

Africa-EU Civil Society Intercontinental Forum on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

8-10 November 2010

Cairo, Egypt

Report

Background

1. The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), signed in December 2007, was designed as a **'people-centred partnership'** that aims at providing 'a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors in the EU, Africa and beyond'.¹ It calls for the creation of an 'appropriate and prominent place' for non-state actors.² The document encourages 'twinning' arrangements that would allow civil society organizations from Africa and the EU to exchange experiences and partner towards the achievement of the objectives of the partnership.
2. Between 2007 and 2009, civil society organisations in Europe and Africa have organised themselves in order to respond to the aspirations of the JAES. From the European side, the EU Civil Society Steering Group was launched and includes different sectors and several networks working on areas relevant to the JAES. From the African side, an AU CSO Steering Committee, led by the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union (AU) was also established.
3. In September 2010, the two steering groups met in Brussels to discuss their engagement with one another and agreed to hold a EU-Africa Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Intercontinental Forum in Cairo on 8-10 November 2010 (See Annex 1 for list of participants). The agreed objectives of the meeting included (see Annex 2 for more detailed report):
 - Assess the role of civil society in the longer-term Joint Strategy process and propose measures to enhance the role of civil society contribution to the JAES (i.e. JEGs).
 - Analyze Draft action plan (if available) and propose policy options as required. Hold discussions on each Partnership. Should the lead person on a given Partnership not be in a position to attend the Forum, discussions between the relevant stakeholders should take place prior to Forum meeting.
 - Make proposals to strengthen relationships of civil society both vertically (vis-à-vis officials) and horizontally (between EU and AU civil society).
 - Develop a follow up mechanism to ensure regular dialogue on issues of common concern.
 - Identify areas of common concern for joint actions and define the parameters of dialogue (i.e. understand issues of particular concern to European CSOs, African CSOs as well as space for joint action).
 - Consider how interests of CSOs relate to concerns of other stakeholders in the Joint Strategy.

¹ EU-Africa Strategy Declaration, Lisbon, December 2007, p22

² The Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership document, June 2008, pg 52

4. Participants at the Cairo meeting were drawn from the respective Steering groups from each continent as well as representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC).

Opening Session

5. The Deputy Minister of the Arab Democratic Republic of Egypt for Africa Union, H.E. Ambassador Charif Naguib, officially opened the Forum. His welcoming statement was followed by two interventions from the AUC and the EC. Speaking on behalf of the AUC, Dr. Jimni Adisa, Director of the AU Citizens Directorate noted that the Cairo meeting completes the circle of stakeholders' consultations ahead of the EU-African Heads of States and Governments Summit scheduled for 29-30 November 2010. This civil society consultation gives a people-to-people dimension to the JAES process. He noted that while the last three years in the life of the JAES focussed largely on setting up the institutional framework for its functioning, the next three years should focus on delivering on the priorities outlined in the JAES Action Plan (AP). He expressed his wish to see civil society participating effectively to ensure the implementation of the priorities of the JAES, while ensuring that we remain faithful to the aspirations of the JAES and its developmental component. As a result, he called on the Forum to come up with clear practical recommendations on what civil society will do on the one hand with each other and on the other hand with other stakeholders in order to support the process.
6. Intervening on behalf of the European Commission, Mr. Michael Ryan, from the EU Mission to Egypt, noted that the JAES is an ambitious joint strategy adopted as a people-centred initiative. All stakeholders not only have a role in the monitoring of the JAES but also in its implementation. He highlighted the different ways through which civil society can be involved in the JAES, notably through participation in the informal Joint Expert Group meetings. So far the engagement of civil society has been uneven. However, the participation of two representatives from the African civil society at the Joint Task Force (JTF) meeting was encouraging. Furthermore, civil society organisations have mostly engaged with the AUC and the EC and less with other critical actors such as the respective continental parliaments with the exception of European CSOs, which have a long-standing relationship with the European Parliament. He expressed his wish to see civil society being more engaged in the JAES. He called on the Forum to propose ways to improve the JAES and strengthen the role and participation of civil society. He also encouraged the Forum to look into avenues in order to ensure that dialogue between civil society from both continents on the JAES becomes more systematic and to sustain the momentum created by this first meeting in Cairo.
7. Speaking on behalf of the African CSO Steering Committee, Mrs. Saida Aghribi noted that the 7 September meeting in Brussels was useful in moving forward. She recalled that the ECOSOCC members were elected at different levels (national, regional, continental and the Diaspora). The Forum is an opportunity to represent the interests of both continents, as no one knows the interest of Africa better than Africans and vice-versa. As a result there is a need to ensure civil society works together as well as with other stakeholders.
8. Christa Randzio-Plath, a representative of VENRO, the German-based umbrella of Development NGOs and National Platform of CONCORD, and a representative of the EU CSO group noted that civil society welcomed the JAES as a result of a change of paradigm. This is the first time that Europe has a strategy with Africa. She called on civil society to take the opportunity presented by the JAES to involve civil society

and therefore to look at how civil society from both continents can work together in the longer-term. She noted that the JAES could be implemented only if fully owned by multiple stakeholders. Yet the JAES is unknown to the majority of civil society organisations, including at country level. Regarding efforts to engage civil society, she welcomed the fact that there is information availability but deplored the lack of transparency in the manner the JAES is conducted.

