

	AU-EU HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE	
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9TH AU-EU HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE
22 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The 9th AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue took place on 22 November 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Dialogue was led by the AUC Commissioner for Political Affairs, Dr. Aisha L. Abdullahi and EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis.

Other participants included the President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, Justice Sophia A.B. Akuffo, the Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Dr. Benyam Mezmur, as well as representatives from the various departments for the AUC. From the EU side, EUSR/Head of EU Delegation to the AU, Ambassador Gary Quince and other EU staff were also present.

The two sides discussed recent policy initiatives in Africa and Europe, notably the implementation of the AU Human Rights Strategy for Africa and progress made by AU member states on the ratification of continental human rights instruments, as well as the adoption of the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the progress on the implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Both sides reaffirmed their joint commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights on both continents and to collaborate on the effective implementation of continental and international human rights instruments.

The AU and the EU stressed their commitment to establish Africa-EU consultations in Geneva and New York between the African and EU Groups and to actively involve civil society organisations in preparatory meetings for the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

The AU and the EU also discussed issues of common concern including racism; the right to development; death penalty; rights of migrants; and the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In terms of multilateral cooperation, violence against women was identified as a theme in which to foster cooperation, especially in the framework of the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women. It was also agreed to intensify our dialogue on

the topic of freedom of Association.

In line with previous civil society recommendations, both parties agreed to organise an expert seminar in 2013 on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The two parties welcomed and took note of the recommendations presented by African and European CSOs on the right to housing and on elections and committed themselves to look for ways to implementing some of the recommendations. In particular both organisations welcomed the entering into force of the Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance in February 2012 and called for its effective implementation.

Both parties agreed to report on the outcomes of the Dialogue to the relevant structures of the Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights.