

Public consultation on the EU-Africa strategy

Preliminary report of the Internet consultation

Presented to the joint expert meeting
23 - 24 March 2007

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

Summary

This is the first report on the public consultation on the EU-Africa Strategy. It presents the ideas that have been raised in this initial stage of the consultation process and will be presented to the African and European officials taking part in the negotiations at their second meeting on 23-24 March. A final report of the consultation will be presented in late April.

The public consultation takes place mainly through an internet consultation, but also through various events organized on both continents. The website for the consultation was launched on February 5, and has in just over a month had 8060 visitors. The consultation has so far received 115 contributions from both Africa and Europe.

Many interesting contributions have been formulated presenting a wide range of ideas and topics of concern. In general a wish for real change is expressed, for a new relationship based on equality and on the people.

Comments have been spread across the five thematic cluster areas: Shared vision; Peace and Security; Governance, Democracy and Human Rights; Trade and Regional Integration; Key Development Issues, as well as on the consultation process. Most contributions received from organisations comment on the process and on the limitations they perceive, and many focus entirely on this aspect rather than elaborating on the possible content of the strategy.

Generally, comments on the initiative to consult civil society on the new strategy have been positive. However, several contributors noted the challenge of ensuring full and equal participation by non-state actors from Africa considering the limited time-line and the internet-based approach. Some doubted whether the concerns raised in the comments would be taken into account by decision makers. European NGO networks question the added value of their participation in the consultation process, and have expressed that they will rather encourage the involvement of their African partners.

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

On key development issues the contributions have focused on the issues of education, migration, infrastructure, health and debt. There have also been comments concerning aid modalities, and that the donor-recipient relationship has to be overcome once and for all. It has to be a true partnership of equals, which takes its starting point the people, not the leaders. Local actors and decision-makers need to be mobilised, as well as the diaspora.

Another aspect which has been brought up is the need to focus on vulnerable groups of society, referring specifically to people with disabilities, women and children. These groups are often excluded from the global debate of development, yet they make up a majority of Africa's poor.

Several comments have addressed the question of what 'good governance' means by focusing on how it is applied. The concept can not be imposed, but should be developed from the local level and preferably monitored by people themselves. Key players which commentators think should receive increased support in order to promote good governance include local governments, parliaments, courts of justice, the police and civil society. Additionally, comments suggest that governance is not only an issue for the African continent, but also includes governance of aid.

The issue of agriculture has taken centre stage in the comments received under the Trade and Regional integration cluster. Commentators have also discussed structural constraints on the African productive sectors as well as the importance of ownership by African stakeholders. A contribution by VENRO especially calls for fair trade.

Most of the contributions made on the issue of peace and security in EU-Africa relations agree on the close link between development and security, and the need to focus on human security, peace-building, and address the root causes of conflict. Among the key issues and priorities that many of the contributors highlighted were the following: building capacity in Africa, assuring African ownership of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and optimising support by the EU and the international community to African efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in the continent.

1 Introduction

The European Union and the African Union have in the past years strengthened their relations and participated in a structured dialogue since the first Euro-African Summit in Cairo in 2000. Africa is a priority for the European Union as stated in the EU strategy for Africa adopted in December 2005 by the European Council, and now both continents are heading towards a second Euro-Africa Summit that should take place in Lisbon at the end of 2007.

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

A public consultation process is taking place in order to collect opinions about the future of Euro-African relations. It provides an opportunity for the broad public on both continents to address challenges or suggest solutions to issues that may shape the future EU-Africa partnership. The consultation was launched on behalf of the European Union and the African Union and is facilitated by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) as an independent foundation.

The public consultation takes place through an Internet consultation as well as through various events organized on both continents. The website is a platform in which issues can be raised and ideas shared and discussed. It is structured according to the five themes on which the EU and AU officials structure their negotiations on, namely: Shared vision; Peace and Security; Governance, Democracy and Human Rights; Trade and Regional Integration; Key Development Issues. The issue papers drafted by the European Centre for Development Policy Management from which the institutional negotiations started their negotiations from are presented on the website and participants are encouraged to respond to questions raised in these. The consultation also supports participants raising other questions, priorities, or challenges that they would like to put on the agenda.

ECDPM will organise a conference in late April in order to discuss further the issues of the joint strategy. The conference will have participants from both Africa and Europe. The intention is not, however, to produce a declaration representing the views of non-state actors on both continents, but rather suggestions based on the personal views of the participants and the organisations they represent. Apart from this conference ECDPM will participate in other conferences and seminars organised in Africa and Europe, presenting information about the consultation and reporting back to the website.

This first report presents the ideas that have been raised in this initial stage of the consultation process. It will be presented to the African and European officials taking part in the negotiations at their second meeting on 23-24 March. A final report of the consultation will be presented in late April.

The objective of the report is to present the main ideas, opinions and suggestions voiced in the contributions received. It is based mainly on the comments made on the website, but the material also includes issues raised in other forums where the strategy has been discussed that have been brought to our attention.

The report starts with a short description of the amount and type of contributions received. The following section provides a summary of the general views expressed, followed by a section presenting comments concerning the consultation procedure. The subsequent sections report on the contributions made on the five clusters: Shared vision; Peace and Security; Governance, Democracy and Human Rights; Trade and Regional Integration; Key Development Issues respectively.

2 About contributions received

The internet consultation was launched on 5 February 2007. It consists of two websites, one in English (<http://europafrica.org>) and one in French (<http://europafrique.org>). The launch of the consultation was announced through a joint press release by the EC and the AUC. Information about the consultation was also spread through an invitation e-mail to 7500 contacts in Europe and Africa. Apart from contacts already identified by ECDPM in earlier work, a list of 800 strategic contacts was drafted, with the aim of including big networks and platforms across different fields. The invitation asked the recipients to spread it through their networks, to publish it on their website in order to take advantage of existing networks and this has been done by several organisations¹. Information about the consultation is also spread through a bi-monthly bulletin, which reports on the progress and invites people to participate which is sent to the list of strategic contacts as well as to people who have subscribed since.

On 12 March the two websites had together had 8060 visitors. The majority of visitors come from Europe and Africa, but also from other places in the world.

	Total	English site	French site
Unique visitors:	8060	5752	2308

Countries of origin of most visitors

African

Burkina Faso
South Africa
Senegal
Ethiopia
Kenya
Morocco
Benin
Ivory coast
Cameroon
Nigeria

European

Netherlands
Belgium
France
United Kingdom
Portugal
Germany
Luxembourg
Sweden
Italy
Switzerland

The consultation has received **contributions from 115 people from 31 countries in both Africa and Europe**. About **65 percent of the commentators have African origin**, with a majority coming from the western and central parts. Contributions to the consultation have been submitted directly on the website or through e-mail and posted on the website by ECDPM as facilitators.

Total number of commentators on 12 March	115
Countries of origin	Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain (Ceuta, Africa), Sweden, Uganda,

¹ For example: Concord, IFAP, CAT, ACPLG, IAVI, SNV

	UK, Zambia, Zimbabwe
By organisations	23

The 23 organisations having contributed on the website are the following::

1. *Economic Justice Coalition*, NGO, Mozambique
2. *Spanish Autonomous City of Ceuta in Brussels*, regional administration, Spain
3. *Etnocom*, Private sector, Italy
4. *Tiri*, network organisation, UK
5. Joint contribution: *The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)*, *World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)*, *Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)*, *Eurogroup for Animals*; NGO, EU
6. *Global Campaigns, National Council of Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA)*, NGO, South Africa
7. *Centre for Rural Health and Development (CRHD)*, local development NGO, Nigeria
8. *InterAction Leadership Programme*, development NGO, Zambia
9. *Light for the world*, development NGO working with eye diseases and blindness, Austria
10. *Front Line*, international NGO working with human rights defenders.
11. *Institute for African studies*, research institute, Slovenia
12. *Global Education and Environment Development (GEED) Foundation*, local development NGO, Cameroon.
13. *Christian Blind Mission (CBM) EU Liaison Office*, international development NGO, Belgium
14. *La représentation en France de l'Union des Forces pour la Démocratie et le Développement (UFDD)*, France/Chad
15. Joint contribution : *Association pour les Victimes de la Répression en Afrique (Djuma)*; *Association pour les Victimes de la Répression en Exile (Jaffé)*; *Ligue des Electeurs (Banza)*, human rights NGO, DRC
16. *Union pour la Paix Permanente*, human rights NGO, DRC
17. *World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA)*, Benin Branch, private sector, Benin
18. *TIC & Développement / ICT for Development*, private sector, France
19. *Regina Mundi-Fondation Monseigneur AGBOKA*, faith-based NGO, Benin
20. *Zenü Network*, research network, Cameroon
21. *GALERI-ONG: "groupe d'Appui à la lutte contre l'exode rural et l'immigration"*, development NGO, DRC
22. *Association Transparence et Développement (ATED)*, development NGO, Mauretania
23. *GAAV (welfare of Africans in NI)*, faith-based NGO

In addition to the above several large networks and organisations have submitted their contributions in the form of position papers:²

1. *CONCORD*, the European NGO confederation for relief and development
2. *VENRO*, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations
3. *ACPLGP*, African, Caribbean and Pacific Local Government Platform
4. *Islamic Relief Worldwide*
5. Joint contribution by 13 family planning organisations³

A brief assessment of the Internet consultation so far and the way ahead

² Please see Annex 1 for the contributions. Contributions from ACP-EC follow-up Committee of the European Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), the German Development Institute (GDI) and the Alliance pour refonder la gouvernance en Afrique have also been submitted or are about to be submitted but are not integrated yet in the report.

³ Marie Stopes International (MSI), International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU), Austrian Organization for family Planning (ÖGF), World Population Foundation (WPF), InterAct Worldwide, Family Planning Association Portugal (APF), Sex og Samfund, Väestöliitto, Stop AIDS Alliance, Equilibres et Populations, German Foundation for World Population (DSW)

So far, **the website seems to have played its role in terms of awareness raising** given the numbers of visits and the references made through various communication tools (other organisations' e-alerts, websites, events, ...). The contributions have been **mostly made by individuals** rather than wide networks, although more and more organisations have committed to send position papers on the content. The level of the comments thus varies a lot among the contributions. The **limited representativity** of the views expressed by individuals so far thus has to be underlined.

The final report will be more representative since wider networks should have contributed by then and the various events organised on both continents should further stimulate the discussions and encourage a more in-depth exchange of views between officials and civil society organisations. Several **events** on the joint EU-Africa Strategy, mobilising Non State Actors and institutions such as the European Parliament, have just taken place or are planned between now and May⁴ and the outputs will be taken into account in the final report.

Contributions made in other fora but on relevant topics for the elaboration of this joint Strategy will be taken on board to the extent possible. Contributions and events will continue after the 15 May joint Ministerial troika and it will be necessary for a link to be made between these contributions and the institutional negotiations.

3 Process

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

When talking to representatives of several NGO networks in Europe all **have questioned the consultation process, pointing specifically to the limited time-line and how to ensure that African institutions and civil society will be involved**. Several have expressed the view that they will probably not contribute to the consultation, but are supporting their African partners to the extent possible to ensure an extensive participation. This view is also voiced in a newsletter by Aprove, Cidse and Caritas Europe, EU NEWS - Issue 1, February 2007⁵. Here European NGOs question whether the process leading to the adoption of a joint Strategy will leave enough time for Africa to agree on its own expectations of its relationship with the EU. The European party has already gone through a thinking process on this matter with the adoption of the EU Strategy for Africa in 2005. CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, has proposed extending the process until the end of 2008, where the possible Lisbon summit can be a milestone. On the top of the issues mentioned above, CONCORD concludes that the process is an opportunity to launch broad national debates in Europe and Africa about the future relations.⁶ The ACP Local Government Platform has also submitted a contribution voicing concern about how the people will be included in the drafting of the new strategy, calling for in-depth discussions with representatives of the various stakeholders through meetings across Africa.⁷

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

⁴ For instance, the civil society meeting organised by the AUC in Accra, the European ECOSOC ACP-EU follow up committee, the “Prospects for Africa-Europe’s policies, the brainstorming organised by the European Parliament, the meeting between Commissioner Louis Michel and civil society, ... For the full calendar, see www.europafrika.org

⁵ Read article at: <http://euforic.blogspot.com/2007/02/from-eu-strategy-for-africa-to-joint.html>

⁶ For contribution in full see annex 1.

⁷ For contribution in full see annex 1.

13 family planning organisations⁸ have jointly submitted a comment asking for clarification about **how the contributions provided in the consultation process will influence the outcome of the negotiations**. Individual commentators have likewise questioned to what extent the negotiators will take the views raised by civil society into consideration when drafting the strategy.

“We therefore hope that this time the consultation process will be taken seriously and that our input will be taken into consideration.” Sophie Peresson, European Advocacy Manager, Marie Stopes International.⁹

“[...] will both the EU and AU be bold and humble enough to bite the bullet...for CHANGE? For example, now listen to the citizens of Europe and Africa, rather than politicians and civil servants? Or is it business as usual?” Victor Onoviran (Nigeria).

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

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

4 Shared vision

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

“For the best of this strategy we must to go back to the very questions, such as, what is working and what is not working in Africa-EU partnership and why so? What are the causes behind the failure?” Silvestre Baessa Jr . (Mozambique)

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

“One should not complain about the weaknesses of cooperation between Europe and Africa, nor become complacent. The main challenge is to objectively analyse the core issues of the partnership in order to define a vision, a strategy, instruments and a concrete plan of action.” Maman Laminou Tata (Niger).

Several contributions emphasise African unity as a condition for development. Questions raised include: (i) **how can better unity among the African states be reached and diversities within the continent dealt with?** (ii) **when will the EU member states start to treat Africa as one?** One commentator does, however, call attention to the cultural differences and refers to the idea of Africa as one and indivisible as a prevailing and misleading cliché.

⁸ It is signed by 13 organisations: Marie Stopes International (MSI), International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF-EN), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU), Austrian Organization for family Planning (ÖGF), World Population Foundation (WPF), InterAct Worldwide, Family Planning Association Portugal (APF), Sex og Samfund, Væstøliitto, Stop AIDS Alliance, Equilibres et Populations, German Foundation for World Population (DSW)

⁹ For comment in full see annex 1.

Another issue that has been raised by commentators is **how the new strategy shall deal with other agreements between the two continents**, including the Cotonou agreement and regional agreements such as the TDCA and the ENP. There have also been contributions concerning Africa and Europe's place in the world at large and the question has been raised about which global issues the EU and Africa can develop and defend common views.