Functioning of the two Steering Groups

9. Participants at the meeting noted that as civil society from both continents engages with one another, through their respective steering groups, it is important to ensure mutual respect, recognition and transparency. As a result both sides were invited to explain how they are organised and how they relate to other actors.
10. Karin Ulmer, APRODEV, representing the EU CSOs steering group introduced its set up, as it brings together different sectors (8 sectors, political foundations, development NGOs, trade unions, youth, environmental NGOs, Peace and Security network, human rights NGOs, African diaspora) and lot of them have development as a priority. The EU CSO steering group covers 7 partnerships (climate change and energy by environmental and development NGOs, P&S organizations, HR into DPHGR, development NGOs looking at trade, African Diaspora and trade unions into MME, development NGOs also looking into MDGs).
11. The EU CSO representative noted that it is important to operate in full transparency and to understand how we function in each continent and the different nature and roles of the ECOSOCC and the EU CSO Steering Group. Latter represents the self-organised European civil society groups that have a specific focus on working relations with Africa. While the EESC, the European Economic and Social Committee represents the formally appointed and institutionalised partners of the social dialogue in Europe.
12. Joseph Chilengi, chair of the AU CSO Steering Committee recalled that it is important to recognise that although each group is free to consult with its partners, it is important to emphasise that the Forum is the official framework of dialogue between civil society and AU/EU bodies in the JAES framework. It is also important to ensure there is transparency as the different groups seek to consult with other actors on the JAES. In relation to civil society, there is an institutional architecture in Africa and so there is in Europe. Africa will need to respect the institutional architecture in EU and vice-versa. The African side called therefore for collaboration in good faith and called on the two Commissions to follow a similar principle especially when they provide funding for events.

Role of Civil Society in the JAES

13. This session was opened by a presentation by the facilitator (see annex 3). The presentation introduced the broad premises of the JAES, how civil society got organised of both sides and highlighted avenues for civil society involvement.
14. Participants noted that the role of civil society in the JAES and the civil society-state partnership is not strong. The meeting recalled the JTF decision of October 2010, which noted, "Both sides also agree to support the active involvement of the Civil Society to facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership, notably through the participation as members of JEGs". Furthermore,

the JTF committed to improving” coordination between the key actors for the Action Plan's implementation, namely the two Commissions, the EU External Action Service, the two Parliaments, African and EU JEG co-chairs, RECs, private sector and civil society representatives (for the African side through AU-ECOSOCC)”. Therefore there is an opportunity to strengthen the role of civil society and its relations with different stakeholders.

15. Regarding the nature of civil society's involvement in the JAES, participants noted that it is important for civil society to conduct an adequate diagnosis of the situation, learn from the past, and identify on such basis the civil society can play. They noted that civil society can participate in the JAES in different ways, i.e. monitoring, sharing of expertise, watchdog role, advocacy, implementation and bringing to the fore the input of the grassroots.
16. Some other participants, however, expressed their concerns over the limited impact of civil society in the JAES so far. Although civil society has made various submissions at different times (i.e. into the 2nd Action Plan) its impact has been limited in changing the provisions of relevant documents.
17. Several participants further emphasised that the role of civil society in the JAES should be geared towards reconciling its political nature with the development aspirations of the people of both continents. As a result it is important to focus on questions of development, education, health, and infrastructure and human rights among others.
18. On key issues going forward, participants noted the following:
 - There is a need to strengthen dialogue between civil society of both continents in order to address challenges facing both Africa and Europe.
 - Civil society should organise around partnerships to work on the different thematic partnerships of the JAES. So far, both sides have conducted work on the different partnerships separately but now there is a need to have joint clusters on the partnerships.
 - Although work through the different partnerships is important, it is important to maintain a cross-cutting approach (i.e. through regular exchanges between the different themes or clusters). The modalities to ensure this should be further worked out.
 - The need to ensure that adequate resources are mobilised to ensure civil society participation in the JAES.

