

# Toward the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa-EU Summit

## Strengthen Governance Systems

EU Communication 4 May 2017 – Factsheet n°2

### Africa's Agenda 2063

Africa aspires to a "continent where democratic values, culture, practices, universal principles of human rights, gender equality, justice and the rule of law are entrenched", with "capable institutions and transformative leadership in place at all levels".

The objectives of Agenda 2063's first ten year implementation plan include:

- At least 70% of the public perceive elections to be free, fair and transparent by 2020;
- At least 70% of the people perceive the entrenchment of respect for human rights and the rule of law;
- At least 70% of the public acknowledge the public service to be professional, efficient, responsive, accountable, impartial and corruption free

### Flagships in Support of the EU-Africa Partnership



**Strengthen dialogue and information exchange on democracy support** starting with a **Joint AU-EU high-level conference on electoral processes, democracy and governance in Africa and Europe**, in line with the African and European policies, involving relevant institutions, including the Pan-African and European Parliaments, as well as civil society and academia.

Democracy across the continent will be strengthened by facilitating and institutionalizing discussion among a wide range of stakeholders in joint events, starting with the organization of a Joint AU-EU high-level conference on electoral processes, democracy and governance. This conference will serve to exchange expertise, best practices and lessons learned in a broad-based dialogue. As elections are a crucial part of the democratic process, electoral processes serve as a starting point to strengthen the impact of EOMs in line with their central role in ensuring peaceful and credible elections and reinforcing democratic institutions. The Commission aims at supporting the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.



**Double support to domestic resource mobilisation by 2020**, in line with the Addis Tax Initiative

The Commission supports African countries under the "Collect More – Spend Better" approach to establish efficient, effective, fair and transparent tax systems. In implementing international tax standards, domestic revenue mobilization which in African countries is often below the necessary levels – and seriously undermined by illicit financial flows of at least USD 50 billion leaving the continent annually – will be increased.

In this, the Commission collaborates with key international development institutions (e.g. UN, IMF, WBG and OECD) in areas such as reforms to tax policy, tax administration, management of revenues from natural resources or taxation of multinational corporations. Likewise, tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows are combatted. The Commission strongly supports the inclusion of developing countries on equal footing in the international tax governance domain, notably the Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) process.



**Joint action to strengthen sustainable management of natural resources**, notably via the elaboration of a joint EU-Africa Charter

The Commission aims to conclude an agreement at political level between the EU and Africa on a Charter embodying key principles essential for the sustainable management of natural resources including a common understanding on general concepts (e.g. community based management of natural resources, natural capital accounting) and relevant policies (e.g. circular economy, integrated water resource management), followed by subsections for specific resources (e.g. land/soil, water, forest, wildlife and extractives industries).

Climate and disaster resilience will be mainstreamed in all subsections to demonstrate that ecosystem-based approaches not only contribute to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems services in urban, rural, coastal and natural areas, but also constitute a cost-efficient way of supporting disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, while providing co-benefits in terms of climate change mitigation, human health, safety and well-being. The content could be based on recommendations from fora in the different sectors, to be endorsed by the next Africa-EU Summit. The process leading to the Charter's adoption will provide important occasions for input from stakeholders and could have a positive impact on intra-ministerial coordination by bringing relevant ministries to the table.

## EU & Africa: Did you know?



The EU is Africa's main partner in governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights. For this, the EU foresees over EUR 3.3 billion for 2014-2020.



The EU regularly discusses human rights with most African countries, regional organisations and the AU under Art. 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, Art. 2 of the Association Agreement for Northern African Countries and in the annual EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue respectively.



The EU promotes local governance in Africa. Since 2007, around EUR 80 million went to projects directed at local authorities in Sub-Saharan Africa, supporting decentralization processes, capacity building, accountability, transparency and sustainable urbanisation.



The EU has a long tradition in promoting democracy in Africa. Since 2000, it has deployed 129 election missions in African countries and has supported AU election observation with EUR 6,5 million 2014-2017.



The EU and its member states are Africa's leading donor of humanitarian aid. At EU level alone more than EUR 800 million have been committed annually since 2015.



The EU supports African countries in domestic revenue mobilization, combatting tax evasion and avoidance and improving corporate transparency under the holistic "Collect More – Spend Better" approach. It obliges the EU extractive and logging companies to report on payments they make to governments to enhance transparency, improve government accountability and fight corruption.



The EU supports African countries with about EUR 25 million under SWITCH Africa Green in the transition towards an inclusive, sustainable green economy. It also supports African countries in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience through a number of programmes, notably the EU Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) The EU has allocated an overall budget of about EUR 500 million to biodiversity for the period 2014-2020.

