

CONFERENCE

A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS: AFRICA-EU RELATIONS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD

28th May 2021 9.30am - 4.30pm GMT+1, Lisbon (digital)

The Covid-19 pandemic deepened already existing challenges and highlighted the need for structural transformations in our societies. From the impacts of climate change to the increasing of inequalities, the pandemic made it impossible to ignore that global challenges can only be met through genuine cooperation between all countries and sectors. In a key moment for Africa-EU relations and in the run up to the Summit of Heads of State and Governments, the Conference aims at discussing the fundamental principles that should be at the core of a genuine and meaningful partnership that is committed to addressing the most pressing issues in a generation.

Calls have been mounting to transform Africa-EU relations into a fairer and more balanced partnership. This requires not only a deep transformation of the donor/recipient approach that has governed Africa-EU relations for the past decades but also the commitment to engage on a wide debate about the future that we want to build together. Hence, the Conference “A Partnership of Equals: Africa-EU relations in an increasingly complex world” will bring together both officials and civil society from Africa and Europe to discuss about the main issues on the table.

The Conference’s programme reflects the most pressing issues currently being discussed and starts with an exchange on the fundamental principles that should guide the partnership. As a key instrument in the relationship between both continents, the Conference will focus on the potential of the partnership to promote people-centered policies that address common challenges in an inclusive and democratic manner.

Due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the Conference will be fully virtual.



Agenda

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- 9.30am** **Opening and presentation of report on EU Africa relations**
Ana Patrícia Fonseca, President Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD
Patrícia Magalhães Ferreira, International Development expert
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- 9.45am** **Keynote address – Africa-EU Partnership in an increasingly complex world**
Jutta Urpilainen, European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships
Carlos Lopes, High Representative of the African Union Commission
Chairperson for AU-EU Relations Post 2020
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- 10.05am** **Towards a genuine and meaningful Africa-EU Partnership**

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on the EU-Africa Strategy
Faten Aggad, Senior Advisor to the AU High Representative on AU-EU relations
Francisco André, Portuguese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Tanya Cox, Director CONCORD Europe
Moses Isooba, Executive Director Uganda NGO Forum

Moderated by Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General CIDSE
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- 12pm Lunch break*
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- 2.00pm** **An equality driven Partnership that leaves no one behind**

Cristina Moniz, Vice-President Camões – Portuguese Development Agency
Gertrude Mongella, African Union’s Coordinator for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action / Member of the Pan-African Parliament
Carine Nsoudou, Executive Director Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)

Moderated by Luísa Fondello, Caritas Europa
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- 2.45pm** **A fair, inclusive, and sustainable economic Partnership**

Diana Montero Melis, Member of Cabinet of European Commissioner for International Partnerships
Representative from the Department of Economic Affairs of the AU Commission
Paul Okumu, Head of Secretariat Africa Platform

Moderated by Jean Saldanha, Director Eurodad
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3.30pm Human Rights at the core of a democratic partnership

Henriette Geiger, DG INTPA.G Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace
Soyata Maiga, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
Désiré Assogbavi, International Development Strategist and former Resident Representative of Oxfam International to the African Union

Moderated by Lysa John, Secretary-General CIVICUS

4.15pm Closing

