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*Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament*

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26.11.2020

## REPORT

Following the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament with the Pan-African Parliament on 20 November 2020 in remote format, with video connections from Midrand and Brussels

### Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament

#### Attending Members:

##### European Parliament:

- Hildegard Bentele (EPP, DE);
- Michael Gahler (EPP, DE);
- Livia Jaroka (EPP, HU);
- Christine Schneider (EPP, DE);
- Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE);
- Isabel Wiseler - Lima (EPP, LU);
- Maria Arena (S&D, FR);
- Hannes Heide (S&D, DE);
- Juozas Olekas (S&D, LT);
- David Sassoli (S&D, IT); [The President]
- Carlos Zorrinho (S&D, PT);
- Maria Soraya Rodriguez Ramos (Renew, ES);
- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew, FR);
- Alamesta Alviina (Greens, FI);
- Pierrette Herzberger Fofana, (Greens, DE);
- Tineke Strik (Greens, NL);
- Carles Puigdemont I Casamajo (NI, ES);

##### Pan-African Parliament:

- Djamel Bouras; [Act. President]
- Gertrude Mongella
- B. Rwodzi
- Kone Aboubacar Sidiki
- Tapiwa Mashakada
- Nadjat Amamra
- Abdallah Barkat Ibrahim
- Eric Ngalula Ilunga
- Tekle Tesema Baramo
- Paul Bie Eyene
- Henry Willie Yallah
- Jean Bosco Rivotiana
- Noredine Karbal
- Fidel Rwigamba
- Djibril War

## **Introduction**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic spread across all the world, it was not possible to hold this meeting physically.

Therefore, a remote setting was arranged. The European Parliament provided two “Interactio” slots, one in the morning (from 9:00 to 11:00), and the other in the afternoon (from 16:00 to 18:00), while the Pan-African Parliament provided for a Zoom slot (with interpretation) from 11:30 to 13:30.

From the European Parliament side, in addition to the Members of the Delegation for Relations with the Pan-African Parliament, also the Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, the Chair of the Delegation to the ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as well as various Members from Committee on Development, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Sub-Committee on Security and Defence were present.

Similarly, from the Pan-African side, various Committee chairs and responsible for a number of caucuses were present.

## **Assessment of the AU-EU partnership and presentations of the new EU-Africa Strategy and of the AU strategy for cooperation with the EU**

The Council conclusions of 15-16 October and 30<sup>th</sup> of June and the March “Joint Communication Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa” form a solid basis for discussions with African partners in upcoming EU-AU high-level events, in particular against the background of already existing significant initiatives, such as, the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs, Erasmus plus upgrading, CSDP missions and the African Peace Facility.

According to both sides, the postponement of the AU - EU Summit has in no way altered the ambition to take the EU-Africa Partnership to the next level.

## **Welcoming remarks by David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament**

President Sassoli stressed the importance of upgrading a continent-to-continent partnership, by building on significant results already achieved. He spoke of the need for a solidarity - based approach and strategies agreed by both sides on migration management. He recalled the African Industrialisation Day (20 November 2020) and saw positively the creation of high added value production chains in Africa. He stressed the need to stand side by side with the AU in the implementation of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the AU Agenda 2063 for a peaceful and prosperous Africa.

## **Migration, Displacement and Asylum Cooperation and Youth Mobility in Africa**

Speakers stressed that migration is a family-level livelihood strategy and investment process, enabling diversification of household economies. On returns and readmissions, migrants are

often dissuaded to return by the lack of economic opportunities in their home countries, or due to armed conflicts, which are the reasons that pushed them to migrate in the first place.

Commissioner Elfadil stressed the importance of humane treatment and respect of human rights in the treatment of migrants.

Transformative development, by expanding opportunities and choices in Africa, was indicated as the main mean to efficiently tackle the root causes.

### **Mechanisms to achieve gender parity in all spheres of life, through elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls**

NB: all data and statistics in this section on gender - based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM) are taken from the 24 April 2020 UNFPA Interim Technical Note on Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage ([https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_impact\\_brief\\_for\\_UNFPA\\_24\\_April\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_impact_brief_for_UNFPA_24_April_2020_1.pdf)).

