



AFRICA
EUROPE
FOUNDATION

FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Progress Review on the Implementation
of the 6th EU-AU Summit: Year 1

NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION - DRAFT EDITION FEBRUARY 2023

“Our Joint Vision is to consolidate a renewed Partnership for solidarity, security, peace and sustainable and sustained economic development and prosperity for our citizens and for our future generations, bringing together our people, regions and organisations... This renewed Partnership will address both the immediate opportunities and challenges, as well as the long-term possibilities offered by our partnership.”

The Final Declaration of the 6th EU-AU Summit
(17-18 February 2022)

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INTRODUCTION TO THE AEF PROGRESS REVIEW

This Review of the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) represents a first step in AEF's contribution to capturing progress on the follow-up to the 6th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union and the European Union (17-18 February 2022).

Produced just one year after the 6th AU-EU Summit, this first Progress Review is structured along the commitment areas expressed in the Summit's Final Declaration, as well as within the Investment Package announced at the Summit. The Review represents the aggregation of data available in the public domain with information provided by the AEF Strategy Groups and institutional partners. It is important to note that AEF does not set out to duplicate any existing processes but rather complement initiatives and work in close collaboration with relevant institutions and multi stakeholders.

This first exercise has led to some initial general observations:

1. **The need to increase investment, at all stakeholder levels, in the follow-up and monitoring of the commitments of the AU-EU political dialogue.** This is a critical task, as expressed by Heads of States and Government at the 6th AU-EU Summit. It is also a significant endeavor given the absence of established common definitions, processes and tools among the main institutions of the Partnership, and this more than 20 years after the first AU-EU Summit.
2. **The lack of data.** Significant gaps in available data limit the scope of commitment tracking and granularity of analysis. At EU-level, the Commission has in place certain internal data gathering processes but there is, as of now, particularly limited information available on Member State actions. There is also limited information on the implementation modalities of the Global Gateway Investment Package. Both of this weakens a comprehensive assessment of "Team Europe" actions. Tracking tools remain limited to financial elements and fail to assess results and impact. At AU-level, while consideration has been given to different AU functions and agencies, nothing has yet been structurally embedded and operationalised. There is no evidence of available data at the level of AU Member States when it comes to commitment tracking and reporting on national policy initiatives relevant to the implementation of AU-EU Summit commitments. Going forward, consideration should be given to investing in effective knowledge exchange and technical capacity-building at the level of the AU and EU institutional level.
3. **Political commitment.** The political mechanisms for follow-up are yet to be activated. Ensuring that the monitoring mechanisms agreed at the 6th EU-AU Summit are operational is key to provide the needed impetus for institutions and member states on both sides to produce and provide required information and data on a systematic basis. The proposed 'AU-EU Ministerial Committee' for follow-up has not yet been created. The meeting date of May 2023 is likely to be postponed again until at least the second half of the year. There is no evidence that the most recent Commission-to-Commission meeting (28th November 2022) provided meaningful contribution in terms of follow-up and implementation of the Summit and commitments made.

“The AU-EU relationship continues to suffer from a lack of trust and visibility among the people of the Partnership. So tracking and making easily accessible progress on delivery is critical.”

Charter of the Africa-Europe Foundation (December 2021)

4. **Timelines.** When it comes to initiatives or programmes identified as directly contributing to the 6th AU-EU Summit follow-up, more clarity and transparency around the respective timelines is needed. This includes information of the launch date (after, before, or long before the Summit in question) of any initiative framed as contribution to the commitments’ implementation. This of course is often linked to variable timelines and progress stages of initiatives and programmes. In order to avoid setting expectations too high to be met, it might be useful to provide upfront a clearer view of the time needed, in order to avoid appearing “over-promising and under-delivering”.
5. **Shifting priorities.** Shifts in the geopolitical landscape might lead to shifting priorities. When this is the case, a discussion at political level is needed, leading to a clear and mutual understanding around potential revisions of targets or timelines of commitments or commitments themselves. The changing geopolitical dynamics in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, one week following the Summit, have already had direct implications for the commitments of the Summit, from investments in energy and agri-food to “promoting effective multilateralism”.
6. **Silos.** The aggregation of information across the pillars of the Summit conclusions has highlighted the importance to work beyond and across silos, whether in relation to bridging for instance health and climate, or treating digital, infrastructure, education, technological cooperation, or mobility as key elements to be embedded in any sectoral approach.
7. **Perceptions.** Beyond the implementation of financial commitments, the ‘temperature’ and evolution of the Partnership must also be taken, by assessing trends and developments of perceptions, interests, trust, and value-sets among the societies of the Partnership. Prevailing political, institutional and media narratives vary from perceptions of limited follow-up and delivery to a perceived exaggeration of the level of implementation and financial commitments. Analysis of media coverage in Africa and Europe exposes this fragility, with optimist headlines on progress moving to negative perceptions in a matter of weeks and days. The reality is more nuanced and balanced and exposes the value of opening spaces for frank and honest exchanges on the challenges and opportunities for impact.

Given that this Progress Review of February 2023 is primarily based on data available in the public domain, and noting the current limitations to institutional data gathering referenced above, AEF is not in a position to verify all information provided in this Review. This first step in assessing the state-of-play concerning the implementation of the 6th EU-AU Summit aims to catalyse enhanced cooperation on the shared endeavour for follow-up and monitoring, not only at institutional level but also among the various stakeholders and partners committed to a strengthened Africa-Europe Partnership.

COMMITMENT 1 /

**On access to vaccines,
African health sovereignty,
and comprehensive WTO
response to the pandemic**



“The immediate challenge is to ensure a fair and equitable access to vaccines. Together we will support local and regional mechanisms for procurement, as well as allocation and deployment of medical products. The EU reaffirms its commitment to provide at least 450 million of vaccine doses to Africa, in coordination with the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) platform, by mid-2022. Contributing to this and complementing the actions of the AVATT, Team Europe has provided more than USD 3 billion (i.e. the equivalent of 400 million vaccine doses) to the Covax Facility and to vaccination on the African continent. Team Europe will mobilise EUR 425 million to ramp up the pace of vaccination, and in coordination with the Africa CDC, to support the efficient distribution of doses and the training of medical teams and the capacity of analysis and sequencing. We will also contribute in this context to the fight against health-related disinformation. Learning from the current health crisis, we are committed to supporting the full-fledged African health sovereignty, in order for the continent to respond to future public health emergencies. To this end, we support a common agenda for manufacturing vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, therapeutics and health products in Africa, including investment in production capacities, voluntary technology transfers as well as strengthening of the regulatory framework to enable equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. The African Union and the European Union underlined the urgency of the WTOs contribution to the fight against the pandemic and to the recovery of the global economy, and commit to engage constructively towards an agreement on a comprehensive WTO response to the pandemic, which includes trade related, as well as intellectual property related aspects.”

A. Ensuring fair and equitable access to vaccines by:

I. Supporting local and regional mechanisms for procurement, as well as allocation and deployment of medical products

- A EUR 40 million support to the WHO mRNA tech transfer hub in South Africa to support vaccine manufacturing (investment started in 2021).
- In preparation, a grant to AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with Africa Medicine Agency, to provide Technical Assistance in support of the AU Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing. Regulatory work with AUDA NEPAD and AMA.
- Support for local initiatives include the EU-Africa pharma and healthcare marketplace and matchmaking event on 27 June 2022, focused on boosting the local health industrial ecosystems in Africa, under the Team

Europe Initiative MAV + Flagship, bringing together over 200 representatives of companies, and research organisations.

II. Providing at least 450 million of vaccine doses to Africa, in coordination with the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) platform by mid-2022

- The delivery reached 206,5 million COVID-19 vaccines donated by EU by October 2022.
- Overall vaccines delivery slowed down at the request of African partners (including AVATT) due to limited absorption capacity of the vaccination campaign roll-out.
- The direct purchase of the additional 200 million doses was re-oriented to support the vaccination deployment and other health needs as set out in the commitment to mobilise EUR 425 million to ramp up the pace of

Flagships refer to long-term and large-scale initiatives often underpinned by an ambitious vision and transformational impact. While there are no strict criteria for the classification of initiatives as flagships, the most common feature is their visibility – serving as an example of impactful delivery.

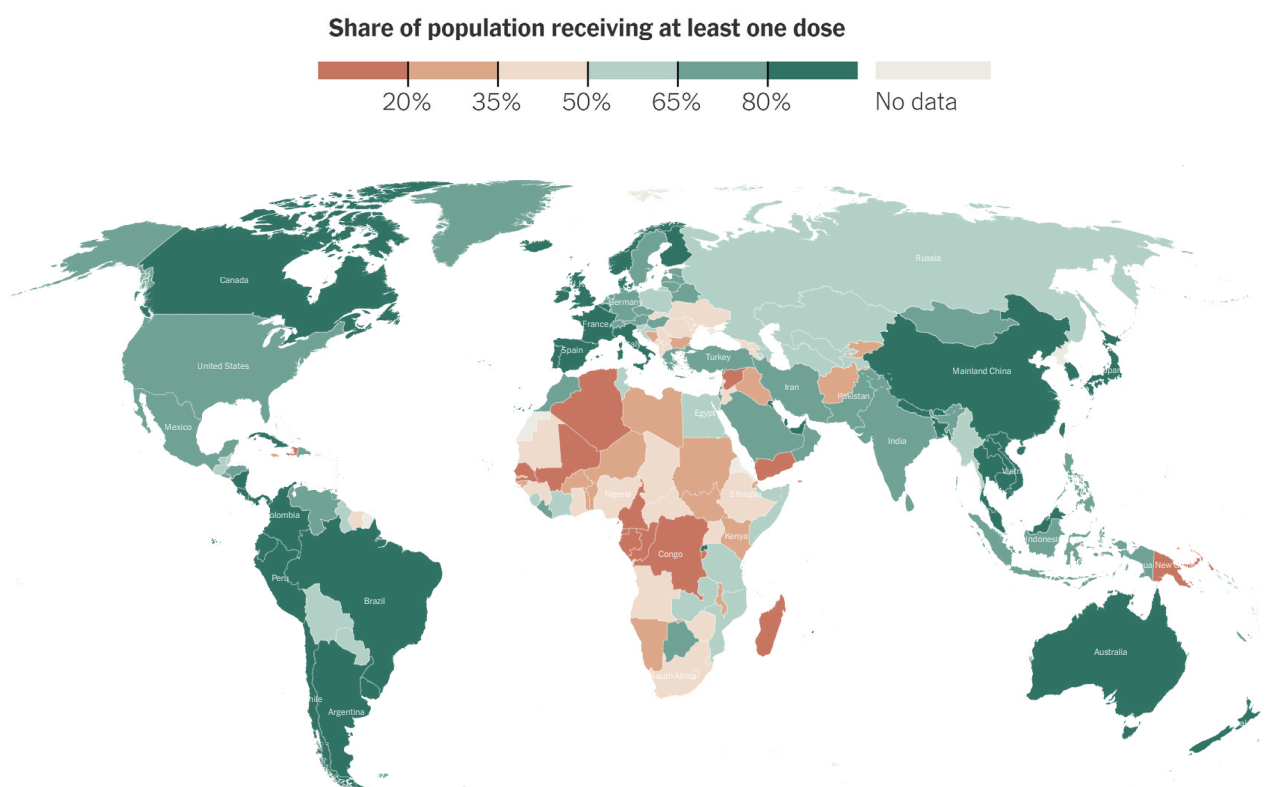
Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) are the practical implementation of the Team Europe (TE) approach, which centres on providing support to partner countries in a coordinated manner between the EU institutions and the EU Members States. TEIs are meant to be easily recognisable flagship initiatives, delivering concrete results for partner countries in line with their strategic and national priorities, and in areas where the Team Europe actors can have a collective impact. TEIs can operate both on a country and regional level, with assumed two TEI per partner country, and through different modalities. TEIs are the main channel to deliver on the Global Gateway Investment Package.

vaccination, support the efficient distribution of doses and training of medical teams and the capacity of analysis and sequencing.

III. Mobilising EUR 425 million to ramp up the pace of vaccination, support the efficient distribution of doses and training of medical teams and the capacity of analysis and sequencing

- By October 2022, at least EUR 375 million was mobilised for vaccination campaigning. The action has been focusing on the selected countries comprising the most under-vaccinated populations through COVAX's COVID-19 Delivery Support (CDS) programme, hosted by GAVI.
- Yet, the pace of vaccination and the capacity for distribution, application and analysis has not met the agreed objective of reaching herd immunity (i.e. 60% of population fully vaccinated) in Africa. Today, just 35.1%

Figure 1 – Covid-19 vaccination coverage rates as of 5th February 2023.



of Africa's population have had at least one dose of the vaccine with a lower proportion fully vaccinated .

- Evidence shows vaccine delivery was beset by a lack of transparency provided by suppliers to the COVAX mechanism on delivery schedules which compromised country planning for deployment . In addition, short shelf lives of some donated vaccines left insufficient time to deliver the vaccine within African countries.

B. Supporting fully-fledged African health sovereignty (...) by supporting a common agenda for manufacturing vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, therapeutics, and health products in Africa, including investment in production capacities, voluntary technology transfers as well as strengthening of the regulatory framework

- The EU supports the AU's goal for 2040 to manufacture locally 60% of the vaccines used on the continent. This includes tangible actions to support the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), hosted by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (AfCDC), WHO's mRNA technology transfer hub in South Africa, and at the national level, increasing production capacity including through skills development and establishment of regional pharma hubs in selected pilot countries (Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana). By October 2022, Team Europe has committed to EUR1.1 billion investment, of which EUR 950 million have been mobilised (70% loans, 30% grants).

C. Engaging towards an agreement on a comprehensive WTO response to the pandemic (including trade & IPR)

- In June 2022, an agreement was reached in WTO on a global IPR waiver for COVID vaccinations for a duration of 5 years.

"Europe can be a key global partner in strengthening health resilience by listening to the leadership in Africa's COVID response. A first step would be proactively supporting voluntary technology transfer and a broad IP waiver at WTO negotiations."

Agnes Binagwaho, Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Health and Vice Chancellor and co-founder of the University of Global Health Equity

"For the Global Gateway investment strategy on the development of pharmaceutical manufacturing hubs in Africa to be successful, it should be associated with a health workforce development strategy for pharmaceutical workers and regulatory specialists."

Conclusions of the meeting AEF Strategy Group on Health on the State-of-Africa relations, October 2022

- However, the agreement did not include an IPR waiver for COVID diagnostics and therapeutics. The EU was unable to agree on a comprehensive WTO response to the pandemic which would include trade and IPR. As such, the June decision did not constitute the comprehensive TRIPS waiver originally proposed by South Africa and India which received an overwhelming support of the civil society and over 100 governments .

Comments:

- Commitments that show strong progress revolve around efforts to increase vaccine manufacturing and local production.
- However further progress requires some integration of existing health structures on the African continent as well as a strong push for African member states to create the enabling environment for implementation, including proper quality control systems.
- EU's failure to support African leaders in their efforts to secure an IPR waiver for COVID diagnostics and therapeutics as well as the inability to craft a common position in the currently negotiated Pandemic Treaty shows limited engagement and collaboration on critical global health policy issues.
- The launch of *EU Global Health Strategy* in November 2022 raises the risk of diverting both attention and funding away from Summit commitments on health through the multiplication of announcements and funding pledges in a crowded space and constrained fiscal environment. It is unclear how the Summit commitments will interact with other strategies and initiatives on health in the context of the new EU Global Health Strategy.

COMMITMENT 1.1 /

**On the Africa-Europe
Investment Package for Health
(pandemic preparedness,
health security and access)**



“For the health sector, we will support initiatives for pandemic preparedness, health security and equitable access to quality essential health services, in line with the Rome Declaration adopted at the Global Health Summit.”

- Main initiatives include 1) Digital Health, 2) Health security through the One Health Approach and 3) Strengthening Public-Health institutes.
- The Flagship *Strengthening Public Health*, in partnership with Africa CDC, aims to improve efficiency through better coordination and synergies with existing programmes. An indicative EUR 270 million have been committed by the EU (Team Europe). High level of alignment between the partners and Africa health strategies (including on digital health) will be ensured through joint intervention logic and the strategic role of the Africa CDC to provide guidance on priorities and approaches.
- The Flagship *One Health Approach* has not been launched yet.
- Several initiatives led at national and regional level with both European and local partners illustrate positive progress.
 - o A regional Team Europe Initiative on *Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)*, launched December 2022, focussing on increasing the availability, affordability and quality of SRHR commodities, with estimated budget of EUR 60 million.
 - o In South Africa: establishment of the Regional Centre of Excellence for Genomic Surveillance and Bioinformatics in Africa (through WHO with support from Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority) for strengthening a genomic sequencing laboratory network in Africa (e.g. support to COVID-19 genome sequencing);
 - o In Senegal: LABPlus Africa establishment of a biobanking centre, with sequencing equipment CARE Centre in Dakar (Centre Africain de Résilience aux Epidémies);
 - o In Burundi: with EU support, improved financial and technical management of health centres by introducing a performance-based approach; continued free health care for pregnant women and children under five years of age, leading to a significant reduction in the under-five mortality rate.

Comment:

- European and African partners continue to collaborate closely on health.
- Summit commitments on health are being translated into multiple initiatives. Investments support both AU initiatives such as the AU digital health strategy and the Africa CDC digital transformation strategy, as well as improved coordination and synergies between the numerous programmes already in existence.
- However, while African and European parties are both active in the global governance fora that are part of the broader infrastructure underpinning global health system, there is little evidence of working together on joint positions or seeking converging views. A closer collaboration and a single voice in the global dialogue on health could strengthen health partnership and contribute to securing desirable outcomes at the upcoming political milestones with important reform agenda.

COMMITMENT 2 /

On the facilitation of economic recovery through the Common Framework for Debt Treatments (CFDT), reallocation of SDRs, and increased spending through international programmes



"In response to the macroeconomic effects of the Covid crisis on African economies, we support the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. We also call for ambitious voluntary contributions, by channelling part of the recently allocated Special Drawing Rights, in order to achieve the total global ambition of at least USD 100 billion liquidity support to countries most in need, of which a major part should benefit Africa. We welcome the USD 55 billion that have been pledged already from the new allocation of SDRs, of which several EU Member States (Team Europe) have so far pledged USD 13 billion and encourage more EU member states to consider contributing to this global effort. African institutions, in consultation with national authorities, will be involved in the use of these SDRs to support the continent's recovery. We will seek to ensure increased spending through international programmes in the fields of health, climate, biodiversity, education and security to facilitate economic recovery. We agree to examine lending instruments for sustainable investment projects in priority sectors."

