

LINK!

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INSIDE
THE AFRICA-
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PARTNERSHIP

Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration

4



Peace & Security

14

Democracy, Good Governance & Human Rights

16

Human Development

19

Global and Emerging issues

23

Highlights from the EU- Africa Partnership

25



Editorial



Gary Quince, EU Head of Delegation to the African Union

This edition of Link goes to press soon after the African Union has hosted two very important events in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership.

The first was the 8th joint meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee. The joint meeting took place on 16th October and was preceded by a first ever informal retreat the previous day. The retreat discussed ways to reinforce our cooperation in conflict prevention, capacity building and migration, while the joint meeting examined the situations in South Sudan, Somalia, Mali/Sahel, Libya, Central African Republic and Burundi. The discussions showed the close convergence between the EU and Africa's approach to these situations and issues and identified areas for further joint work. The annual joint meetings of the two PSC's constitute the main forum for political dialogue on Peace and Security which is the first pillar of the EU-Africa Partnership.

A few days later, on 20th October, Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, visited Addis Ababa. This was the first ever HRVP visit to the African Union and was the opportunity to underscore the importance that the European Union attaches to our partnership with Africa. The HRVP's keynote speech emphasised this importance, examining how Europe can work with Africa to support the continent in realising its enormous potential, through empowering its people and creating jobs, particularly for women and youth; working with governments and the private sector to boost trade, investment and industrialisation, including between African countries; expanding agriculture, improving climate resilience, supporting infrastructure development, facilitating technology transfer and joint research and development; better managing migration to maximise its development benefits while tackling the root causes of irregular migration and human trafficking. And to achieve all this, the HRVP emphasised that Europe and Africa need to intensify our joint work to silence the guns across the continent, combat terrorism, violent extremism and organised crime and support the growth of peaceful, inclusive and democratic societies.

The articles in this edition of Link echo many of these issues, particularly highlighting the innovative cooperation underway between Africa and Europe in helping to meet Africa's growing Energy needs in the context of the Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth and Continental Integration pillar of our Partnership. Other articles examine our cooperation to improve Conflict Early Warning in the Horn of Africa; in promoting Governance and Human Rights across the continent; supporting Higher Education and joint Research and Development; as well as the launch of a new programme to support Disaster Risk Reduction.

I wish you all an interesting and enjoyable reading!

Gary Quince
EU Head of Delegation to the African Union

EU boosts public finance to attract private sector in joining forces towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The successful debate on the post-2015 agenda brought the whole spectrum of global challenges under one umbrella: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), achievement of which will undoubtedly be strengthened by a high-ambition climate agreement resulting from discussions at the up-coming COP 21, in December, in Paris. But to meet the investment needs arising from these commitments, Governments need the private sector now, more than ever, if these ambitious targets are to be achieved over the next fifteen years. The challenge is how to effectively engage public-private partnerships to achieve these targets. What action is Europe taking to address challenges under SDG 7 on Energy?

Private Sector fills the energy-financing gap

With the stand-alone energy goal number 7 to “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” adopted as a Sustainable Development Goal at the UN summit in mid-September, the question is now how to scale up investments in sustainable energy. The answer, coming from this year’s International Conference on Financing for Development in Ethiopia is explicit: private sector finance and investment is the largest potential source of additional funding.

The major challenge

While it is widely understood that investment by the private sector in developing countries will materialise only if risk is minimised through favourable investment conditions, it is beyond dispute that one of the most serious barriers to the private sector investing in energy projects, is the lack of access to seed, mid- and long-term capital matching business cycles. This is aggravated by the reluctance of commercial banks to provide suitable lending conditions that respond to the needs of investors. A second major obstacle is the existing capacity limitations in terms of structuring and bringing projects to fi-

nancial close. A support scheme that bridges the gaps in structuring and financing is therefore necessary to stimulate the private sector and mobilise financiers, including the local banking sector.

It should not be ignored that there are already several equity and risk-sharing mechanisms in place to facilitate private investments in energy. However, a lighthouse initiative able to mobilise the billions of euros of investment needed, and target hundreds of millions of people without access to electricity was still missing – until recently.

Launching a new era

With the Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI), a new flagship initiative for rural electrification, the European Commission has developed an instrument that combines EU funds with private sector investments in a revolving manner in order to make small and medium-sized energy projects bankable. Elaborated by industry and development financiers, ElectriFI is a flexible tool aiming to support investments providing access to reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity and energy services in developing countries. With initial funding of €75 million, ElectriFI will provide convertible grants and other financial tools to help de-risk investments and the delivery of many different private sector projects rather than a few large-scale. Criteria for project selection will certainly include quantitative parameters like number of beneficiaries that have access to electricity but will also take into consideration other aspects like gender relevance.

For the market players who are not yet business-ready, ElectriFI will provide technical, financial and marketing assistance and other resources needed to start up. Working together with European and international financing institutions as well as with the private sector, the aim is to create a leverage effect to

multiply a total of €270 million of EU investments envisaged by 2017.

Building on existing instruments

It is not the first time that the EC launches a well-designed instrument to work with the private sector. A financial scheme established in 2008 - the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF), an equity fund of funds for emerging markets, kick-started public financing with an initial funding of €112 million and raised a further €110 million from private investors to roll-out fund investments for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Advised by the European Investment Bank, the GEEREF has up to date contributed to eight investment funds in operation in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, with first projects having been commissioned last year and others coming online now, including a solar and wind project in South Africa and wind project in India.

A coherent approach

The rationale behind ElectriFI is that other European or international development instruments can feed into the Initiative and provide a pipeline of bankable projects suitable to receive the funding. One initiative that is explicitly designed to work coherently with ElectriFI is the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP). Initiated to develop markets for renewable energy in Africa. The RECP supports the establishment of favourable regulatory conditions and assists universities and training institutes to improve their education programmes. Additionally, the RECP supports cooperation between African and European private stakeholders, and provides advisory services to project developers, particularly to improve their access to financial instruments, such as ElectriFI and others.

The next steps

Determined to fit the market needs, the European Commission still receives feedback from experts in energy market segments and ElectriFI is shaping up as this article goes to press. Undoubtedly, ElectriFI will open the door to many innovative private entrepreneurs who have previously not been able to access the necessary financing for the initial stages of project development. ElectriFI is expected to be operational by the end of this year and the first projects should be selected early in 2016. The whole energy community has great expectations that this instrument will finally provide the breakthrough for financing of rural electrification projects that due to their smaller scale and thus higher transaction costs encountered difficulties to identify sustainable funding. With this initiative the EU has an important deliverable to contribute in achieving the energy access objectives set out under the 7th SDG.

Author: Africa Europe Energy Partnership



On the road to COP21: Harmonization and Coordination of Energy Initiatives in Africa

The UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP21) is swiftly approaching and in line with the objective to adopt a legally binding climate agreement, countries have been submitting Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to outline their goals for climate change adaptation and mitigation. While the OECD countries are naturally expected to lead the way in shifting to a low-carbon climate-friendly economy, a major challenge lies in the hands of developing countries. Some of them have sent a strong signal, with Gabon, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya, Benin and Democratic Republic of the Congo among the first African countries to submit their INDC. The European Union (EU) is determined to assist its partner countries in the most urgent development problems, particularly towards its proclaimed overarching goal to deliver universal energy access for 500 million people by 2030.

Coordination on energy initiatives in Africa needed

Recent years have witnessed a prioritizing of energy on the political agenda for development partners working in Africa. As a result, numerous initiatives have originated with the common goal of boosting the continent's efforts towards achieving a sustainable energy future. However, coordination between initiatives has been limited. Therefore there is a need to fill this gap by coordinating stakeholders to collectively discuss potential synergies and opportunities to work together to achieve energy goals in Africa and beyond.

The AEEP was identified as the appropriate facilitator of this effort due to the crucial role of African institutions in the discussions, and the current leading position of EU member states who are holding the G7 and COP21 presidencies. As a first step the AEEP in cooperation with Sustainable Energy for ALL

2020 targets in the framework of AEE

Access

to modern and sustainable energy services to at least an additional

**100
MILLION
AFRICANS**

Energy Security

2x

- the capacity of cross-border electricity interconnections
- the use of natural gas
- African gas exports to Europe

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

10,000 MW of new hydropower

5,000 MW
of wind power

500 MW
of all forms of solar power

3X the capacity
of all other renewables

Increase energy
EFFICIENCY
in Africa in all sectors

(SE4ALL), initiated a Coordination Series comprising meetings in New York (SE4ALL Forum), Vienna (Vienna Energy Forum) and Addis Ababa (in the margins of the 3rd International Conference on Financing Development) to gather high level actors in order to get discussions on coordination closer to actionable conclusions. The aim is to develop a framework for coordination in Africa that can be finalized in time for the COP21 in Paris December this year. To feed into these discussions the AEEP is now working on the mapping of current and planned initiatives focused on the energy sector in Africa.

Joint Declarations create synergies

Another mechanism to create synergies between partner's initiatives and to coordinate towards the objectives of delivering sustainable energy for all are Joint Declarations – political statements of African countries, the EU, member states and other relevant donors with the aim to reinforce bilateral cooperation. Eventually, the declarations can facilitate access to thematic funds or technical assistance (such as TAF) and the supporting actions financed by the EU and other partners. So far, 7 joint declarations have been signed to express countries' commitments in Africa. The next step is to develop country-specific Roadmaps to outline actions to be carried out in the field of energy. Besides EU member states, other donors, such as Norway and the US, have expressed willingness to join this initiative according to their development interests – a sign of international players' consensus for coordinated approach to energy development.

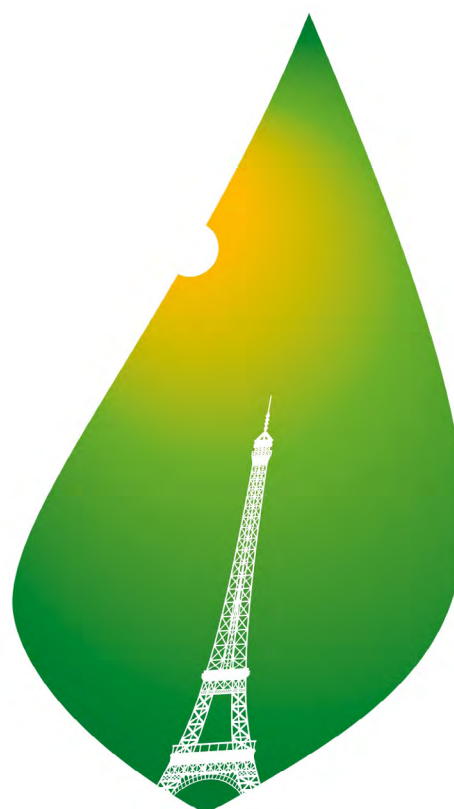
Strengthening local cooperation

Creating synergies means also to learn and to expand strategies that have proven to be successful. The EU is therefore planning to extend its existing Covenant of Mayors initiative to support booming African cities in efficient urban, transportation, and energy planning. The first funds of €10 million will focus on city-to-city cooperation, technical assistance available for the partner cities and establishment of the platform of local authorities for coordination, knowledge exchange, visibility and political ownership. In Europe, cities have voluntarily committed to control & reduce their greenhouse gases and to adopt a Sustainable Energy Action Plan, which 400 cities approved by the end of 2014. The model mainstreams energy and climate issues at regional and national levels and with European broad experiences in energy efficiency measures and use of low-carbon technologies can be adapted to African settings to encourage suitable actions developed locally.

Looking ahead

Energy initiatives aiming to address universal SE4ALL and SDG objectives as well as combat climate change should embody synergies as their integral part. Through direct, although often challenging, coordination and collaboration between African-led initiatives and amongst donors more can be done to fulfill shared targets. Paving the road towards the achievement of the post-2015 agenda with actions targeting different levels of collaboration and supplementing each other at the same time, the EU takes the lead in consolidating the global energy climate in Africa.

Author: Africa Europe Energy Partnership



COP21 • CMP11
PARIS 2015
 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Interview

Dr Roberto Ridolfi is Director for Sustainable Growth and Development at DG for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission.

LINK! Africa is lacking in basic modern energy services. What is Europe doing to support Africa in increasing access to energy?

Africa, where the population is set to double by 2050, is by far the continent mostly affected by energy poverty. The challenges linked to energy access, sustainability of supply, inadequate regulatory environments and a lack of basic infrastructure are huge. It is also clear that in order to create jobs and growth for generations to come we will need to continue to assist partner countries to address these challenges.

To end energy poverty in developing countries the EU has developed a comprehensive set of actions, including providing adequate funding, which means that for the next **seven years (2014-2020) the EU has set aside more than EUR 3.5 billion to support sustainable energy activities in partner countries**, at regional and national level. Out of this amount, **EUR 2 billion will be allocated for actions in Africa**, targeting investments where they are most needed.

Apart from funding, there are significant EU efforts being rolled out to increase energy access in Africa; the EU has in particular, three areas of action to support partner countries in creating

an enabling environment for growth and in order to reach Sustainable Energy for All Goals ("500 million people by 2030" *EC president Barroso commitment of 2012*):

Firstly, by encouraging **strong political ownership**; without this, the reforms necessary for promoting growth and investment will never come to bear fruit. In our discussions with partner countries we are seeing great commitment. For example, in late September, 2014 the EU signed joint declarations with five African countries (Ivory Coast, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Cape Verde), and in May 2015 with two more; Uganda and Sierra Leone. This will boost our cooperation in the field of energy and bring partner countries fully on board to work towards meeting energy access goals in Africa.

Secondly, by ensuring that the **implementation capacity** is in place to carry out the necessary reforms. In 2013 the EU set up an €80 million **Technical Assistance Facility** perfectly equipped to provide assistance to partner countries in fine tuning their energy policies and regulatory frameworks to allow for increased investments in the energy sector. It supports countries which are committed to reaching the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) objectives. This facility covers all Sub-Saharan African countries, and other regions of the globe, and is already delivering results on the ground.

The third area of action is **delivering financing** and ensuring rapid results on the ground. The EU being the largest donor of



“ Today, there are a large number of development actors on the ground in Africa, all working closely with partner countries to provide greater energy access, however, the EU was among the first to pursue a comprehensive approach towards energy needs in Africa, where its efforts are leading the way to ending energy poverty. ”

Dr Roberto Ridolfi

foreign aid in the world is at the forefront of poverty eradicating activities, and in particular in the energy sector

The EU has set up blending instruments to use grants in a strategic way as to unlock public and private financing for sustainable investments with increased development impact. Building on the success of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, where EUR 400 million of grants will materialize in up to EUR 8 billion investments in sustainable energy, the EU has now set up the Africa Investment Facility.

LINK! Does the EU have an explicit investment strategy for the sector?

Today, there are a large number of development actors on the ground in Africa, all working closely with partner countries to provide greater energy access, however, the EU was among the first to pursue a comprehensive approach towards energy needs in Africa, where its efforts are leading the way to ending energy poverty.

Our guiding principles are laid down in the **Agenda for Change**, the EU's policy blueprint to refocus its aid to prioritise those countries and sectors which need it most and where it can make the biggest difference¹, **defining energy as a key driver for inclusive and sustainable growth**.

Our strategy covers large scale infrastructure and medium and small scale community based projects implemented by CSOs. To achieve this, we use **tailored instruments** that are delivering results on the ground. By blending grants with other public and private sector resources such as loans and equity, the EU unlocks additional public and private resources and leverage investments. An important element is that EU grants make projects bankable by mitigating the (perceived) risk associated with investment in sustainable energy. At the same time, EU blending instruments are successful in providing support for the development and roll-out of energy technologies that are still new in specific markets.

For medium and small sized electrification projects, and based on this overall strategy, we are currently developing an innovative financing scheme working closely with the private sector and the EDFIs (European Development Financing Institutions), called **ElectriFI**. This financing initiative combines

public EU funds with private sector investments to make small and medium-sized energy projects bankable.

Over 300 experts from partner countries, industry, financiers, international organisations and academia discussed this new initiative at a dedicated EU rural electrification workshop in Brussels in September 2014, while the official ElectriFI launch took place during the 2nd UNSE4ALL Forum in New York in May 2015. The operational launch and a top-up of the initial commitment of EUR 75 million, is planned for the end of 2015.

Of course, the EU also welcomes efforts by other international players to bring sustainable energy services to people in Africa; according to the International Energy Agency, investments of **USD 48 billion a year** are needed in order to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030, therefore, every contribution to this global effort is vital.

LINK! What is DG DEVCO's strategy towards renewable energy and climate change?

The European Union sees renewable energy as being one of the main drivers towards achieving Climate Change goals, and in particular, as the world is faced with ever increasing climate related disasters and negative impacts of global warming, renewable energy is taking on an unprecedented importance for the protection of our precious planet's fragile environment.



¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A52011DC0637&qid=141292281378&from=EN>

Within the European Union, the increased use of renewable and clean energy has allowed reaching and exceeding CO₂ emissions reduction targets. In addition, the EU's Development policy is geared to providing support to partner countries for the development and use of renewable and clean energy sources, rather than carbon based technologies.

On 7 December 2015, at the UNFCCC's COP 21 summit in Paris, on the dedicated 'Energy Day' DG DEVCO will host 3 events to showcase and to garner political support for its main Sustainable Energy related portfolio activities; designed to increase political and operational momentum for Sustainable Energy needs in developing partner countries.

These are:

- **Launch of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa;**
- **Signature of Joint Declarations on Energy cooperation adding to the list of countries of partner countries outlining a shared commitment on energy and reinforced political engagement for sustainable energy goals (the discussions are ongoing with a number of African countries such as Zambia, Nigeria, Benin, Senegal);**
- **Operational Launch of ElectrIFI – where we will also present a pipeline of projects already submitted for funding under ElectrIFI**

Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly during the summit on post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Energy was adopted as Goal 7: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

LINK! What needs to be done to encourage regional energy integration in Africa?

Our Regional Integration strategy is based on a number of elements.

The first one, is through supporting the relevant regional institutions e.g.: ECOWAS, SADC, and COMESA, that can provide for an integrated vision and approach to the specific needs of **regional initiatives**.



The second element is to facilitate national regulations that will allow market integration towards a seamless power system both on an inter-regional and intra-regional basis.

Furthermore, regional energy integration also needs large infrastructure projects both for generation and transmission. This could include solar/hydro/wind/geothermal power plants, or infrastructure to connect national grids and transmission lines.

However, public funding is insufficient to cover the costs, therefore additional financing and investment has to be attracted from private and commercial sources.

Blending operations are a prime example of this kind of EU support. The EU Regional Financial facilities cover the main regions in developing countries, for Africa, the **EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (AIF)**, under the leadership of the EIB, manages financing for large regional projects in Africa. The AIF has a pipeline of new energy projects totalling nearly EUR 700m in grant requests, with a total investment value of over EUR 9 bio. Some examples of these projects are the extension of the WAPP – West African power pool connection, Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower project, Msaka – Mbarara Transmission line between Rwanda and Uganda.

