



2017/2083(INI)

5.9.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on the EU-Africa Strategy: a boost for development
(2017/2083(INI))

Rapporteur: Fabio Massimo Castaldo

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the increasing importance of political, security and economic relations between the EU and Africa at a time when both are experiencing profound changes, and recognises the contribution made by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy to building a stronger partnership over the past 10 years; emphasises the need to build on these achievements and work towards the development of an equal, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with Africa, in a spirit of shared ownership and responsibility, while at the same time respecting the independence and sovereignty of African countries; salutes, in this regard, the active involvement and engagement of African states with the EU in recent international fora, such as the negotiations for the Paris Agreement at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21);
2. Stresses that today the EU collectively is Africa's main foreign investor, trading partner, source of remittances and partner in development and humanitarian assistance, and a key security provider on the continent; expects the upcoming AU-EU Summit to provide fresh impetus and new ideas for adapting the strategy to a fast-changing environment, given the pivotal importance of African developments for the EU and its strategic interests;
3. Underlines the need for a stronger and more political partnership between the EU and Africa, based on shared values and interests, in order to foster peace, tackle global issues such as climate change, food insecurity, access to water, environmental degradation, the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, population growth, the urbanisation of large cities, youth unemployment, impunity, the attainment of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), terrorism, radicalisation, organised crime, and migratory flows, while building on our joint principles of the rule of law, the social market economy, good governance and respect for human rights, and promote a rule-based global order based on a strong UN;
4. Welcomes the fact that the focus of the upcoming AU-EU Summit is on youth, as the demographic dynamics of both continents place the topic at the heart of relations between Africa and the EU; points out that according to projections, sub-Saharan Africa will need to create 18 million new jobs each year up to 2035 to absorb new labour market entrants and thus prevent serious consequences for social stability; stresses the need to prioritise job creation and economic development across societies more generally and to harness the role of the private sector on the African continent;
5. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to launch an African Youth Facility expanding the scope of Erasmus+ and an EU vocational education and training (VET) facility to help target countries bridge the gap between the needs and opportunities of the labour market and the qualifications of graduates, while at the same time promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups;
6. Calls for increased support for quality education at all levels, especially for girls, through improved bilateral programmes, and continued support for global initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Education; stresses the importance of investing more

heavily in schools, universities and research, promoting mobility partnerships, tackling the brain drain phenomenon, supporting programmes such as Erasmus+ and harmonising higher education through cross-border programmes and the recognition of qualifications;

7. Recalls that never before have EU security interests been so intertwined with Africa; calls for stronger EU support to African partners and regional organisations in the area of peace and security and conflict prevention, including through specific instruments such as common security and defence policy (CSDP) operations, European military and police contributions to UN missions, EU measures to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325, and the African Peace Facility, providing the assistance and aid required in the global fight against jihadist terrorism and fostering peace and security for the affected populations; highlights the important role of past and current CSDP missions in, for example, combating piracy, fostering capacity building and strengthening maritime security and border assistance in Africa; calls on the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Council to ensure that CSDP missions in Africa can continue to operate effectively;
8. Highlights the importance of fostering security and stability by helping our partners to build more resilient states and societies, including through capacity building and security sector reforms, with a particular focus on good governance in the sector, parliamentary oversight and accountability, and boosting activities in the field of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants;
9. Calls for continued EU support for the increasingly proactive approach taken by the African Union (AU) and relevant regional organisations towards the full operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); calls for an initial EU contribution to the AU Peace Fund for activities under the ‘mediation and diplomacy’ window;
10. Points out the need to better integrate security concerns and development aims to address the specific problems of fragile states and to foster more resilient states and societies, including through capacity building for food security, notably in small-scale farming, climate change adaptation, the creation of more and better jobs, especially for young people, the empowerment of women and the support of education;
11. Stresses that addressing governance challenges in Africa with greater determination is of paramount importance for building fairer, more stable and more secure societies, and calls for efforts to tackle the state capture phenomenon, characterised by oligarchic control and extractive practices by sections of state bureaucracies, which lies at the root of many of Africa’s socio-economic problems and political conflicts;
12. Stresses that the pursuit of common interests and cooperation on security must be totally consistent with international law, the EU’s fundamental values and the objectives of supporting democracy and good governance and promoting human rights and the rule of law; believes that these objectives should be pursued, as far as possible, in synergy with and with the coherent commitment of other relevant economic and political players in Africa, such as China and India;
13. Stresses that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms constitutes an

