



The Future of the Africa-EU Partnership

JAES Lunch-time Seminars

November 2013 – March 2014

African and European Heads of States agreed in 2007, in Lisbon, during the 2nd Africa-EU Summit, to create a new strategic partnership, to put their relations on a new footing, to strengthen cooperation in key areas, and to promote shared interests and the achievement of common goals. The two neighbouring continents agreed to move from “*donorship*” (moving beyond a donor/recipient relationship) to a *partnership* of equals - symbolised by the first ever joint strategy built on shared values, common principles and mutual interests.

In April 2014, the Heads of States of the two neighbouring continents will meet for the fourth time. The leaders from 54 African and 28 European States together with the AU and EU Institutions will take stock of progress made and set priorities for the future.

The build-up to the IV Summit presents an opportunity for interested actors to share their vision, ideas and expectations on Africa-EU relations in the coming decade.

As recognized by the Summits, it is crucial that relevant actors – Parliaments, Regional and Continental organisations, local authorities, entrepreneurs, private sector, trade unions, civil society organisations, youth, diasporas and migrants – take actively part in this joint venture.

A series of informal seminars have been planned so that interested actors engage each other on the future of the Africa-EU partnership.

These seminars will specifically focus on changes happening in Africa and Europe, and the consequences for the continental partnership. Prominent African and European speakers will share their vision on a series of key issues. The seminars will facilitate interaction and participation among active participants. The main objective is to establish a platform for dialogue based on a spirit of common goals and mutual interests.

The informal character of the seminars and the Chatham-House-rules will facilitate fresh exchanges and ‘out-of-the-box thinking’ among the participants (maximum 50 participants expected per lunch seminars).



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1. Africa-EU: Research and Innovation

(a) What avenues for enhanced Africa-EU collaboration on research, skills development, higher education and innovation? **(b)** What role for information and communication technologies, innovative entrepreneurship and joint ventures: the case of the “*New Silicon Valley’s*”?

Date: 27th November 2013

Venue: Brussels

2. Africa-EU: Dialogue and Negotiations in Global Fora

(a) Possibilities and limits of alliance building in a multipolar world: How and when can Africa-EU pursue mutual interests and common goals in international fora? **(b)** How can Africa and EU move forward jointly on Climate Change and Post-2015 Development Agenda?

Date: 5th December 2013

Venue: Brussels

3. Africa-EU: Future relations and continental integration

(a) Pan-Africanism, Africa Renaissance, Agenda 2063 and Europe 2020: what new strategic areas of mutual interest for Africa and the EU? **(b)** The growing African efforts to enhance regional and continental integration: What future role for the Africa-EU partnership? **(c)** How can the continental partnership best contribute to investment, job creation and growth?

Date: 12 December 2013

Venue: Brussels



4. Africa-EU: Democratic governance and the fight against Corruption

(a) The Africa-EU political dialogue and cooperation: when and how can it help? **(b)** How can African institutions (PAP, National Parliaments, political parties...) and Civil Society Organisations play an enhanced role in democracy building processes and in advancing the respect for Human Rights and the Rule of Law as well as the fight against corruption **(c)** How can the Africa-EU partnership support the reinforcement of Africa's democratic governance and accountability initiatives? **(d)** How to reconcile common values and shared interests in face of evolving situations? What added value of the inter-continental partnership?

Date: 20 January 2014

Venue: Brussels

5. Africa-EU: Future of Peace and Security relations

(a) Opportunities and challenges for enhanced African ownership and a stronger Afro-European partnership on peace and security? **(b)** How can the continental partnership effectively support the African Peace and Security Architecture?

Date: February 2014

Venue: Brussels

6. Africa-EU: Key messages to the IV Summit

(a) What new perspectives and approaches should be part of the future continental partnership? **(b)** How to create more space for interested actors such as the youth, private sector, and civil society? **(c)** What is required to promote sustained engagement of stakeholders and facilitate achievement of common goals?

Date: 24th February 2014 or 3rd March

Venue: Brussels