

AFRICA AT A CROSSROADS

2024 REPORT

THE HOTELS, BRUSSELS
29TH MARCH 2024

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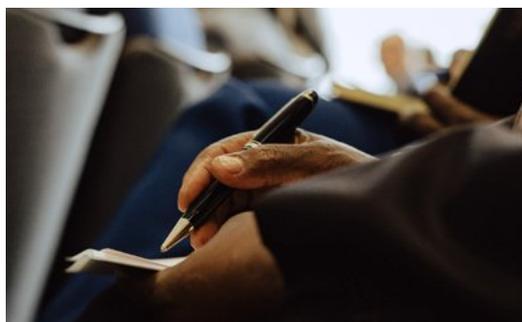
#APO2024

OUTLINE

I. FOREWORD

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FOREWORD

The Africa Political Outlook Summit convenes for its second edition, building upon the resounding success of its inaugural edition in Brussels in 2023. With the theme “Africa at a Crossroads,” our aim remains steadfast: to address the intricate governance challenges facing Africa, bolstering political, diplomatic, and economic governance across the continent.

Emerging alliances in the might of BRICS+, the escalating conflicts in regions such as the DRC, coupled with political instability in established democratic strongholds like Senegal, and the impasse in international financial institution reforms, amidst ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, collectively underscore the fragile nature of the global geopolitical landscape. **In response, APO 2024 focuses on critical themes: the resurgence of coups d'états, shifting dynamics in EU-Africa relations, BRICS, the AfCFTA, the African diaspora, digitalization, and the cultural and creative industries.** These areas are augmented by overarching themes of youth, gender, and innovation.

Aligned with our strategic vision, this inaugural edition of the APO Report aims to delve into these thematic areas through the lens of four key dimensions: political elections, climate change, energy, and multilateralism. **Through insightful analyses and commentaries, we aim not only to dissect the current landscape but also to illuminate the manifold possibilities and opportunities awaiting the African continent. Despite the challenges, we believe that Africa remains a continent brimming with potential, endowed with abundant resources and the capacity to chart its course towards progress and prosperity.**

As such, with this and every forthcoming edition of the African Political Outlook Report, we aim to encapsulate the foremost priorities shaping the region's trajectory in the upcoming year. **Our goal is to shed light on potential avenues while providing recommendations to fortify political, democratic, and economic resilience and advancement. It is our aspiration that the Africa Political Outlook catalyzes dialogue and solution-building on the critical challenges confronting the continent.** Through our report, we aspire not only to reflect this vision but also to ignite discussions that catalyze more favorable development outcomes, to pave the way toward an African future defined by resilience, innovation, and collective progress.

OPENING KEYNOTES

BRUSSELS | 29TH MARCH



HE Awad Sakine AHMAT

Permanent Representative of the African Union to the European Union and the ACP Group of States

First of all, I would like to thank you for this wonderful opportunity to gather for the Africa Political Outlook. I would also like to say that the African Union is very receptive to the theme and everything that surrounds and will emerge from these exchanges, which will certainly be very rich, because they address the various challenges that Africa faces, following, as you know, strategic and geostrategic changes, with a world that is constantly changing and also facing major challenges in the fight against terrorists, whether in the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa countries, or anywhere in the world, because everything that affects Africa also affects Europe.

“ Good governance is essential to support all positive actions, to ensure their success and to guarantee that the people benefit.

- HE Awad Sakine AHMAT

We have challenges related to improving the living conditions of our populations. We also have a major challenge, which is governance, because without political and diplomatic governance, we cannot achieve it. We need governance to accompany all good actions, to succeed and to say that the people have decided, the people have benefited and the people are at work, because governance belongs to the people. So that is what democracy is, as the saying goes. Democracy must therefore be rethought, it must be a democracy that is not imposed, a democracy of heart and mind, a democracy of commitment, which already allows different nations to treat each other as equals, which represents a very important paradigm. I am saying this following the last summit of February 2022 between the African Union and the European Union, where at the time, you remember, it is an old cooperation, but which has been subjected for a long time to a paradigm that I do not like very much, that of a recycling land. I believe that we cannot build countries through donations.

It is true, even if they are interesting, if they represent something. But we cannot go there because Africa is not poor. So there is enormous potential. And as important entities, Africa and Europe are entities that coexist and have rethought themselves in order to bring about a change in paradigm. Changing the paradigm to arrive at a paradigm of equals.

Come invest, explore all the potential, come, you are at home, exploit, and win and we win. So that is very important. And Africa is open to everyone, but in respect of the rules that govern good states in their behavior. I would also like, in relation to the theme, for our exchanges to be very frank.

It is true that we have organized so many think-tanks everywhere on quite diverse themes, but we need to have results. I think this is the 2nd or 3rd edition that has just been done.

We need to get out of this beaten track, to say, here is what has been done, what milestones have been set, and what are the real requirements in terms of, for example, achievement, and that we are here and that we have reached a point where we have to stop and say, here is what we have done. So I wanted us to exchange very frankly and to be able to say, in terms of challenges, what remains to be done and what are the requirements in terms of achievement that we can do about it.

I am very delighted because the audience is very rich and the themes that will be discussed, I think they will be discussed in a very lively way and allow everyone, I think, to draw good conclusions from this meeting. I would like to thank you once again and wish you all the best for our work.



Africa also faces a major challenge, that of governance. Without sound political and diplomatic governance, it will not be able to make progress.

- HE Awad Sakine AHMAT

WATCH THE KEYNOTE



HE Prof. Emanuela C. Del RE

European Union Special Representative for the Sahel

Think of putting together all the dynamics, the challenges, the questions concerning Africa at this historic moment. For me, this is the most important thing to prepare for the future. I must say that in my political action, I always talk with, not only heads of state, ministers, not only from Europe, but also from Africa, I always talk about the need to think about how to be prepared for the changes we will have in the future. I also talk to civil society, I talk to activists, students, researchers. I think it's really important that we all get together to think about what we can do to ensure that, especially for the new generation, we're prepared to be present in the future as reliable and credible partners who can provide support that can change people's lives. I think that at this historic moment, Africa is facing challenges that seem to me to be insurmountable. But at the same time, there are opportunities coming from Africa that are enormous, formidable. So how do we strike a balance between these two things? How do we find solutions that can simultaneously take advantage of the opportunities and succeed in solving the problems that come from above?

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It is really important that we all come together to think about what we need to do to ensure that, especially for the new generation, we are ready to be there in the future as reliable and credible partners, able to provide support that can change people's lives.

- HE Prof. Emanuela C. Del RE

It's very difficult, I must say. But the first thing is to be committed. The second, of course, is to be aware of what's happening on the ground. That's why I normally call for complexity. Because I think it's really necessary to know from the inside what's going on in Africa, and not to be superficial. The third thing is to rely on the fundamental players, who are civil society, who are the diplomats, who are the players who build change day by day and who can really be aware of what is needed for communities, for individuals. It's not an easy task. And I have to say that we have to recognize the importance of working together to achieve results. As far as the European Union is concerned, I have to say that we are heading in the right direction, because we are, for example, Israel's leading partner, not only in terms of cooperation between the common blocs, but also in terms of humanitarian aid. And I think that's a very important signal, because it means we're capable of recognizing the needs of local society and providing concrete responses. At the same time, I think there's a need for a new approach that's truly based on the involvement of all components of society. And that's something I'm really looking forward to, because I mean, for example, the gene seems to be really absent from our decision-making process. We need to give it opportunities to express itself, to be the protagonist.

Of course, there are many forces that can participate in this decision-making process. We will need a system of governance that can recognize the importance of citizenship, for example, we need a political system that can give the opportunity to express itself in the civil rights space that is taking place in a timely manner, that can really offer us the

opportunity to have protagonists who come from civil society, who come from all parts of society to contribute to the development and especially the stability of different countries in Africa.

There's a lot we can learn from Africa, and Africa has a lot to learn from us, because we can change our experience and our vision of the future. So I think today's event will be a great opportunity for you. I'm going to learn about the results of your discussion, and I'm going to contribute in the future because I think we all have a big responsibility. To conclude, the basic concept was that our future, we can't deny it, we'll be a big group that we can call like an African Europe or a European Africa and that's something I think we need to think about together. I wish you a good discussion and I think there really are opportunities. We need to highlight the opportunities, because opportunities give us the chance to solve problems and face up to challenges.



We need a system of governance that recognises the importance of citizenship and provides opportunities for expression in the space of citizenship. This will allow the involvement of civil society actors in the development and stability of African countries

- HE Prof. Emanuela C. Del RE

WATCH THE KEYNOTE



AFRICA AT A CROSSROADS

BRUSSELS | 29TH MARCH



Hon. André FLAHAUT

Minister of State
Honorary President of the House of Representatives

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly, I'd like to congratulate the organizers, and thank them for the invitation.

This is an important moment, this is your second edition of such an event, and I believe that such events are increasingly necessary, because Africa is indeed at a crossroads, but Europe is also at a crossroads. And here, Mr. Ambassador, I wanted to say that I very much appreciated your speech, because you highlighted the problems that today characterize relations between the countries of the North and the countries of Africa. Over time, Europe - and I'm also speaking for Belgium - has somewhat abandoned the natural axis of solidarity that should never have been abandoned between Europe and Africa. And today, we're trying, in a certain Europe, because Europe is divided. It's a choice step. You have the countries bordering Russia, you have the countries of the South, you have the heart, the core, here, Belgium, Luxembourg, also the Netherlands to some extent, the France-Germany axis which no longer exists, which are finding it hard to express common positions in the face of major challenges. Certainly, as far as what's happening in Eastern Europe is concerned, there has been a great deal of mobilization, and it's still going on. We have an appreciation of respect for international law.

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The first step in partnership is to listen to the needs of the people. And not just the leaders, not just those in positions of responsibility, but also those in civil society, those in opposition, who were in the majority yesterday

- Hon. André FLAHAUT

We're very strict about what's going on between Israel and Palestine, and when it comes to the situation in Africa, we don't talk about it much at all, not even in our parliaments. Just yesterday, I called on our Minister of Defence – I myself held the post for eight and a half years – to draw his attention to the situation in eastern Congo. Where, with a certain trivialization, we see images, but we don't react sufficiently, and we don't react with the same intensity. It's very difficult to get European leaders, including the European Commission, to pronounce the word "sanction" in relation to Israel and the word "sanction" in relation to Rwanda. There can't be two readings of international law. So that's one of the first principles that Europe has to make people accept. Then, we also have to make sure that we stand by the people who have to defend themselves. And we must also understand things. I recently attended a meeting of European and national parliaments in Bruges. I was the only one to speak African at one point. All the parliamentarians who were there, representing their own parliaments, were actually talking about Ukraine, not Israel-Palestine, the threat, the threat of war, NATO, we were missing our military defenses, etc., to the detriment of other social spending, for example. I was the only one to talk about this, and there was one sentence that shocked me, which came from a representative of the European Commission, and that was to say "we can't lose Africa". At that point, I can tell you that my blood ran cold. This sentence also reminds me, as I mentioned earlier, of two events that took place in Cameroon, GECOM 21 and GECOM 23. When I first arrived in Cameroon, for this meeting of Cameroonian towns and communes, the French ambassador said to me "Welcome to our home". I told him "There's something wrong". And so it goes on. And today, there's a total lack of understanding of what's going on. There's a refusal to accept that the African people should take responsibility for themselves, that they should take their destiny into their own hands, that these African people should also be able to determine

exactly what they want. And when I hear that the European Commission, which at random, no doubt through distraction, signed a compromise, a cooperation agreement with Rwanda on minerals. This is a complete misunderstanding of the situation. The minerals are found in the Congo and are mined on the other side. In fact, President Kagame has pointed out that these minerals are being shipped to Russia, Israel, Belgium and Brussels. A way of making us jointly responsible for this too. But for the European Commission to free up resources to provide additional resources for the exploitation of minerals that are blood minerals and the source of the conflict, is downright irresponsible. Even our Prime Minister, who chairs the European Commission today, has said that this is ill-advised, in the same way as the 20 million to help the Roman armament industry. This kind of action shows total ignorance of, or contempt for, Africa and its peoples. That Poland should also decide to donate 20 million for Rwanda and Mozambique, no doubt to help France, is just as unacceptable. And this, you see, is based on the principle that... I've been going to the Congo since 1999, and I've been to a lot of countries in Africa too, in various capacities, with Mr. Louis Michel at the time. And that's based on the principle that we're always talking about cooperation, and that's not the right term to use, cooperation. Partnership is the right term to use.

Because partnership, you see, is based on the principle of mutual respect. That's what, in addition to meetings like these, where we meet, we appreciate each other, we exchange, we discuss in a spirit of free examination, each with our own opinions, but above all with a desire to do things and concrete things for friendly peoples. Well, this mutual respect has to come first. I'm not going to contradict what the head of ENABEL in Belgium is undoubtedly doing, because that's what it's all about: partnership, respect, respect for the people who make it possible to build concrete things.

But please, let's refrain from telling others what we think is good for them, whether in Europe or in our own countries. The first step in partnership is to listen to the needs of the people. And not just leaders, not just those in positions of responsibility, but also those in civil society, those in the opposition, who were in the majority yesterday. In the Congo, I rubbed shoulders with everyone because, in the end, what's important in partnership is respect, but it's also the will to demonstrate our honesty in the consistency of the discourse we hold, whatever the interlocutor and whatever the period in which we find ourselves. It's the best way to bring projects to fruition for the people they represent. And I believe that this is fundamental to our approach. And we all have a role to play. And I say all, because I believe that, in Africa, many things will also depend on the commitment and recognition of the role played by all women. In this episode, we need to understand what's revolting today, that when we talk about Africa, when we talk about it, there's always sometimes a feeling of paternalism, of condescension. The first time we went to Benin, 25 years ago, the French said to me, "What are you doing here? This is our territory. I said "we've come to work, we've worked with the population of the minoirs, we've built schools, we've opened up areas, etc. We've made a close and accepted defence of our territory. We've built a defence that's close and accepted. And we're still talking about it today. And you're no doubt extending the action. And I think that's right. Because sometimes, among Europeans, in all parties, in all countries, there's racism, rejection of the other, different in color, skin, religious beliefs, but also rejection of the other who doesn't do what's expected of him. It's neocolonialism. And we can't accept that. We have to fight it. How do you fight racism, how do you fight anti-Semitism, how do you fight all forms of rejection? And so, this approach is based on the population. And the first priorities that the people in charge generally tell us are health, education, training, employment and the economy.

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When are we going to understand that we, the northerners, the westerners, the people from the north, when are we going to understand that the world has finally changed? That the economic centres are elsewhere, that the Arab world is waking up, that Africa is waking up

- Hon. André FLAHAUT



Train our young people on site. Agree to train them here, and since they come back to us to process the products that are rotting on the land because there are no companies to process them. Let's not set up companies in certain places, forgetting to give them the keys to open the door and make it work. Let's be, let's accompany this process in partnership, let's accompany, and then let's give the responsibility. Africans are as capable as we are, even more capable than we are, of developing their own businesses, of developing their own activities, provided we stop fetching raw materials, processing them here and then sending them back there for you to consume at very high prices. In my opinion, these are the avenues we need to follow to reconcile North and South in a changing world where the balance is shifting. When are we going to understand that we northerners, westerners, people from the North, when are we going to understand that the world has finally changed, that the economic poles are indeed elsewhere, that the Arab world is waking up, that Africa is waking up, and it's clear that what happened in the Sahel countries, well, I had the opportunity to meet presidents who were in office before the coups d'état. And when presidents tell you, starting from a

parquet floor – some of whom are still alive today – that the problem with fighting extremism is that, in order to obtain resources, France has to control the purse strings. When you have presidents telling you that they've asked for access to drones, which are the best means of observing population movements and extremist movements too, and they've been told "too sophisticated, too sophisticated, we'll take care of it, we'll do it for us. When you have leaders who tell you they've asked for fighter jets, and we tell them no, we'll make fighter jets available to them, you don't take care of them. This shouldn't come as a surprise, because at a certain point, the elected political leaders, as it were, well, they're rejected, and we say, we'll try with the military to see if things are better.

And the population is a bit lost in this, but they try to live with this system. You have to understand that, and in fact, this morning I was reading the statements made by the President-elect of Senegal, who is indeed young, he's 44 years old, he's already being criticized for being a Muslim, and yet that's his strictest role, and he's effectively demonstrating that he wants development for and with his young population.



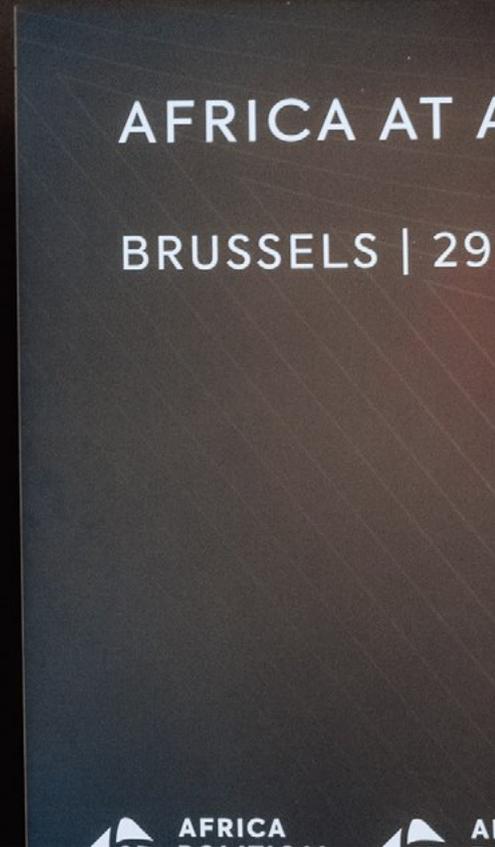
The new Pan-Africanism must be integrated and accepted into this new reality so that we can work together in mutual respect and in a spirit of partnership.

– Hon. André FLAHAUT

He's talking about a new pan-Africanism, and I think that's what's going to happen. And so we have to integrate that, and we have to accept that in this new reality, so that we can finally work together in respect for others and in partnership, and not want to impose our model, considering that our Belgian model, our European model, our Western model, is a reference. The world has changed. The future belongs to Africa. The future of our planet is based on Latin America and Africa. The Amazon basin, the Congo basin, that's our future. We have to stop buying up carbon credits, whole provinces are brought up practically normally at the expense of others who are going to add value. So this future is here, you have youth. Our people are aging. Russia is aging, China is aging, the United States is aging badly, even through its leaders. And somewhere, and yes, it's an observation, it's true, but somewhere, the youth, it's there, and it's your youth, the migratory exchanges that must take place that will once again close our borders, that will once again reinforce Fortress Europe, that will once again make us believe that Europe can buy anything, even including buying certain states to take immigrants back home. This is outrageous. Turkey isn't in Europe, but we haven't just had to look

behind its borders for refugees. It's inhuman, it's unacceptable. And we can have the courage to review this, and in solidarity, to ensure that there are exchanges, that there is a meeting between the North and the South. We can't, as I said earlier, we can't sufficiently keep abreast of the problems in Africa to try and help, but we can't go on like this on the basis of tomorrow's demands expressed by the African people and their responsibilities. We have to demonstrate, reverse this process and somehow give meaning to a solidarity that should never have lost its intensity. And this, I believe, is an important mission for Europe, which is at a crossroads. We'll see how the forthcoming European elections turnout in our country. I assure you, I'm not a candidate, by the letter of the law. We'll see what the outcome of these elections will be, but we do have the greatest fears that the forces of rejection and extremism will further accentuate the border between North and South, which will once again harm these partnerships, harm the populations, the brothers and sisters who are in Africa, and who absolutely must be at their side to work together as partners and to have a balanced return from the activities we carry out. That's it, I may have gone on a bit long, but it was still a bit parliamentary.

WATCH THE KEYNOTE



Adébissi DJOGAN

Executive Director
Africa Political Outlook

Excellencies, Honorable and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends, It is with humility and gratitude that I have the honor to welcome you to the second edition of the Africa Political Outlook.

By establishing last year this gathering of decision-makers, energies, and expertise, we aimed to create a new conclave of minds, a beacon of collective intelligence and strategic decision-making, as well as a moment to celebrate the unmatched resilience and dynamism of the African continent - from the majestic plains of the Serengeti to the pulsations of metropolises such as Lagos, Nairobi, Abidjan, Dakar, and beyond to Paris and Brussels. This Africa, this world-Africa, carries a message of hope and future, eloquently embodied by your presence here, for which you are thanked.

A big thank you also goes to the delegations and leaders who traveled from the African continent and other European regions, to the teams and partners who actively contributed to making this meeting possible. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

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On a continent bursting with energy, where 3 out of 4 people are under the age of 30, youth has become more than a phenomenon: it has become an inescapable force that no one can ignore, limit or relegate.

- Adébissi DJOGAN

Our theme this year, “Africa at the Crossroads,” has a forward-looking yet so current meaning at a pivotal moment in the history of the continent and the planet. Indeed, we are witnesses to a history that is being written with its fluctuations, tumults, dots, breaks, and hopes. But the essence, rather than being written, deserves, or even demands that we be its actors.

In this context, the recent electoral event in Senegal, crowning the youngest president in the country’s history, resonates both as a clamor of hope and a powerful preamble to our meeting. This transition illustrates not only the vitality of our theme but also marks a potential turning point for Africa, rich with critical lessons. It indicates, it seems to me, if not the path, then a horizon towards this African possibility.

This Senegalese spring, it’s fair to say, teaches us three essential lessons.

First, the path will be the path of youth. On a continent brimming with energy, where 3 out of 4 people are under 30, youth has become more than a phenomenon: it has become an undeniable force that no one can ignore, confine, or relegate. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. And, through arms or the ballot box, violently or peacefully, the question is no longer if this youth will take power, but when. The ultimate challenge remains the institutional, structural, political path of passing on the baton.

I believe in and advocate for bold solutions: imposing quotas of young people and women in governments and administrations, setting an age limit for accessing certain mandates, inventing new horizontal spaces for dialogue, co-construction of public action, accountability. By embracing the potential of youth, especially in terms of political representation, we will give space and place to new solutions, paradigms, ways of seeing, doing, thinking, and building.

It’s not about deconstructing or opposing generations but about weaving the new rope around the old, daring to invent the future with those who represent it.

What the Senegalese spring also tells us is that this path will also be digital. It is probably the first time in the political history of the African continent that new technologies have played such a decisive role in a political transition. We have entered the era of digital democracy in Africa. And beyond voting, digital technology offers the most powerful levers for virtuous governance, citizenship, inclusion, accountability, human rights, justice, and public action control. This new world, in which 8 out of 10 Africans are connected to new technologies, is already born, but it still needs to be organized, optimized, and its digital dividend seized.

Finally, this path will be one of sovereignty. This is not a bad word. And the COVID crisis, the war in Ukraine, have demonstrated here and everywhere the importance of strategic autonomy. Economic, cultural, technological, energy, monetary, educational, and political sovereignty is emerging as one of the new battles of the new generation. But it will also need to be given content, a meaning that counters anti-discourses or postures. This sovereignty will not be achieved against others; it will be for and with them. The advent of artificial intelligence accelerates the transition from the knowledge economy to what resembles the data economy. The climate challenge requires a voice and public policies that reconcile global issues with the continent’s local emergence challenges. International security and geopolitical shocks often spill over onto the continent, which finds itself managing or being the theater of battles between great elephants. Sovereignty cannot therefore be closure, shrinkage, autarky, narrowing. Nor can it be unfettered openness, deregulation, de-statization. Here again, there is a path, an African path to be traced.

These challenges are the weave of our epoch. They call upon us with urgency and demand today more than yesterday to redefine emergence, to reinvent solidarity and international cooperation, and to breathe new life into a paradigm for global and continental institutions that are gasping for air, to regenerate and revitalize multilateralism. The Africa Political Outlook is also a contribution to this shared grand battle.

As American President Barack Obama highlighted, “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

As we stand at the dawn of a significant shift, I hold the fervent hope that our convergence today within the APO will allow us not only to collectively decrypt these issues but also to methodically chart the path towards a future of possibilities, prosperity, dignity, and pride. Moreover, to find within ourselves the necessary agents of change we await and that we owe it to ourselves to be.

Mandela said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

We can do it. Thank you.



In Africa, we have entered the era of digital democracy. Beyond voting, digital technology offers powerful tools for virtuous governance, inclusive citizenship, enhanced accountability, the defence of human rights and justice, and greater oversight of public actions.

- Adébissi DJOGAN

WATCH THE KEYNOTE

PANEL 1

AUTOPSY OF THE GLOBAL GATEWAY: DYNAMICS IN EU-AFRICA RELATIONS



Salima YENBOU

Member of the European Parliament



Asad BEG

Senior Advisor in the EEAS, Pan – Africa Division



Jean Van WETTER

Managing Director
ENABEL (Belgian Cooperation Agency)



Moderator

Christopher DOMBA

Deputy Mayor
City of Melun



Stefano PALMIERI

Vice-President of the Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Member of ACP-EU Follow-up Committee

The first panel of the Africa Political Outlook, titled “Autopsy of the Global Gateway: Dynamics in Relations between the EU and Africa,” commenced with an introduction that highlighted the essence of the Global Gateway. This new strategy by the European Commission aims to mobilize up to €300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027 for financing sustainable and high-value projects. The panel featured Salima YENBOU, Member of the European Parliament; Jean Van WETTER, Managing Director of ENABEL (Belgian Cooperation Agency); Stefano PALMIERI, Vice-President of the Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Member of ACP-EU Follow-up Committee; and Asad BEG, Senior Advisor in the EEAS, Pan-Africa Division. They discussed the objectives, challenges, and visions surrounding the Global Gateway, offering insights into the evolving EU-Africa relations.

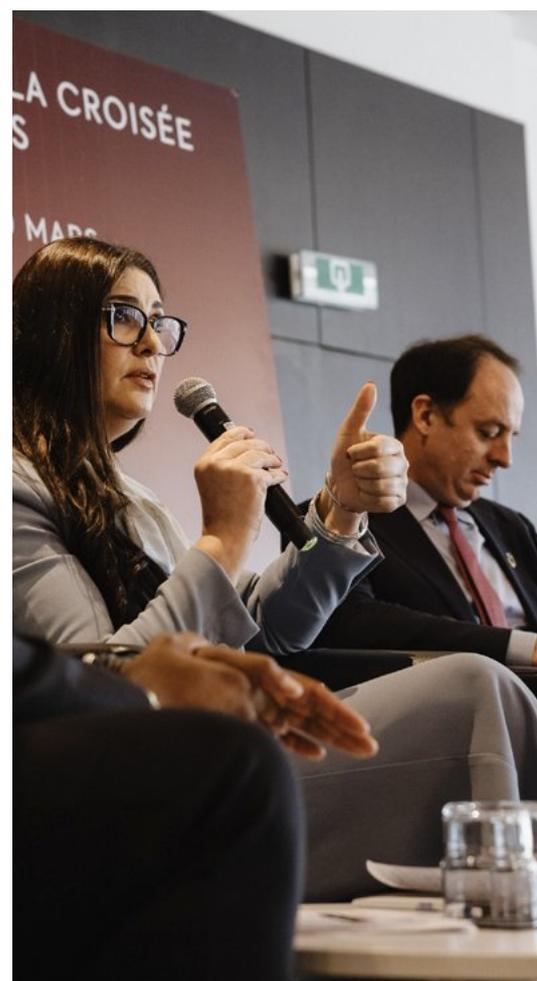
Salima YENBOU emphasized the need for a paradigm shift in viewing Africa, moving from a development aid perspective to one of partnership and co-creation, stressing the importance of recognizing bi-nationals as natural bridges between Europe and Africa. She highlighted the absence of cultural considerations in the Global Gateway and called for the inclusion of culture to build sustainable bridges, mentioning the issue of the restitution of looted artifacts and the necessity to involve women and youth in shaping the future.

Jean Van WETTER discussed the practical implications of Global Gateway, citing a project in Benin that demonstrated the synergy of European Union initiatives with private sector investment and local governance. He touched on criticisms such as the initiative’s slow implementation and lack of clarity but argued that Global Gateway represents a strategic, mutual partnership rather than charity, emphasizing the alignment of African and European interests.

Stefano PALMIERI provided a critical evaluation of the Global Gateway, raising concerns about its budget and the optimistic expectations of private sector investment. He called for a truly participatory and inclusive process, ensuring projects yield win-win results for both continents and stressed the importance of adhering to principles that promote peace, human rights, and labor standards.

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We need to build new relationships with these new African and European young people. We have to build links for that future. We absolutely have to build that future through education.

- Salima YENBOU



Asad BEG introduced the metaphor of the elephant to illustrate the varied perceptions of the Global Gateway, advocating for conversation, co-creation, and concreteness in the initiative. He highlighted Africa's demographic significance and potential, underlining the importance of addressing prosperity, security, governance, people, and the planet. BEG stressed the need for Europe to be swift and concrete in its actions while learning from other international players.

In closing, the panelists acknowledged the Global Gateway's potential to foster a more equitable and sustainable future for EU-Africa relations. They emphasized the necessity of small-scale, impactful projects, cultural ties, and the promotion of regional integration and social models that could serve as a foundation for a strengthened partnership.

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There are other actors, other partners who need to come together to strengthen a stronger partnership between Europe and Africa.

-Jean Van WETTER

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Shift the Paradigm and adopt a co-creation approach.

Recognize Africa as a vibrant, dynamic continent and approach it as an equal partner, moving beyond traditional notions of development towards a relationship based on mutual benefits and respect. This paradigm shift should lead to ensuring that projects and initiatives are developed in collaboration with African partners, meeting the actual needs on the ground rather than imposing solutions, to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

2. Engage Diasporas as bridges.

Utilize the bicultural and binational identities of diasporas as natural connectors between Africa and Europe, leveraging their inherent understanding of both cultures to facilitate communication and collaboration.

3. Integrate Culture into Development Initiatives.

Acknowledge the critical role of culture in creating sustainable connections. Ensure cultural exchange and the restitution of cultural assets are integral to the Global Gateway strategy, reflecting the shared history and values.

4. Enhancing the focus on Youth and Women.

Engage actively with African and European youth and ensure gender equality in all programs. Building a future that leverages the dynamism and potential of young people and places women at the center of development efforts is crucial.

5. Enhance Transparency and Clarity.

Address criticisms of the Global Gateway regarding its perceived complexity and lack of clarity. A concerted effort to demystify the initiative's mechanisms and funding lines will foster greater engagement and cooperation.

6. Invest in Small, micro-projects and community-based initiatives.

Recognize the significance of small-scale initiatives that address immediate and practical needs, such as educational resources or healthcare transport, which can have profound impacts on communities.

7. Facilitate Cross-Continental Learning and Exchange through the création of an African Erasmus program...

...to enable inter-African youth exchange and learning. Such initiatives would bolster intra-African cohesion and support the African Union's integration and unity goals.

WATCH THE KEYNOTE

PANEL 2

OPENING KEYNOTE : THE POWER OF WOMEN TO BRING POLITICAL CHANGE



Christelle V. MUKONGO

National MP (DRC), President of the World League of Parliamentarians for the Abolition of the Death Penalty

AFRICA AT A C

BRUSSELS | 29TH M



The second panel of the Africa Political Outlook conference brought together a distinguished panel to discuss a pressing issue facing the continent.

In her Opening Keynote: The Power of Women to Bring Political Change, Christelle Vuanga Mukongo highlighted the significant role women have played in political change throughout history. From Emeline Pankhurst's suffragette movement in the UK to Rosa Parks' pivotal role in the American civil rights movement, women have been at the forefront of fighting for civil and political rights. Mukongo stressed that despite advancements, the struggle for equality and representation continues. She advocated for increased political participation and leadership roles for women, noting her efforts in the DRC to enforce a mandate that election lists present 50% female candidates to enhance women's representation in the national assembly.

PANEL 2

THE RESURGENCE OF COUPS D'ÉTAT IN AFRICA: RETHINKING, REINVENTING, AND REBUILDING DEMOCRACIES



Hon. Abshir Aden FERRO
President, Alliance for the Future -
Xisbiga Isbahaysiga Mustaqabalka,
Somalia



Sébastien F.W. BRACK
Senior Advisor & Representative
to the European Union, Kofi Annan
Foundation



Hon. José Luis TAVARES
Vice-President in charge of
international relations, MpD,
Movement for Democracy & Former
Minister of Defense and Foreign
Affairs, Cape Verde



Moderator
Philippe LAWSON
Chief Editor
L-POST

The panel delved into the multifaceted reasons behind the resurgence of coups in Africa, including governance failures, corruption, economic disparities, and a disconnect between the ruling elites and the populace, especially the youth. The speakers underscored the necessity of addressing basic societal needs such as health, education, and employment to prevent the conditions that lead to coups.

Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro pointed out the complex interplay of external influences and internal challenges, emphasizing the importance of a genuine democratic process and the role of the international community in supporting African nations without imposing external solutions.

Sébastien F.W. Brack provided insights into the democratic backsliding that often precedes military takeovers. He argued that while coups might initially be welcomed as a means of change, their long-term impact is detrimental to democratic governance and socio-economic development. Brack highlighted the essential role of youth dissatisfaction and the dire need for democratic renewal and good governance to address the root causes of instability.

Hon. José Luis Tavares reminisced about the democratic success stories within Africa, such as Cape Verde, and called for a return to genuine democracy, where governments are held accountable, and leadership is in service to the people. Tavares stressed that democracy, although challenging, remains the best system for governance and development.

“
Politics is a very noble art. It's about serving others, working for others, believing in your country. And if you can do that in an honest and responsible way, you can change things.

– Hon. José Luis TAVARES



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Address Root Causes of Discontent.**
Identify and tackle the underlying issues fueling public dissatisfaction, such as corruption, poor governance, and lack of basic services, which often precipitate coups.
- 2. Enhance Civic Education and Public Engagement.**
Increase efforts in civic education to build a more informed and engaged citizenry that can actively participate in the democratic process and hold leaders accountable.
- 3. Promote Gender Equality and Female Leadership.**
Encouraging the active participation and leadership of women in politics, and recognizing their role in driving political change, as highlighted by the experiences shared from various countries.
- 4. Support Economic Development and Job Creation.**
Recognize the link between economic disenfranchisement, particularly among youth, and political instability. Initiatives that foster economic opportunities can mitigate the allure of undemocratic changes in power.
- 5. Encourage Transparent and Fair Electoral Processes.**
Ensure elections are free, fair, and transparent to restore public faith in the democratic process. This involves reforming electoral bodies and processes to prevent manipulation and ensure inclusivity.
- 6. Foster Dialogue and Reconciliation.**
Promote open and inclusive dialogue among political actors, civil society, and the wider public to address grievances and build consensus on the way forward for democratic governance.
- 7. International Cooperation and Non-Interference.**
Stress the importance of international cooperation in supporting democratic institutions and processes, while cautioning against external interference that may undermine local governance structures.
- 8. Leverage Technology and Innovation.**
Utilize technology to enhance political participation, improve governance, and foster transparency. Digital platforms can play a crucial role in engaging the youth and promoting democratic values.
- 9. Reinforce Legal Frameworks Against Coups.**
Strengthen legal and constitutional mechanisms that deter coups, including sanctions against those who attempt to usurp power through undemocratic means, while ensuring that the military remains apolitical and subordinate to civilian authority.

WATCH THE KEYNOTE

PANEL 3

OPENING KEYNOTE : PROPELLING AFRICA INTO TOMORROW'S ECONOMY: THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE OF CRITICAL MINERALS



Mouctar BAH

Economist & President
Brussels-Africa Hub



In his keynote address, Mouctar Bah, an economist and President of the Brussels-Africa Hub, delved into the pivotal role of critical minerals in propelling Africa into the future economy. Drawing parallels to Southeast Asia's economic development, particularly Indonesia under President Joko Widodo, Bah suggested that Africa could replicate similar growth patterns. He detailed how Indonesia leveraged its nickel resources to bolster its position in the electric vehicle industry, showcasing a shift from raw material exportation to localized production and refinement—a model Africa could aspire to.

Bah presented a critical examination of the European Union's Critical Minerals Act and its implications for Africa. He pointed out the essential nature of cobalt, copper, nickel, and lithium to the automotive industry and how Africa, especially the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), plays a crucial role in the supply of these minerals. However, he also noted the current state where the majority of these minerals are refined outside the continent, particularly in China, underscoring a missed opportunity for Africa to capture more value from its natural resources.

The keynote highlighted the transformative approach taken by Indonesia to build a sustainable middle class and foster local manufacturing of electric vehicles by mandating the local refinement of minerals. Bah suggested that Africa could achieve similar success by investing in infrastructure, adopting clear strategic policies, and insisting on local processing to retain more value within the continent.

Mouctar Bah criticized the current practices in countries like Guinea Conakry, where mining projects focus primarily on exporting raw ore without local processing. He contrasted this with projects aligned with the Global Gateway initiative, which still emphasize exporting raw materials rather than local value addition.



Sylvie BAÏPO-TEMON

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Central African Republic

In her virtual keynote address at the 2024 edition of Africa Political Outlook, Sylvie Baïpo Taimon conveyed a compelling narrative from Bangui, the Central African Republic, on Africa's pivotal moment in history and its potential pathways towards economic and social development. With Africa positioned "at a crossroads," she elucidated the continent's challenges

and opportunities amidst a global context marred by conflicts, economic strains, health crises like COVID-19, and the adverse effects of climate change. These obstacles, she argued, veer us away from the Sustainable Development Goals slated for 2030, necessitating a profound reevaluation of development strategies.

Hon. Minister Baipo Taimon underscored the formation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) as a significant step towards Africa's economic integration. Highlighting AFCFTA as a catalyst for intra-African trade and a key driver for lifting people out of poverty, she called for unified strategies to enhance economic growth across member states and reduce disparities to stimulate intra-African trade.

Africa, rich in natural resources and demographic potential, was portrayed as an untapped economic powerhouse that could significantly contribute to global development if properly harnessed. Baipo Taimon noted the OECD's estimate that Africa would need to mobilize \$1.6 trillion or \$200 billion annually by 2030 to meet the Sustainable Development Goals—a target seemingly unattainable under the current global circumstances. Yet, the urgency remains for Africa to deeply contemplate its development trajectory.

The keynote further delved into the investment imperative for Africa's growth, highlighting the necessity of creating a conducive and attractive business environment, enhancing governance, fighting corruption, leveraging the African diaspora, diversifying partnerships, and

developing infrastructure. The Central African Republic (CAR) was spotlighted as a prime example of a country at the crossroads, endowed with vast mineral wealth yet grappling with numerous challenges that obstruct investment and economic progress.

Baipo Taimon passionately advocated for concerted efforts to support Africa's and particularly CAR's development, inviting investors and development agencies to explore the potential within the continent and the CAR. Emphasizing political will and the collective dreams of its people, she presented a vision where Africa's and CAR's resources lead to flourishing lands that benefit not only their inhabitants but contribute to global prosperity.

In summary, Sylvie Baipo Taimon's keynote was a call to action for Africa to unify, strategize, and capitalize on its intrinsic potential to navigate the crossroads towards sustainable development and economic empowerment. She highlighted the indispensable role of international support, investment, and a reimagined partnership paradigm that respects Africa's sovereignty and potential as a global economic player.

PANEL 3

INVESTING IN AFRICA: THE AFCFTA, DIASPORA, AND IMPACT INVESTMENT AS NEW CATALYSTS FOR EMERGENCE

AFRICA AT A CROSSROADS

BRUSSELS | 29TH MARCH

L'AFRIQUE À LA CROISÉE
DES CHEMINS

BRUXELLES | 29 MARS



Amb. S. Al-moustapha K.

Ambassador at Large & Special Envoy of the President of Liberia, HE Joseph Boakai



Richard MILLER

Former special advisor to president Louis Michel



Paramita DASGUPTA

Country Advisory and Economics Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC), representing Makhtar Diop, Managing Director and Executive Vice President, IFC



Moderator

Viwanou GNASSOUNOU

Former Assistant Secretary-General, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States

The panel discussions of this panel pivoted around leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the diaspora, and impact investment to fuel Africa's economic emergence.

Amb. Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh passionately underscored the need for Africa to harness its vast resources for sustainable development. He highlighted Liberia's commitment to industrialization and agricultural prioritization, stressing the need for policies that ensure a significant portion of natural resources are processed locally to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Paramita Dasgupta from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) shed light on the critical role of the private sector in realizing the AfCFTA's potential. She emphasized the necessity of enhancing intra-African trade, which could potentially boost Africa's income by \$450 billion and significantly increase employment opportunities for the youth. The IFC's approach includes focusing on key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and infrastructure to foster local value addition and regional value chains.

Richard Miller, reflecting on the European experience, advocated for strong state involvement in education and infrastructure to empower the youth with the skills needed for the digital age. He suggested that Africa's wealth in critical minerals offers a unique opportunity, but warned that the continent must act swiftly to capitalize on these assets before global demand shifts due to technological advancements and recycling innovations.

The dialogue also explored the transformative potential of the diaspora as a bridge between Africa and the global market. It was noted that the diaspora could play a pivotal role in transferring knowledge, skills, and capital back to the continent. A strong call was made for significant investments in both hard and soft infrastructure to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, and people across borders, which is essential for the AfCFTA's success. Emphasizing the digital divide, the panelists agreed on the urgency of improving digital infrastructure to unlock new pathways for economic development and integration into the global economy. Highlighting the importance of aligning educational systems with the needs of the modern economy, the discussion pointed to the need for a major overhaul in education to prepare African youth for the jobs of tomorrow.

“
It's a nice concept, win-win, but if you look at history, it has always been a win for Europe, rarely, if ever, for Africa.

- Richard Miller

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance Digital and Physical Infrastructure

Invest in critical infrastructure, both digital and physical, to support the effective implementation of the AfCFTA. This includes improving internet connectivity, transportation networks, and energy access to enable seamless trade and investment flows across the continent.

2. Foster Local value addition and manufacturing

Encourage the development of local industries and value addition for raw materials. This approach aims to increase intra-African trade and reduce dependency on imports, aligning with the objectives of the AfCFTA

3. Creating Enabling Environments for Investment

The panelists called for improved regulatory frameworks that encourage investment, protect intellectual property, and ensure fair competition. By simplifying business registration processes, ensuring judicial independence, and combating corruption, African countries can attract both domestic and foreign investment

4. Improve Regional Integration and Cooperation

Work towards deeper regional integration to facilitate trade and investment. This includes harmonizing trade policies, removing non-tariff barriers, and enhancing cross-border cooperation.

5. Educational Reform and Investment in Human Capital

Richard MILLER advocated for comprehensive educational reforms that prioritize STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and vocational training. This approach aims to equip the African youth with the skills necessary for a modern economy, emphasizing the creative and innovative potential within the continent.

[WATCH THE KEYNOTE](#)

PANEL 4

OPENING KEYNOTE : UNITED DIASPORAS OF AFRICA : BEYOND THE REMITTANCE PARADIGM



Alhaji Allie BANGURA

Founder
ADAN Impact & ADAN e.V

The panel “Building on Our Commons: The Potential of Entrepreneurial Innovation, Cities Dialogue, and Circular Mobility” unfolded with a rich tapestry of insights, and opportunities concerning the development policies and entrepreneurial ecosystems in Africa.

The opening keynote by Alhaji Allie Bangura highlighted the crucial role of the African diaspora beyond the conventional remittance paradigm, suggesting a more profound influence and potential for impact in Europe and globally. Focusing on the diaspora’s influence, Bangura highlighted the notable absence of a strong African presence in key sectors

within Europe and beyond, emphasizing the disparity between the diaspora’s potential and its current realization.

Bangura’s journey from a banker to a social entrepreneur underscores a pivotal concern: the African diaspora’s struggle to thrive due to systemic barriers. Through a compelling comparison to the Indian diaspora’s success, he illustrated how individuals of Indian origin lead major global corporations and governments, effectively wielding soft power to foster India’s image abroad. This comparison serves not only as inspiration but also as a blueprint for how the African diaspora could similarly exert significant influence.

