



**2017/2083(INI)**

28.6.2017

# **DRAFT REPORT**

on the EU-Africa Strategy: a boost for development  
(2017/2083(INI))

Committee on Development

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on the EU-Africa Strategy: a boost for development (2017/2083(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to the ‘Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy – Shared Vision, Common Action: a stronger Europe’ presented to the European Council at its meeting of 28 and 29 June 2016,
- having regard to the joint statement of 7 June 2017 by Parliament, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, and the Commission, on the new European Consensus on Development – Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future,
- having regard to the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome document adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development of 2015,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement on climate change of 2015,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement), and to its revisions of 2005 and 2010,
- having regard to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted by African and European heads of State and of government at the Lisbon summit of 9 December 2007, and the two action plans adopted at Accra in October 2007 (for the period 2008-2010) and Tripoli in November 2010 (for the period 2011-2013),
- having regard to the conclusions of the 4th EU-Africa summit held in Brussels on 2 and 3 April 2014, the roadmap for cooperation between the two continents for the period 2014-2017 and the EU-Africa declaration on migration and mobility,
- having regard to the Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU) adopted in May 2014,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 7 June 2017 entitled ‘A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU’s external action’ (JOIN(2017)21),
- having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 September 2016 on the European Fund for Sustainable Development

- (EFSD) and establishing the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund,
- having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2016 amending Regulation (EU) No 230/214 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace,
  - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 22 November 2016 entitled ‘A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP)’,
  - having regard to the various communications from the Commission on relations between the EU and Africa, particularly that of 27 June 2007 entitled ‘From Cairo to Lisbon - The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership’, that of 17 October 2008 entitled ‘One year after Lisbon: The Africa-EU partnership at work’ or that of 10 November 2010 on the consolidation of relations between the EU and Africa: 1.5 billion inhabitants, 80 countries, two continents, one future,
  - having regard to the joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 5 May 2017 entitled ‘A renewed impetus for the Africa-EU partnership’, and the Council conclusions of 19 June 2017 on the subject,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on relations between the Union and Africa and the ACP countries, and particularly that of 4 October 2016 on the future of ACP-EU relations beyond 2020<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 September 2016 on the EU Trust Fund for Africa: implications for development and humanitarian aid<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 7 June 2016 on the 2015 Report on Policy Coherence for Development<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2016 on increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A80000/2017),
- A. whereas the ties between the European Union (EU) and African countries are historic and their destinies are intimately linked; whereas the EU is Africa’s main partner in the fields of economic activity and trade, as well as development, humanitarian aid and security; whereas political, economic and social situations in Africa have evolved considerably in recent years;
- B. whereas relations between the EU and Africa must be guided by principles of mutual

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1 Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0371.

2 Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0337.

3 Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0246.

4 Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0437.

interest and understanding and by shared common values within the framework of a reciprocal partnership;

- C. whereas relations between the EU and the continent of Africa are based on various legal instruments and political strategies and whereas it is important to step up synergies and coherence between them in order to make the partnership more effective;
- D. whereas the Cotonou Agreement with the EU, to which 79 ACP States are parties, including 48 in sub-Saharan Africa, governs the main partnership between the EU and Africa; whereas the EU has also established relations with African countries that are not parties to the Cotonou Agreement under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI);
- E. whereas the EU is a major guarantor of the security of the continent of Africa and whereas instability in Africa has a direct impact on stability in Europe;
- F. whereas 34 of the 48 least developed countries are in Africa, which makes the EU-Africa partnership a vital tool for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the sustainable development goals, particularly the eradication of poverty;
- G. whereas demographic trends will have to be taken into account, bearing in mind that by 2050 Africa is expected to have a population of 2.5 billion, most of them young people;

**Intensifying the political dialogue between the EU and Africa: a precondition for a renewed strategic partnership**

1. Welcomes this new communication, which aims to impart fresh impetus to the Africa-EU partnership in order to broaden and intensify it, gearing it to prosperity and stability on the two continents, in accordance with the commitments given in subscribing to the SDGs, the new European consensus for development, the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and Agenda 2063;
2. Considers it vital to intensify relations between the EU and Africa and to establish ‘win-win’ cooperation to meet shared challenges and secure common benefits, particularly in priority fields such as economic development and job creation, good governance, security, migration, the environment, education and youth;
3. Recalls the recognised effectiveness of ACP-EU cooperation and the results achieved in the field of development; stresses that this common framework must be maintained, while developing the regional dimension, including by means of increased cooperation with the African Union and the regional economic communities;
4. Reaffirms the need to adopt, within the Africa-EU partnership, an approach coordinated among the EU Member States themselves and between the EU and its Member States, as provided for by Article 210 TFEU; recalls likewise the necessary respect for the principle of the consistency of policies with development goals;
5. Endorses the stated desire to intensify alliances to tackle global governance issues between the EU and Africa; stresses, in this context, the need to step up the dialogue with the AU and the importance of ensuring its financial autonomy by reducing its dependence on external financing;

