



All Africa Conference of Churches

Report of the Study on African Ecumenical Engagement with the Consultation Process Towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy

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Abbreviations

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
AU	African Union
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
EU	European Union
FOCCISA	Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in Southern Africa
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
UN	United Nations
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Report of the Study on African Ecumenical Engagement with the Consultation Process Towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy

Executive Summary

In this study the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) has sought to investigate the views and perspectives of churches, national council of churches and other ecumenical organizations on the nature of the current relationship between Europe and Africa and the priority issues for the ongoing consultation process towards a Joint European Union (EU)-Africa Strategy. The study is motivated by AACC's belief that defining a new framework to structure the relations between Africa and Europe is too important to be left to state actors only.

The study shows convergence of churches views on many important issues on the partnership between Europe and Africa and the consultation process towards a joint EU-Africa strategy:

On the Current EU-Africa partnership

Churches are of the opinion that the current EU-Africa partnership or relationship does not reflect 'partnership' in the real sense of the concept as it is one-sided and Africa is still a recipient; it is unequal and an exploitative 'donor-recipient' partnership that reflects the colonialism and imperialism of old. The ground is not level and this impacts on the type and quality of partnership that emerges from such an unequal standing of partners.

The study reveals that the continued dependency syndrome makes Africa vulnerable to the machinations of Europe. The financial muscle of the EU breeds a paternalistic and patronizing attitude evident at the ecumenical and continental multilateral levels. While some churches have had healthy, collegial and understanding relationships with European ecumenical partners that take the form of true partnership other churches view the partnership with European partners as bad and distasteful as European partners view themselves as the senior partners while African churches are junior partners.

Unity in partnership is empty without addressing the historical injustices and the bitterness of the past that still affects how Africa relates to Europe. There is need for Europe to realize the enormity of the historical injustices it visited on Africa, show understanding, offer an admission of guilt and seek forgiveness. There is need for clarity on the nature of the engagement that is desired in the new joint strategy taking into account historical injustices and seeking for reparations. The 'master-servant', 'rich-poor' relations experienced in the last 500 years of Africa's contemporary relationship with Europe are still prevalent today in the social, economic and political engagements between the two continents. It is important to acknowledge the past relations Africa has had with Europe and use it as a reference and grow from it. It is therefore important for Africa to use the injustices in the past relations with Europe as leverage in the current negotiations.

The image of Africa that is portrayed by the European and North American media often shapes the narrow and often wrong conception of the continent and its potential. It is important for the joint strategy to appreciate that each country has its own history, culture, background, experiences and identity and these should be understood and respected.

It is important for Africa to realize that the envisaged partnership with Europe is not motivated by altruistic reasons but by the strategic interest Europe has in Africa and its resources. It is therefore essential for Africa to check that slavery does not manifest itself in new ways. Africa needs to reflect on the international political economy of a privileged and strategic relation with one actor in the international system noting that there are other actors eager to engage with the continent.

Expectations of the Proposed Joint EU-Africa Strategy

The study reveals that Churches have the following expectations on the Joint EU-Africa Strategy:

- A partnership with Africa not a partnership for Africa;
- A pro-Africa partnership.
- A true partnership that will be realistic and appreciative of the views and expectations of the civil society;
- Better EU-Africa partnership than the present;
- That the EU will be willing to help Africa climb the ladder of development;
- That Africa will be cautious to safeguard its own interests;
- That decisions that affect Africa will not be made by others;
- A better support mechanism to build and strengthen government accountability to its citizens;
- That Africa will seek ways and means of creating a strong financial base as those with financial muscle often have leverage over others in the international system;
- That the joint strategy does not exclude or overlook the voice of the people and give prominence to state actors and multinational corporations;
- That the partnership should improve economic support and allow for fair trade that sees Africa's access to European markets and technology;
- That Africans will have confidence and trust in African products;
- Improvement of nascent industries in African countries;
- Harmony and fairness especially to Africa;
- Appreciation of the input of the African Diaspora in the joint strategy;
- The EU will benefit from the opening up of African markets; and
- Resources will be provided for the empowerment of the African people to do things for themselves.

Some respondents argued that it is utopia to think that Africa's relationship with Europe and the joint strategy being negotiated will be useful to its people. This position is borne out of the appreciation of the fact that Africa is dealing with business people who have interest in profits and therefore there should be no expectation of any altruism from them. Africa should, however, struggle for fair trade and an end to the vicious cycle of

exploitation especially of those in the informal economy and the peasantry. There is therefore a call for a common agreement in the joint EU-Africa strategy to check international exploitation.

The following key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent are prioritized to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy:

- Education, training and development. There is need to focus on higher education and seek to invest in the development of technical institutes and universities;
- African empowerment especially improvement of the healthcare systems. The capacity of Africa's health infrastructure should be enhanced to cater for the management of Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases;
- Effective use of indigenous knowledge systems for development;
- Energy sustainability;
- Technology transfer to ensure that primary commodities such as cocoa are not exported to Europe but cocoa-producing countries can produce chocolates in Africa and export them. This should also include the development of small local industries that engage in processing primary commodities to check the export of primary commodities to the EU;
- Infrastructure development especially the improvement of the communication and transport system;
- Economic justice, fair trade and access to markets;
- Gender equality and empowerment of women;
- Inter-governmental support in development and social work should be complementary to state efforts and not a substitute. It should not kill self esteem and self reliance and create the dependency syndrome; and
- Poverty eradication.

There is need to appreciate the church's special niche in ministering to the people. The African church is also challenged to reflect on its comparative advantage that can be put to the service of the people of Africa. It is imperative for the church in Africa to take up an advocacy and lobbying role towards promoting the protection of human rights including the right to development.

The envisaged partnership between Europe and Africa will best benefit the African people if:

- There is eradication of the dependency syndrome between the two continents. There is need to obliterate the 'donor/giver-recipient' relation for the partnership to be useful to both continents;
- Cultural dialogue and engagement of cultures and traditions of the two continents;
- There is ingenuity in the partnership entered into and the partners are clear and committed to what is agreed;
- Multinational corporations are checked and regulated;
- Europe pays reparations for historical injustices; and
- Grand corruption is checked.

Shared Vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: trustworthiness and fairness; social and economic justice and fair trade including access to European markets; valuing African people and products; and empowerment to correct the unequal partnership as sharing commonalities requires equally capacitated partners. Other issues that should undergird the shared vision include:

- A vision of: ‘toward a genuine partnership of equals based on mutual respect, interests and benefits’;
- That Africa is not a subject to be sympathized with, it is not incapable;
- Europeans should be positive that Africa can develop. Europe needs to change its attitude and begin believing that Africa can develop and ensure that the envisaged relationship is fair;
- Europe’s acknowledgement of responsibility in historical injustices and offer of reparations;
- That together Europe and Africa are seeking for a better humane habitable place on earth, better meaning of life and living and a meaningful life for all the peoples of the two continents. The two continents should therefore strive for a meaningful and value-filled life for both peoples;
- A shared vision requires clarity on the intentions and interests of both parties and clear approaches to international relations;
- The unequal partnership that currently exists needs to be addressed in order to correct the ‘big brother’ mentality and cultivate commitment to equality of the two partners and move from the rhetoric of mutual respect and reciprocal accountability;
- The joint strategy should be devoid of the dictatorship and the conditionalities of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs); and
- Europe should be open and transparent in its commitment to offer reparations for past injustices visited on Africa. This could be done through the willingness of Europe to support the economic development of Africa; listening to the needs of African countries; a stop to unilateral exercise of power in Africa; and a sense of responsibility on Africa’s human development.

Peace and Security

The conception of peace needs to be broad to include harmony with the environment, peace of mind and peace of humanity. It is imperative to address internal dimensions-the root causes and drivers of local conflicts. It is also important to seek whose interests are served by the conflicts in Africa.

Priority issues to assure peace and security in Africa are: a stop to arms trafficking; a stop to political interference especially unilateral actions of external actors in Africa; and a stop to unfair contracts that are imposed by the EU on African states. Parties in African conflicts should realize that the complicity of international actors is not for their or the continent’s benefit. Priority should be in strengthening relations at the individual and family levels as unity and peace at these levels is essential for societal unity and peace.

Europe should fund the development of the security systems of African countries and ongoing security sector reforms in post-conflict countries. The development of sustainable, predictable and flexible support for African-led peace support operations is of priority.

The church has a special role in assuring peace and security. The church leadership needs to keep a critical distance in their engagement and accompaniment of political actors for peace. The church has a special role in its promotion of dialogue and discussion on any conflicting situations and issues and in its encouragement of a vibrant public policy debate and discourse that encourages transparency on the part of the government and political actors. It should also ensure that issues of concern are addressed and not postponed until latent conflicts escalate into overt violent confrontations.

Good Governance

Ideally, the EU should not impose its governance agenda and systems on Africa. There should also be no force-feeding on democracy. There is need to develop an African governance agenda that draws from African traditions of governance that were dismantled by European colonialism. Africa should develop homegrown models of governance that are relevant and sensitive to African culture, traditions and belief systems. It is also imperative to pursue the vision of a united continent.

Churches have a special role to play in assuring good governance through: pastoral accompaniment of the parliament and parliamentarians including the presidency; establishment of networks of transformative leaders at the church level to ensure accountability and feedback to the church on governance issues; and using the global network of the church to work together and pursue the diplomacy of development and conflict management towards a peaceful African continent.

Trade and Regional Cooperation

Africa loses in trade with Europe as it competes with a giant even with regards to goods in which it has comparative advantage. Economic globalization has not benefited Africa as the multilateral trade regime under the World Trade Organization (WTO) favours countries of the North and often leads to the underdevelopment of countries of the South. There is need for African countries to work together towards pursuing the African trade agenda at the multilateral level.

Economic cooperation is essential but it is important to appreciate that Europe and Africa are at different levels of development where Europe is mostly industrialized and attracting a lot of investment while Africa is still industrializing and struggling with trickles of foreign direct investment. There is a danger that the free market economy advocated for in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) under negotiation may stifle industrial development in some African countries.

There should be a deliberate effort to formalize the informal economy and strengthen it for a strong economic enterprise at the local levels of African countries. Capacity building efforts should target the micro-enterprises at the local level. There should be a

sustained focus on rural livelihoods through the formalization of the informal economy to assure a huge and diverse formal economy.

Priority issues that need to be addressed to ensure trade and regional cooperation contributes to Africa's development are:

- Improvement in North-South economic partnerships;
- The establishment of value addition industries in countries of the South as this expands the economy and creates employment. There is need for Africa to stop the export of primary commodities to Europe as this misses out on the processing phase and benefits nascent industries in Europe;
- Policy interventions to check the monopolistic and harmful trade practices of multinational corporations from countries of the North;
- A strong African Union (AU) trade policy framework needs to be developed for negotiations and engagement with the EU and also for multilateral trade negotiations within the WTO;
- Collaboration in the advocacy for the democratization of global multilateral trade frameworks and global multilateral governance institutions. This should include addressing the unfair trade practices of the EU and seeking to ensure WTO policies do not only favour countries of the North. Fair trade for development should be emphasized;
- Addressing the political economy of human resource flight to Europe;
- Enhancement of business support services and access to credit;
- Improvement of intra and inter-state trade by improving the infrastructure;
- Strengthening of communication through improved road networks, telephone and internet services;
- Harmonization of trade rules and regimes including promotion of South-South trade; and
- The joint strategy should support regional and continental integration that is challenged by the EPAs being negotiated.

Key Development Issues

Churches affirm that the development issues identified in the *Outline for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as Endorsed by the Ministerial Troika Meeting of 15th May 2007* are of priority and call for all international actors to engage within the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework and The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-the socio-economic development programme of the African Union. The churches emphasize the importance of interrogating the MDGs and other development frameworks currently being implemented in Africa to check whether they fulfill conditionalities of the International Financial Institutions, whether they are true to the felt needs and priorities of the African people, whether necessary preconditions for their achievement have been met and whether there are strategies in place to assure their achievement.

Other priority development issues that are prioritized by the churches are:

- Good stewardship of Africa's resources. The resources should be managed well and responsibly and sustainably used. The EU-Africa strategy needs to focus on a

- coordinated effort that could lead to Africa's self respect and identity, an Africa that totally depends on its resources overcoming the current dependency syndrome and an Africa that gets its justifiable share in global trade;
- Climate change and environment enhancement including checking pollution, environmental degradation and desertification. This includes the quest for safe, sustainable and renewable sources of energy;
 - Agriculture including the promotion of food security and food safety, strengthening capacities in farming, promoting crop diversification in rural areas, promoting risk management and early-warning systems, promoting institutional reforms and strengthening agricultural research for development;
 - Addressing unemployment and decent work issues;
 - Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) development;
 - Fair trade and economic justice for the African continent; and
 - Migration and mobility including the treatment of African migrants and refugees in Europe.

It is imperative for the envisaged joint strategy to appreciate the special niche of civil society organizations in development and provide adequate funds for their work. Civil society organizations are close to beneficiary communities and have nurtured effective processes of social accountability that are often lacking among state actors.

It is important for Africa to be aware of the international political economy of the joint strategy being negotiated with the EU in the light of the interest other international actors have on Africa. These include China and India.

People with disabilities seem to have been overlooked in the *Outline for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as Endorsed by the Ministerial Troika Meeting of 15th May 2007*. There is need to consider their role in development.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Over half a decade of the African renaissance has seen the advent of the African Union (AU) and the gradual establishment of continental governance institutional frameworks (including the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)), continental and regional peace and security infrastructure and a continental socio-economic development framework- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The heightened pace with which African state actors have within the multilateral frameworks of the African Union and the United Nations pushed for the African agenda has led to the implementation of the sectoral priorities identified in the NEPAD base document and the continued implementation of the APRM. Africa's gradual reclamation of its position in global politics and economy has elicited the interest of different international actors who seek bilateral partnerships with individual African states and pursue strategic and privileged multilateral partnerships with the continent.

