

Africa – Europe partnership: Connecting young local leaders!

23 June | 14.30-16.00 CET

24 June | 14.30-16.00 CET

Zoom

Interpretation available in: EN, FR, ES

Concept note

Africa and Europe face a growing number of common challenges, such as the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and climate change. For Europe's partnership with Africa, these challenges have highlighted the value of global solidarity and mobilisation across borders – especially between local and regional governments. Also, in these uncertain times, local and regional governments from both continents have reinforced their determination for closer cooperation.

The current context requires common actions. Young local leaders from Africa and Europe need to engage in collective dialogues to seize the shared opportunities that lie ahead, to exchange solutions to common issues and to drive change for more inclusive and sustainable societies.

Aiming at advancing the work started in Abidjan and Marrakesh, CEMR, PLATFORMA and UCLG Africa would like to suggest ways of bringing Africa and Europe closer in a win-win partnership. This is why we organise **a two-days online event on 23–24 June 2021**. An event where young elected officials, youth organisations and several representatives and partners from the European and African continents will share the stage to meet and get to know each other, to take the partnership to a new level and to work on challenges of joint interest in a spirit of friendship and commitment.

Programme

	WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE	THURSDAY 24 JUNE
AFTERNOON	Opening session	Working group session
14.30 – 16.00 CET	Which future for Africa-Europe relations?	Up to Youth! Towards a collaboration for African and European young local leaders

Opening session

Day 1: Which future for Africa-Europe relations?

23 June | 14.30-16.00 CET

October 2020 was expected to be a crucial moment for AU-EU partnership: relations between both continents were expected to be reshaped at the occasion of the sixth AU-EU Summit. However, the measures introduced to slow down the spread of the pandemic have interrupted the dialogue, shifting the focus of the relationship to how Africa and Europe can cooperate to contain the virus and reduce its toll on their populations and economies.

If the current crisis has taught us anything, it is that cooperation between Africa and Europe is more important than ever and has to be based on a clear understanding of our respective and mutual responsibilities. Also, states as well as local actors need to build on each other's strengths, to learn from each other's experiences and to meaningfully engage with civil societies, in particular youth organisations. Indeed, young Africans and Europeans have a say in creating solid and mutually beneficial relationship and leaders from both continents must co-develop a youth-led and youth-centred vision to ensure a future that reflects and meets their needs and aspirations, while capitalising on their talents and new ways of engaging in politics.

This session serves as a consultative discussion where the panellists from Africa and Europe will voice their perspectives on several questions: How should their partnership look in a post-COVID19 world? How can both continents take their relationship "to the next level" and see it change for the better? How can we work better together through cooperation? What are the common challenges and priorities? How do younger generations envision this path?

Guiding questions:

1. Will the sanitary crisis open new windows of opportunity for local and regional governments from Africa and Europe to promote a new political dynamic?
2. What are the main challenges and areas of cooperation going forward towards a new EU-AU strategy? What role for the different stakeholders, including local and regional governments and youth in this renewed partnership?
3. How can young people secure a better future for Africa and Europe? What are the challenges and aspirations of African and European youth?
4. How can the establishment of a network, such as the one between young local/regional elected representatives from Africa-Europe, contribute to strengthening the cooperation between both continents?

Agenda

Moderator: Tamsin Rose, Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe

14.15	Connection to virtual meeting and arrival of participants
14.30	Introduction by moderator
	Words of welcome from Frédéric Vallier , Secretary General (CEMR) and Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi , Secretary General (UCLG Africa)
	What are the main challenges and areas of cooperation going forward towards a new EU-AU strategy? <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Annica Floren, Acting Head of Unit for youth, education and culture at the European commission's directorate general for international partnerships (DG INTPA)

How can young people secure a better future for Africa and Europe? What are the challenges and aspirations of African and European youth?

- **Adelaide Hirwe**, Secretary General of the African Union Diaspora Youth Initiative
- **Daniel Ajudeonu**, President of Generation Action Africa (GAA), Member of Common Futures Conversations at Chatham House, UK (CFC Chatham House)

How can the establishment of a network, such as the one between young elected representatives from Africa-Europe, contribute to strengthening the cooperation between both continents?

- **Cemal Bas**, Municipal Councillor in Keçiören Municipality (Ankara), member of the CEMR Committee of Young Local and Regional Elected Representatives
- **Christopher Kang'ombe**, Mayor of Kitwe (Zambia), President of Local Government Association of Zambia and Young Elected Local Officials - Network (YELO)

15.55 Closing remarks by moderator

Day 2: Up to Youth!

Towards a collaboration for African and European young local leaders

24 June |14.30-16.00 CET

Communication technologies have shrunk the distance between our continents, and we live together in ever more connected ways. Why not seize this opportunity to bring Africa and Europe closer and explore how we can best tap into our network's potential and maximise our impact as a consolidated group!

This session aims to strengthen and promote joint collaboration by initiating a permanent dialogue between young local leaders from both continents. A practical session to unlock and boost synergies for better cooperation, to define together joint strategic priorities, and to deepen the discussions on common areas of action and establish a calendar of future dialogues.

Guiding questions:

1. How can young local leaders from Africa and Europe make use of their global connectivity to collaboratively address current concerns and common challenges?
2. What kind of structure could we set up to facilitate the establishment of a permanent political dialogue/meaningful participation between young local elected representatives from both continents?
3. How can we pool our resources, skills and ideas to strengthen the voice and impact of young local leaders?
4. On which occasions can young local leaders from both continents raise their voice together?

Agenda

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14.30 Introduction by moderator

Words of welcome from **Jacqueline Moustache-Belle**, Director of the gender and youth department, UCLG Africa

Beyond borders: the example of youth migration as a shared priority for Africa and Europe

- **Maria Grazia Montella**, Policy officer - Integration & Migration, Includities
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How can young local leaders from Africa and Europe make use of their global connectivity to collaboratively address current concerns and common challenges?

- **Nektarios Kalantzis**, City Councillor of the Municipality of Pallini (Greece)
 - **Ibticem Atitallah**, Deputy Mayor of Sfax (Tunisia)
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AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub: Where African & European Youth think and act together!

- Presentation by **Aoudou Mouchili**, Young expert @AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, Founder and executive president @RuralYouth Cameroon

Reaction:

- **Mohamed Vakissi Fofana**, President of the Youth Confederation of African Union
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On which occasions can young local leaders from both continents raise their voice together?

- **Lionel Nzamba**, Task Manager/Youth Unit & **Redouan Boudiba**, Mobilisation and Youth Officer
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Closing remarks by moderator

Registration link: [Registration form](#)

Contacts

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