



**2020/2041(INI)**

23.9.2020

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on a new EU-Africa Strategy – a partnership for sustainable and inclusive  
development  
(2020/2041(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Juan Fernando López Aguilar

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home 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 urgent need for a stronger long-term, equitable, ambitious, sustainable and multi-faceted partnership, based on political dialogue, joint ownership, solidarity and mutual confidence, in order to tackle our common challenges and to achieve shared goals;
2. Recalls the particularly close historical ties binding the European Union (EU) and Africa, and the EU's major contribution both in terms of development aid<sup>1</sup> and in the smooth functioning of the African Union (AU)<sup>2</sup>; notes that the EU is the world's leading donor of development and humanitarian aid; recalls that while the EU is both Africa's biggest investor and its biggest development fund donor, with almost EUR 20 billion allocated every year by the EU and its Member States, as a region sub-Saharan Africa still ranks lowest in the world on the human development index; recalls the importance of intra-regional African migration; calls for the finalisation of major projects for the development of the African continent, such as the fight against corruption, digitalisation, sustainable development, the strengthening of the rule of law, the protection of minorities and the most vulnerable, particularly children, gender equality, and equal opportunities for all;
3. Underlines that poverty in the African continent remains one of the key factors in migration; considers that the EU can make better and more efficient use of its instruments such as the EU-Africa Trust Fund, and could increase funding of the Erasmus+ Programme for youth education;
4. Highlights the important cultural and economic contributions of the African diaspora to the EU, and the importance of remittances to African countries' development and recovery from crises;
5. Recalls that according to the principle of country ownership, development policies and programmes can only succeed if they are led by developing countries, and if they are tailored to country-specific situations and needs; highlights the need to work together with civil society and local communities in this regard to ensure that people's needs and vulnerabilities are addressed;
6. Calls on the EU and its Member States to put the respect and promotion of human rights at the core of the new EU-Africa Strategy; stresses, further, the importance of democracy, equality, solidarity, women's and minority rights, good governance in EU-Africa relations, in particular by strengthening links to and support for civil society in African countries, peace and security, as well as the climate, environment and

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<sup>1</sup> EUR 19.6 billion, 46 % of the overall total (2018),

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_375](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_375)

<sup>2</sup> USD 327 million, 42 % of its budget, answer to parliamentary question E-003478/2018,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-003478-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-003478-ASW_EN.html) .

biodiversity as the necessary foundations for a sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial EU-Africa Partnership;

7. Stresses in particular the need to put the human rights of refugees and migrants at the heart of its partnership on migration with Africa, and calls for the end of criminalisation of migrants and refugees;
8. Recalls the importance of designing the strategic partnership with Africa by strengthening the links established with the AU, as well as by developing regional cooperation and trilateral EU-AU-UN dialogue;
9. Calls for increased efforts to combat corruption, which constitutes a major obstacle to effective development, preventing Africa's peoples from fully benefiting from the effects of joint EU-AU policies;
10. Calls for the development of a monitoring mechanism, as well as for full transparency and accountability of EU funding;
11. Recommends that the EU and AU better implement and enforce existing national and international anti-corruption instruments, and make use of new technologies and digital services; calls on the EU to adopt a stringent regulatory framework on corruption;
12. Recalls that illicit financial flows (IFF) constitute a substantial problem for developing countries; proposes stepping up the channelling of EU funds to direct beneficiaries via international organisations on the ground;
13. Stresses the importance of including in the new Strategy concrete actions aimed at empowering migrant and diaspora groups to contribute to the shaping, implementation and monitoring of the new Strategy; underscores the need for increased involvement of EU and African civil society including NGOs in shaping the Strategy and monitoring its implementation; emphasises the pivotal role played by civil society worldwide in supporting democracy and consolidating political dialogue;
14. Considers that a dialogue between the EU, the AU and the African states is needed on the issue of migration, which is a long-term priority issue in EU-Africa relations;
15. Takes the view that we must develop strong cooperation on migration, established on the principles of solidarity, shared responsibility and respect for human rights; underlines the importance of ensuring effectiveness, fairness and due process in the issuing of consular laissez-passers and in the conclusion of readmission agreements, giving preference to voluntary return, and ensuring that the rights and dignity of individuals are fully protected and respected;
16. Calls for sustainable return and reintegration to be accompanied by robust and long-term policies supporting returnees and tackling structural issues in countries of origin, including sustainable and fair economic structures, good governance and rule of law and respect of human rights and gender equality;
17. Points out that 17 % of the world's population, 1.3 billion people, currently live in Africa; notes that according to forecasts, the population of sub-Saharan Africa is

projected to double by 2050, and that more than half of global population growth by 2050 is expected to occur in Africa<sup>3</sup>; recalls that up to 80 % of all international migrants who originate from African countries are moving within the African continent, contributing to Africa's development, prosperity and integration;

18. Stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation to fight human trafficking; calls in this regard for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary effort and coordination at all levels in cooperation with local governments, including international law enforcement cooperation; considers that the fight against people smugglers and human traffickers must be conducted jointly with both parties, and with the support of Europol, among others;
19. Calls for the EU and African nations to work together to create an effective and wide-reaching information campaign regarding the risks and dangers of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in order to prevent individuals from endangering their lives to enter the EU irregularly;
20. Points out that some African countries do not have reliable civil registration agencies, and hence many of their citizens have no official existence in law and are, as a consequence, deprived of their civic rights and unable to take part in democratic processes and to vote; points out that this leads to a lack of reliable and pertinent demographic statistics;
21. Underlines the need to guarantee fair and accessible asylum procedures for people in need of international protection both in the EU and in African countries; calls on the EU to provide direct and indirect assistance to migrants and refugees near the homes they flee;
22. Notes that African countries host a large proportion of the total of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide, whose vulnerable situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis; calls for sharing of global responsibility for refugees in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, including through the increase of financial support, resettlement and the creation of humanitarian corridors and issuance of humanitarian visas;
23. Recalls the urgent need to develop safe and legal pathways for people in need of protection, as well as labour visa facilitation for entry to the EU across skills levels and with social protection measures equivalent to those enjoyed by EU citizens; calls on the EU and its Member States to increase their contribution to global resettlement needs, and to facilitate family reunification of third country nationals;
24. Calls on the EU and African countries to expand safe and regular migration channels between Europe and Africa, as well as regular mobility on the African continent, so as to reduce human rights violations and migrants' deaths on dangerous migratory paths, and to maximise the benefits of migration in line with the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; calls on the Commission, in this context, to ensure and monitor that the cooperation on migration management does not affect intra-Africa

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/population/index.html>

mobility;

25. Recalls the need to set up a dedicated and common European civil search and rescue operation to end the loss of life at sea;
26. Stresses the importance of developing a genuine circular migration policy enabling skilled and unskilled workers to benefit from an exchange of professional knowledge and mobility between the EU and Africa, allowing people to return to their countries of origin and thus promoting ‘brain gain’; recalls that brain drain is a problem that needs to be addressed with the utmost attention in order to design a genuine and sustainable strategic partnership with Africa; supports prioritising eligible applications for work permits from countries of origin and transit to the EU (for instance, through embassies or online) in order to discourage migrants from resorting to irregular migration channels, and to ease the burden on the asylum and migration system;
27. Considers that the fragmentation of national regulations on professional migration in the Union, together with the complexity and highly bureaucratic nature of the procedures, discourages recourse to the EU’s legal migration channels; recommends the establishment of a harmonised and non-bureaucratic EU application procedure under the EU-Africa Partnership.
28. Supports the digitisation and modernisation of public administration in African countries, in particular with a view to developing reliable civil registration agencies, providing secure identity documents, and promoting data exchange; stresses that all data exchanged must be subject to relevant data protection and privacy laws; calls on the EU to work hand-in-hand with African nations in order to work towards global data protection standards, which in turn will help tackle crime and strengthen each other’s economies;
29. Underlines the risks of misuse of these systems by governments prosecuting opponents or human rights defenders; insists that this data must not be transferred to third countries, including the EU and its Member States, in any way that goes beyond any international agreement;
30. Notes the strong focus on the digital economy in the new EU-Africa Strategy; highlights that the COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates Africa’s vulnerabilities linked, among other causes, to poor economic diversification, high dependency on the export of raw materials, the lack of universal health coverage, and the lack of universal access to energy, water and sanitation; questions, in light of the above, this priority setting as part of the EU-Africa Strategy; reiterates that, especially in a context of financial constraints, developing digital technologies should not prevail over more urgent challenges in Africa, including fulfilling basic human needs such as access to electricity, education and sanitation; supports a digitalisation agenda for the EU-Africa Partnership that ensures equal access, use and creation of digital technology, with a view to bridging the digital gap, including the digital gender gap;
31. Reiterates that the fight against terrorism is a common priority; calls on the EU to continue in its efforts, and to provide more comprehensive assistance to African partners in regions affected by terrorism;