“Europe and Africa share so many things that tie their destinies intertwined for ever... Any discussion towards forming brighter collaborations between the two peoples must be based on fair collaboration, bearing in mind the unique links with their ups and downs. It is a matter of creating more ups than downs”, Abdulkadir Khalif Sh. Yusuf (Somalia).

5 Governance, democracy and human rights

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

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

“For countries and intergovernmental organisations such as the EU and the AU, governance means - as I understand it - being accountable to its population and to the international community regarding the implementation of basic principles commonly agreed”, Vincent Forest (Front Line, Belgium).

The concept of **governance can not be imposed, but should be developed from the local level and preferably monitored by the people themselves. More attention should be paid to the very positive African-grown initiatives that exist**, from which lessons could be learned. Good leadership at all levels, is fundamental to promote a democratic environment and motivate people to engage in a people centered development.¹⁰ Additionally, governance is not only an issue for the African continent, but also includes governance of aid.

“The EU should support African governments in meeting their obligations, and ensure that its own development co-operation meets international requirements”, Kate Gooding. “For any meaningful joint venture between the EU and Africa to work smoothly, all the African leaders must be called to accountability and transparency. This will ensure meaningful development, which will get the populations on board.” Tilder Kumichii Ndichia (GEED Foundation, Cameroon)

In order for governance to be implemented at the global, national and local levels, an increased collaboration between the actors of the different levels should be enforced. Further the ACP local government platform calls attention to that it is at the local level that the EU-Africa strategy will be tested, and therefore asks for the recognition of the role and added value of local governments in the strategy.¹¹ Parliaments, courts of justice and the police have been mentioned as **key governance players** and should be given the mandate and means to act accordingly. Apart from **increased financial support** from the EU to Africa, participants also call for increased **political support**. Suggestions have been made that more contacts are needed between both continents, not only between leaders (even though leadership plays an

¹⁰ See full contribution in Annex 2.

¹¹ For contribution in full see annex 1.

important role towards legitimate governance) but also –and most of all - between **people**, who are at the ultimate beneficiaries. Through **shared experiences** capacities can be built and better mutual understanding developed.

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

The role of **civil society** is presented as essential: as ‘producers’ of governance and as ‘watchdogs’ monitoring practice, and contributors have asked for more space and capacities to be made available for them. The need for civil society itself to respect the principles of ‘good governance’ has also been mentioned.

“Les acteurs de la société civile doivent respecter les lois, éviter les fraudes fiscales, éviter de corrompre, soutenir l’Etat de droit.” Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwami (Union pour la Paix Permanente, DRC).

Commentators clearly also feel that in a shared vision it should be possible for the AU and the EU **to discuss contentious cases** together, and the examples of Western Sahara and Zimbabwe were raised (see annex 2 for these comments in full).

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

Human rights

Contributions have also highlighted the significance of human rights, and called for the promotion of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Statements have also been made on the need to fight against torture as well as discrimination against vulnerable groups.¹²

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

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

6 Key development issues

The contributions have focused around the key development issues of education, migration, infrastructure, health and debt. The need to especially focus on vulnerable groups has been raised. There have also been comments concerning aid modalities, and that the donor-recipient relationship has to be over-come once and for all. It has to be a true partnership of equals, which takes its starting point the people, not the leaders. Local actors and decision-makers need to mobilised, as well as the diaspora.

Education

Several comments have stressed the importance of strengthening human resources and building capacity, including that of vulnerable groups. Suggestions made include a proposal to

¹² See further under Key development issues

reform the format of the formal education system in Africa to better suit the needs and possibilities. **Gender** equality is also seen as an important issue in the area of education.

“Most probably, formal education as it functions in Africa today, will never be capable to reach the Millennium Goals. Therefore, I would like to suggest to “rethink” the format of formal education, and relate it properly to real needs and possibilities in Africa. Maybe Africa is in need for a new paradigm on education?” Rogier van 't Rood (Netherlands)

Health

On HIV/AIDS suggestions have been made of inter-governmental working groups to better share information and tackle the problem regionally. A commentator has also called for increased attention on the ‘**Neglected Tropical Diseases**’ which often co-occur with HIV/AIDS and malaria, and explains that there is thus potential to make significant progress with little money to meeting development commitments.

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

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

Vulnerable groups

The topic which has dominated the contributions made on key development issues is the need to focus on vulnerable groups of society, referring specifically to people with disabilities, women and children. **Policies addressing disability, and persons with disability should be mainstreamed and included in the Joint Strategy**. Key concerns of persons with disabilities in Africa, including empowerment, equality and full participation should be taken into account given the cost-effectiveness of programmes empowering women and persons with disabilities. If we even intend to get close to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the joint EU-AFRICA strategy should invest in finding out more about the needs of particularly vulnerable groups in the African societies.

Statements have also acknowledged AU, EU and UN initiatives which have already been taken, and which need to be further elaborated such as the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities, the EC Guidance note on disability and development which underlines the importance of taking disability into account in the work for poverty reduction¹³ and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities that was approved in 2006 and which should be ratified by all African and European countries..¹⁴

“Some 80 million Africans live with a disability... If the main goal in partnership with Africa is achievement of the MDGs, we cannot hope to achieve this without explicit inclusion of disability”, Andrew K. Dube (South Africa).

Comments on youth development suggest the importance of quality education as well as increased opportunities of meaningful activities out of school.

“What is often lacking is ongoing commitment to support youth initiatives with post-training support and also training in leadership and opportunities for leisure and the experience of youth.... ‘growing up’ in urban environments that are often alien, hostile

¹³ See: http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/human_social/pol_health5_en.htm

¹⁴ See: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/>

and unprotective.... Youth development also encompasses relevant education; one that provides support beyond mainstream classroom activities such as attachment to businesses, living with rural communities to experience life” Dr S Abudulai (UK)

Migration

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

“EU migration policies can greatly influence the developmental potential of migration as well as the brain drain effects. Migration policies, thus, need to be designed together with development policies”, Valentina Mazzucato (Netherlands).

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

Development cooperation and financial cooperation

German and African civil society organisations have been calling through their manifesto “Prospects for Africa - Europe’s Policies” for poverty-oriented development policy and the implementation of commitments made so far in terms of aid level and aid effectiveness. In the light of that contribution, **the joint EU-Africa Strategy implement these commitments and relate more clearly to the Millenium Development Goals**.

“In our opinion, implementing the EU step-by-step plan for development financing and sticking to achieving the 0.7 percent goal by 2015 represents a minimum requirement.”
Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies

Various suggestions on aid modalities include to better engage the private sector for greater efficiency; increasing **budget support**; diversifying investment; and ensuring that trade is conducive to development. Another issue raised is that governments need to be transparent about the support received, in order for the people to make them accountable for spending it well.

“The criteria for budget allocation should be a conducive environment, i.e. a qualified manager, good accounting reputation, qualified staff, tradition of achieving the objectives. If these are not there, the budgets should not be allocated! If leaders don’t accept formal control: fine, then stop support.” Geert Vanneste (Belgium)

A **call for debt cancellation** has been voiced by several commentators as well as he need to stop giving loans when the environment is not conducive. Among the innovative approaches to debt, one contributor (Dr. Tamokwé, Cameroon) suggests to entrust a (semi)private organisation with the management of funds aimed at debt cancellation.

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

7 Trade and regional integration

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

The issue of **agriculture** was approached from different angles. The EU and other developed countries' agricultural policies and subsidies were highlighted as a major factor hindering sustainable development in Africa, at a time when the continent derives its livelihood from the agricultural sector. The provision of EU's assistance in developing **good standards of animal welfare** was also suggested as a way to opening new market opportunities with the EU and producing additional income for farmers.

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

In a contribution calling for fair trade between the EU and Africa, VENRO further emphasises that the **implementation of the EPAs should be monitored** to make sure the objectives set at national levels are achieved and thereby respond positively to the needs of the ACP countries. Building on the current debates, VENRO has strongly recommended the following points: **to integrate safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements, to grant the developing countries preferential treatment, to omit Singapore issues, to extend the timeframe for the EPA negotiations, to respond positively to the requests of ACP countries.**¹⁵

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

Finally, the **structural constraints and their impact on the competitiveness of African productive sectors** also came out as a major issue that should be dealt with. It was indeed argued that in today's world with low transport costs, African producers barely have 'natural' protection against low-cost producers from other parts of the world. Increased technical expertise and wide scale infrastructures across the continent were also pointed out as key elements towards peace, security and the quality of the societies being built (Xavier Brosse).

8 Peace and Security

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

« Sans paix (..) impossibilité d'un quelconque développement » Mama Gniane N'Diaye
« La paix et la sécurité passent par le développement intégral de l'Afrique » Damien M. Pakasa (GAAV).

VENRO, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations, has submitted a contribution which calls for **greater focus on human security**. The contribution acknowledges EUs commitment to this, but requests **greater policy coherence as well as policy implementation**. Other issues raised by VENRO include the extraction of natural resources for development; involving African civil society in peace-building; and avoiding to spend money ear-marked for poverty eradication on conflict prevention.¹⁶

¹⁵ For contribution in full see annex 1.

¹⁶ For contribution in full see annex 1.

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

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

« C’est bien de penser à soutenir les forces de maintien de la paix, mais les actions les plus efficaces résident dans la prévention des conflits » Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwani (Union pour la Paix Permanente, DRC)

Promoting dialogue and cooperation on peace & security issues between the EU and Africa should not take place in a vacuum and should be informed by internationally accepted and shared values, including in the global fight against terrorism, as well as **built on the principles of good governance**. As one commentator puts it:

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

What is the most adequate framework or level to address the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa? While all contributors recognize the importance of the AU, some expressed reservations as to the capacity, adequacy and effective political will of the AU to play that role, and call for the AU to redefine its relations with African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the latter often providing a more suitable level on which to address problems, given the importance of knowledge of cultural sensitivities, despite the prevailing and misleading cliché of Africa as one and indivisible (Amandine).

“Africa needs its own version of NATO (...). We need to fast-track the ‘United States/Land/Tribes of Africa proposed in the recent AU Summit’” Victor Oniviran (Nigeria)
“The AU history is full of inconsistent policies and lack of political will to denounce some leaders. AU needs new vision comparable with the new challenges on this world and shake off the old boys association mentality” James Nyawo

Building capacity in Africa, assuring African ownership of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and how they can be best supported by the EU and the international community in general in their efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in the continent, is a key issue and a prime priority that many of the contributors highlighted. Some called for a greater coherence of international institutions’ policies and means, and the EU support to the setting up of a permanent, mobile, well trained, equipped and well-paid permanent African Peace and Security Force. Interventions in Africa by international organizations and non-African States must contribute to a consolidation of African ownership and the involvement of African civil society in peace-building.

Annex 1: Contributions by large networks and organisations

1.1 *CONCORD contribution to the EU-Africa strategy consultation*¹⁷

CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development* believes that a complex website and a 3 months process is not a meaningful and respectful way to engage African and European civil society and to ensure real ownership. We urge all actors involved to start serious debate on the future of the EU-Africa relations with governments, parliaments and civil society constituencies.

We would like to put forward some **conditions and proposals**:

- **Time-line** - A strategy such as the EU-Africa strategy should be based on in-depth debates and exchanges with all the stakeholders. It is not possible to build up a substantial strategy within such a short time-line. The process to come up with a joint strategy should more time, and therefore we suggest having the strategy in two steps, up to end 2008. The EU-AU Summit foreseen for November 2007 in Lisbon, if it happens, must be a milestone in this process and not an end in itself

- **Getting African institutions and civil society involved** – The basis of any engagement must be a fair and open process, engaging above all African civil society. Institutions must be willing to reopen and take into account the concerns of the EU and African citizens in developing a shared vision for the future of EU-Africa Relations. To achieve real partnership, the EU must be ready to learn from African experience and analysis.

- Any joint EU Africa strategy should include **concrete deliverables** on commitments made to African countries, including on increasing development aid, ownership, participation.

-**Filling the democratic gap in Europe** - It is clear that the ability of the EU to effectively play the role to which it aspires will critically depend on the support it has from Europe's own citizens. The elaboration of the Africa strategy could provide a timely opportunity to launch broad European and national debates about the future of the relations between Europe and Africa.

* CONCORD is the confederation representing European NGOs for relief and development at European level. Its 22 national associations and 19 international networks represent over 1600 NGOs supported by millions of European Citizens. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations.

CONCORD is part of the "Global Call to Action Against Poverty"

Find out more about CONCORD on www.concordeurope.org

1.2 *VENRO contribution to the EU-Africa strategy consultation*¹⁸

German and African civil society organisations are through their manifesto "Prospects for Africa - Europe's Policies" calling for poverty-oriented development policy. The manifesto was written specifically to influence the German Federal Government, in their role as EU Presidency, but has also been submitted to the consultation since it is also of relevance in the drafting of a joint EU-Africa strategy.

This annex includes a short selection of the contents - you can download the full document here:

¹⁷ Received 6 March, 2007

Posted at: <http://europafrika.org/2007/03/06/concord-contribution-to-the-eu-africa-strategy-consultation/>

¹⁸ Received 1 March, 2007

Published December 2006 at: <http://www.prospects-for-africa.de/publikationen.html?&L=1>

Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies (page 3)

In the first half of 2007, attention worldwide is going to focus on the Federal Republic of Germany. Thanks to its assuming EU Council Presidency and organising the G8 Summit in June, the German Federal Government can play an active role in developing the international agenda. This also entails opportunities as well as challenges for German civil society. Africa’s prospects are at the centre of the EU Presidency Project of VENRO with which we, as German and African civil society organisations, are critically and constructively accompanying official presidency policy. From a development perspective, we are calling on the Federal Government to campaign for a poverty-oriented development policy with our manifesto “Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies”. The focus has to be on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Many of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will only be able to achieve the MDGs by 2015 if European policies are more strongly guided by the interests of the African countries. In our opinion, implementing the EU step-by-step plan for development financing and sticking to achieving the 0.7 percent goal by 2015 represents a minimum requirement. The Federal Government has to take advantage of the EU Council Presidency to reach agreement on a sound financing strategy for European development cooperation. A lack of coherence in European policies represents one of the biggest obstacles to successful development cooperation with the African partner countries. The Council’s adoption of the twelve coherence commitments in May 2005 and a corresponding working programme offer a wide range of options for political action in the coming year. The Federal Government ought to grasp this opportunity. During Germany’s EU Presidency, decisions are going to be taken that will have long-term impacts on development in African countries. In some policy areas, such as combating global warming or the fight against HIV/AIDS, speeding up action is crucial. Others require a change of course. This applies to militarising European foreign policy as well as to the final negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as part of the Cotonou Agreement. So far, the EPA negotiations have only insufficiently addressed developments in the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific Region (ACP). A development-oriented approach is urgently required in both areas. So far, European policies have not given the perspectives of African countries sufficient consideration. Together with the positions on the individual thematic foci that VENRO has worked out in cooperation with African partners, we wish to integrate the perspectives of African civil societies into German EU Presidency policies. Partnership between European and African civil societies is the trump card that we hold and intend to play as competent counterparts and important political actors in European development cooperation. Based on our common reflections, we call upon the German Federal Government to act at the European level in support of the following issues:

- Trade justice: Giving precedence to development in

regional trade agreements,

- Human security: Focusing on preventing violent conflicts and on peace-building,
- Change in energy policies: Promoting renewable energy and making renewables work for development,
- Climate change: Supporting Africa in adapting to climate change,
- HIV/AIDS: Ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment and care,
- Gender: Implementing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a cross-sector task,
- Role of civil society: Strengthening civil society as a political force in its own right. Up-to-date information at: www.prospects-for-africa.de. Bonn, December 2006

For fair trade between the EU and the ACP countries (page 5)

We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

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

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

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

4. Extending the timeframe for the EPA negotiations _ so that comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and groups that may be adversely affected can take place, _ so that a serious analysis of the results of the review process and its incorporation in the negotiating process is guaranteed.

5. Responding positively to the needs of the ACP countries: _ by giving them enough time (at least 20 years) to deepen their regional integration and adjust their national concepts for political action and legislation to the EPA requirements, _ by providing additional resources to mitigate the costs of adjustment (“Adjustment Facility”), _ by eliminating all EU export subsidies on agricultural products as an integral part of EPAs, _ by monitoring EPA implementation with a view to achieving the objectives defined at national level.

Strengthening human security instead of promoting a defensive security strategy (page 7)

We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

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

2. Supporting an effective control of trade in small arms and light weapons The EU has to pressure arms producers in the EU Member States to comply with the code of conduct passed by the EU. We also call on the EU to start implementing the global “Arms Trade Treaty”.

3. Making use of the extraction of natural resources for development Concrete steps are required on the part of the EU to pass more binding regulations, for example by applying the “OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises” to companies based in EU Member States. This

has to coincide with the Kimberley Process to combat illegal trade in diamonds and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). In addition to EITI, we recommend that companies based in the EU are obliged to publish what they pay to governments in developing countries.

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

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

1.3 ACP Local Government Platform¹⁹

TOWARDS A JOINT EU –AFRICA STRATEGY

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Introduction

The position adopted to develop a joint strategy reflecting the needs and aspirations of the peoples of Africa and Europe is a very important step in the right direction. The joint planning of development plans based on a common political vision based on mutual respect, common interests and principle of ownership also has meaning when viewed in the context of the EU-ACP relations.

But, it is also important that the collaborative planning and development of a strategy with a shared political vision be related to the societies of Africa and Europe. If the joint strategy should be a product of central leaders that does not take account of the challenges faced by the people at the local level, then it is obvious that the policy will not yield the expected results.

Historical Perspective

Historically, political pronouncements from the EU structures and African governments have not yielded results on the ground for these were shrouded in some confusion and probably based on different philosophies especially on how to handle sub national issues of development and related resourcing. The approach of the EU has tended to cause conflict of interest between civil society on the one hand and local governments on the other. The manner in which African institutions were reflected by the policy implementing organs generally left non state actors and local governments in the cold as they were not deliberately brought into negotiations when there were discussions on new or revised policies, especially the local governments. This approach tended to be cascaded down to European structures at the local level.

¹⁹ Received: 16 March 2007

Posted at: <http://europafrica.org/2007/03/16/acplgp-contribution-to-the-consultation/>

Potential benefits

In our view, the decision to develop and joint strategy based on a common political vision creates congenial conditions for consultation at all levels of the cooperation. It implies cost effectiveness in the implementation of the policy outcomes at national and local levels. But more importantly, the Africa/EU cooperation will be viewed with seriousness as it will have fulfilled one of the most cardinal principles of the type of cooperation (such as AU/EU) through participation. Democracy in theory may not be viewed as democracy by those not involved. Participation coupled with the availing of vital information to the parties concerned builds confidence and helps to create strong linkages between various levels.

It is important that note is taken on how to involve the various groups, institutions on the continent. There is need for holding meetings, workshops to ensure that consultation with various stakeholders in the field is effectively done. In this regard, the meetings will need to be held with representatives of key stakeholders across the continent.

Whilst it may not be appropriate to prescribe the issues to be include in the new strategy – considering that consultation with stakeholders is meant to reflect on the relevant issues – one is tempted to cite some of the topical issues that the continent has attempted to address in the past decades but with mixed success include:

- Governance and its various factors. Democratic governance should be considered, not only at national and global levels, but also at local level. The role and added value of local governments should be fully recognised in the EU-Africa joint strategy. It is indeed at local level that the strategy is tested with the life of local populations, including the poorest, and it is at this level that the new strategy's credibility is at stake. In addition, appropriate articulation between the various levels of governance should be considered, including the establishment of a clear mechanism for a structured dialogue between the local, national and global governance.
- Role of local government in a very wide range of issues over and above the traditional services but new areas such as peace making. Most conflicts have their roots from tension between local communities. The early involvement of local governments in conflict prevention will help lessening the number of open conflicts. In the same vein, at the end of a conflict, local authorities are the ones responsible for implementing conditions for returning to communities' normal life. Thus local government should be involved in conflict prevention and management of the aftermath.

We know this can only be achieved where there is capacity. The capacity of local governments have various dimensions that will need to be addressed hence the need to include it.

There is also the issue of relations between European and African local government organs that needs to be reflected to strengthen their current linkages especially in programming.

At present there is less of Local Government in the African Union as compared with the situation in the EU though, the African local governments have not very much participated in the EU supported programmes. Accordingly, one sees an opportunity for both continents to take advantage of this envisaged joint strategy to strengthen local governments in both sides of the divide.

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The ACP Local Government Platform (ACPLGP) is an umbrella organisation established in 2001 by mayors and representatives of existing local government associations across the ACP countries. Its mission is to promote ACP local government's role in the cooperation strategies and programmes supported under the Cotonou Agreement. Further information on the Platform is available on its website: www.acplgp.net

1.4 Islamic Relief Worldwide²⁰

EU strategy for Africa

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

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

But also donor coordination and harmonization is essential, especially given that the EU contributes around 50% of global ODA. However, not only the attempts to improve coordination with other donors by adopting Country Strategy Papers and Regional Strategy Papers are important but also the way that the strategies are conceived. Again civil society must play a consistent role throughout this process to both lend it legitimacy and provide crucial insights. That said, we are well aware that European Commission external spending is set to increase by 4.5% per annum 2007-13, and that much of these increased funds will be focused on African, and also Caribbean and Pacific countries. We urge that this commitment be honoured in full as it is a fundamental aspect of the 2005 European Consensus on Development (endorsed by the 25 heads of state) which rightly prioritises poverty eradication and least developed countries. This includes of course that new targets for ODA (collectively providing 0.56% of GNI by 2010, as an intermediate step to achieving the UN target of 0.7% by 2015) are kept.