The African energy sector: Interview with Commissioner Ibrahim

DR. ELHAM MAHMOUD AHMED IBRAHIM is Commissioner of Infrastructure & Energy in the African Union Commission since 2008, leading the Infrastructure and Energy Department to enhance Regional and Continental efforts for accelerated integrated infrastructure development and effective sustainable development of energy resources in Africa.

LINK! What are the main energy sector challenges in Africa?

One of the major challenges is the **low level of financing**. Sub-Saharan African countries currently spend much less than 3% of their GDP on their power sector, some 75% of which is used for operational and maintenance costs. There is a need to mobilise significant financial resources both externally and internally, and from domestic public and private sources, in addition to the establishment of innovative financing mechanisms.

Another challenge is the **small size of the market, especially at the regional level**, which is directly linked to the low levels of infrastructure and affordability issues, which create low demand for modern energy services. The solution is to strengthen financial and capital markets and improve the investment climate. The adequate pricing of energy will also be crucial.



Inadequate policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks is another factor. The introduction and positioning of appropriate fiscal policies, such as tax incentives, Feed-in-Tariffs (FiTs), and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), and regulatory frameworks can attract private sector investment.

The **low levels of technical capacity** in the African energy sector also calls for frameworks and strategies to encourage technology innovation and transfer, cooperation and capacity building.

A **lack of information** for use by policymakers, institutions and other stakeholders, is hampering the design of well-informed and appropriate strategies for energy planning and services expansion. The packaging and dissemination of information to all relevant stakeholders will be important in ensuring the implementation of harmonised strategies and objectives.

Overall, the African energy sector is characterised by: low levels of generation capacity and efficiency; unstable and unreliable energy supplies; high costs of generation and distribution; and low access rates to modern and sustainable energy supplies.



LINK! How does the AUC's Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility impact geothermal energy potential?

The geothermal resources of the East Africa Rift System (EARS) are currently used to a limited extent but could generate over 15,000 megawatts of electricity. Geothermal energy is a clean, renewable, environment-friendly and indigenous resource that can improve the energy-generation mix, but it faces certain challenges.

The main challenges include: an inadequate policy and regulatory framework to attract investment; the large upfront cost of geothermal resource exploration and development; and the risks associated with resource exploration and power development.

The AUC's role is to harmonise and coordinate geothermal development activities in the region. The AUC's Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) was established in 2011 with financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund with an initial amount of €50 million.

The overall objective of GRMF is to encourage public and private sector developers by providing grants to partially cover the costs of surface studies. By reducing the risk of early stage geothermal resource exploration the GRMF is expected to encourage further investment. It is also expected to improve

access to equity or other funding sources and thus be a catalyst in establishing geothermal energy as a strategic option in energy planning of the participating countries in Eastern Africa.

So far, in the first and second application rounds, grants have been awarded to nine projects, totalling USD 26 million. If all fourteen applications under evaluation in the 3rd application round qualify to receive grants from GRMF, a total of USD 65 million will be awarded to projects from Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. It is forecast that the projects already awarded grants, when fully developed, will increase power generation capacity by more than 1,000 MW.

Despite the achievements to date, there remain several gaps to be filled in order to accelerate the development of geothermal energy in East Africa. These include a lack of appropriate policies, weak institutions, an absence of legal frameworks and regulations, a lack of geothermal information databases and low levels of financing and technical skills. Addressing these challenges requires the GRMF to partner with existing geothermal energy development initiatives within the region as well as enhancing its co-operation with development partners and financing institutions around the world.



Commissioner Ibrahim taking part in the EU-Africa Summit at Brussels 2014

LINK! How would you describe the partnership between Africa and Europe in the energy sector?

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) is a long-term framework for structured political dialogue and co-operation between Africa and the EU on energy issues. The overall objective is to improve access to reliable, secure, climate-friendly and sustainable energy services. There are specified targets of providing access to modern energy services for an additional 100 million Africans, stimulating an additional 10,000 MW of hydropower, 5,000 MW of wind energy, 500 MW of solar energy and doubling of other renewables, like geothermal and bioenergy.

The partnership aims to double the capacity of cross-border electricity interconnections, thus increasing trade in electricity while ensuring adequate levels of generation capacity.

Fossil fuels are also targeted, such as doubling both the use of natural gas in Africa and the amount exported to Europe. Additionally, the AEEP envisages building a natural gas infrastructure, notably to bring gas that is at present flared, to market.

As part of the partnership the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) was initiated to help African countries and the Regional Economic Communities develop policies and regulatory frameworks that are favourable to private sector investment. The programme also facilitates co-investments and African and the European private sector business cooperation. In terms of capacity building for renewable energy, the programme is creating an African-European network that includes research, education and private sector institutions.

In order to address the coordination challenges the African Union Commission, together with the African Development Bank, NEPAD-Planning and Coordination Agency, SE4ALL Africa-Hub, the European Commission and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership secretariat have convened a series of meetings to exchange ideas on coordination of pan-African and international energy initiatives. The first such meeting was at the SE4ALL Forum in New York in May 2015 and follow-up meetings have since taken place in Europe and Africa. We are finalising the first concrete proposals for action that will subsequently feed into COP21 in December this year in Paris, France. We hope that the coordination framework devised in Africa will be adopted by other regions so as to achieve a global sustainable energy future.



CEWARN:

Peace and security in the Horn of Africa

The Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) is a collaborative effort to empower stakeholders to prevent violent conflicts in Eastern Africa. CEWARN, which forms part of the African Union's continental early warning system, is broadening its focus from cross-border pastoralist conflicts.

CEWARN was set up in 2002 by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa. Its mandate is to receive and share information concerning potentially violent conflicts in pastoralist areas and communities as well as their outbreak and escalation in the IGAD region. CEWARN undertakes analysis of the information, develops case scenarios and formulates options for response.

Since its creation, CEWARN has become a key platform for regional cooperation on conflict prevention and mitigation through data-driven early warning and response in the Horn of Africa. In a region with such a long history of violent conflict, proper and timely data collection, data analysis and dissemination of information and knowledge to policymakers is essential.

Local response units

CEWARN consists of a network of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and its small secretariat is based in Addis Ababa at the IGAD Peace and Security Division. In each country, national level structures known as Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Units (CEWERUs) play a key role in the development of early warning and response on the ground.

Each CEWERU unit consists of a steering committee, a focal point, and local committees. The steering committee includes security personnel, members of parliament, and civil society representatives. The role of the steering committee is to collect, review, and analyse information on Early Warning Early Response (EWER), liaise with grassroots civil society, and formulate response strategies.

Furthermore, National Research Institutes are contracted by CEWARN to assist with setting up and managing information collection networks, analysis, and support in coordinating the work of the CEWERUs. At the local level, peace committees consist of governmental and non-governmental representatives and their functions include: establishing modes of collecting and sharing information; creating partnerships in peace-building activities; and awareness raising. Also at the local level, the structures rely on field monitors who collect and report open source information according to an agreed set of indicators and reporting areas, and who often work closely with peace committees. There are plans to move the primary role of data collection away from field monitors and more towards Civil Society Organisations.

The CEWERUs via the Rapid Response Fund are also responsible for identifying potential response projects. So far, cross-border livestock markets, community radio programmes and youth involvement activities, such as secondary school peace clubs promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts, have been put in place.

CEWARN started work in the Karamoja cluster around the Ethiopian, Kenyan, Ugandan and Sudanese borders. Two years later, the Somali cluster (around the Kenyan, Ethiopian and Somali borders) was added. In 2006 it was decided to expand the mechanism to cover all IGAD Member States. This was set out in the CEWARN 2006–2011 strategy, which focused on developing the regional institutional structure and operational capacity for EWER.

CEWARN expansion and link to AU

Building on its decade-long success, in 2012 IGAD Member States adopted the CEWARN 2012–2019 strategy in order to expand the monitoring and analysis of the types, causes and drivers of violent conflicts, as well as enlarging the geographic coverage beyond cross-border pastoralist areas.

CEWARN is also part of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) through its working and legal linkage to the African Union's continental early warning system. In operational terms, the CEWARN mechanism is a building block of the AU's continental system. As such, it regularly engages with the AU and other sub-regional early warning institutions to share experiences and coordinate the development of its technical tools, methodologies and best practices.

Challenges remain ahead. Such as the need to provide additional resources to the different bodies and actors involved in making the early warning and response system operational, since national governments are not contributing sufficiently to

their own CEWERUs or the CEWARN mechanism. There is also a need to: transform the existing data collection processes and make better use of technology (such as the use of SMS for data collection in remote areas); find innovative ways of translating early warning into rapid response; and further involvement of women in the process.

The EU provides financial support to both CEWARN and to the continental early warning system, through the African Peace Facility. The EU intends to continue supporting IGAD in the implementation of its CEWARN strategy in order to improve its effectiveness and capacity to deliver timely information and effective early response.



Challenges and promises of the African Governance Architecture

African Union leaders set up the African Governance Architecture (AGA) in 2010 as a framework for improving governance and human rights across the continent. The African Union Commission has a clear mandate for the implementation of good governance and rule of law in Africa, even if the main responsibility lies with individual governments and peoples of Africa.

Today the African Union Commission (AUC) is forced to allocate huge financial and human reserves towards conflict resolution and peace and security architecture rather than ensure the implementation of the African Governance Architecture. This is borne out by the respective allocation of staffing resources – the AU Peace and Security Department has around 240 staff whereas the Department of Political Affairs has less than 30. With poor governance increasingly recognised as a primary cause of conflict and instability, and one of the root causes of migration, the AUC is taking steps to step up its work to improve governance and human rights.

The implementation challenge

Over the years, the AU has put in place a comprehensive framework of norms and principles that constitute the AGA. It is also about strengthening coordination amongst AU organs and institutions with a formal mandate in governance, democracy and human rights in order to increase their impact. However, of the twelve treaty instruments, only eight have entered into force so far and just one has been (almost) universally ratified. Furthermore, ratification as such does not mean that a treaty instrument becomes national law and is effectively implemented. Not counting the last three instruments adopted in Malabo June 2014, the fact that only five countries (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mali and Rwanda) have ratified all governance and human rights instruments adopted by AU Summits illustrates the scale of the implementation challenge. While each of the instruments was collectively endorsed by African leaders, more political will is needed. The EU and

its member states decided recently to intensify the political dialogue on governance at the country level and to raise the issue of ratification, implementation of and reporting on the AU governance and human rights instruments. AU member states need to step up to the responsibilities that the Heads of State have decided upon in adopting these AU instruments during previous AU Summits.

EU-AU Partnership in Governance and Human Rights

The promotion of democratic governance and human rights is at the core of the EU-Africa Partnership and is one of the five priority areas of the Joint Roadmap 2014–2017 agreed at the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014. The aim is to ensure a transparent, democratic and accountable environment in respect of human rights and the rule of law, contributing to reducing fragility, fostering political stability and effective governance, and enabling sustainable and inclusive development and growth. A fully operational AGA and increased support for African countries' efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of relevant treaties, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance is the goal.

The EU and AU hold regular political dialogues where governance features prominently in the agenda. Besides the EU-Africa Summit in every four years, both the European Commission and African Union Commission meet once in two years to take stock of progress on the Africa-EU Partnership. The 7th College-to-College meeting that took place in Brussels in April 2015 reaffirmed our joint commitment to the operationalisation of the African Governance Architecture and to a strong African Human Rights System that is accessible to African citizens. The last EU-Africa Summit created a new accountability mechanism, the EU-AU Joint Annual Forum (JAF) to assess the implementation of the actions and to gather all the actors of the EU-Africa partnership, including the member states and civil society. The EU and AU also hold annual human rights dialogues; the 2015 dialogue takes place in Kigali, Rwanda in November.



Under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, Africa and EU have committed to formal dialogue on Human Rights and Democratic Governance demonstrated during HR/VP Federica Mogherini visit to the AUC on October 2015. (© Michael Tewelde)

In 2014 the EU's total contribution to AGA related activities amounted to approximately €11.5 million – €4 million by the EU and €7.5 million by individual Member States. Under the Pan African Programme the EU has already allocated €6.5 million to AU election observation support, including 500.000 for technical assistance. Under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) the EU is currently finalising the contracts to support the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in the total amount of €1.5 million. The total Pan African Programme support to governance is approximately €48.5 million, including EU support to the African human rights system, African civil society organisations, the African Governance Architecture and its secretariat, public financial management, as well as harmful traditional practices.

Synergies between AU activities

The AU Peace and Security Council notes that, "situations of marginalisation, abuse of human rights, refusal to accept electoral defeat, manipulation of constitutions, mismanagement and unequal distribution of resources, lack of socio-economic opportunities and unemployment as well as corruption and other factors, are potent triggers of violent conflicts in Africa." It has stressed the "imperative of good governance through the strengthening of democratic culture and institutions, respect for human rights, upholding the rule of law, as well as socio-

economic development, as means for preventing conflicts and fostering peace and stability on the continent." Forging better synergies between the AGA and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is needed to address conflicts in a holistic manner.

