

Africa-EU partnership

Finnish and EU policies for cooperation with Africa



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What is Africa-EU Partnership?

- **Multiactor partnership** guided by the EU and African Union (AU) member states along with several non-state and civil society organisations, youth bodies, economic and social actors, and the private sector
- **Formal political channel** for the EU and the African continent to work together, engage in policy dialogues and define their cooperative relationship
- Aims at strengthening **economic cooperation** and promoting **sustainable development**
- Promotes **peace, security, democracy, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity**
- Common interests (EU and AU): **climate change, global security and the SDGs** (sustainable development goals) etc.
- Focuses on cooperation at a continental level and specifically on the **relationship between EU and AU**

Some special features of Africa



- Emerging and diverse continent, including a diversity of development stages
- Home to the youngest population in the world
- A continent of the world's most fragile states, but also with emerging markets and more effective governments
- Steady economic growth, which has not always been inclusive (potential for broader social and human development)
- Strongly affected by the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and pollution
- Neighbour and partner (twin-continent) for EU, with a shared future

The special features of Africa are reflected in the
Five key areas of the partnership model (EU-Africa relations):

- 1) Green transitions and energy
- 2) Digital transformation
- 3) Sustainable growth and jobs
- 4) Peace and governance
- 5) Migration and mobility

 **Building a more prosperous, more peaceful and more sustainable future for all**

Sources:

[JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)
[Factsheet EU strategy towards Africa.pdf \(3\).pdf](#)

1. Green transitions and energy

- ✓ **Maximise the benefits** of the green transition and **minimise threats** to the environment in full compliance with the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ **Innovation is the key:** Investments should be directed towards strengthening scientific capacities in Africa
 - Circular economy, fair value chains, smart urbanisation, sustainable agri-food systems, biodiversity conservation
- ✓ **Sustainable energy investments are needed** (hydropower, solar energy, wind energy and geothermal energy)



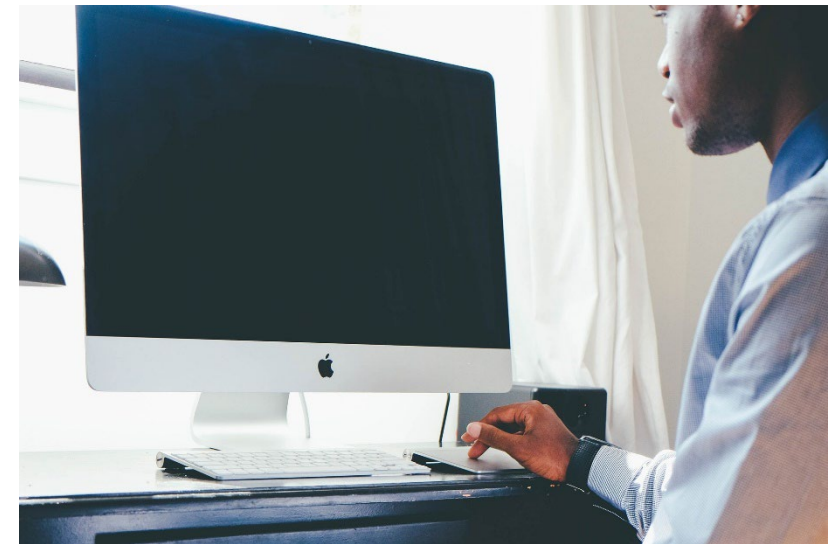
2. Digital transformation

✓ What is needed to boost digital transformation in Africa:

- Investments in infrastructure, reliable sources of energy and security
- Establish competitive regional markets
- Implement policies to ensure full digital inclusion (women and marginalized communities)
- Improve digital skills (use of open data, new technologies such as AI, big data, use of space data and technology)

✓ Expectations:

- Improving access to public services (education, energy, healthcare etc.)
- Modernize agriculture
- To create jobs for 15-20 million young people



3. Sustainable growth and jobs (I)

- ✓ Boost **environmentally, socially and financially sustainable investments** that are resilient to the impacts of climate change
- ✓ **Attract investors** by supporting African states in adopting policies and regulatory reforms that **improve the business and investment environment**



... Sustainable growth and jobs (II)

- ✓ Rapidly enhance **learning, knowledge and skills, research and innovation capacities**, particularly for women and youth, and protect and improve social rights
- ✓ Advance regional and continental **economic integration**, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.



