



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States

EU Development policy : Horizontal issues

**Relations with international organisations and non EU States**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Communication of the European Commission  
on  
"The EU, Africa and China: Towards trilateral  
dialogue and cooperation on Africa's peace, stability  
and sustainable development"**

**Deadline for Public Consultation: 13 June 2008**

The French version of this consultation document is available on

<http://ec.europa.eu/development/about/consultation/index.cfm>

*This document does not represent an official position of the European Commission. It is a tool to explore the views of interested parties. The suggestions contained in this document do not prejudice the form and content of the Communication or of any future proposal by the European Commission.*

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## **WHY A COMMUNICATION ON TRILATERAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AFRICA, CHINA AND THE EU?**

The EU has recently reviewed its strategy towards Africa. This process culminated in the Joint EU-Africa Strategy which was endorsed by African and European leaders at the last EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. The EU has also put working together on global challenges including Africa's peace, security and sustainable development on the agenda of its China policy. The European Parliament recently proposed a report on "China's policy and its effects on Africa" that will be submitted for adoption on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008.

Triangular cooperation between Africa, the EU and emerging development partners is one of the new approaches which are contained in the above mentioned new strategy. A major and increasingly important player as a development partner in Africa is definitely China.

The EU's relationship with China already includes a bilateral dialogue and cooperation on Africa because China's rise in Africa has important repercussions on EU relations with Africa and China. In this context, the EU has proposed to examine the possibilities of setting up a framework of trilateral dialogue and cooperation between Africa, China and the EU. Such a framework is not a substitute for each side's bilateral relations, but a complement to enhance partnership beyond 1+1=2.

The main objective of the Communication is to foster an innovative, step by step process of dialogue and cooperation between Africa, the EU and China to promote mutual understanding and allow better coordination and cooperation in specific cases including on multilateral initiatives with the long term objective of improved coordination on security issues in Africa and better aid effectiveness in the context of Millennium Development Goal 8 (establishing a global development partnership). This has to be embedded in a trilateral framework with ownership by our African partners.

In this context, the European Commission is currently preparing a Communication entitled "The EU, Africa and China: Towards trilateral dialogue and cooperation on Africa's peace, stability and sustainable development" which will explain the context of the suggested dialogue and cooperation and propose as concrete areas of action: peace and security, infrastructure and sustainable management of natural resources.

We wish to involve our partners right from the beginning in the reflection process leading towards the Communication. We would therefore be grateful if you could express your personal opinion on this proposal by replying to the annexed questionnaire.

## **THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

### **What for?**

The purpose of this consultation is to gather information and opinions from stakeholders in Africa, China and the EU concerning a possible future trilateral dialogue and cooperation between the EU, China and Africa and on possible actions to be taken by the three partners and stakeholders to support it.

### **How?**

This online consultation is one important tool among others to gather views. The questionnaire can be found in Word format on the Consultation section of DG Development's website: <http://ec.europa.eu/development/about/consultation/index.cfm> (English and French).

You can fill it in and send it to: [DEV-Africa-China-EU-consultat@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DEV-Africa-China-EU-consultat@ec.europa.eu), via ordinary mail: Uwe Wissenbach, SC-15 – 3/89, European Commission, B-1049 Brussels or via fax: +32-2-299.09.14.

The deadline for submission of the questionnaire is 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2008.

### **What next?**

Given the nature of the consultation, the publication of individual replies is not envisaged at this stage.

All contributions will be carefully analysed and a summary of the outcome of the consultation will be published on the Consultation section of DG Development's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/development/about/consultation/index.cfm>) within four weeks following the closure of the consultation.

This report will inform the impact assessment process and provide input for the drafting of the Communication, which the Commission plans to adopt in September 2008.

## USEFUL REFERENCES

Respondents will find hereunder a number of relevant reference documents:

- [Cotonou Agreement](#)
- [European Consensus for Development \(13.07.2005\)](#)
- [Joint EU-Africa Strategy \(8.-9.12.2007\)](#)
- [EU Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa's Development \(12.10.2005\)](#)
- [EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership \(13.07.2006\)](#)
- [Commission Communication on support to business development \(19.05.2003\)](#)
- [Commission Communication "EU – China: Closer partners, growing responsibilities" \(24.10.2006\)](#)
- [European Parliament's Committee on Development "Draft Report on China's policy and its affects on Africa" \(27.11.2007\)](#)

## QUESTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

### **1. Identification of respondents**

#### **1.1 What is your nationality?**

Pan European organisation with headquarters located in Brussels

#### **1.2 Are you replying...?**

as an individual person	on behalf of an organisation
	x

If you reply as an individual person, no further detail is requested: go to question 2.1.

If you reply on behalf of an organisation, please fill in questions 1.3. to 1.7:

#### **1.3 Please provide an email or, alternatively, a postal address for your organisation.**

[info@ebcam.org](mailto:info@ebcam.org)

#### **1.4 Please name your organisation.**

EBCAM – European Business Council for Africa and the Mediterranean

#### **1.5 What type of organisation is it?**

X A business organisation;

A company;

A non-governmental organisation (NGO);

A national public administration;

A regional public administration;

A research institute;

Other category.

#### **1.6 If other category: please specify.**

### 1.7 Where is your organisation established?

In an African country	In China	In the EU	Elsewhere
		x	

## **2. Current Sino-Africa relations:**

### 2.1 What is the role of civil society in current Sino-African relations?

As one of the actors in the dialogue between China and Africa, and on the end who will benefit or suffer from the established relations, it absolutely must be heard and participate.

### 2.2 What role should civil society play in Sino-African cooperation in the peace and security area?

Most of the conflicts are originated in inadequate or insufficient supply of food, good or services. These are the forerunners of part of the conflicts. Once again Civil society must participate in the dialogue

### 2.3 What role should civil society play in Sino-African cooperation in the infrastructure area?

No good productivity, competitiveness and flow of trade exists without reasonable infrastructures. Civil society will have a say on the prioritization of infrastructure to be built

### 2.4 What role should civil society play in Sino-African cooperation in the sustainable management of natural resources?

Through their contribution to general awareness and pressure to be exercised to the economic units to a sustainable development

## **3. The context of trilateral cooperation between Africa, China and the EU**

### 3.1 What do you think in general of the idea establishing trilateral cooperation on development between Africa, China and the EU?

It is necessary. The question is whether all the parties are genuinely committed to.

**3.2** In your opinion, in which sectors/areas should this cooperation start and why?

Infrastructure

Peace and security

Environment

Good governance

Sustainable management of natural resources

Cultural dialogue

Health

Training/expertise

Other

**3.3** If other category: please specify.

**3.4** Please motivate the answer from question number 3.2.

Technically all areas are important. However it seems to us difficult to start cooperation on the short term in environment, good governance and cultural dialogue

**3.5** In which of the above sectors could China have a competitive advantage? Why?

Environment – Lack of good practice

Infrastructure – Business first

**3.6** What is your opinion on the non-conditional approach proposed by the Chinese Government in existing Sino-African relations?

To vague to be useful.

**3.7** In which of the above sectors could the European Union have a competitive advantage? Why?

Peace & security, Good governance, sustainable management of natural resources and training

**3.8** In which of the above sectors could Africa have a competitive advantage? Why?

None at this stage

**3.9** How could such trilateral cooperation be implemented?

- Through the establishment of common institutions;
- Through China's participation in some of the activities under the Joint EU-Africa partnerships and action plan;
- Through creating an informal platform for sharing good practices;
- Through meetings between experts at different levels;
- Other. Please specify.

**3.10** If other, please specify.

**3.11** What could be the African interest in such trilateral cooperation?

Reduced on a short term basis. On longer term the need to influence a large partner (China) using the EU

**3.12** What could be the Chinese interest in such trilateral cooperation?

Reduced on the short term. On longer term the need to keep established relations and trade on a high level



**3.13** What could be the European interest in such trilateral cooperation?

High. It is the necessary way to keep cooperation with Africa on a important level.

**3.14** What could/should be the role of the African Union Commission and/or African regional organisations in this context?

The relations between the AUC and the EU seem to be good at all levels. Maintaining this, will assist and enhance the trilateral negotiations and lessen the impact of bilateral relations and interests between individual ACP countries and China

**4. Actors in the cooperation**

**4.1** Who should **develop the strategy** in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the African side?

- X African Union/NEPAD
- X Regional economic communities
- Government
- X Private sector
- X Civil Society
- Other

**4.2** If other, please specify:

**4.3** Who should **develop the strategy** in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the Chinese side?

- X Government, view the centralized political power in China
- Private sector
- Civil Society
- Other

4.4 If other, please specify:

4.5 Who should **develop the strategy** in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the European side?

European Commission

Member States

Private sector

Civil Society

Other

4.6 If other, please specify:

4.7 Who should **implement** the strategy in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the African side?

African Union/NEPAD

Regional economic communities

Government

Private sector

Civil Society

Other

4.8 If other, please specify:

**4.9** Who should **implement** the strategy in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the Chinese side?

- X Government
- Private sector
- Civil Society
- Other

**4.10** If other, please specify:

**4.11** Who should **implement** the strategy in the Africa-China-EU triangle on the European side?

- X European Commission
- X Member States
- X Private sector
- Civil Society
- Other

**4.12** If other, please specify:

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

For any questions do not hesitate to contact Mr Uwe Wissenbach as indicated on the front page or to send an e-mail to [DEV-Africa-China-EU-consultat@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DEV-Africa-China-EU-consultat@ec.europa.eu).