



# **EU – ANGOLA JOINT WAY FORWARD (JWF)**

## **Introduction**

Recognizing the important role that Angola plays in Africa and its position in regional and multilateral organizations as well as in the international sphere, the democratic basis on which the organization of its society rests and its economic potential, the EU and Angola are willing to address jointly a number of global issues of common interest and thus transcend the current relations which are based on aid and development.

Given these assumptions, Angola and the EU intend to reinforce their political dialogue and engage in a more active political cooperation, defining hereby a set of principles, objectives and modalities that will govern their relations.

The relations between Angola and the EU are founded on the Cotonou Agreement, notably its articles 8 to 13 which define the bilateral framework for the political dialogue between the two parties, as well as in a set of other conventions and political commitments. Among these are included the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2 March 2005 and its subsequent instruments, the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership of 2007, the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for the period 2008-2013, as well as the Angolan strategic documents, in particular its Long-term National Development Strategy "Vision 2025", the National Plans and complementary documents approved by the Angolan Government.

## **1. Purpose and principles**

The purpose of the Angola-EU dialogue is to take the sides' relations to a higher level, by means of an intensive dialogue guided by the fundamental principles of democracy and the rule-of-law, sovereignty and respect for territorial integrity, abidance by human rights and good governance, equity, ownership and joint responsibility, as well as the interdependence between Africa and Europe in a globalised world.

The Joint Way Forward is meant to be a permanent and inclusive process of dialogue and cooperation, in different areas and levels of responsibility, based on the respect for the common interests and on the search for the most effective ways to achieve the best results for both sides.

## **2. On the Common Vision**

By sharing the goal of inclusive and sustainable growth, the sides acknowledge that a strong social market economy that takes into account environmental sustainability and which is enacted in partnership with a sound public administration, is essential in order to achieve this goal. Therefore, the sides are willing to strengthen their economic cooperation and stimulate the links between their commercial, industrial and financial actors.

The sides affirm their belief in the knowledge based society, putting emphasis on the development of local talents and competences for innovation, what transcends the act of merely passing on knowledge. Therefore, this strategic cooperation aims towards knowledge creation.

Both sides are keen to jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism with strong, representative and legitimate institutions, in the framework of the United Nations (UN) system and other international institutions.

A key element of the JWF is the commitment to regional cooperation and integration. The EU fully supports Angola's active involvement in the African Union (AU), in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), as well as the role that Angola plays in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), in the Gulf of Guinea and in the Great Lakes region.

The JWF will support the 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy and will consequently take on several of its priority areas.

### **3. About the modalities for the dialogue**

The JWF will involve meetings according to the following modalities and frequencies:

1. Yearly High-level meetings at political level to assess the fulfilment of the JWF goals. The meetings should be held alternately in Angola and the EU.
2. Senior Officials meetings, held once or twice a year, of technical and operational nature, aim to implement the high-level recommendations. These meetings will be held alternately in Angola and in the EU.
3. In the framework of Art. 8 of the Cotonou agreement, meetings at the level of EU Heads of Mission with High-level representatives from the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Relations and other Ministries invited, twice a year, aimed to sustain and reinforce the regular political dialogue.
4. "Ad-hoc" meetings with the private sector, professional associations, parliamentarians, the judiciary, organised civil society and other non-state actors, as defined in the Cotonou agreement.

### **4. Issues of common interest**

The dialogue should constitute a privileged form of political cooperation, more active and reinforced and focussing on the following issues which are considered of common interest:

#### Peace and Security

Angola and the EU recognise the importance of peace and security as preconditions for political, economic and social development. Political stability and the adjustment in Angola's position on defence and security is guided by the country's successful peace and national reconciliation process. The sharing of information, perspectives and lessons learnt will be enhanced, as well as

consulting each other on issues of common interest, such as conflict prevention and resolution, peace consolidation and reconstruction, the fight against piracy, drugs, human trafficking and terrorism at the regional and international levels.

Having regard to the established political and diplomatic role of Angola in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and in the consolidation of peace, Angola could contribute towards a platform for dialogue and EU assistance, notably in the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Angola and the EU assert the unquestionable legitimacy of the United Nations on international peace and security matters, and will therefore stand up for the preservation and respect of the principles of the United Nations Charter. In this framework, an enhanced cooperation by the EU with Angola will contribute to International Peace and Security, reiterating the principles of international law and the respect for the rule of law.

### Good Governance and Human Rights

Angola and the EU are committed to the promotion of good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to the fight against corruption at the national, regional and the international levels.

In this perspective, the sides will promote an open dialogue on the modalities for the reinforcement of a democratic political culture, the development of the relevant institutional capacity, the transparency and accountability in the management of public resources, as well as the promotion of international human rights law, including children's rights and gender equality.

### Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a prerequisite for poverty eradication, social development and the creation of a strong and diversified economy. Angola and the EU pursue the achievement of inclusive and sustainable growth in the service of human development, adopting therefore a comprehensive and systemic approach targeted at eradicating poverty and hunger and enabling universal access to social services.

