



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit

The Executive Director of the North South Centre will participate in the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit which will be held in Tripoli, Libya, on 25-28 November, preceding the 3rd Africa-EU Summit, at the same location, on 29-30 November. The Youth Summit is designed to offer to young people and youth organisations from Africa and Europe the opportunity to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues and to promote their meaningful participation in the Euro-African cooperation, contributing to the further development of the Africa-EU strategic partnership. The event is organised by the European Youth Forum, the Pan-African Youth Union, ICMYO organisations and the National Organization of Libyan Youth, with the support of the European Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

In December 2007, preceding the 2nd Africa-EU Summit, the 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit was held in Lisbon, jointly organised by the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in partnership with other international youth organisations and institutions, with the support of the European Commission and the Portuguese Youth Institute and kindly hosted by the Portuguese National Youth Council. Attended by two hundred and fifty representatives from youth organisations in Europe and Africa, including representatives from the African Diaspora living in Europe, the Youth Summit aimed to prepare the contribution of youth organisations into the EU-Africa Summit, to reach an effective framework for dialogue and cooperation between young people and youth organisations from both regions and to contribute to the recognition of the important role they play in the Africa-Europe cooperation.

The I Africa-Europe Youth Summit concluded with a Declaration that stated the main priorities of African and European young people for the Euro-African cooperation, focusing on the Millennium Development Goals; good governance and democracy; peace and conflict; globalisation, trade and socio-economic development; climate change and sustainable development; migration, mobility, intercultural dialogue and co-development; employment and the decent work agenda and the strategy and instruments for the Euro-African youth participation and cooperation. The Final Declaration was submitted to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit by two youth representatives from Africa and Europe.

With the Youth Summit, good progress was made in increasing the dialogue and cooperation between African and European young people and youth organisations, empowering them to act in partnership and to contribute to the Africa-Europe cooperation.

At the II EU-Africa Summit the EU and African Heads of State and Government adopted a Joint Strategy and Action Plan, defining the long-term policy guidelines between the two continents and the priority areas for the strategic partnership for a two-year period. Embracing a people-centred approach, the EU-Africa partnership identifies a significant role for civil society organisations in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Strategy and its Action Plans. Youth is also recognised as a key actor. The Joint Strategy identifies as a priority "the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth".

Fulfilling this role, youth organisations from both regions have been working together with other civil society organisations and sub-regional institutions on following up the Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy.

A partnership formed by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, with governmental and non governmental actors in Africa and Europe, has been set up to implement a follow up programme on Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, aimed at providing a stable and effective framework for this dialogue and cooperation. The programme is carried out in the frame of a Joint Management Agreement signed with the European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office and a Partnership Agreement on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of youth.

The programme combines a range of activities aimed to promote the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth; strengthen young people's capacity to disseminate information and to get involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Strategy; facilitate moments of encounter and exchange between young Africans and Europeans; and help mapping the existing African youth networks. This includes training and capacity building activities for youth organisations and support to youth work and non state actors promoting youth policies.