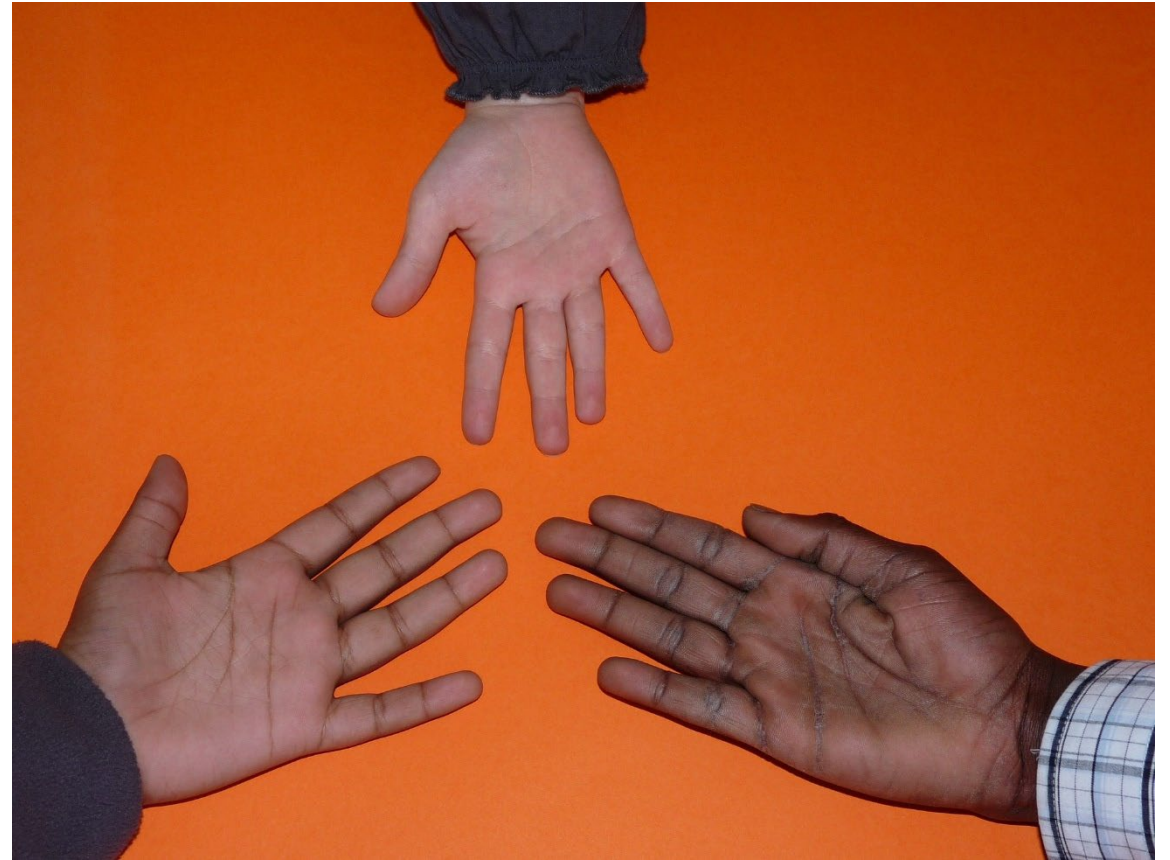
4. Peace and governance (I)

- ✓ Adapt and deepen EU support to African peace efforts through **a more structured and strategic form of cooperation**, with a particular focus on regions where tensions and vulnerabilities are the highest
- ✓ Different ongoing efforts to support peace and good governance, e.g.:
 - G5 Sahel Joint Force to combat terrorism and security threats: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger
 - Support for the actions of African Peace Facility (EU's financial instrument)



... Peace and governance (II)

- ✓ Integrate **good governance, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and gender equality** in action and cooperation
- ✓ **Secure resilience** by linking **humanitarian, development, peace and security interventions** at all stages of the cycle of conflicts and crises



5. Migration and mobility

- ✓ Ensure a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility
- ✓ Intra-African mobility vs. migration outside of Africa
- ✓ EU Trust Fund to address the root causes of the migration challenge and to contribute to better migration management
 - Four strategic objectives: 1) Greater economic and employment opportunities, 2) strengthening resilience of the communities, 3) improving migration management, 4) improving governance of conflict prevention





Working together to implement the partnership

Strengthen the international rules-based order and the multilateral system, together with the **United Nations**



Finland's Africa strategy

- ✓ To diversify and deepen Finland's relations with African countries, the African Union (AU) and regional organisations, with focus on **political and economic** relations
- ✓ Prepared under the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and approved by the government (18 March 2021)
- ✓ Development cooperation will still continue to be one of the key instruments of Finland's foreign policy in Africa. However, the strategy focus on **diversifying and expanding relations with Africa**, emphasising **reciprocity** and **mutually beneficial political, commercial and economic cooperation**



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Thank you!
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