The African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) are currently engaged in a dialogue process aimed at elaborating a new 'Joint EU-Africa Strategy' to be adopted at the second EU-Africa Summit which is hoped to be held in December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal. The purpose of the process is to lay the foundations for a strengthened partnership based on a community of values and interests. Both parties agree on the need to fully associate their respective civil societies in the process of formulating the new strategy.

The dialogue process begun in January 2007 with an exchange between the official parties (AU and EU) and has been followed by experts meetings and also civil society meetings focused on the following five interrelated themes among others: shared vision; peace and security; governance; trade and economic cooperation; and key development issues.

In this context, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) which has observer status with the African Union has taken the initiative to gather churches' views on the ongoing dialogue process, invite their concrete proposals on priority issues for Africa and how churches can be effectively involved in the strategy. The AACC believes that defining a new framework to structure the relations between Africa and Europe is too important to be left to state actors only hence this facilitation of ecumenical engagement with the dialogue process in formulating the joint strategy. It is envisaged that the findings of this study will help shape AACC's advocacy agenda with the African Union Commission, the drafting committee and the EU-Africa experts troika working group that is responsible for the development of the joint EU-Africa strategy.

1.2 Research Problem

African state actors have over the years negotiated and entered into bilateral and multilateral partnerships, commitments and agreements on behalf of their people without consulting them. The social, political and economic implications and consequences of these multilateral and bilateral agreements have been borne at a considerable cost to most African societies including the erosion of the social fabric.

In the spirit of the Constitutive Act of the Africa Union that underscores the need to create people-driven and community based partnership between governments and all segments of civil society in order to strengthen cohesion and solidarity among Africa people, it is imperative for the African ecumenical family-an organized sector of the African civil society that also has historical relations and partnerships with European actors-to investigate the views and expectations of African churches and national councils of churches on the ongoing consultation process towards a joint EU-Africa strategy, invite concrete proposals on priority issues for Africa and ways in which churches can be effectively involved in the strategy.

1.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of the study on African ecumenical engagement with the consultation process towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- To highlight how African churches perceive the EU-Africa partnership so far;
- To collect and collate churches opinions, insights and inputs on the substance of the joint strategy;
- To identify the main expectations of the churches with regards to: peace and security; governance; trade and economic cooperation; and key development issues; and
- To lobby and advocate for the inclusion of the views and priority issues identified by the Africa ecumenical family in the dialogue process and the ultimate Joint EU-Africa Strategy that is adopted.

1.4 Justification

The imperative for the African ecumenical engagement with the consultation process towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy is to ensure that the strategy is true to the needs and aspirations of the African people, is grounded on African priorities and is inclusive of non-state actors (the African ecumenical family included (consisting of churches, national councils of churches, sub regional fellowships and other church related institutions)) acknowledging their often overlooked contribution to poverty eradication and sustainable development in the African continent.

This is the first time that the African ecumenical family, an organized sector of the African civil society, has sought the views and expectations of its constituents through a continent-wide study towards shaping its advocacy agenda with an ongoing multilateral political process. Any avenues availed for ecumenical engagement with multilateral political processes in Africa and with other international political processes on issues of

Africa's international relations need to be seized. Often African state actors have entered into bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments that are often least understood by the people who are not consulted in the process but bear the consequences of the agreements at the political, social and economic levels. Public consultation and participation should therefore be an inbuilt requirement for all future multilateral negotiations towards partnership agreements and other commitments that state actors enter into on behalf of their people. Such an involvement of the people at the negotiation phase paves way for social accountability. Collaboration between the two continental bodies-the African Union and the AACC needs to be strengthened and this study process serves as a building block.

From a civil society perspective, this study that seeks the perceptions and issues that the African ecumenical family would like to see prioritized in the joint EU-Africa strategy is critical as the African ecumenical family is an organized sector of the African civil society that has had bilateral and multilateral relations with European partners and has a wealth of experience on partnerships and the challenges in partnerships. The study is therefore critical in informing African civil society advocacy for a truly meaningful joint EU-Africa strategy. It is also intended that the study will go a long way in stimulating increased ecumenical engagement and accompaniment of Africa's multilateral political processes and continental governance institutions. This will entail increased visibility of the African ecumenical family in influencing continental governance and development agenda and voicing the ethical and spiritual values that must be the foundation of Africa's international relations.

1.5 Research Methodology

The study relied majorly on primary data. Secondary data on EU-Africa relations, agreements and policy frameworks was used in the initial conceptualization of the study. It also helped augment and explain the primary data received from the field survey and key informant interviews for purposes of triangulation. Primary data was collected using a combination of methods including: key informant interviews and focused group discussions. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents who were purposively sampled on the basis of their administrative roles in churches and national councils of churches and their engagement with Africa's international relations and development issues at the church and national council of churches' level. Key informant interviews were conducted and sought in depth information from the respondents. Focused group discussions involving relevant officers in churches and national councils of churches were held and helped collect different opinions on the joint EU-Africa strategy.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The study is conceptually anchored on the North-South relations debate within international political economy. North-South relations debates focus on the structural inequities in the international economy. Four neo-Marxist theories have sought to explain the nature of the relationships between the rich and the poor nations of the world. These are the underdevelopment theory, the dependency theory and the world systems theory and complex interdependence theory.

The underdevelopment theory was developed by Andrew GunderFrank with reference to Latin America and then by Walter Rodney with reference to Africa in his seminal publication: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. The central argument of underdevelopment theorists is that the countries in the South are unable to realize development because they are trapped by Western capitalism. Underdevelopment does not mean the absence of development but means the inability of a society or country to realize development due to being entrapped by Western capitalism extension to the country. The entrapment is through the extension of Western capitalism that subordinates the South to the capitalist production in the North and its needs for expansion into the South. Underdevelopment is therefore not a primordial condition but a condition that was acquired at a certain historical moment of the development of the societies of the South.

The theory posits that the expansion of Western capitalism to the South seeking profits and accumulation halted indigenous processes of development. Walter Rodney shows how different development processes were taking place in Africa prior to the advent of Western capitalism. The underdevelopment theory was criticized as being too pessimistic and for overstating the difficulties of development in the South-that no development at all shall occur in the South due to the trap of Western capitalism.

The dependency theory seeks to explore the process of the integration of the periphery into the international capitalist system and to assess the developmental implications of this peripheral capitalism. World regions are therefore analyzed only by reference to their locus in the world political and economic system-whether they are closer to the core or the periphery. The focus is majorly on the continued subordination of the periphery to the core and the reason capitalism produces underdevelopment in the South.

The approach proceeds from a structuralist paradigm which focuses on the class structure and international capital and the role of the state in shaping and managing the national, foreign and class forces that propel development within countries. In the view of dependency theorists, the relationship between the Northern core and the Southern periphery far from being a relationship of mutual-interest cooperation connotes both the subordination of the latter to the former and the exploitation of the latter by the former. Countries of the Southern periphery are therefore dependent as they are not autonomous in the face of external economic forces. The extension of Western capitalism to the South therefore limits the ability of the South to realize autonomous development. Some development occurs but is dependent on the North.

According to dependentistas¹, the poor countries do not lack capital and lag behind the rich because they lie outside or on the edge of the capitalist world but rather because they have been integrated into the international class structure of the capitalist system. The dependentistas seek to show the faults or encumbrances in the North-South relations that inhibit the realization of autonomous development in the South. These include

¹ Dependentistas are dependency theorists.

international trade patterns², international production patterns and international financial markets. The dependency theory has been criticized in that it exaggerates the explanatory power of economic imperialism as a concept to make sense of historical change in the South. Too little attention is also paid to political motives behind imperialism or to the autonomous power of local political circumstances in influencing the course of change in Africa and other countries of the South. The theory does not explain the emergence of the Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs).

The world systems theory developed by Immanuel Wallerstein regards the international system as anarchic and this influences the international economic division of labour. It argues that dependency and underdevelopment are not permanent conditions and could be overcome as noted in the transition of states from the periphery to semi-periphery in relation with the core. This emerging structure consists of the central core-powerful industrial advanced capitalist states; and the periphery-the weak states kept on a level of technical underdevelopment and subordinated to the status of provider of raw materials to the core; and semi-periphery of states the economic activities of which are a mixture in between those of core and periphery. These include the Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs).

While most of the neo-Marxist theories reviewed above focus on the structural inequities in the international economy and seek to show the faults or encumbrances in the North-South relations that inhibit the realization of autonomous development in the South, it is the complex interdependence theory that captures the essence of partnerships among international actors in an anarchic international system. The theory posits that a continuum exists in which every country is more or less dependent upon others. The theory views less developed countries as dependent and vulnerable because they are underdeveloped hence weak in a world of the strong. The theory eschews the dependency theory's positions that the countries are suffering from external dependence and says they are suffering from internal inefficiencies.

The complex interdependence theory views the international system as characterized by interdependence among actors. Relationships among actors in the international system are mutual and among equals. Vulnerability in an anarchic international system leads actors to need each other and to seek to care for each other. State actors therefore look up to each other for support and assistance. According to the theory, states have mutual obligation to each other and this explains the provision of development assistance, trade concessions to the countries of the South by those of the North and foreign direct investment. While this theory has immense explanatory power on the various multilateral institutions that have been established to secure common interests among state actors and the international legal instruments that have been developed and ratified by many state actors, it overemphasizes the pursuit of the common good in an anarchic international

² Dependency theorists argue that the structure of the North-South trade regime is skewed in favour of the North which enjoys a balance of trade surplus while the South perpetually realizes a balance of payments deficit. Development can therefore only be realized in the South through development assistance from the North.

system where the pursuit of the national interest and self preservation of state actors is priority and altruistic actions are rare.

The complex interdependence theory has been the basis of Africa's and the South's diplomacy of development that has seen the advocacy for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) by the countries of the South in the 1970s aimed at reordering the international economic system by bringing about improved terms of trade between the industrialized region (the North) and the less developed countries (the South). While the South seeks to dismantle the North's dominance, the North seeks to perpetuate its privileged position. This state of affairs continues to date within multilateral frameworks such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and explains the failure to conclude the Doha development round.

While the concept of interdependence captures the essence of partnership and international cooperation, this study that is focused on the joint EU-Africa strategy concludes that partnership in the context of seriously disproportionate power relations amounts to little more than domination. The study reveals that most respondents view current EU-Africa relations as a travesty of cooperation, partnership and interdependence characterized by the domination of the strong over the weak and the attendant appropriation and exploitation of the resources of the weak.

2 Country Reports

2.1 Botswana

2.1.1 Anglican Province of Central Africa-Diocese of Botswana

Views on the current/prevailing EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

At the ecumenical level, the FOCCISA-Nordic countries partnership modelled on the SADC-Nordic countries partnership failed after the collapse of talks. There was a general feeling in FOCCISA that the EU partners exhibited a paternalistic attitude that eventually led to the collapse of the talks.

At the continental level, the partnership between Europe and Africa is not equal. The financial muscle of the EU breeds a paternalistic attitude evident at the ecumenical and continental multilateral levels. The EU ecumenical partners and EU state actors exhibit a 'big brother' mentality in their relations with Africa.

It is not clear whether the joint strategy being negotiated will safeguard the interests of Africa as the EU-Africa Summit to be held in Lisbon, Portugal is most likely funded by the EU, the tickets for African delegates will most likely be paid by the EU hence the ground is not level and this impacts on the type and quality of partnership that emerges from such an unequal standing of partners.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- There will emerge a strategy that targets and grapples with the nature of the current relationship and charts out the framework for a new relationship;
- That Africa will seek ways and means of creating a strong financial base as those with financial muscle often have leverage over others in the international system;
- That African ecumenical partners will have access to seed funds (preferably interest free loans) to help diversify their income sources through, for example, real estate development towards sustainability; and
- That EU state and ecumenical actors will be ready to disburse seed funding (preferably interest free loans as opposed to commercial loans) to African state and ecumenical partners to help improve the status of their less endowed partners.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Poverty eradication;
- Agriculture and subsistence farming. Emphasis should be on irrigated agriculture that maximizes land use and ensures increased productivity of the land;
- Creative strategies for stopping desertification;
- Local processing of primary commodities. For example, for many years the Diamond Trading Company of Botswana has based its diamond polishing and cutting operations outside the country and only recently established these value addition operations in the country creating a ripple effect in the economy and contributing to employment and the growth of support industries;
- Technology transfer to ensure that primary commodities such as cocoa are not exported to Europe but cocoa-producing countries can produce chocolates in Africa and export them;
- Infrastructure development especially the improvement of the communication and transport system to be at par with the European system; and
- Good governance: European countries and their multinational companies benefit from governance failure that leads to unstable states in Africa. Corrupt deals are entered into leading to predation and cannibalization of public goods and resources. It is envisaged that good governance will check this.

The envisaged joint strategy will best benefit the African people if there is ingenuity in the partnership entered into and the partners are clear and committed to what is agreed.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision:

- The unequal partnership that currently exists needs to be addressed in order to correct the 'big brother' mentality and cultivate commitment to equality of the two partners and move from the rhetoric of mutual respect and reciprocal accountability;
- There is fear that African leaders are afraid of honest admission of the obtaining reality in the relationship with Europe. It will be important for them to be sincere, point out all misgivings they have of the current partnership and not engage in diplomatic platitudes. The implementation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) had a considerable cost to most African societies including the erosion of

- the social fabric. The joint strategy should be devoid of the dictatorship and conditionalities of the SAPs;
- Respect for the desires of Africans and not what Europe thinks is good for Africa;
 - An end to the transposition of governance models from Europe to Africa. This will ensure respect for the position of traditional leaders, chiefs and kings who contribute immensely in decision making that affects the people. These traditional governance structures should not be peripheralized to village corners and left out of national governance that then becomes a preserve of European governance models. It is also important to appreciate that in some situations a presidential third term is essential; and
 - The envisaged joint strategy needs to respect and help achieve the dreams and visions that different African countries have set for themselves, for example, Botswana's Vision 2016.

Peace and security

There is need to be proactive and deal with the root causes of conflicts before issues degenerate into overt violent conflict. If the potential issues of contention are dealt with then there will be avoidance of costly violent conflicts. In Botswana there is the land issue in which informal settlements are emerging often and it is important to deal with it as it emerges rather than later. There is also a need to build Africa's capacity for disaster preparedness. This calls for effective conflict and disaster early warning mechanisms.

Good governance

It is important to prioritize the adoption of an African governance agenda that draws from the traditional leadership and governance model. Africa should develop homegrown models of governance that are relevant and sensitive to African culture, traditions and belief systems. It is also possible for African states to learn from other states that have integrated traditional governance models such as Botswana that has the house of chiefs working synergistically with the parliament. Global multilateral governance structures are not democratic and representative of the countries of the South. There is need to advocate for the democratization of global multilateral governance institutions.

The church can play the following role to ensure good governance: advocacy for the separation of powers between the three arms of government: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. There is also need to advocate for increased up take of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) by African states that have not yet acceded to the process. The APRM will help discover potential conflict areas in the states, lack of democracy, electoral processes that are a recipe for civil strife and bad governance practices.

Trade and regional cooperation

There is need for Africa to stop the export of primary commodities to Europe as this misses out on the processing phase and benefits nascent industries in Europe. There is need to address the unfair trade practices of the EU and seek to ensure WTO policies do not only favour countries of the North. Fair trade for development should be emphasized. There is need for African countries to work together towards pursuing the Africa trade agenda at the multilateral level.

Key development issues

It is important to avoid duplicity in the focus on development and engage within the MDGs framework. It is our contention that the MDGs framework captures the interlinkages of several development issues and has indicators to measure the levels of achievement of the various development goals. It is important that we do not take too much on board so as to divide the available resources too thinly.

2.1.2 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana

Views on the current/prevailing EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

The current relationship between Europe and Africa does not reflect ‘partnership’ in the real sense of the concept. The relationship is one-sided and Africa is still a recipient. It is therefore a fabrication as the market economy is controlled by the EU and the EU policies, rules and controls determine the prices of African exports. The EU therefore pursues its own economic interests in the relationship with Africa.

The current relationship also reflects the colonialism and imperialism of old. Modern imperialism manifests itself in economic globalization that least benefits Africa. The infrastructural development projects the EU supports in Africa are majorly for its own benefit.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are: Africa will be economically well equipped so as to be able to enter into an equal partnership with Europe; that there will be joint decision making; decisions that affect Africa should not be made by others; that there will be increased economic empowerment of Africa through development assistance and access to the benefits of globalization; and that Africa and Europe will engage at the same table as equal partners with equal status making joint binding decisions. The joint EU-Africa strategy should be inclusive of not only state actors but also all stakeholders including traditional leaders and institutions and churches.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Education, training and development. This is priority as Africans are not as trained as Europeans. There is therefore need to focus on higher education and seek to invest in the development of technical institutes and universities;
- African empowerment especially improvement of the health systems. The capacity of Africa’s health infrastructure should be enhanced to cater for the management of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases; and
- Lifting Africa’s political and economic status to the level of Europe. This entails developing political systems in Africa that ensure sustainable development.

The envisaged partnership will best benefit the African people if:

- Europeans solve their problems rather than throw them to Africa for solutions;
- The recognition of Africa as an equal partner;

- There is eradication of the dependency syndrome between the two continents. There is need to obliterate the ‘donor/giver-recipient’ relation for the partnership to be useful to both continents;
- Europe should desist from using the mass media to influence African culture, traditions and belief systems especially on production and consumption patterns; and
- There is need for cultural dialogue and engagement of cultures and traditions of the two continents.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: trustworthiness and fairness. Honesty is important as often Europe emphasizes openness evident in the hackneyed ‘transparency and accountability’ dictum while it is not open and accountable to Africa.

Europe is bound to benefit more than Africa from the envisaged joint strategy. There is therefore a need for a shared vision on each thematic area of focus such as defence, intelligence sharing and so on. Often Europe wants Africa to share in these areas but is reserved and cannot give more than what Africa can.

A shared vision requires clarity on the intentions and interests of both parties and clear approaches to international relations. For example, it will help for both parties to examine ways of addressing terrorism in a different approach from the current Euro-American-led global war on terror.

Peace and security

It is difficult to have peace and live in poverty. Illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and other diseases affect peace. The conception of peace needs to be broad to include harmony with the environment; peace of mind and peace of humanity. It is important to create awareness on the importance of peace of mind and peace of humanity.

There should be a marked reduction in military expenditure in African countries. The savings from this should go to social service delivery, poverty alleviation and improvement of health care systems. There is need for the EU to contribute to security enforcement benefiting from its advances in weaponry, training, technology and funding. Europe should fund the development of the security systems of African countries and ongoing security sector reforms in post-conflict countries in order to ensure African countries are at par with European countries.

Good governance

There is need to develop an African governance agenda that draws from African traditions of governance that were dismantled by European colonialism. The move to European systems of governance has brought governance problems to many African countries.

African countries should be encouraged to adopt and follow their traditional governance set up where it is applicable rather than borrow the European governance system. It is

also possible for them to be innovative and borrow elements that are good from the European governance system. Ideally, the EU should not impose its governance agenda and systems on Africa. There should also be no force-feeding on democracy.

The education system in African countries has been used to favour democracy and capitalism. It rarely gives prominence to African governance traditions and systems. The EU should therefore not dictate governance agenda and systems to a continent that is rich in governance traditions and systems.

The role of the church in assuring good governance includes: being proactive in stemming internal strife; proactive involvement in setting the governance agenda for the continent and individual countries; visible sharing of the prophetic voice on governance challenges and issues facing the country; churches pastoral accompaniment of the parliament and parliamentarians including the presidency; churches engagement and dialogue with all governance structures; churches nurturing of transformative leaders as often a big percentage of leaders in governance structures of a country are Christians and are accessible to the church; establishment of networks of transformative leaders at the church level to ensure accountability and feedback to the church on governance issues; the assignment of qualified clergy to minister to the president; seeking to be part of the decision making and policy formulation processes within the governance system; and proactive response to unfolding humanitarian crisis before things get out of hand.

Trade and regional cooperation

Economic globalization has not benefited Africa as international trade regulations favour countries of the North and often lead to the underdevelopment of countries of the South. International trade should make a difference in the lives of the Africa people. This will be possible if:

- African member states in Regional Economic Communities (RECs) deliberately reach a common understanding and commitment on how to deal with other international trading partners. There is need therefore to solve the problem of the myriads of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements African countries enter into with different international actors due to their membership to various regional groupings as this often works against the spirit of regional integration;
- Multilateral trade agreements are favoured over bilateral trade agreements;
- The EU takes up the mandate to support the multilateral institutions such as RECs in the disadvantaged regions of the South;
- There is improvement in North-South economic partnerships;
- Value addition industries are established in countries of the South as this expands the economy and creates employment. For example, it has taken years to convince European multinationals to establish diamond cutting and polishing companies in Botswana; and
- There is fair sharing of resources in the RECs. This calls for a common understanding and clear position on relations with external actors. Intra-African trade has the capability of stopping EU's monopoly in trade with Africa. There should also be policy interventions to check the monopolistic and harmful trade practices of multinational corporations.

The current negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) have exploited the advantages of multilateralism as opposed to bilateral engagements with individual African countries. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should be empowered to monitor and control intra-regional trade.

A strong African Union (AU) trade policy framework needs to be developed for negotiations and engagement with EU trade policies and also for international trade negotiations within the WTO.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized:

- Education. Education is prioritized as it will ensure access to information and media. Information in the society should be focused on indigenous knowledge systems and the people's world view.
- Health;
- Agriculture and food security-this includes poverty alleviation, water and energy issues;
- Debt cancellation. Debt cancellation is prioritized as the savings can be invested in education, health and other development undertakings. This will check unemployment and provide decent work;
- Science and technology. Human empowerment will enable employment creation and the effective use of indigenous knowledge systems for development; and
- Gender-should be addressed later as it divides rather than unifies people. It is imperative to create an environment where people recognize a human being as a creature of God. Gender takes us off from this traditional knowledge and belief in God.

Migration is also important as the two continents share expertise, skills and also there is inter-state mobility of expertise and skills.

Procedurally, the development issues should be dealt with one at a time or within a group of three interrelated development issues. Dealing with the major development issues outlined above will enable non-priority development issues to be addressed.

2.2 Ethiopia

2.2.1 Ethiopia Catholic Secretariat

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

At the church/ecumenical level, the Ethiopian Catholic Church has strong relations and ties with the Catholic Church and church-related agencies in Europe. The cooperation is in different aspects of the triune mission of the church: pastoral ministry, mission and social development work (education, health, emergency relief and others). The level of engagement with different church agencies is varied and often not in a structured manner.

Some of the European church agencies are also visible in Ethiopia³. Different dioceses also have individual relations with dioceses and churches in Europe and this draws from acquaintances and historical relations.

The emphasis in the inter-church relations is on human development. The Ethiopian Catholic Church views these relations as healthy, collegial and understanding and taking the form of true partnership. Borrowing from this ecumenical relationship it is important for the envisaged Joint EU-Africa Strategy to be founded on:

- An understanding of each partner's potential;
- Visible co-existence;
- Appreciation of the need for both partners towards mutual benefit. There should be readiness to work together for the benefit of both parties;
- Respect and understanding of each partner;
- Respect for each partner's opinions, priorities and desired programmes;
- Availing of financial, technical and conceptual development resources and understanding;
- Working for the same God and assisting people;
- Fair trade for the benefit of all; and
- Respect for people's worldview and their struggles in life.

The image of Africa that is portrayed by the European and North American media often shapes the narrow and often wrong conception of the continent and its potential. It is important for the joint strategy to appreciate that each country has its own history, culture, background, experiences and identity and these should be understood and respected. There should not be an homologous understanding of Africa. The peculiarities and unique histories of African Union member states need to be appreciated in the envisaged joint strategy. The mentality of belittling Africa should also cease.

Africa should not expect Europe to get out of its way to help the continent. However, the principle of 'do good to others as you would expect them to do to you' should apply. The partners should commit themselves to fight exploitation and corruption, work towards balanced trade that is fair and that contributes to the growth of their relationship and facilitate access to credit from international financial institutions by African countries.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- Issues of priority, vision and values need to be considered as essential foundations of the envisaged partnership;
- That the joint strategy does not exclude or overlook the voice of the people and give prominence to state actors and multinational corporations;
- Commitments and promises should be kept;
- That Africa will be cautious to safeguard its own interests;

³ Ignorance of Africa makes church partners who have not visited Ethiopia to doubt about the use of the development support given to the Ethiopian Catholic Church. This is not evident in those partners who are familiar with the country.

- A true partnership that will be realistic and appreciative of the views and expectations of the civil society;
- It is important to ask whether European and African state and civil society actors share the same values and stand for the same truth;
- That value will be given to what Africa conceives and produces;
- That state actors will learn to listen to ideologues and visionary people in their midst; and
- That Africans will have confidence and trust in African products.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Development and social work;
- Capacitation of the state machinery;
- Community empowerment. This will enable the great potential in the people to be used for development;
- Justice, democracy and good governance; and
- Fair distribution and sharing of resources.

Inter-governmental support in development and social work should be complementary to state efforts and not a substitute. It should not kill self esteem and self reliance and create the dependency syndrome. Any development assistance should be used in supporting capacity building of the state as often in Africa there are well-intentioned governments that lack technical capacity to effectively implement development programmes.

The African people are not poor. They are faced with the enormity of needs that are not fulfilled. To break the cycle of poverty there is need to empower the people to be responsible for their situation and in charting their destiny.

It is important for the church to discern its unique role in development and poverty eradication. It is imperative for the church to seek to answer the following questions:

- Is it the role of the church to construct schools, health institutions and drill boreholes?;
- What should be the role of the church?; and
- What comparative advantage does the church have that can be put to the service of the people of Africa?

It is imperative for the church in Africa to take up an advocacy and lobbying role towards promoting human rights including the right to development. The church is also uniquely endowed to empower people to seek their rightful place in development. The church is also well placed to contribute to justice, democracy and good governance. The church therefore needs to selectively address issues as per its comparative advantage-its unique advantages and access to a peculiarly different constituency that is not time bound or space-specific.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: social and economic justice; fair trade including access to European markets; and valuing African people and products.

Peace and security

The following are the priority issues to assure peace and security:

- Justice-plant justice and you will harvest peace;
- Good governance and democratization as foundations for peace and security. Democratization is now becoming ambiguous and losing its original meaning. There is need to work on democratization at the grassroots level to ensure proper understanding and facilitation of the democratization process;
- Peace and reconciliation: it is imperative to address internal dimensions-the root causes and drivers of local conflicts. It is also important to seek whose interests are served by the conflicts in Africa; and
- Checking the balkanization of people by political and other actors for their own benefit. It is important to check the cleavages that are often exploited by political actors such as ethnicity and religious affiliation and create awareness on the prevailing interests of different actors and the role of the people in finding solutions to their conflicts.

The church can play the following roles to assure peace and security:

- The church should give life to the people and should be given audience by different actors in society;
- Church leaders need to work together and speak truth to power through a strengthened ecumenical prophetic voice. For example, the Ethiopian Episcopal Conference's statement on elections was appreciated by the political leaders and civil society actors;
- The church has a big role to play in the life of the continent. It therefore needs to do more;
- There is need for the church to be prepared in order to be proactive in its interventions to secure peace and security for the people; and
- It is important to appreciate that secularization in Europe is slowly limiting the visibility of the church in the European public sphere as governments become more secular leading to church agencies too becoming secular and slowly unappreciative of the value, essence and mandate of the church. There is need to appreciate the church's special niche in ministering to the people. It is now time for Africa to send missionaries to Europe to evangelize hence give value to the African church's contribution to the universal church.

Good governance

The priority governance agenda for Ethiopia is: ensuring a united country; and dealing with the politicization of ethnicity in national politics. At the continental level, it is imperative to pursue the vision of a united continent. This requires public education and awareness creation through civic education.

It is important to ask whether Europeans are ready for a partnership with Africa. The agreed good governance agenda in the joint strategy should be realistic and devoid of Europe's narrow conception of governance and democracy.

The role of the church in assuring good governance includes: social teachings of the church; information dissemination; advocacy and lobbying at different levels; using the global network of the church to work together and pursue the diplomacy of development and conflict management towards a peaceful continent; and using the global church network to leverage the church's advocacy to state actors especially errant political leaders.

Trade and regional cooperation

Advocacy is key in ensuring that products such as Ethiopian coffee fetch the rightful price in international trade and that primary commodities are processed and there is value addition at the country where they are produced. Fair trade should be pursued and mechanisms should be sought to correct the imbalanced trade between Africa and Europe. Technology transfer is essential to aid in value-addition and processing of primary commodities to enable the products to compete with those from other markets. It is also important for Africa to address the political economy of human resource flight to Europe.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized:

- The Ethiopian Millennium Goals: It is important to check that the preconditions for the achievement of the set targets are fulfilled;
- Pursuing people's development in which the people are at the centre. This requires proper orientation of the people through literacy and infrastructure development;
- Education: it is important to reflect on the type of education that is being offered to Africans-whether it is education for liberation or education for domestication; and
- It is important to interrogate the MDGs and other development frameworks currently being implemented in Africa and check whether they fulfill conditionalities of the International Financial Institutions; whether they are true to the felt needs and priorities of the African people; whether necessary preconditions for their achievement have been met; and whether there are strategies in place to assure their achievement.

2.2.2 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

It is a fragmented partnership shown in various types of agreements that apply to different parts of the continent. There are several European commission management structures and funding mechanisms. Each EU member state enters into bilateral relations with African countries reinforcing the fragmentation which also shows the complexity of

the needed internal architecture and institutional framework for facilitating the envisaged joint strategy.

The Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions had trade and political dimensions including the promotion of good governance but the Cotonou Agreement is more development-oriented. The sense of partnership that existed was based on the negotiation providing a framework for effective engagement.

One of the reasons given for the eventual failure of African countries to achieve the MDGs is the nature of the current unequal and exploitative 'donor-recipient' partnership.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy:

The new framework of action that started to be designed with the first EU-African summit held in Cairo in April 2000 with the high level meeting between the leaders of the continent represented the beginning of an innovative multilateral relationship intensified by the inter-institutional dialogues between the European Commission and the African Union Commission. Aware of the progress made so far including in the naming of 2005 as the International Year for the African continent and the adoption by the European Council of an EU-Africa strategy and taking into account the impact of previous agreements and partnerships and the changes in both continents the followings are expected:

- A partnership with Africa more than a partnership for Africa;
- That the real European policy for development will be discussed with the need to forge a more coherent and overall strategy that goes beyond development assistance and the pessimistic view of Africa and its development;
- A strategy that embodies partnership based on mutual respect and equality;
- Unity in Africa and in Europe so that the strategy will be effective;
- Full participation of Europeans and Africans going beyond the traditional role of official government institutions through the involvement of the civil society including ecumenical organizations; and
- A better support mechanism to build and strengthen government accountability to its citizens.

The developmental needs of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are extensive including a variety of issues such as: migration, human and social development, cultural and educational cooperation, pandemics and energy sustainability. Development assistance needs to be accompanied by capacity building of African state actors to ensure its efficient and cost-effective use.

To make the relationship between Europe and Africa useful to the African people, the representation and the participation of the civil society in the discussion, construction and implementation phase of the strategy must be ensured. The joint strategy should focus on enhancing the capacity of Africans so that they can drive their development agenda.

Credible and systematic responses to key obstacles to Africa's development over which Europe has influence like debt cancellation must be emphasized. The EU should not seek

to export its development model which reaffirms the traditional and unequal ‘donor-recipient’ relation. Africa must develop a sense of ownership in the development endeavour and the political leadership must be made accountable to the citizens.

The joint strategy should emphasize the following:

- The *Outline for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as Endorsed by the Ministerial Troika Meeting of 15th May 2007* seems to delimit the negotiations towards the joint strategy in four areas: peace and security; governance, democracy and human rights; trade and regional integration; and development. There is need to acknowledge that the foundation of the joint strategy is in the historic links between the two parties and their shared values and interests such as peace, security and trade promotion among others;
- Support to the emerging structures such as the Africa Peace and Security Architecture and capacity building efforts to enhance the prevention and resolution of conflicts across the African continent;
- Previous agreements did not promote African economic productivity as they relied on the exportation of primary products whose prices were always fluctuating. The joint strategy should emphasize and strengthen the productive capacities of the continent;
- Values like democracy and respect for human rights, which are indeed the structural principles of the EU should be strengthened in the new strategy; and
- Europeans and Africans must set up measurable indicators to monitor progress with regular evaluation and empowerment of the civil society with representation of non-state actors in all future multilateral political processes.

Shared vision

The joint strategy must be undergirded by the following shared vision: ‘Towards a genuine partnership of equals based on mutual respect, interests and benefits’.

Peace and security

The priority issues in securing peace and security are:

- Strengthening the African Peace and Security Infrastructure with a focus on conflict prevention and resolution, long term capacity building, coordinated and coherent support to the African Standby Brigade and post conflict stabilization and reconstruction;
- Strengthening peace building and peace keeping mechanisms;
- Development of sustainable, predictable and flexible support for African-led peace support operations;
- Support and assistance to the civil society including ecumenical organizations; and
- Capacity building and financial support.

Africa needs to be a place where citizen’s lives are secured. All insecurities impact on human security. Migration is a strategic area of focus in the new partnership as it presents serious human security challenges. Equal opportunity, power sharing and equitable resource share should be ensured for all citizens. Human and environmental development

should be enhanced through empowerment and responsible ownership of resources and means of production by individuals, groups and the society.

The role of the church in assuring peace and security: The churches as part of the civil society should advocate for comprehensive approaches to conflict prevention and resolution, peace building, promotion and protection of human rights and dealing with security challenges. Africans are notoriously religious. The church is therefore the appropriate structure to respond to peace and security challenges in society. The positive leadership influence and the moral authority of the church is a potential that is not well exploited in peace and security issues. There is also a scriptural mandate given to the church to be peacemakers: ‘...Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called sons of God’. Matthew 5: 9.

Good governance

The priority governance issues are: promotion of democratic governance and human rights; exchange of best practices and dissemination of information between Africa and Europe to fight corruption and develop anticorruption strategies; strengthening of a free media; the fight against illicit trade in Africa’s natural resources and the illegal trade in cultural goods; the repatriation of illegally acquired cultural assets; and strengthening of pan African initiatives for governance such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the African Charter for Democracy, Governance and Election.

The church can encourage good governance through practicing it in her own structures, playing exemplary roles that could help the faith community and the community at large to practice good governance. The church has to also be the voice of the voiceless in areas where the African society suffers because of lack of good governance. The church has to stand for the weak and vulnerable groups in the society. It should show love and compassion to all but stand for the truth in a constructive manner, strengthen networking with other faith groups and promote a policy of religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence in the continent.

Trade and economic cooperation

The following are priority issues that need to be addressed if international trade will be beneficial to the African people:

- Private sector development should be supported by appropriate African economic growth strategies;
- Promotion of a stable, harmonized and efficient legal framework for business free from unnecessary red tape;
- Promotion of corporate social responsibility;
- Enhancement of business support services and access to credit;
- Improvement of intra and inter-state trade by improving the infrastructure;
- Strengthening of communication through improved road networks, telephone and internet services;
- Provision and training of adequate technical human capacity;
- Harmonization of trade rules and regimes including promotion of South-South trade;

- Improving African standards to access better international markets; and
- The establishment of bilateral development-oriented trade relationships between Europe and Africa by supporting African business to meet European standards and to develop its productive capacity through increased aid for trade. Both parties should collaborate in the advocacy for the democratization of global multilateral trade frameworks and global multilateral governance institutions.

The joint strategy should support regional and continental integration that is challenged by the EPAs being negotiated.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized:

- The achievement of the MDG and meeting the set targets on education, health, gender, youth and children's rights;
- Good stewardship of Africa's resources. The resources should be managed well and responsibly and sustainably used;
- Climate change and environment enhancement including checking pollution, environmental degradation and desertification;
- Sustainable management of energy and water (with an emphasis on renewable energy);
- Agriculture including the promotion of food security and food safety, strengthening capacities in farming, promoting crop diversification in rural areas, promoting risk management and early-warning systems, promoting institutional reforms and strengthening agricultural research for development;
- Addressing unemployment and decent work issues; and
- Migration and mobility.

The EU-Africa strategy has to focus on coordinated efforts that could lead to Africa's self respect and identity, an Africa that totally depends on its resources overcoming the current dependency syndrome and an Africa that gets its justifiable share in global trade.

All the development issues should be individually addressed and discussed with the participation and ownership of all stakeholders including churches and other faith based organizations in order to prevent the imposition of European development models.

2.2.3 Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

Although there are improvements in the relationship between the EU and Africa the selective or separate engagement with different African states indicates unbalanced engagement or assistance. The EU countries are highly developed unlike the emerging African countries. This unbalanced trade relationship benefits only the EU and leads to the economic deterioration of African countries. Some EU countries favour their former colonies with more development assistance provided to these former colonies as opposed to other countries. If development assistance is going to be genuine and beneficial to Africa as a continent then there is need for a continental approach in the disbursement.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa strategy are: If the strategy is genuinely put into practice, it will significantly contribute to a well developed, secure, peaceful Africa and strengthen partnership between the EU and African countries.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are: food security, education, clean water supply, human rights and justice, good governance, health care and HIV/AIDS, peace and security, and a well-established infrastructure.

The envisaged partnership will best benefit the African people if: it helps Africa to promote its culture, values, and products and to get technological skills transfer, economic development, exchange of knowledge, experience sharing and reduce pollution thereby protecting the environment.

The joint strategy should focus on promotion of indigenous knowledge, experience and culture. It should emphasize on ensuring politically stable, debt free, independent and technologically and economically advanced African states.

Shared vision

The joint strategy should keep and create economic, social and development balance in all aspects of human need.

Peace and security

The African Union Peace and Security Council and its component institutions-the Committee of the Wise and the Conflict Early Warning Mechanism-are a priority. These will help individual countries to focus on and adopt indigenous methods of conflict prediction and early warning, conflict management and peace building. Africa should have a strategic emphasis on human security. The EU should also support this strategic focus on human security. The strategy could contribute to the retention of Africa's human resources and minimize the brain drain.

The church has an important role in peace making, reconciliation, peace building processes and sustaining peace in societies. The church can help people to look for the root causes of conflict before it gets out of hand, facilitate forums for dialogue, and mediate the conflicting parties through faith based partnerships.

Good governance

Good governance needs to be participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and it should follow the rule of law. This ensures that corruption is eradicated, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society. These should be the priority agendas for governance in both Europe and Africa. The establishment of well functioning political systems based on democracy, justice and respect for human right is also a priority.

In theory, almost all African leaders say that they are practicing good governance. No African leader is honest to criticize themselves for not upholding good governance. There is need for a study on how the European and African practice of good governance can be complimentary.

The role of the church in assuring good governance includes: encouraging good governance through advocating and promoting it among the people. The church owns the necessary infrastructure to help decision makers exercise good governance. The church can contribute a lot in establishing strong interfaith partnerships to sustain activities pertaining to good governance. Through inter faith partnerships the church can also make sustainable efforts to attain good governance at the regional and continental level.

Trade and regional cooperation

The trade agreement between the EU and Africa should consider the taxation policies and the economic situation of the African countries especially the developing countries. In addition to this, the products that the EU countries export to Africa should consider the purchasing power of Africans. A common trade policy and knowledge and technology transfer will facilitate growth in African economies. The countries in turn will get large markets to mobilize domestic savings.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized: education, youth and children and health. The development issues should be addressed individually to ensure effective impact.

2.2.4 Lutheran World Federation-Ethiopia

Key development issues

In its development work the LWF-Ethiopia has noted the following challenges: that the bulk of development assistance and resources from the EU go to the government. This leaves limited resources to non governmental organizations. It is imperative for the envisaged joint strategy to appreciate the special niche of civil society organizations in development and provide adequate funds for their work. Civil society organizations are close to beneficiary communities and have nurtured effective processes of social accountability that are often lacking among state actors.

The following development issues should be prioritized: agriculture and food security; water; health; and education. It is important for Africa to be aware of the international political economy of the joint strategy being negotiated with the EU in the light of the interest of other international actors in Africa. These include China and India.

2.3 Lesotho

2.3.1 Christian Council of Lesotho

Any avenues availed for ecumenical engagement with multilateral political processes in Africa and with other international multilateral political processes on issues of Africa's international relations need to be seized. Often African state actors have entered into bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments that are least understood by the people who are not consulted in the process but bear the consequences of the agreements at the political, social and economic levels. Public consultation and participation should therefore be an inbuilt requirement for all future multilateral negotiations towards partnership agreements and other commitments that state actors enter into on behalf of their people. Such an involvement of the people at the negotiation phase paves way for social accountability. Collaboration between the two continental bodies-the African Union and the AACC needs to be strengthened and this study process should serve as a building block.

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

The current EU-Africa relationship is not based on equitable sharing and mutual accountability and is still a master-servant relationship.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are: it will be a partnership based on interdependence and respect for a nation-state's rights and sovereignty. The EU should acknowledge its role in plundering and impoverishing Africa through continued imperialism. Development assistance should be scaled up as a form of reparations.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are: infrastructure development; food sovereignty and HIV/AIDS. The envisaged partnership will best benefit the African people if it is based on respect and equality and mutual accountability.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: reparations and development.

Peace and security

There is need to move from a reactive approach to peace and security that often sees many actors engaged in firefighting to a proactive approach to human security that entails conflict prevention, addressing the root causes of conflicts, peace building and provision and protection of social security.

Good governance

Africa should not work towards good governance in order to meet development assistance conditionalities of the EU. Africa should set its own governance agenda. The church has a special role in encouraging good governance through empowering local communities to understand and appreciate good governance and their rights. The church

has a special role to engage governments and political actors to uphold good governance and ensure efficient delivery of social services.

Trade and regional cooperation

The nascent industries in African countries need to be protected from free trade regimes that may stunt their growth. Africa should safeguard its interests in the multilateral trade agreements it enters into with the EU. International trade should impact positively on regional integration and not exploit intra-regional trade regimes for the benefit of external actors.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized:

- Food security and agriculture;
- Science and technology;
- Health;
- Education;
- Youth; and
- Environment and climate change.

2.3.2 Lesotho Catholic Bishops Conference

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

It is an unequal partnership in which Africa is viewed as a beggar and Europe is the giver. The continued dependency syndrome makes Africa vulnerable to the machinations of Europe. At church relations level, the partnership with European churches is bad and distasteful in which the Europeans are senior partners while African churches are junior partners.

The 'have-have-nots' distinction is very clear in the church relations and the churches of the South have no voice. The EU dominates church structures and often African church structures can be broken at their whim to ensure they have leaders who secure their interests in Africa. EU churches dominate and African churches are their partners for fundraising purposes. The international church agencies operating in Africa that are established and funded from Europe and North America also adopt a dominating demeanour and often preside over divisions of the church in Africa.

There is lack of unity in Africa with political parties that are fragmented into competing factions. Politics is viewed as a way of employment and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Hatred is also born out of this.

The current EU-Africa relationship appears as a partnership between a man and a boy hence it is not a true partnership. There is dominance of one of the parties. Hence the word partnership should not be used to describe Africa's relationship with Europe as the word has been used to blind Africa often.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are: resources will be provided for the empowerment of the African people and people will be capacitated to do things for themselves.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Economic empowerment of all structures of society: the youth, women and men;
- Human resource development;
- Infrastructure development;
- Health including HIV/AIDS. This entails access to treatment and nutrition, equipment and adequate human resources (trained health personnel) to manage the epidemic;
- That the flight of trained African health professionals to Europe will be stopped;
- Increased funding to assure the rural reach of health services; and
- Ensuring that development funding reaches the targeted beneficiaries.

The envisaged partnership will best benefit the African people if: we build our own capacity, multinational corporations are checked and regulated, Europe pays reparations for historical injustices and grand corruption is checked.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: empowerment to correct the unequal partnership as sharing commonalities requires equally capacitated partners.

Peace and security

Peace education is a priority in assuring peace and security. It should entail training communities in peace building and civic education that focuses on democracy, peace and development and ensures political sycophancy and the instrumentalization of differences for political expediency are checked.

The church leadership needs to keep a critical distance in their engagement and accompaniment of political actors for peace. Church leaders complicity in their support to the ruling party makes it difficult for them to speak truth to power as they are then viewed as an appendage to the ruling party. They therefore lose their prophetic voice to mediate among competing groups in society and help check or halt instability.

Church leaders should not be involved in elective politics. Instead they should be impartial to mediate among competing societal groups. The church should strive to nurture a just society where justice and equality are key values. It should also check the patronizing behaviour of political actors. The church is also well equipped to undertake conflict early warning using its vast network. This adds to its prophetic voice and calls for a well informed church leadership.

Good governance

Priority governance issues are: transparency and accountability; responsiveness to emerging situations; effective communication; and ensuring the independence of the judiciary.

The role of the church in assuring good governance includes: being good role model of servant leadership/servanthood; promoting the leadership of humility-the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere model for Africa; nurturing servant and humble leaders; and encouraging leaders to serve as Jesus who emptied himself to serve God's people.

Trade and regional cooperation

Africa loses in trade with Europe as it competes with a giant even with regards to goods in which it has comparative advantage. The envisaged joint strategy should come up with mechanisms to assure Africa's economic growth, ensure capacity building and technology transfer for Africa's development; stop economic dumping of second hand or poor quality goods; capacitate African countries to carry out quality control of imported goods to secure the health of their people; halt the obtaining unfair and unbalanced trade; ensure enforcement of international standards; and carry out public education.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized:

- Health-to ensure a healthy mind in a health body;
- Capacity building through education. Training at all levels of education should aim at self reliance;
- Food security and agriculture;
- Water;
- Debt cancellation;
- Women, youth and children;
- People with disabilities-they seem to have been overlooked in the *Outline for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as Endorsed by the Ministerial Troika Meeting of 15th May 2007*; and
- Migration and the attendant challenges of xenophobia and human trafficking.

The AACC and the African Union should ensure that the EU-Africa summit benefits from views collated from national, sub regional and continental consultations.

2.4 Kenya

The study targeted six organizations in Kenya: Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA), Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA), Methodist Church, Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Presbyterian Church of East Africa and the Salvation Army-East Africa Territory.

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa Strategy

The relationship between Europe and Africa continues to be one-sided with Europe reaping immense benefits and dominating. There is need for strategies to mitigate the

‘master-servant’ impacts of colonialism that have led to the imbalance in the current relationship between Europe and Africa. There is uncertainty in the ownership and long term sustainability of the EU-Africa strategy. An African strategy for the EU is lacking hence there is lack of clarity on Africa’s interests in the relationship with the EU.

There is evidence that while emphasizing on the role of the civil society and the private sector in development strategies in Africa, the EU has failed to provide space for European civil society organizations to participate in the development of the 2005 EU strategy for Africa. The strategy failed to link its political objective to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals which are universal development benchmarks and are of critical importance to Africa.

The EU has completely failed to address the concerns of African governments to protect their agricultural markets and small farmers in the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO. The EU now supports the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements with African and other African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Churches are greatly aware that the EU determines a lot of what goes on in Africa and therefore the well being of the people of the continent. African leaders and negotiators in EU-Africa negotiations have limited capability of articulating African interests as the EU sets the agenda and uses all means including manipulation, secrecy and corruption to arrive at desired results. This is compounded by the absence of preparatory meetings with stakeholders and consultation prior to the negotiations. Some leaders and negotiators are also lacking in legitimacy to represent their people and often pursue selfish material gains.

The participation of the citizenry in priority setting, programming and evaluation of bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments is lacking both in the EU and in Africa. Respondents wondered whether the EU had consulted its citizenry and civil society on EPAs and whether it upholds a participatory system of governance and decision making on issues affecting its citizens.

Respondents feel that multinational corporations owned by the EU have institutionalized corruption in Africa. The EU is therefore the ultimate benefactor of the proceeds of corrupt deals between African political elites and multinational corporations as often the proceeds are transferred and hidden in the EU.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- Quality development assistance would be disbursed in time and without conditionalities. If the EU has the interest of Africa at heart development assistance should lead to improved livelihoods of the citizens of Africa;
- That European and African state actors will involve their citizens and civil society in discerning their priority needs and concerns before entering into bilateral and multilateral commitments and partnerships;

- Decision made in the joint EU-Africa strategy will benefit from extensive consultations with the citizens and civil society organizations of the two continents and will eventually benefit the citizens;
- That the joint EU-Africa strategy will be sensitive to the needs and priority concerns of the citizenry and will provide for the active participation of the people in its implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- That the joint EU-Africa strategy is not meant to institutionalize continued exploitation of Africa's resources by the EU but will be of mutual benefit to both continents; and
- That the international community and the EU will support the development framework of the African Union-NEPAD-towards the improvement of the socio-economic status of the African people.

Trade and Regional Cooperation

Respondents underscore the need for fair trade between the EU and Africa aware that the EU continues its discriminatory practices towards African commodities. This is often done through strict quality standards which the EU is reluctant to enforce for its goods exported to Africa.

Inequalities in the global economic system and unfair terms of trade have perpetually ensured Africa continues to supply world markets with primary products that are processed in the EU thus not fetching their optimum value. The EPAs are the products of this unfair international trade system that aims at entrenching EU interests while perpetuating Africa's role as a market for EU processed and surplus primary produce. EPAs will therefore result in the death of local agricultural and industrial initiatives leading to increased dependency.

Trade is important for food security. Providing access to European markets should serve as an incentive for continued food production. However, cheap agricultural products from the EU as a result of subsidies given to European farmers will compromise African farmers' production and food security within families. The resultant loss of livelihoods will lead to malnutrition and increased poverty. This is reminiscent of the experiences of the early 1990s as a result of liberalization. Africa should strive for food sufficiency and food sovereignty through diversifying its production.

Respondents were uncertain about the prospects of political integration of African regions and the entire continent but appreciate that trade has a critical role to play in nurturing good neighbourliness and in fostering regional integration and regional approaches to conflict prevention and transformation.

Key Development Issues

The following development issues should be prioritized: debt cancellation, good governance, corruption, health and killer diseases (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS), poverty and access to markets.

The heavy debt burden borne by African countries, corruption, dependency, bad governance, lack of technology to exploit available natural resources, lack of access to European markets through unfair trade, ignorance and unemployment are responsible for poverty, conflict, the increased spread of HIV/AIDS and the many other problems facing the African continent.

Climate Change

African populations are highly dependent on good climatic conditions for their food and livelihoods and will be greatly affected by climate change. The impact of climate change is already being felt in the continent but key actors in the international system who are also the greatest emitters of greenhouse gases have not shown commitment to changing their production and consumption lifestyles, addressing the threat of climate change and supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts in the countries of the South.

Stewardship of Africa's Resources for Development

Respondents felt that land and water resources greatly influence conflict situations at various levels in the continent. Appropriate policies in the management and sharing of the extraction and appropriation of the benefits accruing from these resources need to be put in place as a way of arresting the resource curse evident in Africa.

Natural resources should not be left to benefit only a few individuals. In their quest for profits and the use of Africa as a centre of accumulation, multinational corporations have been complicit in human rights violations, corruption and bad governance. As instruments of the foreign policies of their countries, multinational corporations have enjoyed the protection and support of their home countries and have often exhibited arrogance in their dealings with African states. There is an urgent need for a transformative African political and economic leadership to assure good stewardship of Africa's resources.

Health

Respondents have underscored the need for scaling up awareness creation and provision of information on HIV/AIDS, the availability of treatment and care services including antiretroviral drugs and the need for adequate nutrition in managing the pandemic.

The EU should increase its funding to the Global Fund to allow for an increase in the funding allocated to research on the treatment and management of HIV/AIDS. This includes support for the research institutions in the South that are engaged in cutting edge research on vaccines for HIV/AIDS. The EU should stop its discrimination and denial of the rights of movement and association of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Immigration policies that prioritize an HIV test and the denial of visas on the basis of HIV state serve only to perpetuate stigma and discrimination at the societal level.

Debt Cancellation

Debt cancellation is essential to set African countries on the development path. Debts, many of which were and are still being negotiated for without the involvement of citizens in both the North and the South, are used as tools for control and perpetuation of

dependency. The EU should stop playing politics with regards to debts cancellation and should cancel all debt including odious debts that were unfairly negotiated.

International Financial Institutions (the IMF and the World Bank) continue to operate based on policies that favour the North. The employment policies of the International Financial Institutions and other multilateral institutions such as the United Nations are also discriminatory to Africans and people from the South. There is an urgent need to democratize multilateral institutions of global political and economic governance.

The debt burden is costly to humanity and Africa. This is evident in the lack of health services; prevalence of curable diseases; poor nutrition or complete lack of food; poor infrastructure; ignorance; unhealthy crowding as a result of migration to the urban areas and to the North in search of better livelihoods and the collapse of social and ethical systems that are critical for a stable and safe society.

The concern on illegal migration to the North is a direct reflection of the unsustainability of the global politico-economic system. Though poverty is a major factor behind illegal migration, the unfair global politico-economic system driven by the North is the ultimate cause. Immigration policies are also not just and allow easy movement of people of the North around the world and restrict the movement of people of the South.

Conclusion

The study established that EU-Africa relations and international trade regimes are not priority issues for the churches and church related organizations in Kenya. However, churches are aware of the systemic factors that account for the misery and poverty of their faithful. These include unfair terms of trade, dependency on development assistance and the debt burden.

The study concludes that policies made by political and economic elites at the international level are not designed to bring meaningful change in the lives of the ordinary citizenry. These policies often benefit the EU and countries of the North. Trade policies are aimed at securing a continued market for EU goods while immigration policies are skewed in favour of the EU.

The study calls for openness in multilateral political processes and the involvement of citizens in making decisions on issues that affect them. The church and the civil society have a role to play in making people aware of the EU-Africa relations in order for them to hold their governments accountable for the dealings with the EU.

2.5 Tanzania

2.5.1 Anglican Church of Tanzania

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

It is important to acknowledge that the emergence of the Church and Christianity in Africa is part of the historical relations between Europe and Africa. Religion has played

an important role in making this history of Europe and Africa's relationship and interaction. The church and Christianity played a key role in facilitating colonialism and slavery. The church cannot therefore absolve itself of complicity in the two historical injustices. There is therefore need for clarity on the nature of the engagement that is desired in the new joint strategy taking into account historical injustices and seeking for reparations.

There is need to be conscious of the international political economy of the joint strategy being negotiated. Many actors in the international system are interested in Africa's resource wealth. This wealth is what has built Europe and North America. It is important for Africa to realize that the envisaged partnership with Europe is not motivated by altruistic reasons but by the strategic interest Europe has in Africa and its resources. It is therefore essential for Africa to check that slavery does not manifest itself in new ways such as factories that are set up by European and North American multinational corporations and that exploit available cheap labour and lax enforcement of environmental standards and regulations in the continent.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision:

- That Africa is not a subject to be sympathized with, it is not incapable;
- Europe's acknowledgement of responsibility in historical injustices and offer of reparations;
- That together Europe and Africa are seeking for a better humane habitable place on earth, better meaning of life and living and a meaningful life for all the peoples of the two continents;
- Respect;
- Nice habitable environment that is taken care of;
- Peace;
- Quest for human life that makes sense;
- Water; and
- It is not fair to think that it is only Africa that needs help. It is essential to adopt a universalistic approach in addressing the quality and value of life of the peoples of the two continents and strive for a meaningful and value-filled life for both peoples. This calls for acknowledgement of Africa's concern on the preponderance in Europe of desperation, frustration, loneliness-human problems that can be addressed together by the two continents.

Peace and security

The conception of security should go beyond arms and address social justice, democracy and justice in health, education and provision of other social services. Political cultures that encourage unfairness and corruption are threats to security. Cleavages of rich political elites spawns disaffection among the poor and the feelings of relative deprivation leads to insecurity. There is therefore a need for justice in politics and the provision of social security and good health for the people.

The church has a special role in assuring peace in its promotion of dialogue and discussion on any conflicting situations and issues and in its encouragement of a vibrant public policy debate and discourse that encourages transparency on the part of the government and political actors. It should also ensure that issues of concern are addressed and not postponed until latent conflicts escalate into overt violent confrontations.

Good governance

There is urgent need to offer human rights education to the people. Tanzania faces the following challenges to good governance: the constitution is not accessible to the people; lack of knowledge of human rights; lack of transparency on the part of the government and political actors; lack of consultation and participation of the people in governance; government is turned to a clique of a few elites; and lack of participatory governance.

The church should strive to ensure and advocate for the participation of the community in governance structures. This ensures transparency and social accountability in governance. The government should also be encouraged to disengage from its dominance of oversight institutions that provide very important checks and balances in the structures of governance and the overall governance practice.

Trade and regional cooperation

There is need to target the micro-economy and rural communities. There should be a deliberate effort to formalize the informal economy and strengthen it for a strong economic enterprise at the local levels of African countries. There should be capacity building efforts targeting the micro-enterprises at the local level. There should be a sustained focus on rural livelihoods through the formalization of the informal economy to assure a huge and diverse formal economy.

The macro-economy is essential too but takes time and a lot of investment. Technology transfer that accompanies foreign direct investments into Africa does not contribute to sustainable development but creates a false sense of economic growth as the new investments continue to be foreign owned with the attendant practices of capital flight through the repatriation of profits to home countries. Foreign direct investment does not therefore promote overall economic growth hence does not change the lives of the majority of the people in African countries.

Economic cooperation is essential but it is important to appreciate that Europe and Africa are at different levels of development where Europe is mostly industrialized and attracting a lot of investment while Africa is still industrializing and struggling with trickles of foreign direct investment. There is a danger that the free market economy advocated for in the EPAs under negotiation may stifle industrial development in some African countries.

Key development issues

The development issues should be addressed separately. Separating them will ensure that due attention is given and significance of each development issue is addressed. The following development issues should be prioritized:

- Education, health and infrastructure development;
- Migration;
- Fair trade and access to European markets;
- Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) development;
- Climate change and water; and
- HIV/AIDS.

Infrastructural development promotes economic growth and should focus on enhancement of highways and rural roads. Poverty eradication should also be dealt with and linked with the identified priority development issues.

2.5.2 Christian Council of Tanzania

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

The EU-Africa partnership is deemed as important at this time that is marked by myriads of global relationships and alliances. However, the current EU-Africa partnership is not fair to Africa especially on trade and economic issues. The following illustrates this contention: the EU is ready to import raw materials (primary goods) in order to strengthen its industries hence producing value added products and re-exporting them to Africa. It is, however, not ready or prepared to transfer or share technology to Africa to enable value addition in the continent. A fair partnership demands that this issue is addressed.

True prosperity to the peoples of both continents will come out of the two parties being true and committed to the partnership and the understanding of the implications of the partnership-the international political economy of a privileged and strategic relation with one actor in the international system noting that there are other actors eager to engage with the African continent.

The expectations of the joint strategy are:

- That the partnership should improve economic support and allow for fair trade that sees Africa's access to European markets and technology;
- Improvement of nascent industries in African countries;
- Better EU-Africa partnership than the present;
- Harmony and fairness especially to Africa;
- Appreciation of the views of the civil society;
- Appreciation of the input of the African Diaspora in the joint strategy; and
- A pro-Africa partnership.

The 'master-servant' and 'rich-poor' relations experienced in the last 500 years of Africa's relationship with Europe are still prevalent today in the economic, political and social engagements between the two continents. It is important to acknowledge the past relations Africa has had with Europe and use it as a reference and grow from it. It is important for Africa to use the injustices in the past relations with Europe as leverage in the current negotiations.

The current negotiations for a joint strategy are being undertaken on the basis of an unbalanced relationship between the two official parties. It is important for Africa to use its diplomacy of development to its people's benefit. African people are destined to have a better society.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Education for all;
- Technology transfer and sharing;
- Economic justice, fair trade and access to markets;
- Infrastructure development;
- Political stability;
- Improved social services (education, health, water and sanitation and infrastructure);
- Gender equality and empowerment of women; and
- Democracy, good governance and justice.

The church believes that humans are ambitious and are in a quest for development and the good life. However, human beings as fallen beings need direction. The church has then to be taken on board to participate in decision making structures and forums so that outcomes in terms of development programmes and other policy interventions benefit the people. The prophetic voice of the church therefore is needed at the official parties level (EU, AU) and also at the UN.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: economic justice and fair trade.

Peace and security

Priority issues to assure peace and security in Africa are: a stop to arms trafficking; a stop to political interference especially unilateral actions of external actors in Africa; and a stop to unfair contracts that are imposed by the EU on African states.

Good governance

The failure of political leadership is to blame for Africa's woes. Priority issues to assure good governance in Africa are: transparency and accountability especially in procurement; participatory public policy making; checking corruption and its international dimension; and institutional capacity building.

The role of churches in encouraging good governance are: being role models of best practice in transformative leadership for society; speaking for the marginalized and engaging in advocacy and lobbying for their cause; and prioritizing on good governance and participative leadership.

Governments need to appreciate the special niche of churches and faith based organizations and listen to their prophetic voice. Often churches contributions to national

debates are taken lightly. Churches are also weak in public policy advocacy on issues of interest to the church and the people. Churches need to build their capacity in public policy advocacy and seize the space in the public sphere towards improved service delivery and policy involvement as legitimate players in the policy framework. Churches have the theological imperative to work and witness to the world.

The AACC should sustain the consultation process with stakeholders and its constituents on Africa's international relations and seek support for the AACC-AU Liaison Office as an important avenue for engaging with continental and global governance issues.

Trade and regional cooperation

Priority issues for trade and regional cooperation to serve development needs of Africa are: Africa to develop a common market and trade system; putting in place common trade and economic policies that will allow African states to have a strong market; facilitating mobility in and outside Regional Economic Communities; and stopping unfair trade terms in which, for example, Tanzania only earns 3% in royalties from its Gold while Norway is able to earn over 70% royalty from its oil.

The current EPAs being currently negotiated with different regions of the continent may render the commitments gotten under the current negotiations irrelevant. The EPAs negotiations ought to benefit from the ultimate joint strategy that comes out of the consultation process.

Key development issues

The development issues should not be lumped together. Instead each development issue should be highlighted specifically and addressed separately. The following development issues should be prioritised: fair trade and economic justice for the African continent; and the treatment of African migrants and refugees in Europe.

2.5.3 Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT)

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

There is need for Europe to realize the enormity of the historical injustices it visited on Africa, show understanding, offer an admission of guilt and seek forgiveness. Aware of covert activities and intentions through which Europe often seeks ways of benefiting from Africa's vast resources one is bound to ask of the new partnership being negotiated between Europe and Africa: Are they seeking new ways of colonizing us?

The political independence of many African states has not benefited the majority. In the international system, political superiority has now shifted to economic superiority and oppression. Those who think they are free politically are not free economically. Even intra-continental relations are not fair and there is a way in which the economically superior states are gaining from developing countries. For example, in South Africa-Tanzania relations, South Africa benefits most as it is now active in the mining and the hospitality and services sectors in Tanzania.

Europe seems to exploit the lack of expertise and technology in Africa that has been occasioned by the flight of African professional to Europe and North America in search of better paying jobs. Drawing from history we need to address the historical stigma that keeps recurring. In the social sphere, black Africans are still regarded as second class beings and as not belonging to the uppermost of any national or global citizenship.

Racism still defines relations and interactions between Europe and Africa. There is also the racist attitude that is often overt and mostly covert that Africans are inferior and this does not promote cooperation. For example, it is important to reflect on how we view an African scholar as compared with a European scholar despite their equal academic competence. There are still racial tensions at various sectors of the two societies. Racial oppression is still prevalent and the oppressed race does not trust the oppressor and there is difficulty in forgiving and forgetting.

Unity is empty without addressing the historical injustices and the bitterness of the past that still affects how Africa relates with Europe. In the new partnership there is need to check that the traits of the historical past do not often come up and affect contemporary relations between Europe and Africa.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision:

- An effective cooperative partnership relationship that is sustainable;
- That the factors in the past/historical relationship between Europe and Africa—those of ‘master/servant’ and so on should be addressed and not allowed to manifest themselves in the envisaged partnership;
- The oppressors of the past and present should humble themselves, be sorry of the past and undertake deliberate acts that show the shame of their past injustices; and
- Europe should be open and transparent in its commitment to offer reparations for past injustices visited on Africa. This could be done through the willingness of Europe to support the economic development of Africa; listening to the needs of African countries; a stop to unilateral exercise of power in Africa; and a sense of responsibility on Africa’s human development.

Peace and security

Africa’s problems should be approached from an African context. It is important to interrogate the issues in contention in the conflicts in Africa. A special attention needs to be given to Africa’s complicated political processes in which: the political interests of international actors manifest themselves and fuel African conflicts; and international political actors seek to safeguard their foreign policy interests and are biased in dealing with African conflicts. This is evident in the way they proffer political settlements that seek to ease the conflict situations to their favour and are not interested in long term stability of the involved countries. Parties in African conflicts should therefore realize that the complicity of international actors is not for their or the continent’s benefit.

The church’s role in assuring peace and security should be in:

- Honesty and moral diplomacy that is manifest in a pro-active and visible way in the African countries;
- Participation in encouraging dialogue towards solving conflicting issues;
- Advocacy for focused participation of international actors in resolving African conflicts; and
- Approaching conflicts from the Christian point of view that seeks to observe human dignity and justice for all human beings.

Good governance

The following are manifest in governance in Africa and should be addressed:

- Governance systems are not working even where they are in place;
- There is no adherence to existing guidelines such as public officers ethics and codes of conduct;
- Abuse of office is rife as there is no honesty to the public office and role;
- There is rampant predation of public goods;
- There is the challenge of leadership in which there is no adequate philosophy of leadership geared towards representation and involvement of the people in decision making on issues that affect them;
- The mentality of the people on the concept of sacrifice in leadership is lacking;
- There is no willingness to step down in favour of others;
- The attitude of key individuals and their perception of leadership is wrong as manifested in practices such as nepotism and failure to respect the labour or decent work regulations. There is therefore a need for self criticism in leadership;
- Few individuals manifest transformative leadership as they mobilize and serve teams and the people;
- There is also prevalence of revolutionaries who appear to be pro-change but often manifest the excesses of those they dethroned;
- Governance systems and structures are mostly not in place or are not well established and often no one cares;
- Community infrastructure is lacking and the financial systems are also not effective;
- It is important to acknowledge that much of foreign direct investment in Africa appears to be neocolonialism. Selfish leaders who are corrupt and lacking in fellow thinking do not have the heart for the people when they negotiate trade and investment deals that eventually hurt the people; and
- Good governance should aim at improving governance structures and institutions and ensure leadership succession planning.

Trade and regional cooperation

The international economic order including Europe are to blame for the current state of Africa's trade with the rest of the world. The production and consumption patterns of Europeans are to blame. There is need for clear trade and cooperation policies and structures that are mutually agreed and enforced by both parties for fair trade and economic cooperation. The policies should be constantly reviewed taking into

consideration the reality obtaining among African producer countries. Good terms of trade should be offered by both parties.

Efforts should be made to safeguard the suppliers and consumers of goods from both continents. For example, African sisal exports to Europe need to be safeguarded from the resort to synthetic fibre. The economic planning of European countries should not be biased against Africa's economic development.

Europe has a moral duty to give developing African countries the necessary space to develop. This is possible through technology transfer, debt relief and funding for economic growth. This will relieve African countries of their economic burden. With debt relief, Tanzania was able to construct one or two classrooms in each primary school in the country.

Key development issues

Development issues should be grouped into four or five groups based on their interrelatedness and also on the MDGs framework.

2.5.4 Tanzania Episcopal Conference

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa strategy

The benefits that accrue from a partnership are central in the decision on the nature and value of Africa's relationship with Europe. The current relationship is not very bad. It is important to examine the nature of the bilateral relations African countries have with the EU and then the multilateral relation the African Union has with the EU.

At a bilateral level, Tanzania maintains a good relationship with the EU. There is evidence of dependency in which Tanzania depends on the EU for funding to its development projects and markets for its goods. Since Tanzania's completion of the HIPIC initiative Europe has cancelled its debts and the funding has gone to social services. Now EU funding goes to budget support for development projects. A basket funding approach has been adopted. Ten EU countries pool their development funds into the basket fund and Tanzania decides on its use in development projects. This has helped check the earlier disjointedness in diverse funding to different projects by individual EU countries and myriads of reporting to the different funders. However, the EU benefits more from the current partnership as often European advisors and consultants are a conditional element in the development funding and often European companies undertake key development projects having won in the international tendering process advocated for in the development funding agreements entered into. Europe still does not trust African governments and there is a way in which, through stricter monitoring, one feels their attitude is that their money is being stolen.

The expectations of the new partnership being negotiated are:

- It is utopia to think that Africa's relationship to Europe and the joint strategy being negotiated may be useful to its people. There is need to appreciate that Africa is dealing with business people who have interest in profits. There should

be no expectation of any altruism from them. Africa should, however, struggle for fair trade and an end to the vicious cycle of exploitation especially of those in the informal economy and the peasantry. There is need for a common agreement to check international exploitation. There is therefore no much expectation that things will change from business as usual and Africans may not benefit from the joint strategy;

- The EU will benefit from the opening up of African markets;
- There may not be any benefits to governance in the African countries as new funds may end up being misused with the intended beneficiaries receiving very little;
- The new partnership calls for a level of improvement in African structures; and
- That EU will be willing to help Africa climb the ladder of development.

Key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the African continent that need to be addressed in the joint EU-Africa strategy are:

- Poverty eradication;
- Infrastructure development;
- Communication;
- Fair trade agreements;
- The development of small local industries that engage in processing of primary commodities to check the export of primary goods to the EU;
- Social services;
- Good governance; and
- Proper planning is essential to yield infrastructure that assures access to markets by rural farmers and entrepreneurs.

Shared vision

The following should undergird the shared vision: Europeans should be positive that Africa can develop. They need to change their attitude and begin believing that Africa can develop and ensure that the envisaged relationship is fair. Most Europeans see Africa as a recipient and further support under the new partnership will be favourable if there is change of this attitude.

Peace and security

There is need to strengthen inter-personal relationships. Priority should be in strengthening relations at the individual and family levels as unity and peace at these levels is essential for societal unity and peace. Religious groups especially Christians and Muslims are well placed to strengthen interpersonal relations and peace and unity at individual and family levels. There is also need for sincere inter-religious dialogue.

The church's role in assuring peace and security includes: intra-religious dialogue and cooperation; involvement in advocacy for pro-poor policies as poverty is the main cause of conflicts; and engaging in interventions that seek to support communities to get out of poverty. Pro-poor policies are certain to do away with extreme poverty.

Good governance

It is imperative to ask where Africa's governance agenda comes from and how it is shaped and by whom. It is evident that leaders in power strive for self preservation and always seek to protect themselves. Other experiences in Africa dispel the emphasis on democracy. For example, a military junta has managed to stabilize Mauritania, plan for and oversee free and fair elections and then hand over power to the elected civilian president.

What is in place in Africa seems to be European governance agenda for Africa that is intended to secure Europe's own interests. It therefore favours Europe. It is important for Africa to develop its own governance agenda learning and drawing from the EU governance agenda.

The church in Tanzania has limited knowledge of good governance. The church's role in assuring good governance therefore includes: advocacy on the promotion of good governance and capacitating itself on good governance and mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring good governance structures and practice.

Trade and regional cooperation

It is imperative to ask whether Africa is a potential market for European goods. It is important to examine the way European companies are exploiting the relationship and trade agreement they have with the Republic of South Africa to penetrate the wider SADC market hence exploit the regional groupings' tariff reductions and other intra-regional trade incentives. It is important for Africa to negotiate for better terms of trade and a fair trade framework that works for Africa.

Key development issues

The following development issues should be prioritized: infrastructure development including transport infrastructure development; energy and water; agriculture and food security; and gender.

All development issues should be integrated. There is need to capacitate churches for greater involvement in advocacy on development issues. This will check the current disjointedness in the voices from the different Christian denominations and other religious faiths. It is important for churches to prepare themselves and build their capacity in order to be able to engage with development issues and monitor the envisaged partnership between Europe and Africa.

2.6 West Africa

2.6.1 Benin, Ghana and Togo

Views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership and expectations of the proposed joint EU-Africa Strategy

Africans must first liberate their minds from the ‘mental state’ of poverty they have imposed on themselves as a first step towards raising their living standards since a negative mental state could perpetually hold.

The expectations of the envisaged joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- That Africa and Europe must exhibit mutual respect for each other;
- EU and African churches should promote regular interaction through existing ecumenical organizations. They should also encourage and enforce a peer review mechanism within their countries;
- Africa should not become subservient to Europe but rather endorse relationships that recognize the relative strengths and weaknesses of one another and none of the parties should become overbearing; and
- Africa should engage the EU on an equal footing and negotiate on its own terms. The EU should not dictate good governance to Africa.

Peace and Security

The church notes with concern the continued conscription of young boys and girls into armed opposition groups. Civic education and peace education are recommended in fostering peace and security in the continent. The Church should also promote peace through the proclamation of the gospel and the promotion of inter-faith co-existence. Churches must collaborate with other institutions in supporting peace and security in Africa.

Governance

Long-term improvements in health, education and economic growth in African countries requires responsive and representative governments that can implement changes. There is need for greater collaboration and dialogue between governments and stakeholders on policy and governance issues in African countries. Strengthening democratic institutions is therefore of priority.

Trade and Regional Cooperation

Africa’s share of international trade is the lowest of any region in the world despite being the source of some of the world’s most valued minerals and other natural resources including agricultural products.

There is need to address the concern of food security by focusing on trade policies supporting subsistence farming and small-scale production for the local market. This requires protection from the unfair competition of subsidized agricultural products originating from the EU and other developed countries.

Strengthening of the various Regional Economic Communities will address the trade imbalance between Africa and Europe and will guarantee a stronger voice and position for Africa in multilateral trade negotiations. The adoption of a common African currency improved intra-African trade and the formation of regional and continental trade and economic institutions are also highly recommended.

The export of primary products from Africa is a matter of great concern. There is overwhelming consensus among church leaders in West Africa that processing of primary products will guarantee value addition. Fair pricing mechanisms that promote fair trade as part of a new international trade order are strongly advocated for in the joint EU-Africa strategy.

The promotion of fair trade, changing the international economic order, negotiating fair and better prices for African commodities, reducing import duties, and reviewing the international trade order in support of trade in Africa is recommended in the joint EU-Africa strategy. African countries should increase the capacity of their industries, strive for self reliance, support entrepreneurship development and produce goods that are competitive and in which they have comparative advantage. The productive capacity of African countries needs to be enhanced to enable competitive goods to be produced and exported.

The Churches in West Africa are unanimous in their call on African governments not to sign the EPAs in their present form. Governments must create opportunity for discussion and adoption of alternative frameworks to the EPAs as currently designed. The alternative agreement should clearly include clauses that protect African markets.

Key Development Issues

Development assistance has not been beneficial to Africa. It has not demonstrably benefited or improved the situation of Africans. As a result, church leaders have indicated that to ensure the successful use of development assistance structures must be in place to ensure transparency and proper monitoring and evaluation of development projects.

Other measures recommended to ensure the sustainability of development assistance include the proper application of development assistance for its intended purposes. African countries are also encouraged to take ownership of development assistance through adequate engagement in the planning, design and implementation process.

Poverty Eradication

Most respondents affirm economic empowerment as an essential intervention in the reduction and total eradication of abject poverty. Churches must therefore introduce income-generating activities and engage in business ventures that will create employment and job opportunities for the youth. Churches can establish business ventures in sectors and industries such as: the hospitality industry (hotels and guest houses); insurance; transportation; real estate development; and publishing.

Self-help schemes that are common in Ghana (known as 'Susu' in Ghana) and other West African countries aim at promoting better livelihoods of members through provision of credit to minimize the incidence of poverty. Churches should support such micro-finance

institutions towards eradication of poverty and improvement of the living standards of the people. Churches should work ecumenically and share available expertise and resources towards wealth creation. For example, ecumenical cooperative societies and micro-finance institutions should be established as channels for providing soft loans and credit to members, women and youth groups and small-scale entrepreneurs. Education for church members on the availability and judicious use of credit schemes is also essential.

It is also important to provide entrepreneurial skills training to capacitate the poor and marginalized to earn decent incomes. At the local level, churches must promote the culture of self-reliance and teach its members numerical, communication and basic computing skills.

African companies, institutions and even governments should pool resources and invest in business opportunities. Continental investment funds should be established to finance development both at the public and private sectors. More resources need to be allocated for the development of infrastructure to ensure effective provision of social services. African governments should drastically reduce their defence budgets and expenditure. The churches must also advocate for the negotiation of agreements that are beneficial to local people and communities especially in the exploitation of the continent's mineral resources.

Churches should teach and advocate for the raising of productivity through the right attitudes towards work. Church and state collaboration should be purposeful and directed towards the poor in society.

Agriculture

Agriculture remains the bedrock of economic activity in Africa, yet its contribution to wealth creation remains very low and the continent continues to suffer from food insecurity. Some of the factors responsible for the under performance of Africa's agricultural sector include: soil depletion, insect infestation, and the issue of land ownership which often is an impediment to large-scale commercial farming.

Government policy should focus on agriculture as a major factor in development planning, research and implementation and churches must collaborate with the state in formulating agricultural policies that involve farmers. The policies must seek to attract young people into agriculture together with the training of farmers and other resource persons in proper agronomic practices. Churches could also establish commercial agricultural projects and demonstration farms.

Modernization demands that research findings are localized and made available to farmers. Agriculture in Africa should be mechanized by introducing appropriate and improved farming tools and implements while modern technology needs to be adapted to suit local conditions. However, Africa does not need to fully adopt the complex mechanization processes of Europe, but rather adapt processes that fulfill local agricultural and industry concerns and create employment and wealth. Irrigation schemes, marketing and warehousing facilities should also be made available to farmers.

The development of sustainable agricultural policies by African governments and the removal of subsidies to European farmers will create a level playing field that will enable Africa to compete in the global market. In view of their disadvantaged position in relation to European farmers, African farmers should be given subsidies.

Health

Education is central in the promotion of health and control of the spread of diseases. The church is well positioned to undertake community awareness creation and prevention campaigns. The curricula in church seminaries and institutions should be reviewed to integrate HIV/AIDS education. Policy development and the establishment of support structures is recommended in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Creation of common platforms that support networking and consultation amongst religious bodies is recommended.

Migration, Mobility, Employment and Decent Work

On migration, the respondents argued that creation of employment opportunities among other strategies could stem the tide of illegal migration and that development partners for, example, could collaborate with churches to support and institutionalize entrepreneurship skills training and venture capital schemes for business start-ups. Establishment of technical and vocational institutions is also strongly advocated.

The exchange of skilled labour within Africa should be formalized as it will intensify South-South cooperation on skills development. However, a more pragmatic approach will be for African governments to initiate development policies that will retain skilled labour at home. The curriculum of educational institutions should also be reviewed to be more practical and vocation or industry-oriented.

Immigration policies in Africa should include the regularization of the status of migrant workers for financial gain and the establishment of permanent platforms for constant dialogue on issues of migration between stakeholders. Building of strong and viable economies that takes cognizance of social benefits for the underprivileged and marginalized is also strongly encouraged.

Climate Change

The churches call for all actors to minimize the emission of greenhouse gases and support the call by Africa governments to industrial nations of the North to minimize harmful emissions and ratify international agreements on climate change. On its part, Africa should also minimize pollution in rivers and other water bodies and introduce policies that encourage alternative sources of energy.

Governments, churches and other actors should develop programmes to re-generate the environment, undertake good environmental practices and promote afforestation. Additional conservation measures should include the protection of river bodies and waterways from encroachment and physical development, and the implementation of sound environmental management projects. Refusal to accept toxic waste for financial gain and all forms of donations that are likely to pollute the environment should be

encouraged. Municipal legislation and international environmental law should also be enforced to check bad environmental practices.

Debt

Respondents are unanimous in their view that debt owed by African countries should be cancelled unconditionally. In their view, creditors are to adopt and implement the biblical concept of jubilee cancellation of debts as found in Deuteronomy 15 and Leviticus 55.

To curtail dependence on Europe and thus save Africa from falling further into debt, African governments are urged to be more proactive and initiate dynamic policies that will lead to increased productivity. Self-reliance through the increased use of locally-produced goods, increased revenue mobilization and capacity building, are key to the ultimate goal of economic independence.

The concept of accountability needs to be embraced through the introduction and enforcement of anti-corruption laws, good governance, good management of internal and external resources and curbing the profligate lifestyles of the African political leadership.

Respondents also called for restitution and reparation. EU institutions are urged to desist from facilitating and/or accepting stolen wealth from Africa. Such stolen wealth should be returned to the continent. A more reliable approach to lessening the debt burden between the EU and Africa is for African countries to promote and increase intra-African trade and strengthen sub-regional and continental structures.

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is the need to adequately engage the ecumenical family in education and awareness creation on multilateral political processes such as the joint EU-Africa strategy. The establishment of micro-finance institutions to support small business is identified as essential in jump-starting economic development and self-sufficiency.

Churches have also expressed the desire not only to be an integral part of the global economic system but also to be active participants in shaping the outcome that would be beneficial to their communities. Investment options being considered include pooling resources for investment in capital markets to enhance technological and infrastructural development and general advocacy work in which they have been involved for a long time.

The study recommends a radical paradigm shift in development assistance that enhances wealth creation through the establishment of rural and cottage industries in rural communities of Africa to stem the tide of rural-urban migration and improve local economies.

Acknowledging that development needs to take place in an atmosphere of peace and security, the respondents emphasize the importance of good governance. An integral part of this strategy is minimizing, and where possible, eliminating corruption by establishing processes of transparency and accountability. Poverty elimination measures, capacity-

building, debt cancellation and good governance are identified as essential conditions for Africa to improve its current socio-economic and political situation.

Churches as part of civil society organizations that have historical precedence in the development of social services infrastructure in rural Africa for decades should be empowered to become part of the decision-making process in the planning, design and implementation of development programmes aimed at eradicating poverty in Africa.

3 Conclusion

This study sought the views and perspectives of churches, national council of churches and other ecumenical organizations on the nature of the current relationship between Europe and Africa and their concrete proposals on priority issues for Africa and how churches can be effectively involved in the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. The study relied on primary data collected through a survey questionnaire, key informant interviews and focused group discussions. This section makes concluding recommendations based on the findings.

The study concludes that the current EU-Africa relations are a travesty of cooperation, partnership and interdependence and are characterized by the domination of the strong over the weak and the attendant appropriation and exploitation of the resources of the weak. The study recommends that for a true partnership between African and Europe to evolve Europe needs to realize the enormity of the historical injustices it visited on Africa, show understanding, offer an admission of guilt and seek forgiveness. Africa should also use the injustices in the past relations with Europe as leverage in the current negotiations.

The study established that the image of Africa that is portrayed by the European and North American media often shapes the narrow and often wrong conception of the continent and its potential. It therefore recommends that the media cease entrenching and perpetuating the misperceptions of Africa and instead challenge them. Related to this is the recommendation that Europeans should change the way they have elected to perceive Africa and Africans. This will put an end to continued denigration and enforced marginalization of Africans and the continent.

The study moots the idea of an economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful African continent. It therefore recommends that Africa needs to unlearn the syndrome of dependency that permeates the continent. The study also cautions that the African continent should be aware of the international political economy of the joint strategy being negotiated with the EU in the light of the interest other international actors have on the continent.

The study reveals the following as some of the expectations churches have in the joint EU-Africa strategy: a partnership with Africa not a partnership for Africa; a pro-Africa partnership; a true partnership that will be realistic and appreciative of the views and expectations of the civil society; and that Africa will be cautious to safeguard its own

interests. The church in Africa is challenged to take up an advocacy and lobbying role towards promoting human rights including the right to development.

The study concludes that the envisaged partnership between Europe and Africa will best benefit the African people if: there is eradication of the dependency syndrome between the two continents; there is ingenuity in the partnership entered into and the partners are clear and committed to what is agreed; multinational corporations are checked and regulated; Europe pays reparations for historical injustices; and grand corruption is checked.

The following are outlined in the study as the issues that should undergird the shared vision between Europe and Africa in the joint strategy: trustworthiness and fairness; social and economic justice and fair trade including access to European markets; valuing African people and products; and empowerment to correct the unequal partnership as sharing commonalities requires equally capacitated partners.

The study recommends that the conception of peace needs to be broadened to include harmony with the environment, peace of mind and peace of humanity. It also calls for the examination of the root causes and drivers of local conflicts especially the quest for whose interests are served by the conflicts in Africa. Africa is also challenged to develop homegrown models of governance that are relevant and sensitive to African culture, traditions and belief systems.

On trade and regional cooperation, the study recommends that Africa should struggle for fair trade for development and an end to the vicious cycle of exploitation especially of those in the informal economy and the peasantry. The promotion of South-South trade is emphasized.

The study calls on all actors to engage within the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework and The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-the socio-economic development programme of the African Union in the quest for a people-centred sustainable development of the African continent. Emphasis is placed on the importance of interrogating the MDGs and other development frameworks currently being implemented in Africa to check whether they fulfill conditionalities of the International Financial Institutions, whether they are true to the felt needs and priorities of the African people, whether necessary preconditions for their achievement have been met and whether there are strategies in place to assure their achievement.

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5 Annexes

5.1 Annex I: Study Questionnaire

AACC Study on African Ecumenical Engagement with the Consultation Process Towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy

1 Introduction

The African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) are engaged in a dialogue process aimed at elaborating a new 'Joint EU-Africa Strategy' to be adopted at the second EU-Africa Summit which is hoped to be held in December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal. The purpose of the process is to lay the foundations for a strengthened partnership based on a community of values and interests. Both parties agree on the need to fully associate their respective civil societies in the process of formulating the new strategy.

The dialogue process begun in January 2007 with an exchange between the official parties (AU and EU) and has been followed by experts meetings and also civil society meetings focused on the following five interrelated themes:

- a) Shared vision;
- b) Peace and security;
- c) Governance;
- d) Trade and economic cooperation; and
- e) Key development issues.

In this context, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) which has observer status with the African Union has taken the initiative to gather churches' views on the ongoing dialogue process, invite their concrete proposals on priority issues for Africa and how churches can be effectively involved in the strategy. The AACC believes that defining a new framework to structure the relations between Africa and Europe is too important to be left to state actors only hence this facilitation of ecumenical engagement with the dialogue process in formulating the joint strategy. Churches' inputs will be forwarded to the African Union Commission for consideration by the Drafting Committee and the EU-Africa experts troika working group set to meet at the end of October 2007.

The objectives of the study on African ecumenical engagement with the consultation process towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy are:

- To highlight how African churches perceive the EU-Africa partnership so far;
- To collect and collate churches opinions, insights and inputs on the substance of the joint strategy;
- To identify the main expectations of the churches with regards to: peace and security; governance; trade and economic cooperation; and key development issues; and
- To lobby and advocate for the inclusion of the views and priority issues identified by the Africa ecumenical family in the dialogue process and the ultimate Joint EU-Africa Strategy that is adopted.

The imperative for the African ecumenical engagement with the consultation process towards a Joint EU-Africa Strategy is to ensure that the strategy is true to the needs and aspirations of the African people, is grounded on African priorities and is inclusive of non-state actors (the African ecumenical family included (consisting of churches, national councils of churches, sub regional fellowships and other church related institutions)) acknowledging their often overlooked contribution to poverty eradication and sustainable development in the African continent.

2 Study Questionnaire

We will be glad if you found time in your busy schedule to respond to the following questions:

Respondent's Name:	Respondent's Ecumenical Institution:
	Position in the Institution:

2.1 Section One: General Questions on EU-Africa Partnership

Background

The relations between Africa and Europe date back to antiquity if we take into account Europe's interaction with ancient Egypt. For purposes of this study we delimit the scope to the last 500 years of the contemporary relations between the two continents. The injustices of slave trade, colonialism and imperialist plunder of the African continent mark this period in which the patterns of interaction and engagement move from 'master-servant', 'colonizer-colonized' to 'donor-recipient' and then recently to selective/separate engagement with African states. The latter is evident in the three tier relationship that Europe currently pursues with Africa as a region. The three tiers consist of: Sub Saharan Africa countries grouped under the Cotonou Agreement; the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership targeted at the countries of North Africa and built into the New European Neighbourhood Policy and the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement with South Africa. There is therefore urgent need to redefine the relationship.

Questions

1. What are your views on the current/prevaling EU-Africa partnership?
2. What are your expectations towards the proposed new joint strategy?
3. What are the key developmental needs and concerns of the peoples of the continent?
4. What can make Africa's relationship to Europe to be useful to its people?
5. What should the joint strategy emphasize?

2.2 Section Two: Views of the churches with regards to the five main themes discussed by official parties

2.2.1 Shared Vision

Background

The negotiations among the official parties have evolved the following among others as essential elements in a shared vision between Europe and Africa: partnership based on mutual respect, common interests, shared purpose and reciprocal accountability towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all their peoples.

Question

What shared vision should undergird the joint strategy?

2.2.2 Peace and Security

Background

Half a decade of the African Union (AU) has seen the gradual establishment of continental and regional peace and security infrastructure that includes: the Peace and Security Council and its components-the Committee of the Wise and the Conflict Early Warning Mechanism that are yet to be operationalized; the Africa Standby Brigade with regional standby brigades already established for example in the SADC region; and regional peace and security protocols such as the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation among others. The European Union has also established an African Peace Facility (APF) to support the evolving peace and security infrastructure in Africa.

Questions

- What priorities under this theme would make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa?
- Should Africa have a strategic emphasis on human security?
- What is the role of the church in assuring peace and security?

2.2.3 Governance

Good governance is a process by which governments and people together identify shared values, needs and challenges, set priorities and develop programmes to address those needs and challenges and jointly manage the implementation of those programmes and the available resources, through a transparent and accountable process with shared responsibility for outcomes that are responsive, gender-sensitive and broad-based. This requires a climate of respect for the rule of law, the existence of institutional checks and balances and full respect for human rights, with the expressed objective of maximizing benefits to men and women for the common good. Good governance means creating well-functioning and accountable political, judicial and administrative institutions which

citizens regard as legitimate and in which they participate in decisions that affect their daily lives and by which they are empowered.

For the purposes of this study it is important to consider good governance within three levels of analysis: global governance; continental governance and national/state level governance. Global governance discourse revolves around the advocacy for the democratization of global multilateral institutions. Recently African state and civil society actors have called for the reform of the United Nations (UN) and its agencies to allow for greater representation of African countries and other countries of the South. There have also been calls for similar democratization and greater representation of countries of the South in International Financial Institutions (the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank). African heads of states and governments have deliberated on the establishment of a Union Government of Africa (the so called United States of Africa) and appointed a committee to discern the most appropriate modality for operationalizing the Union government. African Union member states continue to grapple with a myriad of governance challenges that range from weak governance institutions; the interference of the executive on the other arms of government; corruption; and human rights violations among others.

Questions

- What are the European and African governance agendas and priorities?
- To what extent are they common or complimentary?
- How can churches best encourage good governance?
- What priorities under this theme would make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa?

2.2.4 Trade and Economic Cooperation

Background

Civil society actors in Africa have cautioned that free trade agreements with the EU pose hidden dangers for regional integration, livelihoods and food security of entire regions. The case of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is cited widely. South Africa, although a member of SACU, has signed a free trade agreement with the EU-the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA). While this agreement did not formally include the other members of SACU-Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland-it has had clear impact on them effectively making them de facto members.

Because of SACU's common external tariff, the four countries will be forced to reduce their tariffs on imports from the EU at the rate agreed by South Africa. This, it is estimated, could lead to a 21% decrease in their tariff revenues with Botswana standing to lose around 10% of its total national income. Similarly the partners in any SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) would effectively be accepting the import regime that South Africa has already agreed with the EU unless they retained robust and

costly border controls to filter out EU-originating goods coming into their country via South Africa.

Questions

- What priorities under this theme would make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa?
- How will the developing Joint EU-Africa Strategy significantly impact on Africa's quest for accelerated regional integration and trade?
- Will the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) being negotiated make irrelevant any outcomes on trade and regional integration that leaders of Africa and Europe adopt in December 2007?

2.2.5 Key Development Issues

Background

Development is the human urge for liberation and growth into fullness of life. The conception of human development as involving the ability to make choices seems to link human development to democracy. The UNDP's *Human Development Report 1995* says: 'Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices. In principle these choices can be finite and can change over time. But at all levels of development, the three essential ones are for people to lead a long healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living....'⁴ Democracy and good political governance assures the centrality of the people as active participants and beneficiaries of development.

In the negotiations between the two official parties (the AU and EU) the following development issues are lumped together under this thematic heading: education; health; gender; youth and children; energy and water; transport; information society and media; science and technology; employment and decent work; food security and agriculture; environment and climate change; migration; aid effectiveness; and debt cancellation.

Questions

- What priorities under this theme would make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa?
- Do you think development issues should be lumped together under this theme (as the two official parties have in their negotiations) or they should be given prominence with individual listing and dialogue on all the key development issues?

⁴ UNDP (1995) *Human Development Report 1995* New York: Oxford University Press

5.2 Annex II: List of Respondents

Benin

Methodist Conference of Benin
Protestant University, Porto Novo, Benin

Botswana

Anglican Province of Central Africa-Diocese of Botswana
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana

Ethiopia

Ethiopia Catholic Secretariat
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Lutheran World Federation-Ethiopia

Ghana

Bethel Deliverance Mission International, Ghana
Christian Council of Ghana
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana
Ghana Methodist Conference

Lesotho

Christian Council of Lesotho
Lesotho Catholic Bishop's Conference

Kenya

Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA)
Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA)
Methodist Church
Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)
Presbyterian Church of East Africa
Salvation Army-East Africa Territory

Tanzania

Anglican Church of Tanzania
Christian Council of Tanzania
Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania
Tanzania Episcopal Conference

Togo

Christian Council of Togo
Episcopal Conference of Togo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo
Methodist Conference of Togo