Input into the Action Plan 2011-2013

19. Participants at the meeting discussed the draft Action Plan 2011-2013 and made recommendations on the thematic partnerships. These are summarised in the table below.
21. The discussions demonstrated that participants from both African and EU civil society broadly shared views on what a more people-centred and development oriented JAES should focus on. The concerns on what was missing or should be a priority focus in the respective partnerships were shared, and there were no major controversies on what civil society advocates to be taken up in the thematic partnerships.

Partnership	Cross-cutting challenges	Civil society recommendations
Peace and Security (P&S)	Throughout the document there is no clear division of roles between the different actors, notably through a specification of the role of civil society Emphasis on the cross-cutting nature of the Partnerships and the need to strengthen synergies between the different partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current text makes not reference to the role of civil society. Yet this is an area where civil society can have an added value. There is therefore a need to refer to the role of civil society - The partnership does not provide a comprehensive approach to dealing with P&S as there is a strong focus on peacekeeping operations. There is a need to for instance refer to early-warning systems, reintegration of former combatants, creation of infrastructure for peace, etc. Civil society has the capacity to contribute to a number of these areas - It is important to strengthen the linkages between this partnership and other partnerships of the JAES through specific measures to be included in the text
Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights (PDGHR)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to reflect on important issues for Africa such as the repatriation of illegally exported funds and the protection of human rights defenders - Absence of reference to the gender dimension - The need to create a clearer space for the role of civil society notably by noting that there is a need to 'enhance and strengthen the role of civil society'
Trade, Infrastructure and Regional Integration Partnership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The partnership is largely EU-centric - There is a strong focus on export-oriented models. Consequently, the draft Action Plan excludes 80% of S&Ms, micro-businesses, informal economies and inter-regional trade - The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) should be integrated as part of a political partnership that the JAES claims to seek and as a result from a greater role of political actors rather than technicians - EPAs will undermine efforts in Africa in terms of regional integration. As a result any trade agreements between Africa and Europe should take into account existing African regions their strengthening. - The partnership refers to the EU raw material initiative, which is largely about extracting African resources and as a result civil society would not like to see reference to the EU raw material strategy - On support to infrastructure, it is important to add reference to different types of infrastructure (i.e. railways) - The Action plan places very limited emphasis on value addition - This partnership should be linked to other JAES partnerships, in particular governance issues
Migration and Mobility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society noted with satisfaction that the input of civil society into the partnership has been taken on

Partnership		<p>board, notably on provisions on decent work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call on member states to ratify all conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) - Call on member states to conduct the ‘Ouagadougou + 5’ review in order to determine progress on the decent work agenda - The partnership needs to emphasize on the rights of migrants under international law - Issue of racism/ xenophobia/ Islamophobia against migrants and their cultural rights need to be integrated - VISA facilitation to simplify the procedures need to be discussed within the framework of the partnership
MDGs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 1st Action Plan includes good ideas, which were not implemented, partially due to limitations beyond this partnership. As a result it is important to link the partnership to the broader context it operates in (the UN process) - The lack of a funding instrument being attached to the partnership is a hindrance - The partnership should prioritise more than is currently the case - The role of civil society in this partnership should take into account the role its role in the UN process
Climate change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to make private sector contracts more transparent - Need to recognise and acknowledge climate debt by EU and its responding responsibility
Energy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Largely, participants feel that this partnership mainly serves EU interests and to promote EU access to African energy resources. They call on African states to therefore conduct a thorough analysis of this partnership - There is a need to ‘thematise’ access to energy notably by linking it to poverty reduction - The privatisation of the energy sector in Africa is a dangerous step
Science and Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to build the capacity of research centres and to build the capacity of women to access technology - Promote access to energy - The role of the Diaspora in promoting science and technology should be emphasised

20. The meeting agreed on a Communiqué to be presented to the Heads of States during the EU-Africa Summit (see Annex 4 for the full text).
21. The meeting also drafted a Declaration that elaborates on the different recommendations on the 2nd Action Plan, which will be attached to the Communiqué and communicated to the Heads of States.

Way forwards

22. The meeting agreed to hold a new Forum in the first half of 2011 in order to take stock of the outcome of the Heads of States Summit and to further the role and impact of civil society in the direction and implementation of the 2nd Action Plan.
23. On the invitation of Hungary, participants agreed to hold the next meeting in Budapest, subject to availability of funds and ease of VISA procedure for African participants.

