

10th–11th FEBRUARY 2022: CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY

As the heads of state from Africa and Europe will meet at the 6th African Union–European union summit on the 17th and 18th February 2022, it is necessary that **African and European civil society meet to exchange and promote a fair partnership, equal and sustainable**, in order to prepare this summit and the future of relations between Africa and the European Union.

The Conference of African and European Civil Societies will be organized by **Coordination SUD**, the French platform for international solidarity NGOs, with its African and European partners, including **FORUS** et **CONCORD Europe**. This conference will offer **two days of exchange and debate**, in order to allow African and European civil societies to meet, to discuss the current strategic partnership, and to build common positions for the future of relations between the two continents. This event will bring together 150 people in Paris, and many others online **on February 10th and 11th, 2022**. [Click here to register](#).

Through several panel talks, round tables, and discussion groups, the representatives of African and European civil societies will share their analysis of the Africa–EU partnership and discuss the need to develop these relations towards an open partnership, fair and sustainable for both continents. **The space and role of civil society** will thus be at the heart of the challenges of this conference, alongside in particular **human rights, sustainable development, digital technology, women** and **youth**.

Thanks to the participation of a diversity of civil society actors, common positions will be formulated in order to prepare the activities that will be carried out around the AU–EU summit, in order to make the voice of civil societies heard at the institutional level.

This conference will be organized within the framework of the project **“Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world”**, funded by the European Commission, and implemented by a European consortium of NGO platforms: Concord Sweden, Coordination SUD, FoRS and Concord Europe.

Thursday 10 February

9h15 – 9h45 ¹	Welcome coffee
9h45 – 10h15	Opening speech
10h15 – 11h15	Presentation of the African Union–European Union partnership framework <i>Conference</i>
11h15 – 11h30	<i>Break</i>
11h30 – 12h30	Weight and consequences of the historical relationship between Africa and Europe on today's partnership <i>Conference</i>
12h30 – 13h45	<i>Lunch</i>
13h45 – 15h15	What role and what impact for an Africa-EU partnership on sustainable development in African countries? <i>Round table</i>
15h15 – 16h45	The partnership between African and European civil society organisations, fair and equitable? <i>Round table</i>
16h45 – 17h00	<i>Break</i>
17h00 – 18h00	Wrap up of the first day and cocktail

Friday 11 February

9h15 – 9h45	Welcome coffee
9h45 – 10h15	Introduction and agenda
10h15 – 11h15	Debate sessions (1) - <i>CSOs' resilience and innovations in the context of the pandemic?</i> - <i>How can civil society strengthen its involvement in the Africa-EU partnership?</i> - <i>How to promote civil society's contribution to the 2030 agenda?</i>
11h15 – 11h30	<i>Break</i>
11h30 – 12h30	Debate sessions (2) - <i>How can civil society strengthen the promotion of human rights in the Africa-EU partnership?</i> - <i>How to improve the inclusion of feminist organizations and youth movements in the Africa-EU partnership?</i> - <i>How to achieve a sustainable digital transformation for Africa?</i>
12h30 – 13h30	<i>Lunch</i>
13h30 – 14h00	Closing speech

¹ Timing based on GMT +1 (Paris, Berlin, Alger, Kinshasa, Niamey) / European Central Time.



The project « Towards an open, fair, and sustainable Europe in the world – Third Trio EU Presidency Project » is funded by the European Union and implemented by CONCORD Sweden, FoRS, and Coordination SUD, the French international solidarity NGO platform.

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