Central to his argument is the concept of soft power, which he argues is amplified by the diaspora's ability to leverage culture, political values, and foreign policy for transformative purposes. He shared striking statistics about the Indian diaspora's economic contributions, suggesting that similar achievements could be within reach for the African diaspora, should strategic efforts be mobilized towards such ends. Bangura shed light on the current state of the African diaspora, marked by a lack of cohesive organization and visibility. He called for a paradigm shift towards

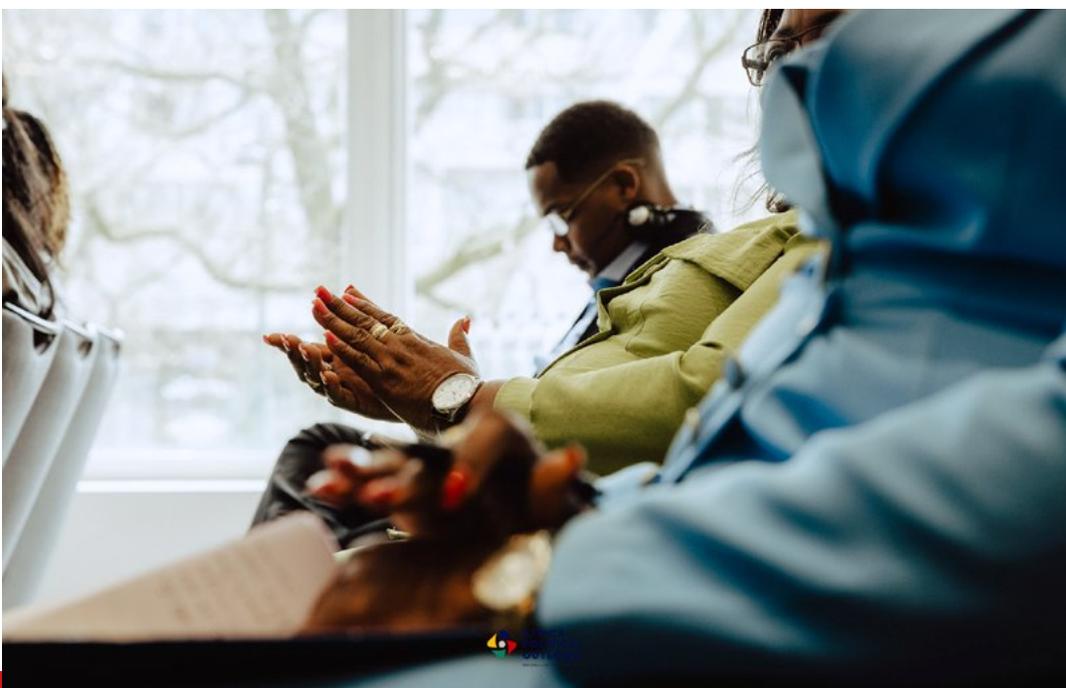
institutionalization, urging for structures that enable the diaspora to unite, thereby amplifying its voice and influence on a global scale.

He pointed to the critical shortage of talent and skills in Europe and the West as a macroeconomic trend that Africa is uniquely positioned to address. By harnessing its burgeoning youth population and vast human capital, Africa could play a decisive role in mitigating global talent shortages, potentially transforming into the world's largest exporter of talent.



There is not yet an institutional order that allows us to unite and exert collective influence. It is important to recognise that African history is not monolithic, which requires a flexible and adaptive approach to promoting unity and prosperity on the continent

-Alhaji Allie BANGURA



PANEL 4

BUILDING ON OUR COMMONS: THE POTENTIAL OF ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION, CITIES DIALOGUE AND CIRCULAR MOBILITY

BRUSSELS | 29TH MARCH

BRUXELLES | 29 MARS



Peter BenHur NYEKO

CEO & Co-founder
Mandulis Energy



Alhaji Allie BANGURA

Founder
ADAN Impact & ADAN e.V



Kalvin Soiresse NJALL

President, francophone Brussels
parliament



Moderator

Samuel VICKO

Founder
Domino

Peter BenHur Nyeko, Calvin Soiresse Njall, and Alhaji Allie Bangura shared a diverse range of experiences and insights. Peter emphasized the connection between global cities and local rural areas, particularly in the context of sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. He presented the case of Uganda's coffee waste as an example of how agricultural waste can be transformed into valuable resources, enhancing economic outcomes and promoting circular economy principles.

Kalvin Soiresse Njall discussed the importance of partnerships between African and European cities, highlighting the potential of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development, digital transition, waste management, and energy transition. He underscored the necessity for local economic tissue at the city level to be more interconnected and supported by appropriate political and financial means.

The dialogue further delved into the significance of creating an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs, with a focus on access to capital and enabling legal frameworks for investment. The discussion illuminated the gaps in research on African diasporas, the need for institutionalization in Africa, and the imperative of influential positions for Africans in global contexts.

The panel successfully highlighted the interconnected challenges and opportunities across entrepreneurial innovation, city dialogues, and circular mobility within the African context and its diaspora. By presenting detailed examples and personal experiences, the speakers shed light on the complexity of these issues, offering a nuanced understanding that transcends generalities, thereby allowing readers to feel as if they were attending the panel discussion.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Leverage Diaspora Influence and Capital

By institutionalizing diaspora contributions and leveraging their influence in business, politics, and culture, African countries can significantly enhance their development trajectories.

2. Cultivate Local Talent and Entrepreneurship

Highlighting the need for local champions who can inspire others, the panel discussed the importance of nurturing talent and entrepreneurship within Africa. This approach can help retain talent on the continent and reduce brain drain.

3. Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Peter BenHur Nyeko shared insights on the interconnectedness of global and local economies through the example of coffee production and waste management. He advocated for innovative business models that integrate local communities with global supply chains, emphasizing the economic and environmental benefits of circular economies.

4. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development

Kalvin Soiresse Njall discussed the impact of quality infrastructure on GDP per capita and the potential of city twinning between African and European cities to enhance infrastructure quality, including in digital transformation, waste management, and energy transition.

WATCH THE KEYNOTE

PANEL 5

OPENING KEYNOTE : A NEW NARRATIVE ON MIGRATION



Mr. Dominique Mbog

Lawyer at the Anvers Bar

The last panel of the Africa Political Outlook 2024 on “The Impact of the 2024 European Elections on EU-Africa Relations” opened with a powerful keynote from Dominique MBOG, a barrister at the Anvers Bar, who called for a significant shift in the narrative surrounding immigration in Belgium and Europe. MBOG, speaking from his experience as an immigrant, challenged the prevalent perception of immigrants as burdens and emphasized their positive contributions across various sectors. He argued for truthful discourse over narrative change, urging European societies to recognize the reality of who immigrants are and their value to their host countries.

PANEL 5

2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: IMPACT ON EU-AFRICA RELATIONS

BRUSSELS | 29TH MARCH

BRUXELLES | 29 MARS



Dorcas K. STAMILI
Candidate for the European elections



C. OKITOKANDJO
Candidate for the European elections



Moderator

Joao SOUSA
Managing Director
Public Affairs Council

Following the keynote, the panel featured discussions with Dorcas KAYEMBE STAMILI, and Chancelvie OKITOKANDJO, all candidates for the European elections, moderated by Joao SOUSA. The speakers delved into the current state and future prospects of EU-Africa relations, particularly in light of the upcoming European elections. They highlighted the importance of maintaining stable relations between Europe and Africa, focusing on sustainable solutions to shared challenges and advocating for an equal partnership.

