



Council of the European Union

PRESS  
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BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>  
Brussels, 23 November 2017

## **5th African Union – European Union summit Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 29-30 November 2017**

The fifth African Union - European Union (AU-EU) summit will take place on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire under the theme "*Investing in Youth - for a sustainable future*".

The EU will be represented by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk and President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. President Donald Tusk and African Union Chairperson and President of Guinea Alpha Conde, will co-chair the summit.

The summit brings together the Heads of State or government of the European Union and the African Union. A range of high-ranking international observers will also be associated.

2017 is a defining year for EU-Africa relations, as it has been 10 years since the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. The summit will be a key moment and opportunity to strengthen the AU-EU partnership and define its strategic priorities in terms of economic cooperation, job creation, peace and security, mobility and migration management, global issues such as climate change, and the need to invest in young people and future generations.

A political declaration covering all topics pertaining to EU-African Union relations should be adopted in the margins of the summit.

More information available here: [5th African Union - EU Summit website](#)

*Public events and press conferences by video streaming:* <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

*Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4):* [www.eucouncil.tv](http://www.eucouncil.tv)

*Photos of the event:* <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/photos>

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## **Investing in young populations and future generations**

At the summit, AU and EU leaders will discuss the future of EU-Africa relations, and focus on investing in youth. This is a key priority for Africa and the EU as around 60% of the African population is under the age of 25. Responding to the call of youth to participate in policy formulation and implementation, leaders will pledge to empower youth to play a central role.

The summit will also address commitment to investing in young people through education, science and skills development in order to better prepare them for job opportunities.

The AU and EU shall also deepen collaboration in knowledge, research and development to respond effectively to the needs of African and European economies and the aspirations for development and integration.

## **Economic cooperation and job creation**

Leaders will welcome the launch of the European External Investment Plan as an integral financing mechanism for investments from public financial institutions and the private sector. Europe is Africa's biggest trading partner and foreign investor - 32 billion euros were invested in Africa in 2015.

The summit will also look at initiatives to advance economic transformation and sustainable development, with the central objective of creating more and better jobs. Furthermore, European and African leaders will commit to fostering European and African business relations and promoting intra-Africa trade.

## **Peace and security**

The summit will also solidify the AU and EU's shared commitment to strengthening resilience, peace, security and governance. Peace and security remain at the heart of the AU-EU partnership as essential prerequisites for development and prosperity. Leaders will express their strong support to the African peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

The importance of conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding will also be stressed. Leaders will acknowledge the contribution of the 9 EU civilian and military operations in Africa.

## **Mobility and migration**

Leaders will express their strong political will to work together to effectively manage migration, fight traffickers and smugglers and tackle the root causes of displacement. Migration is a common challenge and a global phenomenon that the EU and Africa can tackle only by effectively working together in a spirit of partnership and in respect of international law and human rights.

The EU Emergency Trust Fund, formally launched at the Valletta Summit on migration in 2015 and worth over 3.1 billion euros, was set up in order to better manage irregular migration and address its root causes. Leaders will commit to working together to save lives and enhancing efforts to counter smuggling and trafficking of vulnerable people.

The summit will also discuss stronger cooperation and dialogue on migration and mobility within the Continental Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Dialogue of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

## **Global issues and Climate change**

The summit will reaffirm the importance of global policies such as the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. EU and African leaders will express their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and stress the need to accelerate its implementation in order to secure the objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

Leaders will also promote the integration and mainstreaming of climate change considerations and natural resources management into conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding processes. In addition, the summit should underline the significance of the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the EU's Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy.

## **Accompanying events, Plug-In initiative**

As youth is the central theme of the summit, young people were actively involved in the run-up to leaders' gathering in Abidjan.

- The 4th Africa-Europe youth summit brought together 120 youth leaders in Abidjan on 9-11 October. They agreed on a declaration with recommendations for the November summit. Building on this declaration, 36 young people from both continents continued this work through the AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative. From 12 October until 29 November, they will develop recommendations for the summit.

[The Abidjan declaration \(4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit\), 11 October 2017](#)

[Website of the Africa-Europe youth summit](#)

- The 6th EU-Africa business forum will take place on 27 November in Abidjan. Its objective is to boost investment that promotes development in Africa. Young and female entrepreneurs will be a focal point for discussions at the business forum.

[Website of the 6th EU-Africa business forum](#)

- The Africa-EU civil society forum took place earlier this year on 11-13 July in Tunis. This was the third edition of the forum which brought together civil society organisations from both continents. They adopted a declaration stressing the importance of civil society participation in EU-Africa relations

[Africa-EU civil society forum declaration, 12 July 2017](#)