



# LINK!



INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Lettre d'information de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine

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Chères lectrices, Chers lecteurs,

**Pour près de 65%, la population de l'Afrique a moins de 35 ans.** Quel contraste avec le reste du monde et avec l'Europe en particulier, où les jeunes ne comptent plus que pour 1/5ème de la population! Quelle chance mais aussi quel défi pour l'Afrique d'aujourd'hui et de demain!

Ahead of the forthcoming Summit of the African Union in Malabo dedicated to the theme: "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development", AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology Mr Ezin, and EC Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth Mrs Vassiliou accepted to contribute to LINK! Through their contributions, both Commissioners share with us experiences and views about youth policies and how Africa and Europe can collaborate in order to offer more and better opportunities to the youth on both continents.

Although Youth as such does not constitute a Partnership under the Joint Africa – EU Strategy, almost all 8 Partnerships – starting with the Partnership on Mobility, Migration and Employment, the Partnership on MDGs, the Partnership on Democratic Governance – touch upon key issues for the European and African youth. It is therefore the appropriate framework to address policy issues at political and technical levels.

The Africa EU Youth Summit organised in November 2010 in parallel with the 3rd Africa-EU Summit illustrates this. However and beyond the Youth Summit itself, the dialogue between young people from different parts of the world and cooperation between youth organisations can contribute to the development of ideas, projects, and policies. This dialogue can move the Africa-Europe youth cooperation forward. It can also have a significant influence on the African and the European youth policy-making at a critical period of time characterized by a global economic recession and acute democratic aspirations in some parts of the world, but more particularly in Northern Africa.

Le lecteur trouvera également dans cette édition une lecture commentée de la Charte africaine de la jeunesse, entrée en vigueur le 8 août 2009. Cette Charte, pierre angulaire des politiques de la jeunesse en Afrique, constitue un document de référence dont s'inspirent les jeunes d'autres continents. Le lecteur pourra s'intéresser également au parcours de jeunes africains, volontaires et militants.

Enfin, cette édition de LINK! présente quelques unes des importantes échéances qui ont marqué la collaboration et le dialogue politique entre l'Union Européenne et l'Afrique au cours des dernières semaines, en particulier la rencontre du Conseil de Paix et de Sécurité de l'UA avec le Comité de Politique et de Sécurité de l'UE le 11 mai. Tout en défendant des vues parfois divergentes et en recherchant les moyens de rendre ces dernières compatibles, les Ambassadeurs africains et européens ont contribué à préparer le terrain des consultations diplomatiques qui ont eu lieu ces dernières semaines. Je n'oublie pas non plus la réunion annuelle de Collège-à-Collège qui s'est tenue à Bruxelles les 31 mai et 1<sup>er</sup> juin derniers, un événement emblématique de la relation de confiance et de l'ambition partagée de nos Commissions.

Bonne lecture!

*Koen Vervaeke*

*Chef de la délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine.*

Interview with...

## EU Commissioner **Androulla Vassiliou** Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

**An Africa-EU Youth Summit was organised last November. In what context did this event take place and what were the outcomes?**

Indeed, around 100 youth representatives of National Youth Councils, international non-governmental youth organisations from Africa and the EU came together to discuss issues of shared concern at the 2nd Africa-EU Youth meeting held in Tripoli on 26-28 November 2010, alongside the Africa-EU Summit.

Youth policy is one of my priorities. I am committed to addressing young people's changing expectations, while encouraging them to contribute to society. I have enormous respect for the many courageous young people in North Africa who want to defend human rights and contribute to building democracy and good governance in their countries.

Democracy needs a thriving civil society. Therefore I welcome the Joint Africa-EU Strategy which promotes participation and the development of civil society organisations. It is in this context that we organised the 2nd Africa-EU Youth event last November

The adoption of the Tripoli Declaration was an important step since it put forward priorities and actions to be taken by governments and youth organisations to strengthen cooperation and achieve development on the two continents. I am happy that, as a follow-up to this, a youth leaders' meeting was held in April 2011 alongside the African Union Youth Summit in Addis Ababa.

**Are there examples of good practices in youth activities that the EU can share with Africa?**

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering. It celebrates the commitment of millions of people in Europe who work in their communities during their free time. Volunteering is also a learning experience (so-called 'non-formal learning') that helps young volunteers acquire new skills and competences that can improve their employability.



Photo: EU

**"I invite youth organisations from Africa to participate in these events to encourage further dialogue" (Youth and the world / EU Youth Strategy). Androulla Vassiliou**

In 2008, the EU adopted a policy to encourage the mobility of young volunteers. The aim is for Member States to enhance the mobility of young volunteers throughout the EU. It promotes awareness of volunteering, opportunities in the field of cross-border volunteering, the development of self-assessment tools, the recognition of learning outcomes and gives special attention to less privileged young people. This policy has been very successful in Europe and I am happy to share it with partners in Africa. In 2011-2012 we could, for instance, envisage working with the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps.

**What support can the EU offer to youth organisations in Africa?**

The EU Youth Strategy has introduced a new action entitled "Youth and the World". Through this we organise seminars which bring together policy-makers, youth researchers and youth organisations from different regions of the world to exchange experiences. I invite youth organisations from Africa to participate in these events to encourage further dialogue.

The EU's youth policy is supported by the EU Youth in Action Programme. Every year this programme enables more than 130,000 young people and youth workers to take part in intercultural exchanges, voluntary projects and other non-formal education activities. The programme includes the European Voluntary Service and the Youth in the World action which support youth cooperation with regions outside Europe, including Africa. Through the non-formal learning and intercultural exchange opportunities offered by these actions and the development of lasting partnerships and networks between organisations, young people from Africa have a real chance to experience active participation and develop useful competences and skills. This supports their personal development as well as their social and economic integration.

I will continue to put emphasis on promoting EU-Africa youth cooperation within this programme. Since the 1st Africa-EU Youth Summit in 2007, 156 projects involving 384 African partner organisations, and an additional 300 projects involving some 436 Northern African partner organisations have been financed. Here are some examples of projects we finance:

**A leadership training course** will take place in Burundi in September 2011 and will focus on gender equality, the impact that women can have at different levels of society as well as partnership development. After the project, participants will develop cooperative advocacy actions to promote female leadership in their associations and communities and community projects dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals.

**A large-scale international project** involving a variety of organisations from eight different African countries as well as from other regions of the world will contribute to the 2011 European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering. After an International Congress on Voluntary Service, interregional thematic working group seminars are being organised, followed by volunteering actions in all participating regions and a final seminar on "Volunteering 2011-2012: Global Strategies for Global Challenges".

**A European Voluntary Service project** involving 17 young volunteers from across the globe, including Africa, will promote cultural diversity and combat discrimination. Volunteers will be placed in schools, orphanages, homes, youth organizations and refugee centres and will be involved in activities dealing with the intercultural education of disadvantaged people.

The priority areas are, among others, inclusive growth, the fight against poverty and marginalisation, global environmental challenges and climate change. I sincerely hope that many organisations from African partner countries will participate.



## Jean-Pierre Ezin, Commissaire de l'Union Africaine en charge des ressources humaines, de la science et de la technologie.