Annex 2: Decisions of the meeting of the EU and AU civil Society Steering Groups, Brussels, 7 September 2010

1. The Forum to take place in Egypt. Any other decisions on a change of venue should take into account the fact that it would be preferable to ensure that participants should reach the venue with one flight.
2. The meeting can be held from **midday of 8 to midday of 10 November 2010**.
3. There shall be 30 participants from each side plus 10 (4 from each Commission, plus Member States and Two keynote speakers). However the African side indicated they would like to have more flexibility for the attendance of support staff from the AUC in order to ensure a smooth running of the meeting.
4. The meeting should focus particularly on an **inter-continental** dialogue. A secondary objective will be to **draft a written statement to be submitted to the Summit**. However, the actors will consider appointing **2 representatives** from each side to carry the **final communiqué of the meeting to the Summit**.
5. The **objectives** of the meeting include:
 - Assess the **role of civil society in the longer-term** Joint Strategy process and propose measures to enhance the role of civil society contribution to the JAES (i.e. iJEGs).
 - **Analyze Draft action plan** (if available) and propose policy options as required. Hold discussions on each Partnership. Should the lead person on a given Partnership not be in a position to attend the Forum, discussions between the relevant stakeholders should take place prior to Forum meeting.
 - Make proposals to strengthen relationships of civil society both vertically (vis-a-vis officials) and horizontally (between EU and AU civil society).
 - Develop a **follow up mechanism** to ensure implementation of decisions, regular dialogue and on issues of common concern.
 - Identify **areas of common concern** for joint actions and define the **parameters of dialogue** (i.e. understand issues of particular concern to European CSOs, African CSOs as well as space for joint action).

Participation in the Forum

- Consider how interests of CSOs relate to concerns of other stakeholders in the Joint Strategy.
6. **Each region will select its continental representatives**. The other region can make **suggestions** on other participants but the final decision remains with each continental group. This will ensure that there is adequate representation from each side that reflects gender and age balance, sectors as well as regional representivity.
 7. **Criteria for participation:**
 - Individuals with insight into the partnerships including the leaders of each cluster focusing on the eight partnerships
 - Individuals with a proved knowledge on EU-AU relations
 - Any other participants that have a strong role to play in the structuring of the dialogue

8. EU CSO Steering Group and AU CSO Steering Committee to exchange the list of members of their respective steering committees.

Agenda of the Forum

9. Potential Elements for the Agenda

- Invite the Presidents of the two Commissions to open the Forum and/or send a good will message.
 - Visionary keynote: among other issues to reflect on gender and youth issues
 - Journey so far: the role of civil society in the JAES so far
 - Time for discussion on cross-cutting issues/ context: explore issues and processes beyond the JAES but with caution, wider issues such as the gender and youth
 - Debate current situation with a focus on the 8 partnerships (including MDGs).
 - Perspectives on the future of the inter-continental CSO dialogue on the JAES
 - Financing of implementation
 - Finalize strategy to move forward as well as the statement to be submitted to the Summit.
10. The group took note that gender and youth important we should propose the keynote speech on the gender and youth dimensions of the Partnerships.

Process matters

11. **AU CSO Steering Committee to prepare the draft agenda** to be sent to the EU group for comments for joint agreement.
12. **EU CSO Steering Group** to prepare the **draft joint invitation** to be sent to the AU CSO Steering Committee for comments.
13. Both Commissions should be copied on exchanges on final decision regarding the agenda and the invitation.
14. A **drafting committee** will meet on the first day and draft a first proposal for the written statement. It can then be updated to reflect the outcome of the discussion. Each side appoints 2 people/side to serve on the **drafting committee** to draft the first draft of the statement to the Summit. The Committee should include a French/English speaker on each side.
15. **Three people from each side will compose the Coordination Committee** excluding members of the drafting committee who will also be part of the Planning Committee. The role of the Coordination Committee is to follow up in the event decisions that need to be made. It shall meet a half-day before the meeting and at regular intervals during the Forum.
16. Two types of invitations will need to be prepared:

- Joint letter of invitations from the steering groups (reference made to the support of the two Commissions)
- The AUC to send the participants a support letter to use for VISA purposes and it will also notify the Egyptian authorities to facilitate VISA process

19. Invitations to be sent to participants by 1st week of October.


Communication Strategy

17. Ensure that communication is done before, during and after the Forum meeting.
18. The Commissions to assist in the communication of the outcomes by announcing the event on the joint website on the Joint Strategy
19. Pre-communication to own constituencies and media to be done through a joint announcement. **Each side to appoint a person to lead the writing.**
20. Deadline for **releasing the announcement 22 September**. EU group to take the lead and send to AU CSO Steering Committee for comments.

