

CIVIL SOCIETY DRIVING CHANGE: TOWARDS A NEW QUALITY OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP

Hybrid Africa-Europe Civil Society Conference 2020

In 2021, the African and European Heads of State and Government will meet in Brussels to adopt a new strategy that guides the partnership between our two continents for the years to come. Although the AU-EU Summit was meant to take place this October and become a highlight of Germany's current EU Council Presidency, its postponement to next year provides the chance for civil society to set its own priorities for an inclusive, fair and sustainable partnership.

As one of the few political actors engaged from the grassroots to the international level, civil society can meaningfully contribute to the Africa-Europe Partnership by providing innovative insights based on the realities of the people on both continents.

With civil society being an important bridge between the distant AU-EU policy processes and the well-being of people on the ground, our conference will provide the space to develop new civil society approaches for a revised Joint Africa-Europe Strategy that actually helps to improve people's living conditions.

The policy fields in which Africa and Europe would both benefit from closer collaboration and a fair partnership are constantly increasing: They include the need for radical climate change measures; equitable trade relations; rural development and nutrition; functioning social protection and health care systems; the creation of legal migration routes; intergenerational and gender justice, among others.

The Africa-Europe Civil Society Conference 2020 will demonstrate in practical terms that the partnership between Africa and Europe is more than just a formal process between governments. With digital instruments enabling intercontinental cooperation and inclusion even in times of a pandemic, we invite you to be part of a unique African-European civil society exchange.

WHEN?

16 October 2020
9:30am-6:00pm CET

WHERE?

Hotel Ameron,
Alt-Moabit 99, 10559 Berlin

REGISTRATION:

We kindly ask for a binding registration **by 9 October 2020** via the following links:

For physical participation

[Please register here](#)

For virtual participation

[Please register here](#)

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Agenda

09:30am **Arrival and registration**

10:00am **Welcome remarks and film screening**

Dr Bernd Bornhorst, Chairman of the Board, VENRO

“Smart but fair: Make digitalisation work for all”

(VENRO short film produced by Andreas Ridder and Patrick Waldmann)

10:20am **Launch of the Africa-Europe Civil Society Survey**

(Realised by the Allensbach Institute for Public Opinion Research)

10:40am **Keynotes and panel discussion: Creating innovation and mutual benefits for the Africa-Europe partnership**

Keynotes:

Jutta Urpilainen, European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships

Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States

Panel discussion with:

Sophia Bachmann, German Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development

Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States

Dr Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Member of the EU Parliament for Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and Vice Chair of the Committee on Development (tbc)

James Yarsiah, Director, Rights and Rice Foundation Liberia

Followed by Q&A

12:30pm **Lunch break**



1:30pm **Civil society driving change: New ideas for a fair and sustainable partnership between Africa and Europe**

Interactive African-European Workshops – see Annex I

3:30pm **Coffee break**

4:00pm **The Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU:
A reliable partner for Africa?**

Martin Jäger, State Secretary, German Federal
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Tone Kajzer, State Secretary, Slovenian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

Rita Leote, Executive Director, Portuguese
Civil Society Platform (Plataforma ONGD)

Jane Nalunga, Director, The Southern and Eastern
Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
(SEATINI) – Uganda

Teresa Ribeiro, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation, Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Followed by Q&A

5:30pm **Highlights of the conference**

5:45pm **Reception**