1.5 Joint contribution by 13 organisations²¹

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

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

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

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

²⁰ Received: 16 March, 2007

Posted at: <http://europafrika.org/2007/01/01/about-the-eu-africa-consultation-web-site/#comment-274>

For information about Islamic Relief Worldwide: <http://www.islamic-relief.com/>

²¹ Received: 16 March, 2007

Posted at: <http://europafrika.org/vision/#comment-271>

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

Sincerely,

Marie Stopes International (MSI)

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

Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM)

Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU)

Austrian Organization for family Planning (ÖGF)

World Population Foundation (WPF)

InterAct Worldwide

Family Planning Association Portugal (APF)

Sex og Samfund

Väestöliitto,

Stop AIDS Alliance

Equilibres et Populations

German Foundation for World Population (DSW)

Annex 2: Examples of contributions from other organisations as well as individuals

This annex provides examples of the contributions made on the websites. They are given in full, and the formulations have not been edited (apart from spelling). The views expressed are those of the individuals or organisations that have submitted the comments. All comments can be found on the two websites of the consultation: www.europafrica.org and www.europafrique.org

2.1 Process

Victor Onoviran (Nigeria, February 1)

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

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

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

- * Configure a multidisciplinary/multisectoral crack team to do a structured preparatory review, and produce a "BOLD 21st Century Proposal"...in the light of all we now know, and envisage.
- * By all means use the "wiki" approach for wider debate, inputs and consultation, but the creative and projectised imperatives won't come that way - considering the digital divide and internet penetration in Africa.
- * IT is interesting that this process has not been given due publicity and promotion on our continent, and I wonder how much is known about it in Europe as well - considering the general apathy for EU affairs. With the time constraint, it seems mainly the "converted" can be successfully targeted. Another mistake?
- * Which players are an equal part of this exercise in Africa? And how are they coping right now? Who are the African players in ECDPM coordination team? Another EU-dominated/imposed process?
- * Since the new relations/partnership will necessarily involve the Cotonou Agreement and its resource implication, what level of field surveys/research must be committed to this process - especially on the African continent? Or are we taking the usual "official" government reports - warts and all - as golden again?
- * I have my reservations on the "Critical Areas of Concern" listed as issue papers. The five themes are rather skewed away from the known agitations of Africa and Africans over the years. They seem to follow the failed IMF/World Bank outlook/approach of the past! If non-state actors must buy into the new endeavour, we need to revisit the list. I'm afraid that the African officials who agreed or promoted such prioritisation will be hard put to defend/sustain it at any African Stakeholders Congress!
- * A special role needs to be constructed for the African Press/Media in this business. It will enhance its chances of success.
- * What is the place of all previous initiatives and compacts in this new strategy?
- * Are the AU's known strengths and weaknesses (SWOT Analysis) properly factored into this process?
- * Finally (for now!), will both the EU and AU be bold and humble enough to bite the bullet...for CHANGE? For example, now listen to the citizens of Europe and Africa, rather than politicians and civil servants? Or is it business as usual?
- * ECDPM should root for TRANSFORMATION not mere consultation on stilted stereotype. If you need more time, so be it!

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

Shareef Malundah (February 28)

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

2.2 Shared Vision

Catherine Kithinji (Kenya, February 6)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maman Laminou Tata (Niger, 18 février):

Toutes les questions soulevées par ce débat se rapportent au partenariat entre Afrique et Europe dans une vision clairement définie et partagée entre les peuples de ces deux continents. Cette vision partagée ne pourra pas être valablement définie si l'on fait abstraction de l'analyse des enjeux tels que:

1. la question d'interdépendance entre les continents dans un contexte de mondialisation: la pauvreté, les calamités naturelles, l'insécurité, les conflits, l'immigration, les changements climatiques, les maladies etc ne sont ni l'apanage, ni confinés dans une frontière hermétique entre les deux continents.
2. La question de la réciprocité entre continent: les relations de coopération sont toujours basés sur des intérêts bien compris des acteurs en présence. Il faut donc sortir du schéma classique de division de travail entre l'Afrique (fournisseur des matières premières) et l'Europe (créatrice et bénéficiaire de valeur ajoutée issue de l'exploitation des matières premières). Il faut dépasser l'idée d'assistanat de l'Europe en faveur de l'Afrique pour aller dans le sens des projets et programmes durables et à impacts importants pour les citoyens. Il faut aller dans le sens de la justice et de l'égalité entre citoyens.
3. La question de la création de la richesse: l'emploi, l'appui aux secteurs productifs, l'appui à la micro entreprise, la formation de ressources humaines sont autant de facteurs permettant de combattre la pauvreté en Afrique et en Europe. Il faudrait donc continuer à lutter efficacement contre les causes de la pauvreté et non de lutter contre la pauvreté (aussi bien des riches que des misérables car la pauvreté est avant tout un état et dépend d'un jugement de valeur). Reconnaissons les limites de la course effrénée à une croissance économique de plus en plus déséquilibrée entre les continents et mal répartie pour les citoyens.
4. La gouvernance: il n'y a pas de démocratie pour l'Afrique et une démocratie pour l'Europe: les valeurs démocratiques, les droits de l'homme, la justice, l'équité, l'alternance au pouvoir sont des valeurs universels. Il faut rompre avec les relations paternalistes et interpersonnelles entre chefs d'Etats africains et européens pour aller dans le sens de relations entre les peuples et entre citoyens.
5. Communication et interculturalité: il faut donner un visage humain aux relations Afrique Europe qui n'ont de sens que si le citoyen lambda se reconnaît dans ce qui se fait. Mais cette reconnaissance n'est possible que s'il y a échanges culturels, échanges d'information, dialogues et compréhension mutuelle.
6. L'environnement: Heureusement et malheureusement la nature ne reconnaît pas les frontières entre pays et entre continents. Donc ayons conscience que les désastres environnementaux qui se passent ailleurs et nos comportements incompatibles avec la préservation de l'environnement nous indiquent clairement un choix politique à faire entre le "suicide collectif" et "une vie saine et équilibrée".

Pour conclure la question n'est pas de continuer à se lamenter sur les faiblesses de la coopération Europe Afrique ou de tomber dans un satisfécit général, la question principale est d'analyser objectivement les enjeux du partenariat pour définir une vision, puis une stratégie, des instruments et un plan d'action concret.

Jacques Gérard (France, 25 février):

Une question-clé me semble être celle de l'hétérogénéité des situations socio-économiques et politiques des différents pays du continent Africain. Tout comme pour l'OMC, je ne crois pas raisonnable d'envisager les mêmes règles pour tous quels que soient ces niveaux si différents. Illustration : peut-on envisager le même type de coopération avec un pays sous dictature et sans respect des droits de l'Homme qu'avec un pays démocratique ? Peut-on envisager le même type de coopération avec un pays à IDH faible et revenus pétroliers pourtant élevés qu'avec un pays à IDH faible ne disposant que de ressources agricoles ?

Dès lors, trois questions préalables devraient être posées :

- 1) Pensez-vous que différents types de coopération entre l'UE et l'Afrique devraient être établis en fonction des situations socio-économiques et politiques des différents Etats d'Afrique ?

- 2) Si oui, selon-vous, combien de types de relations UE/UA vous sembleraient nécessaires pour établir des coopérations efficaces et mutuellement profitables ? Deux ? Trois ? Quatre ?
- 3) Dans ce cas, quels seraient les critères à retenir pour une vision partagée sur le fait que tel ou tel pays relève de tel ou tel type de coopération ?