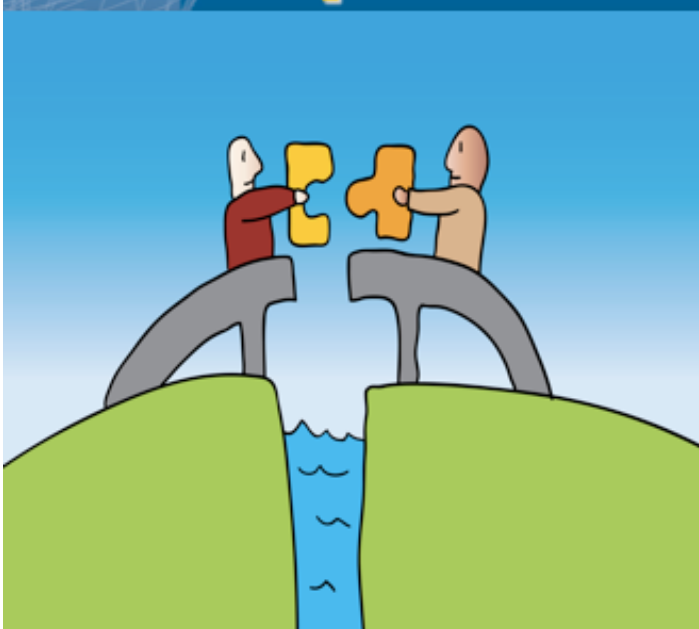
Annex 3: Presentation by the facilitators on the JAES

Background to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES)

- Adopted at the 2nd EU-Africa Heads of State Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 – not a legal framework
- A more overtly "political" strategy (rather than technical or aid-oriented)
- Strong **continent-to-continent** dimension (complementary to cooperation at national level)
- Multistakeholders process: European Commission, African Union Commission, member states from Europe and Africa, civil society, Parliaments, private sector, Regional Economic Communities, etc.
- Implemented through 8 thematic partnerships with priorities outlined in an Action Plan – the 2nd Action Plan is now being finalized
- Implemented through an institutional architecture

 EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Principles



- Joint ownership
- Partnership of equals
- Beyond institutions
- Beyond development
- Continent to continent dialogue
- Concrete action
- Treating Africa as one
- Mutual interests
- People centered partnership

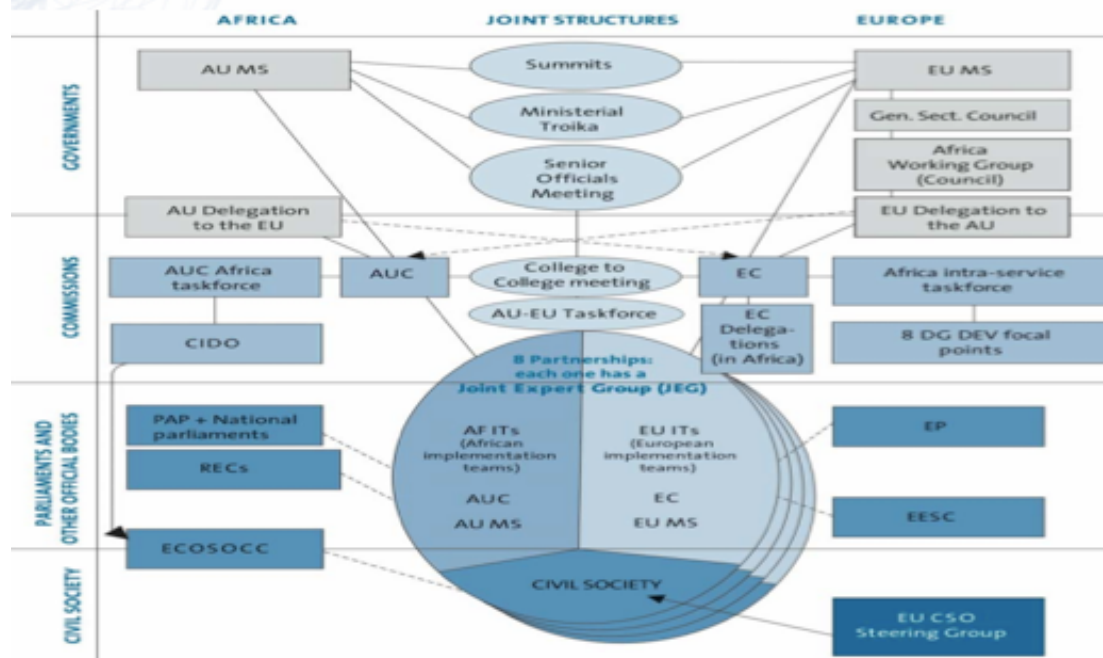
Joint Africa-EU Strategy

Thematic Areas for Joint Expert Groups (JEGs)

1. Peace and security
2. Democratic governance and human rights
3. Trade, regional integration and infrastructure
4. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
5. Energy
6. Climate change
7. Migration, mobility and employment
8. Science, information society and space

- Membership of thematic partnerships among EU MS, African states, European Commission, African Union Commission
- Members meet in African and European Implementation Teams then **Joint Expert Groups (iJEGs)**

