



Africa Institute of South Africa

THE SADC CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON AFRICA – EUROPE COOPERATION

(August 22-25th Johannesburg, South Africa)

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The Africa – Europe Consultative Forum

The initiative by the North-South Center Council of Europe to promote Africa – Europe relations amongst the youth in both regions could serve as an instrumental method of promoting a common agenda between both regions. The 21st century has clearly demonstrated that a turning point in Africa-Europe development cooperation is necessary in spheres of corporate citizenship and global governance, and challenges emanating from terrorism, and the growing digital divide. On the other hand, youth in the 21st Century are also still besieged by problems that haunted their ancestors. Unequal trade between Europe and Africa, a long standing ongoing chronic matter is still predicated on the African continent graded as a good and indispensable partner so long as its raw materials, cultural goods and other resources remain in demand in Europe.

Furthermore, in most EU countries, with the possible exception of some Scandinavian Countries, development cooperation with Africa has not been a top political priority. Despite all reports that have been published such as the *Commission for Africa* on what needs to be done to hasten Africa's economic recovery, there has been very little commitment from Western institutions to date. Currently most G8 nations are seriously off track in delivering on their historic promises they made to Africa in 2005. The Data Report 2007 finds that the G-8 countries increased their aid by less than half the sum needed from 2004-2006 to meet their 2010 goals. Furthermore, estimates of forthcoming aid flows in 2007 show that the G-8 countries are planning to do only one third of what is really needed to get Africa back on track.¹

Moreover, while public interest in developing countries has diminished in recent years, it is also the case that few governments or opposition parties in Europe have seriously attempted to reverse this trend. In fact, many have reinforced it through their policies and actions. The unclear strategic vision of Africa-Europe relations among Europe's professional social-engineers whether in universities or aid administrations - is partly to blame. But the failure of leading European policy-makers to project a progressive vision of Europe-Africa cooperation must also be seen as a root cause for the low priority now attributed to such cooperation. Finally, sensationalist media

¹ DATA Report 2007. Aid Working in Africa, but G8 Countries Seriously Off Track in Meeting Promises. [Analysis on Peace and Security](#).

coverage of crises has strongly contributed to widespread negative perceptions of Africa. The media rarely portrays the continent in an objective manner, and usually ignores the many positive facets of life in African countries.

African countries on the other hand, have not contributed much either to promoting effective Euro-Africa cooperation that would benefit both regions equally. Despite the democratic wave of the 1990's there is still a need for African countries to focus on 'improvements in governance, emphasising accountability, transparency and inclusion of civil society in the policy-making process. Not much has changed regarding the way the African elite view their role in charting a much improved, people-oriented economic and political path. Instead the African elite have perfected their methodology of practicing illiberal democracy by simply packaging their socio-political programs properly to meet the Western requirements of governance with regard to what is best for Africa. It is unrealistic to expect effective Euro-Africa cooperation that would benefit both regions if African governments are not will to take the necessary steps to first get their own houses in order to establishing state legitimacy.

Corruption is one example that demonstrates the lack of political will by many African countries to practice democratic best practices. To date, most zero-tolerance corruption measures instituted by African governments have been dismal failures. The African Union estimates that currently the continent loses as much as US\$148 billion a year to corruption.² According to the Economist, approximately US\$20 billion of Africa's money is stowed away in Swiss bank accounts, allegedly due to corruption. Despite the aforementioned serious financial losses to Africa forcing most citizens to survive on less than a dollar a day, the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption also contains imperfections, such as weak enforcement mechanisms and a provision allowing signatories to opt out of selected issues. Consequently, one could argue that rather than being devising serious measures intended to stamp out corruption, many anti-corruption crackdowns by Africans governments have been public relations exercises.

² Dowden, Richard. *A Message to World Leaders: What Damage Have we Done to Africa?* Royal African Society. June 2005. www.royalafricansociety.org

It is not enough to whine to the West, in particular Western Europe and the United States to end subsidies, and opening up of markets, if African leaders do not take the necessary steps to practice accountability and transparency. In the final analysis, the success and development of the AU and its member states depends on strengthening the member states by means of leadership that follows the rule of law. Application of the rule of law would in turn, usher in state legitimacy in these countries. The African Forum & Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) and Oxfam, UK hammer this viewpoint when they warn that the AU is only as strong as its weakest link. The fact is cooperation between these two regions rests largely on state legitimacy and credibility. *Therefore, in crafting Euro-Africa cooperation, the unsolved challenge for African youth is basically how are the AU and its member states going to deal with governments that are in non-compliance with the fundamental principles of good governance?*

The timing of this workshop on Euro-Africa cooperation is a very welcome initiative as the youth are the ones to bear the brunt of the aforementioned hurdles facing both regions, particularly those in Africa. Furthermore, if success between the two regions is to be achieved it is important that youth civil societies from both regions are involved in the process. The youth also have an obligation to take the initiative of designing and implementing effective modes of cooperation that will involve a wide section of both regions. In crafting tools of Euro-Africa cooperation amongst the youth, the key issues this workshop will focus on are the following:

- a) Post Conflict Reconstruction and Human Security
- b) Employment and Migration
- c) Dynamics Surrounding Globalization
- d) MDGs and Health
- e) Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa
- f) Democratization: Challenges & Prospects

Purpose of the Workshop:

The purpose of the workshop is to create and develop frame works that could be implemented for developing relations between the youth in Africa and Europe, and to also produce a

Workshop Goals:

The workshop is structured to support the Consultative process by elaborating and devising strategies for best practices or international cooperation. These strategies will promote policy development, capacity building, advocacy etc between the two regions.