Un autre sujet me semble également mériter de figurer sous ce thème des (plutôt que de "la") visions partagées : celui des places respectives et associées de l'Afrique et de l'Europe dans le Monde. Pour moi, la coopération UA/UE n'intéresse pas seulement l'Afrique et l'Europe, mais le Monde entier.

Je propose donc une question qui pourrait être ainsi formulée : pensez-vous que l'Afrique et l'Europe puissent avoir des vues communes à partager et à défendre concernant le développement du monde ? Si oui, sur quels grands thèmes ?

Sophie Beaumont (Austria, February 28)

Light for the World is an Austrian development organisation providing services in support of blindness prevention and disability rehabilitation and works for the rights and interests of persons with disabilities living in developing countries.

Light for the World welcomes this consultation process on the Africa Strategy. However, we regret the limitations of the process of consultation and share the concerns of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities on this. In order to reach out to the poorest and most marginalised communities a one month online consultation, to shape the agenda, is not at all sufficient. Much more time is needed and a more diverse method of outreach to local and marginalised communities.

The principles of the Africa-EU partnership should include:

- The principles of democracy and human rights which properly recognise the inherent nature, the universality and indivisibility of those rights for ALL persons.
- Principles of non-discrimination and equality for all - including persons with disabilities and other marginalised and discriminated groups. Principles of non-discrimination must include the principles of both direct and indirect discrimination. In the case of persons with disabilities in the poorest communities this means addressing the social barriers including the stigma and prejudice as well the breaking down of environmental barriers which perpetuate the exclusion and poverty in which persons with disabilities live and prevent persons with disabilities from moving freely in society.
- Mutual accountability – both the AU member states and the EU member states to adhere to principles of transparency and governance which determine effective use of public funds and effective public service delivery without - discrimination and in a way which reaches out to the most vulnerable of a country's citizens. Transparency and effective delivery of public services lies at the very heart of proper governance.
- Local involvement and ownership: a local involvement which is fully inclusive and actively reaches out to the most marginalised in the community
- Civil society involvement – inclusive of all civil society organisations including organisations of persons with disabilities.
- Active support and capacity building of organisations representing the weakest and most marginalised groups of persons in society.
- The AU and the EU should considerably and dramatically increase support for basic social services, in particular for health and education – fundamental to achievement of the MDGs.
- The African Union and the European Union should directly address the issue of discrimination, the promotion of non-discrimination, inclusive development and the rights based approach to development as an essential means to reach the most marginalised and discriminated persons in developing countries.

2.3 Governance

James Nyawo (Zimbabwe, February 21)

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

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

Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwami (5 mars)

La bonne gouvernance implique le développement, le respect des droits humains, l'Etat de droit, la paix, la sécurité, l'accès des populations aux biens de première nécessité, la redistribution équitable des ressources nationales...

Dans la plus part des Etats africains, ces notions font défaut alors qu'à l'UE ces notions sont primordiales pour qu'un Etat en fasse partie. C'est ainsi que tous les Etats de l'UE sont considérés comme appliquant la bonne gouvernance.

L'UE peut donc partager son expérience en la matière avec l'UA, celle-ci pouvant emprunter certaines méthodes de celle-là.

Le parlement et les cours de justices sont les piliers de la bonne gouvernance si ils jouent réellement leurs rôles. Mais en ce qui concerne le parlement, il ne peut jouer ce rôle que quand il est mis en place suivant les normes démocratiques. Les cours de justice doivent être indépendantes.

Le parlement doit voter des lois justes et équitables, renforcer la législation contre la corruption, la législation sur les cours et tribunaux en les rendant réellement indépendants. Mais comme les bonnes lois ne suffisent pas et que le parlement a aussi le contrôle de l'exécutif comme rôle, il doit s'assurer que le gouvernement agit conformément à la loi, dans le cas contraire, les cours et tribunaux doivent intervenir pour faire respecter la loi.

Mais actuellement, en plus de l'absence d'un système judiciaire réellement indépendant dans la plus part des Etats africains, il se pose un problème des ressources humaines et des moyens matériels.

L'UE peut utiliser l'expérience qu'elle est en train d'avoir dans certains Etats africains en matière de renforcement des capacités des opérateurs judiciaires et aider les gouvernements africains à pouvoir assurer des conditions sociales acceptables aux fonctionnaires.

Les acteurs de la société civile doivent respecter les lois, éviter les fraudes fiscales, éviter de corrompre, soutenir l'Etat de droit.

Bien plus, les coordinations des sociétés civiles doivent jouer le rôle de sensibilisateur à la bonne gouvernance auprès des populations.

Eva Tänneryd - March 1, 2007

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

Stop the development towards war or terror in Western Sahara by

- a) Making Morocco execute the decisions taken by UN and the International Court.
- b) Stopping all arms dealings with Morocco.

- c) Stopping all foreign aid from EU to Morocco.
- d) Supporting those forces in the area following international law and being a guarantee against terrorism.

Farai Maguwu - March 8, 2007

I hope the AU-EU strategy has something to offer to the suffering masses of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is in a similar, if not worse off scenario, than Darfur. Its only that guns are very silent in Zimbabwe but the death rate is very high due to structural violence and alarming levels of human insecurity. The AU should show the world that it will not tolerate bad governance by dealing with Mugabe once and for all. Sanctions are killing more Zimbabweans whilst at the same time helping Mugabe tighten his grip on power. Human life is precious and we are tired of seeing thousands dying of malnutrition and preventable diseases each week.

2.4 Key Development Issues

Andrew K. Dube (South Africa, February 16)

Introduction to African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

The African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009), is a decade declared by the African Union to highlight the lives of people with disabilities. It is an initiative inclusive of civil society, governments, and other interested groups. It is undertaken in collaboration with the African Union, African Governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs working with disability and development. In order to coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the decade a Secretariat was established. The mission of the Secretariat of the African Decade is to empower Governments, DSCs, DPOs and development organisations to work in partnership to include disability and persons with disabilities into policies and programs in all sectors of society in Africa.

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

Disability inclusion and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy

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

Consultation with Civil Society is one of the underpinning principles of the Cotonou agreement. We question the current process for laying the agenda for a joint EU-Africa strategy. Is an on-line consultation carried out over such a short period the best way to consult people living in the poorest communities in Africa, and in particular, persons with disability and their families?

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

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

March 30th this year marks the opening for signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of person with disabilities. This Convention, the first Human Rights convention of the 21st century clearly lays down our obligations to respect and protect the rights of persons with disability- and

Article 32 specifically requires attention to disability in development cooperation activities. The Joint EU Africa Strategy must also take the new Disability Rights convention into consideration and recognise and support Africa's interest in taking a leading role in its implementation. We welcome all efforts made by ECDPM to create a more inclusive framework for developing the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, and specifically including the perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Further details about the African Decade can be found on website:

<http://www.africandecade.org.za>

Andrew K. Dube, CEO SADPD

Geert Vanneste (Belgium, February 21)

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

1. 95% of African people were born after the decolonization. If any colonization really does exist these days, it is how African leaders are disconnected from their people, and from their duties towards them, political leaders from their people, teachers from their pupils, doctors from their patients. What to do? See 2.

2. Therefore, EU representatives should consider African leadership (receivers of EU support) not just as 'representatives' but most of all as CEOs, who are accountable to their Board of Directors for the objectives set by the latter. A CEO who doesn't deliver is replaced before the tap can be reopened. Let's get serious. What the EU did in Kenya: well done! Why not elsewhere? Because of budgets? See 3.