CSOs in the JAES Architecture



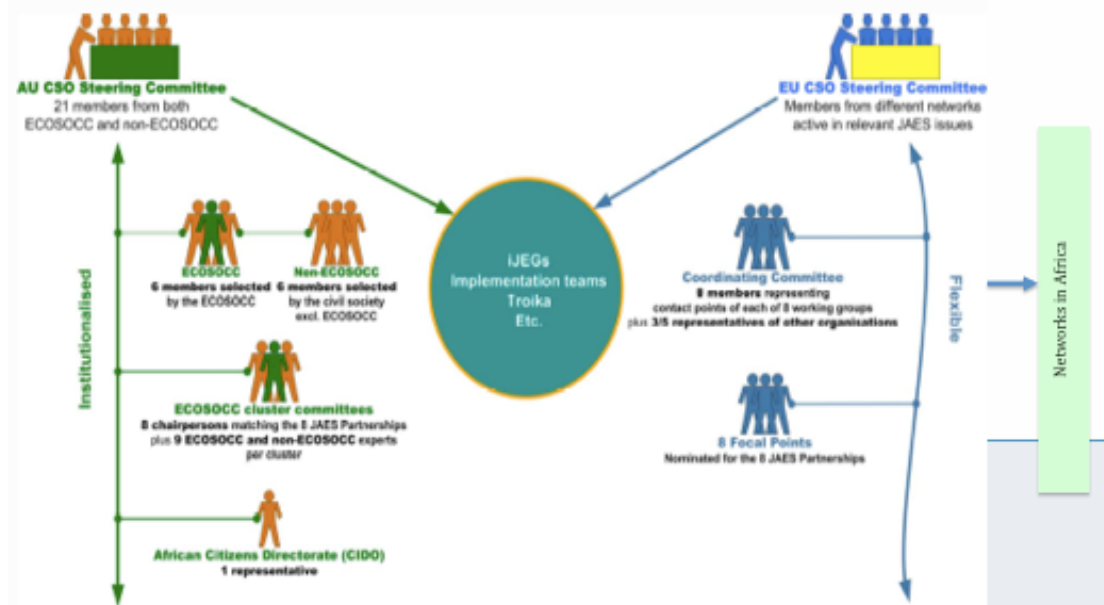
CSO engagement in the JAES

- Through participation as **experts** in the Implementation Team Meetings and the Joint Expert Groups' meetings – Modalities for CSO engagement however not very clear
- Through the **monitoring** of the JAES
- Through contribution to the **implementation** of some priorities (both directly and indirectly)

The role of civil society

- Strategy designed as a '**people-centred partnership**'
- Calls for the creation of an 'appropriate and prominent place' to non-state actors
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- So far CSOs have been engaged independently from each other – decision to explore ways to cooperate

Organisation of the CSO Steering Groups



Assessing the JAES so far

It is possible to look at the trajectory over the past 2.5 years to see some emerging trends in the implementation of the JAES:

- Lack of solid analysis of the interests at stake (incentives) to analyze actors' engagement (or lack thereof)
- Limited success in establishing a 'continent-to-continent'/'people-to-people' partnership
- JAES not instrumental in treating Africa as one
- JAES Uneasy coexistence with other policy frameworks (i.e. Cotonou Partnership Agreement, Neighborhood policy)
- No dedicated financial resources for the JAES
- Asymmetries in capacity

The role of civil society in the JAES

- What role for CSOs in the JAES?
- Organising CSOs engagement in the implementation of the JAES spirit globally and the 2nd Action Plan priorities more specifically
- Interaction between civil society of both continents and their (joint) interaction with other stakeholders involved in the Strategy



Annex 4: Communiqué of the Meeting

1. African and European civil society organizations; structured around the African Economic Cultural and Social Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union (AU) on the one hand and the European Civil Society Steering Group on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) on the other hand have taken steps to consider progress on the JAES and the role of civil society in its implementation.
2. Civil society representatives welcome the shift in paradigm in Europe-Africa Relations as introduced by the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy (JAES) and particularly the emphasis on people-centered approach that it contains. Civil society organizations believe that they bring an added value to the people-centered approach of the Strategy. In response to this, the first Africa-EU Civil Society Intercontinental Forum on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy was held in Cairo on 8-10 November 2010 so as to enhance and further structure civil society's role in accompanying the implementation of the Strategy.
3. Civil society commends the African and European institutions for the progress achieved in the implementation of the JAES but expresses concern about the slow pace of delivery of the 1st Action Plan. While recognizing that the first phase focused on establishing mechanisms and process, civil society hopes that the speed of delivery will increase in the aftermath of the 3rd Heads of States and Governments Summit.
4. Welcoming the call of the 12th Joint Ministerial Troika Communiqué, civil society calls upon the official parties to ensure this is backed up with concrete measures and incentives to enhance the space for increased civil society involvement in all processes of the JAES.
5. Civil society, from both continents, understands partnership as a process and has committed to organizing itself to an ongoing dialogue built on mutual trust, ownership, good will and solidarity that includes regular exchanges notably through an annual Intercontinental CSO Forum and an ongoing Joint Steering Group. It is also requested that adequate sustainable financing be provided and guaranteed to support this process.
6. The Joint CSO Intercontinental Forum discussed the draft 2nd Action Plan and arrived to a number of recommendations covering most of the partnerships as captured in the Declaration and the Final Report of the meeting, which will be made available to the institutional structures.
7. The Declaration contains recommendations to improve and enhancing the delivery of the Strategy in response to the development needs of people, including on: Diaspora development, job creation; value addition in agriculture, technology, industry, mineral and raw material production; affordable access to energy for all; rural infrastructure; fair trade; rights of migrants; fair, expeditious and reciprocal visa processes; women's rights and empowerment; youth involvement; climate debt; decent work; affordable access to energy for all; civilian involvement in conflict prevention and resolution; getting on track on the MDGs in particular in areas such as health, education, reducing maternal and child mortality, water and sanitation. Civil society also denounces xenophobia, extremism, terrorism and violence in all its forms.

Cairo, 10 November 2010

Annex 5: Declaration of participants on JAES

INTRODUCTION

The 1st Africa – EU Civil Society Intercontinental Dialogue Forum was held in Cairo, Egypt November 8 – 10, 2010 under the joint auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union Commission (EUC). The forum, among others, reflected on enhancing the role of civil society in the Africa-EU partnership cycle and especially exploring avenues for contributing to the effective strengthening of the joint strategy for development with its people-centered orientation contained in the proposed 2nd Action Plan of the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy (JAES).

ATTENDANCE

The dialogue was attended by a cross-section of African and European civil society representation led by the formal JAES recognized structures of the Steering Groups from the two continents. The participating civil society actors included Trade Union Movements, Academia, Youth, Persons with Disabilities, Women, NGOs cutting across the eight-partnership themes, and the Media. It was also attended by officials of the host country, the AUC and EUC.

OPENING FORMALITIES

The dialogue forum was declared opened by the Deputy Minister of the Arab Democratic Republic of Egypt for Africa Union, H.E. Ambassador Charif Naguib. Other dignitaries that made statements included the Representatives of AUC – Dr. Jinmi Adisa, Director (CIDO) and the EUC – Mr. Michael Ryan of the EU Delegation to Egypt. The African and European Civil Societies statements were through Honorable Saida Agrebi and Honorable Christa Randzio Plath respectively.

DELIBERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

During the three days that participants met, there were lead presentations by facilitators to stimulate interactive deliberations and discussions as they reflected on the JAES, considered the 2nd JAES Action Plan for 2011 – 2013 as informed by the Assessment Report on the 1st JAES Action Plan 2008 - 2010.

It is to this end that participants notes with appreciation and commendation that:

1. The deep sense of commitment to integrated development by our leaders as encapsulated in the principles and objectives of the JAES; the clarity of thoughts that informed the articulation and interlinking of the eight-partnership themes; the proactive measures aimed at implementing them in the first three years.
2. The scientific approach to service delivery, transparency and accountability adopted by African and European leaders which informed the conduct of an assessment of the first Action Plan (2008 – 2010) that has provided an objective assessment of the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the JAES and its thematic partnerships of the first Action Plan (2008 – 2010).
3. The resolve of the 2nd Action Plan (2011 – 2013) to ensure that JAES becomes more people-centered, focused and oriented as a means for facilitating integrated development; and facilitate an inclusive participation by broadening the scope of actors to contribute to the successful implementation to include non-state actors, particularly the larger civil society.
4. The clarity on civil society partnership utilization as indicated in each partnership theme in order to tap from the huge resource potentials and technical expertise available from the civil society in order to reinforce the decisions of ministerial troika in Luxembourg 2009. This is particularly central in the effective sensitization and popularization of the ideals of the JAES to various stakeholders in the bid to overcoming the challenges that mitigated against the first Action Plan (2008 – 2010). and to receive the required feedbacks from the citizenry and stakeholders during the course of implementing the 2nd Action Plan.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The AU-EU Forum arrived at key and significant conclusions and recommendations:

1. **Active Civil Society Participation:** The meeting emphasized the role of CSOs as key partner in the cross-cutting themes of all the 8 thematic areas. This is underscored by the overarching role of furthering, enhancing and deepening the Africa/EU relationship and partnership agenda as well as in carrying through the implementation of the important ingredients contained in the Action Plan 2011-2013. The meeting called on member states in the partnership to provide leadership, further space and the environment that is conducive for the active participation of the civil society as key stakeholders in nation building and the implementation of the Action Plan.
2. **Resource Mobilization and Allocation:** The meeting recognized the continued commitment of the member states to the spirit of the partnership agenda, but deplored the lack of practical commitment of resources by all stakeholders to fully carry out the defined Action Plan. The meeting therefore called on the AU and EU Commissions to commit and allocate specific financial, material and human resources necessary for the effective participation of CSOs in efforts (at national regional and continental levels) towards achieving the objectives as outlined in the revised Action Plan.

