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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations
Subject : Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its First Action Plan (2008-2010)

Delegations find annexed the final text of the Strategic Partnership agreed at the Africa-EU Summit on 8/9 December 2007 in Lisbon.

THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
A Joint Africa-EU Strategy

I. CONTEXT, SHARED VISION AND PRINCIPLES**1. Context**

1. Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a community of values: the respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of our respective Unions.

2. Since the historic first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo in 2000, where our partnership was strengthened through the institutionalisation of our dialogue, considerable change has taken place on both continents. Democratisation and reform processes have been launched and are being deepened in both Africa and Europe and efforts have continued on both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents have accelerated – on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been transformed into the African Union (AU) with its socio-economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); on the other hand, the European Union (EU) has nearly doubled in size and is in the process of deepening the Union. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have emerged, globalisation has accelerated and the world has become increasingly interdependent.

3. In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU has rapidly developed and diversified. Both sides have developed political strategies and policy documents to guide their cooperation, including the AU Constitutive Act and Strategic Framework 2004-2007 and the EU Africa Strategy of 2005. However, it is now time for these two neighbours, with their rich and complex history, to forge a new and stronger partnership that builds on their new identities and renewed institutions, capitalises on the lessons of the past and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic and well integrated cooperation. There is now a need for a new phase in the Africa-EU relationship, a new strategic partnership and a Joint Africa-EU Strategy as a political vision and roadmap for the future cooperation between the two continents in existing and new areas and arenas.

2. Shared Vision

4. The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to take the Africa-EU relationship to a new, strategic level with a strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels. The partnership will be based on a Euro-African consensus on values, common interests and common strategic objectives. This partnership should strive to bridge the development divide between Africa and Europe through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development in both continents, living side by side in peace, security, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity.
5. This Joint Strategy, which will provide an overarching long-term framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive short-term Action Plans and enhanced political dialogue at all levels, resulting in concrete and measurable outcomes in all areas of the partnership.

3. Principles

6. This partnership and its further development will be guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, and respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development. In the light of this new partnership, both sides also commit themselves to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of existing agreements, policies and instruments.
7. The partnership will furthermore be governed by strengthened political dialogue, co-management and co-responsibility in our bilateral cooperation and towards global issues, burden-sharing and mutual accountability, solidarity and mutual confidence, equality and justice, common and human security, respect for international law and agreements, gender equality and non-discrimination and, not least, a long-term approach.

II. OBJECTIVES

8. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership are:
 - i. To reinforce and elevate **the Africa-EU political partnership** to address issues of common concern. This includes strengthening of institutional ties and addressing common challenges, in particular peace and security, migration and development, and a clean environment. To this end, both sides will treat Africa as one and upgrade the Africa-EU political dialogue to enable a strong and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership, with the AU and the EU at the centre.
 - ii. To strengthen and promote peace, security, democratic governance and human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, sustainable economic development, including industrialisation, and regional and continental integration in Africa, and to ensure that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are met in all African countries by the year of 2015.

- iii.* To jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism, with strong, representative and legitimate institutions, and the reform of the United Nations (UN) system and of other key international institutions, and to address global challenges and common concerns such as human rights, including children's rights and gender equality, fair trade, migration, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, climate change, energy security and sustainability, terrorism, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and knowledge-based society issues such as ICT, science, technology and innovation.
- iv.* To facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging **people-centred partnership**, Africa and the EU will empower non-state actors¹ and create conditions to enable them to play an active role in development, democracy building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Both sides will also promote holistic approaches to development processes, and make this Joint Strategy a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors in the EU, Africa and beyond. Ongoing dialogue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered by this Joint Strategy will be a key component to ensure its implementation.

III. NEW APPROACHES

9. In order to meet these fundamental objectives, Africa and the EU will need to jointly address a number of key political challenges that are essential for the success of the new partnership, including:
- a) To move away from a traditional relationship and forge a real partnership characterised by equality and the pursuit of common objectives.

¹ In the context of this Joint Strategy, the term non-state actors is understood as comprising : i) private sector, ii) economic and social partners including trade union organizations and iii) civil society in all its forms according to national characteristics.

- b) To build on positive experiences and lessons learned from our past relationship where successful mechanisms and instruments have been applied in specific policy areas and learn from shortcomings in other areas.
- c) To promote more accurate images of each other, in place of those that are dominated by inherited negative stereotypes and that ignore the overwhelmingly positive developments on the two continents.
- d) To encourage mutual understanding between the peoples and cultures of the two continents and promote better and more systematic use of our shared cultural and social heritage and our cultural diversity, as well as the economic wealth and opportunities that exist in Europe and Africa.
- e) To recognise and fully support Africa's efforts and leadership to create conducive conditions for sustainable social and economic development and the effective implementation of partner-supported development programmes and to, in this context, underline the importance of strong African political commitment and responsibility in support of the objectives and priorities of the partnership.
- f) To work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership, and to set up a framework that better addresses each others' concerns.
- g) To ensure that bilateral relations, dialogue and cooperation between one or more European and African countries contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in this Joint Strategy.
- h) To integrate in our agenda common responses to global challenges and strengthen our dialogue and cooperation in the multilateral context.

- i) To encourage the full integration of members of migrant communities/diasporas in their countries of residence, while at the same time promoting and facilitating links with their countries of origin, with a view to providing concrete contributions to the development process.

- j) To bear in mind that we can only achieve our objectives if this strategic partnership is owned by all stakeholders, including civil society actors and local authorities, and if they are actively contributing to its implementation.

IV. STRATEGIES

1. Strategic Framework

- 10. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership set the comprehensive framework within which specific strategies will have to be put in place in the following areas:
(a) peace and security, (b) governance and human rights, (c) trade and regional integration and (d) key development issues.

- 11. In the implementation of this new partnership, the principle of policy coherence for development will be applied by both African and EU partners by identifying and promoting interactions and positive complementarities between sectoral policies and strategies, while ensuring that measures taken in one policy area do not undermine results in other areas.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 12. In order to meet our objectives, Africa and the EU will need to take concrete action and to make significant progress in the following strategic inter-related priority areas:

a) Peace and Security: Promoting a Safer World

13. Due to their history and experience, Africa and Europe understand the importance of peace and security as preconditions for political, economic and social development. On this basis, the two continents have laid the foundation for successful cooperation based on the need to promote holistic approaches to security, encompassing conflict prevention and long-term peace-building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, linked to governance and sustainable development, with a view to addressing the root causes of conflicts.
14. However, there is today a clear determination by both Africa and the EU to bring this partnership to a new and strategic level, not only to foster peace and security in both continents, but also to address issues of common concern in the global arena.

Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa and Europe

15. At the core of the partnership between Africa and the EU is the need for a strengthened dialogue and institutional cooperation that not only addresses issues of peace and stability in Africa, but also challenges that Europe is facing. The two sides therefore undertake to share information, perspectives and lessons learned, as well as to consult on issues of common concern. Not only will this enhance the ability of both continents to respond timely and appropriately to peace and security threats, but it will also facilitate the coordination of efforts in relevant international fora, in particular the United Nations Security Council.
16. Under the leadership of the AU, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is taking shape. African peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building mechanisms are being strengthened at the continental, regional and national levels. Continentally or regionally sponsored peace agreements are the norm on the continent today, and most African countries now enjoy peace and stability. The EU has been a key partner for African countries and organisations to help create conditions for lasting peace and stability.

17. In view of their expertise, financial and human resources and experience, the EU and its Member States are well placed to provide continued and increased support for the AU in its efforts to – in cooperation with the relevant African regional organisations – operationalise the APSA, including through long-term capacity building for the various structures provided therein, including the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) will play a key coordinating role in this process. This support will, moreover, aim at facilitating the implementation of other relevant AU instruments such as the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, the Declaration on the Border Program and relevant instruments on disarmament issues. In this context, efforts will be made to ensure coherence with wider international efforts.

18. EU support to Africa has been and continues to be guided by the principle of African ownership. At the same time, valuable guidance for the cooperation will, as appropriate, be drawn from the EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts and relevant parts of the EU Joint Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform and the EU Concept on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, and from lessons learned from the implementation of the African Peace Facility (APF), and from wider international experience. EU support will be provided through a number of different instruments, in particular the capacity building component of the APF, EU crisis management instruments as well as other EU programmes, such as Euro-RECAMP, and through bilateral Member States' support.

19. Building capacity should go hand in hand with contributing to adequate, coherent and sustainable financing of the activities undertaken by the AU and the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, both with respect to civilian crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

20. Sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations is another major challenge. The APF has made a substantial contribution and is a good example of how partner support can complement and reinforce African funding for African-led peace support operations, including from the AU Peace Fund. However, experience over the past years has clearly shown that additional financial support is urgently needed, together with sound and accountable management systems. The EU is committed to taking steps towards establishing a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism, building on the experience of the APF and EU Member States' bilateral contributions, as well as on the determination of Africa to raise additional resources from within the continent.
21. At the same time, the EU will back Africa's efforts to widen the funding base and mobilise additional resources from G8 and other international partners. Africa and the EU will also work together for the establishment, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, of a UN mechanism to provide predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority, and with the consent of the UN Security Council.
22. Africa and the EU together commit themselves to support and promote the role of civil society and non-state actors in underpinning a comprehensive approach, emphasising the importance of conflict sensitivity. The two sides also commit themselves to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women in Peace and Security and 1612 on Children in Armed Conflicts.

Common and Global Peace and Security Challenges

23. While today's global environment has opened up new opportunities to enhance international peace and security, it has also come with new security challenges, which in a world of increasing interdependence and close links between the internal and external aspects of security, only can be addressed through concerted international action, including in a UN context. Issues relating to transnational organised crime, international terrorism, mercenary activities, and human and drugs trafficking, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources, which are a major factor in triggering and spreading conflicts and undermining state structures, are of particular concern.

24. It is also recognised that the illicit proliferation, accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, explosive remnants of war and the continued use of anti-personnel landmines, are all major common concerns, as is the issue of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Africa and the EU will work together on all these issues, and seek to promote, as appropriate, the adoption of multilateral, regional and national instruments, and support the implementation of commitments made, including in the context of UN Security Council Resolutions. This cooperation, which will include matters relating to counter-terrorism, will take place through the exchange of information, law enforcement and institutional capacity building and judicial cooperation.
25. Furthermore, over the past years a number of new global, and human security challenges have emerged, relating to issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, water management, toxic waste deposits and pandemics. There is a need for Africa and the EU to deepen their knowledge of the security challenges involved and jointly identify responses that could be formulated towards, and together with, the larger international community.
26. Looking beyond Africa and the EU, the two sides will also coordinate their actions and bring their influence to bear in the search for lasting solutions to crises and conflicts in other parts of the world that undermine international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East region.

b) Governance and Human Rights: Upholding our Values and Principles

Common and Global Governance and Human Rights Challenges

27. The promotion of democratic governance and human rights constitutes a central feature of the Africa-EU dialogue and partnership. The two continents will join efforts towards the enhancement of the effectiveness of the multilateral system and the promotion of the values of democracy, rule of law and human rights. In this regard, the Africa-EU strategic partnership will facilitate an open, intensive and comprehensive dialogue on all aspects and concepts of governance, including human rights, childrens' rights, gender equality, democratic principles, the rule of law, local governance, the management of natural resources, the transparent and accountable management of public funds, institutional development and reform, human security, security sector reform, the fight against corruption, corporate social responsibility, and institution building and development. This dialogue should help both parties to define the issues at stake, agree on common positions on issues of common concern and jointly undertake specific initiatives and actions.
28. In the context of situations of conflict, crisis, instability, severe democratic deficit, and/or institutional weakness, and on the basis of discussions in various international fora, Africa and the EU will also hold a dialogue on the concept of "situations of fragility" aimed at reaching a common understanding and agreeing on steps that could be taken.
29. With regard to human rights, Africa and the EU will work together to protect and promote the human rights of all people in Africa and Europe, including through enhanced dialogue between relevant institutions from both continents, such as the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and African and European national human rights institutions.

