

East Africa Consultative Forum

Towards the Africa-Europe Youth Summit

(To coincide with the 2nd EU-AFRICA Heads of States Summit)

Introduction and background

The relationship between Europe and Africa is changing. The emergence of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has created numerous opportunities for inter-regional cooperation.

In December 2005, the European Union adopted the "EU Strategy for Africa", setting out guidelines for a new Europe-Africa partnership. This collaboration was then further strengthened by the 6th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in Vienna 8 May 2006, and the African Union Commission – European Commission meeting in Addis Ababa on 2 October 2006. These events have contributed to a growing consensus among European and African leaders regarding issues of peace and security, human rights and governance, trade and integration, and development. The emerging accord in evidence is based on notions of integration, solidarity, and cooperation.

This process has been designed to culminate in the adoption of a Joint EU-AU Strategy at the 2nd EU-AU Summit, proposed by the Portuguese Government to be held in Lisbon in 2007 under the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union. This Joint Strategy will act as a reference framework for Europe-Africa relations over the next decade. Accordingly, the coming year represents a unique opportunity to institutionalize youth cooperation and participation in Euro-African relations.

At the same time, the rapport between African and European youths is also evolving, inspired by the emergence of strong links between the civil society of both continents. The establishment of political instruments such as the *Africa Youth Charter* is a strong indicator of these changes - many of which have developed within the context of the *World Program of Action for Youth*, adopted by the UN in 1995, and of the 1998 *Braga Youth Action Plan* - working towards the achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals*.

Yet despite these positive developments, the process of Euro-African youth cooperation requires further attention. This is reflected in the growing recognition amongst European and African young people of the need to establish a permanent framework for youth dialogue and mutual aid, bringing Euro-African youth relations into line with, for example, the formalized interaction enjoyed between young people from Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

Preparations for this Summit started in 2006 in a partnership involving various youth organisations and youth related agencies from Africa and Europe gathered in a Steering Group facilitated by the North-South Centre and including the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Movement, International Youth Organisations (WOSM, Party Political Youth Organisations etc.); the Portuguese Youth Council; the

African Institute of South Africa; the Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Education Populaire and the other hosts of the regional Consultations in Africa. This Steering group has also been followed by the European Commission.

The Steering Group recommended - bearing in mind the dynamics of co-management within the *Council of Europe* between governments and youth groups, the development of permanent Euro-African youth relations, starting with the **2007 Africa-Europe Youth Summit**. This, in order to consolidate the political process of co-management already established by several actors at varying levels (international institutions, governments, and youth organizations), while also creating a unique space for youth participation in this evolving Euro-African partnership.

Planned Activities and Calendar

Consultation Meetings

In order to prepare for the youth summit and to make this a participatory and inclusive process, five African sub-regional consultative / preparatory meetings and a consultative/preparatory meeting for the European and African youth Diaspora living in Europe took place prior to the youth summit, and preparations are underway for other regional consultations

The main objectives of the regional consultative meetings are to provide regional platforms to discuss and prepare for the actual youth summit, reflecting the regional and sub-regional specificities. The sub - regional meetings in Africa will follow the regional distribution of the African union. Each regional and sub - regional meeting will involve youth organizations of the region aiming at a minimum 2 participants per country female and male, seeking gender balance, political balance, representativity and diversity in terms of the scope and nature of the youth work. They should also aim at gathering expertise in the different thematic working areas.

The European and African youth Diaspora living in Europe gathered close to 130 youth representatives coming from members of the European youth forum and from active the African Diaspora living in Europe.

The following consultative meetings and locations are proposed:

1. [Southern Africa Regional Meeting](#)

Location: Johannesburg

Host: Africa Institute of South Africa and National Youth Commission (South Africa)

Countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

2. [Central Africa Regional Meeting](#)

Location: Yaounde- Cameroon

Host: Secretariat Executif Permanent de la Jeunesse Africaine

Countries : Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, D.R. Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, and Sao Tome and Principe

3. West Africa Regional Meeting

Location: Niamey, Niger

Host: National Youth Council of Niger and Directorate of youth and socio – educational activities

Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Ivory Cost, Libria, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo

4. East Africa Regional Meeting

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Host: African Youth Corps

Countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Suda, Tanzania and Uganda,

5. North Africa Regional Meeting

Location: Algiers, Algeria

Host: Pan African Youth Union (PYU)

Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara

6. European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe Meeting:

Countries: Council of Europe member states

Location: Marly le Roy, Paris:

Host: INJEP, North South Center, European Youth Forum

Provisional Calendar

4-6 May 07	Portuguese National Consultation Meeting	Completed
25-27 May 07	Consultation with the African Youth Diaspora living in Portugal	Completed
22-25 July 07	European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe Consultation Meeting	Completed
22-24 August 07	Southern Africa Regional Consultation meeting	Completed
1-3 October 07	West Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
10-12 October 07	Central Africa Regional Consultation Meting	Forthcoming
15-17 October 07	East Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
29-31 October 07	North Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	Forthcoming
4-7 December 07	Africa Europe Youth Summit	Forthcoming

The Youth Summit

The Africa Europe Youth Summit is foreseen to coincide with the summit of heads of states both timely and physically. It is therefore expected to take place in Lisbon on 4-7 December 2007.

The youth summit will gather 200 to 250 youth representatives from youth organizations from Europe and Africa. The participation is foreseen to be composed of minimum two youth representatives per country female and male, seeking gender balance, political balance, representativity and diversity in terms of the scope and nature of the youth work.

The youth summit should also aim at gathering expertise in the different thematic working areas. The summit is been planed to last for three days using combination of plenary and thematic working panels in a youthful environment and based on participatory and non formal education methodologies.

Purpose of the workshop

The purpose of the consultation is to revive, situate and harness the contribution of east African youth contribution in the regional consultations towards the Africa Europe youth summit as a vehicle for innovative ideas, development and social transformation.

The conference will also seek to broaden mutual understanding and knowledge and foster greater cooperation for development between Africa and Europe.

The conference will also promote continuous, sustained and constructive engagement of youth and policy makers with priority questions and concerns confronting African and European youth and ensure their effective involvement in the execution of programs for development on the continents.

Objectives and Expected Results

The EU- AU Summit of head of States will focus in creating the political context and adoption of a Joint EU-AU Strategy for cooperation and to achieve a solid and effective partnership between the two continents. At the very basis of this partnership has to be the involvement of Civil Society and of the young people of the two regions.

In this sense the main aims of the Africa Europe Youth Summit are to increase young people's participation in the Euro–African Cooperation and to reinforce youth work in Africa and Europe and to influence the youth policy in Africa Europe Cooperation, particularly in the context of the EU-AU Summit of Head of States.

Objective:

The East Africa Consultation Meeting prior to the youth Summit is a fundamental moment of this strategy and will have the following **Objectives**:

- To prepare the contribution of East African youth organisations and of young people from eastern Africa to the Africa Europe Youth Summit and consequently to the EU-AU Summit of Heads of States;
- To contribute for increasing cooperation and relationship between youth organisations within Africa for Euro-African Cooperation ;
- To contribute to the recognition of important role of Young people and youth Groups in the Africa Europe Cooperation.
- To improve the knowledge and understanding of young people's contributions, values and aspirations for the future relations between Europe and Africa.

The Expected Results of this meeting are the following:

- The proceedings of the Conference will be recorded and reproduced, and will also be available on the homepages.
- The conclusions and suggestions of the Round Tables and Thematic Groups will be included in the report of the African consultation that will be issued by the Draft Committee soon after the Conference.
- Recommendations provided as an input to
- An increase in understanding and dialogue between young people, and their organisations, in the priorities of the Euro-African Cooperation.
- An increase in the understanding of the cultural, social, economical and political context of the Africa Europe relations
- An informal network of youth leaders and organisations with interest in developing Africa Europe co-operation and actively committed to the strengthening of Civil Society;

Profile of Participants

The participants for this consultation will be selected from Youth organisations. Gender balance will be ensured in the selection process of the participants, as well as the balance between the type and/or nature of organisations.

Concerning participants and their profile:

- should be a key multiplier playing an active role within a youth organisation, network or service at local, national or regional level, and plan to continue this work in the near future;
- seeking gender balance;
- diverse social and geographical background ;
- aged between 18 and 30;
- have already some qualification or experience in terms of international youth work and preferably in Euro African Cooperation;
- be committed to attend the full duration of the meeting and be supported by a youth organisation or service;
- be able to represent his/her organisation and the context of its work,
- Be able to work and communicate in English and/or French

Duration, date, venue

The east Africa consultative forum will take place in the city of Addis Ababa, Capital of Ethiopia from 15 to 17 October 2007.

Representatives from the government, AU, EU and other international institutions will be present at the opening ceremony on Oct. 15th, along with other dignitaries.

