

# **PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME 2014-2017**

## **Consultation paper for Programming**

**16.01.2014**

# **Section 1: Policy context - the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership**

## **From Cairo to Brussels: 15 years of dialogue**

Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a community of shared values: the respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of our respective Unions.

The first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo in 2000 allowed for the institutionalisation of the Africa-EU dialogue. In the following years, considerable change took place on both continents. Democratisation and reform processes were launched and deepened in both Africa and Europe. Efforts continued on both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents accelerated – on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union (AU) encompassing the African Peace and Security Architecture, and a socioeconomic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); on the other hand, the European Union (EU) nearly doubled in size and was about to adopt the Lisbon Treaty. The world also changed: new international and global challenges emerged, globalisation accelerated and the world became increasingly interdependent.

In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU rapidly developed and diversified. The launch of the Joint Africa-EU strategy (JAES) at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007 marked a turning-point in the relations between our continents in terms of objectives and scope, going far beyond the usual development cooperation purpose. This new partnership was implemented through the first action plan 2008-2010.

The third summit held in Tripoli in November 2010 reaffirmed our ambitions and commitments for the coming years; the strategy was confirmed as the right framework for conducting Africa-EU relations, with an emphasis on the fact that while aid is necessary, it is not enough to guarantee development, and other levers must be activated, such the private sector involvement, energy, trade, migration and infrastructure. A second action plan 2011-2013 was adopted and implemented.

The translation of such an ambitious strategy into practice has however proved challenging. Some of the underlying assumptions have not materialized, some difficulties were underestimated, and the working arrangements in place have not proved as effective as foreseen to materialise the priorities of the Strategy's Action Plans. One of the reasons raised in many quarters, both European and African, was the lack of a dedicated instrument to support the implementation of the Joint Strategy; the new Pan-African Programme will contribute to improve the situation in this regard.

Africa and the EU are now in the run-up to the fourth Summit to be held in Brussels on 2-3 April 2014. Six years after the Lisbon Summit, it is clear that relations between Africa and the EU have grown both within and outside the jointly agreed framework. This is to be welcomed. Still, both parties acknowledge that the Joint Strategy remains the strategic framework for our co-operation.

## **Shared principles for a shared vision**

The purpose of the Joint Strategy is to take the Africa-EU relationship to a new, strategic level with a strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels. The partnership is based on a Euro-African consensus on values, common interests and common strategic objectives. It is guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the

interdependence between Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, and respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development.

The partnership is furthermore governed by strengthened political dialogue, co-management and co-responsibility in EU-Africa bilateral cooperation and towards global issues, burden-sharing and mutual accountability, solidarity and mutual confidence, equality and justice, common and human security, respect for international law and agreements, gender equality and non-discrimination and, not least, a long-term approach.

### **Strategic objectives**

The four main objectives of the Joint Strategy are:

1. **To reinforce and elevate the Africa-EU political partnership to address issues of common concern.** This includes strengthening of institutional ties and addressing common challenges, in particular peace and security, migration and development, and a clean environment. To this end, both sides will treat Africa as one and upgrade the Africa-EU political dialogue to enable a strong and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership, with the AU and the EU at its centre.
2. **To strengthen and promote peace, security, democratic governance and human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, sustainable economic development,** including industrialisation, and regional and continental integration in Africa.
3. **To jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism, with strong, representative and legitimate institutions,** and the reform of the United Nations (UN) system and of other key international institutions, and to address global challenges and common concerns such as human rights, including children's rights and gender equality, fair trade, migration, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, climate change, energy security and sustainability, terrorism, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and knowledge-based society issues such as ICT, science, technology and innovation.
4. **To facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people centred partnership, Africa and the EU will be empowering non-state actors** and create conditions to enable them to play an active role in development, democracy building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Both sides will also promote holistic approaches to development processes, and make the Joint Strategy a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors in the EU, Africa and beyond. On-going dialogue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered by the Joint Strategy will be a key component to ensure its implementation.