### Pourquoi un sommet de l'Union Africaine dédié à la jeunesse en 2011 ?

Un sommet consacré à la jeunesse en 2011 est une réponse des États à une attente de la population jeune de l'Afrique, mais aussi l'expression de l'engagement manifeste de l'Afrique dans le momentum global en cette année internationale de la Jeunesse, où le monde entier se préoccupe, et s'active autour des questions relatives au devenir et au rôle déterminant que les jeunes doivent jouer pour la paix et le développement durable.

L'Union africaine, depuis son premier plan stratégique 2004-2007, a posé très explicitement, la question de formation et de promotion de la jeunesse comme une des priorités à prendre en considération et pour laquelle des engagements clairs ont été pris par les chefs d'état et de gouvernement de l'Union africaine. Cette volonté politique affirmée des plus hauts responsables des pays africains a provoqué un certain nombre d'actions de la part de la Commission de l'Union africaine, dont notamment :

- 1 l'élaboration du statut de la jeunesse en 2005 ;
- 2 l'adoption de la Charte africaine de la jeunesse, par les Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'Union, lors de leur Sommet de Banjul en 2006 ;
- 3 la célébration de l'année africaine de la jeunesse en 2008 ;
- 4 la déclaration de la période 2009-2018 Décennie pour le développement des jeunes en Afrique ;
- 5 la création du Corps des jeunes volontaires de l'Union africaine avec la formation du 1er contingent en décembre 2010 à Calabar au Nigeria.

Fidèles à leur engagement politique, plusieurs Etats ont signé et ratifié la charte africaine de la jeunesse qui est entrée en vigueur en août 2010.

En plus d'avoir développé un plan d'action pour assurer une mise en œuvre coordonnée et orientée vers l'atteinte des résultats des objectifs de la décennie 2009-2018; des priorités en vue d'accélérer le développement des jeunes ont été élaborées et présentées à la Conférence Mondiale de la Jeunesse au Mexique en août 2010, où

l'Afrique a marqué les esprits, par sa forte délégation, et la qualité de ses contributions et engagements.

Par conséquent, un Sommet dédié à la jeunesse en ce moment précis s'inscrit dans un souci de participer à la réflexion internationale sur la jeunesse et la qualité de son engagement à la fois politique et socio-économique. Et l'actualité obligeant, il leur donnera aussi, l'occasion d'apporter une réponse aux diverses mutations qui, sous la poussée des jeunes, s'opèrent sur le continent.

### Y a-t-il une prise de conscience manifeste des questions relatives à la jeunesse depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la charte africaine de la jeunesse en 2010 ?

Les éléments et mouvements suivants sont observés dans nos pays et dénotent clairement du rôle joué par la charte dans une prise de conscience réelle des jeunes et des acteurs concernés par les questions de développement de la jeunesse.

- a. La mobilisation des jeunes eux-mêmes, à travers de multiples réseaux sociaux, où des réflexions et échanges sont menés sur des questions les intéressant, dont celles relatives à la Charte africaine de la jeunesse, à sa ratification et mise en œuvre.
- b. L'agenda africain de la jeunesse est de plus en plus explicite dans les pays ; avec des politiques nationales de jeunesse ; des programmes et plans d'action, des initiatives spécifiques d'octroi de crédits aux jeunes entrepreneurs, des créations d'emplois nouveaux, etc.
- c. La séparation, dans certains pays, du Ministère en charge de la promotion Jeunesse et de l'Emploi, de celui en charge du Sports apparaît comme une décision politique importante, donnant plus de visibilité et des ressources aux actions de développement et d'autonomisation des jeunes et, évitant ainsi l'absorption de la majeure partie du budget des traditionnels Ministères «de la Jeunesse et des Sports» par les activités sportives et notamment le football, auxquelles on a tendance à limiter la jeunesse.

d. L'étendue de la popularisation de la charte africaine de la jeunesse, au-delà de l'Afrique est aussi un élément : l'Europe, dans les rencontres des leaders jeunes s'y réfère, La Conférence Mondiale de Mexico y a largement fait référence, ainsi que le Groupe de la Société civile internationale, et bien d'autres structures africaines et non africaines.

La participation de l'Afrique, aux activités et rencontres internationales sur la jeunesse avec des délégations comprenant un taux plus important de jeunes, en est un autre.

e. L'intérêt grandissant des partenaires (organisations bilatérales, multilatérales, de toutes les agences des Nations Unies et autres structures de développement) sur les questions de développement des jeunes participe également de cette prise de conscience. Les positions sont communes là-dessus : les conditions d'autonomisation des jeunes doivent être identifiées et les actions à entreprendre pour en accélérer la mise en œuvre devront être prises avec les moyens y afférents.

### Qu'attendez vous du prochain sommet de l'UA dédié à la jeunesse ?

- a- L'identification et l'adoption des actions prioritaires en faveur de l'autonomisation des jeunes ;
- b- Un engagement explicite pour l'augmentation des ressources en faveur de la mise en œuvre accélérée des actions adoptées pour l'autonomisation des jeunes ;
- c- Un engagement politique explicite des Chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'Union pour des mesures visant à :
  - I. la création d'emploi et l'insertion socio-économique des jeunes compétents dans la vie active et professionnelle.
  - II. la prise en charge technique et académique à travers des programmes de formations pertinents en rapport avec la construction des connaissances, doublée d'une grande capacité d'adaptation aux conditions changeantes des marchés de travail.
  - III. la création d'environnements ou de structures d'absorption des cadres qualifiés disponibles.

L'Afrique a besoin de sa jeunesse pour soutenir sa croissance socio-économique et la jeunesse africaine a besoin de l'Afrique pour parvenir aux qualifications nécessaires à la réalisation de ses aspirations.

Photo : EU



**“L'Afrique a besoin de sa jeunesse pour soutenir sa croissance socio-économique”. Jean-Pierre Ezin**

# YOUTH FILE DOSSIER JEUNESSE

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## LA JEUNESSE EN AFRIQUE EN QUELQUES CHIFFRES

Environ un milliard de jeunes de 15 à 24 ans vivent aujourd'hui sur notre planète. En Afrique, plus de 20% de la population, soit environ 189 millions de personnes, a entre 16 et 24 ans.

**60% ENVIRON DE LA POPULATION AFRICAINE A MOINS DE 35 ANS,** et en 2025, ce taux pourrait atteindre, selon certaines projections, 89,5%.

Selon le Rapport mondial 2007 de la jeunesse (Nations Unies), les jeunes de 15-34 ans représentaient 34,3 % de la population totale de l'Afrique subsaharienne en 2005, totalisant environ 257 millions de jeunes. Ce chiffre pourrait passer à **368,8 MILLIONS DE JEUNES D'ICI L'AN 2018.**

Trois questions à...



## Raymonde Agossou

**Chef de Division du Renforcement de capacités des Ressources Humaines et de la Jeunesse, Département des Ressources Humaines de la Science et de la Technologie, Union Africaine.**

*Vous dirigez la Division Ressources Humaines et Jeunesse. Pouvez-vous nous indiquer quand cette Division a été créée au sein du Département Ressources Humaines, Sciences et Technologie et dans quel but ?*

Cette division des Ressources Humaines et de la Jeunesse est créée en 2003 sous la structure de Maputo, mais elle est devenue fonctionnelle seulement en 2005, avec ma prise de fonction. D'ailleurs, le premier résultat concret et palpable qui a été produit était le statut des jeunes en Afrique, qui a été immédiatement suivi de la charte africaine de la jeunesse qui apparaît comme le point de départ de toute action de développement de la jeunesse. Cette jeunesse demeure une ressource humaine importante et incontournable pour la pérennité de nos actions de développement sur ce continent.

La division a une mission fondamentale qui peut se résumer en trois mots: Renforcement des capacités, **d'une part** des ressources humaines de façon générale, à travers des formations sur mesure, des interventions ciblées, des réponses précises à des besoins précis de ressources humaines en cours d'emploi, afin d'améliorer leurs capacités de rendements, leur performances ou prestations dans leur environnements professionnels ;

**d'autre part**, le développement de la jeunesse, en tant que cible spécifique et ressources humaines particulières, avec des attentes spécifiques qu'il faut satisfaire au mieux, en proposant des cadres continentaux d'actions, à la fois juridique que technique. Tout cela doit se faire en cohérence avec les problèmes particuliers à résoudre, les compétences et connaissances à promouvoir, les valeurs panafricaines et civiques à faire acquérir pour préparer une relève de qualité pour le continent.

Les jeunes représentent 43,7% des chômeurs dans le monde (BIT 2006) alors qu'ils ne représentent que 25% de la population active.

En Afrique subsaharienne, **3 CHÔMEURS SUR 5 SONT DES JEUNES** (BIT 2006) et en moyenne 72% vivent avec moins de 2 dollars par jour. En termes de taux de chômage, les jeunes représentent 36,9% de la population en âge de travailler, mais 59,5% du total des chômeurs, taux qui est beaucoup plus élevé que la moyenne mondiale en 2005, qui était de 43,7%, (BIT 2006).

Vu de façon positive, cette jeune population, insérée dans les économies émergentes, représente une ressource économique importante pouvant stimuler la croissance économique et compenser les coûts sociaux d'une population vieillissante. Ainsi, si de bonnes politiques sont mises en place, avec les moyens appropriés, l'explosion démographique de la jeunesse actuelle sur le continent africain représente une énorme opportunité pour la croissance et le développement économique.

Sources: UA



**Pouvez-vous détailler les programmes dont votre Division a la responsabilité, leurs objectifs et l'état de leur mise en œuvre?**

Les programmes mis en œuvre par la Division en charge des ressources humaines et de la Jeunesse peuvent être classés en deux sous-groupes :

1. Les projets et sous-projets en faveur du renforcement des capacités des ressources humaines de façon générale. Ils ont pour nom :
  - a. Éducation des adultes et renforcement des capacités.
  - b. Formation technique et professionnelle.
2. Les projets et sous-projets en faveur des actions de promotion de la jeunesse africaine, à travers les préoccupations suivantes.
  - a. S'assurer que la Charte africaine de la jeunesse est domestiquée et mise en œuvre par tous les Etats membres;
  - b. S'assurer que la décennie pour le développement de la jeunesse est mise en œuvre dans tous les Etats membres;
  - c. Mettre en œuvre le programme des jeunes volontaires de l'Union africaine.
  - d. Mettre en œuvre toutes autres actions conférant aux jeunes la visibilité et améliorant leur participation effective, significative et efficace aux affaires et à la vie de la cité.

La mise en œuvre de ces projets avance au rythme des moyens mis à disposition. Elle reste relativement mitigée,

et nécessite une attention sérieuse des décideurs pour prendre son envol réel. Le premier ensemble de projets traîne un peu le pas et connaît un niveau de réalisation plutôt faible en termes de résultats, car il n'a jamais reçu l'appui politique et financière requis pour décoller. Les ressources tant humaines que financières n'ont pu être convenablement conclues afin d'en faciliter la mise en œuvre. Toutefois, une stratégie continentale pour dynamiser la formation technique et professionnelle a été élaborée et adoptée par les ministres de l'éducation. Sa dissémination a été faite dans les Etats membres, nous espérons que ces derniers font des efforts pour sa mise en œuvre. Un projet pilote pour trois pays en reconstruction post conflit est en cours de mise en œuvre et mériterait d'être poursuivi.

Les projets et sous projets du second groupe se portent excellentement bien et évoluent surtout avec l'appui de partenaires qui y croient et soutiennent les actions planifiées pour leur mise en œuvre. Ainsi la Charte africaine de la jeunesse a fait des avancées exponentielle tant en Afrique qu'au-delà du continent. Grace aux efforts des jeunes dans la plupart des Etats membres, elle fait parler d'elle, en termes de ratification, de mise en œuvre, de domestication, etc. Les efforts de ma Division ont également permis des avancées indéniables dans les autres sous-projets, tel que la décennie de la jeunesse et son plan d'action, le Corps des jeunes volontaires de l'Union africaine et la célébration régulière des grands moments de la jeunesse africaine.



**“Les jeunes sont des cibles qui devront désormais compter. Ils devront retenir l'attention des décideurs et influencer leurs futures prises de décisions.”**

*Raymonde Agossou*

**3- Qu'est-ce que le Plan d'Action pour la Jeunesse adopté en 2009? Qu'apporte-t-il à la jeunesse africaine?**

Une décennie pour le développement de la jeunesse a été adoptée en janvier 2009, à la suite de l'année africaine de la jeunesse en 2008. Il a été demandé à la commission d'élaborer un plan d'action qui facilitera la mise en œuvre de la décennie dans les États membres.

Le plan d'action est donc développé et fonctionnera comme une feuille de route pour la mise en œuvre accélérée de la charte africaine de la jeunesse, qui porte en elle les grandes orientations et domaines qui sous-tendent ou inspirent les actions prioritaires à accélérer pour améliorer les conditions socio-économiques, politiques et juridiques des jeunes en Afrique. Il sert également de cadre commun d'intervention en contexte de collaboration multisectorielle et de mobilisation de ressource.

Les activités et rencontres qui viennent de se dérouler au sein de la Commission de l'Union africaine dans le cadre de la préparation du Sommet de Malabo, et les intérêts qu'elles ont suscité de toutes parts me confortent dans l'idée que les jeunes sont des cibles qui devront désormais compter et retenir l'attention des décideurs et influencer les futures prises de décisions en faveur des jeunes. Les récents bouleversements sociopolitiques et l'actualité nous en disent déjà suffisamment sur le rôle catalyseur indéniable que les jeunes peuvent et doivent jouer face au développement, à la stabilité et à la cohésion sociale de leur pays et de leur continent.

## **LA CHARTE AFRICAINE DE LA JEUNESSE: UNE RÉPONSE JURIDIQUE À L'ENJEU DE LA JEUNESSE EN AFRIQUE.**

**Adoptée en Juillet 2006 à Banjul Entrée en vigueur le 8 août 2009 Ratifiée par 27 États jusqu'à présent aux États africains de la mettre en œuvre de façon pratique et technique.**

La Charte africaine de la jeunesse a été élaborée suite à un besoin manifeste de fondement juridique pour les questions relatives à la jeunesse. La conceptualisation de la Charte africaine de la jeunesse ne pouvait se faire sans connaître de façon formelle le statut des jeunes. Les efforts ont donc débuté par une étude et une analyse de la situation existante. Le statut des jeunes ainsi élaboré en 2005 a fait l'état des lieux et jeté les bases de la réflexion et les orientations à donner au projet de charte de la jeunesse.