The discussion revealed a consensus on the need for Europe to reevaluate its approach towards Africa, moving away from a paternalistic stance to one that recognizes Africa as an equal partner. The panelists argued for policies that promote inclusivity, dignity, and equal treatment for immigrants, emphasizing the role of the diaspora in shaping a more balanced relationship between the two continents. They also touched upon the potential impact of the rising influence of eurosceptic and populist parties in

the European Parliament on EU-Africa relations, expressing concerns over the implications for migration policies and developmental aid.

Key themes included the necessity of fostering cultural, academic, and artistic exchanges, supporting local economic development initiatives in Africa, and emphasizing women's empowerment and gender equality. The panelists called for a redefined partnership that acknowledges the complexities of migration and addresses climate change and economic disparities.

This recap conveys the depth of the discussions, illustrating the panel's focus on creating a more equitable and sustainable framework for EU-Africa relations. The insights provided by the speakers offer a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead, reflecting the critical role of upcoming European elections in shaping the future direction of these vital intercontinental relationships.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Promote Truthful Narratives about Migration and Contributions of Immigrants

Shift from the negative portrayal of immigrants as a burden to highlighting their valuable contributions across various sectors in Europe.

2. Establish Equitable and Inclusive Immigration Policies

Develop and enforce immigration laws that ensure fair treatment, dignity, and equality for all, aligning with the principles of the Belgian constitution as mentioned. This approach requires acknowledging the added value that legal immigrants bring to their host countries and treating them with the respect and rights they deserve.

3. Strengthen EU-Africa relations by focusing on mutual economic and social development

Emphasize a partnership model that views Africa as an equal player, encouraging knowledge and skill exchange to empower local communities and stimulate sustainable development.

4. Address Climate Change with a Focus on Justice and Solidarity

Recognize Africa's disproportionate burden in facing climate change impacts and collaborate on green initiatives that ensure environmental justice and social equity. The EU's engagement should support Africa's green transition without imposing undue burdens on the continent.

[WATCH THE KEYNOTE](#)

AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK PRIZE FOR LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & IMPACT



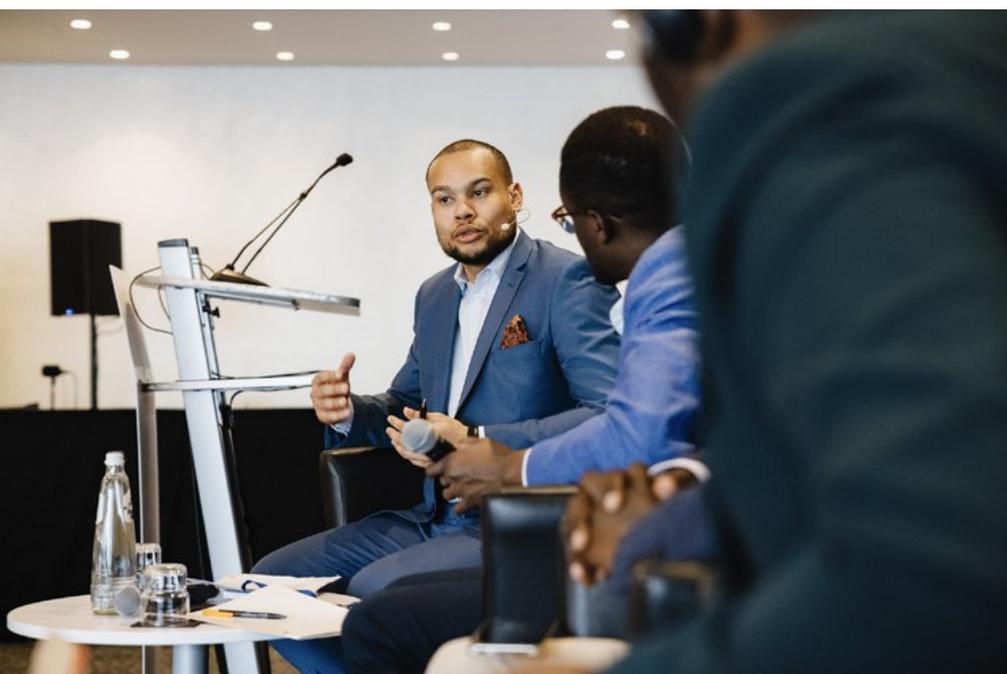
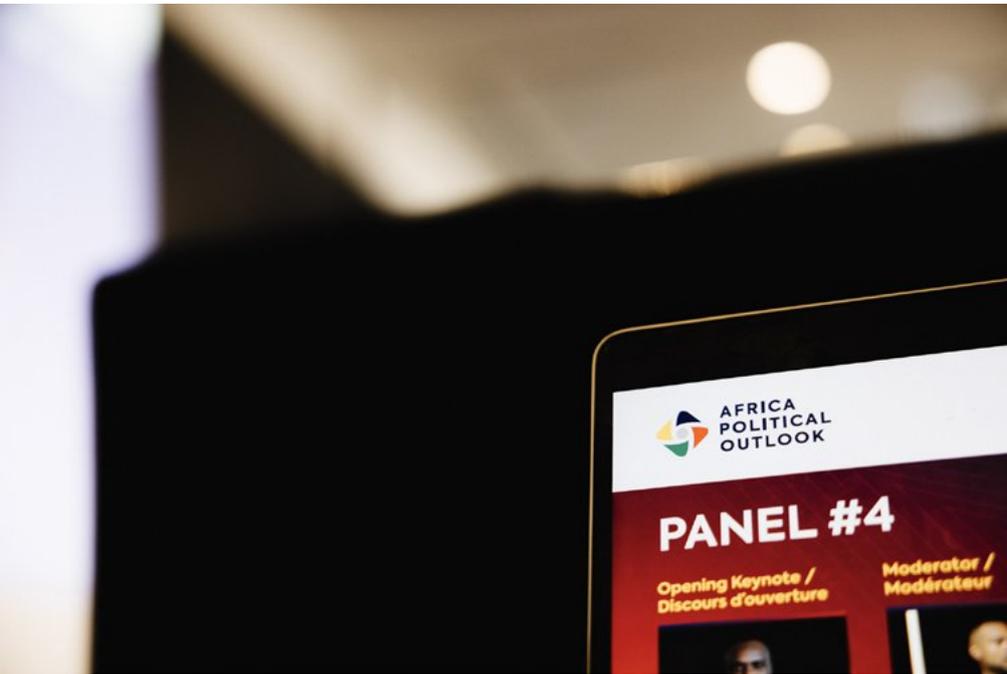
This year, the Africa Political Outlook has honored public figures distinguished by their investments in governance, public action, and transformation, particularly concerning local impact issues. They share the courage to act, an unrelenting will to build, and a certain vision of the common good and of Africa: resilient, sovereign, and prosperous.

Sylvie Baïpo-Temon

Sylvie Baïpo-Temon is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic. For the past seven years, she has stood out at the helm of this sovereign ministry by fighting to change the narrative about her country, defending its interests on the international stage, and advocating in a difficult context, often one of marginalization, for the African stance of a fair, respectful, and just multilateralism. As the first woman in this strategic position, she is an inspiring role model for young Central African and African girls aspiring to political leadership roles.

Dr. Martine Wisman

For 15 years, Dr. Martine Wisman has traveled the African continent to support women's empowerment through impactful programs involving microcredit, technical training, and access to basic services. She has supported more than 15,000 modest women living in precarious conditions. A committed researcher and educator, she champions an empirical vision of public action and emerging policies, based on action research, direct impact on local communities, and the systemic inclusion of a gender approach.



Represented Countries / Pays Représentés



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