



**PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA –  
EUROPE'S POLICIES**  
The EU Presidency Project of VENRO



## **Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies**

Development Policy Manifesto  
for the German EU Presidency 2007

by African and German civil society organisations



## IMPRINT

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## Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies

In the first half of 2007, attention worldwide is going to focus on the Federal Republic of Germany. Thanks to its assuming EU Council Presidency and organising the G8 Summit in June, the German Federal Government can play an active role in developing the international agenda. This also entails opportunities as well as challenges for German civil society.

Africa’s prospects are at the centre of the EU Presidency Project of VENRO with which we, as German and African civil society organisations, are critically and constructively accompanying official presidency policy. From a development perspective, we are calling on the Federal Government to campaign for a poverty-oriented development policy with our manifesto “Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies”. The focus has to be on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Many of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will only be able to achieve the MDGs by 2015 if European policies are more strongly guided by the interests of the African countries.

In our opinion, implementing the EU step-by-step plan for development financing and sticking to achieving the 0.7 percent goal by 2015 represents a minimum requirement. The Federal Government has to take advantage of the EU Council Presidency to reach agreement on a sound financing strategy for European development cooperation.

A lack of coherence in European policies represents one of the biggest obstacles to successful development cooperation with the African partner countries. The Council’s adoption of the twelve coherence commitments in May 2005 and a corresponding working programme offer a wide range of options for political action in the coming year. The Federal Government ought to grasp this opportunity.

During Germany’s EU Presidency, decisions are going to be taken that will have long-term impacts on development in African countries. In some policy areas, such as combating global warming or the fight against HIV/AIDS, speeding up action is crucial. Others require a change of course. This

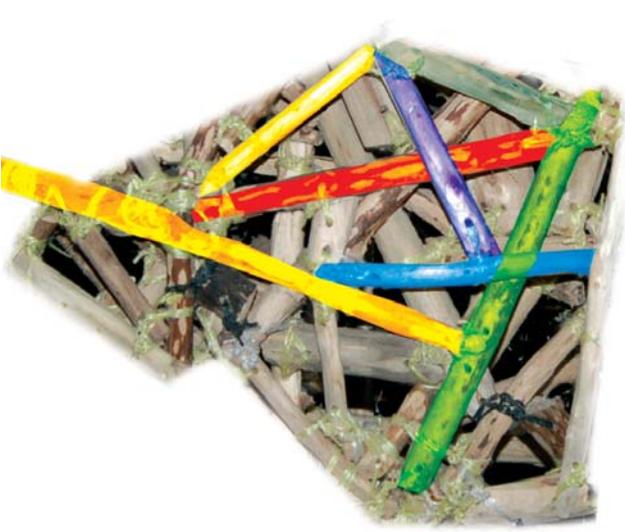
applies to militarising European foreign policy as well as to the final negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as part of the Cotonou Agreement. So far, the EPA negotiations have only insufficiently addressed developments in the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific Region (ACP). A development-oriented approach is urgently required in both areas.

So far, European policies have not given the perspectives of African countries sufficient consideration. Together with the positions on the individual thematic foci that VENRO has worked out in cooperation with African partners, we wish to integrate the perspectives of African civil societies into German EU Presidency policies. Partnership between European and African civil societies is the trump card that we hold and intend to play as competent counterparts and important political actors in European development cooperation. Based on our common reflections, we call upon the German Federal Government to act at the European level in support of the following issues:

- **Trade justice:** Giving precedence to development in regional trade agreements,
- **Human security:** Focusing on preventing violent conflicts and on peace-building,
- **Change in energy policies:** Promoting renewable energy and making renewables work for development,
- **Climate change:** Supporting Africa in adapting to climate change,
- **HIV/AIDS:** Ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment and care,
- **Gender:** Implementing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a cross-sector task,
- **Role of civil society:** Strengthening civil society as a political force in its own right.

Up-to-date information at: [www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de).

Bonn, December 2006



## For fair trade between the EU and the ACP countries

**T**rade is not a development instrument per se. On the contrary, it can be a threat to development. The preferential trade relations between the European Union and the ACP countries date back to 1975, when the first Lomé Agreement was signed. The Cotonou Agreement of 2000 created the legal foundations for the negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), which commenced in 2002 and are to be concluded by the end of 2007. At this point, the waiver of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) expires, and the trade relations between the EU and the ACP will then have to conform to the WTO rules on regional trade agreements. The EU intends to negotiate not only on a further liberalisation of trade in goods but also on services, intellectual property, investment, competition and government procurement.

The negotiations will enter their crucial stage during Germany's EU Presidency. The German Government is campaigning for a "successful conclusion of the EPA negotiations" in 2007. But what does this ultimately mean? We as civil society are concerned that Africa will suffer more unemployment, further food insecurity and greater social imbalance. We therefore criticise the EU's current negotiation position, which is in sharp contrast to the intended effect of the EPAs to benefit development. Moreover, insisting on concluding the negotiations according to schedule is putting extreme pressure on the ACP countries. We reject pushing for a far-reaching free trade agenda in a short period. Instead, we call for trade agreements enabling the ACP countries to pursue their own national development strategies.

## Giving precedence to development in regional trade agreements

We campaign for the EPAs supporting poverty eradication and development rather than undermining it. Trade liberalisation can have a negative impact on the process of industrial and rural development. This is why it is essential that those who are potentially going to be adversely negatively affected by free trade are protected. This applies especially to women, small farmers, workers and small and mediumsized enterprises. The expiry of the WTO waiver is not an automatic deadline for market access preferences and the timeframe for negotiations. The implementation process of the EPAs should be guided by the development needs of the ACP countries.

In order to create the scope of political action required, the EU should actively engage in revising the WTO rules: reciprocal market access obligations have to be enabled. The EPA negotiations should be limited to trade issues in the narrower sense and omit the trade-related areas such as the Singapore issues so that the WTO requirements can be met and maximum policy space is simultaneously maintained. In order to achieve the MDGs, the EU ought to refrain from exerting time pressure and no longer insist on concluding the negotiations by the end of 2007. Turning the EPAs into an instrument that benefits development requires more transparency and greater involvement of civil society, above all at the national level.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- EU export subsidies (2005) to support EU dairy products on the world markets: 1.43 billion euros
- Cost of liberalising trade for Sub-Saharan Africa (1985 to 2005): 212 billion US dollars
- Estimated EPA adjustment costs for all ACP countries (2008 to 2018): 9.2 billion euros
- Estimated revenue losses for the Congo Republic resulting from an EPA: 11.7 percent
- Number of unemployed resulting from the liberalisation of consumer goods imports in Ghana (1985 to 1993): 50 000
- Share of Ghanaian imports from neighbouring countries that have been squeezed out of the market by EU imports as a result of EPA: 17 percent
- Increase in imports of processed food from the EU in Cameroon after full market opening: 80 percent
- Possible increase in value of German exports as a result of an EPA between the EU and ECOWAS (West African EPA negotiating group): 291 million euros

## We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

### 1. Integrating safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements

In order to respond to the development needs of developing countries, especially the ACP countries, to protect small farmers, local markets and infant industries as well as to create jobs and promote rural development, the EPAs and other trade agreements ought to provide integrated safeguard mechanisms. The governments of these countries should be provided with the necessary policy space to pursue their own development strategies.

### 2. Granting the developing countries preferential treatment

The EU should table a proposal at the WTO for reviewing the provisions on free trade agreements (Art. XXIV of GATT 1994) so as to allow non-reciprocal and asymmetrical relations within agreements with developing countries.

### 3. Omitting the Singapore issues

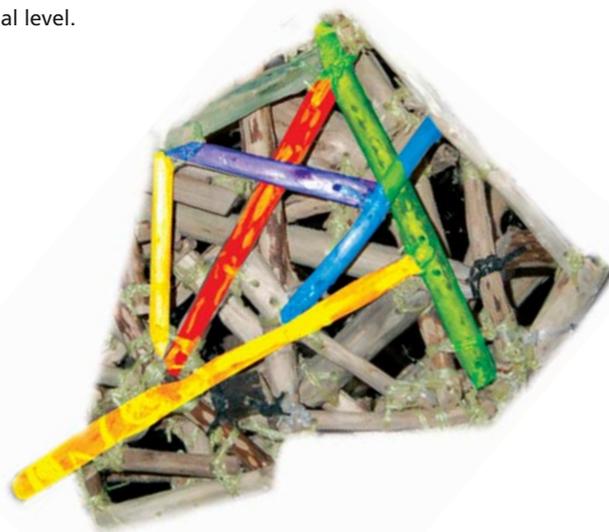
The EU should refrain from the inclusion of agreements in the areas of investment, competition policy, government procurement, liberalisation of trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property as these would undermine local markets and increase monopolistic market power of multinational corporations.

### 4. Extending the timeframe for the EPA negotiations

- ▶ so that comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and groups that may be adversely affected can take place,
- ▶ so that a serious analysis of the results of the review process and its incorporation in the negotiating process is guaranteed.

### 5. Responding positively to the needs of the ACP countries:

- ▶ by giving them enough time (at least 20 years) to deepen their regional integration and adjust their national concepts for political action and legislation to the EPA requirements,
- ▶ by providing additional resources to mitigate the costs of adjustment ("Adjustment Facility"),
- ▶ by eliminating all EU export subsidies on agricultural products as an integral part of EPAs,
- ▶ by monitoring EPA implementation with a view to achieving the objectives defined at national level.





## Strengthening human security instead of promoting a defensive security strategy

**S**ince the beginning of the new millennium, EU development, foreign and security policy has committed itself to conflict prevention, civilian crisis management, democracy, human rights protection, partnership based on equality and ownership as well as civil society participation. We appreciate the EU's commitment to peace and security based on the reference frame of human security. However, policy coherence and policy implementation is still lacking. Political practice, such as in migration policy, shows that the EU is pursuing an Euro-centric, defensive security strategy instead of addressing the problems in a preventive, coherent and inclusive manner.

We appreciate that the EU has recognised the existence of failed and failing states as a risk to the security of people living in those states as well as to Europe. However, we do not see that the EU is consistently addressing the factors in EU policies and in the practice of companies and business in Europe that contribute to the failure of governments in Africa. EU documents ignore that policies and practices within the EU and its Member States are causes of violent conflicts in Africa or are indirectly linked to them. For example, EU trade policies often counteract the objectives of sustainable development in Africa and poverty alleviation. The patterns of energy and resource consumption in Europe, as well as endeavours to gain and secure access to resources, are generating conflicts. The Member States of the European Union are among the biggest producers of small arms and light weapons.

## Giving precedence to conflict prevention and peace-building

We are convinced that development and human rights are ends and goals in themselves and should not be regarded merely as means to achieve other goals or as policy instruments for EU external relations.

A comprehensive approach oriented towards human security has to address the following dimensions:

- an environment that is able to sustain human life,
- meeting people's physical survival needs,
- respecting human dignity and guaranteeing human rights and
- protecting people from avoidable harm.

Causes of insecurity for individuals and society have to be addressed in a sustainable manner. Among these are hunger, poverty, illness and disease, physical threat, insufficient political participation and inequality. The EU Africa Strategy adopted in 2006 requires mutual support in the international fora which deal with African issues and problems, such as the UN Security Council and the World Trade Organisation.

We recognise that the EU has adopted political measures aiming at conflict prevention (African Peace Facility, early warning mechanisms, disarmament/demobilisation/reintegration). However, the current practice of resource allocation in conflict prevention and peace-building emphasises "reactive measures". In our opinion, prevention reaches beyond technical support of the African security architecture. Resorting to force is, first and foremost, the result of a lack or failure of prevention. While establishing mechanisms and structures that are able to respond to emerging crisis situations is an important con-

tribution, preventing violent conflict requires a more comprehensive approach.

Prevention calls for a special sensitivity to the conditions and needs of the people, for which active cooperation with civil society is essential. Civil Society Organisations have played an important role in addressing violent conflicts in their societies for several years.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Worldwide military expenditure in 2005: 1 118 billion US dollars
- Worldwide development aid expenditure in 2005: 107 billion US dollars
- Budget of the Federal Republic of Germany's Defence Ministry: 27.9 billion euros
- Budget of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development: 4.2 billion euros
- Deployment of the German Federal Army in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for four months: 50 million euros
- Bilateral development cooperation in the Congo in total in 2005: 32 million euros
- Worldwide number of small arms: 639 million
- Each year small arms kill an average 500 000 people – one person a minute.

## We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

### 1. Focusing on prevention and peace-building

The EU has to prioritise the prevention of violent conflict in its policies, action and instruments and implement it in practice. This must also include recognising how European policies and action contribute to the escalation of conflict in Africa. In addition, we demand that the EU develops non-military, political mechanisms to prevent the escalation of crises.

### 2. Supporting an effective control of trade in small arms and light weapons

The EU has to pressure arms producers in the EU Member States to comply with the code of conduct passed by the EU. We also call on the EU to start implementing the global "Arms Trade Treaty".

### 3. Making use of the extraction of natural resources for development

Concrete steps are required on the part of the EU to pass more binding regulations, for example by applying the "OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises" to companies based in EU Member States. This has to coincide with the Kimberley Process to combat illegal trade in diamonds and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). In addition to EITI, we recommend that companies based in the EU are obliged to publish what they pay to governments in developing countries.

### 4. Involving African civil society in peace-building

The participation of civil society actors in peace agreements and their implementation has to be ensured. Furthermore, the EU should refrain from policies and practices that would compromise the integrity and independence of civil society. The EU has to develop civilian mechanisms to protect civil society from persecution by conflict parties, as governments are unable to do this or may even be conflict parties themselves in several intra-state conflicts in Africa.

### 5. Ensuring the integrity of development cooperation

The EU should no longer fund the African Peace Facility (APF) out of the European Development Fund (EDF). The EU must mobilise additional resources for this purpose. The EU needs dedicated financing instruments to support its poverty eradication activities. Other policy areas must be provided with sufficient budgets to be able to implement prevention strategies.



## Promoting a global change in energy policies – making development compatible with the climate

**S**ustainable energy use is a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs. Access to clean and affordable energy services is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication and can provide major benefits in the areas of health, literacy, job creation, income generation, economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups and equity.

However, the current energy scenarios for the 21st century give rise to concern. Today's energy system, with its spiralling prices for fossil fuels, is unable to provide modern energy services that the 1.6 billion people need but are currently lacking. Continuing on with present energy policy would result in environmental disaster that would hit the poor hardest and widen the gap between rich and poor and within and between countries. Rising oil and natural gas prices would lead to a more insecure world with countries competing for scarce fossil energy reserves. Already, the rise in oil prices over the last few years has cost many developing countries, especially in Africa, more than what they get from Official Development Aid or debt relief.

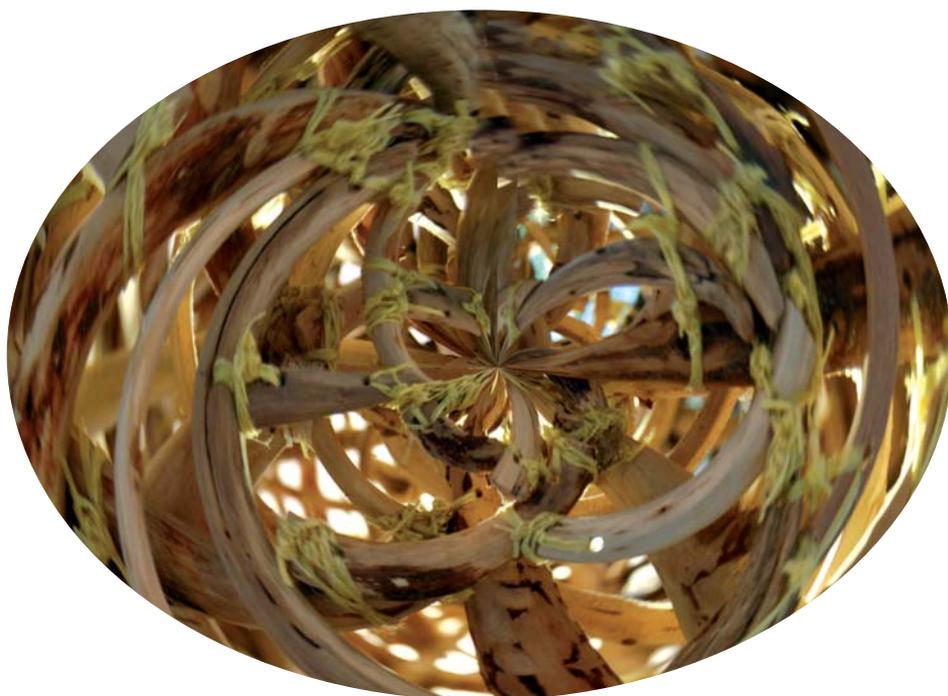
The developing countries need better access to energy services, while the world as a whole has to rely less on polluting energy sources, save more energy and improve energy efficiency. Africa and Europe share a mutual interest in meeting this challenge.

### Making renewables work for development

We are convinced that energy supply is not a purely technical issue but key to economic development and poverty alleviation, as well as environmentally sustainable development. Governance of the energy sector is of paramount importance in this context. The challenges in the energy sector require coordinated national policy frameworks for power sector reform. The aim must be to create enabling conditions for decentralised, democratic and participatory solutions. A central condition for this is economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups at local level so that they gain better access to modern energy supplies. A replication of the centralised energy structures and markets of the EU is not a promising strategy for Africa.

Especially in countries importing fossil fuels, decentralised renewable energies must be a priority concern in any policy expanding access to energy. Renewable energies are often considered too expensive and frequently require subsidies. However, they are only expensive in the start-up phase but cheaper in operation, and they use locally available resources. The high subsidies for conventional energy sources need to be redirected to renewable energies. Innovative financing instruments are necessary for approaches to decentralised energy supply from renewable energy sources to which civil society organisations, the local population, the private sector and governments must have access.

The billions of EU taxpayers' money in international finance institutions such as the European Investment Bank and the World Bank are being inefficiently used in the energy sector. There are doubts whether they are at all suitable for decentralised energy solutions. The majority of their funds are still used for fossil fuel extraction that primarily benefits the North.





We appreciate EU approaches to a sustainable energy policy such as the increased use of renewable energies in Germany. The EU Energy Initiative (EUEI) also appears to be a positive example of funding, although it does have to become more transparent. At the same time, we call upon the EU Member States

to become a credible political leader in renewable energy.

Africa needs know-how and technical assistance for the distribution of renewables in rural areas. This means not only tax-free imports but also the creation of local manufacturing capacities. Particularly in rural areas, the development of

modern energy services does not only mean electricity, grid or off-grid, but also non-electric energy options such as improved cooking stoves, pico/micro hydro for traction power, solar heaters and driers, wind pumps and solar purifiers.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- Expenditure of the World Bank Group on investment in the energy sector (2006): 4.4 billion US dollars
- Share of funds for new renewables: 190 million US dollars
- Expected increase in energy demand worldwide: from 10 000 megatonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) 2000 to 16 300 Mtoe by 2030
- Expected increase in energy demand in Africa: from 500 Mtoe (2000) to 1 000 Mtoe (2030)
- Africa's annual share of worldwide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 3.6 percent
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 526 million people live without access to power supply (2002) – with the trend growing. In some countries, just five percent of the population have access, and in some rural areas only two percent.

### We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

#### 1. Shifting funding in favour of utilising renewable energies

EU funds and subsidies have to be shifted away from supporting fossil (and nuclear) energy sources to the rapid expansion of renewable energies as well as to the improvement of energy efficiency. Public funding for decentralised renewable energy options must be redirected to institutions and organisations that can deliver the best results, both on the donor and the recipient side. New funding lines are required that must be more accessible for civil society organisations, the local population and the private sector.

#### 2. Exerting influence on the international finance organisations

The international finance institutions have to address the declared goals of EU development policy. We call upon the Federal Government to get such a process underway during its presidency. The EU Member States hold a share of 28 percent of the World Bank, and they must see to it that the billions spent on fossil fuels are redirected to decentralised renewable energies.

#### 3. Promoting a reform of the energy sector and national energy policy frameworks

The topic of energy has to reach beyond isolated projects in EU development policy and that of its Member States and concentrate on the reform of the energy sector and the national energy policy concepts. This also includes improving the economic empowerment and political influence of disadvantaged groups so that they gain access to modern, decentralised energy supply. Renewable energy sources have to be given priority in energy policy frameworks.

#### 4. Creating the conditions for modern, sustainable energy technology

The EU should play a key role in supporting the establishment of local policy expertise and local manufacturing capacity in the area of technologies for the utilisation of renewable energies in order to overcome barriers against the dissemination of renewable energies.



## Preventing dangerous climate change

**A**frica is particularly vulnerable to climate change, which is projected to accentuate already existing water shortage in Northern and Southern Africa owing to lower rainfall. In certain regions, food security is already threatened today because of declining precipitation and soil moisture. The extension of disease-vector habitats due to temperature rise is having a negative impact on human health. Some effects of climate change will increase gender discrepancies to the detriment of women. Climate change undermines progress on the way to achieving the MDGs. However, the latter are urgently required to improve the adaptive capacity of the poor in coping with the adverse impacts of climate change. The EU has acknowledged that climate change is probably going to have particularly dire consequences for poor people owing to more serious climate-related disasters as well as to the immediate harm to their livelihoods.

Adapting to climate change is a huge challenge for the developing countries, especially in financial terms. The World Bank estimates that about 20 percent of Official Development Aid financing is sensitive to climate change. Adapting development measures to climate change requires an additional ten to 40 billion US dollars annually. This figure is likely to increase as greenhouse gas emissions rise. However, financing already provided for adaptation by the developed countries is less than one percent of the required adaptation financing.

## Supporting adjustment measures: a question of justice

We welcome that the EU has started to address the development challenge of climate change. The EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation adopted in 2004 is a valuable framework for action. Also, the Council's twelve Policy Coherence for Development Commitments promote measures to combat climate change. In order to avoid dangerous climate change that would overstretch the adaptive capacity of several million people in Africa, it is essential to lower global warming by the end of the century to below two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. That the European Council has agreed on this goal is of utmost importance. It requires the EU to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent compared to 1990, but also to ensure consistency with other policy fields such as energy security. A more consistent support of climate-friendly development in Africa, on the basis of renewable energies, is indispensable.

Since climate change is caused by the major greenhouse-gas-emitting countries, additional funds have to be provided to cope with its adverse effects. This is a question of justice, not of voluntary charity. The huge gap between financial requirements for adaptation and funding provided by the developed countries is growing.

Adaptation to climate change takes place at local, regional and national level and will provide the biggest benefits locally where the impacts of climate change are being felt first and most severely. For example, projects in Benin address climate-related scarcity of wood resources by disseminating more efficient cooking stoves. This is a way to solve the problem that simultaneously delivers health and environmental benefits. Strengthening the



# CLIMATE CHANGE

capacities of the African population is crucial to coping with climate change. Funding to support the respective measures should follow a practical approach.

The EU also plays an important role in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. Its attitude towards raising adaptation financing and its instruments, as well as the proposals made by the EU regarding lower emissions, will have a crucial impact on discussions focusing on a future international agreement on climate change.

## We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

### 1. Ensuring coherence of all EU measures

The EU is to ensure that all European discussions and measures relating to the topic of climate change be consistent with the overarching objective of the European Council to limit global warming to below two degrees Celsius and prevent dangerous climate change. This requires the EU and other industrialised countries to reduce their emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050.

### 2. Increasing funds available for adaptation to climate change

In accordance with the polluter-pays-principle, the EU should seek for implementation of innovative suggestions to scale up adaptation financing for African countries. These include, for example, the use of auction proceeds in the context of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the extension of the levy basis for the UN Adaptation Fund to all flexible mechanisms in the Kyoto Protocol and the implementation of an aviation tax that should ultimately be transferred to aviation fuel itself.

### 3. Enhancing the support of community-led adaptation processes

The EU and the African governments have to enhance the community-led adaptation programmes. This requires financing for the scaling up of good-practice examples of community-led adaptation programmes, more intensive information for vulnerable local communities and assisting civil society organisations in formulating National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). As important actors, women should adequately participate in these measures.

### 4. Ensuring a comprehensive review and follow-up of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the context of Development Cooperation

- ▶ The civil societies in Africa and the EU should be actively included and be provided with appropriate funding for this process.
- ▶ The review of the EU Action Plan should be transparent and comprehensive.
- ▶ The process should reflect the latest scientific results indicating an increasing sense of urgency to take action on climate change.
- ▶ Concrete funding assessments should be made, and financial means should be provided to implement the measures needed.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

- Number of people in Africa who will be affected by water scarcity in 2025: 480 million out of 1.355 billion people
- Effectiveness of disaster prevention: One dollar saves up to seven dollars on emergency relief measures.
- Possible number of additional mortalities due to disease owing to climate change in Africa by 2100, if temperatures continue to rise unchecked: 180 million
- Number of people at risk through flooding of coastal areas in Africa: from one million in 1990 to 70 million in 2080



## HIV/AIDS – improving access to prevention, treatment and care

**P**eople in Africa have only inadequate access to HIV-prevention services, and just 20 percent of the people living with HIV and AIDS have access to life-saving anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). Despite the existing efforts of the EU to fight HIV and AIDS, EU policy does not provide for any long-term measures to actively promote “Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support”. Moreover, there is a current funding gap of at least eight billion US dollars to combat AIDS and HIV worldwide in 2007, a gap that will increase over the following years.

Access to ARVs is restricted by the WTO patent right rules, especially for countries without any drug manufacturing of their own, and it has worsened since the expiry of the transitional phase for developing countries on the 1st January 2005. In accordance with the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS), 20-year patent protection is granted for drugs and diagnostics. Now, countries like India and Brazil, which are – as yet – still providing Africa with their affordable ARV products, have to comply with these regulations. Only in exceptional cases can countries grant compulsory licences for the production of ARVs – a bureaucratic process that is not uncomplicated politically. In Africa, there are already more than twelve million orphaned children. More and more of them lack access to basic rights to education, food, shelter and health care. They are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. In spite of this, several UN Member States have failed to apply the core document developed by the United Nations and civil society “The Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS”. The EU lacks funding and a monitoring mechanism for implementation.

Access to basic health care is severely threatened by a major staff crisis in the health service sector. According to the World Health Organization, there is a shortage of four million health workers worldwide.

### For a long-term, holistic approach

We are convinced that a long-term approach with sufficient and predictable funding and consistent policies is required to stem the pandemic. The internationally agreed approach of “Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support”, which has already been adopted by the United Nations, the G8 and civil society, is essential to achieving the MDGs. Without appropriate and balanced attention to each component of this holistic approach, efforts to reverse the HIV and AIDS pandemic will fail.

As women are the major group at risk in Africa and bear the greatest burden in caring, their role should be central to the EU strategy. All efforts to address the pandemic by the EU should be regularly monitored and evaluated, and results should be made transparent to the public. Reversing HIV/AIDS requires that the EU adopt a coherent approach that will ensure harmony between its HIV/AIDS programmes and other EU policy areas such as trade policies.

Compulsory licences are an important tool to guarantee access to life-saving ARV drugs. Since all newly developed drugs will be patented, the relevance of this issue is going to increase. The WTO’s decision of the 30th August 2003, which was supposed to help countries without manufacturing capacities to gain access to ARV drugs, has never worked since it is too bureaucratic and difficult to implement. Integrating the decision into the TRIPS agreement and EU legislation would be disastrous for the provision of ARVs to Africa. The EU should immediately address the problem of orphaned and vulnerable children so that the long-term crisis that is threatening to





destroy the integrity of communities in the countries of Africa is not exacerbated. The EU should keep its promise included in its Programme for Action to confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through External Action and immediately implement the overall concept.

Investing in capacity building for health workers in both Europe and Africa is funda-

mental to achieving the goal of "Universal Access". The EU can assist by providing resources that improve the working conditions of health workers in Africa. While the Council in April 2006 adopted an appropriate "EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries", defined targets and timeframes for its implementation are lacking.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Share of people between 15 and 24 infected with HIV: 40 percent
- Women's share of HIV positive people in Sub-Saharan Africa: 59 percent
- Access to vital anti-retroviral treatment: 23 percent of around 4.6 million Africans in Sub-Saharan Africa
- AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa: more than twelve million (expected to increase to more than 18 million by 2010)
- Out of the 39.5 million HIV positive people worldwide, 24.7 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two thirds of new infections in 2005 occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, affecting 2.8 million people. Today, 44 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population are younger than 15 – preventing HIV is key to averting continued high infection rates.

## We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

### 1. Promoting the "Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support" approach and adopting it as EU policy

In the long term, sufficient funding has to be provided and a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation reporting system has to be established. The EU should fairly contribute to filling the funding gap of eight million US dollars for 2007. The role of women in Africa should be central to the EU strategy. This also includes the support of female-based prevention methods. Independent of this, specific campaigns should be implemented for men to assume a responsible role in the fight against the pandemic.

### 2. Preventing the EU from ratifying the modification of the TRIPS agreement

The EU should put forward a new, non-bureaucratic solution guaranteeing rapid access for African countries to ARVs. The EU should also support the local production of generic ARVs and discourage its Member States and other nations from forcing African countries to enter detrimental TRIPS+ agreements.

### 3. Responding to the detrimental effects of HIV and AIDS on African communities, especially on young women and children

The EU has to establish programmes for comprehensive support and care for all children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, including dedicated budgets and clear targets.

### 4. The EU should make substantial and long-term contributions towards public health institutions

It is crucial to create an infrastructure and promote upgrading and improvements in working conditions for health workers in Africa.

## Realising gender equality

**T**he Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 called for gender equality and adopted gender mainstreaming and non-discrimination of women as instruments to empower women. Since 1996, both instruments have also been binding for all EU policies and measures. While the Cotonou Agreement and further EU resolutions call for gender orientation as a value and a goal, there is a lack of coherence between the gender dimension and development policy fields. We appreciate the EU's commitment to adopting gender equality in the European Consensus and in its policies and practices relating to development. At the same time, we stress that the challenge lies in political implementation. We support the recognition and renewed reiteration of the two-track approach to promoting gender equality, with a focus both on gender mainstreaming and specific measures for women. However, this commitment is backed neither by appropriate financial and human resources nor by clear guidelines on the integration of the gender approach in all policy areas. Moreover, gender-sensitive programmes are missing in the EU country strategies.



### Gender equality – a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs

We are convinced that women and girls play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and development. Changes are often brought about by women. They form the majority of the world population, but also the lion's share of people living in absolute poverty. This is why European policy has to counter the marginalisation of women in development.

In preparing the Commission's planned Communication on gender and development, the EU has to consult women's groups and women's organisations in Europe and Africa.

In order to improve the situation of women in Africa, the EU and the African states have to promote supporting women in Africa by granting them equal access to all political institutions and processes. As part of civil society, women's organisations in Africa have to be provided with sufficient funds and be supported in creating human and organisational capacities. Gender mainstreaming and the political, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women are instruments that are indispensable for realising gender equality and sustainable development. We call for more gender equality and an effective equality agenda for Africa. We demand that the EU promote gender related and oriented activities and guarantee the participation of women and women's organisations in the negotiations on development cooperation.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Share of women and children living below the poverty line: 70 percent
- Worldwide contribution of women to working hours performed: 66 percent
- Women's share of worldwide wages: ten percent
- Women's share of worldwide assets: one percent
- Women's share of illiterates: 66 percent
- Parliament seats held by women: 16 percent
- Women lacking access to contraceptives: 200 million
- Women's share of people infected with HIV: 59 percent

## We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

### 1. Protecting and realising women's rights in all EU policy areas

The commitments in the "Agreement on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" are to be implemented in all policy fields by the EU in cooperation with the African states. The application of the Protocol on African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) is to be supported.

### 2. Reviewing trade agreements regarding their impact on gender issues

Before concluding the EPA and other trade agreements, the EU has to assess at local, regional and national level what the impact of the agreements is going to be on the situation of women in urban and rural areas. EU funds should be put at the disposal of women in order to improve their production and trading capacities. Given the negative impact of EU development and agricultural policies on women producers and traders, who account for the majority of the rural population, we demand coherence between the two policy fields.