La Commission a fait l'option d'une approche participative impliquant les acteurs principaux intéressés par la question des jeunes, avec au cœur du processus, les jeunes eux-mêmes, tant au niveau national que continental. Après la validation du document de projet par les ministres responsable de la jeunesse, les Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement l'ont adoptée en juillet 2006 à Banjul.

Vu qu'elle présente, dans leur réalité évidente et objective les préoccupations et attentes de la jeunesse africaine, avec des propositions et voies d'accès aux réponses en faveur du bien-être et de l'autonomisation des jeunes, la charte est bien accueillie par les états membres qui ont œuvré activement à sa signature, ratification et mise en œuvre.

**ELLE EST ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR LE 8 AOÛT 2009 ET, À CE JOUR, 27 ÉTATS L'ONT RATIFIÉE, C'EST UN DES RARES INSTRUMENTS JURIDIQUES ADOPTÉS PAR LA CONFÉRENCE DES CHEFS D'ÉTAT ENTRE EN VIGUEUR DANS UN SI BREF DÉLAI.**

# YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE



## Impacts of climate change on agriculture not only affect food security, but also the youth's major employment sector and source of income.

The majority of African Youth (65 – 75% ) earn their livelihood from small scale agriculture including farming, animal husbandry, fishing, forestry, horticulture and bee keeping. Most of these agricultural activities are heavily reliant on constant and highly predictable environmental conditions. For instance subsistence farming in Africa relies to 96% on rainfalls .

### THE CURRENT COPENHAGEN ACCORD ALLOWS GLOBAL TEMPERATURE TO INCREASE BY 3.9°C THUS IMPLYING AROUND 6°C INCREASE IN AFRICA .

These studies also noted that national income per-capita falls 8.5% on average per degree Celsius rise in temperature. The increase in annual mean temperature in Africa reduces national income significantly and has huge economic and environmental consequences for African Youth.

Agriculture is of great importance to most Sub-Saharan African economies, supporting between 70 and 80 percent of employment and contributing an average of 30 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and at least 40 percent of exports .

Impacts of climate change on agriculture not only affect food security, but also the youth's major employment sector and source of income. This further strengthens the perception of young people on agriculture. The popularity of agriculture is dwindling among Africa's youth due to its image which conveying poverty and tedious labour leading them to search for other means for survival. Cities and urban areas appeal greatly to young people as they are expected to provide better living conditions leading to a high scale youth migration to urban areas in many African countries.

Although the situation of young people appears dire, there are also signs of positive development. Climate change being a global challenge, countries affected more severely by climate change are exploring opportunities to produce in Africa, leading to modernisation of the agricultural sector and also creating new types of employment. African Youth have been exploring alternative methods of participating on climate change policies through campaigning, advocacy, lobbying and participating in global networks that work on these issues.

<sup>1</sup> State of African Population Report

<sup>2</sup> International Water Institute 2010

<sup>3</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/107.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Discussion paper 00873 IFPRI 2009

<sup>5</sup> African Affairs, 104/417, 2005

# YOUTH AND HEALTH

The very large increases in Africa's population size have virtually guaranteed the extreme youthfulness of the continent's population, with over 60% of its population below the age of 35. By implication, a larger cohort of young people are entering adulthood, thus, it is projected that **AFRICA'S POPULATION WILL GROW TO 1.35 BILLION BY 2025.**

Interestingly, by 2050, Africa would have overtaken both India and China in population size, whose population would be 1.63 billion and 1.44 billion respectively. In Southern Africa on the other hand, a much slower growth is projected due to the very high-level of young people currently living with HIV.

The above demographic situation is critical and the popularly accepted way out is to reposition youth development and empowerment through meaningful participation, using the African Youth Charter as a clear and well define rights and responsibilities instrument. Stepping up efforts aimed at enforcement and protection policies and mechanism; irrespective of health status, and the social constructs of age and gender roles.

In Africa the major transmission of HIV amongst young people is unsafe sex. Fertility rate vis-a-vis maternal morbidity is a double tragedy for young women of reproductive age and there still remains weak policy environments and non-existent mechanisms to ensure the rights for access to sexual reproductive health information and services including care, treatment and support for young people: the interrelationship of youth sexual reproductive health and rights in Africa is also a driver of youth unemployment, with the lowest life expectancy rates in the world; persisting weak social capital, increases in health systems burden; amongst others, cannot be overstated.

An analysis of the situation of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Africa reveals that laws, systems and services related to SRHR are inadequate

despite the number of commitments expressed by governments in international and regional human rights and SRH instruments. While several efforts have been made towards reducing new HIV infections among young people and ensuring access to HIV treatment and care and support; sixty-seven percent of approximately 22 million people living with HIV and AIDS globally are inhabitants of east and southern Africa.

A youth driven and feminised epidemic in Africa means that young people and especially young women remain disproportionately affected by AIDS, with nearly four million HIV-positive young people living in sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of the world total. Of these, most are young women: it varies by country, but up to eight young women 15-24 are HIV positive for every male in that age range. In urban areas of southern Africa, 17-22% of young women aged 15-19 have HIV compared to 3-7% of young men (UNAIDS).

AIDS and maternal mortality are the two interconnected leading causes of death for young women, accounting for 53% and 26% of all female deaths in the region: a completely unacceptable and tragic toll. The desperate state of young people's sexual and reproductive health in Africa underscores the need for policy level interventions that enforce the right to health for young men and women as mutually reinforcing.

Despite their heavy HIV burden, most young people in Africa still do not have access to adequate, age-appropriate and effective sexuality education including HIV prevention. Similarly, they lack sufficient access to and uptake of quality HIV testing and counseling (HTC) and linked support services, including youth and gender-friendly sexual and reproductive services, and male and female condoms.

In conclusion, since the cost of preparing the future for young people is overwhelming the incumbent generation's leadership courage, then we must be willing to build systems that encourage inter-generational partnership to prepare young people for the future.



# Jeune et Volontaire de l'Union Africaine

“ L'idée est de considérer la jeunesse africaine comme une solution et non pas comme un problème.”

Adelia Agostinho

## Adelia Agostinho, jeune Mozambicaine de 29 ans, est l'une des toutes premières Jeunes Volontaires de l'Union Africaine. Link! a rencontré cette pionnière.

**Adelia, vous faites partie du premier corps des Jeunes Volontaires de l'Union Africaine. Expliquez-nous comment vous en êtes arrivée là.**

Je fais effectivement partie du tout premier Corps des Jeunes Volontaires de l'Union Africaine 2010, qui regroupe plus de 50 jeunes issus de toute l'Afrique. J'ai commencé mon travail il y a seulement quelques mois.

Mon parcours est un peu particulier car je suis affecté au sein même de l'Union africaine, ici à Addis Abeba, ce qui n'est pas le cas de tous mes camarades, qui sont en général Volontaires de l'Union Africaine dans leur pays, ou bien dans d'autres organisations internationales.

Ici à Addis Abeba, je travaille pour le Département de Ressources Humaines Science et Technologie au sein

de la Division de la Jeunesse. Je suis en train d'aider à la préparation du prochain sommet de l'Union Africaine qui aura lieu à la fin du mois de Juin 2011 en Guinée équatoriale sur le thème de la jeunesse. Ce sommet est très spécial pour nous parce que pour la première fois il va discuter des thèmes de la jeunesse.

