

Support for African youth development from EU

The African Union and European Union Commissioners have adopted concrete measures to address pressing global issues in key areas, such as peace and security, migration, job creation and agriculture.



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In the context of the AU-EU partnership, the EU has made available an additional €400 million towards continental and regional projects.

This 9th Commission-to-Commission meeting of the two organisations was co-chaired by the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker and the chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, with the participation of all African Union Commissioners and 16 European Union Commissioners.

The two sides had agreed on a set of priorities at the November 2017 AU-EU Summit in Abidjan and last week, the two commissions took stock of progress made to chart the way forward.

At this occasion, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said: "We met today to translate words into concrete action. We launched programmes worth €400 million to support, amongst others, African youth – which is all the more important, as 60% of Africa's population is under 25 years old. The future of the world depends on the good cooperation between Europe and Africa."

Mahamat added: "Multilateralism is the only response to today's global challenges in an increasingly polarised world. The AU-EU partnership is based on shared values and shared responsibilities and offers a unique platform to address common challenges linked to peace, security and sustainable development on both our continents."

Key outcomes

The two commissions discussed their cooperation to enhance resilience, peace, security and governance, including support to African peace initiatives such as the G5 Sahel joint force. In this regard, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding reinforcing the existing cooperation in the area of peace and security. In addition, they agreed to continue and consolidate the important work made by the AU-EU-UN task force on migration.

The parties committed to invest in economies and people by stepping up existing cooperation on agriculture and agribusinesses and the digital economy, and dedicated themselves to continue the active engagement with youth in the Africa-EU partnership in innovative and meaningful ways.

The additional €400 million will go towards continental and regional projects, including support to institutional capacity building of the African Union Commission and regional integration on the continent, as well as support to young people. This assistance will facilitate the continental mobility of young people, for example through reinforcing exchange programmes among African universities, and enhancing the recognition of qualifications and the harmonisation of higher education in Africa.

Partnership

The EU and Africa have progressively built a solid strategic and political partnership, whereby they go beyond donor-recipient relations towards reciprocal commitments. The two Commissions of the European Union and African Union are committed to be active players and real engines of this Partnership, which is today more relevant than ever in a fast evolving global environment.

This partnership is based on shared values and interests, enshrined in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES, 2007). At the AU-EU Summit last November African and European leaders have demonstrated their mutual commitment in a stronger relationship adapted to a rapidly changing global landscape, and have identified strategic priorities for 2018-2020.

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