
Africa – EU Civil Society Forum

A people centered strategy

11-13 July 2017, Tunis, Tunisia



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

PRESS RELEASE

Africa-EU Intercontinental CSO Forum starting today in Tunis

The **Africa-EU Intercontinental CSO Forum**, a gathering of African and European Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) kick-starts tomorrow, Tuesday 11th July 2017 in Tunis suburb. This Forum, the third of its kind, is organised in the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), and supported by the African Union's Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU/CIDO) and the European Union (EU).

The Forum will be opened on 11 July 2017 at 9:45 AM by the Tunisian Government, the EU Delegation in Tunis, the African Union Commission, as well as representatives from the African and European CSO Steering Groups.

The Forum's discussions will be structured around five thematic clusters: conflict prevention, peacebuilding and refugees; human development; sustainable future for our planet; decent work, universal social protection and sustainable socio-economic development; and democratic governance and civic participation.

The forum will bring together civil society organizations from both continents to discuss future priorities in light of external challenges and opportunities at global and regional levels and make specific recommendations to deliver to Heads of State and Government, and to African and European institutions ahead of the upcoming **5th Africa-EU Summit, in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) on 28 and 29 November 2017.**

Context:

The First Africa-EU Intercontinental CSO Forum took place in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2010. The participants adopted several recommendations covering most of the partnerships. The final declaration contains recommendations to improve and enhance the delivery of the Strategy in response to the development needs of people, including on: diaspora development, job creation; value addition in agriculture, technology, industry, mineral and raw material production; affordable access to energy for all; rural infrastructure; fair trade; rights of migrants; expeditious and reciprocal visa processes; women's rights and empowerment; youth involvement; climate debt; decent work; affordable access to energy for all; civilian involvement in conflict prevention and resolution; getting on track on the MDGs in particular in areas such as health, education, reducing maternal and child mortality, water and sanitation. Civil society also denounces xenophobia, extremism, terrorism and violence in all its forms.

On 23-25 October 2013, African and European civil society organisations met at the Second Africa-EU Civil Society Forum in Brussels, Belgium, ahead of the Africa-EU Summit of April 2014. Representatives of 32 African and 36 EU civil society organisations (CSO) participated in the forum and the deliberations

delivered a Communiqué, a Declaration on the JAES and Next steps or follow-up actions by the JSC. The 2nd Forum took place against the backdrop of mutual dissatisfaction in both Africa and the EU with the results achieved so far in the implementation of the JAES since its adoption in 2007. In the light of the changing economic contexts of Africa and the EU, coupled with difficulties in resolving through political dialogue issues of, amongst other things, trade and mutually beneficial development, governments of both the EU and the AU have called for a reform of the JAES to be discussed and adopted at the Summit in April 2014.

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For general information about the Forum and the Africa-EU Partnership, visit <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/> Follow live updates on Twitter: #AfricaEUCSO