30. Similarly, Africa and the EU will also work together on a global level and international fora, including in the UN Human Rights Council, for the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law and for the effective implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. Both sides also commit themselves to fight impunity in all its forms. The most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, especially crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, should not go unpunished and their prosecution should be ensured by measures at both domestic and international level. In this context, the partners agree that the establishment and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitute an important development for peace and international justice.
31. Africa and the EU stress the importance of having a better knowledge of African cultural goods and call for the exchange of information between EU and African countries on existing African cultural goods in the EU and Africa. Africa and the EU will continue to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trade in cultural goods, and facilitate and support the return of illegally acquired cultural goods to their countries of origin, as set out in the relevant UNESCO and UNIDROIT conventions and other commonly agreed legal instruments. Africa and the EU will also cooperate through the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, by raising public awareness and by providing capacity building in, and technical assistance to, African countries.

Cooperation between Africa and the EU on Democratic Governance

32. The AU is putting into place a new pan-African governance architecture and Africa is developing its public and private institutional capacity at all levels – national, regional and continental. In this context, the EU is committed to supporting institutional development, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. EU support, based on dialogue and incentives, will build on the approach followed to integrate governance in the EDF programming, under the Governance Initiative, under which additional funding is provided to partner countries committed to engaging in reforms. EU support provided will apply the principle of African and local ownership and should follow African agendas.

33. Two particularly promising cases of Africa-owned governance reform programmes and democracy-building efforts are the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. To support the APRM process and the implementation of the Charter, and more broadly the pan-African governance architecture, the EU will set up an instrument that takes into account the positive experience with the African Peace Facility and which combines strong African ownership of programme design and implementation with provisions for strategic and political EU-level involvement. Specific support and cooperation are foreseen with the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, the Pan-African Parliament and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).
34. Africa and the EU will together support the strengthening of the rule of law in Africa, through enhanced support for national Human Rights Commissions, national Parliaments and independent electoral commissions, as well as civil society organisations.
35. The AU and EU will also work together to support democratic elections in accordance with international and regional standards, including the AU standards for elections, through election assistance and electoral observation. To that end they will strive to reinforce the role of the AU, the regional organisations and of civil society in election observation in line with the UN-endorsed Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation of 2005 and the Durban Declaration on the Principles Guiding Democratic Elections in Africa.
36. Africa and the EU will enhance cooperation in the context of international initiatives to counter the illicit trade and to promote the transparent and equitable management of natural resources, such as the Kimberley certification process, the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Africa and the EU will also, together, address issues relating to the fight against corruption, bribery, counterfeiting, money-laundering, tax-fraud, as well as other aspects of economic governance. In this context, both sides will take measures to facilitate the investigation and return of illegally acquired assets, including funds, to their countries of origin.
37. On all these issues, Africa and the EU recognise that civil society, the media and democratic institutions have important roles to play in ensuring transparency and accountability.

c) Trade and Regional Integration: Raising Potential and Using Opportunities

38. The improvement of economic governance and the investment climate are essential elements to build Africa's economic strength and allow Africa to move away from continuous donor support and find its place in global markets. In this regard, the development of domestic markets and regional integration are key in creating larger and more integrated markets that, in conjunction with enhanced regulatory convergence, will help to attract investment, increase productive capacities and therefore foster sustainable economic growth and development.
39. One of the priorities of the Africa-EU partnership will be to help Africa improve its productive capacities, move up the value-added scale and become less dependent on raw materials and simple processed products, which in the long term is the best way to avoid a deterioration of the terms of trade and participate in, and benefit from, the global economy. Africa and the EU will also, together with other international partners, work to promote fair trade. In order to achieve this, the key goals which will be pursued by Africa-EU cooperation on trade and regional integration will be: (i) private sector development, supported by foreign investments, to strengthen the supply side of African economies; (ii) the development and strengthening of physical infrastructure networks and related services, which are needed for the movement of persons, goods, information; and (iii) trade integration, which is essential to increase both South-South and North-South trade flows.

Private Sector Development

40. The promotion of an investment and business friendly environment is a core prerequisite for the development of the private sector, within the framework of a stable political environment and governance-related reform. These efforts should be underpinned by appropriate African economic growth strategies aiming at maintaining macroeconomic stability, promoting regulatory reform and harmonisation, protecting intellectual property rights and standards, promoting investment codes, and establishing credible laws and guarantee systems. In this context, it will also be necessary to address key investment disincentives such as fraud, corruption, money laundering and organised crime.

41. Cooperation between Africa and the EU in this field will aim to promote stable, efficient and harmonised legal frameworks for business, free of unnecessary administrative red tape, as well as to promote Corporate Social Responsibility. Both sides will cooperate on technology development and transfer, quality infrastructure and skills development in support of the industrialisation process. It will also aim at enhancing appropriate business support services, and facilitate better access to credit, especially for converting activities from the informal to formal sectors, which is also a key contribution to enabling more women to participate in the formal economy and to facilitating investment and business activities by members of diasporas.
42. The partnership will, furthermore, contribute to the facilitation and strengthening of the dialogue between, and within, governments and with the private sector on both continents via appropriate continental and regional networks. In this regard, the EU-Africa Business Forum will play a key role in bringing together entrepreneurs and public and private investors from both Europe and Africa in order to discuss ways of improving the investment and business climate and to raise the profile of doing business in Africa.

Trade and Integration

43. In line with the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community, trade and integration are recognised as essential components of the wider process of regional integration and development, which shall be duly promoted by the present partnership. Regional Economic Communities will play an essential role as building blocks of the continental integration process. In order to do so, Africa and the EU will work together to make trade rules and regimes more coherent and harmonised. This will require the gradual harmonisation of trade, customs and industrial policies, laws, regulations and procedures. Africa and the EU will cooperate to put in place programmes and mechanisms to develop norms, standards and quality control at regional and pan-African levels with reference to international standards.

44. One key area will be regulations and technical standards, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. It is widely recognised that meeting international SPS standards is a key component for advancing the competitiveness and market access of African agriculture and food processing industry. Improving African standards will therefore enable greater access to international markets, the promotion of South-South trade and the diminution of non-tariff barriers to trade. Both sides will continue to promote market access for African goods and services to international markets, in particular the EU market. Another key area will be enhancing pharmaceutical production capacities in accordance with international rules on good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and efficient regulatory procedures, including the control of counterfeit medicines and of other products, while promoting access to affordable essential generic medicines, vaccines and commodities for major prevailing diseases and epidemics. In this regard, the capacity of African countries to make full use of flexibilities in TRIPs, in line with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, will be developed. A third key area will be preferential market access for environmentally friendly technologies and products.
45. Africa-EU cooperation will be underpinned by stronger bilateral development-oriented trading relationships between Africa and the EU: (i) through the implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African EPA regions (West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African grouping), which involve the RECs and other African organisations², and the implementation of the EU-Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement with the countries of North Africa, (ii) by supporting African business in its efforts to meet EU norms and standards and to develop its productive capacity, and (iii) by cooperating in developing export strategies and business-to-business relations. The EPA-agreements, as instruments for development, are to be implemented at the sub-regional level, however, the AU-EU dialogue is relevant to the overall process of regional integration and interface with developing Regional Economic Communities. Both sides stress the need for the EPA process to be supportive of Africa's regional and continental integration agenda on the basis of the Abuja Treaty.

² The regional economic communities (RECs) and other organisations involved in the EPA negotiations are: ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS, CEMAC, COMESA, SADC, SACU, EAS, EAC and IOC.

46. The above efforts, in particular the EPA implementation process, as well as more general efforts to better integrate into the rules-based world trading system and to more effectively use trade in the promotion of growth and the eradication of poverty, will be supported by the Community (EDF and other instruments) and EU Member States in accordance with the EU Aid for Trade Strategy, as well as by contributions from other development actors. In coherence with the efforts to further integrate at sub-regional level, efforts to better integrate at continental level will also be supported.
47. At the global level, Africa and the EU will seek to promote global economic governance, and sustain Africa's efforts to integrate into the world economy. To achieve this, the coordination of African and EU positions in international fora will be promoted. Africa and the EU will seek to join efforts to conclude the Doha Development Agenda as soon as possible. This could involve, in particular, seeking common ground to address key issues for development, such as reductions in trade distorting subsidies, greater access to the markets of all WTO members, reductions in tariff peaks, better anti-dumping rules, as well as the implementation of reforms in view of facilitating trade and ensuring the security of the supply chain. In this context, Africa and the EU will cooperate to build technical and institutional capacity for negotiations in trade and related areas, such as quality and food safety, industrial goods, TBT/SPS and commodities issues in order to promote African trade and safeguard the health and rights of consumers.
48. Finally, Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation in the field of statistics with the aim of helping policy makers and other users of statistics and enhancing ongoing efforts in the coordination and harmonisation of statistics in Africa within the framework of the African Charter for Statistics.

d) Key Development Issues: Accelerating Progress towards the MDGs

49. For the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved, African countries need to sustain economic growth and equitable social development, and both Africa and the EU have to boost their investments, better focus their policies and deliver on the promises made. Mid-way between 2000 and 2015, supporting Africa's efforts to achieve the MDGs remains the key challenge for the EU's external and development cooperation policy vis-à-vis the continent. In this regard, efforts should focus on making a key contribution to the achievement of the 8 MDGs on (1) poverty and hunger, (2) universal primary education, (3) gender equality and empowerment of women, (4) child mortality, (5) maternal health, (6) HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, (7) environmental sustainability, and (8) the development of a partnership for development.

Development Cooperation

50. In order to achieve the objectives set out in the present Joint Strategy, partners should urgently work on more predictable and less volatile aid, focusing on results. The EU therefore reaffirms its determination to reach the targets agreed in the context of the Monterrey consensus in May 2005 to increasing ODA volume to individually achieve 0.51% ODA/GNI for those Member States which joined the EU before 2002; to strive to achieve 0.17% for those Member States which joined the EU after 2002 within their respective budget allocation processes, and collectively achieve 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010 as an intermediate step towards achieving the UN target of 0.7% by 2015. By 2010, attaining the 0.56% ODA/GNI should correspond to at least an additional €20 billion in ODA per year, and no less than 50% of this increase will benefit the African continent. The EU will respect and implement these commitments and will take appropriate measures to guarantee a timely delivery of aid commitments towards Africa. Partners will also make further efforts to keep debt at sustainable levels and, where debt becomes unsustainable, consider debt cancellation in the framework of existing initiatives and fora.

51. Africa and the EU will also strengthen their cooperation in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. They will further promote alignment and harmonisation of development aid instruments, increase the use of general and sectoral budget support where circumstances permit, and cooperate closely to implement the EU's commitments to promote complementarity and division of labour.
52. The predictability of development aid should be promoted and the EU will work toward a limitation of conditionalities and further move towards result-oriented aid, with a clear link with MDG indicators and performance. In this context, Africa and the EU will also improve and expand their cooperation in the field of statistics so that policies and decisions are made on the basis of clear evidence.
53. Moreover, the two sides fully recognise that development cooperation alone is not enough to achieve these objectives and that non-aid policies on both sides need to be better geared towards attaining the MDGs, including by enhancing Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). To this end, the EU and the AU will discuss how the coherence between policies and initiatives with development objectives could be enhanced, on the basis of stronger commitments on both sides.
54. In order to ensure coherence and complementarity with the work of other international actors, including emerging partners, Africa and the EU recognise the need to broaden their cooperation with third partners through enhanced tripartite dialogue. Similarly, both parties recognise the importance of triangular cooperation for the development of the two continents.³

³ In the context of this Joint Strategy, triangular cooperation refers to the implementation of a project for the development of an African country with the technical involvement of another African country and with financial and/or other input from the EU side, or vice versa.

