

Peace and Security

The meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Experts Group was held on 18 October 2011, at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting which was co-chaired by the AU and EU, was attended by members of the JEG from Africa and EU, and representatives from the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs): Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Eastern Africa Standby Force Coordinating Mechanism (EASFCOM) and the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC).

The meeting discussed the three priority areas of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, Partnership on Peace and Security, namely Political Dialogue, Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and funding for African-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs).

A. Political Dialogue

Under the Political Dialogue, the meeting received a briefing on the **developments in Northern Africa**, particularly in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

The meeting acknowledged the existing concerns related to the situation of migrant workers in Libya, the re-integration of those returning to their countries of origin as well as the proliferation of weapons. A planned Pledging Conference will be convened by the AU very soon to develop a strategy in support of neighbouring countries. The EU is ready to work together with the AU in order to bring its contributions towards the stabilization of Libya and the Sahel-Saharan region, on the basis of the partnership and African ownership.

The meeting also emphasized the need for sustained economic and financial support to facilitate the ongoing transitions in North Africa. The AU and the EU should intensify their dialogue in this respect and identify concrete actions to be jointly undertaken.

On **Terrorism in the Sahel Region**, the meeting stressed again the importance of continued and close cooperation between the AU and the EU in fighting this phenomenon, especially with regard to the new threats posed by the proliferation of weapons. It noted the ongoing efforts by the countries of the region and the AU to effectively address the problems in the region, in particular, the scourge of terrorism, within the framework of the relevant AU decisions, instruments and strategies. In this regard, the meeting was informed of the importance and promising results of the conference of the countries of region held in Algiers on 7 – 8 September 2011 with extra partners, including the EU, and welcomed this outcome

Also in this context, the EU presented the key elements of its Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel. The EU will formally brief the AU PSC on this Strategy at the beginning of next year, as part of the consultations with the AU.

On **Sudan and South Sudan**, the meeting was informed on the ongoing efforts by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to address issues pertaining to the relations between the two states, including the resolution of the Abyei crisis, finalization of post-secession arrangements, promotion of security along the border and Darfur. The AU

underlined the need for continued political and financial support to the work of the AUHIP. The EU confirmed its continued support for the work of the AUHIP and other initiatives in the two countries.

B. Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

The meeting was informed of the APSA assessment study that was undertaken by the AU in conjunction with the RECs/RMs and the EU from July to October 2010, and subsequent efforts that led to the development of an exhaustive Roadmap outlining the steps to be taken for the full operationalization of the ASF. This Roadmap covers the period 2011-2013, and includes an Action Plan, which implementation is being supported inter-alia by a 40 million euro Support Programme financed by the African Peace Facility, as well as bilateral contributions. The meeting underlined the need for close monitoring of the implementation process and enhance coordination among all stakeholders under the guidance of the AU

C. The political framework and perspectives for predictable and sustainable funding for Africa-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs)

The meeting was informed of the decision adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the subsequent resolution of the UN Security Council in September on the extension of AMISOM mandate and the UN Support package to the Mission. The meeting welcomed the progress made on the ground as well as the results achieved in the political process.

The meeting agreed on the need for continued support to AMISOM to enable it effectively to discharge its mandate. The AU requested the EU to provide continued financial support to AMISOM. The EU referred to the need to enlarge the group of contributors as the support provided through the African Peace Facility is not sustainable in the future at current level.

On **MICOPAX**, the meeting was informed of the ongoing consultations on the program of activities of the mission for 2012, bearing in mind that its mandate is coming to an end in 2013. The meeting welcomed the close cooperation between the AU, EU and ECCAS in supporting MICOPAX.

On **Lord Resistance Army (LRA)**, the meeting exchanged views on the ongoing efforts towards the implementation of the AU-led regional initiative against the LRA. Both the AU and the EU agreed to continue discussing modalities for further EU support to this initiative.

Democratic Governance and Human Rights

The 5th informal Joint Expert Group meeting of the Democratic Governance and Human Rights partnership took place on 29-30 September 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was attended (by members of the iJEG) more than 50 participants, including African and EU Member States, African Union and European Commission representatives, AU representatives in NY, members of AU ECOSOC and EU Civil Society.