### 3. Guaranteeing women's access to renewable energy

The EU is called upon to put funds at the disposal of women to use renewable energy in order to relieve their daily burden, save time and protect their health. Women must have unrestricted access to energy and water supply and to new technologies. Since women are also important actors with a view to climate change, they should participate on equal footing in capacity building measures for adaptation.

### 4. Supporting women in fighting HIV/AIDS

The EU is called upon to cooperate with African countries to materialise the reproductive and sexual rights as agreed upon at the UN Conference in Cairo in 1994, offer basic health services and contribute to affordable medication. We appeal to the EU to support African countries in campaigns to assign men a responsible role in preventing HIV/AIDS and gender-related violence. Preventive strategies for women and special programmes for food security are required as well.

### 5. The role of women in ensuring human security

The EU must guarantee the active participation of women in all bodies of conflict prevention, conflict solutions and emergency and disaster relief in the planning, implementation and evaluation of respective missions (UN Resolution 1325). The mandate of missions must also cover the protection of women as victims of violence. We strongly demand the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 in national action plans.

### 6. Ensuring women's participation in social policy

The EU must work together with African countries to grant women equal access to all decision-making bodies and processes and ensure their active involvement. As part of civil society, women's groups and organisations should be supported with appropriate funding and know-how.



## Strengthening the role of civil society

In recent years, the European Commission's and the Council's perceptions on the role of civil society organisations have changed fundamentally. We are convinced that labelling civil society organisations "Non-state Actors" (NSA) is more than just a shift of language. Key documents indicate a paradigm shift. They include the Communication from the Commission on Participation of Non-state Actors in EC Development Policy (2003), the European Consensus on Development (2005) and the Thematic Programme "Non-state Actors and Local Authorities in Development" (2006).

The term NSA encompasses a wide range of most different actors who do not necessarily share our values, such as non-profit orientation, benevolent objectives, people-centred ethics, voluntarism and commitment to sustainability. The use of this term bears the risk of civil society organisations erroneously being confused with insurgent groups for which the acronym "NSA" is frequently used as well. In addition, civil society organisations are seen as implementers of preconceived European policies and are thus deprived of their full right of initiative. Not being opposed to decentralisation as such, we are concerned about its implementation, which varies considerably from country to country. We note that the mechanism of decentralisation appears to be weakening the relationship between African and European civil society organisations.

### Civil society organisations – agents of change

We resist all attempts to commercialise private efforts towards sustainable development. The present EU trend cannot be reconciled with the self-understanding of civil society organisations.

#### WHO WE ARE

We are an essential part of contemporary societies with clear operational identities. Civil society organisations comprise humanitarian agencies, and organisations engaged in service delivery, advocacy and conceptualisation and implementation of development interventions, including faith-based as well as secular organisations. There are various other actors, but legitimate civil society organisations are distinguished by being value-based, benevolent and non-profit.

#### OUR ROLE

We are not gap-fillers for government politics and market failure, but development actors in our own right making significant contributions in areas such as governance, peace and conflict resolution, social service development, human rights, gender equality, poverty alleviation and transfer of knowledge.

We have alternative windows of opportunity to reach people in need, especially those at the margins of society.

We promote and support the participation of local communities, ranging from the participation of women and minorities in local decision-making processes to the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), involvement in the context of the "Peer Review Mechanism" of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and having a say in developing EU policies. In the interest of the people, we monitor and assess the attempts of governments and businesses regarding more justice and rule of the law in society (watchdog role).

In fragile states where public institutions have collapsed, civil society actors are impor-

tant if not the sole providers of basic services to the population. In post-conflict situations, when state institutions are still weak, we facilitate the necessary transition process from relief to rehabilitation and development.

#### OUR WAY OF WORKING

Civil society organisations create networks for purposes of information sharing and aligning themselves in order to increase their effectiveness locally and internationally. They establish partnerships between North and South for dia-

logue and advocacy. Commitment to shared values, internal good governance systems, self-regulatory mechanisms and resource sharing are the basis of quality service delivery. Transparency and accountability are considered essential operational aspects.

We are prepared to review these constitutive principles periodically to make sure that partners do not lose their strategic focus. In addition, civil society organisations are committed to their vision and mission.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Private donations to non-profit organisations in Germany from October 2004 to October 2005: 3.5 billion euros
- Private donors: 32.6 million people
- Share of civil society organisations of the EU's overseas aid budget in 2004: nine percent (681 million out of 7.7 billion euros)
- Average co-financing share of the European Commission: 13 percent

### We call upon the German Federal Government to engage the European institutions in favour of the following:

#### 1. Recognising and safeguarding the important role of civil society

- ▶ The EU should recognise the unique role of civil society and its organisations as non-profit and independent development actors so that they can fulfil their tasks.
- ▶ We insist on being named "civil society organisations" and not "Non-state Actors".

#### 2. Adhering to the principle of participation of civil society

- ▶ in policy formulation and implementing processes,
- ▶ in setting the agenda,
- ▶ in making provisions for funding of civil society organisations, especially in countries where relations between governments and civil society organisations are tense.

#### 3. Recognising the right of initiative of civil society organisations

The EU has to acknowledge that civil society organisations are not mere implementers but have a right to evolve and implement their own agenda.

#### 4. Revising the eligibility criteria for applicants

EU regulations and eligibility criteria have to be revised, particularly regarding access to EU funding for capacity building and strengthening civil society at large.