During the last AU Summit in Johannesburg in June 2015 the African Heads of State decided to encourage synergies and complementarity between AGA and APSA. The possible synergies include preventive diplomacy, mediation, political analysis, early warning, election risk management tools, human rights observation, follow-up to election observation mission reports, strategy to address unconstitutional changes of government. This is work in progress and the EU stands ready to intensify its cooperation with Africa to strengthen the links between Peace and Security and Democratic Governance and Human Rights.

Key organs and mechanisms of the African Governance Architecture

Over the years the AU has set up bodies with governance and human rights mandates across the continent, including...

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights established in 1987, seated in Banjul, The Gambia, is the most popular AU organ, being responsible for promoting and protecting human rights. It is a quasi-judicial body mandated to address individual human rights cases and make non-binding decisions, take emergency actions in situations of serious human rights violations, adopt resolutions, engage with the African Peace and Security Council and so on. Its NGO Forum is a vibrant platform for African human rights defenders, thinkers and civil society.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is a judicial body that became operational in 2006 and is seated in Arusha, Tanzania. It adjudicates human rights complaints and issues binding decisions. The Court's increasing significance as the main protector of human rights on the continent can be observed. However, its main weakness is that only 29 countries have ratified the protocol establishing the court and only 7 countries allow their citizens to take their cases to the court.

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is a quasi-judicial body based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It became operational in 2002, mandated to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children, receive state reports, receive cases/communications, assess specific country situations.

The Pan-African Parliament, based in Midrand, South Africa, is the African Union's legislative body, though its current mandate only covers consultative and advisory powers. At the AU Summit in Malabo in June 2014, the African leaders adopted a protocol, which would give the Pan-African Parliament semi-legislative powers, but this protocol has to date been ratified only by one AU Member State.

The African Governance Platform, set up in 2012, is designed to operate as a treaty body for the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and to support coordination between AU organs, the AUC, the AU Member States, and the AU Peace and Security Council.

Raising the bar for higher education in Africa

Since the 1980s, higher education in Africa was somewhat neglected from a policy perspective. Recent developments, however, not least moves to develop a Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF), suggest that higher education is fast moving up the continent's policy agenda.

For some time, Africa's higher education institutions have been fairly low on the list of priorities for development partners, international agencies, and African governments. The continent has the lowest participation rates for higher education in the world. The 8% rate recorded in 2011 was significantly lower than the averages of between 20% and 40% for other developing countries.

Even if the last two decades have witnessed a rapid rise in student enrolments – since 2000, the African higher education system has recorded the highest growth rate of all regions of the world – the continued brain drain, coupled with a major reduction in public financing for higher education institutions is negatively impacting the quality of higher education. As resources have failed to match higher enrolment, African universities are called upon to do more with less in terms of infrastructure, teaching and research facilities, and staff.

Improving quality of education

Nevertheless, over the past decade, several initiatives have been taken to improve the quality and quality assurance of higher education at the national, regional and continental levels. At national level, many African countries have established or begun establishing quality assurance agencies. At regional level two organizations are actively involved in quality assurance in Africa: the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (known by its French acronym: CAMES) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). At continental level the African Union Commission (AUC) promotes quality assurance and the development of a framework for the harmonisation of higher education programmes in Africa with the support of the Association of African Universities (AAU).

Harmonisation with strong continental cooperation in quality assurance and accreditation is instrumental in promoting internationalisation of higher education and enhancing intra-African mobility of students and academic staff. There is an urgent need for effective networking of quality assurance and accreditation agencies to promote equivalence and to facilitate mutual recognition of academic qualifications.

Yet while national and regional level quality assurance and accreditation systems have been put in place, a pan-African quality assurance and accreditation system for higher education has been missing.

Creating an African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework

The 2014-2017 Roadmap adopted at the 4th EU-Africa Summit in April 2014 recognises the crucial role higher education plays for economic and social development. Mobility of staff and students has greater potential to improve the quality of higher education. It accelerates the process by encouraging transparency and by helping institutions to develop better services when exchanging students and researchers. In its decision of January 2012 the AU Executive Council requested the development of an African accreditation agency. Since then the proposal for a quality assurance and accreditation framework has been discussed in several Africa-EU dialogues on higher education. Furthermore, the AUC has initiated the development of a Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF), in collaboration with the European Commission and the AAU.

In this regard, a study was undertaken with the support of the Joint Africa EU Strategy Support Mechanism. It considered the quality assurance and accreditation experience of six African countries (Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) and two regional frameworks (CAMES and IUCEA). In addition, relevant international good practices in Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America were also considered. The study recommended nine strategies with corresponding

key actions to launch PAQAF. These include scaling-up regional quality assurance mechanisms while building on continental policies, ensuring political endorsement and establishment of a continental cooperation mechanism, mobilising pan-African funding, ensuring independence of quality assurance mechanisms at national, regional, and continental levels, and using the African Quality Rating Mechanism as a tool for improvement, rather than league table comparisons.

The study was well received both at a consultative workshop with experts from national and regional quality assurance institutions and a validation workshop with representatives from ministries of education and quality assurance institutions, both hosted by the AAU in Accra in May and July 2015.

To formally launch the PAQAF political endorsement is needed

both at ministerial and head of state level. If the PAQAF is adopted at ministerial level at the 1st Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology in Addis Ababa in October 2015, endorsement would be sought from the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2016.

In order to ensure implementation of PAQAF and fulfilment of the activities foreseen in the 2014-2017 Roadmap, funding of €2 million is being budgeted from the EU Pan-African Programme.



African Researchers embrace Horizon 2020 research programme

EU-Africa cooperation in research through Horizon 2020 – first results

An overview of African participation in Horizon 2020 to date (September 2015) reveals that among the first Horizon 2020 projects funded, there are 80 participants from 20 African countries involved in 38 projects. The African researchers involved in these projects will receive a total EU contribution of €12.2 million.

The Horizon 2020 programme is the European Union's main mechanism for funding research in Europe over the period 2014-2020. However, the vast majority of the €77 billion budget is dedicated to collaborative research across European borders and beyond. Researchers from any country can participate, working alongside their European counterparts.

Building on earlier successes

In the previous programme – FP7 – spanning 2007-2013, some 1300 researchers from 45 African countries were involved in almost 600 projects in areas such as health, agriculture and food security, environment and water issues, etc. The African participants received some €200 million in total to carry out their work in these projects.