It is estimated that the East Africa Consultative Forum shall bring together about 70 to 100 participants and political leaders from Eastern Africa and the AU and Europe.

Agenda

Theme of the Conference

The general theme of consultation is *“Challenges and opportunities for the leaders of the next generation of Africa”* to be discussed in plenary sessions (dedicated to its broadest and cross-cutting aspects) and in thematic groups (for more in-depth analysis of specific issues).

Participants

- Youth organizationa/Young leaders from East Africa
- Pan African Youth Union
- Pan African Youth Network
- European Youth Forum
- North South Center of Council of Europe
- International organizations
- Invited intellectuals from Africa and Europe
- AU/EU/UNECA

Organization of the Conference

East Africa Structure

- A task force in charge of the organization of the East Africa Consultative Forum (**EACF-TF**) will be created

- The task force will be amongst others in charge of:
 - supervision of the organization of the Conference;
 - logistics ;
 - management of resources;
 - list of invitees ;
 - Programme and background papers
 - Liaise with chairs and facilitators

Format of the EACF

- The Conference will begin with an official opening, chaired by (tbc)
- The opening session will include Representatives from the Youth organizations, AU, EU, ECA and representative from the government of Ethiopia.
- The opening session will be followed in the afternoon by a Parallel Round Table and a Plenary Session on peace and Security.
- The second day will be dedicated to debates within 4 Thematic Groups, with two panels each (A and B).
- The sessions of the Thematic Groups will comprise:
 - 1 moderator
 - 1 rapporteur

- 2 lead presenters
- 3 panelists

- Within each Thematic Group, the moderator and the rapporteur shall remain the same in both panels.

- The Thematic Group sessions will be held simultaneously
- On the morning of the third day, the rapporteurs of the Thematic Groups will present the results of the debates to the Plenary.

- The closing event will be a Round Table on a Political Pact between Africa and Europe for Development.

Conference Cost

It is expected that all conference related costs will be covered by donor contributions except for the proposed participant contribution which should include visa and local home country transportation cost. For greater details on conference related cost, please see the budget, Appendix A.

Summarized Program

The scope of the programme will reflect the outline of the proposed EU-AU joint strategy as a means of ensuring that the youth contribution is in line with the agreed upon themes. Furthermore, the programme will engage youth to the greatest degree possible, including its facilitation and participant input. The conference will begin and end with a moment of silence in honour of those persons on the African continent who have been affected by the myriad challenges facing the African peoples. Beginning and ending the conference in this way will provide a foundation of recognition of both the challenges and opportunities that the youth participants have to face as the next generation of African leaders. The first day will bring together in plenary both youth and adult participants in the EU-AU joint strategy consultation, with those persons active in the senior consultative meetings providing for the youth updates on progress to date. Opportunities for question and answer sessions will be available as a means of maintaining the transparency of the process. Following the plenary, youth participants will break out into working groups, which will comprise the majority of the conference's focus. The working groups will again be identified based on the key cluster themes of the joint strategy outline. The focus of the working groups will be the contributions of youth participants in the form of suggested strategy language. A rapporteur from each working group will present progress at the days end at a second plenary session. On the second day, participants will remain in their working groups, and will visit a field site that is of relevance to their specific cluster topic. The rest of the day will be spent in discussion, partially based on the site visit, as to what challenges and opportunities present themselves relating to this cluster topic in their regions. Again, the development of specific language for contribution to the strategy document will be the focus of the days work. The third day will bring back to plenary the participants with the provision of working group reports on their final recommendations

Sunday, Oct. 14th

Arrival of Participants and Registration

Monday, Oct 15th

10h00 / 12h30 – Opening Session (plenary)

13h00 / 15h00 – Lunch Break

15h30 / 17h30 – Parallel Breakout sessions

17h45 / 19h45 – (plenary)

21h00 / 23h00 – Reception and Music Concert

Tuesday, July 16th

09h00 / 13h00 – 1st Session of Thematic Groups – Panel A

13h00 / 14h45 – Lunch Break

15h00 / 19h00 – 2nd Session of Thematic Groups – Panel B

21h00 / 22h30 – Round Table with Film Directors ()

Wednesday, July 17th

10h00 / 12h45 – Presentations of the Rapporteurs (plenary)

13h00 / 14h45 – Lunch Break

15h00 / 17h30 – Round Table on a Political Pact for Peace,

Democracy and Development (plenary)

17h45 / 18h15 – The way forward

19h30 Closing Session

Addis Ababa, August 27, 2007