

African
& European

Civil Society Days

6th & 7th May 2022



Co-funded by
the European Union



FOR A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE AFRICAN UNION & EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP

African and European heads of states and governments renewed their partnership on the occasion of the 6th, EU-AU Summit on February 17th and 18th, 2022 at the end of which they communicated in a [declaration](#) of their priorities for "a common vision for 2030".

While African and European civil societies organisations are pleased with the progress made in terms of health, gender and funding in particular, many questions remain regarding the implementation and monitoring, but also the financial architecture of this renewed partnership. These issues include, in particular, those of the involvement of African and European civil societies organisations in the dynamics of this renewed partnership as well as in its governance mechanisms, so that it is fully inclusive and transparent.

If [recommandations](#)¹ were sent by civil societies organisations to heads of state and government ahead of the summit, they remain to be confirmed to this day. Many conditions for the effective participation of CSOs in the partnership still need to be defined and implemented.

Structured around several round tables, discussion groups and open forums delivered by CSOs representatives, experts, and researchers, the **Civil Societies Days**, organized by *Coordination SUD* – the French platform of international solidarity NGOs – with the financial support of the European Union and the help of *FORUS International* and *CONCORD Europe*, are aimed at over a hundred representatives of European and African civil societies organisations (CSOs) for international solidarity. Based on their analysis of the AU-EU partnership, African and European CSOs will be invited, during these Days, to:

- *propose concrete mechanisms for the involvement of African and European CSOs in the governance (definition, implementation, monitoring) of the AU-EU partnership,*
- *build a common action plan to promote these mechanisms and strengthen cooperation between African and European CSOs,*
- *share and respond to CSOs' concerns in favour of a favourable environment for the action and expression of civil societies.*



¹ (2022) *No decision about us without us!*, Africa-Europe Week CSO Forum outcome document, Brussels, European Commission / DG INTPA, Feb.

FRIDAY 6TH MAY

(9H00 - 13H00)
ON INVITATION
ONLY

WORKSHOP - FROM THE LOCALIZATION TO THE DECOLONIZATION OF AID: WHAT PARTNERSHIPS FOR NGOS?

Coordination SUD and its partners are organizing an innovative workshop on aid localization.

13H45 - 14H00

WELCOME

Nadia HENNI-MOULAÏ - Journalist & Author

Eyoum NGANGUE - Journalist & Producer

14H00 - 14H30

EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETIES DAYS - OPENING WORDS

Olivier BRUYERON - Chairperson, President, Coordination SUD, France

Christelle KALHOULE - Chairperson, Forus International, International

Javier GARCIA DE LA OLIVA - Chairperson, CONCORD Europe, Europe

14H30 - 14H35

AU-EU PARTNERSHIP & CIVIL SOCIETIES ORGANISATIONS

Jutta URPILAINEN - European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Europe

(Video message)

14H35 - 14H45

AU-EU PARTNERSHIP & CIVIL SOCIETIES ORGANISATIONS

Cyrille PIERRE - Deputy Director General on Globalization, MEAE / DGM, France

14H45 - 14H55

ASYMMETRIES AND DIVERSITIES, WEALTH OF CIVIL SOCIETIES ORGANISATIONS

Who are the civil society organizations represented today? How to recognize their diversity and promote their inclusion? Who are the least visible and those who face the most obstacles to access funding and the public and political scene?

Leyla DAKHLI - Historian, researcher, National Scientific Research Centre, Germany

OP-ED at distance

14H55 - 16H00

AU-EU PARTNERSHIP & CIVIL SOCIETIES ORGANISATIONS: WHAT COMMON STRATEGY FOR 2030?

In addition to the perspectives put forward by the Member States and the institutions of the African Union and the European Union, this partnership must be expressed through the strategies and action plans of the operational departments and agencies of these same institutions and States. Thus, the following questions will be addressed during this session:

- *How to operationalize this renewed vision of the AU-EU partnership?*
- *What operational and concrete role and place should be given to African and European CSOs in the implementation of this renewed partnership?*
- *What partnerships between operational departments and agencies and CSOs?*

Angela ODAI - Head, Diaspora & Europe Division, Citizens and Diaspora Directorate, Economic, Social and Cultural Council, African Union

Domenico ROSA - Head, OACPS & AU Strategic Partnerships Unit, DG International Partnership, European Union

Marie-Hélène LOISON - Deputy Director, AFD / French Development Agency, France

ROUND TABLE

16H00 - 16H30 BREAK

16H30 - 16H40 FOR A RENEWED AU/EU PARTNERSHIP, WHAT PLACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETIES?

How can we definitely get out of the traditional framework of North-South relations and put an end to asymmetrical relations between African and European states? What discourse adopted and what practices to undertake to deal as equals and consider African priorities?

Achille M'BEMBE, Historian & Specialist in postcolonial issues and author of the report to the Presidency of the French Republic, "*Les nouvelles relations Afrique-France. Relever ensemble les défis de demain* "

OP-ED AT DISTANCE

16H45 - 18H15 WHAT INSTRUMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE?

1. **Spaces for CSO & Government Dialogue** in the AU-EU Partnership (Eng.)
Moderator - **Oluseyi OYEBISI**, Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs, Nigeria
2. **Tools and mechanisms** for inclusive and transparent dialogue (Fr.)
Moderator - **Rim MENIA**, Coordinator, NalaFem, Algeria
3. **Joint CSO & Other Partnership Stakeholder Work** (Eng.)
Moderator - **Lucy AFANDI ESIPILA**, Advocacy Officer, Caritas Africa, Kenya
4. **Representation and Participation** of CSO Diversity (Eng.)
Moderator - **Grace ANANDA**, Advocacy Officer Africa, Habitat for Humanity International, Kenya
5. **Rebalancing Dialogue** between Urban & Rural (Fr.)
Moderator - **Bruno ANGSTHELM**, Africa Program Officer, CCFD -Terre Solidaire, France
6. **Role and place of CSOs** in the governance of the AU-EU partnership (Eng.)
Moderator: **Riccardo ROBA**, Senior Advocacy Officer, CONCORD Europe, Belgium

DISCUSSION GROUPS

18H15 - 18H25 FOR AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE, WHAT PROSPECTS?

How can we definitely leave the traditional framework of North-South relations and put an end to asymmetrical relations between African and European states? What discourse should be adopted and what practices should be undertaken in order to deal as equals and take into account African priorities?

Eyachew TEFERA, Director, Institute for African Studies, Slovenia

OP-ED

18H25 - 18H30 CONCLUDING WORDS

Nadia HENNI-MOULAÏ - Journalist & Author
Eyoum NGANGUE - Journalist & Producer

SATURDAY 7TH MAY

9H00 - 9H30 WELCOME

9H30 - 9H40 CLIMATE EMERGENCY: HOW DO YOUTH MOVEMENTS LEAD THE FIGHT?

What roles do youth organisations and movements play with policy makers to increase awareness of the climate emergency? How do these youth organisations form networks to mobilise civil societies? What barriers do they face in their fight for the climate?

Tessy LI, Youth & Climate Change Conference UN, Ubuntu United Nations, France

OP-ED

9H40 - 10H40 SOCIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE, A FAIR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE?

What dissonances between African and European perspectives and approaches to climate? What possible common agenda between Africa and Europe for sustainable development? What tools and solutions for sustainable and economic development in Africa? What people-centred approach to the fight against global warming?

Youba SOKONA, Climate Researcher & Scientist, IDDRI Ukama platform, Senegal

Anne-Marie ABAAGU, Executive Director, Women Environmental Program, Nigeria

Rachel SIMON, Climate and Development Policy Coord. CAN Europe, Brussels

Guillaume QUELIN, Climate change project manager, GRET, France

ROUND TABLE

10H40 - 11H10 BREAK

11H10 - 12H40 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HOW TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP FAIR BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE?

1. **Strengthening Agenda** on Climate change agenda (Eng.)

Moderator - **Mimi AMAICHIGH**, Climate organizer and researcher, Youth-IDEA / European Youth Water Parliament, Austria

2. **Role of CSOs in accountability** of government on climate (Fr.)

Moderator - **Mélanie PELASCINI**, analysis and advocacy officer, Coordination SUD, France

3. **CSO participation in coherence** of public policies (Fr.)

Moderator - **Innocent Antoine HOUEDJI**, Executive Director, Youth Initiative for Land in Africa, Benin

4. **Transversalising Gender** equality (Eng.)

Moderator - **Deirdre DE BURCA**, Advocacy Coordinator, FORUS International, Ireland

5. **Role and Place of CSOs** in Global Health (Eng.)

Moderator - **Gian Marco GRINDATTO**, Advocacy Officer, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, Belgium

DISCUSSION GROUPS

12H40 - 14H00 LUNCH

14H00 - 14H10 WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND INSECURITY: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES?

What specific difficulties and barriers do women's organizations face in their actions, particularly in contexts of insecurity? What strategies do they implement to overcome these threats? What framework should be put in place to safeguard and guarantee their actions?

Maïmouna BA, Chairperson, Women's Association for the Dignity of the Sahel, Burkina Faso

OP-ED

14H10 - 15H30 **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOs: THREATS, CHALLENGES AND IMBALANCES BETWEEN AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS**

What are the threats to the enabling environment for civil societies organisations? Why has the preservation of their spaces of action and of workers and volunteers become a major issue? How to prevent the instrumentalization of international solidarity and protect the rights and freedoms of civil societies? How can CSOs participate in the construction of a favourable environment and its protection?

Amina CHEBALLAH, Grana Nostra Project manager, Tharwa N'Fadhma N'Soumeur, Algeria

Jean-Marc BOVIN, Coordination SUD / MA CESE Member, France

Lia CONCEICAO, Program Assistant, Response to violent extremism, European Institute of Peace, Belgium

Sylvie CAPITANT, Co-Director, IEDES-Université Paris 1, France,

Moses ISOOBA, Executive Director, Uganda National NGO Forum, Uganda

ROUND TABLE

15H30 - 15H40 **INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS: WHAT TRENDS AND PRACTICES?**

How to ensure access to public funding for all CSOs? How to build flexible and balanced consortia? What funding for a balanced relationship between African and European CSOs? How can public funding better respond to CSO needs? What degree of leadership do CSOs have or can they have with public donors?

Leah Diane MITABA, Ex. Director, Zambia Council for Social Development, Zambia

OP-ED

15H40 - 16H10 **BREAK**

16H10 - 17H40 **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOs: THREATS, CHALLENGES AND IMBALANCES BETWEEN AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS**

1. **CSOs, Peace and Conflict** Prevention (Fr.)
Moderator - **Souad BARRY**, Coordinator, Groupe Initiatives, France
2. **Action and expression of women's and youth** organizations (Eng.)
Moderator - **Johanna CAMINATI**, Advocacy Officer, Plan International Europe, Belgium
3. **Financing and action of CSOs** (Fr.)
Moderator - **Jean-Luc GALBRUN**, analysis and advocacy officer, Coordination SUD, France
4. **African and European CSOs**, support and mutual benefits (Eng.)
Moderator - **Luisa FONDELLO**, International Cooperation Officer, Caritas Europa, Belgium
5. **Migration policies and human rights** (Eng.)
Moderator - **Andressa BARP SEUFERT**, Advocacy Officer, VENRO, Germany

DISCUSSION GROUPS

17H40 - 17H55 **CSOs AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, WHAT RELATIONSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP?**

What relationships can European and African public authorities build with CSOs in order to strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of their actions in favour of development? What synergies and partnerships are possible and mutually beneficial?

Oluseyi OYEBISI, executive director, Nigeria Network of NGOs, Nigeria

OP-ED

17H55 - 18H30 **CLOSING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETIES DAYS / Cocktail - Espace Niemeyer**

AT THE ORIGIN OF THE CIVIL SOCIETIES DAYS

THE PROJECT "TOWARDS AN OPEN, FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE IN THE WORLD", led by a consortium of European NGO platforms and financially supported by the European program DEAR (Development Awareness and Education Raising), is structured around three successive presidencies of the Council of the European Union: those of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden. The project is thus managed by the national platforms of these three countries: CONCORD Sverige, Coordination SUD and FoRS, alongside the European confederation of NGO platforms CONCORD Europe. This project takes place in France from September 2021 to June 2022 (French Presidency of the Council of the European Union) through a series of awareness-raising and skills-building activities on European issues of international solidarity and aims to improve understanding, within French civil society and more particularly international solidarity organisations, of the role of the European Union in international cooperation for development.



COORDINATION SUD, founded in 1994, today brings together 180 NGOs, direct members or via six collectives (CLONG-Volunteering, CNAJEP, Humanitarian and Development Coordination, CRID, FORIM, Groupe Initiatives). The NGO members of Coordination SUD carry out emergency humanitarian actions, development aid, environmental protection, defence of human rights among the most vulnerable populations as well as actions of education in citizenship and international solidarity and advocacy. First national platform of French NGOs for international solidarity, Coordination SUD has four missions: 1/ the construction and dissemination of common positions on key international issues with public and private institutions, in France, Europe and around the world, 2/ defending and promoting the role and place of NGOs in the definition, implementation and monitoring of official development assistance, 3/ supporting and strengthening French NGOs in their ability to innovate and adapting and, finally, 4/ monitoring and analysing developments and challenges in the international solidarity sector.

THE CIVIL SOCIETIES DAYS, IN NUMBERS

More than 140 participants from African and European civil society, representing 95 civil society organizations, national platforms and networks; as well as representatives from the African Union, the European Union, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Development Agency.



The project "Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world - Third Trio EU Presidency Project" is funded by the European Union and implemented by CONCORD Sweden; the national coordination platform of French NGOs for international solidarity (Coordination SUD); the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS); and the European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD).



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pour la solidarité internationale

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