## **Section 2: Specificities of the Pan-African Programme**

### **Background**

The Pan-African Programme will be one of the instruments in support of the Strategy. It is derived directly from the conclusions of the Lisbon and Tripoli Summits, where Africa and the EU took the commitment at the highest political level to implement the JAES through an ambitious and far-reaching operational agenda. Both sides decided to expand their

cooperation, including in promising new areas not covered by their traditional development cooperation, and to jointly address global challenges.

Since 2009, the European and the Pan-African Parliaments have called in several Resolutions for the creation of a dedicated financial instrument to support the Joint Strategy. The creation of the Pan-African Programme in the DCI (MFF 2014-2020) provides the EU with the necessary financial means for the implementation of the agreed political priorities, covering the range of issues addressed under the Africa-EU Partnership.

A major innovation from the Pan-African Programme comes from the fact that it addresses Africa as a whole and allows the EU for linking up its cooperation with North and South Africa with sub-Saharan Africa. The programme will be the visible and concrete tool for the EU to follow through on its commitment to "Treat Africa as One". It will underpin our strategic partnership with an operational engine, which will in return strengthen our political and policy dialogue. It will demonstrate that the EU remains Africa's privileged partner, and will distinguish the EU from other established or new interlocutors of Africa.

It is important to underline that the Pan-African Programme will not replace but complement other actions within the Africa-EU Partnership that are better addressed at another geographic (11<sup>th</sup> EDF national, regional and intra-ACP programmes, ENI) or thematic level (thematic instruments and external dimension of other budget lines, e.g. Horizon 2020 or Home Affairs).

## **Features**

The Pan-African Programme has the following specific features:

- i. Pan African added value: The programme shall focus on activities of a trans-regional, continental or global nature in and with Africa (Northern Africa and South Africa included), and support joint Africa-EU initiatives in the global arena. It will be used where a Pan-African approach provides an added-value.
- ii. Shared African and EU interests, mutually beneficial cooperation: initiatives financed through the Pan-African Programme will reflect the key objectives, priorities and principles of the Partnership, including shared interest and mutually beneficial cooperation. They should also translate future political orientations. All activities will be conceived so as to achieve the highest degree of coherence between the policies and strategies and the development objectives of both the EU and Africa.
- iii. Complementarity: initiatives under the Pan-African Programme shall complement and promote synergies with other instruments (the 11th EDF and geographic and thematic instruments funded on the EU budget). In particular synergies and mutually reinforcing actions should be envisaged with the ENI and South Africa to address questions of shared interest between countries at regional and sub-regional level. The Pan-African Programme will be used in close coordination with the other funding sources, in particular from the EU, from Member States and from the African Union.

## **Policy areas**

All policy areas and sectors proposed fall under the scope of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the overall EU-Africa cooperation and are consistent with the European Agenda for Change; and the EU's overall objectives for external action of promoting democracy, peace, solidarity, stability, prosperity and poverty reduction and helping safeguard global public goods.

The programme shall in particular provide support in the following **areas** of the partnership:

- Peace and security,
- Democratic governance and human rights,
- Trade, regional integration and infrastructure (including raw materials),
- MDGs and post 2015 internationally agreed new development targets,
- Energy,
- Climate change and environment,
- Migration, mobility and employment,
- Science, information society and space,
- Cross-cutting issues.

## **Section 3: Overall strategy line and main priority areas**

### ***3.1. Strategy line***

The Joint Strategy adopted in Lisbon in 2007 remains the overall policy framework of the Africa-EU Partnership. The priorities of the Pan-African Programme are therefore in line with the priorities of the Joint Strategy and are based on the outcomes of the continuous political and policy dialogue and operational cooperation undertaken since the Lisbon Summit. The Programme will (i) be focused on initiatives providing a clear added value at trans-regional, continental or global levels; and (ii) be adapted to the evolving context of the Africa-EU relations.

In that regard, the African continent has undergone profound changes over the past years fostered by sustained economic and demographic growth. Africa has quickly recovered from the economic and financial crises and its annual average growth is impressive. There are tremendous opportunities and challenges facing the African continent in the coming years, including framing urbanisation, sharing equitably economic growth, ensuring sustainable development in full respect of the environment or establishing democratic and accountable political institutions. The AU is reflecting on these issues in the framework of the 'Agenda 2063' strategy.

The EU, with the current socio-economic developments, is also in a different place. Today, it appears increasingly clear that Africa's dynamic economies and populations need to be factored in the possible solutions for Europe's problems.

Due to its historical, cultural and geographic vicinity, the EU is the first region to be impacted by any development affecting Africa. Achieving greater security, stability, prosperity and accountability in Africa also benefits Europe by reducing common threats such as piracy, terrorism and trafficking. Improved governance, rule of law and respect for human rights in Africa are obviously key prerequisites to progress towards these objectives. Migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and Europe should be better managed, to the benefit of people from both continents.

Sustainable and inclusive growth plays a central role in long-term poverty eradication and in job creation. It is a top priority for both continents. Such growth should serve the sustainable development agenda and the outcomes of Rio+20, and anticipate the outcomes of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The EU has its own interest in expanding trade and economic relations with Africa to tap into its huge potential. The EU needs to better capitalise on the fact that it is Africa's biggest development and humanitarian aid donor and its most important trade and investment partner. It must also acknowledge the increasing presence of other partners such as China, Turkey, Brazil or India.

Both continents have an interest in promoting an enabling environment for private sector and investment. The EU has to position itself in strategic sectors such as agriculture, ICTs and satellite technologies or access to raw materials. Joint initiatives and investment strategies with pan-African and EU private and public financial partners should be sought with a particular focus on initiatives that favor the development of a knowledge-based society, productive employment creation and technology transfers and innovation.

One of the specific added-values of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy lies in its comprehensive nature and the potential to address jointly global issues of common concern. This potential remains under-exploited by both sides. Africa and the EU will need to improve consultations and try to align positions in international fora (UN, WTO, G8/G20) on global issues such as peace and security, climate change and environment, human rights, trade, migration and development, gender, agriculture and food security, the Arms Trade Treaty and counter-narcotics trafficking, the Rio + 20 agenda and post-2015 MDGs agenda.

In that context, the EU suggests for the activities of the Africa-EU Partnership to aim at achieving three key **goals**:

- *Peace, Democracy and Human Rights: Ensure peace and security, transparent, democratic and accountable governance and the respect of Human Rights and the rule of law*
- *Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: Stimulate growth that will reduce poverty, create jobs, and facilitate the entrepreneurial potential of the people in a sustainable manner.*
- *Tackling Global Issues: Enhance cooperation and coordinate political responses in the framework of multilateral diplomacy*

To achieve these three key goals, six main priority areas for the Pan-African Programme have been identified.

### **3.2. Main priority areas**

#### **a) Peace, Security, Democratic Governance and Human Rights**

Today's global environment has opened up new opportunities to enhance international peace and security, but it has also produced new security challenges. In a world of increasing interdependence and close links between the internal and external aspects of security, these challenges can only be addressed through concerted international action, including in the UN context. Challenges relating to border disputes or transnational organised crime, including human, drugs and wildlife trafficking, cross border management of natural resources including water, international terror networks and mercenary activities, all of which are major factors in triggering and spreading conflicts and in undermining state structures, are of particular concern for both Africa and the EU and need to be addressed jointly.

Peace and security cannot be achieved without democratic governance. Without them poverty cannot be eradicated and growth cannot be inclusive and sustainable. Good governance includes the respect of the rule of law, the existence of legitimate and accountable institutions, and the full respect and protection of all citizens' human rights. In this respect, democracy, good governance and human rights that lay the foundation for peaceful co-existence are shared values upon which Africa-EU relations are based.

The promotion of democratic governance and human rights therefore constitutes a central objective of the Africa-EU partnership. The AU and EU will work together to support democratic elections in accordance with international and regional standards through election assistance and electoral observation. The EU is also committed to supporting Africa's efforts to have its own strong, credible and effective pan-African institutions and norms that promote good governance and protect human rights across the whole continent. The fight against corruption, bribery, counterfeiting, money-laundering and tax fraud, as well as the reinforcement of the transparent and accountable management of natural resources and of public funds will be also essential to ensure that all African citizens benefit equitably of Africa's abundant resources and strong economic growth.

On all these issues, Africa and the EU recognise that the essential role that the active, effective, inclusive and transparent involvement of citizens, civil society, media, parliaments and national human rights institutions play in achieving good governance and monitoring the respect of human rights. Supporting their work and capacities will be essential to strengthen the effectiveness of their watchdog roles.

The objectives of the Pan-African Programme in that area will be the following:

- strengthen the implementation of African instruments, policies and standards in the area of democratic governance and human rights in the framework of the African Governance Architecture (AGA)
- improve AUC ability to fulfil its mandate in electoral observation
- strengthen the role of Civil Society Organisations and other non-state actors in improving Governance and in promoting human rights in Africa
- support the design and implementation of security strategies at continental/trans-regional level

The expected results are:

- the improved implementation of the mandates of Africa's continental institutions and the effective respect of African legal instruments in the area of democracy and human rights by individual states;
- the reinforced technical and management capacities of the AU to observe elections in Africa, according to a credible and effective observation methodology;
- improved monitoring and awareness of human rights, democratic processes and the state of good governance at continental level through the stronger involvement of civil society;
- The comprehensive monitoring and assessment of organised crime at trans-regional and continental levels that help design strategic policy and legal responses to those threats; the stronger capacities of, and better coordination among, national, regional and continental stakeholders, including security and judicial authorities, to address those threats.

## **b) Trade, regional integration and infrastructure**

Encouraging a business climate that promotes domestic as much as international investment is essential for Africa as it is for Europe. It requires a conducive administrative, legal and regulatory environment, availability of capital and reliable infrastructures.

It will imply to support the African Union's collaboration with the RECs to promote the convergence of policies, standards and regulations and hence lower technical and other non-

tariff barriers to trade. Pan African initiatives regarding domestic resources mobilisation will also be considered for the African States to be able to mobilise capital in favour of the industrial and entrepreneurial development in their country. This can be done by promoting international standards and good practices as regards budget design and execution, efficiency and transparency of tax systems, and coordination and exchange of information between tax authorities. These priorities are in line with the G8 agenda on trade, tax and transparency.

Building on the Africa-EU Partnership on infrastructure, complementarities will be organised between existing blending facilities to improve connectivity across the continent and promote better integration in the global economy. Such initiatives will contribute to the continental priorities of the Programme for Infrastructures Development in Africa (PIDA) in the areas of transport, energy, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), and trans-boundary water resources management.

Actions in this area will contribute to promote regional, continental and intercontinental integration and trade. In particular, the EU will support Africa's ambition to boost Intra-African Trade, accelerate industrialisation in Africa (notably in the framework of the Accelerated Industrialisation for Africa (AIDA), and work towards the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the objectives of the AU Minimum Integration Programme (MIP). Cooperation in that area will also contribute to boost competitiveness of African products on the global market, in line with the EU commitments under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations.

The objectives of the Pan-African Programme in that area will be the following:

- support the convergence of policies, standards and regulations and build capacities to increase domestic resources and promote regional integration, trade and investments;
- support the development of safe, efficient and sustainable continental and inter-regional infrastructure networks, improvement in civil aviation safety and efficiency.

The expected results are:

- a reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers through to exchange of good practices, the adoption of CFTA legal instruments; improved coordination at continental and trans-regional levels in activities related to animal health, plant health, food hygiene, control and certification; and improved harmonisation and coordination in tax matters at continental and regional level;
- a better design and implementation of transport policies and strategies, enhanced coordination among partners and AU institutions at continental level; improvement in civil aviation safety through better navigation system available; and improvement of the realisation of PIDA trans-regional infrastructures.

### **c) Migration, mobility and employment**

Better addressing migration and mobility issues between the two continents, but also within Africa, is a major concern. The Africa-EU dialogue on migration and mobility that took place in the aftermath of the Lampedusa tragedy in 2013 - that cost lives of hundreds of African migrants and prompted the decision to set-up a 'Mediterranean Task Force' at EU level to address that issue – recommended to enhance cooperation in six areas: mobility and labor migration; remittances; diaspora; fight against trafficking in human beings; irregular migration; and international protection, in line with the Global Approach to Migration and

Mobility, which guides the EU external cooperation in the area of Migration, and with the AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa.

Considering that 80% of international migration is intra-regional, intra-African mobility will be given particular attention in line with the EU Agenda for Change calling for policies to address regional labour mobility. Close complementarity and possible joint actions should be encouraged to promote synergies between the Pan African Programme and other geographic and thematic instruments, with a view to developing dialogue and cooperation in the suitable format to gain effectiveness.

Creating more and better jobs is a priority for both Africa and the EU. Employment policies remain very much national undertakings, yet inclusive exchange of information and good practices can be promoted in that area. These will in turn contribute to intra-regional mobility.

The objectives of the Pan-African Programme in that area will be the following:

- Support a comprehensive dialogue on irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and international protection and build African capacities to respond to related challenges
- Support dialogue and actions on labour migration and mobility and build African capacities to foster intra-regional mobility
- Ensure safer remittances at lower costs in Africa
- Support the role of African diaspora as development actors in Africa

The expected results are:

- an enhanced capacity to manage migration flows, international protection and smuggling and trafficking at cross-regional level with a particular attention to migrants and refugees rights;
- an effective dialogue in place between Europe and Africa and within Africa to build a joint understanding and comprehensive approaches in addressing irregular migration flows, international protection, smuggling and trafficking at cross-regional level, and to address obstacles to intercontinental and regional mobility of persons; African administrations better equipped to understand the needs of their labour markets and facilitate access to better jobs for their own nationals and migrants;
- remittances are increasing and organised in a more efficient way; and African diaspora play an improved role as development actors in Africa.

#### **d) Climate change and Environment, natural resources and agriculture**

Good stewardship of natural resources and development-oriented use of the wealth they can bring are indispensable for truly sustainable and inclusive growth. The objective is to support African efforts to develop sustainable agriculture and access to food; preserve biodiversity; improve access to sustainable water, sanitation and energy; ensure sustainable exploitation of natural resources, and to provide means to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Co-operation on raw materials shall be based on the EU Raw Materials Initiative and the African Union policy on mining and minerals, namely the 'African Mining Vision'. It shall cover the three areas identified at the Africa-EU High-Level Conference on Mineral resources held in January 2012. These are: governance, investments and geological knowledge and skills.

The AU has declared 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security. The colleges of the two Commissions agreed in 2013 to strive to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth and food and nutrition security, raise farm incomes and enhance agricultural productivity, transformation, trade and rural development. Agricultural cooperation initiatives shall be aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and include Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary issues, standards and quality certification, processing industries, trade initiatives and facilitating access to local, regional and international markets. In addition, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture has been chosen as a first priority for research cooperation by the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation.

African and European stakeholders reaffirmed in 2013 their joint commitment to fight desertification in Africa in the framework of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel initiative (GGWSSI). They also agreed to continue their cooperation to foster access to climate information services through earth observation data. African and European partners adopted the first three chapters (marine, water and natural resources) of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa initiative, and called for their implementation. Finally, they agreed on the importance of joint positions in the international conferences on climate change. Enhancing African negotiators capacity in this framework is adamant.

The objectives of the Pan-African Programme in that area will be the following:

- support the capacity of African institutions to enhance transparency, investments and geological knowledge in Africa's extractive industry;
- reinforce coordination and governance in agriculture, livestock and fisheries at continental level in the framework of CAADP; promote agricultural and rural transformation policies; improve the framework for African food and nutrition security;
- support continental/trans-regional African strategies and initiatives to access climate information services, build common positions and mitigate desertification.

The expected results are:

- improved economic, environmental and social governance of the sector; improved negotiating capacity of African governments for example through the African Legal Support Facility managed by the African Development Bank; increased synergies between European industry and African mineral sector; improved geological knowledge and skills in Africa mining sector;
- mitigation of desertification in Sahara and Sahel through coordinated trans-regional programmes (ClimDev and the Great Green Wall Sahara and Sahel Initiative), accurate data available from earth observation allowing a better management of natural resources;
- sustainable development of agriculture through reinforced implementation of the four pillars of the CAADP.

## **e) Development of a knowledge and skills-based society**

Competitiveness in the world economy rests increasingly on knowledge (education and science), innovation and application of modern technologies, which in particular require

appropriate regulatory frameworks and access to reliable data. Africa currently spends 0.3% of GDP in research, whereas the EU has set itself a target of 3% under Europe 2020.

Cooperation in this area is in line with the Europe 2020 targets on research and development and education, and its flagship initiatives for Smart growth 'Digital agenda for Europe', 'Innovation Union' and 'Youth on the move'. Science, technology, innovation and education contribute also significantly in attaining MDGs. This implies to look at Africa's needs but also at its potential, in view of Africa's wealth in areas such as biodiversity, natural resources, etc.

Both Africa and the EU would therefore gain at deepening their cooperation to promote knowledge-and skills based societies and economies. A people's centred approach will be adopted, taking account of capacities and strengthening the links between education, training, science and innovation notably through a reinforced cooperation with the private sector.

In line with the AU decadal Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation, and Horizon 2020, the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) acknowledged the role of STI as driver of socio-economic growth. Research capacities in Africa have already benefited notably from EU support to African research grants managed by the African Union, and from the networking of researchers through improved connectivity and access to the European researchers' database GEANT.

Access to centres of excellence and mobility of students, researchers and qualified persons in Africa is another issue of interest. In the framework of the JAES, the EU has been contributing to the AU Nyerere Programme which aims at contributing to the production and retention of high-level African human resources by offering mobility scholarships for masters and PhD degrees in key areas for Africa development. It has also supported the process of harmonisation of curricula undertaken by African universities. The quality assurance and accreditation experience undertaken in Europe through the Bologna Process and the on-going work with African universities testify of the interest and benefits linked to the portability of qualifications. The development of the Pan-African University has also been supported and is very much encouraged. These initiatives contribute to the Arusha Process, which aims to create a Higher Education Space within Africa, and are in line with the recent communication on *European Higher Education in the world*.

Data collection is a necessary step to inform policy developments. The collection and use of quality statistics in Africa has therefore become a priority of the Partnership and support should be given in line with the recent developments regarding the harmonization and the coordination of statistics on the continent. The decision to create a continental Institute for Statistics and build capacities on the continent opens perspectives to share the European experience and the tools developed at EU level.

The objectives of the Pan-African Programme in that area will be the following:

- Support AU flagships programmes on Higher Education
- Reinforce African research activities and cooperation between Africa and EU in the field of science, technology and innovation
- Support the collection and dissemination of harmonised quality statistical information to meet national, regional and international needs

The expected results are:

- increase of multinational Masters & PhD graduates by African Universities and reduction of the brain drain; harmonisation and tuning of the academic programmes; introduction of quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms for the Pan African University;

- extension of sustainable funding for African research programmes and geographical extension of the connectivity of the African national research and higher education networks;
- better availability of African harmonised statistics in selected priority areas (incl. regional integration, migration) through capacity building and dissemination support, and support to African statistical Institute (Statafric).

#### **f) Cross-cutting issues**

The African Union which has gained in credibility in promoting peace, stability, governance and development in Africa, is a privileged interlocutor and partner to cooperate with when addressing these matters. The AU institutions have been mandated to implement an ambitious agenda and need to overcome their lack of human and financial resources. The Pan-African Programme will continue the current institutional support to reinforce capacities of the AU Commission, the Pan-African Parliament and other AU organs in order to fulfil their role at continental/global level: dialogue, coordination and sharing of best practices.

The Africa-EU partnership is fundamentally a people-centred partnership. For this reason, the Pan-African Programme will also support initiatives from civil society actors to enable them to be fully involved in the partnership and to implement their own activities under all of the identified areas of cooperation.

In addition, a ‘support mechanism’ will facilitate the Africa-EU dialogue within the Africa-EU Partnership through e.g. administrative cooperation, communication and visibility actions, support to the political and policy dialogue in the areas covered by the Africa – EU strategy. This funding will also allow the mobilisation of resources for the preparation and the implementation of the Pan-African Programme itself.