

## Registration

### International Conference

## Partnership for the Poor? The Joint Africa-EU Strategy: Risks and opportunities

Deadline: Monday, 23rd November 2009

Online: [www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de)

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## Background

### Partnership for the Poor? The Joint Africa-EU Strategy: Risks and opportunities

In December 2007, European and African heads of state and government adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which was to mark the beginning of a new political partnership at eye-level. The Final Declaration says that “We will develop this partnership of equals, based on the effective engagement of our societies, in order to achieve significant results in our fundamental commitments, namely: the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.”

Since 2007, however, things have gone rather quiet on the Strategy, and it has received only little public attention. The international conference “Partnership for the Poor” is aimed at taking stock two years after its adoption. In what way has it been of any use to the poor so far? What risks and opportunities does the Joint EU-Africa Strategy bear when it comes to combating poverty? Are changes of direction necessary in politics? What is the role of civil society in Africa and Europe?

The Conference is being organised by VENRO, the Association of German Development NGOs, in co-operation with the European umbrella organisation CONCORD and Deutsche Welle.

With the project “Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies” VENRO seeks an active civil society contribution to the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The project builds on cooperation with African partners that began during VENRO’s successful EU Presidency Project in 2007. VENRO member organisations then worked together with their African partners to develop statements for policy makers, the media and interested public on the main topics of the project: Energy and climate change; regional integration and trade; and gender.

Further information: [www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de)

## Date and venue

Monday, 30th November 2009

Deutsche Welle

Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 3, 53113 Bonn

## How to get to the venue

### Public transport:

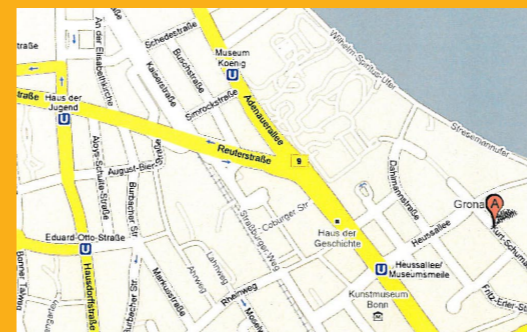
Subway/Underground lines 16,63,66,68: Get off at “Heussallee/Museumsmeile” stop. From there, a five minutes walk to the venue.

### From Bonn Central Station:

You take the Number 610 or 611 bus from platform C4 to the “Bundeshaus/Deutsche Welle” stop (ten minutes ride).

### From Cologne-Bonn Airport:

You take a Number SB 60 bus to Bonn Central Station (30 minutes). From there, take the subway or bus (see above).



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

The project is co-funded by the German Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



International Conference  
30th November 2009 in Bonn

## Partnership for the Poor? The Joint Africa-EU Strategy: Risks and opportunities



In cooperation with:



## Programme

The conference will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation into German.

8:30 a.m.

### Registration of the Participants

9:15 a.m.

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Gerda Meuer**, Director DW-Academy, Deutsche Welle, Germany

**Dr. Claudia Warning**, VENRO Chairperson, Germany

Film message by Kofi Annan, Chairman Africa Progress Panel, Ghana

9:45 a.m.

### The Importance of the Africa-EU Strategy

**Matthias Mülmenstädt**, Director for African Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Germany (tbc)

10:15 a.m.

### Panel I Local Power and Women's Rights: Potentials and Constraints of Decentralization for Gender Equality

In the context of development co-operation, strengthening local decision-makers is assuming ever greater importance. The aim is to contribute to Good Governance and, ultimately, to poverty alleviation via decentralisation processes. This raises the issue of what effects decentralisation processes are having on gender justice: For women in particular continue to be excluded from many political decision-making processes and affected by social and economic imbalances.

What opportunities does the transfer of decision-making powers to the local level now have regarding women? What contribution can the Africa-EU Strategy make in this context? Can positive experience at national level, for example in Rwanda in Central Africa, where women account for 56 percent of the par-

liamentarians, be transferred to local governance? On the other hand, how can the emergence of new inequalities be avoided at local level? And what role can civil society and non-governmental organisations play?

#### Statement

**Tilder Kumichii**, Coordinator, Gender Empowerment and Development (GeED), Cameroon

#### Debaters

**Dr. Miria R. K. Matembe**, Founder and Board Member; Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), Uganda

**Joanna Maycock**, CONCORD Board, Belgium

**N.N.**, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

**Chair: Ute Schaeffer**, Head African Languages DW-Radio, Deutsche Welle, Germany

12:15 a.m.

### Lunch

13:15 p.m.

### Panel II Ways out of the Fossil Dead-End: Sustainable Energy for Africa

Access to affordable, modern energy supply services is a prerequisite for development and for combating poverty. In most African countries, traditional biomass continues to be the main source of energy, sometimes accounting for 90 percent or even more. In many places, consumption has long outstripped what can be re-grown. Except for in a handful of oil-exporting countries, fossil fuels need to be imported at high prices. Spending on crude oil imports has begun to cause new foreign debt. The need to overcome the disastrous dependence on traditional biomass and crude oil imports, neither of which is economically or ecologically sustainable, is obvious.

But what does the alternative look like? Decentralised solutions for rural electrification appear to be well-suited to combat poverty. However, they are unattractive for commercial investors, who mainly tend to take an interest in large-scale projects such as biofuels plantations or “Desertec”. But such ventures are chiefly aimed at creating energy for export purposes. Does Africa need both? Has the Africa-EU Energy Partnership set the right priorities to promote sustainable energy for Africa's development?

#### Statement

**Ewah Eleri**, Director, International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development (ICEED), Nigeria

#### Debaters

**Peter Finger**, Project Coordinator, SolarWorld AG, Germany

**Dr. Manfred Konukiewicz**, Head of the Sub-Directorate, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

**Dr. Claudia Warning**, VENRO Chairperson, Germany

**Chair: Jürgen Maier**, Director, NGO Forum Environment and Development, Germany

15:15 p.m.

### Coffee Break

15:45 p.m.

### Panel III Get modern or get out: How can Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure Contribute to Poverty Eradication?

More than 80 percent of Africa's poor live in rural areas. A large proportion of them work in informal economy. With its people-centred approach, the Africa-EU Strategy can hardly avoid attributing a key role to the issue of agriculture. Nevertheless, promoting rural development is a merely peripheral issue in the Partnership on

Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure. The Partnership has above opted for export and further trade liberalisation. The negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements are explicitly excluded, although they are currently having far-reaching negative impacts on regional integration.

What is needed to boost rural development in Africa? How can the promotion of infrastructure integrate local communities more effectively? With what measures can inter-African trade be enhanced?

#### Statement

**Malcolm Damon**, Director, Economic Justice Network, Republic of South Africa

#### Debaters

**Prof. Norbert S. Lebalé**, Coordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

**Roelof Plijter**, Adviser, Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission, Belgium

**Karin Ulmer**, Chair CONCORD Trade Working Group, Belgium

**Chair: Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath**, VENRO Vice chairperson, Germany

17:45 p.m.

### Results in a Nutshell

**Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath**, VENRO Vice chairperson, Germany

18:00 p.m.

### Come together

#### Conference Chair:

**Michael Steeb**, Speaker VENRO Working Group European Development Policy, Germany