

Information session for CSOs and LAs on  
EU regional programming for Sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2027)  
Hybrid meeting: in-person and online  
30 June 2022

## Summary

INTPA, in coordination with the EEAS and in the framework of the Policy Forum on Development, hosted an information session with civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs). This session followed two consultations on the Regional Multiannual Action Plan (RMIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (2021-2027) in March and December 2021. It aimed to update participants on regional programming progress, including the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2022 that is currently being prepared, and provide an opportunity for questions and contributions from CSOs and LAs. After a presentation of the AAP 2022, four thematic discussions took place, where additional information on the AAP 2022 was provided by INTPA staff. The following are the key points from questions and comments raised in each of the discussions.

### Update on programming

- **Global Gateway:** participants asked about programming and its relationship to the RMIP. Clarification that it is the strategic policy framework, not additional money, and that regional actions could be included.
- **Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs):** Clarification that each TEI will have its own steering mechanism clarifying the role of national, regional and international partners. Agreed to provide INTPA coordinator contacts and have a meeting with CSOs and LAs specifically on TEIs when they are more advanced.
- **Geographic distribution in the RMIP** is because the NDICI required budget lines by subregion.
- **African diaspora:** their involvement in AAP consultations, and possibility of involvement in implementation according to project objectives, was confirmed.

### Thematic sessions

#### 1. Investment and Jobs, Education and Skills

- **Investment and jobs:** confirmed that LAs will continue to be beneficiaries; and the importance of ongoing cooperation with existing international LA initiatives on these themes. **Subregional banks** will also be involved. Importance of **complementarity and support to existing structures** and processes of engagement with the private sector, LAs and other stakeholders.
- **Education:** call to focus on supporting education systems and to ensure online safeguarding of children and young people.

#### 2. Green Transition – Health

- **Green transition:** Clarification that a working group is underway on climate adaptation and resilience, and that conservation and climate change issues are part of the work on sustainable agri-food systems. Agreed to follow up bilaterally requests for more detailed information on specific actions.
- **Health:** Clarification that other health initiatives, not only vaccines, will be funded in 2022.
- **Implementation:** CSOs were advised to contact EU delegation at country level regarding involvement.

#### 3. Digital – Economic integration – Transport

- **Digital:** Emphasis on political anchoring; regional coordination of governance and policy
- **Transport corridors:** currently agreeing objectives in consultation with local stakeholders
- **Trade:** cooperation with each region structured around thematic areas. Supporting countries across different existing/future trade agreements. Clarification that bilateral conversation with WTO is led by DG TRADE.

#### 4. Peace and Security – Governance – Culture – Migration and Mobility

- **Scope:** Clarification that each priority is broad and flexible so can be adapted to take into account evolutions e.g. of conflicts or migration situations across borders. Flexible funding mechanism is separate to ECHO and rapid response funding, and is subject to MS approval. CSOs emphasised importance of focus on women and children in migration programmes.
- **Electoral support:** focuses on enhancing African capacities.
- **Working with partners:** with LAs including on economic governance, and with the IoM.

## Report

### I. Introduction and methodology

As part of its consultations on the Regional Multiannual Action Plan (RMIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (2021-2027), the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) hosted an informational meeting with PFD members including local authority (LA) and civil society (CS) organisations. The session aimed to update participants on regional programming progress, including the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2022 that is currently being prepared, and provide an opportunity for questions and contributions. After a presentation of the AAP 2022, four thematic discussions took place, where additional information on the AAP 2022 was provided by European Commission INTPA staff. Participants could attend this hybrid event in person or online. All questions and contributions were addressed by INTPA representatives, including those raised in the online chat box.

### II. Update on programming

**Marlene Holzner**, Head of Unit of LAs, CSOs and Foundations, DG INTPA opened the meeting and explained the aim was to update LAs and CSOs on how their recommendations are being included. **Luis Moratinos**, Policy Officer for Pan African Affairs at the European External Action Service (EEAS) emphasised that the SSA RMIP and AAPs follow the priorities agreed at the EU-African Union (AU) summit of February 2022; and that the Global Gateway initiative brings added value to this partnership.

**Marzia Pietrelli**, Deputy Head of Unit for Regional and Multi-country Programmes for Africa, DG INTPA presented the overall update on programming. Consultation is ongoing and will take place twice a year throughout the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021-2027. The context is the Global Gateway (GG) which is the new name for the EU's strategic policy offer, emphasising sustainable connections for people. The GG is implemented through Team Europe initiatives (TEIs): joint programmes where the EU partners with member states (MS), CSOs and financial institutions. TEIs can be national or regional. 15 SSA regional TEIs have now been endorsed by MS. The final part of the presentation provided an overview of the RMIP budget breakdown by six priority areas and an update on the timing and process for the RMIP and AAPs. MS will be involved throughout. The AAP 2022 is a large programme so is split in two parts.

Following the presentation, participants asked **clarifying questions** about GG programming and its relationship to the RMIP. There were several questions about how TEIs will work in practice and how to contact the lead partner regarding involvement. The reason for RMIP budget allocations by geographical region in SSA was also unclear. African diaspora organisations asked about involvement in AAP consultations and implementation. **Ms Pietrelli** clarified that GG is the branding of the strategic policy framework, not additional money, and that regional actions could be included. Each TEI will have a coordinator and steering mechanism setting out the role of each partner. INTPA will provide contacts for each unit and there will be a future meeting with CSOs and LAs specifically on TEIs when they are more advanced. The geographic distribution in the RMIP budget is because the NDICI required budget lines by subregion. **Ms Holzner** and **Marco Sioli**, Programme Officer and External Relations, Regional and Multi-country

Programmes for Africa, DG INTPA confirmed that diaspora organisations will be included in consultation and implementation according to project objectives.

### III. Thematic sessions

#### Investment and Jobs, Education and Skills

**Eduin Matta Castillo**, DG INTPA provided information about the three main actions under investment and jobs in the AAP 2022: i) a pilot project providing support to African Central Banks; ii) contributions to improve economic governance in SSA; iii) a more permanent structure for the EU-Africa Business Forum.

Participants asked about involvement of LAs, including on fiscal reforms, and of subregional development banks. They emphasised the importance of working with existing structures and asked about women's financial inclusion. **Mr Matta Castillo** confirmed that subregional banks will also be involved. He affirmed the importance of complementarity and support to existing structures and processes of engagement with the private sector, LAs and other stakeholders. **Vivien Rigler**, DG INTPA explained that actions on financial inclusion will be at macro level, not directly with beneficiaries.

**Pietro Romano**, DG INTPA explained that there would be five projects on education and skills. The first four are a continuation of ongoing programmes: i) implementation of the African Continental Qualifications Framework; ii) Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme; iii) Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education Initiative ("AQUA"); iv) Young African Leaders Programme. The fifth is a new Regional Teacher Programme for SSA.

Participants stressed the importance of supporting education systems and engaging with technical and vocational training institutions. They asked about ensuring online safeguarding of children and young people, and gender. **Mr Romano** and **Sónia Godinho**, INTPA lead on teacher programmes, confirmed that basic education will be addressed in the teacher programme and explained the focus on digital literacy as part of holistic solutions as per African priorities.

#### Green Transition – Health

**Enrica Pellacani**, DG INTPA highlighted that there has been a significant boost to programmes for green transition and provided a budget breakdown and explanation of each of the 12 actions grouped under 5 clusters: climate change mitigation and resistance; sustainable energy; sustainable agri-food systems; biodiversity; and transboundary water management.

Participants asked questions about the details of specific programmes including NaturAfrica; the relationship of the AAP 2022 to the GG climate resilience initiative; and the contribution of sustainable agri-food programmes to climate and biodiversity targets. More generally, participants wanted to know how to engage on programmes; and about coordination across EU delegations.

