



Concept Note

Why Europe and Africa need one another in times of crisis

A Joint High-Level Event by the European Union Delegation to the African Union, the European Council for Foreign Relations (ECFR) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

27 June 2022 at 14:30-16:30, Hyatt Hotel, Addis Ababa

International relations are in flux. After two and a half years of Corona pandemic, increased episodes of extreme climate events linked to global warming and the widening scope of terrorism, the war in Ukraine has added another layer of turbulence to a global multilateral order already shaken up by multiple turbulences. Economies and societies around the globe are further sliding into crisis.

The shifting geopolitical landscape and related competition makes it urgent to create moments for reflections. Only a few months after the EU-AU Summit in Brussels the partnership is more relevant than ever. The European Union has adopted the Strategic Compass to make the Union a stronger, more ambitious and capable security and defence actor in the face of evolving threats. The African Union is implementing a reform aimed to better position it to address contemporary insecurity challenges.

In this context, it is essential to make sure that the EU-AU partnership continues to be agile and ambitious in order to respond jointly to global challenges that know no borders. How do we respond together? And how do we bring on board other strategic partners?

The event will discuss these current developments, such as the EU Strategic Compass and ongoing reflection at the AU. In the spirit of broader partnerships, Nick Westcott, ECFR Visiting Fellow and Director of the Royal African Society authored a paper "[Shared futures: why Britain, the EU, and Africa need one another](#)" that will also be discussed in this event.

This hybrid meeting is organised by the EU Delegation to the AU, ECFR and ISS. It brings together African and European officials and thinkers to engage in a dialogue around the challenges and opportunities brought by today's crises.

Programme

27 June 2022

14.00 - 17:30 (including welcome coffee and cocktail)

Hyatt Hotel, Addis Ababa

Format: in person and live streamed

14:00 – 14:30	Welcome coffee
14:30 – 15:00	Setting the scene moderated by Paul-Simon Handy Paul-Simon Handy , ISS Regional Director East Africa and Representative to the AU Nick Westcott , Director of the Royal African Society - ECFR paper “Shared futures: why Britain, the EU, and Africa need one another” H.E. Amb. Birgitte Markussen , EU Ambassador to the AU and UNECA – EU’s Strategic Compass
15:00 – 15:10	H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye , AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security
15:10 – 15:15	Dr. Abdeta Dribssa Beyene – Executive Director, Center for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation (CDRC)
15:15 – 15:20	H.E. Amb. Rémi Maréchaux , Ambassador of France to Ethiopia and the AU
15:20 – 15:25	H.E. Amb. Edward Xolisa Makaya , Permanent Representative of South Africa to Ethiopia and the AU
15:25 – 15:30	H.E. Amb. Madeleine Garlick , UK Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the AU
15:30 – 16:30	Discussion moderated by Theodore Murphy , Director of the Africa programme at the ECFR Conclusions by Theodore Murphy
16:30 – 17:30	Cocktail reception