



**PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA –  
EUROPE'S POLICIES**

The VENRO Project on the  
Africa-EU Partnership

## Partnership for the Poor? The Joint Africa-EU Strategy: Risks and Opportunities

2010



Results of the International Conference, 30th November 2009 in Bonn

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**Preface – By Claudia Warning and Michael Steeb**

When the Heads of State and Government from Africa and Europe adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in December 2007, this heralded a new era in relations between the two continents.

High hopes were attached to the Lisbon Summit: a Partnership at eye level reaching beyond development co-operation and covering all levels of co-operation.

But two years on, what is left of this euphoria? All in all, things have become quiet regarding the Partnership.

With our Conference, we are putting the Joint Africa-EU Strategy back on the public agenda. Together with our African partners, we want to draw up an interim balance from the angle of civil society. What has happened since the Summit in Lisbon? Has the Partnership improved the situation of the poor? What challenges do we face in implementing the Strategy?

We are happy to have two strong allies at the Conference: As Germany’s overseas broadcasting service, Deutsche Welle contributes to international understanding in dialogue with other cultures. CONCORD unites development non-governmental organisations throughout Europe under its umbrella.

From today’s perspective, we can see risks and challenges that need to be addressed. We ask ourselves whether the Joint Africa-EU Strategy has set the right priorities for a true partnership. For example, the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) have been explicitly omitted from the Strategy’s programme. However, for Africa, the EPAs represent a key obstacle to regional integration, and in their present form, they do not promote development. Therefore, this important topic also needs to be considered in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

Furthermore, gender is only established as a cross-cutting issue in the Strategy’s Action Plan. If this aspect is

not to fall by the wayside, a separate Gender Action Plan will be required.

The Partnership on Energy has set large-scale projects as a priority. Such projects chiefly concentrate on Europe’s energy security and give too little consideration to Africa’s population, above all to those living in rural regions.

These thematic foci were controversially debated in the three Panels by African and European representatives of civil society and politics.

The Partnership clearly offers opportunities for the two continents to co-operate. We must not fail to grasp them. They have to contribute to sustainable improvements in people’s living conditions, above all in Africa.

One thing is certain. A partnership focusing on humans can only work if it involves those it is concerned with. Here, civil society can, and ought to, make important contributions.

We hope you will enjoy reading the Report.

**Dr. Claudia Warning** was chairperson of the Association of German Development Non-Governmental Organisations (VENRO) from 2005 to 2009.



**Michael Steeb** is Speaker of the VENRO Working Group European Development Policy.







## Free and Independent Media Are a Key Factor for Development

By Gerda Meuer

The issues that this conference revolves around sound much like a good reporter's questions:

**Is this Partnership really meant for the poor? What are the hidden aspects of this policy shaping the relations between the two continents of Africa and Europe? In other words, does the front décor provide the full picture?**

As Germany's international broadcaster, it is the genuine role of Deutsche Welle to ask questions like these – day after day and in each of our programmes, especially those dedicated to Africa, a continent that is still at the core of several of our TV, Radio and Online activities. We broadcast daily in seven languages for Sub-Saharan Africa alone.

Over the past two years, DW reporters and editors have regularly monitored and covered the Joint Africa-EU Strategy agreed late in 2007.

**What are the intentions of the Strategy, and what impact has it had so far?**

The weaknesses and strengths of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy have been debated and analysed from many angles.

In this regard, it is not only a pleasure to host this conference, it is also another opportunity for us to analyse and to deepen our understanding. Following your discussions, we are eager to find out how our assessments measure up with yours.

But this is not the only reason why such co-operation is important and enriching. Deutsche Welle is also an active partner in development, mainly via the Deutsche Welle-Akademie.

Our contribution to development progress takes places as media development world-wide, with more than 150 projects a year.

When it comes to healthy and favourable conditions for development, we are talking about the performance of the media.

When it comes to the preconditions of democracy, we are talking about the role of the media.

When we are talking about good governance, we are talking about the power of media.

Development processes need free and open societies, transparent and efficient governance and the democratic participation of citizens.

A society's level of political freedom, economic performance and social stability depends to a large degree on whether the media effectively fulfil their role as watchdogs of those in power and their duty to keep the public informed. Well-trained, professional journalists are integral to the media if they are to perform these tasks responsibly.

The media are not at the heart of Africa-EU Strategy, of course. But I am sure you will agree that free and independent media are one of the most important cross-cutting issues for all development sectors.

One of today's panels will discuss Local Power and Women's Rights. Local media give voice to women in many countries. Another panel will deal with the issue of sustainable energy for Africa. How to produce comprehensive environmental articles and magazines is what we teach journalists in many countries.

In this regard, we look forward to rewarding discussions, and I would like to wish you a lively and rich exchange and a very successful conference.

**Gerda Meuer** is director of DW-AKADEMIE of the Deutsche Welle.



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## Africa and Europe – Together for a Better Future

Film message by Kofi Annan

It is a great pleasure to join you today, albeit from afar. This conference on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy takes place almost two years after European and African heads of state came together in Lisbon to deepen and re-orientate their relationship. The coherent Strategy which they formulated had been long overdue.

The Joint Strategy recognises that the countries of Europe and Africa and their intergovernmental organisations must work closely together, if they are to have any chance at protecting the poor and most vulnerable, achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and realise the vast potential for economic and social progress that the African continent holds.

The events of the last year have underlined the need for strong partnership between Africa and Europe by showing how closely related their fortunes have become. While one may be more responsible than the other for challenges like the economic crisis or climate change, they are both in this together. In today's globalised world it is no longer possible to separate the fate of one continent from that of others.

While Africa and Europe share the challenges of our times, they also share its opportunities, and there are many. Investments in Africa's vast human and economic potential, particularly in the fields of sustainable agriculture, inf-

rastructure and renewable energy, for example, can benefit not just Africa, but Europe and the world, by contributing to global recovery.

The Joint Strategy is an important and welcome step towards a strong partnership based on equality and mutual benefit. However, many more steps must follow and civil society actors like you have a crucial role to play in driving the debate and highlighting the risks and opportunities. I am glad that you will be discussing such critical issues as women's empowerment, governance, infrastructure, trade and regional integration. Only through sustained dialogue on all levels can we hope to overcome today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities.

I applaud your efforts and wish you fruitful discussions and a constructive meeting.

**Kofi A. Annan** is Chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation, serves as the President of the Global Humanitarian Forum and chairs the Africa Progress Panel, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the Prize Committee of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations.



## Two Years after Lisbon: A Partnership beyond Development and beyond Africa?

By Adolf Klope-Lesch

Let me first of all – on behalf of the German government – express my appreciation at being invited to address this conference. I want to thank VENRO – the Association of German Development NGOs – for organising this important conference together with CONCORD – the European Confederation for Relief and Development – and Deutsche Welle. We share a common objective, namely putting Africa and the new European Partnership with Africa into the public focus.

“Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies” is a highly appreciated VENRO project which we are happy to support.

It is an important means with which to make civil society's voice heard in the Africa-EU Partnership.

### German bilateral and European development policies in Africa

German development policy attaches high priority to Africa. This finds its expression – inter alia – in the fact that Germany is on track to meet the commitments made by G8 countries in Gleneagles in 2005 to double Aid to Africa by 2010 (as against 2004 levels) in order to achieve the Millennium



Development Goals. In terms of bilateral commitments for sub-Saharan Africa the amount is even more than twice as much – 1.1 billion Euro (2009) measured against 420 million Euro (2004). Cooperation at both the pan-African and the regional level has benefited equally from this significant scaling-up – up to 250 million Euro. Africa receives a larger proportion of German development funds compared to other regions in the world; increases in 2009 have brought the figure to 50 per cent of all our bilateral commitments.

European development policy as well attaches high priority to Africa. More than 2/3 of all Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members going to Africa come from the EU and its member states: 26,4 billion Euro out of a total of 38,8 billion Euro in 2007. Although these figures are impressive, development policy and its success cannot and should not be measured in terms of money.

We need and wish to see Africa as a partner, not as a recipient. The new realities of a changing global framework call for cooperation to be established on an equal footing and on the basis of shared interests and values.

Cooperation in the past was too strongly focused on development cooperation alone. In the future we should strive for a type of cooperation which goes beyond aid, and which also includes other important actors for realising a broader partnership.

That calls for the inclusion of other branches of government, of non-governmental organizations and of the private sector. In this regard, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) points in the right direction, and we expect the AU to play the appropriate strong political role.

However, we are of the opinion that partnership with Africa should not be reduced to the JAES as the sole platform or instrument. The G8 Africa Action Plan has sparked off a range of important initiatives, for example on investment and infrastructure. The G8 – by the way: four of the eight are members of the EU – and its support and follow-up structures and processes including the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) are equally important as platforms where Africa and Europe come together. And when it comes to shaping the partnership with Africa in a globally changing world and in a new landscape of key actors the EU and Africa should work together in order to ensure that the voices and concerns of Africa are present when the G20 address global issues. And from my point of view Africa should take the lead in bringing together its different partners from Europe, the Americas and Asia around one table – and by this also rationalising the plethora of mushrooming processes.

For us, the German development policy, partnership is translated in particular through the principles of ownership and alignment according to the Paris/Accra Agenda on Aid Effectiveness: alignment to a partner's priorities and

strategies. In this regard, the G8, the EU-Africa-Strategy and the Africa Partnership Forum, as well as pan-African targets according to the Agenda of the AU (for example the establishment of the African Policy and Security Framework) are our political points of departure.

### The risks and opportunities of the JAES

The JAES offers the opportunity to establish a genuine political partnership with Africa on issues which go beyond development and beyond Africa. And it may also contribute to both the EU and Africa being seen and acting as political entities. Africa and the EU should embrace these opportunities by working together on global issues and in global fora, for example on climate change or around the G20.

Nevertheless, there are also risks involved – in particular risks in terms of implementation. African partners sometimes see the JAES also as a new and innovative implementation mechanism. The establishment of a new financial instrument is therefore still a core issue in current discussions. Germany does not share this view. We are eager to underline that the JAES is first and foremost a platform for political dialogue. The JAES cannot be considered as a new ODA delivery mechanism that is neither desirable nor feasible.

