EU-Africa strategy: a boost for development

2017/2083(INI) - 24/10/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Development adopted the own-initiative report by Maurice PONGA (EPP, FR) on the EU-Africa Strategy: a boost for development.

Given that the EU is Africa's main partner in the fields of economic activity and trade as well as development, humanitarian aid and security, Members called for a new vision for this partnership that reflects the evolution of the political, economic, environmental and social situations of both continents.

The Cotonou Agreement with the EU, to which 79 ACP States are parties, including 48 in sub-Saharan Africa, governs the main partnership between the EU and Africa.

In financial terms, the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) has a budget of EUR 30.5 billion, of which EUR 900 million are reserved for the African Peace Facility, and EUR 1.4 billion of the EDF will be used for the EU Trust Fund for Africa. More than EUR 5 billion have been spent on the needs of African countries in the context of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), and EUR 845 million have been allocated to the Pan-African Programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to implement the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES).

Intensifying political dialogue: as a precondition for a renewed strategic partnership, Members invited the future partnership to focus on the priority areas identified by both the AU and the EU, such as:

- economic development (via trade, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs));
- good governance, including human rights;
- human development via public services covering basic needs, such as education, health, access to water and sanitation, gender equality, science, technology and innovation;
- security and the fight against terrorism;
- migration and mobility;
- environment – including climate change.

According to Members, **budget support is the best way to carry out appropriation**, providing governments with the means to determine their needs and priorities.

Building more resilient states and societies: Members considered it necessary to make resilience (political, security, environmental, economic and social) a major component of the new EU-Africa strategy.

In particular, Members called for efforts to be undertaken to:

- enhance cooperation between the EU and Africa in the field of **security and justice** in respect of the international legal framework in order to take a holistic approach to tackling problems and to better combat organised crime, human trafficking and smuggling particularly in relation to children, and terrorism;
- enhance cooperation within the EU-Africa Strategy aimed at preventing impunity, promoting the rule of law and the expansion of police and judicial capacities;
- develop a strategic approach to building **climate resilience** and to support African countries;
- increase cooperation between the European and African private sectors and for the concentration of investment, particularly by means of **public-private partnerships**;

- **better coordinate their aid for trade programmes** and to boost synergies with their Africa investment policies;
- ensure **non-discrimination** against vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples;
- strengthen African national education systems to ensure universal, inclusive, equitable and long-term access to high-quality education at all levels, from early childhood onwards and for all, with a special focus on girls, and including in emergency and crisis situations;
- break down the barriers faced by women and other vulnerable groups, including children, people with disabilities and LGBTI people;
- step up their financial **contribution to trust funds** and other instruments aiming to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and stimulate job creation thus contributing to addressing the root causes of **migration**. In this regard, the report also asked for a **stronger scrutiny role of the European Parliament** to ensure that migration partnerships and funding tools are compatible with EU legal basis, principles and commitments.