Human and Social Development

55. Employment issues, notably social protection, the shortage of employment opportunities and the promotion of decent work in Africa, will be jointly addressed, with priority being given to creating productive jobs in the formal economy, improving poor living and working conditions in line with the UN decent work agenda and integrating the informal economy into the formal. Investments in private sector development will be promoted, looking in particular to youth and women. The service sector will be further developed as this is where women and youth are mostly involved. Africa and the EU will make technology work for employment, and will ensure that infrastructure works to create jobs for Africans, both skilled and unskilled. In addition, attention will be paid to the creation of jobs through micro-finance schemes. As generally disadvantaged groups often benefit substantially from such microfinance schemes they should be actively pursued.
56. Africa and the EU will promote children's rights as well as the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth. Special efforts will be made to assist youth and children in (post-) conflict situations. All these measures will be supported by predictable long-term financing.
57. Moreover, partners insist on the urgent need to strengthen not only basic education but entire education systems, at all levels. Africa and the EU will together work towards ensuring long-term predictable funding for national education plans to help ensure quality education for all and that all girls and boys attend and complete school, including through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative and the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa. Particular attention will be given to the inclusion of hard-to-reach children and children and youth with disabilities.
58. Training and development of teachers is a priority at all levels of education. Africa and the EU will therefore support the recruitment, retention and training of teaching staff, as well as a general valorisation of the teaching profession. A further priority is to ensure that 'there are jobs behind the education' and an increased responsiveness of training to the needs of the economic sectors. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and skills development with the involvement of the productive sectors will also be promoted.

59. Furthermore, building upon the 2007 Addis Ababa Declaration on Science Technology and Scientific Research for Development, Africa and the EU shall strengthen their cooperation in these areas. In this context, attention will also be paid to space-based technology, applications and sciences.
60. In the field of health, integrated strategies, including the strengthening of national health systems at all levels, will be promoted by Africa and the EU, based on adequate financing, human resources and commodities. To reinforce health system capacity, partners will also jointly address both the migration of health workers, which is a crisis in some African countries, and the creation or reinforcement of social protection systems. Efforts will be made in line with the Africa Health Strategy, the EU Project on Human Resources for Health, the Abuja commitment (15% financing for health) and the European Programme for Action to Tackle the Shortage of Health Workers in Developing Countries. Efforts to scale up towards universal access to basic health services, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis Malaria prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and cooperation on other pandemics as well as on issues relating to meningitis, will be intensified, with special focus on women, children and adolescents, older and disabled persons as well as members of vulnerable groups.
61. The involvement of the private sector in health sector development and financing, including through public-private partnerships, should be encouraged and the production and access to generic medicines should be enhanced. Africa and the EU will, in addition, promote further research, particularly for vaccines and new medicines for both major and neglected diseases, and on issues relating to water-borne diseases, as well as on the clinical effectiveness of traditional medicine. Partners will also work towards effective implementation of international health agreements and regulations. Other issues of common interest, such as the abuse of narcotic drugs and the preparedness and responses for emergencies, should be addressed. Special attention will be given to fighting malnutrition in Africa, in line with the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy.

62. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) will be promoted with the aim of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and to reduce newborn, infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, as set out by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Maputo Plan of Action, in the context of the Action Plans of this Joint Strategy.

Gender Equality

63. Africa and the EU will also strengthen the inter-institutional fabric of their administrations to mainstream gender equality in all strategies, policies, programmes and actions. They will address the entire range of women's rights and strengthen their efforts to eliminate illiteracy and to ensure equal access of girls to education, to fight the feminisation of poverty, to promote women in decision-making positions and peace processes, and fight sexual and gender based violence against women and early forced marriage, and work towards the abandonment of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and other harmful traditional practices, as set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

64. Africa and the EU have a clear common interest to address environmental sustainability and climate change. Environmental degradation and climate change undermine sustainable development and represent threats to the achievement of the MDGs. Climate change is affecting all countries, but will be most immediately and severely felt in the poorest and most vulnerable countries, which do not have the means and resources to adapt to the changes in their natural environment. Africa will be particularly hit in terms of food security, water management and extreme weather phenomena such as drought, floods and cyclones.

65. Africa-EU cooperation in this field will link positively with economic growth, job creation, social stability, and the building of capacities for adaptation to, and mitigation of, negative effects of climate change. It will address interrelated areas such as food security, sustainable agriculture and land management and will cover a vast number of interrelated areas and issues such as land degradation, desertification, the preservation of biodiversity, bio-safety issues including GMOs, prevention of toxic waste dumping, environmentally sound waste management, sustainable use and management of natural resources including forest, fish stocks and integrated water management, weather observation and early warning systems to improve disaster risk management.
66. Africa and the EU will also work together in the global arena and international fora to effectively respond and adapt to climate change and other global environmental challenges. In this context, the compliance with UN and other international agreements is of key importance and – following the December 2007 Bali conference – Africa and the EU will work together for an ambitious post-2012 climate framework. The EU will furthermore support Africa's capacity building efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources, including on weather observation and early warning systems, as well as helping to tackle illegal logging and associated trade. In this context, Africa and the EU should strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and programmes relating to the use of space technologies and space-based systems.
67. At the global level, the EU will promote a better geographical distribution of Clean Development Mechanism projects, helping Africa profit from the global carbon market.

Migration and Development

68. Migration and mobility are interwoven with the history of human development and should be treated as largely positive phenomena. Acknowledging this, Africa and the EU will pursue and implement policies and programmes that address all relevant dimensions of migration, including circular migration. These efforts will aim to promote and better manage legal migration and mobility with a view to supporting the socio-economic development of both countries of origin and countries of destination.

69. Africa and the EU will work to deepen their frank and constructive dialogue in taking forward the implementation of the Declaration adopted in November 2006 at the Tripoli EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, and ongoing regional processes, which provide a comprehensive agenda for common action in the area of migration and development. Partners will foster the linkages between migration and development, maximise the development impact of remittances, facilitate the involvement of diasporas/migrant communities in development processes, promote the protection of the human rights of migrants, assist and protect asylum seekers and refugees and help countries of origin, transit and destination in Africa build capacity to better manage migration.
70. Africa and the EU will also jointly address the down-sides of migration. This includes jointly combating illegal migration, where cooperation needs to be stepped up, including through cooperation on return and readmission of migrants in the context of the Tripoli Declaration and relevant international agreements, as well as on border control and trafficking in human beings. In this regard, they will work actively to ensure the implementation of the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children. Partners will also work to promote respect for the principles and provisions of the OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the Geneva Convention on Refugees. Africa and the EU will pay particular attention to brain drain in sensitive sectors like health and education.
71. Both sides commit themselves to ensure that adequate financial resources are made available for the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the Tripoli Declaration.

Agriculture and Food Security

72. In the area of agriculture, Africa and the EU will promote policy coherence for development, food security, food safety and food quality; strengthen farmer organisations and inter-professional associations; improve policy and strategy development processes; increase domestic and foreign investment; promote diversification in rural areas; strengthen livestock disease surveillance and control systems, including through fighting against the avian flu; promote risk management approaches and the use of early-warning systems; strengthen capacity vis-à-vis regional and international trade and SPS standards, promote institutional reforms, strengthen agricultural research for development and make the best use of the opportunities opened up by advances in biotechnology.
73. A new EU-AU partnership on agricultural development will support Africa's agricultural agenda, as set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). This includes putting emphasis on improved governance of agriculture and supporting capacity-building on the part of African public and private organisations involved in agriculture, particularly at regional and continental levels. It also includes a strong engagement in Africa's agricultural research for development agenda as coordinated by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).
74. African fisheries resources, both coastal and inland, represent vital natural capital and a potential source of wealth able to contribute substantially and sustainably to economic growth and poverty reduction. As with agriculture, Africa and the EU will improve policy coherence for development, particularly related to fisheries access arrangements, trade and controlling illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, notably through the Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs). Africa and the EU will also collaborate in creating an institutional and governance environment to promote conservation and sustainable and optimal use of this valuable resource.

Infrastructure

75. The promotion of interconnectivity of African infrastructure at all levels in line with AU/NEPAD priorities will be further advanced. In doing so, the two sides will make use and build upon the framework offered by the 2006 EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Trust Fund as well as the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund which set out the strategy for securing interconnectivity across the continent and its different regions and for tackling the issue of delivery of infrastructure services. In line with the priorities identified through the Infrastructure Partnership, the following goals shall be pursued:
76. As regards transport, Africa and the EU will aim at increasing interconnectivity by investing in and improving infrastructure along the Trans-African road transport corridors and associated regional road and rail networks. Partners shall also focus on enhancing port efficiency, and supporting measures for improving air and maritime safety and security. By supporting the removal of non-physical barriers to the free movement of goods, services and people through more rigorous implementation of regional protocols the Partnership shall also aim at improving transport services.
77. As regards water, Africa and the EU acknowledge that in order for water to contribute fully to national development and local livelihoods, investment in regional hydraulic infrastructure needs to be increased.
78. As regards energy, the two sides recognise that increased regional and continental interconnectivity is necessary for enhancing the reliability and efficiency of energy systems. Partners will thus aim at improving energy infrastructure, in particular for electricity interconnections, agreements on joint standards and regulation procedures, as well as removing non-physical barriers for exchange of energy across borders.

Water and Sanitation

79. Water resource management and access to safe water and basic sanitation are crucial both for economic growth and poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs. Africa and the EU will therefore work together to further develop the existing EU-Africa Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation with the overall objective to meet basic water and sanitation needs and contribute to improved water resource management at local, river basin and catchment, national and trans-boundary level.
80. In addition, Africa and the EU will reinforce their joint efforts to address the challenges of water security and climate change, sustainable access to safe affordable water supplies, hygiene education and sanitation. In this context, Africa and the EU will aim at mobilising increased investments for hydraulic infrastructure in Africa. Furthermore, they will promote the participation of other international partners in the dialogue on the sustainable use of Africa's water resources.

Energy

81. The two sides recognise that the international energy challenges have created a need for Africa and the EU to give an even stronger focus to sustainable energy in their mutual relations. Both sides will therefore aim at strengthening cooperation and solidarity in the sustainable management of their energy resources and at continuing to promote access to energy, energy security and safety, and regional cooperation.
82. To this end, the partners have agreed to establish the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, which will address the joint challenges of energy security and diversification of supply, access to affordable, clean and efficient energy services, new and renewable energy resources and climate change. Partners will furthermore aim at building capacity, at mobilising increased investments for energy infrastructure in Africa, including through the existing EU Energy Facility and other financial instruments, and at including emerging donors in the dialogue on sustainable energy sector development in Africa.

83. Africa and the EU will also explore ways and means to launch a dialogue on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, within the framework of relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) provisions and in line with international safety standards and rules.

Development of Knowledge-based Societies

84. Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation in building knowledge-based societies and economies. Both sides recognise that the development of S&T and innovation is one of the essential engines of socio-economic growth and sustainable development in Africa; that competitiveness in the global economy is increasingly dependent on knowledge and innovative ways of applying modern technology, especially Information and Communication Technology (ICT); and that meeting the MDGs requires a special global effort to build scientific and technological capacities in Africa. Thus partnerships and investments advancing access to ICT infrastructure, access to quality education, and the development of science and technology and innovation systems in Africa are crucial for attaining all other development goals.
85. Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation and support to bridge the digital divide and promote the development of an inclusive Knowledge Economy, including through the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society and relevant AU/NEPAD programmes.
86. More specifically, in the area of ICT, Africa and the EU will aim at bridging the digital divide that limits access to modern telephony and internet services. It will address the harmonisation of policy and regulatory frameworks and investment in broadband infrastructure and support non-commercial e-services.

87. In parallel, similar efforts will be made to address the scientific divide and increase Africa's research capacities. Inadequate technical capacity of Africa will be upgraded through the establishment of specialised networks in regions and sub-regions, which need to focus on identified priorities so as to underpin economic growth and sustainable development of the African continent. In this respect, Africa and the EU will promote the strengthening of collaborative links between African regional and sub-regional partnerships and European partners, in order to contribute to the sustainability of established centres and networks of excellence.

Cultural Cooperation

88. A stronger political partnership between Africa and the EU should be underpinned by an equally strong partnership on cultural cooperation. All expressions of culture, including arts, multilingualism and sports, should be taken into account.

89. Africa and the EU will therefore engage in an effective dialogue and cooperation on culture, promote cultural exchanges and twinning arrangements, and support capacity building and technical assistance on the protection and preservation of, and access to, cultural goods and sites in Europe and Africa. These efforts will strengthen the safeguarding of African World Heritage sites, as well as the diversity of cultural expressions within the framework of relevant UNESCO conventions. In this context, the two sides will launch an inventory of ongoing cooperation on cultural goods issues with a view to identify potential areas of further cooperation. Furthermore, Africa and the EU will also – in the context of their development cooperation – fully take into account local culture and contribute to increase the access of people to culture and to means of cultural expression.