3. Development aid should not function as a reverse bank: first allocate and then try to spend well. AT ALL TIMES, the criteria for budget allocation should be a conducive environment, i.e. a qualified manager, good accounting reputation, qualified staff, tradition of achieving the objectives. If these are not there, the budgets should not be allocated! If leaders don't accept formal control: fine, then stop support. Normal, isn't it? But how? See 4.

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

5. Before anything: be aware that, if one really asks people, that the nun in the dispensary or the teacher in his school objectively had more impact on improving lives of African people, rather than the regional multi-million dollar program.

What should be prioritized? a. Strengthen human resource at all levels, and see it as a short and long term goal. But create competition!: put as condition that the labor market should be open to foreigners with qualifications. The impact of braindrain (or should we say globalization of human resource?) can only be eased, by allowing it both ways. b. Be transparent about received support : inform the people at large in detail of any support and donations: how much, for what, who is responsible for implementation, when to be implemented, where can you write with complaints c. Much more formal monitoring of project/development results, and reinforce consequences. d. Judiciary: it is not acceptable that almost anywhere in Africa, one gets jailed for stealing a banana on the market, but after stealing millions of dollars, one seems untouchable. Did we mention 'disconnection'? e. Want to prioritize some direct service delivery? Then improve the quality of child birth, and support programs empowering women and persons with disabilities: the most cost-effective work in Africa if you intend to improve lives.

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

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

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

Jean-Marie Blanchard (France, 23 février)

L'UE devrait avant tout soutenir des projets de renforcement des capacités des ressources humaines africaines ..en effet, il est maintenant prouvé que l'Afrique ne se développera pas grâce aux initiatives et programmes conçus à l'extérieur ..l'Afrique se développera à son propre rythme et conformément à ses propres choix ...rien ne sert de continuer à investir dans des projets qui ne répondent à de tels critères!

Au contraire, contribuer à la formation des hommes et des femmes, soutenir financièrement les jeunes entrepreneurs constituent autant de véritables leviers de développement, fondateurs d'un développement pérenne parce que choisi et engagé par les africains eux-mêmes ...de mieux en mieux formés.

Basile Awassi (27 février):

Les relations actuelles entre l'UE et l'Afrique ne sont pas stratégiques et ne s'inscrivent pas dans une logique de développement. Ce n'est pas seulement une question d'argent mais c'est d'abord une question de vision et de volonté d'aider réellement l'Afrique à se prendre en charge. Pour ce faire quels sont les déterminants sur lesquels il faut agir? Quels sont les secteurs sur lesquels les efforts doivent être concentrés? Quelles sont les leçons qui ont été tirées des expériences des pays émergents? Comment les populations sont-elles impliquées dans le processus d'élaboration des programmes de développement?

L'éducation, la santé, les infrastructures de base (énergie, communication et transports), la formation, la gouvernance sont des secteurs sur lesquels des efforts doivent être concentrés. Enfin l'aide de l'UE doit être massive et soutenue mais assortie de résultats.

2.5 Trade and regional integration

National Council of SPCAs (South Africa, February 16)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

CELESTE HOUSEMAN

Manager

GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs

James Maringwa (February 27)

EU-AFRICA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CASE FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION

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

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

subsidy supports for their exports and for local production. So when the EU removes its massively huge agricultural and trade distorting subsidies that implicitly “protects” poor African farmers and families whose only source of livelihood in the impoverished continent is not services driven but Agriculturally premised!

Submitted by James Maringwa

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

Andrew Allimadi (Ethiopia, February 7)

If there is one policy alone that is responsible for Africa’s high levels of poverty, it is the common agricultural policy (CAP) in the EU (and other farm support mechanisms in Japan, the US and Australia). However, the EU remains Africa’s largest trading partner. At a stroke of removing CAP, and granting African countries special and differential treatment in accessing EU markets, policy makers can “make poverty history” and reduce illegal migration that is wrecking both Africa and Europe.

Durand Felicien Prosper (Benin, World's Poultry Science Association, Benin Branch, 25 février)

Dans le cadre du renforcement futur des liens de coopération entre les communautés économiques, nous voudrions présenter selon notre entendement la situation et la problématique pour proposer une voie de résolution accompagnée de certaines informations pertinentes.

Considérant que la plupart des pays africains sont fortement dépendant du commerce international et des liquidités internationales, il est clair que la prospérité de l’industrie africaine est très liée à la qualité de la politique économique de sa communauté. De ce fait, les relations communauté- industrie doivent être étroites d’une part, et d’autre part, les relations communauté- communauté doivent avoir un dialogue franc.

Aujourd’hui, même le plus grand pays européen forme un marché trop petit pour que soient efficacement utilisées les ressources que réclame la véritable entreprise.

On le sait désormais, la mauvaise gouvernance mondiale est l’une des voies qui mène à la pauvreté des populations; Certes, le partenariat secteurs publics secteurs privés est déjà une approche qui ne peut que renforcer la bonne gouvernance.

La gestion moderne et les technologies modernes exigent aussi des marchés vastes et intégrés. Pour que les communautés comme l’UEMOA, la CEDEAO et l’UE pour ne citer que celles là, s’engagent véritablement et irréversiblement dans la voie du développement, il est impérieux que la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance des cités soient consolidées car tout part de la cité pour retourner à la cité.

En somme, la vérité est que dans la Communauté, dans l’Etat aussi bien que dans l’Entreprise privée, l’inadaptation quantitative et qualitative de l’encadrement constitue sans nul doute la principale cause de la lenteur des progrès et de la fréquence des rechutes.

De quoi a-t-on besoin réellement?

D’Hommes qui ont l’âme et l’esprit d’un véritable entrepreneur ; qui sont novateurs, qui ont la capacité de traduire en action des idées et des découvertes ; qui sont à la fois réceptifs au Changement ; qui sont très disposés à admettre l’ambiguïté et l’incertitude ; qui ont la volonté de prendre des risques.

Par le représentant de World’s Poultry Science Association (WPSA)
au Bénin

www.wpsa-benin.new.fr

2.6 Peace and security

Amandine (13 février)

Je vais suivre ce débat avec attention, sachant tout de même que mon point de vue concernant l'UA est très clair. Il s'agit d'une organisation dont l'efficacité sur le terrain sera toujours limitée (trop d'Etats membres, une machine institutionnelle lourde quoique aujourd'hui encore trop récente, ...). Nous n'avons qu'à regrader l'exemple européen, en y ajoutant les problèmes que connaît le continent africain.

Je pense donc que l'UA, qui est un acteur important et une interface de choix pour le dialogue avec les pays et organisations extérieurs à l'Afrique, doit redéfinir clairement ses relations avec les Communautés économiques régionales africaines. L'échelon régional est, pour de nombreuses problématiques (la mondialisation, la régionalisation des conflits,...), le meilleur niveau d'action.

Le problème concernant l'Afrique, et cela me frappe au quotidien, est celui de la diffusion de nombreux clichés dont celui d'une Afrique une et indivisible, à l'image de l'UA. Or, je pense que la région est le "cadre" où est réellement mise en valeur la connaissance des sensibilités culturelles, indispensables pour comprendre les enjeux du continent.

Voici un bref résumé de ma position à l'égard de cette problématique africaine.

Luis Manuel Brás Bernardino (Portugal, February 26)

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

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

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