



DAN AFRIKE
AFRICA DAY
JOURNÉE DE
L'AFRIQUE

AFRICA AND THE EU: COOPERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

9. mednarodna konferenca
9th International Conference
9e conférence internationale

10 November 2020
Online Conference
(via Zoom)

The Republic of Slovenia's 9th Africa Day conference is co-organised with the London-based Chatham House Africa Programme and the European Commission. Slovenia's annual high-level Africa event seeks to improve policy outcomes for citizens in Europe and Africa as a result of mutual understanding and strengthened cooperation between the two regions. Expert discussions at this conference will examine the role of collaborative links between Africa and Europe in accelerating progress on green transition and climate policy initiatives, and in seizing opportunities for long-term economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[All timings CET]

09.00– 09.30 Welcome and Opening Keynote Addresses

HE Dr Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

HE Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

HE Professor Victor Harison, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission

Mr Alvin Botes, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa

Chair: **Ms Natalia Al Mansour**, Head, Department for Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

09.30 – 10.45 Session 1 – Enhancing EU-Africa Cooperation on Climate Policy and the Green Economy

Africa's ecosystems are acutely vulnerable to the global impact of climate change, placing long-term trajectories for sustainable development under serious threat. In recognition of these challenges, the March 2020 European Commission communication 'Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa' highlighted green transition and energy access as the first area of partnership for a future EU-Africa strategic alliance. To move towards a green transition in which escalating climate risks are balanced against increasing demands for energy generation and food production, cooperation between Africa and Europe can offer vital opportunities to strengthen innovation capacity, encourage sustainable natural resource management, promote green jobs and generate investment in efficient, low-carbon technologies, but the two regions must also successfully navigate different priorities and approaches to poverty reduction, development and job creation.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

HE Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya

PANEL

Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable Development, European Commission Directorate General for Environment

Mr Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Dr Sonja Kreibich, Head, Division for Pan-African Issues, African Union, Southern Africa and Great Lakes Region, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Ambassador Matjaž Šinkovec, National Coordinator for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

Ms Oueratou Ouedraogo, Deputy Executive Coordinator, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

Chair: **Mr Bob Dewar CMG**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

10.45 – 10.55 Video Break – Exodos and the Share Project

10.55 – 11:55 Session 2 – Beyond COVID-19: Shared Opportunities for Stronger Socioeconomic Recovery

Countries across Europe and Africa have been significantly exposed to the global economic shock brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many expected to face lingering downturns of growth, employment and human development outcomes. In this challenging context, meaningful recovery will require collective efforts and collaborative initiatives with a focus on longer-term goals. On key issues such as regional economic integration, trade and investment flows, decent job creation and access to digital technologies, a window of opportunity remains for EU-Africa cooperation to enable the emergence of more resilient and sustainable economies beyond the pandemic.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ambassador Badr Abdel Atty, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt

PANEL

Ms Dorothy Ng'ambi Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Mr Luís Leandro da Silva, Director, Department for Sub-Saharan Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Mr 'Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria

Ms Ana Kalin, Policy Maker and Analyst, Forum for Equitable Development, Slovenia

Chair: **Ms Elizabeth Donnelly**, Deputy Director and Research Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11.55 – 12.00 Break

12.00 – 12.50 Session 3 – Beyond COVID-19: the Role of the Private Sector

As governments in Africa and Europe attempt to coordinate national COVID-19 responses, private sector stakeholders can complement these processes and play an essential part in driving long-term economic recovery efforts. Knowledge-sharing and dialogue across businesses and industry bodies on both continents provides significant opportunities in this respect: from ensuring the development and smooth operation of key supply chains to developing new initiatives for skills development and sustainable job creation.

Mr Ante Milevoj, Senior Consultant, Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Roman Žnidarič, Executive Director, CETIS, Slovenia

Mr Ernest Boakai, Key Account Manager, Security Printing Solutions, CETIS, Slovenia

Ms Alice Munyua, Public Policy Adviser, Mozilla, Kenya

Mr Dušan Olaj, CEO, Duol, Slovenia

Chair: **Ambassador Igor Jukič**, Head, Department for Bilateral Economic Cooperation II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

12.50 – 13:00 Closing Remarks

Dr Alex Vines OBE, Head of Africa Programme, Chatham House

Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Ambassador Tone Kajzer, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