Communication

90. Africa and the EU recognise the need to better communicate with each other and to better promote the social and cultural values of the European and African peoples.
91. In this regard, partners will also work towards the promotion of more accurate images of each other, and fight stereotypes, xenophobia and racism, through enhanced exchanges and contacts of non-state actors, including trade unions, professional associations, the private sector, media, schools, universities, research and cultural institutions, and sport clubs and associations, including through support for twinning arrangements between civil society organisations.

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Institutional Architecture and Actors

92. Africa and the EU will implement their new strategic partnership through an institutional architecture, which allows and promotes intensive exchange and dialogue on all issues of common concern.
93. The partnership will involve a large number of institutional and non-institutional actors in Africa and the EU at continental, regional, national and local levels, with a central role of the AU and the EU. Partners will therefore place greater value on the role of their continental organisations in facilitating this partnership and task them to work closely together, including through more regular dialogue between corresponding AU and EU institutions, in the preparation and follow-up of decisions and meetings. The frequency of these meetings at political level, namely, of senior officials, Ministers and Heads of State and Government, will have to be enhanced in order to take forward the objectives of the Joint Strategy.
94. It should be noted that this strategic partnership, and the effective implementation of the policies and actions outlined in the Joint Strategy, are also the shared responsibility of all African and EU states.

Regular Africa-EU Summits

95. In the future, starting from the Lisbon Summit, meetings of the Heads of State and Government will be organised every three years, alternately in Africa and the EU. These Summits will reflect the importance which the two sides attach to their relationship, take stock of progress made in the implementation of commitments made and give political guidance for further work, including through the approval of Action Plans. These Summits should be prepared at ministerial level.
96. The political momentum and visibility of the new partnership will also require political engagement and commitment of the leaders of Africa and the EU in the period between the Summits. To this end, the Presidents of the EU Council and the AU, of the European and the Pan-African Parliament and of the European and AU Commissions, will – in the period between Summits and on a regular basis – meet their institutional counterparts, alternately in Africa and the EU, to review progress and provide political guidance to the partnership.

The AU and EU: Different Levels of Interaction

97. In this context, partners recognise a need for a more defined division of roles and responsibilities between the pan-African, sub-regional, national and local levels and between the different actors on the EU side, as well as for coherence and complementarity with other international actors.
98. The African Union has emerged as a natural interlocutor for the EU on continental issues and as the most important institutional partner for the EU. Therefore, the institutional architecture promoted by the Joint Strategy will, on the African side, be centered on the AU. This approach requires strong institutions that invest particularly in their capacity to act effectively and interact with each other. The EU will therefore allocate the necessary resources and adapt its organisational structures. The opening of an EU Delegation to the AU in Addis Ababa will be an important step in that direction. The AU will also further strengthen its representation in Brussels. Beyond that, the EU will continue to assist the AU in its ongoing institutional transformation process and also support the strengthening of the AU's institutional ability to interact with the EU and other international partners.

99. One particular challenge is to simplify the institutional framework for regional integration and its articulation with the EPA-related groupings. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are important for the continental economic and political integration agenda and should continue to be key partners for the EU in Africa. The EU and AU will aim at integrating the RECs and the Sub-Regional Organisations (SROs) in the present institutional architecture and at minimizing overlap between, and conflicting mandates of, the entities concerned. The issue of the configuration of the EPA-related groupings is of particular importance in this context.

Africa-EU Troikas

100. In the period between the Summits, the dialogue between Africa and the EU should be maintained through regular meetings of Senior Officials and Ministers. In order to ensure an effective and balanced representation of both Unions, these meetings will continue to be held in Troika format, whereby each side is represented by a smaller number of representatives who are mandated to speak on behalf of Africa and the EU respectively. On the EU side, the Troika consists of the current and incoming EU Presidency, the European Commission and the EU Council Secretariat, while on the African side the Troika consists of the current and outgoing Presidencies of the AU and the AU Commission, expanded to include chef de file countries at the expert and senior official levels.
101. The biannual Africa-EU Ministerial troika meeting will play a central role in the review and monitoring of the implementation of the Joint Strategy and its successive Action Plans.
102. Africa and the EU will continue to hold biannual Africa-EU troika meetings between Foreign Ministers, alternately in Africa and the EU, and will also, as necessary, strengthen their dialogue through additional sectoral Ministerial meetings.

Commission-to-Commission Dialogue and Joint EU-AU Task Force

103. The two Commissions will play a central role as the driving forces behind the partnership. They will continue and further develop their cooperation, together with the EU Council Secretariat. The existing Joint EU-AU Task Force will be strengthened to facilitate permanent working level dialogue, interaction and joint projects between the different institutions and will continue to hold regular meetings to move forward the agenda of the strategic partnership. The Colleges of Commissioners of the European and AU Commissions will meet on an annual basis to provide political leadership and impetus to the work of the Joint EU-AU Task Force.

Parliaments and other Representative Institutions

104. This institutional architecture will also strengthen the formal structure of the dialogue between the institutions that represent the people of the two continents, the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). The PAP and the ECOSOCC – both part of the AU institutional architecture – are promising and legitimate voices for democratic governance in Africa and deserves the support of all actors in the Africa-EU partnership.

105. Cooperation between the socio-economic partners at both sides will also be enhanced, notably through the dialogue between the EU Economic and Social Committees (EESC) and the AU ECOSOCC. These dialogues will complement and/or feed into the institutional EU-AU troika dialogue. Consideration will also be given to setting up mechanisms for exchanges between stakeholders on the EU side to achieve maximum coordination, coherence and consistency of EU policies and approaches.

Civil Society

106. Partners furthermore recognise that the Joint Strategy should be co-owned by European and African non-institutional actors and that these actors can play an important role in taking forward the objectives of the partnership.

107. With a view to a people-centred partnership, an appropriate and prominent place needs to be defined in the institutional partnership for civil society and other non-state actors. Africa and the EU will therefore further promote the development of a vibrant and independent civil society and of a systematic dialogue between it and public authorities at all levels.
108. In addition, both sides will make effective communication with non-institutional actors a priority and strengthen their capacity to disseminate information, collect and make use of ideas and proposals from civil society partners, and encourage the active involvement of non-institutional actors in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Strategy and its Action Plans. EU and AU Member States, and sub-regional organisations and institutions, will play a key role in this work.
109. To facilitate these people-to-people contacts, Africa and the EU will promote and expand twinning arrangements in relevant sectors. To make these arrangements work, both sides will work towards facilitation of entry procedures – including visa requirements – for people participating in these schemes.
110. The Joint Strategy should remain a permanent platform for continued dialogue with stakeholders in Africa and the EU in the years ahead. Members of Parliament, civil society organisations and European and African research institutes and think tanks will participate in dialogue mechanisms and initiatives and play a key role in monitoring the implementation of African, European and joint policies and commitments outlined in the Joint Strategy.

2. Implementation and Follow-up Mechanisms

Action Plans

111. The Joint Strategy, which provides an overarching long-term policy framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive Action Plans which will build on the operational part of this Joint Strategy and cover proposed priority actions for three years. The first Action Plan will be adopted in Lisbon, covering the period up to the next Summit. These Action Plans will identify the main political priorities, as well as the policy commitments, programmes and actions that will be needed to achieve them. The Action Plans will allow Heads of State and Government to, on a regular basis, assess the successes and failures of implementation in key areas and, if necessary, provide new political impetus.

Financial Instruments

112. The two sides will work closely together to secure appropriate funding, and to enhance the accessibility of financing sources, to give effect to this Joint Strategy and its successive Action Plans.

113. The implementation of the Joint Strategy and the initiatives to be developed in this framework will be supported by existing financial instruments in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to the objectives and activities concerned, such as the European Development Fund (EDF), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), the Instrument for Stability, as well as the Thematic Programmes and by EU financial institutions, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB). Where possible these instruments will be complemented by further contributions by EU Member States. Moreover, whenever possible, African financial instruments and AU Member States shall contribute to this process and an involvement of African financial institutions such as the African Development Bank will be ensured as appropriate.

114. In order to ensure the effective use of instruments in this innovative Africa-EU cooperation framework and to ensure that they enable partners to meet the goals of the strategic partnership, the complementarity and coherence of these instruments will be properly ensured. To this end, partners will work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership. In particular, Africa and the EU will work together to build synergies between existing cooperation agreements in support of the partnership, including through the progressive establishment of a Pan-African financial support programme.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Mechanisms

115. The Joint Strategy is for the long term and shall be reviewed on a regular basis and as appropriate.

116. The two Commissions and the EU Council Secretariat will – on an annual basis and in cooperation with the AU and EU Presidencies – coordinate the preparation of a joint report on the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, focusing on the policies and actions outlined in the Action Plans and using clear indicators and concrete benchmarks and timetables to ensure that implementation is on track. These reports will be presented to the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meetings which will monitor progress and ensure that implementation is on track: every third year, these reports will be presented to Heads of State and Government, meeting at Summit level, alternately in the EU and in Africa.

117. In parallel, the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament are invited to organise joint hearings and to prepare political reports on progress made.

118. Finally, and in order to ensure a wide ownership of the process and transparency in the monitoring, civil society organisations in the EU, Africa and beyond are invited to prepare general and sector-specific reports, the conclusions of which will be taken into account in the progress reports prepared by the two Commissions and the EU Council Secretariat and inform the further implementation of the Joint Strategy.

FIRST ACTION PLAN (2008-2010)
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy identifies strategic priorities in the area of peace and security, democratic governance and human rights, trade and regional integration and other key development issues. To implement the commitments made in the Joint Strategy, the EU and Africa will address and advance all identified objectives on all the strategic priorities, with a wider view of supporting African countries in their efforts to attain all Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

However, to reach early results on the key deliverables of the Lisbon Declaration, special attention will be devoted to a number of selected priority actions in the initial period 2008- 2010, all of which have a positive impact on the daily lives of the citizens of Africa and Europe. The Parties agree to implement these selected priority actions in the context of specific '**Africa-EU Partnerships**' on subjects of common interest, which add value to existing cooperation and political dialogue. The Partnerships will focus in particular on actions at the global, continental or regional level, with a clear comparative advantage as compared to cooperation at the national level, where the participating actors have a collective capacity to deliver. In addition, other agreed initiatives and partnerships will continue to be implemented. In this context, the development of infrastructure as a cross-cutting priority, and the implementation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership launched in Addis Ababa on 24 October 2007, are of particular relevance.

The Partnerships will work under the political guidance and responsibility of the existing Africa-EU Ministerial Troika, where appropriate with inputs from sector-specific ministerial Troikas. Partners also agree to take the necessary steps in the initial period 2008-2010 to establish and implement the institutional framework. The monitoring of progress will take place in the framework of the Joint EU-AU Task Force, which will report to their respective constituencies.

The Partnerships are to be seen as political relations between interested partners who have organised themselves on a voluntary basis around a shared vision with the intention of launching concrete activities. Their actors and duration will vary, in function of the objectives of the cooperation.

Each of these 'Africa-EU Partnerships' are open for a wide range of actors, which could include the European and AU Commissions, EU and AU Ministerial Councils, the EU Council Secretariat, EU Member States and African States, EU and African Parliaments, local and decentralised authorities, EU and African civil society actors, African sub-regional organisations, research institutions, international organisations or institutions and the private sector.

The actions under each of these 'EU Africa Partnerships' will be financed out of existing or new financial resources, which could include, where appropriate, the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) and its facilities and trust funds, the relevant EU budgetary instruments (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument–ENPI, Development Cooperation Instrument-DCI) and the geographical and thematic programmes deriving from these, bilateral contributions from both African or EU States, contributions from interested third states, international financing institutions, international organisations and civil society groups as well as private sector investments.

Partnerships and Priority Actions

The following Partnerships and Priority Actions have been agreed:

1. Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security

- Enhance dialogue on challenges to peace and security;
- Full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture;
- Predictable Funding for African-led Peace Support Operations.

2. Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights

- Enhance dialogue at global level and in international fora;
- Promote the African Peer Review Mechanism and support the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthen cooperation in the area of cultural goods.

3. Africa-EU Partnership on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure

- Support the African integration agenda;
- Strengthen African capacities in the area of rules, standards, and quality control;
- Implement the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.

4. Africa-EU Partnership on the Millennium Development Goals

- Ensure the finance and policy base for achieving the MDGs;
- Accelerate the achievement of the Food Security Targets of the MDGs;
- Accelerate the achievement of the Health Targets of the MDGs;
- Accelerate the achievement of the Education Targets of the MDGs.

5. Africa-EU Partnership on Energy

- Implement the Energy Partnership to intensify cooperation on energy security and energy access.

6. Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change

- Build a common agenda on climate change policies and cooperation;
- Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative".

7. Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment

- Implement the Declaration of the Tripoli Conference on Migration and Development;
- Implement the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking of Human Beings;
- Implement and follow up the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa.

8. Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space

- Support the development of an inclusive information society in Africa;
- Support S&T Capacity Building in Africa and Implement Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;
- Enhance cooperation on space applications and technology.

Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation

To ensure the swift and effective implementation of the Joint Strategy and the Partnerships and Priority Actions agreed in this first Action Plan, as well as to promote the broadest possible ownership and visibility of this process, the EU and Africa will establish the appropriate **institutional architecture** and **implementation modalities**. In this context, the EU and Africa agree on the following activities:

Together

- Establish more frequent contacts between **African and EU political leaders**, in particular between the Presidents of the EU and AU institutions;
- Complement bi-annual **Troika meetings** of Foreign Ministers with sectoral Ministerial meetings as necessary;
- Establish mechanisms for closer cooperation and dialogue between the **Pan-African Parliament (PAP)** and the **European Parliament (EP)**, as well as between the **AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)** and the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** and local authorities;
- Pursue the annual meetings between the College of Commissioners of the **European and AU Commissions** and of the 6-monthly **Joint AU-EU Task Force** meetings, and enhance their efficiency through focused upstream preparation and agenda-setting, a clearer identification of priorities, and greater operational continuity;
- Establish a **mapping** of existing European and African civil society networks;
- Establish a platform for European and African **research institutes and think tanks** to provide independent policy advice;
- Create a **web portal** to facilitate consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) ahead of key policy decisions;
- Invite representatives from European and African **civil societies** to express themselves ahead of Ministerial Troika meetings;
- Establish planning and priority setting mechanism for future Action Plans;

- Establish informal **joint expert groups** on all priority actions identified in the Action Plan. These informal Groups will bring together African, European and international key-actors (including civil society organisations) with the necessary competence and commitment to work on the priority action concerned. The Groups will discuss the implementation and financing of the respective priority actions. They will decide on their own efficient working arrangements (composition, frequency and venue of meetings, coordination with other actors, chairmanship/secretariat, etc.). They will report to the Troika, and will provide inputs to sectoral Troika Meetings;
- Draw up an **annual joint report** on the progress and implementation of the Action Plan to be presented to the Ministerial Troika meetings;
- Hold a **third EU Africa Summit** at the end of 2010 in Africa. This Summit will review the results of the first Action Plan and approve the following one.

For the EU side

- Further enhance the **coherence of EU action**, in particular through:
 - The opening of EU Delegation exclusively dedicated to the African Union, representing the EU in all areas of competency and activity of the AU;
 - A closer cooperation between, and strengthened coherence within, institutions in Brussels in view of the effective implementation of the Action Plans;
 - A reflection on options to better align policies, instruments and procedures to the need to treat Africa as one;
- Hold regular meetings between **civil society organisations** (CSOs) and relevant Council bodies on progress made in implementing partnerships by institutions and CSOs.

For the African side

- Strengthen the **role of the African Union and its Commission** in policy formulation and implementation, and as the interlocutor for all matters of the Africa-EU partnership;
- Simplify the framework for **regional integration** in articulation with Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and rationalise EPAs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Sub-Regional Organisations within the Banjul framework;

- Strengthen the cooperation between AU Institutions;
- Hold regular meetings between **civil society organisations** (CSOs) and relevant AU bodies on progress made in implementing partnerships by institutions and CSOs;
- Further strengthen the AU Representation in Brussels.

The following '**fiches**' provide details on the rationale, the objectives, the expected outcomes, the anticipated activities and the possible actors and financial resources of each of the Africa-EU priority actions.

(1)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

PEACE AND SECURITY

RATIONALE

Peace and security lie at the foundation of progress and sustainable development. The objective of the Joint Strategy is to cooperate in enhancing the capacity of Africa and EU to respond timely and adequately to security threats, and also to join efforts in addressing global challenges.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: ENHANCE DIALOGUE ON CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND SECURITY

Objective

- Reach common positions and implement common approaches on challenges to peace and security in Africa, Europe and globally.

Expected outcomes

- Deepened common understanding on the causes of conflicts and their resolution;
- Strengthened cooperation on conflict prevention, management and resolution, including long-term post-conflict reconstruction and peace building;
- Improved coordination of continent-wide and regional approaches and initiatives;
- Increased EU and African cooperation and influence in international and global fora.

Activities

- Hold a systematic and regular dialogue on all issues related to peace and security, at technical, senior official and political levels in the most effective format. This dialogue could also include innovative tools such as conflict sensitivity analysis;
- Hold consultations, in an appropriate format, between the AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) and the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC);
- Facilitate ad hoc consultations for exchange and coordination at the highest political level;
- Coordinate efforts in relevant international fora on global issues of common concern;
- Set up mechanisms for consultation at ambassadorial level, in particular in Addis Ababa, Brussels and New York;
- Enhance capacity building and cooperation in the fight against terrorism;
- Enhance capacity building, networking, cooperation and exchange of information on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Anti-Personnel Landmines (APM), as well as fight against illicit trafficking;
- Enhance the sharing of analyses and reports on crisis and conflict situations, including on their root causes, and put in place the required security arrangements for the exchange of sensitive information;

- Address the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the role of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and of UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children in Armed Conflicts;
- Raise awareness through campaigning involving African and European NGOs on mainstreaming human rights, gender issues, and children affected by armed conflict;
- Undertake joint assessment missions to conflict and post conflict areas, and launch joint initiatives when appropriate;
- Facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learned between EU and African mediators.
- Strengthen cooperation and enhance dialogue on issues relating to the security/development nexus, including on the identification and the use of best practices.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States, AU PSC, Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution, Pan-African Parliament, ECOSOCC, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);
- European Commission, HR/Council Secretariat and EU Member States;
- African and EU Heads of Mission in Addis Ababa, Brussels and New York;
- Research centres, training centres, think tanks and relevant civil society actors;
- African and European local authorities.

Finance

- AU Peace Fund;
- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as 10th EDF, Africa Peace Facility (APF), the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Instrument for Stability (IfS), CFSP-Budget;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: FULL OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (APSA)

Objective

- Effective functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture to address peace and security challenges in Africa.

Expected outcomes

- Full operationalization of the various components of the APSA, in particular the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force;
- Enhanced capacities of AU and the regional mechanisms;
- Concrete progress in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts;
- Strengthened African capabilities through the implementation of relevant proposals in the Action Plan of the related EU Concept adopted in May 2007.

Activities

- Work towards the operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System, and facilitate cooperation between the AU Situation Room and corresponding structures in the EU;
- Work towards the operationalization of the African Standby Force and its civilian dimension, including through EU support for regional brigades training, exercises, validation and logistics (such as Euro-RECAMP);
- Facilitate training courses, exchanges of experts and of information, joint seminars and initiatives at continental, sub-regional and national levels;
- Strengthen coherence between different policies, initiatives, financial instruments and all relevant actors;
- Organize specific and regular co-ordination meetings;
- Establish and empower an EU-African civil society network capable of supporting peace and security initiatives;

- Strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms and effective post-conflict reconstruction, including through a reinforcement of the role of women;
- Enhance capacity-building, networking and collaboration between the AU and the EU regarding the implementation of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States, AU PSC, Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;
- EU Commission, Council Secretariat and EU Member States;
- Research centres, think tanks and relevant civil society actors;
- UN, G-8 and other relevant international actors.

Finance

- AU Peace Fund
- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, African Peace Facility (APF), ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability, CFSP-Budget;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR AFRICA-LED PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

Objective

- To financially enable the AU and regional mechanisms to plan and conduct Peace Support Operations.

Expected outcome

- Reduction of funding gaps and of the prejudicial uncertainty for African-led peace support operations;
- More effective deployment of these operations.

Activities

- Take steps towards the establishment of a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism, building on the experience of the African Peace Facility (APF) and EU and AU Member States' bilateral contributions;
- Work with G-8 and other members of the international community to contribute to the funding of African-led peace support operations;
- Work together to achieve, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, a UN mechanism to provide sustainable, flexible and predictable financial support for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority and with the consent of the UN Security Council.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States;
- European Commission, EU Council, EU Member States;
- Interested actors, such as UN, G-8, and other partners.

Finance

- AU Peace Fund;
- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, African Peace Facility (APF), ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability, CFSP-Budget.
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states, as well as from other partners.

(2)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

RATIONALE

Democratic Governance and Human Rights are key for sustainable development and for cooperation between partners, and are an integral part of both the EU's and the AU's core values. The Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights will enable a comprehensive continent-to-continent dialogue and cooperation on aspects and concepts such as local capacity strengthening, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, democratic principles, the rule of law and equitable access to legal systems, management of natural resources, the fight against corruption and fraud, accountable management of public funds, institutional development and reform, global governance, and security sector reform.

PRIORITY ACTION 1 - ENHANCE DIALOGUE AT GLOBAL LEVEL AND IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

Objectives

- Common positions and specific initiatives on key aspects of the governance and human rights agendas;
- Coordinated positions on global issues in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council, the 2nd and 3rd Commission of UNGA, the Conference of State Parties to the AU and UN CAC;
- Co-operation in the prevention of, and fight against, international terrorism, drugs and organised crime.

Expected outcomes

- Ratification and implementation of the international and continental legislative framework (UN conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Conventions, Financial Action Task Force recommendations);
- Progress in the compliance with international obligations in the field of democratic governance and human rights;
- Enhanced influence through coordinated positions of the EU and AU in the Human Rights Council;
- Enhanced cooperation in the fight against corruption;
- Progress in the areas of prevention of ill-treatment and torture, promotion of international justice.

Activities

- Develop a platform for dialogue on all governance issues of mutual interest, including political issues, human rights, children's rights, gender equality, local governance and on "situations of fragility", as well as on the death penalty;
- Maintain and continue in this context a dedicated Senior Officials human rights dialogue, flanked by an Africa-EU civil society dialogue;

- Enhance co-operation in global fora on issues relating to election organization and observation;
- Enhance cooperation in the fight against corruption under the UN Convention on Anti-Corruption, the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and other relevant instruments;
- Enhance cooperation in the context of international initiatives against the illicit trade in natural resources, such as the Kimberley process and the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT);
- Promote transparency in the management of natural resources and conduct a dialogue on relevant international initiatives such as the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI);
- Step up capacity building and the exchange of information on the fight against terrorism, drugs and organized crime, including trafficking of human beings;
- Enhance cooperation on women's rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHRs) as set out by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD);
- Strengthen the representation of African children networks in the EU Child Forum.

Actors

- African States, AU Commission/NEPAD, Pan African Parliament, African Court of Justice, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, other Pan-African Institutions, RECs, African think tanks;
- EU Member States and Council, European Commission, European Parliament, other EU Institutions and Agencies, European Court of Human Rights;
- Decentralized authorities, Parliaments, and Civil society organizations;
- UN agencies and programmes and specialised international organisations including the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank instruments.

PRIORITY ACTION 2 – PROMOTE THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM) AND SUPPORT THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Objectives

- A more efficient African governance architecture through enhanced support for the implementation of the outcomes of the APRM process and the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthened capacities to combat corruption;
- More effective and efficient public services and administration in Africa;
- Enhanced awareness of the APRM processes in African countries.

Expected outcomes

- The consolidation of an effective and functioning Pan-African governance architecture through ratification and enhanced implementation of its instruments;
- Improved cooperation on the implementation of the recommendations of the APRM process.

Activities

- Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation on the implementation of the recommendations of the APRM process;
- Step up EU support to the Pan-African governance architecture, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Speed up ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strengthen capacities of the AU, regional and national institutions and civil society in the fields of election organisation and observation;
- Promote the participation of women in political processes and governance;
- Strengthen the capacities of independent organisations to combat corruption, impunity and fraud.

Actors

- African States, AU Commission/NEPAD Secretariat, APRM Secretariat, Pan African Parliament, other Pan-African Institutions, RECs;
- EU Member States and Council, European Commission, European Parliament, other EU Institutions and Agencies;
- Local and decentralized authorities;
- Civil society actors, universities and research institutes;
- UN organizations and specialized international organizations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank.

PRIORITY ACTION 3 - STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL GOODS

Objective

- Enhanced cooperation in the area of cultural goods and enlarged cooperation to include other cultural activities.

Expected outcomes

- Common positions on policies, strategies and cooperation in the area of cultural goods;
- Enhanced cooperation and exchanges between European and African cultural actors, such as museums, artists, experts, research institutes;
- Progress in the implementation of relevant international instruments to facilitate the protection and promotion of cultural goods, and to combat illicit trade of cultural goods;
- Progress towards the return of illegally acquired cultural goods to their countries of origins in line with relevant international conventions;
- Enhanced cooperation to facilitate the protection and promotion of cultural expressions and cultural diversity.

Activities

- Launch an inventory of cooperation in the area of cultural goods between Africa and Europe;
- Enhance the exchange of information on existing African cultural goods in EU and African countries with a view to establishing a database;
- Conduct an effective dialogue and cooperation in the area of return of illegally acquired cultural goods, including the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices;
- Put in place appropriate mechanisms for the fight against illicit trade in cultural goods;
- Encourage the signature and ratification of all relevant international conventions on cultural goods, and support the elaboration of legislation in this field;

- Build capacities in, and provide technical assistance to, African countries, in particular in areas such as the establishing of inventory systems in cultural goods, training of technical staff, the setting up of security and safety systems to protect and preserve cultural goods and institutions, increasing the awareness among holders, curators and other actors, and the strengthening of institutions;
- Enhance dialogue between African and EU delegations to UNESCO;
- Promote Culture for Development, and reinforce the safeguarding of African World Heritage sites and of the diversity of cultural expressions;
- Engage in effective dialogue and cooperation on culture, the promotion of exchanges and twinning arrangements in the area of cultural expressions and diversity and sports;
- Take necessary steps towards fully integrating local culture in development cooperation.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- UNESCO and other international organisations;
- Civil society actors in the field of culture and sports;
- Museums, Universities and Research institutions.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- Private sector, international organizations.

(3)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

TRADE, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RATIONALE

Enhanced trade and deeper regional integration are essential contributions to development, economic growth and employment, and ultimately the eradication of poverty. Further efforts shall be made in particular to enhance the African integration agendas, both at the regional and Pan-African levels, and to strengthen African capacities to meet rules, standards and quality requirements which are essential to enable effective access to regional and international markets.

Africa has adopted socio-economic and political integration as a key development strategy. The EU has undergone a successful process of integration and can usefully share its experience with Africa.

The EU and Africa are determined to remove all obstacles to market access. Capacity building initiatives in this area will focus, in particular, on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa are key actors to facilitate these harmonization and capacity enhancement processes.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: SUPPORT THE AFRICAN INTEGRATION AGENDA

Objective

- The socio-economic and political integration of the continent in line with the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty).

Expected outcomes

- An accelerated integration process with the participation of all stakeholders, including those in the informal sector;
- Improved coherence and convergence of the integration processes between the AU Commission and the RECs;
- Enhanced African capacities to implement the integration agenda;
- Synergies between African integration processes and the EPAs, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and bilateral trade agreements.

Activities

- Implement the Minimum Integration Programme for Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- Ensure that the EPAs support Africa's regional integration efforts;
- Conduct the Study on the Quantification of Scenarios within the context of the rationalisation process;
- Enhance the role of the AU in the monitoring of the EPAs and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership involving North African countries;
- Enhance the capacity of the AU Commission, the RECs, and African countries to effectively coordinate and implement the integration agenda (including training in trade policy and negotiations);
- Engage other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and cooperating partners, to participate and support the integration process;
- Implement the African Charter on Statistics and exchange statistical and other information between the EU and the African side.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA);
- Pan African organizations, such as United Cities and Local Government-Africa, African Institute on Governance, Alliance for a Renewed Governance in Africa;
- Civil society, private sector, local authorities, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), AfDB and other interested actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- AfDB, European Investment Bank (EIB).

PRIORITY ACTION 2: STRENGTHEN AFRICAN CAPACITIES IN THE AREA OF RULES, STANDARDS, AND QUALITY CONTROL

Objectives

- Enhanced capacity of administrations, producers and exporters at all levels to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets within Africa and the EU, thus allowing diversification away from simple processed products;
- Enhanced competitiveness of African agriculture and agri-food industry through particular attention to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS).

Expected outcomes

- Better informed producers and exporters capable of complying with the rules and regulatory requirements of export markets;
- A sufficient number of trained inspectors and customs officials to efficiently facilitate exports;
- A sufficient number of well-equipped and accredited laboratories, possibly to be shared amongst countries, for testing and certifying exports;
- Mutual recognition agreements on certain standards;
- A network to share information on market access, technical rules and regulations
- Diversification of exports;
- Progress towards the elimination of intra-regional non-tariff barriers to trade.

Activities

- Provision of training, in particular in the areas of inspection techniques, standards, quality assurance, accreditation, metrology, maximum residue levels, for inspectors and customs officials handling exports;
- Rehabilitation and modernization of African testing and certification laboratories, some of which could be shared by several countries, to empower them to perform more effectively;
- Negotiation of mutual recognition agreements as necessary on certain standards;

- Creation of a platform to share information on relevant issues and developments, including market access, rules and regulations;
- Improve technical knowledge to ensure that food and feed inspection services are operating efficiently and transparently;
- Strengthen risk-based animal health, plant health and food safety systems;
- Support the participation of African countries in SPS standard setting organizations.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Civil society, private sector, ECA, AfDB and other Interested other actors;
- SPS standard setting organizations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank, European Investment Bank.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: IMPLEMENT THE EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP

Objective

- Improved and sustained African infrastructure and services.

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced continental and regional integration and trade through better interconnectivity;
- Improved infrastructure networks and services;
- Strengthened African capacities in infrastructure management and policy development;
- Increased participation of the private sector in infrastructure development, including through Public-Private Partnerships;
- Increased and sustainable investments in physical infrastructure;
- Improved management of shared water-course systems.

Activities

- Implement the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure signed in Addis Ababa on 24 October 2007, including through the operationalization of the Partnership Steering Committee;
- Support the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Infrastructure Initiatives, including the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund;
- Improve the legal and regulatory environment for Public-Private Partnerships;
- Build capacities in the field of safety standards and regulations, in particular for air and maritime transport.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Civil society, private sector, ECA, AfDB and other interested other actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States
- African Development Bank, European Investment Bank;
- Private Sector.

(4)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

RATIONALE

Many countries in Africa are confronting particular challenges in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, and will require a broad range of strengthened efforts to meet those targets. Such efforts must include effective action to tackle the shortfalls in policy, predictable financing, data collection and implementation capacities. Children, gender, HIV/AIDS and the environment will be addressed as cross-cutting priorities.

This Africa-EU Partnership will serve as a forum for intensified continent-to-continent policy dialogue, cooperation and joint action at all levels, with a view to achieving the MDGs in all African countries.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: ENSURE THE FINANCE AND POLICY BASE FOR ACHIEVING THE MDGs

Objective

- To overcome policy and financing gaps for achieving the MDGs.

Expected outcomes

- Africa-EU policy dialogue and common positions in support of both quick wins and longer term sustainable action to tackle the MDGs in the context of global partnerships and international fora, including in the context of the MDG Africa Steering Committee, chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General;
- Integrated, comprehensive and balanced approaches in addressing all MDGs;
- Stronger institutional capacity and better coordination within and between the AU and EU to tackle the MDGs;
- Enhanced networking among African and European civil society organizations and other non-state actors.

Activities

- Develop joint assessments, analysis and approaches to enhance country ownership and to overcome gaps in long term predictable financing and human resource development;
- Strengthen national systems for planning, monitoring and evaluation to achieve the people-centred MDGs;
- Share the results from the two above mentioned activities with all relevant interlocutors, and in particular with the MDG Africa Steering Committee chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General;
- Work towards the fulfillment of the EU commitment of collective ODA of 0,56% of GNI by 2010, as an intermediary step towards achieving the UN target of 0,7% by 2015;
- Work in line with the Paris Declaration and enhance the coordination among donors and with partner governments;
- Establish a system to address the rights of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups in interventions to achieve the MDGs;

- Assess and develop the institutional capacity to enhance the roles of, and collaboration between, the AU and the EU in direct action to tackle the people-centred MDGs;
- Enhance coordination between AU, EU and civil society organizations in the framework of global partnership meetings and international fora;
- Establish effective mechanisms for enhanced collaboration between African and European experts, such as joint workshops, twinning initiatives, and exchange visits;
- Strengthen networking among African and European civil society organizations and ensure effective civil society inputs into policy dialogue.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States and RECs;
- European Commission, Council and EU Member States;
- EU and African Parliaments;
- Civil society organizations;
- Private Sector;
- United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA;
- EIB, AfDB, and other International Financial Institutions;
- Global partnerships, including Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, Education Fast Track Initiative, Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, International Health Partnership;
- African local authorities;
- Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Direct contributions from African and EU States and from the private sector;
- Global partnerships, including African and EU States support to those.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FOOD SECURITY TARGETS OF THE MDGs

Objective

- Make substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Objective of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition by the year 2015 in all African countries.

Expected outcomes

- Better access to food;
- Increased agricultural growth rates, improved agricultural productivity and reduced rural poverty;
- Agriculture and food security to be integral and strategic parts of the development agenda at national, regional and continental levels;
- Improved governance in the agricultural sectors, including in the area of sanitary measures and management regimes for land, fish and forest resources;
- Progress towards the Maputo commitments, including 10% of African national budgets devoted to the agricultural sector and rural development;
- Enhanced intra-Africa trade in agriculture, including staple foods;
- Reduced malnutrition, in particular under-5 chronic and acute malnutrition, as well as reduced maternal and child mortality;
- Improved food-security early warning systems;
- Wider application of safety-net / social transfer systems;
- Reduced vulnerability in food-insecure communities.

Activities

- Accelerate the development and implementation of pillar 3 of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) at regional and national levels, with particular attention to the involvement of non-state actors such as farmers associations;

- Enhance agricultural research and strengthen institutional cooperation and coordination between national agricultural research systems (NARS) and regional and international research programmes, notably with EU research institutes, in the framework of the new partnership on agriculture between the EU and Africa;
- Remove bottlenecks to intra-Africa trade in agricultural products, including staple food crops;
- Include agriculture and food-security related indicators in budgetary support programmes;
- Strengthen regional and continental-level representations of producers and professional organisations, with effective advocacy and lobbying capacity;
- Increase national and regional capacities to monitor levels of acute and chronic malnutrition;
- Increase continental and regional food security information systems and capacities to address famine crises.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African Member States, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- CAADP pillar lead institutions, such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA);
- Private sector, civil society, local authorities and economic actors;
- International organizations, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- Development Banks and Private Foundations;
- Private Sector;
- African local authorities.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HEALTH TARGETS OF THE MDGS

Objective

- Make substantial progress towards achieving the MDG Targets in the area of health in all African countries.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved access to prevention, treatment, care and support services, including for HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health;
- Progress towards the Abuja commitments, including 15% of African national budgets devoted to the health sector, and towards the Maputo commitments (Maputo Action Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), within the context of established EU positions;
- Increased national capacities in participatory and evidence-based health strategy planning and budgeting;
- Equal access to healthcare and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities;
- Progress towards universal access to affordable quality medicines, vaccines, contraceptives, and commodities;
- Increased production of medicines and vaccines in Africa;
- Coordinated African and EU positions in the relevant international fora;
- Increased capacity to train, retain and stimulate the return of health workers;
- Increased risk-awareness on emerging and re-emerging diseases, medical emergencies and epidemics.

Activities

- Develop joint strategies to enhance access to affordable quality medicines, in particular for HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, other endemic diseases and meningitis through:
 - Enhanced capacity for regional and local production of generic medicines;
 - Strengthened regulatory capacity through EU/AU cooperation on the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;

- Facilitation of the import of generic and affordable patented drugs in accordance with the TRIPS provisions on compulsory licensing and parallel imports;
 - Strengthened mechanisms to fight counterfeit medicines;
 - Encourage political support for the WHO Inter-Governmental Working Group (IGWG) process aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of priority medicines for Africa and cooperation on issues relating to public health, innovation and intellectual property.
- Increase the capacity of African countries to train and retain health workers, including through the implementation of the Africa Health Strategy 2007–2015 and the European programme for action to tackle the shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007–2013);
 - Identify joint actions to initiate the creation or reinforcement of social health protection systems;
 - Identify joint actions to strengthen district and national health systems, including participatory and action-led health management information systems, the elimination of fees for basic health care, strengthening preventive health care systems and health education, and stronger involvement of civil society partners;
 - Jointly address environmental health challenges by implementing water and sanitation programs and projects, in conjunction with the partnerships on Energy and Climate Change;
 - Improve operational research on health systems and synergies with traditional medicine, including through the implementation of the action programme of the African Decade on Traditional Medicine;
 - Support the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan for the operationalization of the continental policy framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2007-2010 within the context of established EU positions;
 - Implement the African Child Survival Strategy, and the follow up of the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria services in Africa;
 - Coordinate African and European positions in appropriate international fora and negotiations;
 - Explore and test possibilities to improve access to health services through the use of telemedicine and e-health within Africa and beyond;

- Seize the opportunities presented by 2008 being the UN International Year of Sanitation, and prepare a Joint Statement for the Conference on Sustainable Development 16;
- Promote twinning initiatives and other appropriate exchanges to accelerate progress towards MDGs 2 and 3;
- Support the implementation of international health agreements.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African Member States, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- Private sector, civil society, academic institutions and health practitioners ;
- WHO, UNAIDS and other UN/International organizations;
- Global partnerships such as International Health Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM);
- African local authorities.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African local authorities;
- AfDB, EIB;
- Private sector;
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

PRIORITY ACTION 4: ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE EDUCATION TARGETS OF THE MDGs

Objective

- Make substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the area of Education in all African countries.

Expected Outcomes

- Greater access to free, equitable and quality education;
- Universal primary education including for children with disabilities;
- Higher enrolment and completion rates with gender parity;
- Improved quality of education infrastructure, facilities and management systems.

Activities

- Establish a mechanism for strategic partnerships for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
- Take measures to eliminate school fees for primary and secondary education;
- Advance the effective training, deployment and retention of teachers;
- Accelerate the introduction of social protection programmes, including school feeding for disadvantaged families;
- Develop special programmes adapted to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children;
- Promote the integration of life skills for HIV/AIDS and health education into curricula at all levels;
- Implement initiatives to increase the enrolment and completion rate of girls at all levels of education;
- Enhance education infrastructure and improve teaching and learning materials;
- Promote twinning initiatives and other appropriate exchanges to accelerate progress towards MDGs 2 and 3;

- Strengthen the capacities of the Pan-African Institute for Education for Development;
- Promote exchange of best practice relating to the access of children with disabilities to education.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs, Pan-African Institute for Education for Development, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Association of African Universities (AAU)
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- African local authorities;
- Private sector, non-state actors and educational institutions
- UNESCO and other International organizations
- Global partnerships such as the Education For All Fast Track Initiative.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states;
- African local authorities;
- Private sector, Foundations;
- International financing institutions, African Development Bank.

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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

ENERGY

RATIONALE

The global concerns on energy security, energy access and climate change have reinforced the links between the energy future of Africa and Europe. The Africa-EU Energy Partnership will be a long-term framework for structured political dialogue and cooperation between Africa and the EU on energy issues of strategic importance and reflecting Africa's and Europe's needs. Through the Partnership, Africa and Europe will work together to develop a shared vision and common policy, answers, and to stimulate specific action that addresses the energy challenges of the 21st century. It aims at creating a momentum that will also mobilise increased financial, technical and human resources in support of Africa's energy development.

The Africa–EU Energy Partnership will strengthen the existing Africa-EU dialogue on access to energy and energy security. It will aim at scaling up European and African investments in energy infrastructure, including promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency and improving the management of energy resources, as well as to mainstream climate change into development cooperation. The new political dialogue and cooperation on energy will further address the energy issues at the local, national, regional, continental and global levels.

PRIORITY ACTION: IMPLEMENT THE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION ON ENERGY SECURITY AND ACCESS

Objectives

- Effective Africa-EU dialogue on energy access and energy security;
- Improved access to reliable, secure, affordable, climate friendly and sustainable energy services for both continents;
- Increased European and African investments in energy infrastructure in Africa, including promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Expected outcomes

- Scaled up investment in energy infrastructure, including the promotion of sustainable renewable energy and improved energy efficiency on both the supply and demand sides;
- Improved management of energy resources, including increased development-oriented use of oil and gas generated resources;
- Improved electrification rates, development of networks and of cross-border interconnections and other energy exchange infrastructure in Africa and between Africa and Europe;
- Improved institutional, technical capacities, and donor coordination;
- Expanded Africa-EU technology cooperation and transfer in the energy field;
- Climate change mainstreamed into energy development cooperation.

Activities

- Further implement already agreed EU support to the African energy sector;
- Jointly analyse and discuss the operational aspects of the Africa-EU energy cooperation, support energy policies and planning at all levels, and build capacity;
- Make progress towards the establishment of enabling legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks at the continental, regional and national levels in Africa, and strengthen African energy institutions;

- Facilitate contacts and exchange know-how between relevant EU bodies (such as national energy agencies and energy research centres) and their African counterparts, including possibly via twinning arrangements;
- Explore the ways and means to launch a dialogue on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, within the framework of all relevant IAEA- and NPT-provisions and in line with international safety standards and rules;
- Explore the possibility of using innovative financing and guarantee methods, notably small-scale facilities through public-private partnerships;
- Mobilise increased grant funding and investment capital from public sources, financing institutions and the private sector both in Africa and Europe;
- Examine the creation of African Energy Funds, such as Rural Electrification Funds and Stabilization Funds;
- Elaborate Associated Gas Recovery Plans (industry) and Country Implementation Plans (oil/gas producing countries) through the Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership;
- Promote the regional integration of the energy markets in Africa, including through the completion of ongoing initiatives like the Maghreb electricity markets' integration project, and explore their possible extension and replication in other African regions;
- Promote the development of energy interconnections between Africa and Europe;
- Explore the possibilities for launching a major cooperation programme in the field of renewable energy sources in Africa, including the possible establishment of regional centres for promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Mainstream climate change into development cooperation in the area of energy;
- Hold a high level Africa-EU energy dialogue meeting every two years.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs, AFREC, and other African Energy Institutions;
- European Commission, EU Member States
- Private sector (in particular energy companies), AfDB, EIB, other IFIs, energy centres, civil society and other Interested actors;
- African local authorities.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Infrastructure Trust Fund, Energy Facility, Thematic Programme for Environment and Natural Resources Management, including Energy (ENTRP);
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank, European Investment Bank;
- Private sector contributions.

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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

CLIMATE CHANGE

RATIONALE

Climate Change is affecting all countries, but Least Developed Countries and other vulnerable developing countries are expected to be hit earliest and hardest. Africa will be particularly affected in terms of food security, sustainable water supply and extreme weather phenomena such as floods, droughts and threats of desertification. Economies and livelihoods of an increasing number of communities, countries and sub-regions in Africa continue to decline due to desert encroachment partly emanating from climate change and locally generated land degradation processes.

In addressing these pertinent issues, Africa and the EU will engage in a partnership that will provide for dialogue, cooperation and exchange on concrete actions to respond to climate change and an effective channel for holding deliberations on a shared Africa-EU vision, with close links to the proposed Global Climate Change Alliance. This will take into account African initiatives such as the African Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) Programme and the need to implement and further develop climate change related instruments, especially the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP), but also the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and will represent an integrated framework for Africa-EU cooperation on climate change.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: BUILD A COMMON AGENDA ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES AND COOPERATION

Objectives

- Enhanced dialogue, and common approaches, including at multilateral level, on climate change challenges in Africa, Europe and globally, in particular in view to the negotiations for a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Strengthened capacities to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its negative effects.

Expected outcomes

- A strengthened Africa-EU dialogue on the development, implementation and further improvement of climate change related initiatives and treaties, in particular in view of the negotiations of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Systematic integration of climate change into African national and regional development strategies as well as into Africa-EU development cooperation;
- Increased capacity in African countries to adapt to climate change and mitigate its negative effects, including through climate risk management and resilience to deal with climate-related disasters;
- Improved data, analytical methods and infrastructure for sectoral Climate Risk Management (CRM), monitoring climate variability and detecting climate change with strengthened observation networks and service centres in Africa;
- Reduced rates of deforestation and better preservation of forest ecosystems, while improving the livelihood of forest dependent populations;
- Increased benefits for Africa from participation in the global carbon market and enhanced capacity of African negotiators in the international market;
- Increased energy efficiency and resilience to climate change in the African economies.

Activities

- Coordinate approaches on climate change challenges in Africa, Europe and globally, in particular in view of the negotiations of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Set up national/regional adaptation plans to climate change, and support the implementation of ClimDev Africa;
- Jointly promote and deploy environmentally friendly technologies and improve the monitoring of environmental effects of climate change;
- Launch risk-awareness and preparedness campaigns on climate-related natural disasters, in particular for vulnerable communities;
- Strengthen climate-monitoring and forecasting capacities;
- Elaborate and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies, particularly in relation to water, energy, health, environment, agricultural and food security issues;
- Integration of climate change in African development planning and in Africa-EU development cooperation;
- Build up reporting systems to monitor deforestation, support innovative performance based mechanisms to provide incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and improve sustainable management of natural resources;
- Facilitate the participation of African countries in the global carbon market, including through the Clean Development Mechanism;
- Enhance capacities of African negotiators;
- Contribute to initiatives like European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI);
- Promote climate observation, in particular for the African continent, and enhance links to global climate observatory systems.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- Local authorities;
- Private sector, civil society
- UN Agencies, AfDB, Global Climate Observing System;
- Regional technical institutions like Agrhymet, OSS (Observatory of Sahara and Sahel).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes on Environment and Natural Resources;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states;
- Private sector, African Development Bank;
- Funds under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change/Kyoto Protocol (Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund);
- Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA);
- Funds deriving from the Bonn political commitment;
- GEEREF (risk sharing and co-funding options for commercial and non-commercial investors).

Priority Action 2: Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative"

Objective

- Combat desertification and improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the countries of the Sahara and Sahel zones of Africa.

Expected outcomes

- Progress towards reversal of desert encroachment and soil degradation;
- Improvement of micro-climatic conditions and reduction of land degradation.

Activities

- Identify the relevant activities in the "Green Wall Initiative" adapted to the national and regional context;
- Enhance environmental sustainability within the framework of regional and international environmental agreements;
- Advance the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification;
- Improve the knowledge on land degradation and desertification;
- Control land degradation, promote sustainable land management with a view to integrate land management issues in national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), and increase land productivity and food production;
- Promote integrated natural resource management and conserve biological diversity;
- Address the problems of land degradation and increasing aridity at all relevant levels to respond to local needs and build on local and individual efforts and successes;
- Create awareness and promote wider public involvement in arresting desertification in a sustainable manner;
- Identify and promote alternative livelihoods and productive systems for the populations affected by desertification.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs, local communities;
- Regional technical institutions and networks;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- AfDB, civil society and other interested actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes on Environment and Natural Resources;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states;
- Private sector, African Development Bank.

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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND EMPLOYMENT

RATIONALE

The Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment will provide holistic responses to these various issues in the interest of both partners, with the particular objectives to create more and better jobs for Africa and to better manage migration flows.

This partnership will ensure that better-managed migration and employment issues become an essential part of poverty reduction strategies or other national development and co-development strategies of African countries. The partnership will ensure that migration and employment works for sustainable development and that all relevant international agreements and declarations are implemented.

The partnership will in particular build on the Tripoli Declaration on Migration and Development and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

At the Tripoli EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in November 2006, Africa and the EU adopted for the first time a joint strategy, in the form of the Tripoli Declaration, to respond to the challenges and maximise the benefits of international migration. The EU-Africa Action Plan on trafficking in human beings, which was formally endorsed on the same occasion, is part and parcel of the comprehensive strategy adopted in Tripoli, even though, for practical reasons, it is addressed separately in this document.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: IMPLEMENT THE DECLARATION OF THE TRIPOLI MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

- To facilitate mobility and free movement of people in Africa and the EU and to better manage legal migration between the two continents;
- To address the root causes of migration and refugee flows;
- To find concrete solutions to problems posed by illegal or irregular migratory flows;
- Address the problems of migrants residing in EU and African countries.

Expected outcomes

Migration

- Better utilisation of potential synergies between migration and development;
- Concrete progress towards tackling the critical human resource situation in the health sector and other sectors of concern;
- Enhanced cooperation on migration management in Africa and the EU;
- Improved co-operation in all domains in the fight against illegal or irregular migration, including reaching agreements on the issues of return and readmission of illegal migrants to their country of origin, as foreseen by the Tripoli Declaration;
- Enhanced capacity to ensure international protection for persons in need of it;
- Better integration of African migrants in their respective EU and African countries of residence.

Mobility

- Further reduction of obstacles to free movement of people within Africa and within the EU;
- Enhanced mechanisms to facilitate circular migration between Africa and the EU.

Activities

Migration

- Further integrate relevant issues concerning migration, mobility and employment into poverty reduction strategies and country strategy papers, in particular through support to continued improvement and updating of individual countries' migration profiles, with a particular focus on skills gaps and mismatches in labour markets;
- Advance progress towards the implementation of the AU Migration Policy Framework, in particular in the field of capacity building;
- Promote regional schemes to enhance cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination on migration and development along migratory routes;
- Further improve cooperation on international protection;
- Create a network of migration observatories to collect, analyse and disseminate data on migration flows;
- Make further steps towards the facilitation of safer, faster, and cheaper remittances, including for investments; ensure that sufficient data, research and know-how is made available to governments; promote innovative solutions for transferring money;
- Take action to combat exploitation, discrimination and social exclusion of migrant workers;
- Further improve joint action on fighting illegal immigration, human smuggling and human trafficking;
- Mobilize adequate financial resources, from within the framework of existing funds and programming mechanisms, for the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the Tripoli Declaration;
- Urge the two Commissions to speed up the examination of the feasibility of setting up a Fund as provided for in the Tripoli Declaration;
- Establish regular dialogue on African migrants residing in EU and African countries with a view to addressing their problems.

Mobility

- Promote dialogue and cooperation on visa issues with a view to facilitating mobility between Europe and Africa, giving a priority to officials involved on a regular basis in the Africa-EU partnership; Identify mechanisms and projects that facilitate circular migration between Africa and the EU;
- Promote 'ethical recruitment' policies in the EU and in Africa to minimise brain drain pull factors in critical sectors; support the implementation of retention strategies to address push factors;
- Scale up education and vocational training in critical sectors, in particular through the creation of schools/workshops to provide adequate training to young professionals and workers, in direct response to local, national and external labour market needs;
- Set up and maintain appropriate incentive mechanisms which will encourage the retention and return of key qualified personnel;
- Assist African governments to set up Migration Information and Management Centres, as an instrument to better manage labour mobility in Africa and between Africa and the EU;
- Facilitate the mobility of members of the diasporas and/or migrant communities, to allow them to act as agents of development; launch an inventory of diaspora organizations to enhance cooperation; promote co-development schemes;
- Support partnerships and twinning initiatives between institutions in Africa and the EU, such as hospital and universities.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African Development Bank (AfDB), African local authorities;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament, European Investment Bank (EIB);
- Civil society actors, migrant associations, research institutions;
- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), and appropriate thematic programmes for the cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and asylum;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: IMPLEMENT THE EU-AFRICA PLAN OF ACTION ON TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

Objectives

- To effectively combat trafficking in human beings through a victim-centred approach, in particular of women and children;
- To address the root causes of trafficking in human beings in countries of origin, as well as in countries of destination;
- To contribute to the empowerment of women and children.

Expected outcomes

- Measurable reduction in trafficking of human beings, in particular of women and children;
- Enhanced awareness on trafficking in human beings among all stakeholders and especially high risk groups;
- Protection of victims of trafficking;
- Legislative frameworks and effective instruments in place to arrest and prosecute the organizers of trafficking.

Activities

- Sign and ratify relevant international conventions, in particular the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols;
- Establish or reinforce the necessary legal framework, prepare national and regional strategies and action plans, and ensure effective implementation and enforcement;
- Establish multi-disciplinary task forces within existing regional mechanisms;
- Raise awareness of officials and potential victims;
- Strengthen preventive measures in countries of origin, transit and destination;
- Strengthen capacities for law enforcement;
- Provide legal, medical and social protection and assistance to victims;

- Enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation and coordination between European and African countries of origin, transit and destination, and establish trans-national referral mechanisms among them.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African local authorities;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Civil society actors, migrant associations, research institutions;
- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes for the cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and asylum;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: IMPLEMENT AND FOLLOW UP THE 2004 OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION AND ACTION PLAN ON EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN AFRICA.

Objective

- To create more, more productive and better jobs in Africa, in particular for youth and women in line with the UN "Decent Work for all" Agenda.

Expected outcomes

- Progress towards creating an enabling non-discriminatory business environment for private sector development; investments in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders; encouragement of entrepreneurship and self-employment;
- Improved employability and productivity of workers and a better match between supply and demand of labour;
- Improved understanding of the informal economy with a view to a progressive formalisation of the informal sector;
- Enhanced understanding and implementation of the internationally adopted Decent Work principles;
- Implementation of the EU's commitments on Policy Coherence for Development, particularly in the areas of trade, fisheries and agriculture.

Activities

- Integrate full and productive employment and decent work for all into national development strategies including poverty reduction strategies and country strategy papers;
- Strengthen the capacity of employment agencies and of other labour market actors and institutions, such as organisations of employers and workers, labour administrations, in Africa and encourage links and networks among them;
- Create a more direct link between skills training and the needs of local labour markets as well as possible investment opportunities, including through the provision of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);

- Encourage the elaboration of Decent Work Country Programmes and participation in joint awareness raising activities on Decent Work, with a specific focus on the informal sector, in particular for women and young people;
- Strengthen the quality of local tertiary-level education, revitalise African universities and promote the training of high-level technical and professional manpower, including through the Nyerere and Erasmus Mundus programmes;
- Promote investment in private sector and microfinance schemes.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African local authorities;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- EU and African civil society actors including the social partners;
- Research institutions;
- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and the thematic programme 'Investing in People';
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

SCIENCE, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SPACE

RATIONALE

Africa is the continent where the scientific and digital divides are the widest. The MDGs identify the essential role of science and technology for socio-economic transformation. Investments in African scientific capacities have not been prioritized and the continent is losing some of its best scientific and technical expertise to other regions. It is in this context, that the Africa Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action was developed, consolidating the AU Commission and NEPAD programmes related to science and technology capacity building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

The MDGs also identify information and communication technologies (ICTs) as key enablers for poverty reduction and growth. Although ICTs are multi-sectoral tools for socio-economic development, a dedicated coherent strategy needs to be implemented in order to develop an inclusive information society in Africa. It is on these principles, and in the context of the World Summit on Information Society, that the African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), an AU initiative, was developed.

Space applications provide, by their very nature, an effective platform to address problems from a regional perspective. The use of space science for development in Africa presents considerable opportunities, and there is a need to establish institutional arrangements to enable Africa to tap their benefits. Space-based systems can play a key enabling role in the attainment of Africa's sustainable development objectives and contribute to the monitoring of climate change.

Bridging the digital and scientific divide within African countries and between Africa and other regions, as well as fostering cooperation on space applications and technology to support Africa's sustainable development objective underlie the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INCLUSIVE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN AFRICA

Objective

- Bridging the digital divide and to enhance the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as key enablers for poverty reduction, growth, and socio-economic development.

Expected outcomes

- A more sustainable, accessible, affordable and effective African ICT infrastructure;
- Enhanced use of ICT applications in order to achieve MDG objectives, notably in the health and education sector;
- Progress toward inclusive and equitable knowledge-based societies;
- Common African-EU positions and approaches in international and regional ICT fora.

Activities

- Complement investments made on physical infrastructures, as planned in the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, through support to key capacity-building initiatives identified in the African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);
- Create the right conditions for setting-up efficient public-private partnerships to ensure affordable service costs and the widest diffusion on ICTs and related services;
- Ensure coherence between activities carried out at continental and regional levels;
- Increase the use of ICTs and ICT-applications of high societal impact in Africa, in particular the e-health and e-learning domains;
- Enhance ICT human resource development, promoting e-skills and digital literacy;
- Reinforce the deployment of regional research and education networks and their interconnection with the GEANT-2 network;
- Harmonize efforts and initiatives with regard to ICTs that include infrastructure, internet exchange points, interconnectivity and interoperability;

- Promote ICT policies and strengthen regulatory frameworks in Africa;
- Promote telemedicine and early warning systems for epidemics, linked to rapid response plans;
- Hold a systematic and regular dialogue on all issues related to ICTs on technical, senior official and political level in the most effective formats.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- Private Sector;
- Civil Society and NGOs;
- Local authorities;
- International Financing Institutions;
- UN and specialized agencies.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: SUPPORT S&T CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA AND IMPLEMENT AFRICA'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF ACTION (CPA)

Objective

- Bridging the scientific divide, to strengthen African capacities in the area of science and technology, and to enhance the use of science and technology as key enablers for poverty reduction, growth, and socio-economic development.

Expected outcomes

- A strengthened African S&T base;
- Increased number of scientists, technicians and engineers;
- Mainstreaming of S&T into RECs' sectoral programmes and projects;
- Improved infrastructure and facilities for R&D;
- Strengthened AU- EU cooperation on science and technology programmes.

Activities

- Start implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Science and Technology for Development in Africa;
- Enhance cooperation with RECs on mainstreaming science and technology for socio-economic development and competitiveness, and strengthen their capacities in this area;
- Promote the application of S&T to achieve specific MDGs;
- Promote integrated health research strategies and improve national capacities in areas such as health management information systems, epidemiological surveys, clinical and operational research, and enhance links with the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP);
- Define innovative ways and means of financing science and technology in Africa;
- Develop harmonized science and technology policies in Africa;
- Reinforce the S&T dimension in education and training;
- Promote the exchange of good practices of cooperation in S&T at the regional and international levels;

- Advance institutional and policy arrangements that enable African countries to mobilize and share their scarce resources to conduct science and generate technological innovations;
- Promote the participation of the African research community into European programmes of Research and Technological Development;
- Promote twinning arrangements between relevant African and European actors.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- Private Sector, universities, science and technology institutions and research centres;
- International Financing Institutions;
- UNESCO and other UN agencies;
- European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Science and Technology fund;
- EDCTP, Thematic Budget Investing in People.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: ENHANCE COOPERATION ON SPACE APPLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Objective

- Enhanced cooperation in the use of sustainable and affordable space application and technology to support Africa's sustainable development objectives.

Excepted outcomes

- Space-related issues fully integrated in specific dialogues and cooperation initiatives in areas such as environment and resource management, climate change, peace and security;
- Specific projects based on space technologies to achieve regional and global development goals.

Activities

- Jointly analyse the potential to use space applications to better manage natural resources, improve living conditions of populations and promote sustainable development, in particular in the areas of:
 - Telecommunications and bridging the digital divide;
 - Monitoring of climate change, desertification or fires, and water and food resources through Earth Observation, such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) for Africa;
 - Navigation applications such as GALILEO, European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS);
 - Facilitating humanitarian aid operations and improving security of populations through integrated space applications,
 - Space technologies and scientific applications as contributions to the knowledge-based society.
- Ensure effective follow-up of the event "Space for Development – the Case of GMES and Africa" (Lisbon, December 2007);
- Develop concrete joint cooperation initiatives in selected areas.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- European agencies such as the European Space Agency (ESA) and Eumetsat;
- Private Sector.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI;
 - Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States.
-