32. Welcomes Africa's sustained economic growth, and notes that African nations are hubs of innovation, entrepreneurship, and small and medium-sized businesses, which should enable them to guarantee a decent future for their young people, the main driving force behind the continent's development<sup>4</sup>, and thus to discourage unaccompanied minors from leaving, and to cooperate in readmitting those eligible for return; calls for substantial investment in the human development of young generations through ensuring access to rights, including education, nutritious food, healthcare, including sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights services, and the respect for human rights;
33. Stresses the importance of developing sound policies for equal access to quality education, inclusive skills learning programmes for all children, and of creating cross-sector opportunities for social progress and economic growth; stresses that these actions are central to lifting people and youth out of poverty;
34. Welcomes the efforts made by some African leaders to develop and promote legislation to fight against sexual and domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage, marital rape and any kind of abuse, and stresses the need for further cooperation on these issues; emphasises that empowering women and girls, and protecting them from human trafficking, violence and exploitation must be a priority in our cooperation with African nations; notes that this can be aided by the exchange of best practices and specific EU initiatives on education and health for women and girls; stresses that ensuring the equality, fundamental rights and freedom of women and girls is an essential component of fighting criminality and strengthening the African economy;
35. Points out that a gender perspective should be mainstreamed throughout the Strategy, in addition to specific measures and a specific budget allowance for women rights, involving youth, feminist, and women-led organisations; emphasises that the Strategy must guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as the protection and promotion of LGBTI rights;
36. Recalls that specific actions should be taken to protect migrants from death, disappearance, family separation, and violations of their rights, including the principle of non-refoulement and the best interests of the child;
37. Highlights the importance of economic partnerships between European and African businesses, notably SMEs, in boosting economic opportunities on both continents;
38. Calls for the security and interests of both European and African continents and their citizens to be taken into account, including through the direct participation of civil society organisations in the EU-Africa Strategy process; recognises the close links between resilience, security, peace and governance; stresses the importance of focusing on human security, addressing the root causes of conflict and ensuring that any EU engagement is conflict-sensitive and based on the needs and initiatives of local populations, in particular civil society initiatives for peace and democracy;
39. Points out the need to prioritise both parties' public health systems in order to guarantee

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<sup>4</sup> 62 % of sub-Saharan Africa's population is under 25 years of age  
[https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019\\_Highlights.pdf](https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf)

universal access to health services, including research and development of global health.





## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	22.9.2020
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 47 -: 13 0: 7
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Magdalena Adamowicz, Malik Azmani, Katarina Barley, Fernando Barrena Arza, Pietro Bartolo, Nicolas Bay, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Patrick Breyer, Saskia Bricmont, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Damien Carême, Anna Júlia Donáth, Lena Düpont, Cornelia Ernst, Laura Ferrara, Nicolaus Fest, Jean-Paul Garraud, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Andrzej Halicki, Balázs Hidvéghi, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Livia Járóka, Marina Kaljurand, Assita Kanko, Fabienne Keller, Peter Kofod, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Nuno Melo, Roberta Metsola, Nadine Morano, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Nicola Procaccini, Paulo Rangel, Diana Riba i Giner, Ralf Seekatz, Michal Šimečka, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Tineke Strik, Ramona Strugariu, Annalisa Tardino, Tomas Tobé, Dragoş Tudorache, Milan Uhrík, Tom Vandendriessche, Bettina Vollath, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Elena Yoncheva
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Delara Burkhardt, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Kostas Papadakis, Kris Peeters, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Sira Rego, Rob Rooken, Paul Tang, Tomáš Zdechovský
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Isabel Benjumea Benjumea

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

47	+
EPP	Magdalena Adamowicz, Vasile Blaga, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Lena Düpont, Andrzej Halicki, Livia Járóka, Jeroen Lenaers, Nuno Melo, Roberta Metsola, Kris Peeters, Paulo Rangel, Ralf Seekatz, Tomas Tobé, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Delara Burkhardt, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Marina Kaljurand, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Paul Tang, Bettina Vollath, Elena Yoncheva
RENEW	Anna Júlia Donáth, Sophia In 'T Veld, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoş Tudorache
GREENS/EFA	Patrick Breyer, Saskia Briemont, Damien Carême, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Diana Riba I Giner, Tineke Strik
ECR	Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Assita Kanko, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
NI	Laura Ferrara

13	-
EPP	Balázs Hidvéghi, Nadine Morano
ID	Nicolas Bay, Nicolaus Fest, Jean-Paul Garraud, Peter Kofod, Annalisa Tardino, Tom Vandendriessche
ECR	Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Nicola Procaccini, Rob Rooker
NI	Kostas Papadakis, Milan Uhrík

7	0
EPP	Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Vladimír Bilčík
RENEW	Malik Azmani
EUL/NGL	Pernando Barrena Arza, Cornelia Ernst, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Sira Rego

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention