

International Seminar

Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon 29th April 2014

How can EU-Africa relations move forward? This is the core question to debate in the Seminar, which intends to look back at what the EU-Africa partnership has achieved so far – including the outcomes of the IV Summit – and exchange views about the opportunities and challenges to EU-Africa relations now as in the next few years, in a context of rapidly evolving continental and global dynamics. The debates will be organized in **3 panels**:

11h00-13h00 | Assessing the outcomes of the IV EU-Africa Summit

This session aims to discuss the outcomes of the IV EU-Africa Summit, having as background the progresses and challenges of the relations between the two continents particularly since the adoption of a Joint Strategy, and taking into account the global and continental contexts in which the partnership has evolved.

Questions:

What progress has been achieved in Europe-Africa relations since the first Summit and the signing of a Joint Partnership in 2007? What assessment can be made of the IV EU-Africa Summit, both in terms of process and outcomes? What are the perspectives for a renewal and revitalised type of partnership between Europe and Africa, taking into account the current context (political, economic, social) in the two continents?

14h30-16h00 | Africa, Europe and Emerging Actors

This session aims to scope out the key elements impacting on Europe-Africa relations arising out of the diversification of flows, donors and partnerships for Africa and, from there, to debate the potential for mutual learning, for further dialogue and for increased cooperation in a multipolar world. It will discuss how do Africans see their various partners and what role can Europe play in this context, from an African perspective.

Questions:

What are the key economic, institutional, and political issues in the relations between Africa and emerging countries that impact on the Europe-Africa partnership? How do Africans perceive their different partners and respective comparative advantages (including the EU added value)? How can enhanced policy dialogue among Europe, Africa and emerging powers, as well as practical instruments such as triangular cooperation, contribute to the promotion of inclusive growth in Africa?

16h30-18h00 | | Prioritising the future: The EU-Africa Partnership and global challenges

This session will reflect on improving the relations between the two continents, identifying some key messages to guide the partnership in the future. It intends to debate what are the tensions and stimulus that will affect these relations in the next few years, and what is required to accommodate diverging interests, facilitate the achievement of common goals and effectively respond to global challenges. Some of the issues to be addressed include the possible linkages to the African Union "Agenda 2063", as well as the implementation of joint actions on global issues (such as the post-2015 development agenda).

Questions:

What should be the key elements to ensure the relevance of the Partnership in the future, both for Europe and for Africa? What issues, both tangible and intangible, should be addressed in order to go beyond the traditional donor-recipient approach and to foster an effective political dialogue? What should the partnership seek to achieve in the next years, taking into account regional agendas (e.g. AU Agenda 2063) and global prospects (e.g. post-2015)?