



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

6th College-to-College meeting Joint declaration Addis Ababa, 26 April 2013

Transformations continuing to unfold in both Africa and Europe herald an opportunity for a value added approach to the Africa – EU partnership as embodied in the 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). Our partnership should continue to advance beyond the traditional development mechanisms to address existing and emerging common challenges on an equal footing.

In this context, the 6th College-to-College meeting was an excellent opportunity to assess the achievements, existing frameworks, policies and financial instruments recorded under the two Joint Action Plans. It also launched a reflection on the future of Africa – EU relations in view of preparing the 4th Africa-EU Summit to be held on 2-3 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium. This Summit will therefore be an occasion to focus on strategic priorities and to take a fresh look at the Joint Strategy and its implementation mechanisms in order to make it more efficient.

The participation of the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other stakeholders in this College-to-College meeting was warmly welcomed.

During the meeting, we, the African Union and European Commissions, have in particular agreed to:

1. Pursue and deepen our cooperation in support of **peace and security**, and democratic governance in Africa, in line with our ongoing intense political dialogue. We will continue to join efforts in addressing peace and security challenges in both continents. This

includes support to the implementation of the peace, security, and cooperation framework agreement for the DRC and the Great Lakes region; the EU strategies for the Sahel and the Horn of Africa; consolidation of peace efforts in Somalia and peace and territorial integrity in Mali; and in finding lasting solutions to the current crises in the Central African Republic and Guinea Bissau; and jointly work to build good neighbourly relations between Sudan and South Sudan. We will continue to combine efforts to fight terrorism, piracy, organised crime and the proliferation of weapons, in line with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

2. Reaffirm our joint commitment to promote and protect **human rights** on both continents and to support the African Governance Architecture. We welcome the intensified cooperation in the area of **democratic governance**, and particularly in relation to elections. We also look forward to increased cooperation on humanitarian affairs.
3. Acknowledge the importance of developing human capital through quality education and promoting **employment** and decent work for all as means of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable socio-economic development. In view of the International Labour Conference of June this year, we will pursue our dialogue on social protection.
4. Reaffirm the need to work together, including with the diaspora, in the spirit of mutual partnership for better management of **migration and mobility**. We will take action to combat exploitation, discrimination and social exclusion of migrants, and to address irregular migration and fight the trafficking of human beings. Furthermore, we will facilitate the early operationalisation of the African Institute for Remittances to enable safer, faster and cheaper remittance flows and help leverage remittances for social and economic development of Africa.
5. Pursue our cooperation to enhance Intra-Africa mobility of students and academics by facilitating harmonization of **higher education** programmes. We will also cooperate to support the Pan African University.
6. Remain firmly committed to achieving the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). We will in particular continue our cooperation to enhance **health** systems and outcomes,

contributing to improvements in quality of life and human capital development. We will continue our joint efforts to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, while paying particular attention to maternal and child health.

7. Underscore the important contribution of **women and youth** in sustainable and inclusive development in line with the objectives of the African Women and Youth decades.
8. Pursue our joint efforts to fight desertification in Africa in the framework of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel initiative. We will also further continue to collaborate on Disaster Risk Management, resilience and multi-lateral environmental agreements. We take note of the progress achieved thus far in global **climate change** conferences and agree to cooperate towards reaching the intended outcomes.
9. Cooperate to maximise the benefits of **science and technology and innovation** for tackling poverty, and providing sustainable growth. In this regard, we welcome the progress made in the Africa – EU High level Science and Technology Policy Dialogue as well as the AU Research Grants.
10. Continue to collaborate in the framework of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa initiative on the **monitoring of the environment** for sustainable development and security with a view to enhancing access to policy makers of earth observation data. We will also continue our work on the extension of the Global Navigation Satellite Systems to Africa, notably to improve aviation safety.
11. Remain committed to our cooperation in the **information society** domain, notably through scaling-up on-going initiatives, exploiting synergies between the EU Digital Agenda and the AU ICT development frameworks, and fostering deployment of innovative e-services to fast-track African development in all socio-economic sectors and enhance interconnections between Africa and the EU.
12. Keep **sustainable agriculture** high on the development agenda. We welcome the AU decision to make 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security. We will address the substantial challenges facing African agriculture in a way that conserves the future productivity of natural resources. We will strive to achieve inclusive

and sustainable growth and food and nutrition security, raise farm incomes and enhance agricultural productivity, transformation, trade and rural development. To this end we shall focus our agricultural cooperation initiatives in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) including Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary issues, standards and quality certification, processing industries, trade initiatives and facilitating access to local, regional and international markets.

13. Re-affirm our commitment to strengthen **energy** access, energy security and promotion of the green economy, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.
14. Agree to strengthen our cooperation on economic diversification, industrialisation and value addition to Africa's **natural resources**. Our cooperation in mineral resources management will focus on good governance and transparency, investment and infrastructure, and on enhancing geological knowledge and skills.
15. Recognize the need for cooperation on **fiscal matters** so as to contribute to more effective Domestic Revenue Mobilisation.
16. Re-affirm our strong commitment to **regional and continental integration**, and agree to pursue our cooperation in relevant key areas such as industrialisation, diversification, trade-facilitation, customs, investment, services and productive capacity. We underline the importance of the EU-Africa Partnership on **Infrastructure** to support the ambitious goals of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and welcome continued engagement of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund.
17. Agree that efforts should be re-doubled to overcome the remaining obstacles to concluding growth and development oriented trade agreements under negotiation and agreed ways to achieve this.
18. Agree that **trade facilitation** is important to improve African competitiveness and increase intra-African trade. In this regard the multilateral negotiations at the WTO will endeavour to reach agreement on trade facilitation taking into account the needs of developing countries.

19. Foster our bilateral **technical and administrative cooperation** in key areas, including internal communication, twinning and exchange arrangements between our services.
20. Welcome the African Union Initiative on Alternative Sources of Funding as well as the European Commission proposal for the creation of a new substantive Pan African Programme, which will both contribute to the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership.
21. Give a new impetus to political dialogue at all levels as a means to provide the necessary guidance for the effective implementation of the Partnership.
22. Pursue our cooperation in the multilateral arena to bring our positions closer and shape the international agenda on issues such as the post-2015 development agenda and the climate change negotiations.
23. Task our respective services to organise on 20-21 June 2013 a joint brainstorming session with relevant stakeholders to pursue discussion on the future of Africa-EU partnership in order to render the post 2013 cooperation more focused and make the implementation of the JAES more efficient.
24. We will continue our joint efforts in building better understanding between the peoples of the two continents, through communication, information, outreach and cultural exchanges that better involve them in the implementation of our joint strategy.

The political and operational impetus provided by the two Commissions remains instrumental for the success of the Africa-EU Partnership. But the Commissions need other stakeholders' efforts to make the Partnership a success.

Finally the next Africa-EU Summit will be the opportunity to take stock of progress achieved, mobilise the participants and adapt the Partnership to the changing times.

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