**Ms Pellacani** clarified that a working group is underway for a TEI on climate adaptation and resilience, and confirmed that conservation and climate change issues are integrated in the methodology for sustainable agri-food systems. INTPA contact details were provided for bilateral follow-up on specific programmes. CSOs were advised to contact EU delegations regarding involvement at country level. The lead delegation will coordinate with other countries concerned; efforts are made to ensure all delegations have the same understanding and can incorporate regional programming in actions at country level.

On health, **Silvia Logar Zamar**, DG INTPA explained that for AAP 2022 the main action is the TEI on MAV (manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies in Africa). Other ongoing health initiatives will also be funded in 2022 as part of multi-year planning.

#### Digital – Economic integration – Transport

**Fabio Di Stefano**, DG INTPA gave an overview of the budget, objectives and components of the AAP 2022 programmes in each thematic area. In all programmes there is an emphasis on ensuring coherence across regions. There will be one digital programme on data governance. On science, technology and innovation, support will be

provided to research centres of excellence in Africa to support the green transition. On transport, the focus is on institutional support to road transport governance. There will be two programmes under economic integration, building on support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs): i) trade competitiveness and market access and ii) trade in services.

On trade, participants asked about engagement with the WTO. **Mr Di Stefano** explained that the bilateral conversation with WTO is led by DG Trade and the EU focus is on supporting countries around existing or future trade agreements.

#### Peace and Security – Governance – Migration and Mobility

**Jorge Pereiro Pinon**, INTPA took the group through the AAP 2022 programmes planned under each priority area. On governance this includes support for i) the AU transitional justice roadmap; ii) engagement of CSOs in economic governance; iii) electoral assistance and observation at continental and regional levels; iv) youth organisations. Five peace and security programmes are planned to support African civilian initiatives: i) the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) joint verification and regional mineral certification mechanisms; ii) West African counter terrorism capacities iii) targeting illicit financial flows to counter organised crime and terrorism; iv) maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea; iv) preventing and mitigating the impact of conflict in 3 border areas. Planned actions under migration and mobility include capacity building and support to continental and regional initiatives: i) migrant protection, return and reintegration; ii) migration dialogue and development; iii) free movement and migration protocol support in Western Africa; iv) response to forced displacement in the Great Lakes (Burundi crisis); v) better migration management in the Horn of Africa; vi) flexible funding mechanism for migration and forced displacement with a “more for more” approach. Finally, funding is foreseen for support measures: technical assistance as needed across the thematic areas.

On governance, participants asked about including LAs in the economic governance programme, and whether a mechanism is foreseen to counter the involvement of other countries in electoral processes in Africa. **Mr Pereiro Pinon** confirmed that there will indeed be a role for LAs in engaging on national budgets as part of civil society and citizen participation. **Mr Sioli** confirmed EU awareness of the problem of external influence on elections. Electoral observation and reinforcing electoral management bodies can contribute to combating this.

For the Borderlands action under peace and security, questions arose about the inclusion of other countries and the specific components of the action. **Mr Pereiro Pinon** explained that the action will continue in future years when other countries may be added. The action has a broad and flexible scope so can be adapted to what is relevant and it is up to delegations in each cluster to define the specific components.

Participants had several questions concerning migration, specifically: the implementing modalities for the first migration action on protection, return and reintegration; whether the Great Lakes component will address refugees fleeing from eastern Congo; and whether the flexible funding mechanism is separate to ECHO funding for refugees. Participants also stressed that children and women are entitled to specific support as they are most affected by migration. **Mr Pereiro Pinon** explained that the first action will mostly be implemented by IOM including the first two components; implementation is still to be decided for the other two components. The response to influx of refugees is ECHO's domain; the flexible funding mechanism is separate but could be used to support a country to meet its international commitments. Vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children, are specifically mentioned in the migration management programmes.

#### IV. Closing remarks

In her closing remarks **Ms Petrelli** thanked participants for their valuable questions and feedback. It was clear from the discussions that further communication would be useful, particularly regarding TEIs. INTPA will also share contact details so that stakeholders can get in touch with questions about how to be involved in specific actions. As dialogue with stakeholders is at the centre of this process, consultations will continue and stakeholders were invited to share feedback on the format as part of a structured exercise.