

General Assembly meeting on the African Union 2015

Statement by the European Union

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

Mr President,

The Africa-European Union partnership is guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, shared values and interests, as well as joint ownership and responsibilities. At the Africa-European Union Summit held in April 2014 in Brussels, EU and African leaders committed to consult and work in partnership to define the post-2015 development agenda, sharing the same level of ambition and broadly similar priorities for the agenda — an integrated and balanced approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development, inclusion of governance, peace and security aspects, a global partnership mobilizing all means of implementation, and credible monitoring, follow-up and review mechanisms. I believe that this is well reflected in the final outcome.

We welcome the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which will enable us to tackle the interlinked challenges of our world today. We very much welcome the fact that Africa played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda, both through the Common African Position on the post-2015 Development Agenda, which fed into the negotiations and played an influential role, and through key African actors, including to mention a few, Amina Mohammed, the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; Ambassador Kamau, the Co-Chair of the Open Working Group; and Mr. Sam Kutesa, then

President of the General Assembly, as well as the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD, the African Development Bank, South Africa representing the Group of 77, and others.

Looking ahead, we recognize that the true challenge lies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The EU and its member States will do their part and are committed to the Africa-EU partnership and to cooperating, as agreed in the road map of the 2014 Africa-EU Summit, to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of Agenda 2063 will be complementary, consistent and mutually supportive.

The EU recognizes the essential role played by the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development in the definition of continental policy frameworks and programmes that respect in full the notions of subsidiarity and ownership. In particular, Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan provide a comprehensive, long-term strategic vision for Africa's development. Our aim is to support Africa's political and economic integration through enhanced trade, a strengthened political partnership and increased cooperation, and to support institutional capacity-building at the national, regional and continental levels.

The European Union and its member States remain the biggest trading and development partners of Africa, and we stand ready to continue supporting key pan-African programmes such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, in addition to our wide range of activities at national and regional levels.

Cooperation on migration is another area. The upcoming Valetta Summit is expected to deal comprehensively with the issue of migration, including its

developmental aspects. The Summit is expected to agree on a trust fund amounting to €1.8 billion from the EU budget and the EU Development Fund to address the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa.

Mr President,

The promotion of democratic and transparent systems of government, rule of law, good governance, including the fight against corruption, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are commitments enshrined in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. We pledge to ensure that human rights are fully enjoyed by all eliminating all forms of discrimination against and exclusion of vulnerable segments of society. We welcome African efforts to eliminate obstacles that women face in their quest for equal rights and opportunities. As long as women are treated as inferior to men and are not given a proper voice in politics, peace and security discussions or economic affairs, Africa is losing out the potential contribution of half its population and work force. In the same vein, children must have a perspective, and education provides a critical tool. It is therefore indispensable to ensure that no children suffer from armed conflict and that all child soldiers are not only released but also reintegrated. The European Union stands ready to support reintegration efforts.

We welcome the efforts by the African Union to build a strong and credible African human rights system and African governance architecture meant to guarantee the respect for human rights and governance commitments by all African States. We also praise the progress made by the African Union in addressing the security challenges on the continent, both through Africa-led peace support operations and through the establishment of its peace and security architecture. The European Union has significantly supported these processes since 2004 with more than €1.6 billion, and we are committed to pursuing our cooperation in these and other areas

of common interest, as stated in the ambitious road map of the 2014 Africa-EU summit.

We welcome the Secretary-General's report on causes of conflict, which underscores that in light of the critical linkages between democratic governance, human rights, durable peace and sustainable development, the United Nations should continue to increase synergies between the African peace and security architecture and the African governance architecture in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacebuilding and post-conflict resolution within the context of the **Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security**.

Mr President,

As underlined in the Secretary-General's report, notwithstanding the progress made, Africa continues to wrestle with potentially preventable or treatable diseases causing death and untold suffering while simultaneously undermining economic development. Malaria, alongside other deadly virus such as Ebola and HIV, inflicts a tremendous burden on Africa, particularly women, children and the most vulnerable. Africa should be congratulated for what it has achieved in the fight against Ebola and for the significant progress that has been made in the global fight against malaria in recent years. Experience has shown that prevention can achieve impressive results when actions are underpinned by strong and effective health systems. Combating diseases such as malaria through strengthened national health systems is, in our view, one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty and promote equitable and sustainable development. As the world's largest donor to the health sector, the European Union and its member States will continue to invest in

the health work force and build capacity to ensure equitable access to prevention, treatment and care through implementation of the universal health coverage.

Mr President,

Let me conclude by emphasizing that the European Union and its member States remain fully committed to working as partners with Africa and Africans in their quest for peace, democratic governance, human rights and sustainable development.

Thank you.

I thank the distinguished representative of the EU and give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

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