



Webinar

Fostering Human Security and Resilience in the future EU-Africa Partnership The Role of Local Communities

Thursday 15 October 2020, 11h00 - 13h00 (CEST)

Background

Moving towards building a partnership of equals with Africa is a high priority for the European Union in 2020, as emphasized in the [State of the Union speech of President von der Leyen of 16 September](#). The year began with the 10th African Union-European Union (AU-EU) college-to-college meeting in February, which was attended by 22 EU Commissioners, the largest delegation of this kind ever on a trip outside the EU. In March 2020, the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) issued a [joint communication](#) outlining their proposal for a new comprehensive strategy with Africa. In June 2020, the Council of the EU adopted [conclusions on Africa](#), outlining the views of EU Member States for the future EU-Africa relations.

The EU-Africa partnership is however not only a matter of governments and intergovernmental institutions. In line with the 2030 Agenda principles and with the EU's commitment to create a people-centred partnership, it should count on the participation of all stakeholders and all people, including meaningful contributions from Church and civil society actors. It is thus of paramount importance to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of African local communities and faith actors in decision-making, norm-setting and governance of the future partnership, notably in light of the 6th AU-EU Summit planned for 2021.

One of the foreseen priority areas of cooperation in the renewed EU-Africa partnership is resilience. In particular, the EC and EEAS propose that future EU-Africa cooperation focuses on securing resilience “by linking humanitarian, development, peace and security interventions at all stages of the cycle of conflicts and crises”. This in line with the EU Global Strategy (June 2016), which established that the EU would promote resilience in partner countries, focusing on “the most acute dimensions of fragility” and “targeting those where a meaningful difference can be made”.

In this context, the webinar “Fostering Human Security and Resilience in the future EU-Africa partnership: the role of local communities” proposes a discussion that goes beyond state resilience and state security, and that is based on a broader concept of resilience, which encompasses all persons and the whole of society, and on the concept of *human security*. Given the relevance of EU-Africa cooperation in these areas, but also that significant progress in fostering resilient societies and in applying a human security approach still needs to be made, this webinar aims at shedding light to the importance of supporting and promoting the role of local and faith actors and communities as an important contributors to achieve these objectives. Discussions will thus focus on how the root causes of conflict, instability and lack of social



cohesion can be addressed at grassroots level, through community engagement and building upon the resourcefulness of local actors.

The webinar will count with the participation of speakers from different African countries who will talk about local initiatives undertaken in various fields and policy areas, illustrating ways in which local actors play a role in building resilience and human security.

Objectives

- Offer a platform for an open dialogue among civil society, religious and faith-based actors from Africa and Europe together with EU policy-makers;
- Offer an opportunity for Europe-based stakeholders to listen to grassroots voices from African partners presenting their perspective on the EU-Africa partnership;
- Explore how faith actors can bring an added-value to initiatives undertaken under the framework of EU-Africa relations aimed at fostering resilient societies and applying a human security approach;
- Share concrete experiences and good practices of initiatives by Catholic partners in Africa related to resilience and human security;
- Contribute to shaping discussions of the 6th AU-EU Summit and the framework for the future EU-Africa partnership regarding resilience and human security.

Format

The discussion is intended to be structured around some guiding questions (please see them below). It will proceed in an interactive format.

Participants

Invitation to participate in this event will be extended to EU and AU policy-makers, African and European Church representatives, faith-based organisations and civil society organisations from Africa and Europe.

Language

The webinar will be conducted in English with simultaneous French interpretation.



Programme

11:00 - 11:05: Welcome

- Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE Secretary General

11:05 - 11:15: Introductory remarks

- [Fr. Manuel Barrios Prieto](#), General Secretary of COMECE
- [H.E. Mgr. Sithembele Anton Sipuka](#), 1st Vice-President of SECAM and President of the Justice, Peace and Development Commission; Bishop of Mthatha, South Africa

