to people partnership
 - “Upgrading” the institutional architecture
- => Will it concretely deliver ? What are the risks?

Key questions

- What will be the agenda of the Summit ?
- Will the Summit deliver on a real change on a few topics?
- How will the monitoring of the implementation be structured?
- How will the people to people partnership materialise? What place for civil society?
- Is the EU, including European civil society, ready to “treat Africa as one”?



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Thank you for your attention...

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