PROPOSALS FOR THE EU-AU SUMMIT 2017

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE SUPPORT AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

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SEMINAR SERIES ON EU AFRICA RELATIONS IN VIENNA

The next EU-AU summit (November 2017) will focus, among others, on Peace and Security, Migration and common Values and the Rule of Law. These issues are important for Austrian Development Cooperation, but also for key Austrian stakeholders in EU-African relations – ministries, university experts, civil society (NGO’s).

All stakeholders agree that a more systematic information in Austria/Europe is necessary to obtain a better public understanding of Austrian/EU initiatives concerning Africa as well as ‘African’ perspectives. Finally, the EU commission has expressed keen interest in such member-states centred initiatives.

A series of three seminars intended to produce inputs for the Austrian delegation of the summit. The three seminars were similar in structure: experts from Africa and the Europe presented their viewpoints on the topics in an EU-AU context. Together with Austrian representatives from ministries, university, and NGO’s, proposals for the preparation of the summit should have been drafted at the round table discussion.

- The first seminar was organised by the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management (IFK) at the National Defence Academy (LaVAK) in Vienna on “The cooperation between the European and African Union in the field of peace and security”, on April 26th, 2016.

- The second seminar will focus on the nexus migration and development. It will be organised by the VIDC (Vienne Institute for Int’l Dialogue and Cooperation) and the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, on September 28, 2018 at the Kreisky Forum.

- Part three of the seminar series on EU Africa will be organised on January 17 and 18, 2017 on “Human rights, democracy, and rule of law. A community of values”, at the Kreisky Forum.

An informal Africa Working Group consisting of IFK, Bruno Kreisky Forum, the VIDC, the Africa Department (BMEIA) and the ADA (Austrian Development Agency) officials coordinated the whole program.
The cooperation between the European and African Union in the field of peace and security
Expert-Seminar, April 26, 2016
Curator: Gerald Hainzl, IFK
Venue: Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management, National defence Academy, Stiftgasse 2a, Vienna
Organized by National Defence Academy and Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management. With funding from Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Co-operation in the field of Peace and Security

• Measures of the EU could be separated into two areas of engagement:
  o First response in order to deal with an actual crisis
  o Long term institutional engagement in the aftermath of a crisis or in order to prevent an evolving crisis or to fight its causes.

• The discussion between EU and AU could be in five categories in order to determine the expectations against each other:
  1. Objectives and Intentions (e.g. Which objectives has the EU, which the AU? What are their interests, intentions and expectations in the framework of the AU-EU partnership?)
  2. Institutions (e.g. Which relevance do institutions have to EU? Strengthening institutions or ignoring them? Expectations towards subregional organizations?)
  3. Expectations towards African capacities and efficiency (e.g. Does the EU want to improve first response capacities or does it want to engage for a longer period? National troops or integrated African brigades?)
  4. Challenges (e.g. Are there common challenges? How do the look like (Migration, for example, is seen quite differently)?)
  5. Instruments and actions (e.g. Which instruments are already in place, what are their tasks now and what should their tasks be?)

• A joint „strategic culture“ of co-operation should be developed in order to meet future challenges together.

• The EU should not place excessive demands and ask for improvements of the AU where it is not able to provide itself.

• Besides financing African military missions the EU should also emphasis the importance of human rights and democracy training of troops.

• Financial assistance needs a longterm strong commitment in order to secure continuity and longterm planning. And the EU has to ensure that the African soldiers in a EU financed mission receive their payments in time.

