Moving beyond a donor-recipient relationship? Assessing partnership in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

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Abstract
The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), which was adopted in 2007, aimed to break with the traditional donor-recipient relationship between the EU and Africa and to develop a true partnership. The concept of partnership has been central in EU-Africa relations ever since the Lomé Agreement (1975), but m... mehr

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Africa is Europe's closest neighbour. The ties that bind Africa and the European Union (EU) are broad and deep as a result of history, proximity and shared interests. It boasts the youngest, fastest-growing middle-class in the world. Africa's young people have the potential to transform their continent's political, economic and social prospects, but for this they need decent jobs, a place in society, access to social services, energy and infrastructure, and an active role in determining their countries' future. In particular, African women are key drivers of sustainable growth, development and peace. AU-EU talks on economic partnership agreements stumbled on the point in the European proposal that pushed for free trade arrangements. Due to differing levels of economic development, this type of bilateral economic relationship would definitely harm Africa. BRICS countries are also moving into Africa with vigor. The joint African-European strategy and the resultant partnership have basically been designed to overcome the donor-recipient paradigm and the challenges the EU has faced in connection with Chinese and Indian inroads into Africa. The signing of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in 2007 was far from accidental, since in 2006, the China-Africa summit took place with the participation of 48 African heads of state and governments. The Joint Africa-EU Strategy was launched at the Africa–EU Summit in Lisbon in 2007 and sets out the intention of both continents to move beyond a donor/recipient relationship towards long-term cooperation on jointly identified, mutual and complementary interests. It is based on principles of ownership, partnership and solidarity and its adoption marks a new phase in Africa-EU relations. The link address is: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/continental-cooperation/joint-africa-eu-strategy_en.


Table of Contents. List of acronyms and abbreviations. Shift away from donor-recipient relationship patterns to include knowledge generation and sharing, and technical assistance. Partnerships will contribute to the Commission's vision of becoming a more rigorous and responsive centre of excellence in support of Africa's transformative agenda, including by improving the relevance of ECA research and capacity building work. Unlike in the past when Africa was relegated to the role of bearing the brunt of the negatives of globalization, the continent now seems to be reaping some benefits from the current phase of global transformation.