STRENGTHENING OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT THEMATIC ACTION PLANS FOR 2011 – 2013

Peace and Security

The introduction of initiatives that should facilitate and guarantee:

- (i) Increased commitment by member states to the prevention of hostilities and conflict through proactive early warning and response measures; thus allowing for the popularization, ratification, domestication and integration of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) by AU Member states through concerted civil society activities aimed at advocacy and public enlightenment.
- (ii) Strengthen the focus of peacekeeping operations to allow for the integration of civilian operations and utilization of civilian skills.
- (iii) Post-conflict reconstruction should include employment for affected civilians and the demobilized soldiers.
- (iv) Adoption of mechanisms that strongly prioritize conflict prevention approaches and the integration of civilian operation.
- (v) Engagement of the CSO in greater numbers in the delivery of these initiatives.

Democratic Governance and Human Rights

The need for the introduction of measures that can further contribute to the strengthening of a more transparent and participatory democratic governance through:

1. Evolving concerted efforts by all stakeholders aimed at advocacy for creating awareness and sustaining international best standards and practices through instruments already subscribed e.g. the African Charter on Democratic Governance, NEPAD/APRM.
2. The introduction of caveats that should facilitate the repatriation of proceeds of corruption logged away in European Banks by former African leaders and to discourage the likelihood of future recurrence.
3. We call for the pursuit of democratic governance and human rights initiatives that strongly place the development needs of the African peoples at the centre.

Regional Economic Integration, Trade and Infrastructure

The Forum noted that current economic partnership agreements are too much export oriented, at the detriment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and further pose the risk of undermining existing regional integration efforts. New initiatives are needed to build on existing regional structures, address local economic needs and focus on further appropriate infrastructural development, (including rural infrastructural development) as the engine for growth. We observe with concern the real lack of cohesion between the JAES and EPAs and advocate for a more development friendly EPAs.

The Forum called for the harmonisation of trade and investment laws and other procedures to align with national, regional and continental frameworks in order to facilitate investment and the consistent growth of industry from the informal to the formal sectors.

The Forum also called on member states to take immediate steps under this Africa/EU partnership towards the repatriation of corruptly acquired exported funds from Africa to Europe, as needed capital by Africa to develop Africa's infrastructure and ensure the growth of its economies.

The Forum calls on member states to steps under this AU/EU partnership to engage international institutions that corrupt and or collaborate with corrupt African leaders in defrauding the continent, to put a stop to such collaborations.

MDGs

The Forum noted with concern the current state of the implementation of MDG+10 and implores governments to provide adequate funding for MDGs particularly in areas such as providing for the basic needs of the people and develop strategies that are crucial for the development of the needs of the least developed countries as well as the poorest of the poor. Also ensure that the MDGs most off-track needs have special attention to them in order to bring them on track. To this end, we call for greater CSOs involvement in the establishment of a monitoring framework that complies with the principle of transparency and mutual accountability ensuring the progress of the partnership. The Forum recommends greater effort be injected at different levels in order to achieve the set goals.

Climate Change

The Forum calls on the responsibility of EU to pay for adaptation strategies in AU countries because African states disproportionately suffer higher effects of climate change to which they have least contributed.

Energy

The Forum emphasises that energy is key to development and poverty reduction and calls for a broad, sustainable and affordable access to energy resources for Africa. That new partnerships on energy should not be a means to facilitate Europe's access to renewable energy in Africa only, but rather provide African peoples with sustainable and affordable energy both in rural and urban areas, including Solar and Wind energies. That the CSOs are fully involved in the development and delivery of all the emerging strategies.

Science, Information Society and Space

In the development of science and technology, to develop the involvement of the Diaspora and explore and involve their input, build capacity and increase the development of science and technology through increased cooperation with all relevant partners, such as youth, women, etc.

Migration, Mobility and Employment

It is vital to integrate the ILO's Decent Work Agenda into all work of this partnership. Particular attention should be given to improving working conditions of workers in the informal economy and extending social protection to all, including vulnerable groups such as children, women, people with disabilities and migrants.

The Forum called for the respect of all rights including of migrants under international law and for their fair treatment. The need to reappraise the current visa regimes in the spirit of the partnership should be a key. It called on member states to further facilitate the processes and procedures for visa acquisition, as a strategy for reducing prospects of irregular illegal migration.