6. Stresses the role played by civil society, the private sector and local authorities in consolidating the political dialogue between the EU and Africa;
7. Stresses the need to increase the participation of civil society in the Africa-EU partnership, promoting the reinforcement of its capacities; supports the various platforms established to make civil society a key actor in the partnership, particularly the Joint Annual Forum, whose aim is to implement the EU-Africa roadmap;

### **Building more resilient States and societies for the benefit of young people in order to attain the SDGs**

8. Considers it necessary to make resilience – in all its five dimensions – a major component of the new EU-Africa strategy;

#### Political resilience

9. Emphasises the need to promote good governance, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, but also efforts to combat corruption on both continents, as they are indispensable elements in sustainable development;
10. Calls therefore for a frank dialogue concerning these values and principles and for them to be made a major component of cooperation, particularly by extending the conditionality of development aid on strict respect for them;
11. Supports the organisation of a joint high-level AU-EU conference on electoral processes, democracy and governance in Africa and Europe, and calls for the European Parliament to be fully involved in it;

#### Security resilience

12. Considers that EU action should respond to the strategies adopted by African countries, particularly those expressed in Agenda 2063 relating to peace and security;
13. Stresses the urgent need to increase the capacities of developing countries and cooperation between the EU and Africa in the field of security and in combating organised crime and trafficking in human beings;
14. Reiterates the importance of the African Peace Facility and its support for the various EU missions and operations deployed in Africa; calls for European peace and security actions to be stepped up, in cooperation with African and international partners;

#### Environmental resilience

15. Recalls that Africa is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change; considers it necessary to support African countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt; recalls that it is vital to respect the commitment given in Paris in 2015 to allocate USD 100 billion to developing countries by 2020;
16. Welcomes the EU initiatives to promote better management of, and more transparent trade in, natural resources; calls for a joint EU-Africa charter on sustainable management of natural resources to be drawn up;

#### Economic resilience

17. Recalls that the private sector plays a decisive role in job creation and the development process, and that it helps to finance the latter; welcomes the establishment of the European Fund for Sustainable Development, which should make it possible to support the private sector in African countries and thus promote investment and the creation of sustainable jobs;
18. Supports the establishment of a continental free trade area in Africa; recalls also the development prospects presented by Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and trade agreements between the EU and African countries; calls for increased cooperation between the European and African private sectors and for concentration of investment in key sectors such as sustainable energy, basic infrastructure, sustainable use of natural resources and agriculture, particularly by means of public-private partnerships;
19. Deplores the fact that, each year, some USD 50 billion is drained out of Africa in the form of illicit financial flows, which exceeds total annual Official Development Assistance (ODA); calls therefore on both parties to create effective tools to combat tax evasion and to support initiatives to increase the corporate responsibility of businesses;

#### Social resilience

20. Notes that Africa's population is growing rapidly, which necessitates a long-term strategic vision; stresses the crucial role of the emancipation of women, gender equality and education, particularly of girls, in building a resilient society;
21. Stresses also the importance of high-quality education at all levels, and the need for young people to be connected to global realities and to have skills which meet the needs of the market, by promoting and supporting vocational training;
22. Considers it important to support African countries in establishing effective health systems;
23. Notes that culture is both an enabler and an important component of development and may facilitate social inclusion, freedom of expression, identity building, civil empowerment and conflict prevention while strengthening economic growth; calls therefore on the EU and the AU to promote intercultural political dialogue and cultural diversity;

#### **Establishing a strategy for mobility and migration which contribute to the development of the two continents**

24. Recalls that migration and mobility have an economic, social, environmental and political impact and that this challenge must be tackled in a manner which is coordinated between the EU and Africa;
25. Wishes to see migration and mobility approached as reciprocal development tools for the two continents, with a long-term strategy which takes into account demographic perspectives;
26. Supports the various initiatives adopted at European level to tackle the underlying causes of irregular migration: migration partnerships, trust funds for Africa and the European Fund for Sustainable Development; calls for their implementation to be ensured and continued efficiently and coherently;

27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Commission of the African Union, the ACP Council, the Pan-African Parliament and the Bureau of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.