J'étais auparavant stagiaire dans une organisation non gouvernementale éthiopienne. Avant cela, j'avais déjà eu des expériences de volontaire, au Mozambique, en Algérie (dans les camps de réfugiés sahraouis). J'ai entendu parler par une amie de ce programme de Volontaires qui était en train d'être mis en place par l'Union Africaine, j'ai postulé sur internet et j'ai été ensuite sélectionnée. Je me suis ensuite rendue au Nigeria où j'ai suivi, avec tous les autres volontaires, une préparation visant à améliorer nos connaissances sur l'Union Africaine, la formulation et mise en place des projets, le processus et des techniques de recherche, des compétences professionnelles, les compétences en leadership et les compétences de vie ainsi que la discipline personnelle.

**Pourquoi selon vous l'Union Africaine a-t-elle créé le corps des Jeunes Volontaires? A quel besoin cela répond-il?**

Pour moi, c'est d'abord une initiative qui montre que les jeunes font partie de la société, qu'ils ont quelque chose à dire et que cela est pris en compte. L'idée est de considérer la jeunesse africaine comme une solution et non pas comme un problème. Les jeunes ont une expérience du terrain, ils sont familiarisés avec le contexte africain. Ils apportent des idées nouvelles, de la créativité, de l'énergie.

Ensuite c'est une initiative qui, à mon avis, profite tant aux jeunes qu'aux organisations qui les reçoivent.



Les jeunes volontaires veulent être utiles, aider les gens. Ils veulent surtout beaucoup apprendre. En retour, leur présence profite aux organisations en Afrique qui ont généralement des problèmes de ressources humaines. Nous les aidons à construire une Afrique meilleure. Plus qu'aux organisations, je crois que ce programme profite aux peuples africains dans la mesure où nous sommes là pour aider à mettre en œuvre avec succès l'agenda de développement de l'Afrique (OMD, NEPAD).

**Quelles sont vos premières impressions et recommandations ?**

C'est un peu difficile de faire le point sur mon expérience quelques mois seulement après mes débuts. Ce que je peux dire, c'est que je me sens utile et que l'on écoute ce que j'ai à dire. J'apprécie cela. Je suis affectée à une série de tâches liées à la préparation du sommet de l'Union Africaine. Tout n'est pas encore complètement établi, mais il y a une série d'opportunités dans l'avenir et j'apprends et c'est le plus important! Je me sens utile. Mon impression est positive.

Je voudrais recommander aux Etats Africains de diffuser massivement les informations sur ce programme de Jeunes Volontaires. Il faut que l'information soit connue dans tous les pays, ce qui est d'abord la responsabilité de chaque Etat. Je pense qu'il faut également bien repérer les capacités des jeunes sélectionnés comme volontaires. Le critère académique n'est pas le seul à prendre en compte. Il faut avant tout savoir repérer ceux qui souhaitent et peuvent être utiles. Les Etats membre de l'UA doivent non seulement diffuser les informations mais appuyer/faciliter la participation des jeunes.

J'encourage les jeunes africains à se joindre à cette initiative, que je crois être très intéressante du point de vue professionnel.





Three questions to...

# Stefanie Abla Merki

African Diaspora Youth Network

# & Peter Matjasic

President of the European Youth Forum.



Stefanie Abla Merki



Peter Matjasic

**What are you expecting from your cooperation with the African youth and the role of the Diaspora youth ?**

**Stefanie:** The African Diaspora is recognized as the 6th African Region by the African Union. This fact alone points to the necessity of clothe cooperation between Africans living in Africa and Africans living abroad. The Diaspora's families and friends still live in Africa so we only have the best interest in mind when it comes to the development of Africa. The Diaspora can have an influence in Africa. There is a positive economic influence that has its sources in the return remittance of money from the Diaspora to Africa. Furthermore, there is a growing number of Diaspora settling back in Africa and a lot of them established companies which boost the economy too. And there were also political influences created through the Diaspora in the past, there are some African countries that allow the Diaspora to vote now. I expect to strenghten and build up that influence through the cooperation with the African youth. But the Diaspora is not on the spot so we need the African youth and need to built a close cooperation to reach our goals, which is to promote Africa's economical situation, the healt care and education system and enable peace, just to name a few.

**Peter:** Develop further the dialogue and cooperation between young people and youth organisations in Africa and Europe on regional and global issues and further promote their meaningful participation in the Euro-African cooperation, contributing to the development of the Africa-EU strategic partnership and implementation of its Action Plan. We will continue contributing to the political agenda of

the Africa-Europe relations and to the development of a coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the Africa-EU partnership, aiming to a sustainable and permanent cooperation between African and European youth organisations. Our joint work will also focus on fostering the youth programmes and initiatives of cooperation and their support both from the European and African side by creating opportunities for capacity building and training, networking, exchanges and information sharing. Moreover we also expect to pursue joint actions as regards the global youth development agenda, contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the United Nations in 1995, as a policy framework for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people.

We are also committed to promote a strong regional youth structure in Africa, fundamental for the regional and global cooperation, in full compliance with our mission to promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation. This collaborating with other civil society organisations and Institutions, through the unprecedented partnership formed by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, with governmental and non governmental actors in Africa and Europe, to implement a programme aimed at providing a stable and effective framework for the Africa-Europe Dialogue. In this respect an important outcome from this event was to decide on the establishment of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP) that will enable us to do this by bringing together the African and European stakeholders.

**Is there any similarity between the challenges of the African youth and the European youth ?**

**Stefanie:** Topics like for example education, fight for decent work or climate change concern young people on both continents. Of course we can't say what works for Europe necessarily works for Africa in the same way; but we can all learn from each other and benefit from one another's experience. There is a need to change the balance of relationship between Africa and Europe and move away from the dependency relationship to a co-management. I think with the new Africa Europe Youth Platform a step in the right direction would be taken by putting up African and European youth as equal actors to seek values that feed relationships across the continents. Capacities can be built and information will be exchanged to promote the youth living in Africa and in Europe.

**Peter:** Despite the different stages of development and the different socio-economic settings, African and European young people share common challenges, such as the improvement of their lives and full and effective participation in the society. Access to adequate housing, employment, health care, food and nutrition, education and participation opportunities, as well as the global environmental change, increasing incidence of diseases and other threats to health, discrimination, social exclusion and stigmatisation are increasing challenges for young people in both continents. Poverty is a problem of a global scale. Youth poverty is not only a matter of resources but also a lack of opportunities.

Continue next page



# Union panafricaine de la jeunesse

Three questions to...

**“The young Diaspora is a strategic asset in building Africa’s capacity”**

Stephanie Abla Merki



**What do you think you can bring to the African Youth, specially as a young Diaspora, and what lesson are you taking from Africa to Europe ?**

**Stefanie:** Since the Diaspora is aware of the reality in both continents, we have to promote the Africa-Europe cooperation. The Diaspora is the missing link in Africa-Europe cooperation and should be an important part when it comes to dialogues with partners. Furthermore, I believe the young Diaspora is a strategic asset in building Africa’s capacity. We have social, financial, intellectual and political capital and want to bring that back to Africa because we share the same vision for Africa as the African youth living in Africa. There should be exchanges between the African Youth and the Diaspora Youth to promote the African unity and solidarity which in turn would have a cross-fertilization effect.

