A turning point for EU-Africa Relation?
Role of African Diaspora within the process/inroad for participation

By Celine Fabrequette
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• Since its creation the African Diaspora Youth Forum (ADYFE) has taken all steps and actions towards creating an inclusive and positive environment in order to showcase the Diaspora potentials and contributions. ADYFE’s main purpose is Peace and Development in all its forms. ADYFE operates through the Youth of the African Diaspora according to 3 pillars of action: Entrepreneurship, Employability and Civic Engagement. To reach its ambitions, ADYFE has been one of the main interlocutors consulted on policies and high-level exchanges relating to the youth as a whole, and particularly, youth from the African Diaspora to the European Union and the African Union and their various institutions as well as many UN agencies.
Outcomes of the 2017 AU-EU Youth summit

• The Africa-Europe Youth summit is an integral part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and it aims to increase the participation of Young people, reinforce the youth employment in both regions and influence policy in African and European Cooperation.

• The last edition took place in 2017 and resulted in the adoption of the Youth Summit declaration.

• In agreement, with the support and participation of Youth organizations EU funded an AU-EU youth plug-in Initiative (composed of 36 Youth delegates) was put forwards. From this initiative an AU-EU Youth agenda was formed.

• It is also the end of the Africa-Europe Youth platform which was a key achievements from the previous editions of the Africa-EU Youth summit.
Outcome by the number and actions

• €10 million
• 6 pilots project base on the AU-EU Youth agenda
• AU-EU Youth organisation contributed to defining the scope and ensure Youth participation as co-leader/co-partner
• 0 Diaspora organisation link to those project
Outcomes of the AU-EU Head of State Summit (2017)

• Africa-Europe Alliance: EU External investment plan, creation, education, business environment, climate, economic integration and trade

• Ministerial meetings
The place of Diaspora with the future EU-Africa relation (2020)

Whether it be at the European External Action Services (EEAS), Directorate General on development (DEVCO) Diaspora is recognized as a key actors in providing intelligence regarding the Africa-EU relations especially in regards to curbing and controlling migration. The European Institution following the 2017 summit, have took some steps towards ensuring that Diaspora are at the table and provide their expertise, to be the link. However, Diaspora Investment still being made difficult. Business environment still restrictive and untrusted.
Council position: ambiguity

• On the 9th of February, EU Council president Charles Michel spoke at Addis-Abeba during the AU Summit

• For the first time in a long time migration was not at the centre of this EU speech regarding the future of Africa-EU relation

• However, renewing a relation without really acknowledging the past of both continent might again put into question the level playing field/dominant position as well as the use of term like “the EU is putting it hands out to Africa”

• Climate and digital seen as the two challenges identified as common challenges
ADYFE lead diaspora Youth organization

• As a lead diaspora youth ADYFE as always work toward bringing Diaspora Voice at the highest level of EU level

• Having a new European Commission and European Parliament putting Africa as a priority is an opportunity to reset the dialogue and ensure Diaspora participation and integration into future programs

• To ensure Diaspora Voice and participation: ADYFE under its civic engagement department influence and feed by its entrepreneurship and employability department initiative is creating a Diaspora Youth track until the head of state summit to guaranty that Diaspora perspective be integrated into the outcomes

• ADYFE as a lead coordinator to the AU-EU Youth summit, will support and guaranty the representation and participation of Diaspora Youth national organization as well as Diaspora Youth entrepreneurs