

Press Toolkit

AFRICA-EU WEEK

14-18 February 2022

What is the EU-AU Summit?

The 6th European Union (EU)-African Union (AU) Summit will take place on 17-18 February 2022. The Summits of European Union and African Union take place every three years. Each Summit takes stock of the progress being made in implementing commitments and provides political guidance for further work. During the whole week (14-18 February) several events around EU-AU will take place (see below).

Essential timeline around the AU-EU process:

2017

- 29-30 November 2017: [Fifth AU-EU Summit](#), Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2019

- 21-22 January: [1st EU-AU Ministerial meeting](#), Brussels

2020

- March: release of the European Commission (EC) and the European external Action Service (EEAS) [joint communication](#) outlining their proposal for a new comprehensive strategy with Africa.
- June: Adoption by the Council of the EU of [conclusions on Africa](#), outlining the views of EU Member States for the future EU-Africa relations.
- October: [Africa-Europe Civil Society Conference](#) – release of [African Civil Society Declaration on the African-European Union Partnership](#)

2021

- 28 May 2021: Civil society online conference “[A Partnership of Equals: Africa-EU relations in an increasingly complex world](#)”
- October: release of [Our Land is our Life declaration](#): “African civil society and faith leaders call for urgent action at the African - European Union Foreign ministers’ conference”
- 25-26 October: [2nd African Union – European Union Foreign Ministers Ministerial meeting](#), Kigali

2022

- 14-18 February: [Africa-Europe week](#)
- 14 February: African People’s Summit (*to conclude with a statement*)
- 15 February: Civil society Forum (*to conclude with a CSO declaration*)
- 16-17 February: [Business Forum](#)
- 17-18 February: [6th AU – EU Summit](#)

- Youth: The programme includes a series of events prior to the start of the Week (as of 7th February), events during the Youth Day (14th February) and the gathering of Youth Rapporteurs who will bring together the joint outcomes of the Youth Track (15th February)
- From 14th to 18th February 2022, a variety of cultural activities (workshops, debates, film screenings, concerts etc.) will be an integral part of the Africa-Europe Week

Events not to miss:

14 February:

-African People Summit: more information and registration [here](#).

-[Virtual Media space at Peoples' summit](#) – Our land is Our Life African Platform – 5 pm CET.

Possibility to arrange personal interviews with Michael Fakhri, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and others.

-Concord Breakfast with journalists, 11 am: presentation of [CSO declaration](#)

-Release of Peoples' summit final declaration, end of the day

15 February: CSO Forum

11:15-12:15: CSO session 6: supporting family farmers and the right to food for all. Co-organisers: AFSA, ROPPA, SECAM

14:00-15:00: CSO session 10: food sovereignty and rural transformation through agroecology and land justice. Co-organisers: SECAM/AFSA

CIDSE Press release:

Ahead of the beginning of the Summit, CIDSE is releasing its [press release](#) calling out for a true equal partnership that ensures civil society organisations' (CSOs) participation.

Essential glossary:

➤ CIDSE

[CIDSE](#) is an international family of Catholic social justice organizations working for transformational change to end poverty and inequalities, challenging systemic injustice, inequity, destruction of nature and promoting just and environmentally sustainable alternatives.

➤ Our Land is Our Life

The “Our Land is Our Life” (OLOL) platform was established at the [conference on “Land Grab and Just Governance in Africa”](#) in Kenya in 2015 which brought together Church and non-Church actors to exchange knowledge and strategies on land grabbing. The coordination group is composed of leaders of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), Convergence Globale des luttes pour la terre et l'eau en Afrique de l'Ouest (CGLTE), Rural Women's Assembly (RWA), Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN), the Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development (CICODEV) and Friends of the Earth Mozambique.

➤ Agroecology

Agroecology is a scientific research approach involving the holistic study of agro-ecosystems and food systems; a set of principles and practices that enhance the resilience and

sustainability of food and farming systems while preserving social integrity; a socio-political movement, which focuses on the practical application of agroecology, seeks new ways of considering agriculture, processing, distribution and consumption of food, and its relationships with society and nature.

See [Principles of Agroecology](#) p.4. CIDSE

➤ Corporate capture:

Corporate capture refers to the means by which an economic elite undermines the realization of human rights and the environment by exerting undue influence over domestic and international decision-makers and public institutions. Source: [ESCR-Net](#)

➤ Land governance:

Land governance concerns the rules, processes and structures through which decisions are made about access to land and its use, the manner in which those decisions are implemented and enforced, and the way in which competing interests in land are managed.

Source: [FAO](#)

➤ Large-scale land acquisitions

Large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) are defined according to the following criteria: they imply a transfer of property rights i.e., rights to use, control, or ownership of land via different acquisition mechanisms (sale, lease, or concession); they have been initiated since the year 2000; they cover an area of 200 hectares or more; they imply the potential conversion of land from smallholder production, local community use, or important ecosystem service provision to commercial use. Source: [Landmatrix database](#)

Background reading:

- (Concord) civil society declaration (To be released on 14 February 2022)
- “Agroecology: Our land is our Life”, AFSA (2022)
<https://www.cidse.org/2022/01/10/agroecology-our-land-is-our-life/>
- CIDSE article: “A still unequal Partnership: The EU-AU Summit” (October 2021):
<https://www.cidse.org/2021/10/19/a-still-unequal-partnership-the-eu-au-summit/>
- Our Land is our Life declaration: “African civil society and faith leaders call for urgent action at the African – European Union Foreign Ministers’ conference” (October 2021):
<https://www.cidse.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EN-olol-eu-au-foreign-mins-declaration-oct-2021.pdf>
- Land grabbing policy brief series: Addax Bioenergy (Sierra Leone), Socfin (Sierra Leone) and Feronia (DRC) (December 2021): <https://www.cidse.org/2021/12/10/land-grabbing-policy-brief-series/>
- Report from “Our Land is our Life” webinar on rural development in Africa (October 2020)
<https://www.cidse.org/2021/02/25/our-land-is-our-life/> .
- “Principles of Agroecology”, CIDSE (2018): <https://www.cidse.org/2018/04/03/the-principles-of-agroecology/>

Resources:

- Interview with Fr. Chika Onyejiuwa, Executive Secretary of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN), [“Reflecting on the upcoming EU-AU Summit”](#)
- [Video on land grabbing](#) in Africa by Our Land is Our Life platform, produced by CIDSE

Contacts for interviews/ additional information:

Michael Fakhri, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Contact to arrange an interview: Fr. Chika Onyejiuwa, chyakacssp@hotmail.com

Our Land is our Life:

Erika Mendes, Friends of the Earth Africa, erikasmendes@gmail.com

Fr. Chika Onyejiuwa, Executive Secretary, AEFJN, execsecretary@aefjn.org

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