Europe can learn from Africa when it comes to the Youth. The African Union created the African Youth Charter which demonstrates their belief that the Youth is the future and that they can bring great assets to Africa when they can participate actively. The youth all over the world are the future and Europe can learn a lesson from Africa by looking at the African Youth Charter.

**“Youth poverty is not only a matter of resources but also a lack of opportunities”**

Peter Matjasic

**Peter:** There is so much we can learn from each other...

The African Youth is doing so much better as regards to a rights based approach to youth policies. Africa has already recognised, through a concrete instrument, the African Youth Charter, what kind of rights youth, as a specific transition period from childhood to adulthood, entails. At the European level, things are slowly moving forward and there is much that could be gained from examining the African approach in this regard. From our side, the European Youth Forum remains committed to sustain and facilitate the political cooperation processes at the regional and sub-regional levels with the involvement of relevant actors, both civil society and institutional stakeholders.

We are also determined to continue to support African regional coordination structures, initiatives and partnerships, by strengthening their role and institutional recognition, in particular with regards the valuable contribution of youth organisations to development.

We have been supporting the capacity building of the youth platforms across Africa, namely through the I% Solidarity Fund, and we intend to continue fulfilling this global responsibility.

We will also take active steps to produce stronger cooperation between young people and youth organisations in Africa and Europe, with a substantial emphasis on capacity building, training, information sharing and high participation in the political agenda.

## Andile Lungisa

Vice president of the Pan African Youth Union (Acting president)

**What is the Pan African Youth Union currently working on?**

The Pan African Youth development in the areas of mainstreaming, coordination and establishment of institutions and establishment of institution of youth development. We have worked with the African Union to develop the African Youth Charter, which is guiding youth development. So far, it is ratified and adopted by almost 18 African governments.

We assist all of the African countries to establish National Youth Councils, where youth development can take place. We focus on economic participation of young people: on education, health, social welfare of young people.

For example: in the field of education, we are currently advocating that there must be free compulsory quality education on the African continent up to the first degree in the universities. On the issue of health, we have been at the forefront of making sure that young people stay away from unprotected sexual activities, especially if they are not faithful, not married. We are also working on drug abuse, teenage pregnancy.

People who want to come and do business in the African continent must do business with the local communities and build capacity. Young people should be trained to get skills, job opportunities, and managerial positions.

One of the major challenges we are facing is that our governments report to Washington, to London, to Paris and Brussels. The call the Pan African Youth Union is making is that all our governments in Africa must report to the head office of the African Union.

**Why is Youth so important in Africa?**

Africa is not a dying continent, it is a youthful continent, young people in Africa constitute the majority of the population, and they constitute the majority of people unemployed who live in poverty, in hunger, while affected by diseases, conflicts, wars.

All our energies, all the energy of our governments, including the people who want to be partners of Africa, must ensure that the life of young people in Africa can change for the better, that young people have access to education, jobs, skill developments and health facilities.



**“Africa is not a dying continent, it is a youthful continent.”**

Andile Lungisa



Questions to...

## Maquento Lopes

Secrétaire général de l'Union Panafricaine de la Jeunesse

Qu'est-ce que l'Union Panafricaine de La Jeunesse ?

L'Union Panafricaine de la Jeunesse (UPJ) est la structure qui coordonne l'ensemble des associations de jeunes sur le continent africain. Nous avons un partenariat très important avec l'Europe au niveau de la jeunesse.

Nous avons commencé vers 2005, même si les échanges entre l'Afrique et l'Europe en matière de jeunesse ont toujours existé. C'est à partir du premier sommet Afrique Europe des jeunes qui s'est tenu à Lisbonne en 2007 que nous avons commencé à apporter un peu plus de concret dans cette coopération.



**"Tout le monde dit que la jeunesse est prioritaire en Afrique mais il n'y a pas beaucoup d'actions qui le confirment."** Maquento Lopes

Aujourd'hui, pour l'UPJ, le partenariat avec l'Europe au niveau de la jeunesse est prioritaire. D'une part parce que l'Europe est très proche de l'Afrique géographiquement. Ensuite parce que nous avons réussi à tenir ensemble et régulièrement un certain nombre d'activités.

Nous sommes encore un peu limités surtout en ce qui concerne les ressources financières. Les institutions européennes ont beaucoup fait, leur soutien a été très important pour réaliser ce qui a été fait jusqu'à présent. Nous avons organisé par exemple beaucoup de séminaires de formation, tant en Europe qu'en Afrique, dans la communication entre jeunes, pour l'élaboration de programmes entre jeunes. Nous nous préparons à faire le second grand pas : formaliser l'institutionnalisation d'un forum Europe- Afrique des jeunes.

Qu'est-ce que les jeunes Africains attendent des Européens et inversement ?

Le plus grand fossé, à mon avis, se situe au niveau des connaissances mutuelles. Par exemple, nous nous sommes rendu compte que beaucoup de jeunes africains ne connaissent pas la vie des jeunes européens et inversement. Cela se retrouve par exemple dans la problématique des flux migratoires : On n'a pas étudié en Europe, on n'a pas les compétences requises par le marché européen de l'Emploi et l'on veut pourtant s'installer en Europe. Il nous faut répondre à ce vide de connaissances mutuelles. Pour ce qui est de la connaissance de l'Afrique, nous créons le cadre et il revient à chacun d'y trouver son intérêt.

Nous continuons à faire pression, une fois de plus, sur les Etats afin que les questions sur la prise en charge du développement des jeunes soient davantage prioritaires dans les politiques nationales de développement. Tout le monde dit que la jeunesse est prioritaire en Afrique mais il n'y a pas beaucoup d'actions qui le confirment.

Tout ce qui est priorité nationale doit inclure les jeunes. Par exemple, certains pays mettent l'accent sur le développement du logement. S'ils prennent en compte l'intérêt des jeunes, on travaille. Même chose pour le développement de l'agriculture. Il faut y inclure la participation des jeunes.



**"We want young people to access space in term of political participation and decision making."** Tendai Wenyika

## Tendai Wenyika

Deputy Secretary General of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU)

What are you expecting from international events focusing on youth?

What we are expecting from these events is to have the voice and the opinions of young people in Africa. Being presented to the African Heads of States, this is to push our governments to increase the quality of education, to commit funds towards entrepreneurship and school development within our region, we want young people to have access to political participation and decision making.

How are the relations between the Pan African Youth Union and the Young Europeans movement?

The PYU has very good working relationships with the Young European Movement, since 2005. Our first joint program was in 2007, EU AU summit in Lisbon Portugal. We have actually decided to develop cooperation with our partners in Europe, so that we have young people in Europe and African interacting, exchanging ideas, and best practices in term of youth development.

We have various activities through the European Youth Forum in partnership in the North South Center. For instance, there are schools where we have Youth development, such as in Spain and in Capo-Verde. There are Training for Trainers, where young leaders have been trained through this cooperation and regional consultations throughout Africa where we have asked young Africans to find specific priority areas where we should partner.

What can your cooperation bring to Africa ?

It can bring a lot of new ideas and innovations, where we can share best practices, standardize modules. Europe has one of the best modules to youth councils in the world. Also in terms of projects and business, it will promote cooperation between youth in Europe and Africa

In your view, what are the main problems to tackle for Youth in Africa ?

For me, the most important things to tackle in Africa are obviously the issues related to HIV and unemployment. The effect of unemployment can be seen as escalation in term of HIV rates, where some young women resort to commercial sex work.

As for education, we should have quality education that allows for school development; the problem is some of the schools in Africa are not responsive to the current issues to promote manufacturing industry and technology. The education system should adapt to this effect.



## EUROPEAN COMMISSIONERS ANDRIS PIEBALGS AND MICHEL BARNIER

ADVOCATE GREEN GROWTH AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

In the context of the joint EU-Africa Strategic partnership, Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, and Michel Barnier Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, have attended the annual joint meeting of the Ministers of Finance and Economy of the African Union and of the UN Economic Commission for Africa on 28th and 29th March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The core topic of the meeting was about “**Governing Development in Africa**”, including discussions on the role of the state, long term prospects for sustainable development through economic integration and green growth.

### GREEN GROWTH ...

Commissioner Piebalgs addressed the panel on Green Economy and Global Sustainability at the joint AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and UN Economic Commission for Africa. He highlighted the EU's ongoing commitment to encouraging sustainable management of areas like forestry, extraction, renewable energy and water. Discussions focused on the EU's support for sustainable and inclusive growth. He also underlined the role of democratic values in the sustainable economic development of countries.

Green growth will be one of the major themes at the 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development. The outcomes of the Annual Ministerial Conference will provide a basis for concerted action between the EU and Africa at both national and regional levels. The outcomes of the Conference will help inform the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July.



Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner

Michel Barnier, EU Commissioner

### ...AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Michel Barnier shared EU experience on regional integration in the course of a High Level Panel Discussion on the theme of “Governing Development in Africa” and in a series of bilateral meetings with senior African representatives. He also highlighted the importance of transparency of companies active in Africa and of the financial markets, notably in the field of derivatives markets.

Following a joint workshop of the EU Commission and the African Union Commission on the Internal Market held at the end of February this year, Commissioner Barnier proposed a series of follow-up actions for future cooperation in this field. Examples include staff exchanges and seminars for the AUC on a range of policies such as technical standardization, public procurement, financial services, money laundering, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights. He also announced that in the context of the revision of the Transparency Directive, he will propose to include obligations for European extractive and forestry industries to disclose information on payments made to authorities of third countries.

### BILATERAL MEETINGS

On top of their meetings with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean PING, and with Ramtane LAMAMRA, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, both EU Commissioners also exchanged views with Deputy Chairperson Erastus MWENCHA, with Maxwell MKWEZALAMBA, African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs, with Abdoulie JANNEH, United Nations Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, with Donald KABERUKA, President of the African Bank of Development. They also met with Mark PLANT, Deputy Director of the IMF's African Department and with Mr. Mo IBRAHIM, from Mo IBRAHIM Foundation.

### BACKGROUND

Following up on its recent Green Paper, the European Union is currently undertaking a global review of its development policy, putting a stronger emphasis on promoting an enabling environment for inclusive growth, private sector investment and job creation, including through innovative means of financing.

### MORE INFORMATION

**Website of EuropeAid Development and Cooperation DG:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)

**Internal market website:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/index_en.htm)

**Website of the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/piebalgs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs/index_en.htm)

**Website of the Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Michel Barnier:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/barnier/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/barnier/index_en.htm)

**Website of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia:**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ethiopia/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ethiopia/index_en.htm)







## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROMOTES DEMOCRACY AND GROWTH WITH ITS AFRICAN UNION PARTNERS

The African Union (AU) Commission and the European Commission met in Brussels for their 5th annual College-to-College session on May 31st and June 1st. They moved forward on a joint agenda of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and focused their discussion on two pressing issues of present concern: democracy and growth.

The profound democratic transformations that are currently taking place in Northern Africa deserve the whole-hearted support of all international actors, with an aim of strengthening political and economic governance across the African continent. At the same time, as the world is emerging from the economic crisis, a crucial common challenge for both Africa and Europe is to kick-start growth and focus on inclusive and sustainable development for Africa, eyes firmly on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Commission President José Manuel Barroso said prior to the meeting: "The encouraging historical changes on the African continent present tremendous opportunities to enhance the relations between our continents. Our two Commissions will continue to serve as the engines of

the ambitious Joint EU-Africa Partnership. Together we can achieve real progress for the people of Europe and Africa, by tackling global issues, by creating more opportunities for trade, investment and inclusive development, and by addressing the people's aspirations for democratic reforms and social justice."

The Strategic Partnership between Africa and the EU pursues common objectives beyond the traditional donor-recipient focus, in a dialogue of equal counterparts. The EU is the biggest trading partner for the African continent. In 2009, 36% of total imports to Africa originated in Europe. The European institutions are also the second biggest donor worldwide for Africa. The European Commission has committed €24.4 billion through its various financial instruments for the period 2007-2013 in support of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its thematic partnerships.

Discussions aimed at strengthening the political and technical cooperation between the two institutions, provided fresh impetus to the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and elements for the future political agenda.

in place and provide them with the means to do their job more easily, including medical care, transport and allowances.

EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, said: "There is no development without security. AMISOM does a vital job in Somalia, ensuring that human rights are respected, citizens are protected and internally displaced persons and refugees can return home in safety and dignity. This additional funding will enable the African mission to carry out its role in helping to protect the people of Somalia."

Today's increase in funding brings the EU allocation to AMISOM to a total of EUR 208 million funded under the African Peace Facility (APF) since 2007. AMISOM has had an uninterrupted peacekeeping presence in Mogadishu since March 2007. The renewed EU support will mean that it can continue to provide protec-



## PEACE AND SECURITY: AFRICAN UNION AND EUROPEAN UNION MEET IN ADDIS ABABA

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU PSC) and the Political and Security Committee of the European Union (EU PSC) held their 4th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, on 11 May 2011.

The timely meeting took place against the background of the series of uprisings in North Africa. These developments offer both opportunities and challenges in the areas of security, democratization, governance, accountability and inclusive socio-economic growth. There is an urgent need to respond to the legitimate needs and expectations of people. A strengthened AU-EU dialogue and coordination will assist joint efforts towards crisis resolution.

On Libya, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 (2011) to ensure the protection of the civilian population in Libya. They acknowledged that the AU Roadmap contains key components for a political solution and looked forward to the upcoming meeting of UN, AU, EU, the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Conference to discuss the next steps in achieving such solution.

tion to the Transitional Federal Institution, assist in the implementation of the National Security and Stabilisation plan (NSSP), facilitate humanitarian operations and provide support to disarmament and stabilisation efforts.

### BACKGROUND:

EU support to AMISOM is funded under the African Peace Facility and channelled through the African Union. Today's decision is the fifth of its kind ("AMISOM V"). From the beginning of the operation, EU funding to AMISOM has provided predictable and continued support to key mission costs, including troop allowances for peacekeepers, salaries for civilian staff, transport and medical costs.

The support to AMISOM is part of a multi-level EU strategy towards Somalia which includes regular as-

Concerning Côte d'Ivoire, both sides welcomed their common approach and cooperation. They stressed the importance of supporting the authorities in post conflict reconstruction and development, justice and reconciliation in the country.

Regarding Sudan, the meeting looked forward to the emergence of two viable states, on 9 July 2011, that would live side by side in peace and good neighbourliness, as well as address the remaining common challenges.

The AU and the EU PSCs expressed serious concern with the situation in Somalia. They urged the Transitional Federal Institutions to ensure progress towards peace and reconciliation by putting an end to wrangling among themselves, and to implement rapidly a political programme of action.

