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**Session 1: Africa in a multipolar world: a progressive agenda for global governance**

**The political and public interest in Africa has grown. The profile of Africa has changed and offers differentiating perspectives with 18 countries knowing continuous democratic changes, a number of countries with considerable economic growth rates and new partners of the region like China, India and Brazil. In the multipolar globalised world where is the role for Africa and for Africa and Europe together. Both world regions have common visions especially in view to multilateralism in a multipolar world.**

**Partnership in a multipolar world**

**Actually there are different types of partnerships for African countries which have to be analysed and evaluated. As far as the US concept since 2001 is concerned Africa has become a strategic partner as far as the Counter- terrorism Strategy is concerned. Not only Pentagon issues have been put on the agenda but also new initiatives to double the development aid for Africa. The US underlined that fragile states are threatening their security and opted for a new role for African democratic and economic development. Africom is an example of this new orientation. The new global power, China, has also strategic interests. But they are especially related to energy, resources and commodities. China is an attractive partner for many African states. China has fought poverty, overcome underdevelopment , clearly points out its strategic interests and combines market economy with an authoritarian political system and no conditionality for cooperation.**

**Africa with its 53 countries has voice and weight despite the challenges of poverty and hunger, illiteracy, violence, conflicts and wars, migration, human rights and climate change. The European**

**Union has since its foundation underlined the responsibility for Africa because of the colonial past and developed more than once a strategy for Africa. In 2008 rather late but rightly both the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) signed “The Africa- EU Strategic Partnership “, a joint Africa – EU strategy. This is a framework for a new and stronger partnership for long- term, systematic and well integrated cooperation in a world which has become increasingly interdependent. The Africa-EU strategy addresses the challenges in a changed world with accelerated globalization, new dimensions of global problems like climate change, financial and economic crisis and human security in general. The four main objectives of the partnership consist in the Africa-EU political partnership to address issues of common concern like peace and security, democratic governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, the Millennium Development Goals.**

**This partnership clearly exposes the engagement of both partners to promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism, with strong, representative and legitimate institutions and the reform of the UN system and other key international institutions.**

**Given globalised markets and globalised crises global governance is needed in order to fight the crises especially the financial and economic crisis. The primacy of the markets about democratically legitimized governments has to be overcome. It is necessary to recall that markets have also to serve the well- being of the people. There is no world government and no world parliament. The UN and the major international organisations are important and necessary but insufficient for political governance. New solutions have to be found. The most modern and efficient one which might help to set a progressive agenda in a multipolar world is regional integration.**

**Actually there are 12 different agreements worldwide on regional integration with different degrees of integration. Regional integration promotes regional economic, trade, socio- political and/or security or political cooperation through regional institutions and rules. The most known is the EU regional integration which has removed barriers to trade, the free movement of people, labour, goods, and capital across national borders. So the EU served as a**

**blue print for other regions even as the EU went further than other examples of regional integration did and adopted common policies on social and consumer issues, equality and discrimination or on the environment, energy and climate change and security and foreign policies` issues. Regional integration refers to the process by which states within a particular region increase their level of interaction with regard to economic, security, political, and also social and cultural issues. Successful initiatives include the development of infrastructure programmes in support of economic growth and regional integration , the development of strong public sector institutions and good governance, the reduction of social exclusion, the development of an inclusive civil society and the political ability to strengthen the region's interaction with other regions of the world.**

**As Sovereignty has lost meaning since power over the economy in the existing global order was lost loser integration of neighbouring economies is seen as a first step in creating a larger regional market for trade and investment and get back the political power. Regional integration arrangements are mainly the outcome of necessity felt by nation-states to integrate their economies, decrease conflicts, and build mutual trusts. Regional integration becomes more important and the nation states plays a minor role in solving global challenges and contribute to the international order or governance. Regional integration now does not limit itself to a region or a part of the region but also to a continent and to cross continental or cross regional arrangements. One important but very new one is the African –EU Strategic Partnership.**

#### **Africa - EU: a new Partnership in a globalised world**

**The Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership(JAES) is a joint strategy. The Civil society in Europe welcomes this approach bidding farewell to paternalistic policies of the past and recalling togetherness in view to history, culture, common future, common values and visions of the AU and the EU since their foundation. The JAES offers finally very rightly a window of opportunity for equal footing of the both continents but also for a people- centered partnership. This means that the JAES do not count only on better cooperation between governments, but also parliaments and civil**

**societies. This approach is innovative and unique in comparison to the multifold but one-sided interests of other global players stressing the geostrategic or economic interests and engagements. This counts for the US strategy since September 11. This counts for Chinese political and economic concerns but also affects the renewal of India's and Brazil's interests in the continent and specific regions.**

**The 53 African States are of high relevance for international policy shaping and making especially in the UN and the multilateral organizations following the rule of one country, one vote in decision-making. In view to reforming the UN and the Security Council for example Europe needs Africa as a partner. This was made clear at the Climate summit of Copenhagen; this was made clear in Cancun when the WTO conference failed to close the Doha round. Nevertheless, the role of African States has been more comfortable during the Cold War with clear and vested interests in the Western World and in the communist Bloc.**

**The EU is concerned to use international politics to contribute to security and stability. But can Africa contribute? Stability in Africa has improved because of the AU and the regional organisations. The political will of the AU to take over the mandate of the UN to secure peace in Africa may be very ambitious but there is progress from the institutional and political point of view. Even civil society contributes to this objective.**

### **Partnership**

**African countries have developed with the AU and NEPAD, partnerships are offered by the US and the EU. But is this a real partnership? There are politicians and academics claiming that as long as there is donor-recipient - relations a partnership on equal footing are not possible. There are challenges:**

**The EU is the biggest donor and Africa the biggest receiver of development aid. The EU is the most important trade partner of Africa while the African trade does stagnate since years at 2% of EU's trade. And partnership thinking does not allow for the**

**continuation of subsidies for European agriculture. The subsidies continue in the sight of civil society like trade arrangements to discriminate against African agriculture and trade performance. The Economic Partnership Agreements demonstrate again that the EU defends its own interest in neglecting African interest. African and German civil society agree that JAES cannot function without revising the EPAs because they are a risk to regional integration and development. There is asymmetry in the relations between the AU and the EU. But this is no argument against a new partnership. The transatlantic partnership between the EU and the US for example is also far from balanced in view to security or economic matters. Besides the European development aid integrates in the UN Millennium Goals obligations which have a universal approach. Fighting hunger, poverty and other challenges means to contribute not only to the development of Africa but also to common human security and peace.**

**The geostrategic renaissance of Africa is not only due to the global perspectives of security but also to the challenges of migration, energy security and procurement other resources and commodities needed by the US and Europe, by China and India.**

**The Joint Africa EU strategy leaves behind the paternalistic policy approaches of the past. It aims to upgrade EU-Africa relations to a strategic political partnership based on joint interests and a common vision and is meant to enable continent to continent cooperation in view to global challenges such as climate change, fight against terrorism, peace and human security.**

**The EU Africa partnership covers eight pillars and is envisioned as one of equals. It is an inclusive partnership which guarantees a role for both- institutions and citizens. In the EU the European Parliament, the Economic and social Council and Concorde are associated to the process besides the EU Council and the EU Commission as well as the EU member states. The same is true for the African institutions where on the side of civil society in Africa the ECOSOCC represents civil society at a time where the space for**

**civil society has been and is restricted. Civil society is integrated in the Joint Expert Groups.**

**Unfortunately the last years have been used to build up the complex institutional framework and been lost for real progress in the fields of action. There is lack of engagement and ownership of all stakeholders because of the lack of results besides the Peace and Security Partnership and technical parts of the other Partnerships. The partnership supported the Africa Peace and Security Architecture, funded African led peace keeping missions but had also a sustainable political dialogue. The partnership also contributed to prevention and management of disputes arising**

**The Lisbon agreement on the EU- AU partnership changes content and melody of former partnerships which called on strategies for Africa like the EU strategy for Africa or the Africa Commission . They were focused on a partnership for Africa. So change towards a real partnership is not only a necessity in this globalised world but also possible if the principle of equal eye height is respected.**

**After the crisis**

**Africa has been heavily affected by all crises- the energy and climate crisis, the food crisis and the financial and economic crisis. But African influence to solve the problems is minor. As the policy shaping and making moves from the UN to informal gatherings like the G 20 Africa has no impact. South Africa fortunately is participating but has not the same impact like Brazil. Africa can lead on inviting the world community to contribute more to the fulfillment of the Millenium goals but not substitute the contributions of unwilling partners. Africa must have an interest to put the solutions for overcoming the crises on the agenda of the United Nations. Africa like Europe need inclusive world governance not an exclusive one like the G 20. But being far from having reformed the UN the democratic world governance is not a reality.**