• A coordination of instruments between the EU and its member states is necessary as in some African countries a lot of actors are present financing similar projects while other countries lack support.
On Migration and Development
Expert-Seminar, September 28, 2016
Curator: Franz Schmidjell, VIDC
Venue: Bruno Kreisky Forum, Armbrustergasse 15 – Vienna
Organised by Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC), Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue (BKF) and Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management (IFK). With funding from Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Migration & Development

Migration in West Africa is part of its history, everyday life, and culture. Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, Former President of ECOWAS Commission

Migration is the oldest action against poverty. John Kenneth Galbraith

1. What kind of dialogue is needed?

Scale down the obsession about short term migration control within the EU. Europe should cool down the fears about migration and arrive at positive narratives on migration. Respect that African countries and the African Union have other priorities for example outlined in the “Agenda 2063: AU Vision for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa”.

Change framework of summits. A summit is a very orderly thing. Create a forum as an assisting body for the negotiations on the AU / EU summits. Create a more evidence- and facts-based forum which includes narratives, evidences and experiences of CSOs and African diaspora groups, individuals and academics from Africa and Europe.

Europe should be more self-confident and more consistent in its principles. Stick to the own principles, values and norms without patronizing your partner institutions. Europe should not make deals with repressive regimes to reduce irregular migration without respecting principles like human rights, rule of law and democracy.

2. Making migration work for development

Development and cooperation should address forced migration and inequalities at the policy and technical level. Inequality is a common denominator for migration and development.

Engage African diaspora in development cooperation and put it into practice. Review costs for remittances to make recommendations to European banks and IDF.

Create and support safe and legal ways of migration. Strengthen migrants’ and human rights. Open avenues for legal / voluntary migration and offer educational, language or vocational training. Mobility is central for African youth.

Do not instrumentalize development and cooperation for migratory control.

3. Migration and Returns

Voluntary Return should refer to the unequivocal absence of any kind of external pressure (e.g. danger of deportation). Need for minimum standards of AVRR (Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration).

Detailed agreements should be developed and implemented not only between states but involve also municipalities, local communities and migrant organizations in all phases.

Respect the Non-refoulement principle: “No Contracting State shall expel or return (‘refouler’) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”. 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees - Article 33(1).
Governance, Democracy and Rule of Law. The question of Common Values Expert-Seminar, February 20-23, 2017
Curator: Georg Lennkh, Bruno Kreisky Forum
Venue: Bruno Kreisky Forum, Armbrustergasse 15 – Vienna
Organised by Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) and Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue (BKF). With funding from Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Common Values

Democracy:
- African citizens are on the whole still enthusiastic about democracy but increasingly frustrated because democracy is not delivering in terms of economic and social well-being: one cannot ‘eat democracy’!
- There is a problem of long-term presidents who do not leave because they fear to lose their money, or even their lives. This must be solved.
- The EU should always stay engaged; speak out more clearly; stay in touch with different groupings; emphasise value agenda.

Rule of Law, Governance:
- Africa, a dynamic continent; should be governed properly; rule of law is essential.
- Cooperation from Europe should concentrate more on soft issues, like education, adequate training in legal service, public institutions.
- Fuse African cultural norms (Ubuntu) into legal system; rule of law a value, not a value system.
- Europe should not speak about European values, as if they were of a higher order.

Human Rights, Transitional Justice:
- Human Rights agenda is in crisis everywhere.
- Also, there are still gaps in the HR agenda; in a changing world, new treaties, conventions are necessary, e.g. people’s rights beside (individual) political rights.
- Social justice must be part of HR agenda; social exclusion causes many problems and, as a consequence, radicalisation.
- Concern in Europe about different African approaches to HR questions in international fora
- Transitional justice (TJ) should imply right to truth, justice, reparation and institutional reforms.
- TJ weaknesses: top down process; lack of contextual analyses; inappropriate tools for specific context; trade-offs with other policy interventions; CSO - who are the positive changers?; EU needs more self-reflection.
- The ICC-question should not be overstated; pragmatic solutions can be found.
- From Africa, criticism of our (European) way to discuss: too confrontational, one-sided (only European Agenda).
- All agreed it would be useful to take work forward in a Afro-European Round Table format with wide participation (Civil Society, officials, experts, press, and inclusiveness for youth).