invariable element of the EU's engagement with third-country partners; calls for the EU to strengthen its support for democracy, the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, media freedom and accountable, transparent and responsive governance, which are vital elements for ensuring a stable and inclusive political, social and economic environment in Africa; calls for the EU to step up its support for Africa's own human rights instruments, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

14. Calls for a more strategic, pragmatic, comprehensive and structured approach to political dialogue under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, with the greater involvement of civil society and a stronger people-to-people dimension; underlines the importance of political dialogue under Article 8 of the agreement, of the inclusion as essential elements of the agreement of respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law under Article 9, and of the 'appropriate measures clause' under Article 96; calls on the Commission, within the framework of the negotiations for the post-Cotonou agreement, to adopt a more structured and strategic approach to human rights dialogues by establishing permanent interparliamentary committees, following the example of those included in the EU's association agreements, with a mandate to monitor the implementation of the essential element clauses in order to move beyond an emergency approach and engage in a more comprehensive and systematic dialogue;
15. Stresses the importance of fostering dialogue, information exchange and cooperation in a number of fields, such as public finance management, fair and efficient tax systems, the fight against corruption, transparent and accountable public administration, the participation of civil society and citizens in decision-making processes, and the sustainable management of natural resources;
16. Deems an effective Africa-EU partnership essential for addressing the common challenges of fighting terrorism, extremism and radicalisation; recalls that trade in illegal arms, drugs and people is often a primary source of income for radical and terror organisations in the region; stresses the devastating impact of terrorist groups such as Daesh and Boko Haram on local populations and long-term economic development; highlights the need, therefore, to boost long-term cooperation in the field of security and to increase investment in education and rehabilitation programmes; stresses that a well-functioning democracy enhances stability and constitutes a powerful tool against terrorism;
17. Stresses the need to counter the root causes of radicalisation, such as social exclusion, poverty and the lack of education, and to conduct targeted security and counter-terrorism dialogues with African partners to jointly address grassroots issues that may lead to radicalisation and acts of terrorism; highlights the importance of improving interfaith dialogue, supporting initiatives aimed at integrating young people into society, countering terrorist propaganda while taking into account the role of the internet and social media in radicalisation processes, countering the financing of terrorism and reinforcing judicial cooperation;
18. Stresses that the European neighbourhood policy (ENP) review provides opportunities for improving the coordination of neighbourhood policy and policy on other African states through the creation of extended cooperation frameworks; calls, therefore, for

these thematic frameworks to be set up to boost cooperation between the EU, the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries and third countries in Africa on regional issues such as security, energy, and even migration;

19. Recalls the importance of the effective implementation of external EU policies that are able to address the real root causes of migration and to better fight criminal organisations involved in human trafficking; calls for increased joint efforts to implement the Valetta Action Plan based on a fair and true partnership with third countries of origin and transit; recalls the importance of a balanced and holistic approach in the new partnership framework and underlines, in this connection, the importance of democratic scrutiny by Parliament; stresses that the new partnership framework with third countries must not become the only pillar of EU action on migration and should extend beyond a narrow focus on border management, to include, for example, fairer trade relations, the fight against climate change and illegal financial transfers from Africa, the establishment of safe and legal channels for migration, and the introduction of initiatives to render the transfer of remittances easier and less costly;
20. Recalls that the root causes of migration include conflicts, weak governance, governmental instability, the violation of human rights, corruption, the lack of the rule of law, impunity, inequality, unemployment or underemployment, the lack of livelihoods and resources, and climate change;
21. Considers that Africa and Europe have a shared interest and responsibility when it comes to migration and that the crisis calls for global solutions based on solidarity, the sharing of responsibility, respect for migrant rights, the principle of non-refoulement, and the fulfilment of the obligations of states to properly manage migration flows throughout their territory, to welcome back their citizens and to grant them their full constitutional rights if they are unable to achieve legal resident status abroad;
22. Stresses that strong cooperation between African countries and the EU, and in particular between countries on either side of the Mediterranean, is key to combating the trafficking of human beings and the smuggling of migrants; supports, in this regard, the implementation of comprehensive policy and legal frameworks based on the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols;
23. Notes that Member State contributions to the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa remain low; expects the European External Investment Plan (EIP) to deliver on its commitments to mobilise investment in Africa, support inclusive and sustainable growth and stimulate job creation, thereby helping to address the root causes of migration;
24. Notes with great concern the lack of central state authority in parts of the African continent, in particular when it comes to border management, and recalls the negative repercussions this has on the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking; highlights the need, therefore, for increased cooperation in the field of border management and migration policy;
25. Recognises the importance, the significant potential and the transformative power of regional, trans-regional and continental integration for growth and development in Africa and the need to avoid constructing new barriers to trade, mobility and security

cooperation; considers an AU encompassing the entirety of the African continent a very positive step in the direction of pan-African integration and welcomes the renaming of the 'Africa-EU Summit' to the 'AU-EU Summit';

26. Notes the need for the EU to support the strengthening of intra-African trade and sustainable investment, where possible in local currency, and the cross-regional, continental and global dimension of projects and programmes in fields ranging from sustainable agriculture and the environment to higher education, ICT, research, and physical infrastructure networks;
27. Takes the view that regional integration projects, such as those in Southern, West or East Africa, must be supported in a way that complements and strengthens pan-African integration processes in the framework of the AU; contends that the EU should also pursue strategic bilateral ties, based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, with pivotal African states as leaders and enablers of the respective integration projects; underscores, in addition, the need to revive the Union for the Mediterranean as a vehicle for the pursuit of shared security and prosperity in North Africa;
28. Acknowledges the importance of interparliamentary relations and encourages African partners to continue to make interparliamentary cooperation at bilateral, regional and international level a political priority; highlights the constructive role of interparliamentary delegations and regional assemblies in advancing the Africa-EU Partnership, promoting common interests and a genuine dialogue between equals, and proposes working more closely with African parliaments to strengthen them in their key democratic role;
29. Recalls the important role of responsible investment and trade, a responsible private sector that fulfils international health, safety, labour and environmental standards, and a favourable business environment in the creation of long-term economic development; calls on the Commission and the Member States to foster cooperation with international partners to prevent, investigate and halt non-compliance with those standards or cases in which European companies cause or contribute to human rights violations and infringe upon the rights of vulnerable groups, such as minorities, indigenous people, women and children; calls on the EU and the AU member states to participate actively and work towards the productive outcome of the negotiations on the draft Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights at the UN Human Rights Council;
30. Calls for increased EU support for Africa in the area of debt reduction and debt sustainability and underlines the need for international legislation and the creation of debt auditing commissions on cases of odious debt; calls for Member States to implement effectively the UN Guiding Principles on foreign debt and human rights and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Principles on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing by making them legally binding;
31. Emphasises the added value of transport infrastructures in boosting the economy and trade between the EU and Africa; underlines the strategic importance of ports, harbours and airports;
32. Recognises that Africa suffers from a massive energy shortfall as 645 million people do not have access to affordable electricity; takes the view that sustainable solutions based

on renewable energies and mini-grid and off-grid systems should be prioritised, and calls for the EU to assist its African partners in overcoming the financial, technical and political challenges of this process; recognises the need for improvements to governance in the energy sector and to stimulate public and private investment, whether internal or cross-border, in renewable energy at all levels, and believes that the new EIP could represent an outstanding opportunity in this regard; calls for continued EU support for the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and welcomes the Commission proposal to launch a new EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on climate change and sustainable energy;

33. Underlines the importance of small-scale development projects, which have a direct effect on people's lives; urges the Commission to continue supporting them;
34. Calls on the Commission to present a legislative proposal on accompanying measures for the Conflict Minerals Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/821)¹ in line with the relevant Joint Communication (JOIN(2014)0008);
35. Recognises the importance of effective systems of social protection for human security, conflict prevention and mitigating the impact of protracted conflicts and forced displacement; points out the disproportionate impact of violent conflict and forced displacement on women and children;
36. Emphasises the fundamental role of women in development and considers that women's participation in governance constitutes a precondition for socio-economic progress, social cohesion and equitable democratic governance; calls for positive measures to be taken to ensure progress towards the equal participation of women in society, including in decision-making positions at all levels; calls, at the same time, on African countries to encourage and support increased female participation in the labour market and to take all necessary measures to prevent gender discrimination in the workplace;
37. Urges the Commission to devote special attention to the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in its external development programmes;
38. Calls on the EEAS to continue raising the issue of LGBTI people in its human rights and political dialogue with African countries and to provide support for LGBTI rights defenders through the appropriate instruments;
39. Reiterates its support for the commitment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the EU to full cooperation on the prevention of serious crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the court; calls for the EU to remain open to constructive discussion where concerns are raised within the framework of the Rome Statute and to keep supporting African countries transitioning from conflicts in their fight against impunity and in ensuring accountability for international crimes;
40. Stresses that the upcoming AU-EU Summit will provide an opportunity to stress the EU's priorities for EU-Africa relations in the post-Cotonou process;

¹ OJ L 130, 19.5.2017, p. 1.

41. Considers that Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific are very different regions with specific interests and challenges that cannot easily be accommodated under the overarching Cotonou structure; takes the view, therefore, that future cooperation with Africa should be based on existing regional and sub-regional organisations, the AU in particular.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	30.8.2017
Result of final vote	+: 54 -: 7 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Petras Auštrevičius, Mario Borghesio, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Andi Cristea, Georgios Eptideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Iveta Grigule, Sandra Kalniete, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Andrey Kovatchev, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Alex Mayer, David McAllister, Tamás Meszerics, Francisco José Millán Mon, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Alojz Peterle, Julia Pitera, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé, Jaromír Štětina, Dubravka Šuica, Charles Tannock, Ivo Vajgl, Elena Valenciano, Hilde Vautmans, Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Boris Zala
Substitutes present for the final vote	Elisabetta Gardini, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, András Gyürk, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Marek Jurek, Urmas Paet, Mirosław Piotrowski, Miroslav Poche, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Bodil Valero, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Janusz Zemke, Željana Zovko
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Seb Dance, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Ivan Štefanec

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

54	+
ALDE	Petras Auštrevičius, Iveta Grigule, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Javier Nart, Urmas Paet, Jozo Radoš, Ivo Vajgl, Hilde Vautmans
ECR	Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Charles Tannock, Anders Primdahl Vistisen
EFDD	Fabio Massimo Castaldo
PPE	Lars Adaktusson, Lorenzo Cesa, Michael Gahler, Elisabetta Gardini, András Gyürk, Sandra Kalniete, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Andrey Kovatchev, David McAllister, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alojz Peterle, Julia Pitera, Cristian Dan Preda, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Željana Zovko, Ivan Štefanec, Jaromír Štětina, Dubravka Šuica
S&D	Andi Cristea, Seb Dance, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Andrejs Mamikins, Alex Mayer, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Miroslav Poche, Elena Valenciano, Boris Zala, Janusz Zemke
Verts/ALE	Klaus Buchner, Barbara Lochbihler, Tamás Meszerics, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé, Bodil Valero

7	-
EFDD	James Carver
GUE/NGL	Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Sabine Lösing, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Marie-Pierre Vieu
NI	Georgios Epitideios, Janusz Korwin-Mikke

5	0
ECR	Marek Jurek, Mirosław Piotrowski
ENF	Mario Borghezio, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser
GUE/NGL	Sofia Sakorafa

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention