



In partnership with:



EU-Africa Consultative Meeting

What's New For The EU-Africa Partnership After The 7th AU-EU Summit?

27-29 March 2026

Venue: Pullman Cape Town City Centre

22 Riebeek St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa

Agenda

Friday, 27 March 2026

19:00 - 21:00	Welcome dinner (conference room 'Calima' on the first floor) Venue: Pullman Hotel, 22 Riebeek St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town
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Saturday, 28 March 2026

Venue: Conference room 'Khamsin' on the first floor (Pullman Hotel)

Hybrid participation via [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 831 7326 4006

Passcode: 219594

09:00 - 10:00	Welcome remarks (09:00 - 09:10) Uwe Optenhögel , Vice-President, FEPS Zweli Ndevu , Chairperson, Inclusive Society Institute
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	<p>Introductions of the participants, organisers & discussion (09:30-09:50)</p> <p>Moderated by: Daryl Swanepoel, CEO, Inclusive Society Institute</p>
<p>09:50 - 10:00</p>	<p>Family photo</p>
<p>10:00 - 11:30</p>	<p>Session 1: Trade, advancing more balanced trade relations, workers' rights and support for rules-based order (10:00 - 11:00)</p> <p>In a crumbling global trade rule system and shifting economic alliances, countries need to diversify their trade partnerships to secure their economies. This is particularly true for the EU, whose prosperity still largely depends on an open trade system, but it is also key to the development prospects of African countries seeking to build local value chains and attract sustainable investment.</p> <p>In these economic relations, workers' rights need to be put at the centre. Labour standards differ significantly between continents. Some EU initiatives that sought to export its labour and human rights standards, such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), are now being rolled back, while their effectiveness and legitimacy have been contested. Against this backdrop, this panel will discuss how we can advance toward more balanced trade relations, effective technical support to improve working conditions, the role of trade unions and the rebuilding of a rule-based international trade order.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the European Union and Africa advance towards more balanced trade relations while moving towards productive transformation of Africa? - How can European and African unions work together to advance towards stronger workers' rights both at the international and local levels? - How can European and African countries join forces to rebuild a fairer and effective rule-based international trade order? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oscar Enerot, Secretary-General, Olof Palme International Center (15 minutes) ● Trenton Elsley, Executive Director, Labour Research Service (15 minutes) ● Beauty Ogbologu, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (10 minutes)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Juan Carlos Kimou Assi, CIRES Economic Policy Analysis Unit (10 minutes) ● Francis Matambalya, Kamanda Rajabu Diwani Centre (10 minutes) <p>Discussion (11:00 - 11:30)</p> <p>Moderated by: Joshua Osih, National Chairman of the SDF and Member of Parliament of Cameroon (tbc)</p>
<p>11:30 - 12:00</p>	<p>Coffee/Tea break</p>
<p>12:00 - 13:30</p>	<p>Session 2: Investing in Green industrialisation, aligning EU financial and technical instruments, including Global Gateway with African priorities (12:00 - 13:00)</p> <p>Europe needs Africa for its green transition, and Africa needs Europe to advance green industrialisation. Both sides bring complementary assets to the table: Africa holds much of the critical raw materials and renewable energy potential Europe needs, while the EU offers capital, technology, and regulatory know-how that many African countries seek to leverage for structural transformation. In this context, the EU – including through its investments and its main external investment framework, the Global Gateway – can help provide long-term financial and technical support to African countries to develop sustainable value chains, strengthen local capabilities and create quality jobs.</p> <p>This panel will look at how to build a genuinely mutually beneficial partnership, what changes are needed to break clear from past extractive models and how to build a predictable, rule-based relationship grounded in transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the state of the EU-Africa partnership on the issue of green transition? Have initiatives such as the "Scaling up Renewables in Africa" and Global Gateway projects been delivered for Africa's clean energy transition? - Why have some EU-led initiatives to curb carbon emissions, i.e CBAM, been rejected by African counterparts? How can common goals from progressives across continents, climate change,

	<p>workers' rights and human rights be better addressed in the partnership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the trade, productive transformation, and climate agenda be better linked in the EU-African partnership? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel Dubale, Research Officer, Africa-Europe Foundation (15 minutes) ● Damaris Uzoma, Political Advisor to the S&D Group Member of the European Parliament Udo Bullmann (15 minutes) ● Tula Dlamini, Independent Climate Finance Expert (10 minutes) ● Buyelwa Sonjica, Deputy Chairperson, Inclusive Society Institute (10 minutes) ● Sameh Abidi, Tunisian Association of Local Governance (10 minutes) <p>Discussion (13:00 - 13:30)</p> <p>Moderated by: ISI (tbc)</p>
<p>13:30 - 14:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Venue: Pullman Hotel, 22 Riebeeck St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town</p>
<p>14:30 - 16:00</p>	<p>Session 3: Migration and Human Mobility, improving understanding and coordination on migration (14:30 - 15:30)</p> <p>Migration governance is a point of contention among the European Union (EU), African countries, and the African Union. While the European Union frames it as a security issue, border control, and returns, while the AU and African countries view migration as a driver for socio-economic development, integration, and mobility rights. There is also a fundamental issue with the narratives surrounding African migration to Europe: most African migration occurs intra-continently through regular channels, rather than as Western discourse and media often suggest.</p> <p>This panel will discuss how to improve understanding of migration and human mobility within and across the continent, and how the EU and African countries can work towards pragmatic collaboration that empowers African agency and</p>