### Lessons learnt so far

Germany has been committed to the JAES from the start. Germany jointly co-chairs the Energy Partnership with Austria and the Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights with Portugal. The progress made in both partnerships has been very different.

The Energy Partnership may serve as a positive example for a living partnership on energy issues of strategic importance (namely energy security, energy access and renewable energy). A solid roadmap has been established, good dialogues have taken place with a broad range of stakeholders, and the AU has played an active role.

Against this example, the Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights still has a long way to go. Of course, challenges arise from the more political nature of the partnership, and from its diversity of topics (also including cultural goods). However, also in this partnership we can only deliver – and we have to – if African as well as EU member states participate more actively in the process. In our view this partnership illustrates quite clearly that a partnership lives or dies by the degree of political ownership of the partners involved. And I would like to add that without a functioning Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights the Africa-EU Partnership at large would lose a central part of its foundation.

### Conclusions: German perspectives

The launching of the process was challenging in many ways and for all participants. After one and a half years of implementation our conclusions so far are as follows:

- We should keep the JAES as an important strategy. But there is an urgent need to optimise its structure, and much more needs to be done to focus on results;
- The existing implementation structure is too complex and too demanding for existing capacities in Africa and also in Europe. In an honest partnership, we have to address these difficulties;
- We should keep and focus on the “best of” for 2010. We must not desperately hold on to structures which do not deliver;
- We expect the AU Commission to be the natural partner for a pan-African dialogue. But political dialogue also has to be extended to African member states – in particular sub-Saharan countries – and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in order to achieve a broad political ownership. And other stakeholders such as civil society organisations, parliaments and even the African Development Bank have to be included more systematically; and
- Funding is available, but existing instruments need to be aligned and harmonised with the JAES (for example. in the Energy Partnership, there are 230 programmes and projects with different donor/recipient structures).

Let me close by repeating that making the partnership of Africa and Europe a success story must not depend only on development policy as one of its cornerstones. Instead, we need a strong and coherent whole of government and a whole of the union approach. This is also the direction the new German government is heading for. A new comprehensive concept for our cooperation with Africa – supporting the Joint Africa-EU-Strategy – is called for by the coalition agreement. As a representative of the development policy ministry I am more than happy that Africa is to become a common responsibility of all branches of government and – I hope – of the society at large as well as of the business sector. This conference can and should contribute to this endeavour.

Adolf Klope-Lesch is Director General, Division 3 “Global and Sectoral Tasks; European and Multilateral Development Policy; Africa and Middle East”, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).





## Move from words to real action!

*Essentials of the keynote speech by Tilder Kumichii*

*Factors limiting the effective participation of women in local governance:*

- Lack of political will to properly implement the laws and legislation laid down;
- Societal barriers and norms regarding gender and women's leadership;
- Limited political skills and experience for women;
- Inadequacy of resources and responsibility at local level.

*Local leadership is an important opportunity to foster women's leadership:*

- Women are very active in their households and in their communities;
- They have a sound understanding of local issues and in one way or the other are helping to address them;
- Local politics is less complex and local elections are less expensive, less confrontational and less aggressive for women.

*What can the Africa-EU Strategy do?*

- Promote gender-based accountability of leaders in all Partnerships;
- Lobby the African Governments to see women's leadership in decentralised structures as a contribution to the attainment of the MDGs;

### Report on the Panel Discussion: Local Power and Women's Rights: Potentials and Constraints of Decentralisation for Gender Equality

In the context of development co-operation, strengthening local decision-makers is assuming ever greater importance. The aim is to contribute to Good Governance and, ultimately, to poverty alleviation via decentralisation processes. This raises the issue of what effects decentralisation processes are having on gender justice: For women in particular continue to be excluded from many political decision-making processes and affected by social and economic imbalances.

Although decentralisation raises expectations of increased participation in decision-making by women, they are still underrepresented, especially in the higher decision-making bodies. But what are the reasons for the underrepresentation of women and what can the Africa-EU Strategy and civil society in particular do to promote women's participation in leadership? These issues were tackled in the first panel

- Enhance women's capacity using the human rights-based approach to participate in local leadership and influence the decision-making process from bottom up in order to better equip them to move forward with the gender equity agenda;
- Develop the social and political capital (through existing networks) as a key to increasing women's representation and influence in local governance.

*What can Civil Society do?*

- Continuous sensitisation of political parties to see women's participation in leadership as an asset;
- Sensitise women to take up the challenge of getting into leadership positions in decentralised structures;
- Promote global learning, exchange and networking of women in leadership positions;
- Promote the integration of gender and women in the design and reform of electoral systems including improving electoral financing;
- Promote effective decentralisation strategies with proper funding and management in order to enable local government to deliver appropriate gender responsive solutions for local populations.

**Tilder Kumichii** is Programme Co-ordinator for Gender Empowerment and Development (GeED) in Cameroon.



discussion "Local Power and Women's Rights: Potentials and Constraints of Decentralisation for Gender Equality" with civil society and government representatives from Africa and Europe. The lively discussion was moderated by Ute Schaeffer, Head African Languages of DW-Radio.