The expected programme outcomes include the following: strengthening relationships between the youth in the EU and AU by promoting the involvement of youth in good governance, peace-building, and democratic consolidation

Specific Objectives

Specifically, workshop participants will:

- i. Assess survey results related to AU – EU Cooperation
- ii. Present and analyze draft work plans and suggest where the intended outputs and indicative activities can be strengthened so as to yield optimum impact.
- iii. Identify, from the revised work plans, areas where greater collaboration can be forged between the EU and AU
- iv. Map out a strategy, a plan of action and a monitoring process suitable for establishing and sustaining effective collaboration, program support and cooperation.

Expected Outputs

The workshop will seek to deliver the following outputs:

- The expressed interests of youth delegates from the region to collaborate on achieving programme objectives and delivering results.
- A set programme outputs and/or activities where greater collaboration and closer collaboration can be forged in their implementation.
- The final draft of work plans.
- A strategic action plan and a reporting and monitoring process for promoting and sustaining partnerships, support and collaboration

- A draft workshop report summarizing the proceedings and consensus reached with respect to the outputs.

Duration, Date and Venue

The workshop will be held for three days from August 22 – 25th, 2007 at the Birchwood Conference Center in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Agenda and Provisional Programme

There will be presentation overviews by experts in the particular themes selected. Deliberations will follow the presentations in two plenary sessions. Facilitators will manage each plenary session, with resource persons. Facilitators are required to meet and during the workshop deliberations and follow the procedural methods devised for the program. Rapporteurs will be provided during panel discussions and sessions to record information. The agendas for the respective sessions and broad time schedules will be provided. A detailed provisional programme will be sent to participants prior to the workshop.

Annotated Agenda

Objectives, outcomes and strategies of workshop

An overview of the purpose of the workshop, expectations and structured will be presented. The goal is to have all participants understand the workshop's objectives and outcomes. Clarification can be sought, where needed, to deepen this understanding.

The detailed, extended programme will also be considered. Following the submission of appropriate amendments, it will be adopted.

Overview of regional programme goal, objectives, strategy and intended results

An overview of the Consultative Forum will be presented. The goals include having participants come to a fuller understanding of the program's components and elements and provide a common platform for subsequent discussions.

Consideration and strengthening of programme outputs/activities and work plans

Participants will consider drafts presented and suggest, where necessary, additional outputs and/or activities aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and potential impact of the programme.

Interested parties are also expected to identify programme areas and/or outputs/activities on which they would particularly like to collaborate prior to the workshop.

A draft on “potential programmable areas” including those currently not in the programme document, but for which greater collaboration and partnership could be forged, will be tabled as well. Participants are to review the areas and list those for which such collaboration could be built.

Composition of working groups, discussion of group assignments and sessions

Participants will be divided into various groups to work on thematic components as laid out by the Steering Committee.

Each group will be responsible for preparing a strategic approach and framework aimed at promoting and sustaining partnership, programme support and collaboration. The group will also prepare a corresponding plan of action to implement the framework. The groups will consider the programmable areas in the programme document and design a framework for promoting and sustaining partnerships, collaboration and programme support.

Specific focus sheets will be prepared to guide group discussions and focus the expected outputs. The sheet will contain a clear specification of the assigned task and deliverables for each group. Contents of the sheets will be discussed before the groups break up for individual working sessions. The intentions are, firstly, to establish a common understanding of what is required of each assignment; secondly, to ensure that members of one group will have an idea of other groups’ tasks and understand how those relate to its own work.

A group report will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines agreed to in the focus sheets.

Consideration of group reports

Group reports will be presented and considered in plenary at the end of day 2 and Day 3. Clarifications will be sought and contributions made to strengthen the reports. That done, the reports will be adopted and owned as decisions reached and suggestions made by the workshop.

Consideration of draft workshop report

An overall draft report on the workshop will be presented. Participants will be requested to make corrections to the draft, where needed. Following the workshop, the corrected report will be edited, printed and published as a programme document that defines and establishes the operational framework for fostering and managing the process of collaboration in the strengthening of Euro-Africa cooperation.

Organizations/Agencies Invited as participants

Youth Civil Societies

Non-Governmental Organizations (Including Media and Academic Institutions

Inter-Regional Organizations

Sub-Regional Organizations

SADC National Youth Commissions

Civil Societies