First results

The 38 Horizon 2020 projects funded so far cover a wide range of areas, including health, agriculture and food production, environment, energy, transport, space, peace and security, disaster resilience, and science and society issues, but many do not have an "Africa focus". Only about 30% of projects address issues of specific interest to Africa and usually have more than one African participant; while about 70% of projects have a more global dimension, often with just one or two African countries involved, most frequently South Africa or regional and international bodies.



The most successful countries are South Africa, with 30 participations receiving €4.6 million, followed by Kenya (10 participations), Morocco (5), Uganda (5), Egypt (4), Ghana (4) and Tanzania (4). However, for some countries, this includes a number of international or regional organisations, in particular the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), United Nations agencies and the West & Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN).

More opportunities for collaboration

Many projects are still being assessed and so new projects will be launched over the coming months and years. Furthermore, on 14 October 2015, the European Commission will publish the calls for proposals for 2016 and 2017, which are expected to represent over €15 billion of funding, with plenty of opportunities for researchers in Africa. Some of these originate from the High Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology that is managed by the African Union Commission, together with the European Commission.

The Horizon 2020 programme also comprises the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, which include individual mobility grant enabling researchers from all over the world to spend up to two years in European laboratories or for European researchers to work in Africa or elsewhere.

For more information on Horizon 2020:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Examples of Horizon 2020 projects

■ Developing vaccines for Tuberculosis, the cause of almost 400,000 deaths a year in Africa:

EMI-TB – Eliciting Mucosal Immunity to Tuberculosis. The project is led by St George's Hospital Medical School (UK), with 14 partners, including 1 from Africa: Instituto Nacional de Saúde (Mozambique). EU grant: €8 million.

TBVAC2020 – Advancing novel and promising TB vaccine candidates from discovery to preclinical and early clinical development. The project is led by TBVI (The Netherlands), with 40 partners, including 3 from Africa: Stellenbosch University (SA) KwaZulu Natal Research Institute for TB & HIV (K-RITH) (SA) and University of Cape Town (SA). EU grant: €18.2 million.

■ Preventing and managing Diabetes, which affects 8% of adult Africans:

SMART2D – Self-Management and Reciprocal learning for prevention & management of Type-2-Diabetes. The project is led by the Karolinska Institute (Sweden), with 6 partners, including 2 from Africa: Makerere University (Uganda) and University of the Western Cape (South Africa). EU grant: €3.3 million.

■ Providing better predictive and preventive healthcare worldwide

B3Africa – Bridging Biobanking and Biomedical Research across Europe and Africa. This action is led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, with 11 partners, including 5 from Africa: ILRI (Kenya), Institute of Virology (Nigeria), Makerere University (Uganda), University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University (South Africa). EU grant: €2m.

■ New sustainable sources of healthy food

PROTEIN2FOOD – Development of High Quality Food Protein through Sustainable Production and Processing. This project is led by Copenhagen University, with 19 partners including 1 from Africa: Makerere University (Uganda). EU grant: €8.8 million.

■ Recycling waste for raw materials or energy

RESLAG – Turning waste from steel industry into a valuable low cost feedstock for energy intensive industry. This Innovation Action is led by Centro de Investigación Cooperativa de Energías Alternativas Fundación (CICe), with 18 partners, including one from Africa: Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (Morocco). EU grant: €8 million.

EWIT – Developing an e-waste implementation toolkit to support the recycling and the secondary raw material recovery strategies in metropolitan areas in Africa. This action is led by Consorzio Remedia (Italy), with 24 partners, including 11 from Africa: Université d'Abobo-Adjamé (Côte d'Ivoire), International Centre for Research in Sustainable Development - ICRSD (Kenya), E- CSIR (SA) and MINTEK (SA), etc. EU grant €1.6 million.

■ Improving the safety and efficiency of transport in Africa

MAGNIFIC – Multiplying In Africa European Global Navigation Initiatives Fostering Interlaced Cooperation. This Innovation Action is led by Pildo Consulting (Spain), with 9 partners, including 2 from Africa: Université de Lomé (Togo) and Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa & Madagascar (ASECNA) in Senegal. EU grant: €1.4 million.

■ Towards better connectivity for education and research in Africa

TANDEM – TransAfrican Network Development will enable WACREN to draw maximum benefit from the forthcoming AfricaConnect2 project and ensure its integration into the global research and education networking community and its long-term sustainability. The project is led by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France) with 9 partners, including 1 from Africa: West and Central African Research and Education Network - WACREN (Ghana). EU grant: €1.2 million.

For more information on all these projects: <http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>

Preparing for disaster risk reduction

Global losses from natural disasters are on the rise. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate change adaptation measures, in both policy and in practice, can prevent such losses from increasing over the next decade. The recently agreed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is helping countries prepare for the unexpected and African leaders are actively supporting it. Although natural hazards are unavoidable, better prevention and management of risk can save lives and livelihoods, setting the foundation for sustainable development.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) was the first post-2015 development instrument to be adopted, when agreed at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. Its goal is, "the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries."

The SFDRR is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognises that the state has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It outlines clear targets and priorities on how to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. It is designed to improve understanding, management and preparedness for disaster risk as well as optimal recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2015 depends on the active and immediate implementation of the priorities of the SFDRR through, among other things, robust disaster risk management policies and risk informed planning and investments. Most importantly, at the political level, it requires commitment to align the Africa Regional Strat-

egy for Disaster Risk Reduction's Programme of Action as well as regional and national DRR programmes with the new SFDRR.

The Africa Regional Strategy

African governments gathered in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 20-23 July 2015, in the framework of the 7th African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. The meeting comprised a High Level Ministerial Meeting, and aimed at exploring the practical implications of the SFDRR on the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and its Programme of Action (POA) (2006-2015), which would need to be extended until 2030 and aligned to the SFDRR. The meeting concluded with the Yaoundé Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. Besides asking the African Union to lead and coordinate the process, the declaration urges member states and Africa's regional communities to align their national strategies with the SFDRR, and asks ministers of planning, economy and finance to fold disaster risk reduction into their policies.

A coordinated approach

The SFDRR can be seen in conjunction with two major intergovernmental negotiations - the United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York in September 2015 and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) taking place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. All three initiatives are paving the way towards a coherent and mutually supportive approach to sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The goal of the EU is to ensure that resilience and the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, both in policy and practice, are an integral part of the discussions on sustainable development and climate change, as the decisions taken will shape the years ahead.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in 2012 (Rio+20) emphasized the importance of tackling poverty, climate change and disaster risk in an integrated manner. In particular, it called for better coordinated strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change considerations into public and private investment, decision making and planning of humanitarian, post-recovery, and development actions.