Dr. Miria Matembe, former Cabinet minister and member of the Ugandan parliament as well as founder of the Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), pointed out that "decentralisation per se does not empower women to realise their rights. Because you cannot decentralise what is not there! First of all, you need to have this power at the national, central level in order to decentralise it!"

Miria Matembe was especially critical of lacking political will to empower women and accused male decision-makers in Africa of practising "just window dressing, covering,



no political will!" She demanded practical, clear steps in realising the gender issue. She pointed out the issue of corruption in African governments as a big problem.

In the course of the discussion, the panellists called for a system of quotas for parties, for candidates, and for all sorts of positions of power within parliaments.

However, Cornelia Amoah, Public Affairs Officer of the National African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Governing Council in Ghana, reported on the development and the success of the APRM in her country. She described the APRM as an instrument voluntarily acceded to by the member states of the African Union (AU) as a self-monitoring mechanism. The mandate of the APRM is to encourage conformity in regard to political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards among African countries.

Joanna Maycock, CONCORD Board member, pointed out that the average number of female members of national parliament was around 25 percent in the European Union and stressed that certainly, political participation in Europe is not much better than political participation in Africa. With a view to the Africa-EU Strategy, she maintained that "the issue of women's rights and gender equality is something that really brings us together, because it is a problem that we really share". Joanna Maycock highlighted this as "an opportunity because that is perhaps something where we can get together and work and try and find solutions".

Jutta Barth works for the State and Democracy Department at the GTZ headquarters and stressed the importance of the relations between development partners and the governments, "but as well with other actors like civil society, because I think that what we need in this transformation process is how to balance powers between the state and civil society: How you can engage, what kinds of instruments or forms of aid modalities can provide support so that women can come in and have a voice in sector policies and budget support".

Regarding her remarks, the question arose what the donor community could do and what could be very practical instruments to create easier access for women to local political decision-making. For the African side, Miria Matembe pointed out that building the capacity of the CSOs who ask their people to hold the government accountable is very crucial. Tilder Kumichii called for more direct financial support for the local level and projects, and for avoiding sending money to potentially corrupt governments. Cornelia Amoah

demanded transparency at all levels and information sharing. Joanna Maycock expressed the need for European NGOs to really look at the way they work in order to increase the participation and political empowerment of women through programme work they do in Africa.

Miria Matembe and Tilder Kumichii agreed on the importance of education, as people need education to be able to claim their rights. Miria Matembe raised deep concern about the horror issue of culture and customs and the ideology that women were not supposed to participate in politics. She also demanded to release women from their heavy workload to enable them to participate in politics.

Tilder Kumichii blew the same trumpet, emphasising the need to "break the myth that surrounds women's participation – first, in the woman herself, then in immediate society, where she lives, and then in the wider society, where she finds herself".

Regarding the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, Jutta Barth stated that as gender was a cross-cutting issue, there was a danger of missing out aspects. But on the other hand she pointed out that important issues of the JAES were education, water, economic development and health and that all these were crucial for women, for their status or for their living conditions so that there were possibilities to engage in these areas.

Towards the end of the discussion, Ute Schaeffer raised the issue of what should be improved in the next Action Plan. For Joanna Maycock the big question was: "How we organise ourselves to take advantage of that rhetoric and turn it into action?" She demanded to make sure that the JAES was engaged with other ongoing processes in the EU development agenda, such as the Cotonou treaty or the Gender Action Plan.

She reminded those involved not to rush through the consultations, but to make sure there is proper time and space to engage in the discussion so that people can bring very concrete proposals to the table. Also, in her opinion, it would be quite interesting to have a women's envoy or a senior women leader guiding the JAES, perhaps an African woman who could really show leadership and bring visibility to these issues in the JAES.

Another recommendation was to make gender equality and women's empowerment one of the thematic partnerships instead of just a cross-cutting issue.

All panellists demanded the need of exchange and networking, of mutual support and encouragement and also of linking women's committees in Europe and Africa.





## Power to the People

*Essentials of the keynote speech by Ewah Eleri*

### *Potentials of biomass energy:*

- Meets energy needs at all times without expensive conversion devices;
- Provides energy in all forms, in gaseous forms, in liquid forms and solid forms;
- Can reduce women's load when it comes in a modern form;
- Reduces indoor air pollution;
- Helps restore unproductive and degraded lands;
- Increases energy security.

Biomass accounts for 70 to 90 percent of the entire energy supply in Sub Saharan Africa. Currently, according to the World Health Organization, 500,000 people in Africa die each year from health problems associated with the use of biomass fuel. But the trend is that fewer and fewer people are having access to electricity and more and more people are becoming dependent on traditional biomass, which is traditional wood fuel use.

### *The following reforms are needed:*

- Strengthen energy governance reforms. Current energy governance in Africa is dominated by central government and gives priority to conventional fuels. There is a need to encourage energy governance reforms that increasingly devolve energy decision-making to local government levels;
- Think big! Energy programmes are often too small-scaled to make an impact;

- Deepen domestic financial markets. Market growth for sustainable energy is often hindered by inadequate finance;
- Strengthen regulation for biofuels. African countries should set clear and enforceable sustainability criteria for biofuel investments – large or small. This ensures that concerns over food security, land rights, environmental protection and gender issues are fully addressed.

### *The role of international development co-operation:*

- Set global targets on energy access;
- Build a global biomass cook stove partnership By using simple cook stoves, you can reduce the energy wastes by maybe up to 80 percent and even halve emission of greenhouse gases;
- Strengthen the links between energy access and technology transfer within climate change negotiations;
- Make the carbon market serve the poor. CDM projects have bypassed African countries. Let's work for equitable access to the carbon market;
- Development assistance. We must hold bilateral and multilateral development agencies to account.

Ewah Eleri is the Director of the International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development (ICEED) in Nigeria.



## Report on the Panel Discussion: Ways out of the Fossil Dead End: Sustainable Energy for Africa

Access to affordable, modern energy supply services is a prerequisite for development and for combating poverty. In most African countries, traditional biomass continues to be the main source of energy, sometimes accounting for 90 percent or even more. In many places, consumption has long outstripped what can be re-grown. Except for in a handful of oil-exporting countries, fossil fuels need to be imported at high prices. Spending on crude oil imports has begun to cause new foreign debt. The need to overcome the disastrous dependence on traditional biomass and crude oil imports, neither of which is economically or ecologically sustainable, is obvious.

But what does the alternative look like? Decentralised solutions for rural electrification appear to be well-suited to combat poverty. However, they are unattractive for commercial investors, who mainly tend to take an interest in large-scale projects such as biofuels plantations or "Desertec". But such ventures are chiefly aimed at creating energy for export purposes. Does Africa need both? Has the Africa-EU Energy Partnership set the right priorities to promote sustainable energy for Africa's development?

One week before the UN Climate Change Conference, after 24 months of marathon negotiations to reach a climate agreement that provides the opportunity to avert the catastrophe, which climate change sets to be, representatives of civil society and government from Africa and Europe discussed the accompanying issues of poverty reduction and hence access to sustainable energy services. In his keynote Ewah Eleri expressed his opinion that this conference today comes at the right time also to ask questions what key stakeholders in Africa and the EU are doing, to meet these dual challenges that we have: on the one hand climate security, on the other hand poverty issues.

He stated that "without access to sustainable energy, the MDGs will remain a mirage". Furthermore, he pointed out that Biomass energy can reduce women's workload and indoor air pollution, which women and children are exposed to. It also helps restore unproductive and degraded lands and increases energy security.

Jürgen Maier, Director of the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, chaired the panel and opened the discussion by asking why companies should invest in Africa.

Peter Finger, Project Co-ordinator of Solar2World, co-ordinates projects concerning solar-energy in Sub-Sahara Africa. In his opinion, Africa was definitely an interesting market to invest in. However, he raised deep concern about the manifold basic conditions required, such as qualification, equipment and financial resources. Peter Finger stressed that solar energy as well as energy efficiency measures were Africa's future.

Regarding his remarks, Claudia Warning, VENRO Chairperson asked what role NGOs could play to increase the marketability of Africa. In her opinion, NGOs could, for example, work in the area of awareness-raising. Franz Marré, Head of Division "Water, Energy, Urban Development" at the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) confirmed this conclusion, as for him, many Africans were still stuck in behaviour patterns. But the people had to open up to new solutions instead of sticking to traditional biomass such as fire wood.

Claudia Warning claimed that the power of decision for the energy supply had to remain in the hands of the poor.

She and Peter Finger agreed on the need for decentralised structures regarding energy supply for Africa. Ewah Eleri also underlined that if there were opportunities for the local governments to get involved in developing small electricity projects, these would offer several advantages. "It might not be efficient, it might not be the best, but gives control to the people over the resources they have," he summed up.

Furthermore he made clear that energy politics was often controlled by the African governments, and was especially critical of the loss of political will to improve the situation. This was also acknowledged by Franz Marré when he described the situation of the Energy Partnership within the JAES. As a general problem within the JAES, he pointed out the absence of political ownership. Nevertheless, he felt quite "proud that we can say the energy partnership is one of the most advanced ones".





Concerning the question of privatisation of the energy sector, Franz Marré stated that it was not about privatisation and non-privatisation, but whatever services are being delivered there must be commercial thinking in it. It was not rendering it for free but making it clear because otherwise you would never achieve sustainability.

However Franz Marré welcomed certain progress made at international level as the World Bank had enhanced its own emphasis on renewable energy. It “also reached a one-billion-dollar target annually two years ago. The only shadow on that is the fact that the World Bank has increased energy commitments in fossil energies disproportionately, so that the proportion of renewable energies commitments versus traditional energy commitments is, unfortunately, lower.”

In the course of the discussion, the question arose what governments and NGOs could do to improve the situation of the poor in Africa. Jürgen Maier saw no alternative to a new type of approach between NGOs, business, certain

sectors of the business community and some politicians creating new policies that can end up in a renewable energy boom that is not dependant on ODA but is actually self-sustaining because it is becoming a business.

Ewah Eleri agreed and stressed the need for “a countervailing force, a new type of coalition”.

He expressed his surprise that hardly any African energy NGO was concentrating on putting energy issues of poor people on the table.

Ewah Eleri called on the NGOs: “You can help put this on the agenda. You need to convince yourself, too, that we cannot make progress against poverty if poor people do not have access to energy services!”

Towards the end of the discussion, Claudia Warning summed up that the debate on sustainable energy supply “is a bread and butter issue and that even though we are not engineers we are able to do something about it”.

## No Joint Partnership without discussing the EPAs!

*Essentials of the keynote speech by Malcolm Damon*

*Foci of the Africa-EU Partnership on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure:*

- Support Africa’s Integration Agenda;
- Strengthen Africa’s Capacity – Rules, Standards and Quality Control;
- Implement the Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership.

*What has happened so far:*

In the rationale, the focus is on trade and regional integration, but interestingly, it is in the area of the Infrastructure Partnership that most progress has been made.

It is in the area of regional integration that most of the problems exist.

*Role of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs):*

- The enhancer or the underminer of regional integration
- The current EPA configurations (negotiating blocs African countries form to negotiate EPAs with the European Commission) are not in line with the current economic, trading or political blocs.
- While countries are negotiating binding trade agreements with the European Union (EU), they are in the

process of consolidating trade arrangements which are more historic and could lead to stronger regional integration.

- Loss of revenue to countries when they lower their tariffs to the EU.

*The risk:*

It is clear that EPAs are a major risk to regional integration in Africa and will not lead to development, nor will they assist with poverty eradication.

*The opportunity:*

JAES could focus more strongly on informal cross-border trade and rural development. The infrastructure partnership focuses too heavily on mega projects instead of on people-centred infrastructural development.

Rev. Malcolm Damon is Director of the Economic Justice Network in South Africa.



### Report on the Panel Discussion: Get modern or get out: How Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure contribute to Poverty Eradication

More than 80 percent of Africa’s poor live in rural areas. A large proportion of them work in the informal economy. With its people-centred approach, the Africa-EU Strategy can hardly avoid attributing a key role to the issue of agriculture. Nevertheless, promoting rural development is a merely peripheral issue in the Partnership on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure. The Partnership has above opted for export and further trade liberalisation. The negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are explicitly excluded, although they are currently having far-reaching negative impacts on regional integration.

As the starting point for the discussion, VENRO Vice-chairperson Christa Randzio-Plath mentioned the beginning of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Geneva on the same day. “The promise to put development first in these trade negotiations has not been realised until now.” Therefore, she addressed the question of how trade can really be development friendly to Roelof Plijter, Adviser on Development and EPAs at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Trade. He pointed out that in the past, Europe had tried to give the ACP countries unilaterally free market access without quota, without tariffs, but that this had not worked very well for development. He summed up that Africa’s share in world trade and in bilateral trade with Europe as well as its overall level of development had gone down rather than up. Furthermore the EU had offered the ACP countries to exclude about 20 percent of trade from liberalisation. With these exclusions, they could already take care of a large number if not all of their important sectors, which were mainly agri-

culture, and certainly could avoid liberalisation in the sensitive sectors. In his opinion, the tariffs between the countries in Africa had to go down. This would create a situation where a market was bigger; it would create markets. Norbert Lebalé, Chief of the Africa Section in the Research and Policy Analysis Branch at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), criticised the fact that the EU’s interpretation of this liberalisation of all trade, putting the figure at 80 percent of liberalisation of trade, was a typical interpretation of the trade rules, which did not take into account the development level of the partners.

However, Karin Ulmer, Policy Officer at APRODEV raised deep concern because the current concepts and free trade were not working for Africa. “African realities are very different from European ones with regard to the private sector and the economic and social actors. The way economic benefits are produced and the way consumers are organised – individual and collective consumers, they are all different. Therefore we want to see a re-correction of many of the details or the concept of these Trade agreements.” She was especially critical of the European Commission’s interpretation of what compatibilities and necessities were and what was most advantageous for the EU in terms of the interpretation of WTO compatibility. Malcolm Damon shared her view and added that the European Commission had been very clear when it was about trade it was about the interest of Europe.”

Malcolm Damon stressed, that regional integration was the building bloc for the integration of Africa in the world economy it should have been the priority of African



countries. Then move to South-South co-operation, this would help African countries to be in a position to better integrate in the world trading system. Regarding the role of regional integration, Karin Ulmer added that it was not only about economic integration but also about more mobility of people.

In the course of the discussion Norbert Lebalé mentioned issues like trade services, migration and investment as important factors for regional integration. At the same time he expressed his doubts whether it was possible to solve this issue of strengthening regional integration in Africa in the negotiations on EPAs.

He also pointed out that the main concern was how to put in place rural infrastructure and also how to maintain the existing infrastructure to support development. The roadmap of the Partnership on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure did not appropriately take the aspect of infrastructure into account. Norbert Lebalé stressed that the lack of infrastructure was directly linked to the low level of development.

Roelof Plijter stated that “in most of Africa, there is no market and that markets should be developed, and Europe is trying with EPAs and with our technical assistance and help to create these markets”. To him, it was important to conclude the EPA negotiations and to implement the Agreements. At the moment, there were only interim EPAs in Africa, just in order to keep the preferences the African

countries had on the European market. In order that EPAs fulfil their development role in full, these agreements must deal not only with trade in goods but also with services, investment and, perhaps, competition. He recalled that certain countries had already concluded the EPAs, and that it would be unfair to those to lower percentages or even longer transitional periods.

Karin Ulmer recommended discussing different options, because “we keep hearing the same responses. Civil society in Africa and Europe would like to have different scenarios and options that provide choices for either individual African country to look into a solution that focusing more on the African level. Why not reconsider some of the current trade benchmarks with regard to providing more flexibilities? There could be a development benchmark to have regional integration first and then open up to the European market.” To her, the JAES could be the place where there was an audit, a serious revisiting within the Commission on these trade and development linkages and acknowledgement of the status quo of defragmentation in terms of regional integration.

Malcolm Damon also wondered why the European Commission did not want discussions about EPAs within the JAES, where it could provide the opportunity to discuss the real political issues: “That’s why civil society has always pushed from outside. We cannot discuss the issues of a Joint Strategy without discussing the issue of EPAs.”



## Results in a Nutshell

By Christa Randzio-Plath

With today’s conference, representatives of civil society and politics from Africa and Europe aimed at taking stock two years after the adoption of Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Our main concern was to make clear that the Africa-EU Partnership holds risks, but also offers opportunities for both Africa and Europe.

### Equal participation of women

Good Governance is not possible without active equal participation of women at all levels in the political life of the country.

Local and regional policy has special potential because women could address women’s issues and concrete needs such as access to public goods and services and capacity building.

More than now, the Africa-EU-Strategy and Action Plan has to focus on transparency and accountability to women (gender audit). All Partnerships within the Strategy should mainstream gender equality and furthermore add a special partnership on gender. The treatment of gender as a cross-cutting issue may risk the discrimination of gender in the Africa-EU Partnership, so that a separate Action Plan on Gender is needed.

However, the financing of civil society, especially women’s groups and networks, has to be guaranteed and at the same time include a budget for gender in local and regional governments.

### Sustainable energy is crucial to escape from poverty in Africa.

Access to sustainable energy is needed to combat poverty in Africa and to reach the MDGs.

Markets are necessary in order to get mass production going, and hence achieve cheap prices for energy products. Furthermore, the role of the state must not be underestimated. Political determination is crucial to introduce and keep renewable energy. There is a need for decentralised structures regarding energy supply for Africa. Therefore, local governments should get involved in developing small-scale projects.

However, incentives are needed, and examples of them have been demonstrated in Europe. Civil society is called upon to make renewable energy a case. The Africa-EU Partnership on Energy has to move from large-scale energy projects to small-scale and decentralised projects.



### Regional Integration is crucial to development

Compared to other Partnerships within the Africa-EU Strategy, the one on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure is still in an embryonic state.

This Partnership cannot be looked upon in an isolated way; it has to be seen in correlation to the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA).

These are an obstacle to the development of African countries because they impose regional integration and conditions on them that are not in the interest of pro-poor development in Africa. The JAES could be a forum to discuss the political issues of the EPAs.

Furthermore, the role of regional integration for development in Africa is crucial. It is appropriate to support small-scale projects, especially in the rural areas, in order to improve the inter-African regional integration to overcome poverty.

Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath is Vice-Chairperson of VENRO.





## Programme

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Dr. Claudia Warning**, VENRO Chairperson, Germany  
**Gerda Meuer**, Director, DW-Akademie, Deutsche Welle, Germany

Film message by **Kofi Annan**, Chairman Africa Progress Panel, Ghana

Keynote Speech on the Importance of the Africa-EU Strategy

**Adolf Kloke-Lesch**, Director of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

### Panel I – Local Power and Women’s Rights: Potentials and Constraints of Decentralisation for Gender Equality

#### Statement

**Tilder Kumichii**, Co-ordinator, Gender Empowerment and Development (GeED), Cameroon

#### Debaters

**Cornelia Amoah**, Public Affairs Officer, National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council (NAPRM), Ghana

**Jutta Barth**, Senior Project Manager, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Germany

**Dr. Miria R. K. Matembe**, Founder and Board Member; Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), Uganda

**Joanna Maycock**, CONCORD Board, Belgium

Chair: **Ute Schaeffer**, Head African Languages DW-Radio, Deutsche Welle, Germany

### Panel II – Ways out of the Fossil Dead-End: Sustainable Energy for Africa

#### Statement

**Ewah Eleri**, Director, International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development (ICEED), Nigeria

### Debaters

**Peter Finger**, Project Co-ordinator, SolarWorld AG, Germany

**Franz Marré**, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

**Dr. Claudia Warning**, VENRO Chairperson, Germany  
 Chair: **Jürgen Maier**, Director, NGO Forum Environment and Development, Germany

### Panel III – Get modern or Get out: How can Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure Contribute to Poverty Eradication?

#### Statement

**Malcolm Damon**, Director, Economic Justice Network (EJN), Republic of South Africa

#### Debaters

**Prof. Norbert S. Lebalé**, Co-ordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

**Roelof Plijter**, Adviser, Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission, Belgium

**Karin Ulmer**, Chair CONCORD Trade Working Group, Belgium

Chair: **Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath**, VENRO Vice-chairperson, Germany

#### Results in a Nutshell

**Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath**

## VENRO-Members (March 2010)

- action medeor
- ADRA Deutschland
- Ärzte der Welt
- Ärzte für die Dritte Welt
- Ärzte ohne Grenzen\*
- africa action/Deutschland \*
- Akademie Klausenhof
- Aktion Canchanabury
- Andheri-Hilfe Bonn
- Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Eine-Welt-Landesnetzwerke in Deutschland (agl)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland (aej)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Entwicklungsethnologie
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe (AGEH)
- ASW – Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt
- AT-Verband\*
- AWO International

- Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (bezev)\*
- BONO-Direkthilfe
- Brot für die Welt
- Bündnis Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein (BEI)
- Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ)
- Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung

- CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg
- Caritas International
- Casa Alianza Kinderhilfe Guatemala
- ChildFund Deutschland
- Christliche Initiative Romero
- Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland

- Das Hunger Projekt
- Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik Baden-Württemberg (DEAB)
- Deutsche Entwicklungshilfe für soziales Wohnungs- und Siedlungswesen (DESWOS)
- Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax
- Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulosehilfe (DAHW)
- Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)
- Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband
- Deutsches Blindenhilfswerk
- Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF\*
- Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge\*
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz\*
- DGB-Bildungswerk – Nord-Süd-Netz
- Difäm

- Eine Welt Netz NRW
- Eine Welt Netzwerk Hamburg
- EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst
- Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland (EAD)
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)

- FIAN-Deutschland

- Gemeinschaft Sant’ Egidio
- Germanwatch

- Handicap International
- HelpAge Deutschland
- Hildesheimer Blindenmission\*
- Hilfswerk der Deutschen Lions
- humedica

- Indienhilfe
- INKOTA-netzwerk
- Internationaler Hilfsfonds
- Internationaler Ländlicher Entwicklungsdienst (ILD)
- Internationaler Verband Westfälischer Kinderdörfer
- Islamic Relief Deutschland

- Johanniter-Auslandshilfe
- Jugend Dritte Welt (JDW)

- Kairos Europa
- Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie
- KATE – Kontaktstelle für Umwelt und Entwicklung
- Kindernothilfe

- Lateinamerika-Zentrum
- Lichtbrücke

- Malteser International
- Marie-Schlei-Verein
- matterna – Stiftung Frau und Gesundheit
- medica mondiale
- medico international
- MISEREOR
- Missionszentrale der Franziskaner\*

- Nationaler Geistiger Rat der Bahá’i in Deutschland
- NETZ Bangladesch

- Ökumenische Initiative Eine Welt
- OIKOS EINE WELT

- Opportunity International Deutschland
- ORT Deutschland
- Oxfam Deutschland
- Peter-Hesse-Stiftung
- Plan International Deutschland

- Rhein-Donau-Stiftung\*
- Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst\*

- Salem International
- Samhathi – Hilfe für Indien\*
- Save the Children Deutschland\*
- Senegalhilfe-Verein
- Senior Experten Service (SES)
- Society for International Development (SID)
- SODI – Solidaritätsdienst-international
- Sozial- und Entwicklungshilfe des Kolpingwerkes (SEK)
- Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEF)
- Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken
- SÜDWIND – Institut für Ökonomie und Ökumene
- Susila Dharma – Soziale Dienste
- Swisscontact Germany

- Terra Tech Förderprojekte
- terre des hommes Deutschland
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- TransFair

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- Weltfriedensdienst
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- World Vision Deutschland
- W. P. Schmitz-Stiftung

- Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklungshilfe bei der GLS Treuhand

VENRO currently as 118 members

\* Guestmember





VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Germany. The organisation was founded in 1995 and consists of around 120 organisations. Their backgrounds lie in independent and church-related development co-operation, humanitarian aid as well as development education, public relations and advocacy. 16 one-world networks are part of VENRO. These represent about 2,000 local development initiatives and NGOs. VENRO’s central goal is to create fair globalisation, with a special emphasis on eradicating global poverty. The organisation is committed to implementing human rights and conserving natural resources.  
[www.venro.de](http://www.venro.de)



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CONCORD is the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. Its 18 international networks and 24 national associations from the European Member States represent more than 1,600 European NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions. The main objective of the Confederation is to enhance the impact of European development NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions by combining expertise and accountability.  
[www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org)



With the project “Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies”, VENRO seeks an active civil society contribution to the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The project builds on co-operation with African partners that began during VENRO’s successful EU Presidency Project in 2007. VENRO member organisations then worked together with their African partners to develop statements for policy-makers, the media and the interested public on the main topics of the project: energy and climate policies, regional integration and trade; and gender.  
[www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de)

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**Editor:** Anke Kurat (responsible), Alessa Hartmann  
**Final editing:** Kirsten Prestin, Venro

**Design and Layout:** i-gelb GmbH, Cologne

**Print:** Molberg GmbH, Bonn

**Photo Credits:** Walter G Allgoewer/JOKER (title), Lineair (page 9,10,13)



This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of VENRO. It can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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**Bonn, March 2010**





## **PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA – EUROPE'S POLICIES**

The VENRO Project on the  
Africa-EU Partnership