With 2012 being the AU year of Shared Values and the current changes taking place in the African continent and within the EU, the iJEG has represented an important opportunity to

give a real push to the Africa-EU dialogue and cooperation in the areas of Democratic Governance and Human Rights.

The meeting was co-chaired by Egypt, Chair of the African Implementation Team, and Germany and Portugal, Co-Chairs of the EU Implementation Team. After the opening remarks made by the Co-Chairs, the iJEG discussed and consensually adopted a roadmap for 2011-2012, underlining the key activities, lead actors, financial resources and the state of play for the implementation of the Action Plan.

The roadmap identified some activities in the three priority areas of the partnership, including:

Priority 1: “Enhanced Dialogue and cooperation at the global level and in international fora”

- a. Joint Platform for Dialogue on Democratic Governance and Human Rights
 - Working Group on the Governance of Natural Resources, Including in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations
 - Working Group on Freedom of Expression, including media
- b. AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue: The next institutional dialogue will be taking place in November
- c. Cooperation in International Fora: The iJEG agreed to work closely with AU and EU representations in Geneva on concerning on the convening of a workshop on fighting racism in the margins of the Human Rights Council. The meeting also agreed to enhance contacts in New York between the African and European Groups to facilitate the exchange of positions on priorities ahead of the next session of the UNGA 3rd Committee
- d. Cross Partnership Dialogue: close collaboration with the Migration partnership will be sought

Priority 2: “Cooperation in the Area of Governance Initiatives”

- a. Support to the African Governance Architecture (AGA), including the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance
- b. APRM :Support to the APRM secretariat and implementation of National Plans of Actions
- c. Elections: training will be organized for capacity building in the area of electoral observation

Priority 3: Strengthen Cooperation in the Area of Cultural Goods and Other Areas of Cultural Cooperation

- a. Update on ongoing initiatives:
 1. Finalize inventory on cooperation in the area of cultural goods
 2. Art at work Visionary Africa Travelling Exhibition

- b. Activities towards the implementation of agreed activities: The iJEG noted the lack of expertise to move forward activities in this area and agreed to use as a basis the working group model to ensure that the necessary technical expertise will be mobilized by both sides to ensure the timely implementation of the projects agreed upon and listed in the roadmap.

The full list of activities (DGHR implementation roadmap 2011-2012) is annexed to the iJEG report and will be available on the joint website. These activities demonstrate progress made in this partnership on issues that are politically important and have been considered in the past as being difficult issues to be addressed in an Africa-EU forum.

The next iJEG meeting will take place in Geneva to ensure better synergies with the Africa-EU cooperation in international fora. Date and place will be communicated in due course.

Trade and Regional Integration

1. The co-chair regret that for the second time a formal Joint Expert Group meeting could not take place. Participation included officials from South Africa, ECCAS, Africa Union Commission (Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Economic Affairs), UNIDO and European Commission (Delegation, Agriculture, SANCO, Market, Development and Cooperation). The first participation of ECCAS, UNIDO and EC DG Agriculture is particularly welcome. The absence of most AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities, EU Member States and other donors is particularly regretted. The EU co-chair suggested to associate as far as possible ad hoc JEG or working groups meetings with the planned meetings of AU thematic experts groups preparing relevant ministerial or Summits meetings.
2. The meeting reviewed the state of play in each of the seven priority areas of the P3 Action Plan 2011-2013, namely regional integration, agriculture, including SPS, industry, customs and trade facilitation, raw materials, investment and statistics, covering about 50 ongoing or envisaged actions. Discussions focused on next steps, division of work and the financial coverage and updating or identifying areas for implementation in 2012 and 2013.
3. The detailed operational conclusions are included in a roadmap currently being updated.
4. The meeting was informed on the preparation of the next AU Summit that will deal with intra-African trade. This will include finalising four documents (an issues/strategy paper, an action plan for the short, medium and long term, an evaluation and monitoring mechanism and an architecture for trade for Africa) and ad hoc events:
 - A retreat in November with RECs, international partners, NGOs, resource persons and possibly ECDPM
 - An Africa Trade Forum in November, co-organised with UNECA
 - The AU Trade Ministers Conference in Accra end November.