	<p>fosters rights-based, development-oriented migration governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What mechanisms could strengthen cooperation between the EU, the African Union, and African states while ensuring African agency in policy design and implementation? - How can regional mobility frameworks in Africa, such as free movement initiatives, be better supported by EU partnerships? - What lessons can Europe learn from African migration governance, particularly from countries like South Africa, as the continent's largest migration destination, to better align EU–Africa approaches to migration? - What opportunities exist for expanding regular migration pathways that benefit both African and European labour markets? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anna Knoll, Head of Migration and Mobility, ECDPM (15 minutes) ● Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo, Senior Research Consultant, Institute for Security Studies (15 minutes) ● Melha Biel, Institute for Strategic and Policy Studies (10 minutes) ● Febe Potgieter, African National Congress (10 minutes) ● Efem Ubi, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (10 minutes) <p>Discussion (15:30 - 16:00)</p> <p>Moderated by: Annefloor Robijn, Policy and Advocacy Officer, FMS</p>
<p>16:00 - 16:30</p>	<p>Coffee/Tea break</p>
<p>16:30 - 18:00</p>	<p>Session 4: Open discussion</p> <p>End of the first day with key takeaways</p>
<p>19:00 - 21:00</p>	<p>Dinner & networking</p> <p>Venue: Upper Quay, Waterfront, Dock Rd, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8000 (private transfer provided)</p>

Sunday, 29 March 2026

Venue: Conference room 'Khamsin' on the first floor (Pullman Hotel)

Hybrid participation via [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 831 7326 4006

Passcode: 219594

<p>09:00 - 09:30</p>	<p>Opening remarks (09:00 - 09:10)</p> <p>Uwe Optenhögel, Vice-President, FEPS</p> <p>Daryl Swanepoel, CEO, Inclusive Society Institute</p>
<p>09:30 - 11:00</p>	<p>Session 5: Geopolitical dynamics vs. Multilateralism vs. Sovereignty / Reforming international financial instruments, the global debt architecture, and tax justice (09:30 - 10:30)</p> <p>Both the EU and African countries support upholding the multilateral system, yet moments of rupture in this order and the emergence of a more multipolar world have different implications for the two continents. For Europeans, the multilateral, rule-based order has underpinned periods of relative peace in their neighbourhood, a favourable international financial architecture and a strong political and security alliance with the United States. For many African countries, the experience has been different, as this order took shape before the wave of decolonisation, resulting in limited representation and structurally disadvantaged positions in some institutions.</p> <p>In this panel, we will explore in which areas and how the EU and African countries can enhance their coordination, and what opportunities exist for joint action across different multilateral forums. In particular, we will look at how both regions can work together to reform the international financial architecture and advance tax justice.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does it differ the analysis of the state of the multilateral rule-based order in Africa and the EU? - The EU is moving towards greater defence spending while cutting ODA funds and adopting a geopolitical, interest-led international development policy focused on infrastructure, energy, and technological investments (Global Gateway). How has this shift impacted the relations with African partners?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the main points of tension that block the EU and its member states from fully supporting the needed reform of the international financial architecture? How can these reticences be tackled? - In what areas and how can the EU and African countries enhance their collaboration in the multilateral forum? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asad Beg, Advisor, Senior Expert Pan-African Affairs, European External Action Service ● Ben Katoka, Research Fellow, Financing Sustainable Development, IDDRI (15 minutes) ● Sanusha Naidu, Institute for Global Dialogue (10 minutes) ● Zine Barka, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (10 minutes) ● Sizo Nkala, University of Johannesburg (10 minutes) <p>Discussion (10:30 - 11:00)</p> <p>Moderated by: Christopher Ogunmodede, Visiting Fellow, GMF & Contributor, World Politics Review</p>
<p>11:00 - 11:30</p>	<p>Coffee/Tea break</p>
<p>11:30 - 13:00</p>	<p>Session 6: Peace and Security - Shaping a new international security architecture, including UN Security Reform and a new commitment to the UN Charter (11:30 - 12:30)</p> <p>The current global peace and security architecture is in deep crisis, marked by rising levels of violent conflict, greater regional spillovers, and a weakened, increasingly unable UN. While the European Union has moved towards a more militarised security posture, the African Union still lacks the means, both financial and operational, to fully implement its peace and security agenda. At the same time, there is broad recognition that today's international peace and security system, headed by the UN Security Council, is no longer fit for purpose. Efforts to reform the UN Charter have been underway for many years, yet tangible progress remains elusive.</p> <p>This panel will explore how the EU and Africa can jointly mobilise political support for UN Charter reform, while also advancing concrete cooperation on peace and security, including conflict-prevention tools, peacekeeping, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the EU and Africa translate their strategic partnership into joint leadership on reforming the global peace and security architecture? How aligned are EU and African priorities when it comes to reforming global institutions such as the UN Security Council? - As the EU moves toward a more militarised security posture, how might this reshape its peace and security cooperation with African partners? - How can the EU and AU better coordinate conflict prevention efforts before crises escalate into large-scale conflicts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hermine Sam, Programme Coordinator, GMF South, German Marshall Fund of the United States (15 minutes) ● Mikatekiso Kubayi, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue associated with UNISA (15 minutes) ● Eddy Mandikwaza, University of Pretoria Centre for Mediation in Africa (10 minutes) ● Robert Kabage, Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (10 minutes) ● Ibrahim Rage, Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) (10 minutes) <p>Discussion (12:30 - 13:00)</p> <p>Moderated by: ISI (tbc)</p>
<p>13:00 - 13:30</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Beatriz Abellán, Policy Analyst on International Affairs, FEPS</p> <p>Buyelwa Sonjica, Deputy Chairperson, Inclusive Society Institute</p> <p>End of the second day with key takeaways & next steps</p>
<p>13:30 - 14:30</p>	<p>Closing lunch</p> <p>Venue: Pullman Hotel, 22 Riebeeck St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town</p>