

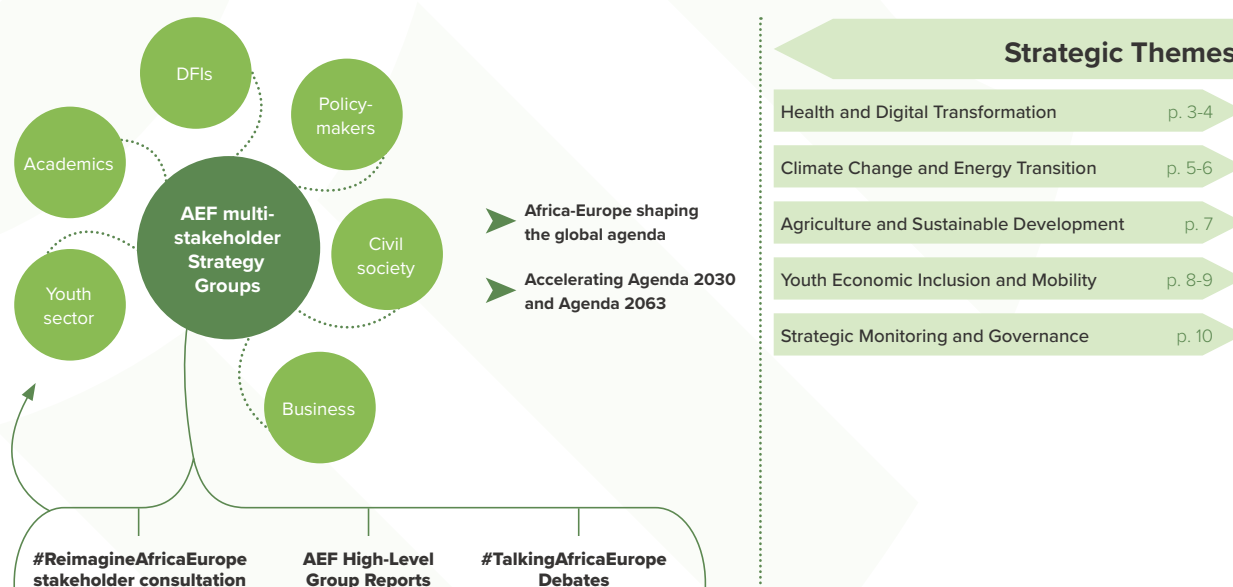
Choosing a Common Future: Moving from Dialogue into Action

The purpose of this paper is to outline some of the partnership areas that hold the largest promise for win-win solutions and provide a strategic focus for innovative and fresh collaborations catalysed through the 6th AU-EU Summit (17-18 February 2022).

The paper is inspired by the [Charter of the Africa-Europe Foundation](#) (AEF), launched on 2nd December 2021, which outlined key building blocks for a modern partnership in the face of existential global challenges. It also builds directly upon:

- The AEF High-Level Group and Women Leaders Network as well as the multi-stakeholder “Strategy Groups” which brought together in dialogue leaders and specialists on priority areas of cooperation, from Energy and Agri-Food Systems to Transport and Connectivity, and Digital Transformation.
- The #ReimagineAfricaEurope global consultation which has engaged the voices of many hundreds of citizens on their “vision for the Africa-Europe partnership in 2030” and the “expected gains for their societies” as part of a renewed cooperation between Africa and Europe.
- The “Talking Africa-Europe” debate series aimed at tackling the complex, sometimes contentious, issues of the partnership, and the High-Level Group Reports on Climate Alliance (2020) and the Future of Healthcare (2021).

AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



KEY MESSAGES

An overarching message, from the multistakeholder dialogues to the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation, is there is **growing appetite for a deeper partnership between the peoples of Africa and Europe**; a partnership that includes civil society, cities and local authorities, the private sector and, as a priority, young people. Citizens across both continents expect from a renewed partnership gains for their societies including enhanced and training opportunities, improved environmental sustainability and youth economic inclusion.

The largest Africa/Europe opportunity sits in creating value chains across the two continents that are tied into large macro trends and investment drivers. These include: Africa's need for space and opportunity for industrialisation, especially in labour-intensive sectors, and for leapfrogging their services-based sectors into a digital economy; the investments of European countries into a green economy and decoupling from fossil fuels, Europe's need to cater for an older population and reduced workforce; and a shared requirement for pandemic preparedness and to face the climate crisis.

To move forward, it is evident from the AEF dialogues that there are **significant gaps to bridge in understanding the different contexts and starting points** when it comes to critical domains of cooperation including energy transition/access and mobility/migration. Importance is equally placed on working across silos and enlarging the partnership to new and diverse stakeholders.

My vision for the Africa-Europe partnership in 2030 is a partnership where both continents increase interdependencies on each other and practice mutual solidarity and respect to enhance shared prosperity.

Debisi, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Based on historical analysis and a high-level scan, the following thematic areas have been selected under which we have identified significant mutually beneficial opportunities for Africa-Europe collaboration. Under each of these thematic areas the Africa-Europe Foundation, together with partner Dalberg and the AEF Strategy Groups, has outlined an initial set of “moon-shot interventions” that could present tangible programmes around which to crowd investment and activity.

For a sub-set of these moon-shots we have provided additional detail, with more to be developed post-Summit. AEF and partners would like to identify “champion Member States” to collaborate on these transformative areas of action.

The proximity of our two continents makes us geographical neighbours which we cannot change - so let's use the geographic advantage and become better neighbours. Both continents have much to offer each other.

Martin, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

THEME 1:

HEALTH AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The 2021 HLG Report examined in detail the failure of the international community in providing African populations with access to COVID-19 vaccines, and highlighted not only how there is a need to build manufacturing and distribution capacity for vaccines and medicines in Africa, but the opportunity that creating this infrastructure would bring, not only for improved healthcare, but overall human development, local jobs and business opportunities. The Report also built on the work of the Health and Digital Strategy Groups, and posited a vision for healthcare in 2030 built on harnessing the impact of digital technologies in healthcare, and proposing an innovative African Health Data Space in the model of the European Health Data Space.

Africa's vaccine market is today worth \$1.3 billion, and expected to grow to approximately \$2.4 billion by 2030, yet currently Africa produces only 1% of the vaccines 'consumed' on the continent.

Building on the Report, the AEF Talking Africa-Europe Special on vaccine access (3 February 2022) reiterated these recommendations, with **Abebe Aemro Selassie**, Director of the Africa Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), arguing the economic case for having strong vaccine manufacturing is a "no-brainer" and must be pursued. **Matshidiso Moeti**, WHO Regional Director for Africa, agreed, adding: "We need to learn how to invest in equity in peacetime. Much of what is happening today is happening in the context of crisis." This was echoed by European Commissioner for International Partnerships **Jutta Urpilainen**, who explained that the EU has launched an initiative to support vaccine manufacturing in Africa worth €1bn, arguing that "equity demands more than donations".

Illustrative Moon-shot Ideas:

The Africa-Europe Digital Health Scale-Up Support Programme: In various African countries, private delivery models have emerged which combine task shifting, evidence-based protocolised care with digital support (such as Clinical Decision Support Systems, CDSS, with or without the deployment of AI) - some of which are based on telemedicine. These models can realise superior quality at lower costs and greater access (including for patients in rural and peri-urban settings) thanks to higher staff utilisation. Europe could learn from these innovations in Africa – and at the same time, can support these innovations to grow bigger and faster in Africa. To leverage this, significant support from key stakeholders including national governments, professional association, and insurance providers would be necessary in order to secure regulatory approval, coverage, and extended demonstration periods to build trust.

By 2026, the European telehealth market is estimated to grow by more than a four-and-a-half-fold, reaching €17.35 billion (\$20.7bn) revenue from €3.69 billion (\$4.41bn) in 2019. The trends are similar in Africa – by 2030 the health market is estimated to be at \$259 billion; the second largest after the US.

Harmonising EU and African data protection frameworks: Supporting the development of harmonised data protection and management frameworks will serve to strengthen the relevance of GDPR globally, strengthen data systems in Africa, and improve the attractiveness of both continents as global digital investment destinations. In the longer term, the European Data Space could be used as a model for a similar African Health Data Space, the two data spaces could provide a strategic gateway for coordinated infrastructure building, incorporate and embed homegrown digital health content and solutions.

IN FOCUS: FORESIGHT OBSERVATORY ON HEALTH WORKFORCES

Even before working on training or career paths, we need accurate data about the current and expected needs of the health workforces on both continents. Clear assessments and recommendations are needed not only on training numbers but also on future staff requirements in terms of skills built upon variables including expected population growth, technological and social change, skills mix, individual performance and health policy.

The WHO's Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health Workforce 2030 estimates that between 2013 and 2030, the shortfall in the health workforce in Europe will be at 1.4 million, and Africa's at 6.1 million.

Building on the work done by the WHO's Global Health Workforce Alliance, the Africa-Europe Foundation's Strategy Group on Health has the bold ambition of proposing the creation of a much more comprehensive Foresight Observatory on Health Workforces. The Foundation's vision for an Observatory is embedded in the global need for a health workforce to meet the changing and future needs - beyond the traditional human resources for health (HRH) realm of doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers to encompass the range of enabling cadres that are needed to deliver the health services of the future, including but not limited to health workers in information technology, machine learning, robotics, health product and workforce regulation, supply chain, and biomedical specialties.

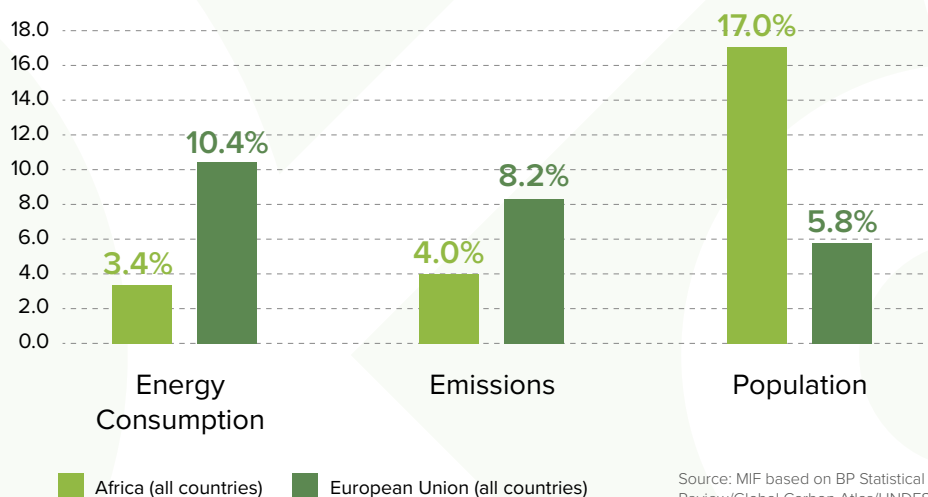
A complete health systems lens needs to be applied in the context of health labour market considerations, and the observatory will advocate for governments and international bodies to adopt necessary changes to modify their health systems to accommodate the changing landscape of health, and to meet existing health workforce and spending commitments. In order to achieve this purpose, proposed outputs include the publication of an annual or bi-annual index on the state of readiness of health workforces. The Observatory would additionally encourage data sharing and build platforms to encourage partnerships among leading health workforces' stakeholders on both continents.

THEME 2:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION

The work of the AEF has focused extensively on the role both continents can and will have to play in tackling humanity’s greatest existential threat. Last year’s COP26 highlighted how far apart both continents are when it comes to the agenda for the Green Transition.

Africa & EU: share of global energy consumption, carbon emissions & population (2019)



The recent AEF Talking Africa-Europe special on climate energy further underscored this ahead of the summit. **Damilola Ogunbiyi**, CEO of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), co-chair of UN Energy, and former CEO of Nigeria’s Rural Electrification Agency emphasised the challenge of “*a full electrification of the entire economy - when these countries still want to achieve access to energy, industrialisation, and a better future for their people*”. **Macky Sall**, President of Senegal, and Chair of the African Union, underlined that “*we should not put additional injustice on the shoulders of Africa by no longer subsidising fossil fuels, as was decided at COP26*”, since Africa contributes the least to climate change, but is one of the areas not only most at risk of climate change impacts but also of the economic fallout of climate change policy. If the forthcoming Summit is to be, as **Charles Michel**, President of the European Council hopes, “*an opportunity for a new paradigm, approach and alliance for Africa and Europe*”, bridges will need to be built on energy.

In 2019, the entire population of the EU, accounting for just under 445 million people, had access to electricity, while just over half (54.7%) of the 1.3 billion people living in Africa had access. Almost 600 million Africans remain off-grid, more than 1.3 times the population of the EU. There are also stark inequalities within the African continent, and within African countries, when it comes to access to energy. Egypt for example has 100% coverage, while South Sudan has 6.7% coverage. All 27 EU member states have full coverage.

The AEF recommends addressing climate change and development issues as one and the same, rather than separate goals and solutions. Mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies that speak to the climate change agenda cannot be addressed without also redressing pressing issues such as poverty, inequality and the need for inclusive economic growth.

Illustrative Moon-shot Ideas:

The Africa-Europe Anchor Demand for Energy Programme: An EU-AU led programme to anchor large renewable generation investments in African countries and provide secure sources of low-carbon energy and commodities to both Europe and Africa. Example anchor investments could include hydrogen, direct offtake through HVDC, and green mineral processing. Cost advantages for African countries to produce those sources of renewable energy, i.e., green hydrogen, should be further explored to nail down specific opportunities. The arrangement allows African parties to capture value from renewable energy resources while offering both Europe and Africa options to decarbonise, as well as generate credible momentum towards policy change at global fora.

The Reshoring to Africa Manufacturing Programme: Recognising the desire to shorten supply chains for strategic goods, the high-cost base in most European countries, and the upcoming Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), positioning African countries as strategic low-carbon manufacturing partners (beyond just heavy industry). This value chain development would create opportunities for decent work and economic growth for Africa, including through increased revenue for governments, while presenting Europe with secure, trusted, cost-effective supply chains, and increasing the attractiveness of African economies for FDI and larger scale infrastructure investment.

IN FOCUS: CLEAN COOKING SOLUTIONS

Air pollution is not caused by fossil fuel-powered transport alone. Nearly 4 billion people globally lack access to modern cooking solutions, including 900 million in Africa. Biomass cookstoves, for example, highlight the Gordian Knot of climate, health, and development – **they contribute to over half of global total black carbon emissions, contribute to deforestation, cost \$2.4trillion annually to the global economy, and cause over 4 million premature deaths each year** – disproportionately affecting women and children.

The Africa-Europe Foundation Strategy Group on Energy, together with the Clean Cooking Alliance, have launched a manifesto for clean cooking solutions, calling for action from governments, the private sector, and global development actors, to bring about clean cooking solutions worldwide and take a key step towards bringing clean energy access to all by 2030. At both the AU-EU Summit and COP27, Africa and Europe have the opportunity to take the lead on cooperating to implement the manifesto, and demonstrate that the Africa-Europe partnership is willing and able to make serious commitment towards transformative change.

Whilst all sectors will play their part, the AEF recognises the need for an African government-led approach to action. Core priorities for governments include setting up clean-cooking ‘delivery units’ within governments to coordinate efforts, and to include clean-cooking plans in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP27 and COP28. The other key aspect to the success of clean-cooking in Africa is the enabling environment. Fiscal policies (including smart subsidies), dedicated financing, and market conditions that support growth in the sector are all crucial to rolling out clean-cooking solutions across Africa, and achieving SDG7 by 2030.

THEME 3:

AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Africa and Europe have the opportunity to build an agri-food partnership on a common vision for food systems transformation by 2030. This should be centred around food sovereignty, a concept advocated at the World Food Summit in 1996, referring to the right of people to decide their own food systems, to provide healthy and nutritious food grown in their locality, and to practise climate-appropriate agriculture and agroecology. Beyond this, any Africa-Europe agri-food partnership must have the ambition to transform the sustainability of food systems through policy initiatives, financial tools and co-innovation. Some work has already begun, including calling for the creation of cross-continental networks of excellence in regenerative agriculture, and large-scale mobility programmes specific to African and European agri-food entrepreneurs.

Nature holds a special role in all of our old mythologies and pagan religions. It would be an excellent way to know more about different types of land, soil and the way we can adapt to climate change while also using the earth responsibly.

Rahel, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

The Markets for Climate Smart Agriculture Programme: Actors are already working towards exploring how a combination of agricultural practices, smart technologies, and carbon finance can improve smallholder farmer incomes in Africa. Collaborating with existing innovators could lower the costs associated with meeting proposed EU agricultural produce climate standards (Farm to Fork Strategy) and improve access to EU carbon markets (Article 6 or EU ETS). This would require greater involvement of the AU in the Farm to Fork standards and processes that properly incentivise African farmers.

With approximately 33 million farms under 2 hectares producing up to 70% of the food supply, African farming could be a pioneering example for the difference food sovereignty can make to the public health, climate impact, and economic development. However, currently, only 1.7% of climate finance goes to small farms.

Regenerating the Great Green Wall: One nature-based solution is the Great Green Wall (GGW), an African-led approach to the climate-development nexus launched in 2007. Aiming to combat desertification and land degradation, sequester 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million rural jobs by 2030, the initiative is an example of the holistic approach to climate change and development proposed in the 2020 High-Level Group Report. Supported by more than 20 countries in Africa, as well as the World Bank, the African Union, the UNCCD, and at the January 2021 One Planet Summit French President Emmanuel Macron announced the launch of the Great Green Wall Accelerator, an instrument to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of financing, and address funding gaps in key areas such as water, soil, and vegetation management. If funding promises of \$14 billion are delivered, along with supportive policies for concrete action, the initiative has the potential to be truly transformative.

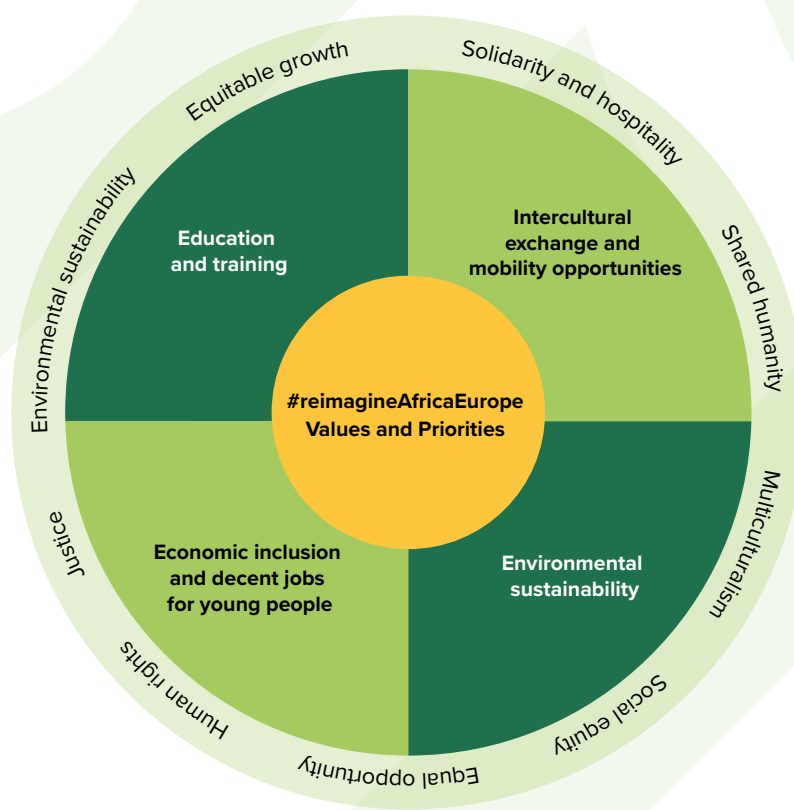
Leveraging digital capital platforms to facilitate cross- and intra- funding in green entrepreneurship:

Supporting the development of cross-continental Business Angel and crowdsourcing platforms, could increase funding to entrepreneurship and exchange of learnings between both funders and entrepreneurs across both continents.

THEME 4: YOUTH ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND MOBILITY

The new dynamic for Africa-Europe relations cannot ignore the demographic trends of the two continents, both Europe’s aging population and Africa’s youth bulge. AEF believes that these distinct strengths can be leveraged to mutual benefit. We believe in shifting the paradigm that has defined regional cooperation to date by putting investment in young people and people-to-people cooperation as the foundation for prospects on security and economic cooperation. We are advocating one overarching impact indicator for the Africa-Europe partnership and related initiatives focused on youth access in crucial areas of society including housing, education, and cultural institutions, mobility, and employability.

Through the Talking Africa-Europe Series and the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation, the AEF has made conscious effort to mainstream youth voices into the discussion at every turn. The consultation showed that young people across both continents view the Africa-Europe partnership as a means for greater opportunity, prioritising amongst others intercultural exchanges, education and job creation. Respondents have also identified a number of shared values including solidarity and equitable growth.



There is a South African saying called “Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu”, which means one becomes who they are as a result of the people who surround them. We have learnt how to live with one another, and how to help one another grow. We share values such as compassion, love for humanity and the will to live.

Abundance, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

Investing in young people and children should be at the heart of Africa-EU cooperation. Empowerment, participation and involvement of young people as agents of change are key to achieving the priorities of the Agenda 2030. We should support the mainstreaming of youth in national policies.

The EU should better spread the benefits of Erasmus+ across Africa and increase the uptake of the Creative Europe programme to make the most of the creativity of the region’s young people.

I would like to see more on digital education. This is the field where it is possible to act quickly, with limited funds and with the tools used by youth. It will also help to tackle the growing digital divide, connecting the European and African regions. This should however not replace physical contact and mobility. Youth mobility is, by definition, essential.

Ayoub Mahi, at the AEF Talking Africa-Europe special on Migration and Mobility, Masters Student and Research Analyst at the VVA Group

For many businesses in Africa, it is often easier to employ a skilled non- African expatriate than a skilled African expatriate, due to visa restrictions.

Due to freedom of movement, EU citizens can reside and work in any other EU country, and programmes like Erasmus+ offer incentives for educational mobility.

IN FOCUS: YOUNG AFRICA-EUROPE VOICES

Young people are oft-referenced in political discourses on both sides of the Mediterranean, simultaneously as: “the hope for a better future”, as the present and future labour force, as well as “a potential threat” when their needs and claims challenge the political regimes. As such, public policies aimed at youth focus either on fostering economic development models that require young talent or restricting the youth who oppose political elites. The Young Africa-Europe Voices, a capacity building initiative with both offline and online elements, would allow emerging leaders in Africa and Europe to: build a specialised skills-set to lead across divides; promote the role of cultural diversity in innovative and collaborative problem-solving; allow a free exchange of knowledge and expertise for a beneficial partnership; access a powerful mentoring network of regional and global policy leaders; provide a channel for dialogue between young people and local decision-makers; and understand how to give life to their stories through mainstream media dialogues. Building on existing EuroMed cooperation, the capacity building would foster active youth participation in local communities and empower active citizenship on both continents. The social learning platform will involve annually many hundreds of young people through a tailored MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on cross-cultural leadership.

THEME 5:

STRATEGIC MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

Historically, the Africa-Europe partnership has struggled to deliver on its significant potential. A critical contributor to this is the institutional set-up of current efforts, in which separate entities (e.g. Ministries within Member States, bilateral donor offices, separate European Commission DGs) operate independently with separate budgets and strategic processes. Furthermore, with few mechanisms in place to trace how high-level commitments made at summits translate into tangible change, accountability over delivery is difficult. This has reduced overall interest and nurtured growing distrust from citizens of both continents regarding the usefulness and effectiveness of an Africa-Europe partnership, amidst growing competition for African potential resources and geo-political weight.

The Africa-Europe Foundation has been asked to leverage its independence, analysis and outreach capacity and multi-stakeholder “platform of platforms” DNA to strengthen the partnership through a strategic monitoring function that would catalyse impact. AEF will ensure a holistic approach to monitoring real progress in the various domains of the partnership including identifying potential gaps and proposing opportunities for scaling up innovative practice and transformative moon-shots.

The dimensions of this work for the Africa-Europe Foundation would centre on:

- **Multi-stakeholder Africa-Europe “Strategy Groups”.** Transforming the existing AEF Strategy Groups (established during the inception phase of AEF) into sounding boards called upon to identify potential blockages and solutions in the implementation of policies and initiatives of the Africa-Europe partnership.
- **Coordination and information sharing.** Contributing to a deeper awareness and ownership among both continents’ Member States, regional and national institutions, proactively connecting and guiding multi-stakeholders to take advantage of complementarities and address gaps, identifying innovative practices which can be replicated and scaled up.
- **Monitoring and compliance.** Pragmatically and regularly tracking commitments made at the level of the Africa-Europe partnership. Through the production of an annual report, identifying current bottlenecks, as well as opportunities to advance political commitments at national, sub-regional and regional level, for joint partnership work.
- **Outreach and engagement.** Through its outreach programme and diverse dialogue platforms (including High-Level Group of Personalities, Women Leaders Network, Youth Network, strategic partnership forums, etc), the AEF will support and foster a continuous engagement of multi-stakeholders in-between Summits and Ministerial meetings of the Africa-Europe partnership.

“The 2022 Summit needs to be a summit focused on getting actual things done: zoom in on real barriers to progress and steps to address them (the actual ones, not the ones that sound politically interesting); develop real new partnerships around common interests.

Anonymous, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

“A deliverable for the AU-EU Summit should be a roadmap for how concretely Africa and Europe will support each other with concrete mechanisms for mutual accountability.

Anonymous, from the #ReimagineAfricaEurope consultation

Resource Links:

[Charter of the Africa-Europe Foundation \(AEF\) and High-Level Launch](#)

High-Level Group Reports of the Africa-Europe Foundation

[High-Level Group Report on Innovative Climate Alliance](#)

[High-Level Group Report on Pandemic Preparedness and the Future of Healthcare](#)

AEF Talking Africa-Europe Specials

Talking Africa-Europe Special on [Climate and Energy](#)

Talking Africa-Europe Special on [Migration and Mobility](#)

Talking Africa-Europe Special on [Addressing the Vaccine Challenge](#)

Calls to Action

[Africa-Europe Foundation Call for Action on Vaccines](#)

[AEF Partnership on the Investment in Fragile States](#)

[Clean Cooking Manifesto: A call to action for universal access to clean cooking by 2030](#)

[The 2021 Africa-Europe Foundation Forum: Highlights & Key Takeaways](#)

[Bold Action to Reshape Africa-Europe Relations](#)

Debates on the Strategic Themes

[Talking Africa-Europe Series on Health](#): Nobody is safe until everyone is safe. A test of solidarity or the catalyst for Europe and Africa

[Talking Africa-Europe Series and Green Talk on Energy](#): Accelerating the EU-Africa Partnership for Green Energy Transition in Africa

[Talking Africa-Europe Series on Digital](#): A new era of digital cooperation: embracing Africa and Europe's 4th Industrial Revolution

[Talking Africa-Europe Series on Agriculture and Food Systems](#): The Sahel Renaissance - Enabling a Just Rural Transformation

[Talking Africa-Europe Series on Transport and Connectivity](#): Beyond Borders - Migration, Mobility and Good Governance in the Africa-EU partnership