The two sides also looked forward to upcoming EU-AU dialogue in the areas of maritime safety and security (MSS) and transnational security threats, especially in the Sahel.

Ambassador Lungile Christian Pepani, Chairperson of the AU PSC for May 2011, and Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Chair of the EU PSC, jointly chaired the meeting, in line with the practice established at the first joint meeting in Brussels in 2008.

sistance to the security sector through development programmes and projects, humanitarian assistance, naval security operations and security training.

### MORE INFORMATION:

**The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM):**

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/peace-facility>

**The Africa-EU Partnership:**

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/>

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## EU ALLOCATES €65.9 MILLION TO SUPPORT PEACEKEEPING IN SOMALIA

During the annual joint meeting of the Ministers of Finance and economy of the African Union, Commissioner Piebalgs confirmed European Commission's support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by announcing an additional EUR 65.9 million to help keep the peacekeeping force





## CLIMDEV AFRICA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

**Discussed actions to foster a common and coordinated response to climate change throughout the continent in the run up to COP 17 in Durban.**

The meeting of the programme Steering Committee for ClimDev-Africa took place on May 23 in Addis Ababa. ClimDev Africa is a joint programme between the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The African Climate Policy Centre (<http://www.uneca.org/acpc>) is the Secretariat for the Programme.

ClimDev aims to guide the effective integration of climate information and services into development planning and to ensure the mainstreaming of climate considerations into policies and programmes directed at

achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development in Africa. ClimDev Africa will bring to bear the collective efforts of these three key African institutions to foster a common and coordinated response to climate change throughout the continent. Eight million euro has been pledged by EU to support the programme, and is only one of many ways EU assists developing countries in fighting climate change ([http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_en.htm)).

Participation was strong at the Steering Committee, that was opened by AU Commissioner Tumusiime. Besides the three institutions members present were AMCEN, UNEP Director Regional Representative for Africa as well as UNEP liaison office to AU, UNDP Country Representative to Ethiopia, GCOS, WMO and partners (UK, SE, NO, EU).



## EU DELEGATION HOSTS PARTNERS MEETING ON AFRICAN UNION DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2012

During the second week of May the EU Delegation hosted a series of meetings between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the international partners on the subject of the 2012 draft Programme Budget for Projects and Programmes of the AUC. The week gave ample room for the partners to discuss the programmes for 2012 under the African Union's four strategic pillars:

- **Peace & Security,**
- **Shared Values,**
- **Development, Integration & Cooperation**
- **and Institution & Capacity Building.**

As a part of its budget process the African Union invites partners to share their views on the forthcoming programmes, to facilitate broad donors support for the implementation phase. This week was the second of its kind with a remarkable high degree of participation of both high level AU officials and partners. Photos from the meeting on Pillar IV, dedicated to Institution & Capacity Building.



## JOINT BI-ANNUAL RETREAT OF AU COMMISSION AND EU: LESSONS LEARNED ON AFRICAN UNION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The bi-annual retreat of African Union Commission and the EU Delegation to the African Union was held on June 6 and 7 in Addis Ababa. The objective of the retreat was to take stock of the implementation of the EU funded "African Union Support Programme" – 55 million euro ("EU55").

There was broad participation from AUC's different departments and other organs (Pan African Parliament, African Court for Human and People's Rights, African Commission for Human and People's Rights) as well as from the EU Delegation to the AU. This year the participation was strengthened by four EU member states (Germany, Sweden, Spain and UK) of the African Union Partners Group. Their presence is one concrete example of how donor coordination in relation to AUC works.

During the retreat the discussions focused on results achieved and challenges for future implementation under the "EU55". Discussions were held in plenary as well as in small working groups, resulting in a set of recommendations and an updated joint action plan.

African Union Support Programme aims at: (1) to enable the AU Commission to play an effective role as a "motor of the integration process; and (2) to facilitate the deepening of the partnership between the AU and the EU. This support package has since 2007 provided an integrated and a comprehensive support to AU institutions, notably to assist the AUC with speeding up its institutional transformation process (ITP). The implementation period of the programme will end in 2013.





## EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN SCHOLARS DISCUSS REGIONAL INTEGRATION

European and African experts on regional integration were invited to Addis on May 27 at the African Union Headquarters to give a joint **lecture on Integration, Trade and Internal market**: How can the European Union and Africa share experience in this field? Participants were invited from universities, Civil Society Groups, local and international NGO and the diplomatic community. There was a vibrant discussion and debate on the subject issues. Participants acknowledged such a forum is very informative especially regarding sharing Europe's experience towards regional integration in internal trade.

This event was co-organized by the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union and the African Union in the framework of the "Fridays of the Commission"

Dr Desmond DINAN, Professor in Public Policy at George MASON University, Virginia, USA and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in European Policies, Dr Sanny AGNORO, jurist and political scientist and Pr Alastair SUTTON, Professor at King's College London and Edinburgh Universities made a short presentation before answering to the question of the audiences.

## DELEGATION EU/AU SPONSORS AN EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARD

The Foreign Correspondents' Association of Ethiopia (FCAE) has awarded talented Ethiopian journalists during its third annual Excellence in Journalism Award ceremony, held at the Alliance Éthio-Française in Addis Ababa on Thursday June 2nd, 2011.

Delegation of the European Union to the African Union was one of the main sponsors of this event, beside the United States Embassy, the British Embassy, the German Embassy, the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Local journalists selected by a jury of media professionals were awarded with prizes in three categories: two laptop computers for excellence in writing in English and Amharic, and a top of the range digital camera for excellence in photojournalism. The runners-up in all categories were granted with a CDMA device.

The first prize in the category English went to Andualem Sisay, editor-in-chief of news website New business Ethiopia, who submitted a story on agricultural policy in Ethiopia. In the same category reporter Eden Sahle of Fortune came in second.

The award for excellence in writing in Amharic went to Frew Abebe, reporter of Sendk; Neway Tsegaye, who works for Addis Lisan, was awarded as a runner-up.

Mulugeta Ayene, photographer for Capital, was chosen to be this year's best photojournalist, followed by Elias Asmare, who is a freelance photographer.

The Head of EU Delegation to the African Union, Koen Vervaeke, took this opportunity to also announce the launch of the Natali Journalism Prize 2011.



Head of the Delegation of the EU to the AU, Koen Vervaeke, is handing the certificate.

# ARRIVAL DEPARTURES



**CHRISTOPHE KAMP** (FIRST ON THE LEFT), A QUITTÉ LA DÉLÉGATION DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE AUPRÈS DE L'UNION AFRICAINE FIN MARS 2011.



**GIORGIO ROMANO**, RULE OF LAW ADVISOR, JOINED THE DELEGATION ON 1ST MARCH 2011.

**SUSANNA NILSSON**, PROGRAM MANAGER, OPERATIONS SECTION, JOINED THE DELEGATION ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2011.



**SOFIA MOREIRA DA SOUSA** (LEFT) A QUITTÉ LA DÉLÉGATION DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE AUPRÈS DE L'UNION AFRICAINE À LA FIN DU MOIS D'AVRIL 2011.





# LIEN!



AU COEUR DU PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UNION EUROPÉENNE

*“Jump”*, **Carlos Litulo**, premier  
prix du concours photographique  
professionnel UE-UA 2011



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