



Additional points from the public consultation on the joint EU-Africa strategy

ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), October 2007

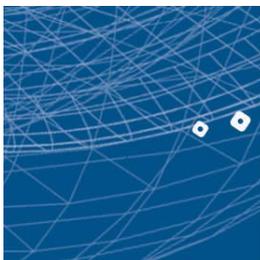
*A public consultation was launched by the African Union Commission and the European Commission at the beginning of February in order to gather civil society recommendations on the joint EU-Africa Strategy to be approved at the planned second EU-Africa Summit in December 2007. The first phase of this consultation lasted until the end of April. The ECDPM facilitated this process and a paper was written to present an overview of the recommendations received from this consultations¹. Since May, four African and seven European organisations have sent with their views as well as four organisations or groups of organisations with mixed origin. **These main recommendations from the fifteen position papers sent during the second phase of the consultation between May and October are summarized into this report²**. The points mentioned in the first paper are supported by later contributions, especially remarks concerning the involvement of civil society in the consultation and development process as well as concerning the Economic Partnership Agreements. Some of the points stressed repeatedly by the participants reappear in this additional report. However, some new points need to be added. The points are sorted in the same themes as in the first report, namely: shared vision; governance, democracy and human rights; key development issues; trade and regional integration; and peace and security. Furthermore, a new theme has been added: institutional architecture, civil society and monitoring process.*

Shared vision:

- The EU is requested to further acknowledge concerns raised by African countries and learn from African experience and analysis.
- There is a need to diminish the gap between policy and practice.
- An open, equal and transparent dialogue is vital for development.
- The participation of young people in the development process is important
- Diverse consultation methods should be applied in order to ensure that the views of all groups of people are heard.

¹ To view the document, please visit this page: <http://europafrika.org/2007/05/23/the-public-consultation-on-the-joint-eu-africa-strategy/>

² To view these documents, please visit this page: <http://europafrika.org/2007/01/04/civil-society-positions-in-second-phase-of-consultations/>



- Africans need to conserve their values and aim for an African unity with room for cultural diversity.
- The Strategy should be a process ensuring a real and equal involvement of European and African Non State Actors and not only a temporary relationship.

Governance, democracy and human rights:

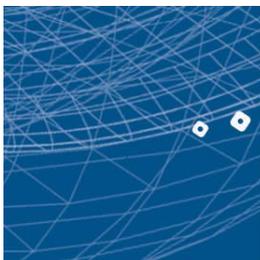
- Disability, gender, and age issues should be mainstreamed in order for vulnerable groups to benefit from development policies
- To promote equitable global governance the strategy paper should state EU's role in ensuring that Africa is represented equitably in the United Nations, the World Bank and IMF.
- It is requested that the EU exert control on European corporations and investors to make sure they respect human rights where they operate and the rights of workers should be discussed
- The leaders' sense of responsibility towards the people's needs should increase in comparison with that towards financial partners.
- It is time to agree on establishing mechanisms to monitor violations of humanitarian law.
- There is a need to strengthen the independence of the media and the freedom of expression.

Key development issues:

- There is a call for increased attention towards disabled people.
- Raise awareness of issues related to ageing, disability and gender.
- Construct relationships between ordinary people and the institutions affecting their lives.
- Transparency on the use of natural resources and review the consumption of vulnerable resources, and compensation and reinvestment to exploited countries is required.
- Cleaner energy sources are needed.
- Increase budget and sector support for enhanced predictability of aid.
- Strong recommendations on the full untying of aid.

Trade and regional integration:

- The importance of policy coherence between EU trade and foreign policy is stressed.
- Concerns about the EPAs negotiations are voiced including the possible devastating effect of forced or premature opening of African markets to unequal competition.
- Concerns are raised about a simplified positive relation between increased trade and better living standards for poor people.
- Africa should be allowed to consolidate her own regional integration before she is forced to open up to Free Trade Areas.
- The supply side constraints of African farmers should be addressed by assisting in developing public infrastructure and utilities (e.g. irrigation, rural electrification etc.).



- The need to abolish subsidies to European farmers is voiced.
- Regional integration needs to be pursued in tandem with adding-value to production.
- Identification of the type of FDI that will support equitable growth, employment and local industry.
- Cross-cutting border dynamics and the promotion of regional cooperation need to be taken into consideration to resolve regional problems.

Peace and security:

- Attention is drawn to the importance of recognition of the differential impact of war and conflict on women and the need to mainstream gender in peacekeeping operations.
- Tackling the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is an urgent matter.
- Involvement of African CSOs in areas of peace and security is demanded.
- The EU should take strong stance to help control international arms transfers (for example by making the EU Code of Conduct concerning arms transfers legally binding).
- Support the APF (African Peace Facility) with alternative budget lines than the ODA funding sources.

Institutional architecture, civil society and monitoring process:

- Request for a youth committee within the African Union.
- An effective benchmarking system is required and must include a transparent periodic monitoring mechanism, delegated to independent consultants, as well as mechanisms for non state actors input.
- The EU should offer diplomatic and financial support to the participation of parliament and civil society in the countries' self-assessment process and in the monitoring of the national plans of action.
- A more qualitative form of evaluation is preferred.

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