The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outcome document, which was agreed in August by UN Member States, recognises and reaffirms the importance of reducing the risk of disasters in the future and highlights that disaster risk reduction is cross-cutting and requires a multi-sectoral approach. The outcome document also includes multiple targets on disaster risk reduction and resilience. These focus on poverty eradication; strengthening resilience of sectors such as agriculture, education and infrastructure; reducing mortality and economic losses from disasters; and enhanced planning around resilience and adaptation. The monitoring of the SFDRR can be expected to generate information on progress in reducing disaster risk that can feed into the SDGs' review. The open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on disaster risk reduction indicators for the SFDRR has therefore been mandated to ensure coherence and mutual support with the ongoing work on SDGs' indicators.

Focus on EU contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa

In Africa, the EU supports the effective implementation of the African Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy through the EU-ACP programme Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa (€80 million). The programme, which is in line with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) 2014-2017, proposes disaster risk management measures and capacity building, through risk identification and assessment, risk reduction and preparedness, risk financing and resilient recovery and reconstruction. The AUC has the leadership to ensure the coherence of the EU-ACP Programme in close coordination with the other implementing partners (the African Development Bank, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery), as well as with all the partners involved in this endeavour, such as the Regional Economic Communities, African Regional Climate Centres and all the participant Sub-Saharan countries. The programme aims to complement existing and planned resilience-related interventions at the national and regional level, including those in the framework of SHARE (Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience) and AGIR (Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative in the Sahel).



First visit of EU Foreign Affairs Chief, Federica Mogherini to the African Union Commission

The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Federica Mogherini visited Addis Ababa on 20 October. It was the first time a High Representative of the EU has visited the African Union. According to Vice-Chairperson of the African Union Mr. Erastus Mwencha, 'this visit, so early in Ms. Mogherini's tenure, is an indication of the engagement which the EU has been having with the AU'.

During her visit to the African Union, HR/VP Mogherini held discussions with Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), on the Africa-EU Partnership. Issues of migration, peace and security, climate change, women and youth, and ways to stimulate growth and create jobs in line with the Action Plan on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Africa Agenda 2063 were discussed.

In her key note speech, made to the African Union Commission representatives, AU Member States, and members of the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa, she underlined the huge potential of the African continent, singling out investment, job creation, peace and security, climate change, migration and resilience, in terms of democracy, governance and rule of law, as central issues. In relation to the Africa-EU Partnership, Ms. Mogherini said 'we Europeans... should not ask what we



can do for Africa. The right question to ask is: what can we do with Africa?' She also stated that 'Europe needs strong partners. Europe needs a strong Africa. Europe's interest is to invest in Africa's growth', adding that the 'partnership between Europe and Africa is strong because it is based on a common vision and on values we share.'

In her speech, Federica Mogherini said: "We can only deal with the current flow of migrants and refugees if we realise this is not about numbers, but about people – men and women seeking a better life. This is something the European Commission has been repeating for months. Europe can only manage migration by working with you to create new opportunities in your countries."

During her visit to Addis Ababa, HR/VP Mogherini also held discussions with the Government of Ethiopia, led by the Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom.



Enhancing coordination between AUPSC and EUPSC on conflict prevention and mediation

On 15-16 October 2015, the EU Political and Security Committee (EU PSC) met with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) in the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership in the area of peace and security. Following the first joint field trip to Mali this February the EU PSC and the AU PSC held their first informal Joint Retreat in Debre Zeit, where the two organs discussed the thematic areas of conflict prevention and mediation, migration and capacity-building for peace and security in Africa. The 8th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the EU PSC and the AU PSC took place on 16 October and addressed specific conflict and crisis situations in Africa, such as South Sudan, Somalia, Mali/Sahel, Libya, Central African Republic and Burundi.

Both meetings took place in a constructive atmosphere, which facilitated substantial exchange and a greater understanding of EU and AU perspectives on issues. Discussions demonstrated a significant convergence of views between the EU PSC and the AU PSC, showcasing the similarities in values and approaches

which guide the work of each PSC. A Joint Communiqué of the 8th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the EU PSC and the AU PSC was adopted, which reflects the productive discussions and shared perspectives of the PSCs.

On the occasion of the EU PSC visit to Ethiopia, the Permanent Chair and members of the EU PSC also met Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom on 16 October to discuss the regional situation and migration.

Looking ahead, the EU PSC and AU PSC agreed to concretely enhance their mutual cooperation over the coming months through organising more cross-briefings to both PSCs, undertaking further joint field missions to conflict and post-conflict areas, organising joint retreats between EU and AU Special Envoys and mediators, participating in regular video teleconferences and mobilising support for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. The EU PSC and AU PSC will hold their next Joint Annual Consultative meeting in 2016, in Brussels.



Ambassador Rachid Benlounes (Algeria), Chairperson of the AU PSC for the month of October 2015, and Ambassador Walter Stevens, Permanent Chair of the EU PSC.



Participants of the 8th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia.



European Union welcomes new 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda, a universal framework for all countries to help eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030, includes an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals which was adopted at a special UN Summit on 25 September 2015.

The EU has been a leader in contributing to this process from the start. It is now committed to take this agenda forward, both inside the EU (such as through forthcoming EU initiatives like, inter alia, the Circular Economy Strategy which is designed to address more sustainable patterns of production and consumption) and through the EU's external policies by supporting implementation efforts in other countries, in particular those most in need.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September by the United Nations sets out a global framework to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030, building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

adopted in 2000. As the first ever global agreement setting a universal, comprehensive agenda for action, the 2030 Agenda includes an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, mobilising all countries and stakeholders towards their achievement and affecting domestic policies.

The 2030 Agenda also includes the United Nations Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in July which sets out the different means necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda, including domestic resources, private finance and Official Development Assistance (ODA). The 2030 Agenda ('Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development') was informally agreed by consensus at the UN in August this year, and referred to this Summit for formal adoption by the General Assembly. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed in July also forms an integral part of the 2030 Agenda by setting out tools, policies and resources that need to be put in place to ensure that it can be implemented.



EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

INVESTING IN PEOPLE PROSPERITY AND PEACE



Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

Roosevelt Street, Kirkos Subcity Kebele 10
P.O.BOX 25223/1000 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telephone: +251-11-416 37 00
Fax: +011-416 37 03, +011-416 37 17

Email: Delegation-African-Union@eeas.europa.eu

For your feedback Biruk.feleke@eeas.europa.eu



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