I. Supporting the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and new allocation of SDRs

- The evidence shows the Common Framework is 'struggling to maintain credibility'. So far, only three countries have requested debt treatment– Chad, Ethiopia and Zambia – but none have been able to complete the process. Given the urgency, as Chad and Zambia are already in debt distress and Ethiopia is at 'high' risk, the process must be speeded up.
- Only little over 10% of the SDRs recycling commitment has been implemented yet. To date, only five of the 28 EU member states have made recycling commitments of their SDRs (France, Spain and Italy with 20% of their SDRs and the Netherlands and Belgium with 4%). This amounts to \$13 billion worth of SDRs – well short of \$100 billion objective.
- Key initiatives to date beyond the CFDT and recycling of SDRs are a EUR 100 million grant agreement for the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) signed by the EU on 14 October 2022; and EUR 50 million to support the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and the development of EBID's trade finance activities.

II. Ensuring increased spending through international programmes to facilitate economic recovery (health, climate, biodiversity, education and security) and examine lending instruments for sustainable investment projects in priority sectors

- Based on the latest available figures, official development assistance (ODA) net flow to Africa remains high at \$70.8 billion for 2021, yet 3.6% lower than in 2020, an all-time high.
- European DFIs (under the EDFI Association) have sustained their level of investment with EUR 8.6 billion of new commitments in 2022. However, only EUR 3.6 billion were allocated to Africa (5% decrease from the 2021 investment level), while EUR 3.3 billion focused on climate finance (45% increase from 2021 level). EIB has invested EUR 10.8 billion in 2022 outside the EU, xx of which in Africa.

Comment:

- The macroeconomic conditions, including currency devaluations, adverse rating agency assessments and an inability to access additional international finance is precipitating a debt crisis in Africa. By September 2022, 7 countries were in debt distress and 15 at 'high risk' of debt distress . By November 2022, the IMF listed 39 PRGT eligible African countries at risk of debt distress. For 16 this risk was 'moderate,' for 14 it was 'high' (Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, South Sudan). 9 African countries were already in debt distress (Chad, Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe) .
- A 6% increase in Eurobonds will cost Africa an extra \$8.4 billion annually in repayments. This increase in interest rates on a small minority of total government debt in Africa dwarfs ODA financial flows from the European Commission (estimated at €4.14bn across all nine instruments in 2019). In 2023, the African Development Bank estimates Africa will pay a total of \$75 billion to service its external borrowing (medium and long-term requirements due) .
- Given the scale of the problem, the activities of the past 12 months do not meet the reality of the current Africa's debt crisis. The EU SDR reallocations from EU members states remain marginal, at only slightly over 10% of the initial commitment. The EUR 100 million grant for the IMF's PRGT does not focus exclusively on Africa (it has a global reach), and the EUR 50 million support to ECOWAS EBID focuses on trade finance, not debt relief.

COMMITMENT 3 /

On combating Illicit Financial Flows, addressing domestic tax base erosion and profit sharing, and cooperating on tax transparency



“We commit to combatting Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) and to addressing domestic tax base erosion, profit shifting (BEPS), and cooperate in tax transparency. In this regard, we agree to continue cooperating to develop and consolidate the strategic capability in the fight against different types of IFFs including money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and proliferation financing as well as those linked to fiscal governance systems and return of stolen funds and items from countries of origin.”

- Recent and ongoing initiatives include:
 - o Expected to launch in 2023, the EUR 240 million Team Europe Initiative on *IFF and Transnational Organised Crime (TOC)*.
 - o Launched in January 2023, the “*Anti Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism in Eastern, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen*” project of EUR 5 million over two years.
 - o The ongoing regional programme “*Organised Crime: West African Response to Money Laundering and the Financing of terrorism (OCWAR-M)*”, a EUR 7.5 million five-year action expected to end in 2024.
 - o EUR 5 million allocation under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa for the regional project ‘*Disrupting criminal trafficking and smuggling networks through increased anti-money laundering and financial investigation capacity in the Greater Horn of Africa*’ - a project which started in 2019 and whose geographical (from 16 to 27 countries) as well as substantial scope will now be expanded to encompass other forms of transnational and serious organised crime, such as the trafficking in arms, narcotics, wildlife or cultural goods;
 - o An AU EUR 7 million Multi Donor Action with the EU and Germany and regional project ‘*Fighting Illicit Financial Flows in Africa*’ on tax motivated IFFs;
 - o The G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting action plan (BEPS);
 - o EUR 20.15 million for the EU Global Facility on CFT AML (*National anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing*);
- Assessing the impact of these various initiatives remains to be done.

COMMITMENT 4 /

On scientific and technological cooperation, student, research and cultural exchanges, restitution of cultural assets and promotion of cultural heritage



“Together, we will step up our support to scientific cooperation between researchers to develop knowledge together, as well as sharing technology and expertise, including through a joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda. We will encourage exchanges of young citizens, volunteers and students, through the expanded Erasmus+ programme and develop partnerships between universities, in order to improve our mutual understanding and foster excellence. We will strive to facilitate cultural exchanges and the movement of artists and artworks between our two continents, and encourage mutual undertaking for the restitution of cultural assets and promote access to and protection of cultural heritage.”

I. Scientific cooperation and technology sharing

- Key initiatives include the Flagship *Earth Observation and Space Technologies*; *Regional Centres of Excellence*; and the *AU-EU Innovation Agenda*.
- The development of the *Earth Observation and Space Technologies* Flagship has started. The Flagship has three components aiming at i) supporting the EU-AU Space Dialogue, including by supporting the newly established African Union Space Agency; exploring possibilities for cooperation between EU Member States and African countries' space agencies, ii) fostering the development of space-based services in support to green transition;
- In preparation, the Flagship on *Regional Centres of Excellence* will provide scientific and technological support to the latter with the aim to improve their contributions to policy and decision-making processes, business development as well as provide support to their relevant stakeholders through tailored services.
- The first Action to support *Regional Centres of Excellence* in Sub-Saharan Africa in Green Transition areas (biodiversity and forest; water; oceans; agro-ecological and sustainable agri-food systems; climate and disaster resilience; and energy) is reportedly underway.
- In preparation, the *AU-EU Innovation Agenda*, co-owned by the AU and the EU, has been going through consultation process. A dedicated stakeholder event, with wide participation from African and European partners, was held on the 23-24 November 2022 in Nairobi. Under the OACPS Research and Innovation Programme, actions for a total of EUR 60 million are ongoing since 2021 to unlock innovation potential and support transition into knowledge-based economies for sustainable development.
- In addition, AU and EU have also established the *Africa-EU Innovation Partnership*, which focuses on improving access to finance for innovators, fostering collaboration between African and European research institutions, and promoting digital skills and entrepreneurship through access to EU research programmes such as Horizon Europe, Global Europe, and Erasmus+.
- The African Union has convened annual space dialogues with African space actors, and two reports and two baseline studies have been produced:
 - o Priority areas of implementation by the African Outer Space Programme
 - o Study on Structural and Financial implications for African Space Agency
 - o Comprehensive Study on African Private Sector in Earth Observation, Geospatial and Allied Technologies
 - o Gap Analysis Study on Navigation and Positioning in Africa
- The Africa-EU *Science4Refugees* initiative has been launched, when and how much. It seeks to provide research and educational opportunities for refugees and disadvantaged children.
- Key initiatives for SME support – specifically youth business – include the Team Europe Initiative *Investing*

in *Young Businesses in Africa* (TEI IYBA) in Sub-Saharan Africa, including EUR 23 million for the IYBA SEED programme to be launched in January 2023; support for early-stage businesses under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus; EUR 25 million for the Women Entrepreneurship for Africa programme; EUR 40 million for the 'Developing Employment in Senegal' programme.

II. Exchange programmes and partnerships between universities

- Key initiatives encouraging youth mobility include:
 - o The Flagship, *Youth Mobility for Africa*, will operate at the regional level building on ongoing programmes with a budget of EUR 970 million from the EU. It aims to promote inclusive learning opportunities for young Africans through exchanges and target scholarships, to foster quality and attractiveness of African higher education systems as a destination of choice, to support regional and continental harmonisation mechanisms as a way to strengthen African integration, and to empower African youth with sustainable employability and active citizenship.
 - o Moreover, €27 million has been set aside to fund close to 40 of these Erasmus+ partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa which include 20 least developed countries and newcomers to the action such as Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan. The partnerships are focusing on employability in key priorities sectors such as energy, mining, access to electricity, agropreneurship and space sciences
- On human development through scaling up mobility and employability of students, young graduates and skilled workers, key initiatives include:
 - o '*Opportunity-driven skills and VET in Africa*', focusing on equipping young people with the skills that job

opportunities created by trade, investment and other market dynamics, with an estimated budget of EUR 500 million. It will support a regional technical assistance facility that will help orient bilaterally financed VET programmes towards job opportunities; and support EU-Africa exchange through the Erasmus for VET.

- o The AU's flagship *Youth Mobility for Africa Programme* with a combined budget of EUR 970m, which includes the ERASMUS+ programme, promoting student exchanges and targeted scholarships and university collaboration.

III. Culture, heritage, and artist exchanges

- The EU is exploring the possibility of having a Cultural exchange programme in 2023. Further details around a possible Flagship in this sector remain to be defined in 2023.

IV. Restitution of cultural assets and promotion of access to and protection of cultural heritage

- The AU has been developing a Framework for Action on the Negotiations for the Return/Restitution of Illicitly Trafficked Cultural Property from the Continent, which will provide a common framework for Africa to address the return and restitution of cultural artefacts.
- France, then Germany and Belgium started off this process.