Given that the human and social development are prerequisites for sustainable development, the parties engage in the support to and reinforcement of mechanisms aimed to assist the economic and social integration of vulnerable populations, paying particular attention to situations of extreme poverty and social exclusion.

In this context, both sides will remain constructively engaged in the analysis of the progress made in implementing the MDGs, as well as in the discussions on the best ways to achieve the MDG goals by 2015.

The creation of a strong economy in Angola rests on its functional and structural diversification, the improvement of productivity and competitiveness and an enhanced qualification of the human capital.

Regional economic integration, trade promotion and the creation of a strong internal market is the model followed by the SADC and CEEAC countries, in order to minimize in the future other possible scenarios of economic slowdown. The EU supports countries' efforts towards regional economic integration and, in that context, considers that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are very effective instruments in support of sustainable development in developing countries.

Improved economic governance, a more favourable trade and investment climate and an increased cooperation between the public and the private sectors, are strategic areas where the EU support could result in boosting the development of Angola, including knowledge transfer and the promotion of investment and other financing.

Recognising the important role played by Angola in the region and the importance of the EU's bilateral economic links with the country, the discussions will cover the world economic and financial situation and its implications at the local, regional and international levels.

### Energy

Energy is a priority area for cooperation where Angola plays a decisive role at regional and world level as an energy supplier, particularly in the oil and gas sectors. Angola has also vast potential in terms of renewable energy.

Angola and the EU consider that universal access to energy and related services, relying increasingly on clean, efficient and sustainable sources, is a particularly important challenge. This is corroborated by the global debate on climate change and the need to guarantee socio-economic development.

In this context, Angola and the EU will exchange information on their respective policies, planning and regulatory actions, will share best practices and address issues like energy supply, security, energy diversification and efficiency. Wherever possible, they will develop joint activities in the energy sector, including on infrastructure and renewable energy.

Discussions will be held on the possible participation of Angola in the "Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)".

### Transport System

Angola has a strategic position in Africa and in the South Atlantic, an important coastline and ports, and is located at the crossroads of the African East-West and North-South corridors. The Angolan transport system has been the focus of massive investment involving the road network, the railway system, ports and airports, being important for its connections with neighbouring countries. All possibilities will be explored to assist Angola in enhancing its transport system and the interconnectivity in the region.

With regard to civil aviation, both sides attach a special attention to cooperation in air safety, particularly regarding the certification and the continuous oversight of Angolan aircarriers in accordance with international standards.

### Environmental sustainability and climate change

Angola and the EU consider that environmental degradation and climate change undermine sustainable development and constitute generalised threats. Discussions will involve ways to mitigate or reverse the negative effects of these phenomena.

The dialogue will focus on areas like food security, sustainable agriculture, the management of land and soil, also covering inter-related issues such as deforestation, soil degradation, the management of water resources, environmental health and the preservation of biodiversity.

Possible expert support to the national civil protection system could be considered as well as the access to EU mechanisms for disaster relief assistance in case of large disasters.

Angolan and EU scientific institutions willing to exchange knowledge and experience and to develop cooperation in environmental and climate areas will be identified.

### Science and Technology

Both sides recognize the important contribution of science and technology for socio-economic growth and sustainable development. Competitiveness in the global economy is increasingly based on knowledge and use of modern technology. The mobility of researchers and students is a crucial opportunity for the development of skills at the same time that it allows for a privileged access to knowledge.

With this in mind Angola and the EU will intensify cooperation in the areas of information and communication technologies (ICT), meteorology and geophysics. This cooperation should allow the carrying out of joint research projects, capacity building and the development of relevant infrastructure as well as the transfer of know-how.

This process is framed in, *inter alia*, the "Africa-EU Strategic Partnership", the science and technology programmes of the "New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the EU's "Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development", as relevant.

### Training and Education

Angola and the EU recognize that inclusive and sustainable growth depends on the improved knowledge and skills of human resources, as well as on the quality of services delivered both by the public and the private sectors.

Emphasis will be put on the creation of highly developed capacity at the tertiary level, by means of networking, mobility of students and researchers, institutional support and innovation. With this in

mind, this enhanced Angola-EU dialogue could facilitate the participation of a greater number of Angolan students and scholars in the "EU Erasmus Mundus" programme, as well as access to other EU educational instruments such as the programmes Edulink, Marie Curie, among others.

The importance of promoting the mutual recognition of academic degrees is also underlined.

## 5. Implementing modalities

The Implementation of the Joint Way Forward (JWF) is subject to a joint review on the occasion of the Angola-EU High-level meetings at political level, as foreseen in this document.

Specific implementation methodologies will be defined following the signature of this document.

Done at Brussels on 23 July 2012 in two originals in the English and Portuguese languages .

**FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION**

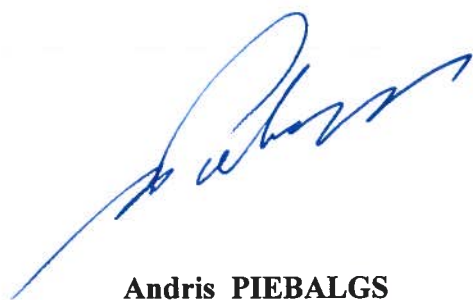
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