



**THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**  
A Joint Africa-EU Strategy

**1. CONTEXT, SHARED VISION AND PRINCIPLES**

**1. Context**

1. Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a commitment of values: the respect for human rights, freedom, stability, economic growth, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the African Union's Declaration on the Inalienable Rights of the Continental People of the African Continent.
2. Since the launch of the Africa-EU Summit in 2000, which set partnership new impetus through the institutionalisation of our dialogue, remarkably change has taken place in both continents. Democratisation and liberalisation have been successful and are being deepened in both Africa and Europe and efforts have continued in both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. In the same time, cooperative processes on both continents have consolidated – on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has transformed into the African Union (AU) with its anti-terrorism programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on the other hand and the European Union (EU) has made fundamental role and in the process of deepening the Union. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have emerged, globalisation has accelerated and the world has become increasingly interdependent.
3. In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU has rapidly developed and diversified. Both sides have developed political strategies and policy documents to guide their cooperation, including the EU's Communication Act and Strategic Partnership 2006-2010 and the EU Africa Strategy of 2006. However, it is now time for these two neighbours, with their rich and complex history, to forge a new and stronger partnership that builds on their new relations and economic potential, negotiates on the horizon of the past and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic and well-structured cooperation. There is now a need for a new phase in the Africa-EU relationship, a new strategic partnership and a Joint Africa-EU Strategy as a political vision and roadmap for the future cooperation between the two continents in meeting and new vision and action.

# Le partenariat stratégique Afrique-UE

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**Une stratégie commune Afrique-UE  
EEAS 2007**