Comment:

- Most Flagship programmes are either still in preparation phase or early inception with expectation to show early results in the first half of 2023.

COMMITMENT 5 /

**On the Africa-Europe
Investment Package for
Education (quality and
safe education services,
addressed learning gaps,
and Vocational Education
and Training)**



“For education, we will invest in inclusive and equitable quality education by improving policy and legal frameworks, access and teacher training, to contribute to safe delivery of education services and ensure learning gaps resulting from the pandemic are addressed. To this end we will promote opportunity oriented technical and professional Vocational Education and Training, including at regional level.”

- The commitments are aligned with the priority areas captured in the AU Agenda 2063, hence designed to deliver on African priorities.
- Key initiatives include *Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa*; *Teacher Flagship Programme for Africa*; and the *Global Partnership for Education*.
- The *Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa* regional Flagship will support a regional technical assistance facility that will help orient bilaterally financed VET programmes towards job opportunities and support EU-African exchange through the Erasmus for VET for an estimated total amount of EUR 500 million. For the Erasmus+ component of the flagship, results of the first call in 2022 are positive with 28 African countries involved in the selected CBVET projects (25 Sub-Saharan countries and 3 North African countries) and there will be annual calls until 2027.
- Launched in January 2023, the *Teacher Flagship Programme for Africa* is one of the key Team Europe Initiatives. The Flagship will focus on two areas: 1) governance, management, and attractiveness; and 2) professional development of teachers, with a strong focus on digital and green skills. With the AUC as a strategic partner and in collaboration with UNESCO and the International Teacher TaskForce, the programme will support partner countries in their efforts to achieve a more competent, motivated, and inclusive teacher workforce in order to improve learning outcomes and the socio-emotional development of children in basic education.
- *The Global Partnership for Education* is a multilateral global programme to help transform education systems and ensure high quality basic education in partner countries. The EU, together with the Team Europe partners, will contribute EUR 700 million for Africa towards the programme between 2021 and 2027.
- *The Youth Mobility for Africa*, new Flagship with a budget of EUR 970 million is still in preparation, will contribute to educational objectives by promoting inclusive learning opportunities for young Africans through exchanges and targeted scholarships, and fostering quality and attractiveness of African higher education systems as a destination of choice. The programme will include an Erasmus+ component with 46 projects on Capacity Building in Higher Education involving 35 African countries in the pipeline.
- Additional initiatives include ongoing national programmes and actions focusing on education and training, currently operating in 43 countries in Africa and receiving EU support.

Comment:

- Education and skills are demonstrably key pillars for Africa's continued development as highlighted in the AU Agenda 2063. However, already existing pockets of excellence across the 54 countries in Africa, like universities, currently are under enormous duress.
- The learning gap caused by the pandemic has specifically undermined the education efforts in Africa with urgent need for strategies and funding needed during the time of fiscal tightening.
- One particular area of neglect across many African countries is digitisation, even though the digital divide has decreased in most countries, with mobile phones being used in numerous, creative ways in Africa (like financial transactions of various types). In the area of more sophisticated digital utility, however, Africa as a whole is yet to engage with innovations like blockchain, AI and the emergence of ChatGPT, which will effectively keep the door shut and force a game of catch up.

COMMITMENT 6 /

On the Investment Package
(energy transport and digital
infrastructure, energy
transition, green transition,
digital transformation,
sustainable growth and
decent job creation, transport
facilitation, and human
development)



“An Africa-Europe Investment Package of at least EUR 150 billion that will support our common ambition for 2030 and AU Agenda 2063, composed of an Investment, a Health and an Education Package.

The Investment Package will help build more diversified, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies... This Global Gateway Investment Package aims to boost public and private investment building on existing initiatives and partnerships. The Package will boost largescale sustainable investments, supported by Team Europe Initiatives, with due consideration to the priorities and needs of the African countries, including:

- i) investment in energy, transport and digital infrastructure aligned with the PIDA PAP II;*
- ii) energy transition that is fair, just and equitable, taking into account specific and diverse orientations of the African countries with regards to access to electricity;*
- iii) green transition including supporting the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) of African Countries under the Paris Agreement to enhance mitigation and adaptation;”*

I. Investment in infrastructure (transport, energy, and digital) aligned with the PIDA PAP2

- Eleven strategic corridors aligned with African Union Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan 2 have been identified for an enhanced and greener EU-Africa connectivity.
- Flagship Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative has been launched with EUR 2.4 billion of investment, among others in hard energy infrastructure.
- The Flagship *EurAfrica Gateway Cable*, a digital connectivity submarine cable infrastructures connecting Europe and Africa, is still under identification stage.
- Regional fibre optic backbones across Africa, are under progress, with the Central African Republic fibre optic cable project being completed and the second phase of a fibre optic backbone in the Democratic Republic of Congo focusing on the Eastern DRC under discussion.
- Key flagships around transport facilitation and efficiency of connected transport networks include the 11 Strategic Corridors:
 - o Cabo Verde (Praia/Dakar-Abidjan Corridor): collaboration with the African Development Bank on a blended financial operation of EUR 38.1 million including EUR 17 million EU grant – port infrastructure.
 - o Liberia (Praia/Dakar-Abidjan Corridor): collaboration between EIB and AfDB on a blended financial operation of EUR 53.8 million including EUR 20.2 million EU grant – road infrastructure.
 - o Kenya (Mombasa-Kisangani Corridor): Transport flagship implemented under a 30 year PPP arrangement between a private consortium (France) and Government of Kenya in collaboration with EIB (including EUR 44 million of EU grant) to upgrade and operate 175 km of highway. Ongoing coordination with AfDB and WB as other lenders financing the project – road infrastructure.
 - o Tchad (Libreville/Kibri/Douala-N'Djamena Corridor): in collaboration with European Development Bank and World Bank on a blended financial scheme of EUR 275 million including EUR 35 million of EU grant – road infrastructure.
 - o Uganda: (Mombasa-Kisangani Corridor) EUR 229.5 million project involving French Development Agency (AFD), the AfDB and a EUR 91 million EU contribution – road/highway infrastructure.
 - o Cameroon (Libreville / Kibri / Douala-N'Djamena Corridor): in collaboration with European Development Bank and French Development Agency (AFD) on a blended financial scheme of EUR 243 million including EUR 23.6 million of EU grant – railway infrastructure.

- o Cameroon-Nigeria inauguration on 3 November of the 402 m Cross-River Bridge at Mfum-Ekok border crossing (part of Bamenda-Enugu corridor) (EU grant of EUR 25 million and EUR 259 million from AfDB).
- Further Flagships include: EUR 28 million EU grant for Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean; EUR 4 million for a capacity building project on sustainable aviation fuels; EUR 10 million for Phase II of Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres Network project; EUR 5 million for 2021-2025 to the African Civil Aviation Commission.
- On Value Chains Development Support, key initiatives include the finalisation of a regional value chain study with ITC with 4 regional value chains for follow-up (infant food, auto motives, pharmaceuticals and apparel of cotton).
- On economic integration and trade, to note are the establishment of the High-level dialogue on economic integration; a Team Europe Initiative in Tunisia on investment including EUR 14.5 million for the Innov'i - EU4Innovation project and EUR 9 million for Creative Tunisia; and other bilateral cooperation including with Uganda, Libya, Egypt, and Morocco.

Comment:

- Progress has been evidenced around infrastructure projects notably centring around the strategic transport corridor flagships with the 3 most advanced ones being Praia/Dakar-Abidjan; Mombasa-Kisangani; and Libreville/Kibri/Douala-N'Djamena.
- Investing in transport corridors, and in general in transport infrastructure, can address a significant constraint for agricultural transformation – providing access to regional markets for produce off-take, supply agricultural inputs and machinery at better prices. This, in turn, shall lead to improved yields, increased revenue and income.
- As recent study of the Dakar-Bamako Corridor has shown, addressing hard infrastructure and transit measure along the strategic corridors is not enough to improve trade facilitation. A range of bureaucratic and other rent-seeking interests prevent the full implementation and thus reduce the benefits of investments in trade facilitation .

II. Investment in an Energy transition that is fair, just and equitable, taking into account specific and diverse orientations of the African countries with regard to access to electricity

- The EU has set aside EUR 2.4 billion to support energy transition through directly funding hard infrastructure, crowding in private sector investments, and supporting policy and regulatory reform processes to improve the energy sector in Africa. Under the umbrella of the Flagship programme.
- Africa-Europe Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) – a number of joint projects have been launched:
 - o National and regional programmes: Benin (DEFISSOL solar photovoltaic power plant); Burundi (improvement legal and regulatory framework); Cabo Verde (Pump and Storage Facility); Cameroun (hydroelectric plant NACHTIGAL); Djibouti (Desalination plant in Doraleh); DRC (Luviro Hydropower plant); Egypt (Nexus Water Food and Energy – NWFE programme); Ivory Coast (development of solar power plants across the country); Morocco (EU-Morocco Green Partnership); Mozambique (Construction of National Control Center for Energy); Namibia (Implementation of MOU on raw materials value chains and green hydrogen); Tunisia (solar power plants); Central Africa (ECCAS); Southern Africa (Kariba dam); Western Africa (ECOWAS).

“Following the 6th AU-EU summit, the two continents must decide on their specific priorities for human and economic development, while working jointly to identify feasible energy pathways and the finance required to transition towards a just and equitable future.”

Kandeh Yumkella, Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Energy, Member of Parliament in Sierra Leone, former Chief Executive Officer of SEforALL and Chair of UNEnergy

- Coordination with international partners for the development of *Just Energy Transition Partnerships* JET-P(s). Financial and technical support has been launched with South Africa, with an overall commitment of \$8.5 billion to accelerate the decarbonisation of South Africa's economy. JET-P is in planning stage with Senegal.

- Strategic support for the realisation of Africa's full electricity potential: with an endorsement of support for the development of the *Electricity Continental Master Plan* and the *African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM)* to act as the central pillars to solve Africa's energy challenge. However, evidence remains to be seen on how the EU will support to the work of: 1) AUC on the implementation of the African Single Electricity Market; and 2) AUDA/NEPAD on the development of the Continental Power System Masterplan.
- Research, innovation & investment: No evidence of the 6 specific support studies were found (covering solar power, wind power, hydrogen, geothermal, battery storage). Progress concerning the establishment of a 'One Stop Shop' to enhance private sector investments in clean energy production and access to electricity in partner countries.
- On raw materials: EU and Namibia have signed a bilateral cooperation MoU on raw materials value chains at COP27 and further agreements are to follow (South Africa, DRC, Uganda, Senegal, Rwanda).

III. Investment in the Green transition including supporting the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) of African Countries under the Paris Agreement to enhance mitigation and adaptation Four Flagships were launched:

- The *Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction* Flagships: combines existing and new climate change adaptation programs worth over €1 billion. This initiative aims to enhance coordination and increase policy dialogue between the EU and AU on adaptation. The goal is to better identify risks, improve policy and governance, and effectively utilize resources to address them. The *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa* project was formally launched at COP27 by the EC and Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands.
- The *NaturAfrica* Flagship: with a budget of €310 million, the programme aims to promote biodiversity conservation in Africa by utilizing an innovative approach that prioritizes people. By focusing on landscapes that are crucial for both conservation and human development, the programme should contribute to creating jobs, enhance security, and improve livelihoods while also protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. Initial

"Huge milestones in the partnership between Africa and Europe on agri-food systems were achieved but how to take stock of what has worked in the past in order to learn, without a clear and inclusive evaluation process? Ambitious objectives were set out by Africa and Europe during and since the 6th AU-EU summit. Now commitments should be clarified and implementation should be assessed, notably to identify potential obstacles or on the contrary actions to fast-track cooperation and action."

Marion Guillou Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Agri-Food, President of the Board of Directors of Agreenium

national projects include: DRC (Virunga National Park); Kenya (northern Kenya); Chad (Zakouma National Park). Regional NaturAfrica programmes are in preparation (with little information currently available). Despite NaturAfrica receiving 'flagship' status from the EU, there is no reference to it in the context of COP on biodiversity in Montreal (December 2022).

- Team Europe Initiative on *Transboundary Water Management (TEI-TWM)*: with an objective to harness water's potential for domestic use, agriculture, fishing, energy, transportation, biodiversity and environment, the Flagship shall (eventually) cover 60% of the African territory and benefit 900 million people. Formally, the initiative shall be launched at the 36th African Union Summit in February 2023 with the upcoming UN Water Conference (March 2023) to be a key moment for public announcements on specific national/regional projects.
- The *Great Green Wall* Flagship is an AU led regional programme aimed at enabling sustainable land management and livelihoods in support of the GGW and to accelerate progress towards its objective. EU supports an African-led initiative on re-greening Africa programme as part of the GGW, which shall receive EUR 700m a year of EU funding.
- In November 2022, a new partnership was launched on sustainable raw materials value chains. A MoU on sustainable raw materials value chains and green hydrogen has been signed with Namibia at COP27. Currently in the planning stage, the implementation should start later in 2023 once concrete initiatives are agreed. Similar partnerships are also being explored with South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Uganda, Senegal and Rwanda.

In addition to these four flagships, there has been progress on the Africa-Europe partnership in relation to agriculture and food systems, and oceans and blue economy.

- The EU envisages allocating for food security and food systems programmes in partner countries EUR 8 billion until 2024 worldwide, including EUR 4.5 billion for Africa. This also includes an estimated EUR 2.2 billion in immediate humanitarian food and nutrition assistance for the most vulnerable countries and EUR 5 billion to invest in the medium to longer term in sustainable food systems.

"There is an urgent need to do more on getting initiatives moving so they can deliver, as well as to move away from a focus on poverty and emergency development assistance to develop a true agri-food partnership based on cooperation and investment in projects of scale."

Ibrahim Mayaki, Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Agri-Food, African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems

- Flagships focus on making African food systems more sustainable and more resilient to unfavourable trends, shocks and crises: *Resilient Food Systems*; and *Sustainable agri-food value chains*, aim to boost public and private investments in African agri-food value chains, with a focus on value addition, employment creation, sustainability and food and nutrition security. However, most immediate initiatives in 2022 have focused on the immediate humanitarian response to the acute food emergency in Africa, where the EU has committed over €2 billion. These funds have largely been raised by earmarking funds for emergency from existing project commitments.
- Launched at COP27, the *Mediterranean Blue Economy Partnership* between Northern Africa with the Union for the Mediterranean, EIB, KfW and EBRD (benefiting Morocco and Egypt), will support the transition to a sustainable blue economy in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood countries in the Mediterranean region. This partnership will be accompanied by a new financial vehicle (*Blue Economy Fund*) to accelerate investment in the blue economy for the Mediterranean. An Africa-EU Strategy Group on Ocean Governance,

to be led by the Africa-Europe Foundation, has been launched on the margins of COP27.

Comment:

- Launching a number of projects under the Flagship *Africa-Europe Green Energy Initiative* has seen the EU providing support to national and regional initiatives to improve energy access in Africa, in addition to providing strategic support for Africa's electrification plans, including development of the *Electricity Continental Master Plan* and the *African Single Electricity Market* (AfSEM).
- Reaffirming the commitment to important climate resilience initiatives, such as the *Great Green Wall*, and developing new projects, such as the *Transboundary Water Management Flagship* project, will contribute to Africa's climate objectives.
- EU's domestic policy on green transition, such as the European Green Deal, has important consequences for African countries, both positive and negative. There has been considerable disquiet about the forthcoming imposition of CBAM and if African countries could have a longer time-period to accommodate to these.
- EU's will to diversify its energy sources, specifically gas, through additional exports from Africa has also triggered tensions.
- At the same time, new investments, such as strong interest and now growing investment from Europe into green H2 production in Namibia, may open up new partnerships that supports green objectives of both continents.
- Africa's Green Deal is at an earlier stage in terms of its adoption and buy-in from member states. While an AUC Green Deal document exists, it is more a strategic review from the top than a bottom-up compilation of green policy and practice from national and regional levels.
- While there has been valuable humanitarian support from Europe for African countries facing acute food insecurity, there is a need to step up both the scale of support and, more important, the scale of ambition. The latter should focus on the transformation of African agriculture. This will mitigate the risk of future food crises in Africa and also allow the Continent to industrialise and urbanise.

- Agricultural transformation should focus on the significant increase in yields. Unless sustainable intensification is achieved, the main way to increase output is through increasing the area of crop land into environmentally sensitive areas.
- The EU has many other tools, other than ODA, which could be used to stimulate the resilience of agricultural production at lower cost to the European taxpayer. For instance, removing restrictive elements on Africa agricultural exports to the EU (including in the external dimension of the European Green Deal and EU's Farm to Fork strategy) could open European markets to African farmers and, particularly exporters of processed food.
- Digital entrepreneurship and skills
 - o The *African-European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB)*, *Digital for Development (D4D) Hub* and *D4D Access initiatives* aim to support African institutions in creating an enabling environment for an inclusive digital transformation through providing demand-driven technical assistance as well as promoting knowledge sharing and facilitating dialogues.
- Data and data governance. The Flagship *AU-EU Data Governance in sub-Saharan Africa Initiative*, in the inception stage, aims to improve Africa's data environment in terms of regulation, private and public data use, and quality of infrastructure surrounding data.
 - o In preparation, a new project in Kenya on human centred digitalization will be launched in early 2023 to promote digital connectivity, jobs, skills, digital business, and digital government.

IV. Investment in digital transformation that supports trusted connectivity through investments in infrastructures and an affordable and enhanced access to the digital and data economy while boosting digital entrepreneurship and skills

- Infrastructures. Aligned with the AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) and the international aspects of the EU's Digital Compass, key initiatives include:
 - o Flagship *EurAfrica Gateway cable*, currently in a study stage to identify the digital connectivity submarine cable infrastructures which should form an international submarine fibre cable system connecting Europe and Africa.
 - o The *Medusa Project*, a collaboration between the EU and EIB, at EUR 100 million, to provide underwater cable to connect Europe with North Africa;
 - o *Regional Fiber Optic Backbones* across Africa, in consideration stage, to include the completion of the Central African Republic fibre optic cable and the second phase of a fibre optic backbone in the Democratic Republic of Congo focusing on the Eastern DRC.
 - o *Satellite-Based Connectivity Across Africa*: providing satellite connectivity to unserved or underserved regions planned for 2025.
- Unlike the other areas covered by the Global Gateway, the EU's digital cooperation lacks a significant footprint in Africa. The EU is looking to scale up very quickly to demonstrate what a European model of digital cooperation has to offer.
- Implementation of digital infrastructure faces reservations not only in Africa but across many countries globally due to China's positioning as a digital infrastructure actor under the Digital Silk Road in Africa. As such, this continues to raise European concerns regarding China's dominance and its impact on digital governance and state surveillance across the globe.

Comment:

COMMITMENT 7 /

On the implementation of the Investment Package through public funds and innovative financing, and boosting regional and continental economic integration



“To implement the Package, we will leverage public funds to stimulate private investments by mobilising innovative financing instruments. We commit to promote accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive governance, in conformity with the relevant international instruments, to boost efforts towards improving investment and the business climate as well as towards unlocking and increasing responsible and sustainable African and European investments. We will use all means of implementation, including Official Development Assistance and financial tools such as infrastructure trusts and capital market instruments, to ensure support to African entrepreneurship in engaging in strong and vibrant economies. International and national financing development institutions, including the European Investment Bank, and the African Development Bank, and public/private partnerships will be mobilised to this effect. We will continue our work to leverage and facilitate transparent remittances, including the reduction of transaction costs, for the development of national and local economies. We will also boost regional and continental economic integration, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Area. The existing trade agreements between the EU and some African countries have contributed to the strengthening and deepening of trade and economic development between the two continents. We will work gradually towards the progressive and mutually beneficial integration of our respective continental markets.”

I. Leveraging public funds to stimulate private investment by mobilising innovative financing instruments

- Several instruments have been included in the current EU multi-annual financial framework (2021-2027) to mobilise necessary financing to deliver on the Global Gateway investment package commitments valued at EUR 300 billion, of which EUR 150 billion has been earmarked for Africa. The main instruments include:
 - o The Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument (NDCCI) - Global Europe, specifically, its financial arm, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), which will make available up to €135 billion for guaranteed investments in infrastructure projects between 2021 and 2027 globally,
 - o Up to €18 billion will be made available as grants from the EU budget,
 - o European financial and development finance institutions have planned investment volumes of up to €145 billion.

II. Promote accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive governance, in conformity with the relevant international instruments

- Key initiative is the ongoing EU ‘Collect more, spend better’ Agenda, which supports Public Finance Management and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation, including international tax standards implementation under G20/OECD initiatives, in over 30 African countries.
- Other initiatives include the continuing support to the African Governance Architecture with the AU mandate to promote good governance (EUR 25 million), and bilateral programmes such as the EUR 303 million Support Programme for Economic Governance (PAGE) in Tunisia; EUR 62 million for EU-Morocco HAKAMA II programme and EUR 50 million for Réforme de l’Administration Publique programme.

III. Use all means of implementation, including ODA and financial tools such as infrastructure trusts and capital market instruments, to ensure support to African entrepreneurship in engaging in strong and vibrant economies. International and national financing development institutions, including the European Investment Bank, and the African Development Bank, and public/private partnerships will be mobilised to this effect

- Based on the latest available figures, official development assistance (ODA) net flow to Africa remains high at \$70.8 billion for 2021, yet 3.6% lower than in 2020, an all-time high.
- European DFIs (under the EDFI Association) have sustained their level of investment with EUR 8.6 billion of new commitments in 2022;. However, only EUR 3.6 billion were allocated to Africa (5% decrease from the 2021 investment level), while EUR 3.3 billion focused on climate finance (45% increase from 2021 level). EIB has invested EUR 10.8 billion in 2022 outside the EU, xx of which in Africa.

IV. Continue our work to leverage and facilitate transparent remittances, including the reduction of transaction costs, for the development of national and local economies

- Remittances remain the largest share of the financial inflows to Africa at \$83.4 billion in 2020 (latest official figures), in comparison to net ODA at \$64.8 billion and \$39.7 billion in FDI during the same reference year.

V. Boost regional and continental economic integration, particularly through the AfCFTA. Work gradually towards the progressive and mutually beneficial integration of our respective continental markets

- Key initiative centres on the provision of technical assistance of EUR 630 million initiative to continue support to effective implementation of AfCFTA. A EUR 24.2 million action was set up in June 2022 with official launch planned for 2023 together with the signature of a MoU with the AfCFTA Secretariat.
- The AfCFTA Secretariat launched in July 2022 the AfCFTA e-tariff book and the EUR 6 million EU-WCO Rules of Origin programme.
- Other initiatives include the *Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbourhood: Inclusive economies in North Africa region; the Africa-EU Science,*

Technology and Innovation Initiative; and a EUR 750 million Programme for Infrastructure Investments agreed at the Commission-to-Commission meeting in November 2022.

- In preparation of a new *EU-AU High Level Dialogue on Economic Integration* a platform is being established to share EU experience relevant to the implementation of AfCFTA and promotion of the business links between the continents.
- Several studies were launched in 2022 to identify regional value chains. One of them, an AU-EU value chain diagnostic, has identified four regional and high yield value chains for further consideration: infant food, automotives, pharmaceuticals and apparel of cotton.

Comment:

- The more concrete steps to strengthen efforts around the implementation of AfCFTA are a positive development. The current very low level of intra-regional trade in Africa – 18%, compared to 68% in Europe is an important obstacle to economic development because few African domestic markets have a sufficient critical mass to promote economic diversification and foster industrial specialisation. With the 30 years of the implementation of the EU Single Market, the EU can share experience, both in tariffs harmonisation and reduction of non-trade barriers, with AfCFTA.
- There is a risk of undermining the AfCFTA through bilateral Economic Partnership Agreements and trade deals with individual African countries. If the EU is to throw its considerable weight behind the AfCFTA, this will involve designing a strategic set of development interventions of a scale which directly address the bottlenecks to success, and also aligning other parts of the EU and other European stakeholders – notably DG Trade and DG AGRI, the DFIs and European private sector – to provide significant and coherent support to AfCFTA.
- Transport corridors provide good opportunity to strengthen African market integration, and support its operationalisation in a specific location at a concrete time. The 10 Flagship infrastructure development projects under AU PIDA, as well as the 11 strategic corridors identified under the Global Gateway Investment Package are an important support to realising successful development corridors in Africa and enhancing the AfCFTA by unblocking infrastructure bottlenecks.

COMMITMENT 8 /

**On renewed and enhanced
cooperation for peace and
security**



“A renewed and enhanced cooperation for peace and security.

Facing growing common security challenges, we announce a renewed and enhanced peace and security cooperation. The two continents have a long-standing cooperation premised on the principle of African solutions to African problems, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and reflected in the AU-EU Memorandum of Understanding on Peace, Security and Governance (2018), designed to combat instability, radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, tackling the root causes of conflicts, and addressing the entire conflict cycle through the integrated approach. We express our commitment to foster our cooperation through support for adequate training, capacity building and equipment, to strengthen and scale up autonomous peace operations of African defence and security forces, including through EU missions and assistance measures, as well as support for law-enforcement capacity-building. Together, we will also continue to support African-led Peace Support Operations and the on-going discussions on the use of UN-assessed contributions for operations authorised by the UN Security Council, and the implementation of the AU human rights compliance framework in that context. We will intensify our cooperation on security, including on cybersecurity. We will join efforts to further promote the rule of law and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict and the Youth, Peace and Security Agendas, and underpin it with concrete actions to achieve durable peace. We will continue to respect and promote compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law.”

I. Addressing the entire conflict cycle

- Key crisis management initiatives include 11 civilian and military on the ground support missions; complementary *European Peace Facility (EPF)* Assistance Measures; support to African-led Peace Support Operations; programmes such as: *IV APSA support programme* (APF, EUR 40.5 million) and the *III AGA support programme* (APF, EUR 25 million). It will be central to take further the implementation of the AU-EU Memorandum of Understanding on Peace, Security and Governance (2018). Discussions around the MoU took place in November 2022. Over EUR 78 million for 12 crisis response actions were spent in 2022, including for instance EUR 10 million to support the *Académie Internationale de Lutte contre le Terrorisme's* regional counterterrorism response. On maritime security, enhanced implementation of the *Coordinated Maritime Presences* concept in the Gulf of Guinea and the North Western Indian Ocean is planned.

II. Maintaining peace, security and stability, training, capacity building and equipment

- Strengthened autonomous peace operations of African defence and security forces, and support for law-enforcement capacity building are central. Key initiatives include EUR 40.5 million under the *IV APSA support programme* (APF – 2020-23); EUR 25 million under the *III AGA support programme* (APF – 2021-24); EUR 600 million for the *EPF's Assistance Measure General Programme for support to the AU* (2022-24). Bilateral programmes include for instance EUR 109 million *EU-Mozambique bilateral EPF Assistance Measures*; and EUR 27,3 million for *EU-Niger bilateral EPF Assistance Measures*. The following EU civilian and military missions are currently operational: *EUTM-S - Training Mission in Somalia*; *EUTM RCA - Training Mission in Central African Republic*; *EUTM Mozambique - Training Mission in Mozambique*; *EU RACC Sahel*; *EU Naval Force Operation ATALANTA*; *EUCAP Somalia - Capacity Building Mission*

in Somalia; EUCAP Sahel Niger; EUCAP Sahel Mali; EUBAM Border Assistance Mission in Libya; EUAM RCA Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic; IRINI (EUNAVFOR MED) Mission to Monitor Libya's UN arms embargo; EUTM Mali - Training Mission in Mali.

III. Supporting African-led operations and human rights compliance

- Key initiatives include EUR 10 million *AU Human Rights Compliance Framework operationalisation*; and the *Tripartite AU-EU-UN compliance and Accountability Framework* (AUCF) project launched in November 2022.

IV. Cooperating on security and cybersecurity

- The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the European Union (EU) Political and Security Committee (EUPSC) convened in June 2022 in the new geopolitical context caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Topics discussed included notably the situation in Libya, Somalia, the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, and the Great Lakes, ongoing AU Peace Support Operations and ways to enhance their sustainability. Also, ways to increase convergence in multilateral fora and address governance challenges by working on preventive diplomacy were discussed.
- Further initiatives include the “CyberSouth” project in North African region, or the Tunisia programme on border management foreseen for 2023.

V. Promoting the rule of law

- Key elements include actions under the NDICI-GE thematic programme on peace, stability & conflict prevention; support to the development of African election observation capabilities; electoral observation missions; the EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue; the AU Strategic Plan on Protection of children affected by armed conflict (CAAC); the EU Youth Action Plan. The Africa Governance Architecture (AGA) as the platform for dialogue between the various stakeholders who are mandated to promote good governance and strengthen democracy in Africa is supported by the EU through a contribution of EUR 25 million.

- On governance: the EU has launched new Actions supporting the AU Transitional Justice as well as its Election Observation and Assistance work. Building on long-standing cooperation premised on African solutions to African problems, a Senior Officials Meeting under the Memorandum on Peace, Security and Governance was held in the margins of the Commission-to-Commission Meeting in November 2022.

VI. Complying with human rights and international humanitarian law

- Cooperation centres around the follow-up of the annual Human Rights Dialogue; actions under NDICI-GE's Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy; and EUR 10 million for the Human rights and international humanitarian law compliance, applicable to African-led and mandated peace and security operations.

Comment:

- Practical cooperation in crisis management and peace support in Africa has continued and indeed increased in some areas, notably with new EU support for Mozambique's fight against terrorism. The EU continues to provide police and military training in Mali, Niger, the Central African Republic and Somalia, and to cooperate in anti-piracy patrols in the North-West Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea. However, coup-born governments in Mali and Burkina Faso expelled French forces that had been helping to combat jihadist armed groups in the Sahel. A smaller French-led force remains in Niger.
- Almost all the funds disbursed from the EU's new European Peace Facility, which replaced the previous African Peace Facility, have gone to buying weapons for Ukraine. The EPF has allocated EUR 3.6 billion for Kyiv out of the total EUR 5.3 billion earmarked in the 2021-2027 Multilateral Financial Framework. By comparison, it allocated 600mIn euros to the AU for peace support operations over three years 2022-2024.
- Some African analysts have expressed concern that the EPF regulation allows for money to be allocated directly to individual states or coalitions, including for the purchase of lethal weapons, rather than working systematically through the AU, which could weaken the AU's authority and fundraising.

COMMITMENT 9 /

On an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility



“An enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility

We will continue addressing all aspects of migration and mobility, in line with national competences, in an integrated, comprehensive and balanced manner. We will work in a spirit of joint responsibility and commitment, in full respect of international law and fundamental human rights. Through joint action and capacity-building, including with dedicated African migration institutions, we will aim at preventing irregular migration, enhancing cooperation against smuggling and trafficking in human beings, supporting strengthened border management and achieving effective improvements on return, readmission and reintegration, including promoting voluntary return and facilitating sustainable reintegration of returned persons, as well as enhancing migration dialogues between the two Continents and delivering on their key priorities. We will deepen our cooperation in finding durable solutions for those asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in need of international protection and commit to revitalise the work of the joint AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force. We will further strengthen asylum systems with a view to providing adequate reception and protection for those entitled, as well as work on their integration. We will keep addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, and enhance cooperation on tackling all issues related to migration. Respecting national needs, competencies and legal frameworks, pathways for legal migration opportunities will be further developed between both continents and within Africa. We commit to addressing the challenges posed by the brain drain, and investing in youth and women to support their empowerment, skills, education and employment prospects, notably through increased support for technical and vocational education and training.”

I. Promoting an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility

- Notable efforts have been made to actively develop of a shared migration policy through the *Khartoum and Rabat Processes* systematic dialogues and cooperation mechanisms. Lacking however is a sense of introspection from the European Union regarding imbalances in power and leverage leading to a reduction in agency of African countries involved in negotiating and developing such shared migration policies.

II. Working to prevent irregular migration, enhance cooperation against smuggling and trafficking in human beings, support strengthened border management and achieve effective improvements on return, readmission and reintegration, including promoting voluntary return and facilitating sustainable reintegration of returned persons, and enhance migration dialogues between the two continents

- In addition to the *Khartoum and Rabat Processes*, two significant joint new Flagships to combat illegal migration routes, have been launched, focused on the Atlantic/ Western Mediterranean and the Central Mediterranean. The main funding mechanism continues to be the EU's Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa), intended to finance projects that would “address the root causes of migration”, fight against irregular migration and promote the return and reintegration of migrant. Since its launch six years ago, the EUTF has funded over 250 projects with a total value of EUR 5 billion.

III. Deepening cooperation in finding durable solutions for asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable migrants in need of international protection and commit to revitalise the work of the joint AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force

- The *Tripartite Task Force* has formally recommenced. The members have reconvened on 1 November 2022. This manifests the commitment made to increase engagement and alignment across multilateral forums and enhances EU-AU cooperation on helping Libyan refugees together with the UN.
- The EUTF for Africa also remains the main source of funding for financial support to refugees and actors involved in ensuring refugee safety.

IV. Addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement and enhance cooperation on tackling all issues related to migration

- The expansion of the *Khartoum Process* initiative demonstrates that there has been consensus achieved across the EU and AU that tackling and stabilizing migration flows is dependent on improving living conditions and security in migrant origin countries. *The Khartoum Process* and the EUTF provide the dialogue, research and funding mechanisms to implement the Summit commitments.

V. Further developing pathways for legal migration opportunities between both continents and within Africa within the available legal frameworks and respecting national needs

- In April 2022, the EU has adopted the *Skills and Talent package*, which aims to address labour market needs linked to current demographic trends and skill shortages in the EU. The package includes legal, operational and policy initiatives, such as the *New Talent Partnerships*, mobility schemes for work or training at all skill levels, anchored in broader cooperation on migration management. New Talent Partnerships are starting with Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt, with a plan to accelerate similar 'tailored' partnerships in 2023. Under *its Legal Pathways Forum* in November 2022, the EU Member States have pledged 15,847 places for resettlement in 2023 (about 50% of the level pledged for 2022).

VI. Addressing challenges posed by the brain drain, and invest in youth and women, notably through increased support for technical and vocational education and training

- The *Regional Flagship Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa* launched during the 6th EU-AU summit of 2022 aimed to improve access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) throughout the continent. The European Commission has provided funding for pilot projects in seven countries to develop TVET curricula and provide training for teachers and instructors.
- The African Union has established the *African Skills Initiative*, which seeks to develop skills and create linkages between employers and job seekers, as well as providing professional development for African youth. These initiatives aim to combat the risk of brain drain.

Comment:

- The most significant progress has been with the re-launch of the joint AU-EU-UN *Tripartite Task Force* to addressing the irregular migration.
- The Flagship *Youth Mobility for Africa* Programme with a combined budget of EUR 970m, which includes the ERASMUS+ programme, promoting student exchanges and targeted scholarships and university collaboration may provide an avenue to address the brain drain and open up new opportunities for students.
- Yet, at the same time the EU is progressing with new programmes, such as the *New Talent Partnerships*, which aim to attract skilled talent from Africa to Europe.
- The absence of readmissions on the African side is to be noted.

COMMITMENT 10 /

On promoting effective multilateralism



“A commitment to multilateralism.

We will work together to promote effective multilateralism within the rules-based international order, with the UN at its core. We pledge to work towards more converging positions in multilateral fora to reduce global inequalities, strengthen solidarity, promote international cooperation, fight and mitigate climate change and improve delivery on ‘global public goods’ in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063. We commit to providing political support to achieve the necessary reform of the WTO and to improve its functioning with a view to strengthening the multilateral trading system. Both sides commit to contribute to the UN system reform efforts, including of the UN Security Council. We also recommit to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the COPs. We recognise that Africa’s energy transition is vital for its industrialisation and to bridge the energy gap. We will support Africa in its transition to foster just and sustainable pathways towards climate neutrality. We recognise the importance of making use of available natural resources within that energy transition process. We support Africa’s hosting of COP 27 in Egypt in 2022, as well as an ambitious global biodiversity framework. We commit to working together to develop a new ambitious WHO international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.”

I. Promoting effective multilateralism, within the rules-based international order, with the UN at its core

- With the UN at its core, a meeting of the EU and African Group Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York took place in April 2022; a sustainable and long-term dialogue between the EU and African Group Permanent Representatives in Geneva was launched in May 2022; and EU HRVP met with African Group Permanent Representatives to the UN-NY in July 2022.

II. Work towards more converging positions in multilateral fora to reduce global inequalities, strengthen solidarity, promote international cooperation, fight and mitigate climate change and improve delivery on ‘global public goods’ in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063

- Examples of African and European collaboration in the multilateral system include:
 - UNFCCC: the EU and Africa supported Egypt as host of COP 27 and welcomed the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan. Both continents are committed to the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the COPs.
 - However, while the European Union (EU) is among the main supporters of African climate policies, the AU calls upon the EU and international donors to scale up climate finance to help Africa achieve the ambitions laid down in its climate strategy.
 - UNCBD: the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States called for an ambitious global agreement on biodiversity.
 - UN Water Conference: Preparation of the conference is ongoing, and announcements are to be expected, including on the TEI-TWM.
 - WTO role in response to the climate and biodiversity crisis: Launch of a climate coalition of trade ministers.
 - WTO role in response to food insecurity – Ministerial declarations (Emergency response to Food Insecurity; UN WFP Food Purchases Exemptions from Export Prohibitions and Restrictions)
 - WTO response on harmful fisheries subsidies

III. Supporting the reform of the WTO to strengthen the multilateral trading system, achieve the necessary reform of the WTO and to improve its functioning with a view to strengthening the multilateral trading system

- The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) in June 2022 was key for the WTO Reform Process, including agreements around the WTO response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics; on Food Insecurity; Harmful fisheries subsidies; and the Imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions.

IV. Working together to develop WHO international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response as part of its commitment to multilateralism

- The EU continues to engage with African countries in Geneva to develop a WHO international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. A report will be submitted to the World Health Assembly later in 2023. The final decision will be made in the World Health Assembly in 2024. While some progress is under way in developing the "agreement", the EU and the AU are not working together for a common positioning as part of the negotiations.

Comment:

- Having reached an agreement in the context of the WTO reform at the 12th Ministerial Conference is noteworthy. There is a window of opportunity to agree a joint position or proposal for the reformed WTO ahead of the 13th Ministerial Conference planned for December 2023. Yet, so far there is little evidence of any consultation process between the AU and EU in that regards.
- Thus far, some progress linked to the reform of the trading system with the WTO as well as a joint response at WTO to the food security crisis and overall support to the COP process can be seen as positive examples of strengthen collaboration within the global governance framework.
- While the USA and China have already endorsed the AU's membership in the G20, as well as some EU Member States, the EU as such has yet to formally present its position.

'VIEWS FROM THE GROUND'



Anchored by the 6th AU-EU Summit, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) has engaged extensively with diverse stakeholders of the Partnership, from its citizen platforms to its multistakeholder Strategy Groups involving leaders from institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector and policymaking. This included AEF's far-reaching #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation which combined an outreach social media campaign with in-country citizen focus groups and stakeholder surveys. This has been complemented by the analysis of large-scale data sets resulting from strategic partners such as Afrobarometer and leading African and European knowledge centres. Four key findings are relevant to the implementation of commitments of the AU-EU Partnership:

- **Growing misperceptions despite renewed political commitments to the Africa-Europe Partnership.**

Despite the enhanced political emphasis of a renewed partnership of equals created around the 6th AU-EU Summit and underpinned with new financial and political commitments at the Summit, there is evidence of growing misperceptions among and between the societies of both continents. This has been aggravated by the shifting geopolitical context, with an overall deterioration of relations stemming from the inequitable responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, the failure to deliver on climate finance, misperceptions in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the global economic and financial repercussions of the conflict. From the optimism in the immediate lead-up to the 6th Summit, media monitoring has exposed a clear change in narratives and tone. Civil society organisations increasingly convey concerns around an erosion of trust in the partnership due to a lack of accessible information around the follow-up of commitments and delivery. "Despite the 6th AU-EU summit commitments, there is only very limited visibility on the current flagship initiatives. We urgently need to make sure that the ones with the greatest potential are supported and put into practice", was one of the statements captured at the most recent cycle of sectoral AEF Strategy Group. A series of focus groups involving African and European young leaders exposed how the young generations across the neighbouring continents are affected by the cumulation of crises and changing geopolitical realities, demonstrating that decisive joint action on global challenges is needed more than ever: the ripple effects of the pandemic, impact of climate change and implications of the war in Ukraine were all underlined as major threats to global security.

- **Growing appetite for exchange and engagement across continents - in particular among and between young people.**

Despite misconceptions, there remains a strong appetite for exchange among the citizens of both continents, clearly recognising the added value of cooperation and that a strong Africa-Europe Partnership can create a stable global middle-ground as the world becomes increasingly multipolar: "This last year has proven being a perfect storm of crises leading to an age of disorder for agri-food systems. This complex storm is reducing food security and calling for enhanced Africa-Europe cooperation and action", was highlighted by experts of the AEF Agri-Food Strategy Group. Results of the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation also demonstrated a clear understanding of what Africa-Europe cooperation can offer, with the extent to which a strengthened Africa-Europe Partnership can benefit our respective societies rated on average 4.1 out of 5 stars by youth across Africa and Europe. 76% consider economic inclusion and decent job creation for young people is the area where a strengthened partnership is considered most beneficial (#ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation). In a generation benefiting from unprecedented interconnectedness, diverse forms of exchange and encounter between Africa and Europe present new opportunities, with intercultural exchange and mobility opportunities (38%) and recognition of cultural diversity and prevention of extremist narratives (32%) also highlighted by African and European youth as key priorities for both continents.

- **The added value of a multi-stakeholder approach to the Africa-Europe Partnership, reinforcing a bottom-up approach.**

Consultations carried out in relation to the AU-EU Summit have consistently highlighted that the complexity of today's challenges cannot be solved by governments alone, and that dialogue and interaction need to develop beyond the confines of formal institutional structures, to include a multitude of stakeholders, from civil society networks, to business, youth, local governments and grassroots organisations. 61% of citizens consulted through the #ReimagineAfricaEurope campaign considered 'Enlarging the Africa-Europe dialogue to diverse stakeholders who have the capacity for action, such as creating space for young people, the private sector and city leaders' was the top priority to reset the partnership. AEF's Talking Africa-Europe debates and localised Partnership Initiatives across the African continent have underlined the important role local actors and cities can play, noting that "There has to be a

change of mind in the way we work in the international world. We have got to create agility in the way we do business and create an understanding that people need cities to work beyond the rules and processes of the multilateral world". AEF dialogue platforms including the Women Leaders Network, have pointed out the growing disconnect between citizens and political institutions, processes and agendas, as well as the need for enhanced African ownership and voice in shaping initiatives such as Bridgetown and the broader reform of global governance and international financial systems.

- **Protecting and reforming the multilateral space as the only way to address interconnected crises.**

The citizen consultations have also highlighted that despite, or indeed because of the shift in global geopolitics, a strong Africa-Europe partnership remains the most effective way to resolve the interconnected crises of inflation, energy access, food insecurity and climate change impacting on societies across the neighbouring continents. AEF dialogue platforms and Strategy Groups have consistently exposed the need to first address larger issues around governance structures, processes, and representation, before being able to effectively tackle sectoral challenges, whether for food systems, energy or health. 57% of participants surveyed in the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation consider 'New delivery and monitoring mechanisms that translate political rhetoric into action more efficiently between key political meetings such as Summits' are what is most needed to re-set the Africa-Europe partnership.

"We should be working towards better aligned and designed laws and implementation on shared areas, as well as greater understanding on the diversity of decision making and how to improve multilateral collaboration."

Young European participant in
#ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

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In addition to outputs from:

- #ReimagineAfricaEurope global consultation: aggregation of stakeholder surveys carried out during the inception phase of AEF with: AEF Strategy Group members, networks and partners; AEF's co-founding organisations' youth networks (the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's Now Generation Network NGN, Friends of Europe's European Young Leaders EYL40, and the ONE Campaign's Africa-Europe Task Force of Champions and Youth Ambassadors); youth in all African and European countries through the use of the crowdsourcing platform Prolific, specifically designed for data collection for academic research. Carried out in three cycles: July and November 2021, July 2022, in addition to focus groups via the citizen platform Debating Africa.
- Media mapping (mainstream and social media) carried out together with 35 Nord between November 2021 and May 2022, and the aggregation of data and analysis from leading African and European knowledge centres.
- Talking Africa-Europe broadcast series carried out during the inception phase, including 1) High-Level Debate on Climate and Energy (20 January 2022); High-Level Debate on Migration and Mobility (27 January 2022); High-Level Debate on Addressing the Vaccine Challenge (2 February 2022).
- In depth focus group projects led by citizen-engagement platform Debating Africa projects, including in partnership with Debating Europe. Specifically outcomes of studies: 'Securing Our Future: 100 African and European Voices on Climate Change, Conflict and Security' and 'Youth to the Rescue: What Kind of Democracy Do Young People in Africa, Asia and Europe Want?'
- Roundtable discussions, including: "The Place for Civil Society within the Africa-Europe Partnership" Roundtable co-organised by AEF and Trust Africa, 12 May 2022 in Addis Ababa; "Why Europe and Africa need one another in times of crisis" (A Joint High-Level Event by the EU Delegation to the AU, the European Council for Foreign Relations and the Institute for Security Studies, 27 June 2022 in Addis Ababa; "Virtual Roundtable for the Future of Europe Africa Relations" by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 13 October 2022; "African and European views of the new global order" by European Council on Foreign Relations 29-30 September 2022.
- Strategic orientations and outputs produced by the AEF High-Level Group of Personalities, in particular the HLG meeting of June 2022, as well as the AEF Women Leaders Network (including the in-person meetings on the occasion of the SE4All forum in Kigali, UNGA77 in New York and COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh).
- Sectoral in-depth analysis by AEF Strategy Groups with recommendations issued for each the partnership's priority sectors of cooperation; including convenings of a first Africa-Europe working group on Climate Adaptation run throughout 2022, as well as Strategy Group meetings focused on the an assessment of the follow-up to the AU-EU Summit (Agriculture and Food Systems Strategy Group of 5 October 2022, the Energy Access/Transitions Strategy Group of 6 October 2022 and the Health Strategy Group of 12 October 2022).

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