

## Abidjan appeal

We, Pan-African parliamentarians and from the European Parliament, call on Heads of State and government gathered here in Abidjan to reach an ambitious agreement which opens the door to a better future for our young people in the 21st century. That agreement must deliver on the pledges made at the United Nations on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, leading to real improvements in peoples' lives and sustainable use of resources on our shared planet, and must pave the way to the electrification of the African continent, which is the basis for any future development.

In particular we call on Heads of State and government for action in the following priority areas:

### 1. **Youth**

The youth of our two Unions is faced, to different degrees, with a lot of challenges, such as unemployment, lack of access to quality education, vocational training and acquisition of skills. Therefore, youth needs to be empowered with a view to becoming the positive transforming force for the future of our societies, in which it will take its legitimate place.

### 2. **Gender equality and empowerment of women**

Women and girls make up slightly over half of the world's population, yet their social, economic and political status remain low in comparison with men and boys.

Therefore, we call for equal opportunities for access to decision-making structures, as well as economic, social, political, technological and cultural resources and services, and for human rights and an end to discrimination and violence against women. This way we enhance their equal and equitable participation in and contributions to national and international development processes and discourses.

### 3. **Migration**

Overcoming root causes of migration requires massive joint investments to create more employment and chances for youth. We call upon EU and AU Member states to ensure that any migratory movement is safe, legal and voluntary.

Countries that receive migrants should make an effort to integrate them, based on a fair burden sharing, and those that repatriate their citizens require support to complement their efforts to reintegrate them. The EP and the PAP call for joint action of the EU and the AU to address trafficking of human beings and slavery, and the atrocities against migrants in Libya.

### 4. **Peace and security**

The emergence and prosperity of the African continent is conditional on a peaceful, secure and stable environment. Therefore, statehood must be restored and territorial control regained in all parts of Africa. The AU and the EU must work together to reinforce the authority of states and their capacity to cater for the needs of their citizens.

### 5. **Electrification and infrastructure development**

The electrification of Africa is a priority for the development of the continent. Physical infrastructure, ranging from roads to schools and hospitals must be created and Africa connected fully to the digital revolution. The overall infrastructural development of Africa must be based on sustainable regional and continental planning, in partnership with the EU.

**6. Natural resources, environment and climate change**

The two Unions should work together constructively for the benefit of the people and the planet and to ensure predictable, accountable and scaled up support to climate action in Africa. Transparency in the management and traceability of natural resources, and equitable allocation of revenues must be guaranteed so as to stop unfair exploitation of African resources and to help Africa prosper.

**7. Human development**

As partners, we recognise the need for greater investment in education, up to tertiary level, healthcare and food security. We call on all State parties to honour their commitments at international Summits, to provide adequate resources towards them in order to create this important basis for sustainable human development.

**8. Diaspora**

The diaspora plays an outstanding role in development through remittances, skills' transfers and non-financial values, to promote peace, democracy, good governance and social stability. We call on the AU and the EU to recognise this potential and fully integrate its contribution in joint policy making.

**9. Trade and investment**

The integration of African countries into global and regional trade and the establishment of a continental Free Trade Agreement, based on the social responsibility of corporations, must be a priority. The EU, through its trade policy, must contribute to achieve this objective. African countries must be able to count on development-supportive rules of origin, effective safeguard clauses, asymmetrical liberalisation schedules and protection for emerging industries. At the same time, they must guarantee the legal certainty of investments. The EU's External Investment Plan must truly contribute to sustainable development.

**10. International cooperation and partnership**

The cooperation between our two Unions is an equal partnership of neighbouring continents aimed at continuous joint projects and prosperity for all our citizens. The EU and the AU commit to a comprehensive agenda of mutually beneficial interaction.

**11. Democracy, governance and human rights**

As both Unions aspire to preserve the rights of their peoples through universally accepted charters and principles, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as we seek peace and harmony through dialogue and to silence all guns, we adopt democracy as the route for choosing the leaders of our nations, good governance as the principle to invite the participation of everyone in decision-making, while at all times recognising the rights of individuals and groups to freely express themselves.

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In order to achieve this ambitious agenda, we will strengthen our political dialogue through interparliamentary cooperation, which is a vital part of the renewed AU-EU partnership. This partnership must be inclusive, multi-level and multi stakeholder, among and between the two regional entities, with an observatory role for civil society organisations.

We call for a periodic review of the commitments taken and reaffirm our readiness to contribute to that process through enhanced parliamentary scrutiny.