11:15 - 12:00: Stories of resilience from Africa

- Ms. Getrude Chimange, Diocesan Coordinator at CCJP-Mutare, on defending human rights of communities at risk in Zimbabwe
- Fr. McDonald Nah, National Director of the Catholic Justice, Peace and Caritas (NCJPC) in Liberia, on building social cohesion in divided communities
- Mr. Samuel Mwangi, entrepreneur and past pupil of Don Bosco Boys Town (Nairobi, from the network of Don Bosco Tech Africa), on running vocational education & training (VET) and fostering resilience in Kenya
- Ms. Victoria Madedor, Business Development Consultant, on providing capacity support for networks of family farmers in Nigeria
- Mr. Prosper N'Douba, on the role of young people and communities in peacebuilding in Central African Republic
- Ms. Nazik Hamat Djido, on education in Iridimi refugee camp in South Sudan

12:00 - 12:25: Remarks by EU decision makers (EP, EEAS/DG DEVCO, German Council Presidency)

- MEP Lukas Mandl (EPP, Austria)
- Mario Ronconi, Head of Unit B2 (Resilience and Fragility), DG DEVCO
- Irchad Razaaly, Head of Division for West Africa, EEAS

12:25 - 12:55: Q&A session

- Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE Secretary General

12:55 - 13:00 Conclusions

- Maria Nyman, Caritas Europa Secretary General



Some guiding questions for the discussion during the Webinar

- What is the role of local communities, including religious and faith-based actors, in fostering resilient and peaceful societies and applying a human security approach in the EU-Africa partnership?
- Does the current EU-AU policy framework sufficiently reflect this role of local communities as promoters of resilience and human security?
- How could the future EU-Africa partnership enhance the engagement with local communities in order to better tap into their grassroots expertise and resourcefulness in view of promoting resilience and human security?

Speakers profiles and background

- Getrude Chimange, The Diocesan Coordinator CCJP-Mutare in Zimbabwe
 - Getrude is the Head of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace for the past 10 years and as head of the leadership team in a rapidly growing organisation. Getrude has vast experience in the field of conflict and mediation and as a human rights defender. In the past years, she has spearheaded the designing and implementation of activities that improve the ease and quality of decision-making through empowering community actors to challenge proposals that put the human rights of communities at risk. She has championed the designing and implementation of activities that build stakeholders' capacity for meaningful participation by duty bearers and rights holders. She has also designed active stakeholder engagement strategies for the Commission to ensure that the Commission open its doors to valuable partnerships. She can bring concrete examples of stories of resilience in Zimbabwe, fighting for people rights in a very difficult country.
- Fr. McDonald Nah, National Director, Catholic Justice, Peace and Caritas (NCJPC) in Liberia
 - Rev. Fr McDonald Nah is the Director of the National Catholic Justice, Peace and Caritas Commission (NCJPC) in Liberia, where he has been leading the implementation of various humanitarian, development and peace initiatives for the past three years. He is the Chair of the Caritas Africa advocacy reference group and represents Caritas Africa in the Caritas Internationalis advocacy committee. Rev. Fr McDonald Nah previously served as a Parish priest, while living with local communities experiencing poverty and marginalisation, and holds an MBA in Administration from St. Louis University, Missouri.
 - Liberia is a country that is currently undergoing post-war reconstruction, therefore peace and resilience building is a priority intervention area for NCJPC. Local communities have a role play in addressing the drivers of conflict and instability at the grassroots level. Fr. McDonald will be sharing with us on how NCJPC Liberia uses the [3Bs peacebuilding methodology and 4Ds of appreciative inquiry](#) to strengthen ties and bonds and build social cohesion among divided communities.



This approach helps communities in crisis to assess disagreements and disputes, establish a common ground and collaborate for mutual benefit.

- Mr. Samuel Mwangi ([Don Bosco Tech Africa - DBTA](#))
 - Background: Sammy is a past pupil from Don Bosco Boys Town (Vocational Education and Training - VET center for vulnerable young people of the DBTA network based in Nairobi, Kenya) and now he is the owner of two prosperous Motor Vehicle Garages, specialised in Land Rover and Ranger Rover models. He is very proud of his formation through VET and of the values that he received, and he continues with it in his Garage. His personal story may inspire more youngsters around the world to be resilient and enterprising. The VET center where he was trained is now full partner of the [EU-funded SAAM \(Supporting Alliance for African Mobility\) pilot project for mobility in VET between Europe and Africa](#), a project that may give many more young people like him the opportunity to grow in resilience through VET.

- Victoria Madedor, a Business Development Consultant with focus on agricultural sector and provides capacity support for networks of family farmers in Nigeria
 - Victoria holds a B. Agric in Agricultural Economics from the University of Benin, Edo State, Masters in Business Administration (MBA). She is an experienced Business Development Consultant with a focus on the Agricultural Sector and an Oracle Certified Administrator. While Victoria's previous roles had a leaning towards Information Technology, upon joining BOI-ITC, her passion for the agro-allied sector was re-ignited as she began to work on developing the businesses of SME's in that sector. In other to successfully understand the SME space she has undergone several trainings with London Business School (MOOC), Lagos Business School, Metropolitan School Of Business UK, and Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR Netherlands.
 - Victoria co-founded the SlumInclusion initiative which is focused on Financial Inclusion of those in the Slums of Nigeria using Agribusiness. This initiative has supported several families with funding of their Agribusiness across Nigeria. In responds to the pandemic, the initiative bought farm produce from both backyard and rural farmers who were unable to access market, which was used as palliative to about 1,650 families for a 14days period.
 - To provide more support for family holder farmers, Victoria initiated #TheAfricanFarmersStories under Support4Africasmes campaign which she co-founded. This is aimed at propagating hope by celebrating family holder farmers who are the heroes of the pandemic and beyond while also showcasing their resilience, grit and local innovation that enable them thrive through the pandemic. With over 2000 community members on social media, 850 on Telegram, 560 on Facebook, 512 on two WhatsApp groups and 138 on LinkedIn, Farmers share their stories via on farm site visits, and on Social Media; Instagram, Facebook and Twitter weekly with over 130,000 monthly impressions, while on farm visits are carried out monthly. The WhatsApp platforms provide free weekly training which is creating access to B2Bmarket with over 150million naira transaction worth.
 - Victoria has worked as resource person for several organizations including the prestigious Lagos Business School, Lagos State Government, Edo State Government, Nigeria America Chamber of Commerce, MyFarmbase Africa,



Invest Africa Magazine, Postharvest Loss Alliance for Nutrition and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition.

- She seats as board adviser to several Agribusiness organizations including; Umuebe Farms Ltd. Lexcel Product and Packaging Ltd, Agribusiness Capital Ltd, African Agribusiness Alliance, Futux Agri-Consult Ltd, and Brava Apparel.
- Nazik Hamat Djido
 - She started her primary school studies in 2001 in Sudan (Kornoye) which she didn't finish because of the conflict that occurred in Sudan and pushed her to move to Chad for safety reasons; where she was welcomed at Iridimi refugee camp in the province of Wadi Fira, Kobe sub division. From 2004, she continued with her studies at Iridimi refugee camp until 2014 when she left to pass her baccalaureate exams in Sudan precisely in Tine.
 - After obtaining her Baccalaureate certificate in 2015, she continued her studies in the department of Foreign Language at the University of Darfur Sudan. In 2018, she came back at Iridimi refugee camp with an attestation and with this she wrote and passed the examination permitting her to integrate the teaching crew and thus she became a trained community teacher. In 2018, thanks to the support of JRS and UNHCR, she was among those chosen to participate in a program of qualified teachers in Abéché in the province of Ouadai. (This program aims to train teachers to become qualified, it takes place during the summer holidays)
 - Presently, Nazik teaches in class One and she is very proud of her profession. Concerning her plans or ambitions, Nazik wish to write the Chadian Baccalaureate and get access to University. If it happens that this dream comes true, she wishes to come back and share her experience with the community and thus contribute in the growth and resilience of the community.

Background documents

- [EC/EEAS joint communication on the Africa strategy](#) (March 2020)
- [Council Conclusions](#) on Africa (30 June)
- [Development committee's draft report](#) on Africa strategy (July 2020)
- [Foreign Affairs' committee opinion](#) on Africa strategy (September 2020)
- [COMECE-SECAM joint statement](#) (June 2020)
- [Caritas Europa-Caritas Africa joint position paper](#), with CIDSE's contribution (May 2020)
- [Conclusions/report of the 'Eurafrica revisited' conference organized by Sant'Egidio and ECDPM](#) (May 2019)
- ['Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy'](#) (2016)
- [European Commission Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries, 2013-2020](#) (2013)

Registration

Click [here](#) to register. You will receive a confirmation email with the details to join the webinar before 15 October.