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# The Africa-EU Partnership

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**The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership is the formal channel through which the European Union and the African continent work together. The Partnership is based on shared values and aims at promoting common interests and achieving shared strategic objectives. It strives to bring Africa and Europe closer together through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development, with both continents living side by side in peace, security, democracy, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity.**

## The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES)

Launched at the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon in 2007, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) provides the overarching long-term framework for Africa-EU relations. It is implemented through jointly identified priorities, which are of common interest to both the EU and Africa, and significantly impact on the daily lives of citizens on both continents.

The JAES complements other existing frameworks of cooperation with Africa and underpins all other existing channels of cooperation at the local, national and regional level. The JAES provides an added value to these frameworks by:

- Situating the Partnership in a global context by jointly addressing global challenges such as climate change, the protection of the environment, or peace and security;
- Expanding Africa-EU cooperation into promising new areas of common interest such as governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, energy, climate change, migration, mobility and employment, or science & innovation, information & communication technologies and space applications;
- Working towards a people-centred partnership by ensuring the effective participation of civil society and the private sector and delivering direct benefits for African and European citizens.

The implementation of the JAES is based on dedicated Roadmaps. Adopted at the 4th EU-Africa Summit in Brussels (2014) the current Roadmap 2014-2017 focuses on 5 priority areas:

- Peace and security;
- Democracy, good governance and human rights;
- Human development;
- Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration;
- Global and emerging issues.



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## Main actors

Political and policy dialogue is driven by the African Union and European Union institutions as well as by African states and EU Member States. This process includes:

- A Leaders' Summit every 3 years;
- African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) Commission-to-Commission meetings (annual);
- Ad-hoc ministerial meetings;
- Meetings of the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee;
- Joint Annual Fora; and
- Regular contacts at the level of services and experts.

The Partnership also extends beyond political institutions to involve non-state actors such as civil society organisations, youth organisations, the private sector and economic and social actors.

## Financing the Partnership

In addition to specific projects financed by EU and African Member States and their development institutions, the EU provides dedicated support for the implementation of the JAES through the following two main channels:

■ **The Pan-African Programme** (EUR 845 million for 2014-2020) supports projects with a trans-regional, continental or global added-value along the five areas of cooperation of the 2014-2017 JAES Roadmap. Some sample projects include:

- “Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme”: to promote mobility in higher education in Africa and to increase access to quality education that will encourage and enable African students to undertake postgraduate studies.
- “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) & Africa initiative”: to improve the capacity of African policy-makers and planners to promote sustainable management of natural resources through the use of Earth Observation data.
- “Strengthening the African Human Rights System”: to help give people a stronger voice and tackle discrimination and human rights violations, with a particular focus on women and girls.
- “Engaging Civil Society in Pan-African Issues”: to support an enhanced role of civil society organisations in the Partnership, in the dialogue with African institutions and in the implementation of initiatives aiming for security, governance, human rights and gender equality.

■ **The African Peace Facility** (EUR 900 million for 2014-2016) provides financial support to African-led Peace Support Operations, to the operationalisation of the African Peace and security architecture (APSA) and to initiatives under the Early Response Mechanism (ERM). This constitutes an important source of funding to support the African Union's and African Regional Economic Communities' efforts in the area of peace and security.

## Key facts

- Africa is the main recipient of collective EU (EU and its 28 Member States) Official Development Assistance (ODA) with around EUR 20 billion per year;
- The EU is Africa's biggest trading partner; accounting for 31% of African imports and 36% of exports in 2014. EU-Africa trade increased by over 33% in 2007-2014;
- The EU is Africa's biggest investor: in 2014, European companies invested EUR 13.1 billion in African economies (32.3% of global Foreign Direct Investment flows to Africa). Total EU Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa amounted to EUR 262 billion in 2014, accounting for 49.1% of overall FDI in Africa.