Speakers stressed that due to COVID-19-related disruption in programmes on female genital mutilation (FGM), an additional 2 million girls will be subjected to it by 2030 on top of the 68 million already previously estimated, and an additional 13 million child marriages may occur.

Several speakers stressed the importance of a swift implementation of the Maputo Protocol, which contains sound and advanced provisions in a number of areas, such as the explicit definition of discrimination against women and the legal prohibition of FGM. It is also the first international human rights instrument to refer to HIV and AIDS explicitly. It contains advanced instruments for the legal protection of adolescent girls from abuse and sexual harassment, the prohibition of forced marriage and marriage of girls under 18; it articulates women and girls' right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and their reproductive rights; its value also lies in its explicit references to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including adolescents, widows, elderly women, women with disabilities, poor women and migrant and refugee women.

Furthermore, attention was dedicated to women's high quality and stable employment, as well as to redressing the pay gap and equalizing parental leave for mothers and fathers.

The important contribution of the EU-UN "Spotlight initiative" to eliminate violence against women and girls, with an African financial envelope of an unprecedented 250 million euros, was also highlighted.

### **Peace and Security in Africa: The Roadmap towards "Silencing the guns by 2020"**

While there has been progress in a number of domains, such as the improvement of continental frameworks and institutions to respond to insecurity, the continent is still far from silencing the guns and creating conditions for addressing drivers of conflict and violence.

State-based and non-state conflicts, as well as one-sided violence all increased from 2013 to

2019. New arms trafficking routes and actors are emerging, exacerbated by Africa's porous border controls and limited capacities which are overstretched due to the pandemic.

Furthermore, Covid - related measures often interrupted formal education and the difficulties to find adequate alternatives are a concern. There is a risk of armed groups/gangs promoting further conflict.

In 2019, EU CSDP Missions were active in Libya, Mali, Niger and Somalia, and a new civilian CSDP Mission was established in the Central African Republic to support the reform of the security forces.

Through the African Peace Facility, the EU has also supported AU peacekeeping troops in Somalia and ECOWAS troops in The Gambia, as well as the Multinational Joint Task Force in Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, in their fight against Boko Haram.

### **Adoption of the Joint Communiqué'**

The draft had been prepared and agreed by the Co-Chairs in the previous weeks and then sent to Members from both sides, thus enabling them to send comments that were incorporated, previous unanimous agreement, in the version discussed during the meeting.

No further comments / insertions were made during the meeting itself and the Joint Communiqué' was adopted.



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## **EP-PAP Inter-Parliamentary Meeting**

**Friday, 20 November 2020**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

**Room: Remote participation via room SPINELLI 3E2**

### **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

(version 19.11.2020)

**NB: All timings refer to Brussels time. For example, for Tunisia is the same as for Brussels, for South Africa is B+1 hour, for Ethiopia is B+2 hours**

*Chaired by Ms Rodriguez*

**9.00 - 10.00      Assessment of the AU-EU partnership and presentations of the new EU-Africa Strategy and of the AU strategy for cooperation with the EU, based on its 2063 Strategy: how are they compatible with the existing Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) in practice?**

    J| Presentation of the follow-up by Mr Koen Vervaeke, EEAS Managing Director for Africa

    For the EU-Africa Strategy:

- )] Domenico Rosa, Head of Unit for Strategic partnerships EU-ACP and EU-AU, DG DEVCO, European Commission
- )] Faten Aggad, Senior Advisor to the AU High Representative on Future Relations with the EU
- )] Presentation of the appraisals and exchange of views with Members, with opening remarks by MEP Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Rapporteur on the draft own initiative report of the European Parliament on the new EU-Africa Strategy - a partnership for sustainable and inclusive development

**10:00 - 10:15 Welcoming remarks by David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament**

*Chaired by Ms Rodriguez*

**10.15 - 11.00 Migration, Displacement and Asylum Cooperation and Youth Mobility in Africa**

- )] HE Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, Commissioner on Social Affairs, AU Commission
- )] Tapiwa Mashakada, Committee on Trade and Migrations, Pan-African Parliament
- )] Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean, (UNHCR)
- )] Dr Jide Martyns Okeke, Regional Programme Coordinator, UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, on: Report on Scaling Fences: Voices of irregular African migrants to Europe
- )] Exchange of views with Members

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*Chaired by Mr Bouras*

**11.30 - 13.30 Webinar, hosted by the Pan-African Parliament, on: Mechanisms to achieve gender parity in all spheres of life, through elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls**

- )] B. Rwodzi, Acting Chair of the Audit Committee and member of the Women Caucus, Pan-African Parliament
- )] Gertrude Mongella, African Union's Coordinator for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- )] Cécile Vernant, Head of the EU Office, DSW
- )] Marcela Villarreal, Ph.D., FAO Director for Partnerships and UN Collaboration
- )] Exchange of views with Members

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*Chaired by Mr Bouras*

**16.00 - 17.30    Peace and Security in Africa: The Roadmap towards “Silencing the guns by 2020”**

- ⌋ Kone Aboubacar Sidiki, Chair of the Committee for International Relations, Peace and Security, Pan-African Parliament
- ⌋ Abdelkader Aroua, Institute for Security Studies
- ⌋ Volker Hauck, Head of Programme Security and Resilience, ECDPM
- ⌋ Sonya Reines - Djivandes, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- ⌋ Exchange of views with Members

*Chaired by Ms Rodriguez*

**17.30 - 18.00    Consideration and adoption of the Joint Communiqué’**

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**Closing of the meeting**



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## **Joint communique' of the Interparliamentary meeting between the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament**

Meeting in videoconference from Midrand (South Africa) and Brussels (Belgium) on 20 November 2020, we, parliamentarians representing the Pan-African and European Parliaments, state the following:

### **Preamble**

Covid-19 pandemics is reshaping our ways of life, our habits and our mentalities, changing the global landscape. Its long-term consequences on international relations and development cooperation remains to a large extent unpredictable, but what appears clear is that there is a concrete risk of exacerbating the already negative trends of closing the borders and increasing societal fragmentation. We, elected representatives of our peoples, stand united to fight against these risks



and to give instead a new impetus to relations between our two continents, in view of our common shared values such as human rights, democracy, solidarity, rule of law, peace and security and justice.

The joint role of the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament in fostering political dialogue between the EU and the AU should be consolidated by a people-focused partnership, nurtured by the voices of the civil society - including NGOs, youth and women's organisations, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentary assemblies, local authorities and the diaspora.

### **The AU - EU partnership and the way forward**

The EU and the AU share the same fundamental values and principles. Their partnership, which is a great opportunity for both, is based on common values and it should be strengthened further, as the AU is becoming an entity with effective supranational powers by developing its institutional structure along a path similar to the one taken by the EU.

We notice that there are several co-existing cooperation strategies: on the one hand the new EU proposal for a comprehensive strategy with Africa, on which the European Parliament will soon adopt an own initiative report, and on the other hand, an African Union strategy for cooperation with the EU, that is in preparation and is inspired mainly

by the African Union Agenda 2063 for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa. These two strategies need to be molded into one single programmatic document, adopted by both AU and EU, for joint ownership. This document needs to incorporate the achievements as well as address challenges of the longstanding cooperation in the framework of the Joint Africa Europe Strategy.

### **Migration, Displacement and Asylum Cooperation and Youth Mobility in Africa**

We reiterate once again that the European Union should adopt a common migration and asylum policy, based on respect of human rights, solidarity and the principle of integration.

We reaffirm our common commitment to developing a coordinated joint approach and mutual support in ensuring well-governed migration and mobility, in order to provide safe and legal ways along the migration routes.

Furthermore, we strongly urge the African Union and the European Union to do everything in their power to protect migrants and to prevent situations of inhuman and cruel treatment of migrants, to combat human trafficking and smuggling.

Against this background, a more holistic approach, is required to tackle the root causes of migration, this remains an absolute priority. Job creation, in particular for young people, is central and requires a panoply of tools, ranging from education and vocational training, to public investment in economy, micro financing, investment guarantee funds and energy and infrastructure development.

Our stronger partnership could provide solutions to support economic growth and create jobs, accelerating green transition and ensuring inclusive access to sustainable energy and energy efficiency in Africa. African industrialization requires a further transfer of technology and skills to enable raw materials to be processed locally, supporting African capacity at the appropriate national, sub-regional or continental level and within the available cooperation instruments.

The ILO core labor standards and corporate social responsibility should be respected. Intra-African trade and adding value to African products have great potential to create sustainable economic development, to reduce economic dependence and to create employment. In this context, advancing intra African trade would also be an opportunity to boost cooperation and trade between our continents, as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is a cornerstone of the EU's trade strategy with Africa.

Aid for development remains important in fast-tracking people-centered development.

Finally, Members highlight the role of the diaspora and the importance of the remittances as targeted and context-sensitive investments for the economic development of the continent. In this regard, Members urge the appropriate financial institutions to put in place mechanism for reducing the cost of sending remittances back home. Such costs should never go beyond 3 % of the remittance value.

### **Peace and Security in Africa:” Silencing the guns by 2020”**

We express our strong support for this AU flagship initiative, and reiterate that it can only be efficiently accomplished through a multidimensional approach: on the one hand, by tackling the deep causes of conflicts, notably inequalities, exclusion and social injustice, ill governance and weak and fragmented power structures, and on the other hand, by reducing the number of weapons in circulation.

Building democratic and inclusive societies, based on rule of law, respect of human rights, social justice - guaranteeing an equitable distribution of resources - and good governance, is the only way to avoid armed conflicts.

We will strengthen our cooperation and partnership to address peace and security challenges building on effective, inclusive and accountable governance and on combatting corruption.

It is necessary to establish a control on the circulation of **weapons** efficiently complemented by a reduction of them. With this in mind, we call for the creation of a unique and publicly available database for all weapons traded between the EU and the AU, as well as for an effective tracking mechanism.

On the other hand, we call for the reinforcement of multilateral, AU controlled missions - with EU support when and where requested -, to reinforce and control disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and support to truly democratic and inclusive governance.

EU-AU cooperation in the field of peace and security is a central element of our partnership. In this context, we call to further develop our cooperation regarding crisis prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution through inclusive peacebuilding, which includes the perspectives and contributions of youth, children and women and other marginalized groups.

## **Women's rights and equality for all**

We commit ourselves to integrate human rights, the rule of law and gender equality in our action and cooperation.

We strive for building a European Union and an African Union where all society members, women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are **free** to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities, and can equally participate in and **lead** our societies. We commit to deploy our parliamentary roles to ensure the effective implementation of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the African Union strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2028 respectively.

We reiterate the common commitment at EU and AU level to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including female genital mutilation, femicide, child early or forced marriage and to reduce the level of poverty among women, economic and political inequality, by providing basic access to land and property, credit, health and education to all women and girls.

## **Conclusion**

Mutual respect and understanding are at the core of any successful partnership, AU-EU partnership being no exception. The EU and the AU must reinforce their partnership with a continental approach in a multipolar context, to consolidate cooperation in building more

democratic, fair and inclusive societies that will enable economic and trade development beneficial for both continents.

Africa and Europe need to listen more to each other, find the courage to revisit and analyse problematic moments of their relations and strengthen their relation equal partners, to pave the way towards an international cooperation based on global public goods, to better respond to the global health and environmental challenges.

Africa must continue on its path towards unity, by overcoming existing divergences and obstacles of technical and political nature. It must speed-up on the delivery of the AU flagship projects and by reinforcing the competences of the Pan-African Parliament. The EU stands ready in supporting such endeavors. In a multipolar context where some countries are promoting selective multilateralism rather than effective multilateralism anchored in universal values, the EU and the AU and their partnership, represent the strength of consensus and unity around common priorities and interests. Both parties are committed to leverage their cooperation with the United Nations, as an essential forum for a rules-based international order.

Together, the EU and the AU can be very strong in the international arena in promoting shared values and common visions, starting from multilateralism, the respect of human rights, climate governance,

solidarity, democracy and a rules-based international environment whose aim is to reach a lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

Brussels - Midrand, 20 November 2020

Djamel Bourras  
Acting President  
Pan - African Parliament

Maria Soraya Rodriguez Ramos  
DPAP Chairperson  
European Parliament