## Participants of the Manifesto Workshop

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## VENRO membership (status: December 2006)

action medeor – Deutsches Medikamenten-Hilfswerk • ADRA – Adventistische Entwicklungs- und Katastrophenhilfe • Ärzte der Welt • Ärzte für die Dritte Welt • Ärzte ohne Grenzen \* • AeJ – Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend • AGEH – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe • agl – Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Eine-Welt Landesnetzwerke • Akademie Klausenhof • Aktion Canchanabury • Andheri-Hilfe Bonn • Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland • AWO International • AT-Verband \* • BDKJ – Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend • Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit\* • BEI – Bündnis Entwicklungspolitischer Initiativen • Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung • Brot für die Welt • CARE International Deutschland • Casa Alianza Kinderhilfe Guatemala • CCF Kinderhilfswerk • Christliche Initiative Romero • Christoffel-Blindenmission • DEAB – Dachverband entwicklungspolitischer Aktionsgruppen in Baden-Württemberg • DESWOS – Deutsche Entwicklungshilfe für soziales Wohnungs- und Siedlungswesen • Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax • Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulosehilfe • Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung • Deutsche Welthungerhilfe • Deutscher Caritasverband – Caritas International • Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband AK „Parität International“ • Deutsches Blindenhilfswerk • Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge • Deutsches Rotes Kreuz – Generalsekretariat \* • DGB-Bildungswerk – Nord-Süd-Netz • Die Lichtbrücke • Dritte Welt Journalistinnen Netz • EED – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst • Eine Welt Netz NRW • Eine Welt Netzwerk Hamburg • EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst • Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland • FIAN Deutschland • Gemeinschaft Sant Egidio • Germanwatch Nord-Süd-Initiative • GSE – Gesellschaft für solidarische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit • Handicap International • Hildesheimer Blindenmission e.V. • Hilfswerk der deutschen Lions • ILD – Internationaler Landvolkdienst der KLB • Indienhilfe Herrsching • INKOTA – Ökumenisches Netzwerk • Internationaler Hilfsfonds • Internationaler Verband Westfälischer Kinderdörfer • Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe – Johanniter International • Jugend Dritte Welt • Kairos Europa – Unterwegs zu einem Europa für Gerechtigkeit • Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie • KATE – Kontaktstelle für Umwelt und Entwicklung – Berlin • Kindernothilfe • Lateinamerika-Zentrum • Malteser International • Marie-Schlei-Verein • marrera – Stiftung Frau und Gesundheit • Medica mondiale • medico international • Misereor Bischöfliches Hilfswerk • Missionszentrale der Franziskaner • Nationaler Geistiger Rat der Bahá'í in Deutschland • NETZ – Partnerschaft für Entwicklung und Gerechtigkeit • ÖEIW – Ökumenische Initiative Eine Welt • OIKOS Eine Welt • ORT Deutschland • Oxfam Deutschland • Peter-Hesse-Stiftung – Solidarität in Partnerschaft für eine Welt in Vielfalt • Plan international Deutschland • Rhein-Donau-Stiftung • Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst \* • Senegalhilfe-Verein • SES – Senior Experten Service • SID – Society for International Development • SODI – Solidaritätsdienst International • Sozial- und Entwicklungshilfe des Kolpingwerkes Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden • Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken • Susila Dharma – Soziale Dienste • Terra Tech – Förderprojekte Dritte Welt • terre des hommes Bundesrepublik Deutschland • Tierärzte ohne Grenzen • TransFair – Verein zur Förderung des Fairen Handels mit der „Dritten Welt“ • VEN – Verband Entwicklungspolitik Niedersachsen • VENROB – Verbund entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungsorganisationen Brandenburgs • Weltfriedensdienst • Welthaus Bielefeld • Weltladen-Dachverband. • Weltnotwerk der KAB Westdeutschlands • Werkhof Darmstadt • Werkstatt Ökonomie • World Vision Deutschland • W. P. Schmitz Stiftung • WUS – World University Service – Deutsches Komitee • Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklungshilfe bei der GLS Treuhand e.V.

\*) Guest member



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We meet here as German and African NGOs to share our experiences,  
to strengthen our ties of solidarity;  
to bring our stories of engagement into dialogue  
and we come with our histories of oppression,  
the struggle for liberation,  
for justice, peace and sustainable development to interact with each other;  
we bring our aspirations for a better future for humanity and we come together  
with the hope that we shall continue to journey together in solidarity as we seek  
to work with and walk with the vulnerable, marginalized and poor people  
towards a desired destiny – a better tomorrow – a human society.

Let us continue to journey together in faith and hope.

Agnes Abuom

**VENRO**, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations (NGOs), is the umbrella organisation of independent and church-related NGOs working in the fields of development cooperation, emergency relief, development education, and advocacy. Currently, VENRO has more than 100 member organisations. In addition to the member organisations, about 2 000 local initiatives and small NGOs are represented in VENRO through regional NGO networks.

The association aims at strengthening the work of NGOs towards poverty eradication, the realisation of human rights and the conservation of natural resources. VENRO

- represents the common interests and positions of the member organisations vis-à-vis the public, the government, the European Commission and other international organisations,
- strengthens the role of NGOs and civil society in development cooperation,
- engages in advocacy for the interests of developing countries and poor sections of society,
- raises public awareness of development cooperation issues.

**VENRO – Verband Entwicklungspolitik deutscher  
Nichtregierungsorganisationen e.V., [www.venro.org](http://www.venro.org)**

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