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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
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5th African Union - European Union Summit

Abidjan, 29-30 November 2017

“Investing in Youth for an accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development”

Participation of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Paul BIYA

[PRESS KIT]



Context and challenges

The Fifth Summit between the African Union and the European Union (AU-EU) will be held on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire was designated to host the 5th Africa-European Union (EU) Summit at the AU Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 10-18 July 2016. This Summit, rechristened **The 5th African Union - European Union Summit**, serves as a platform for dialogue between African and European countries with a view to boosting the partnership between the two Parties. It is held alternately on each continent.

This 5th Summit, the third of its kind to be held on the African continent (after Cairo: 2000, and Tripoli: 2010) and the first in sub-Saharan Africa, is a significant proof that Côte d'Ivoire has fully returned on the international scene especially with the trust that the international community places in the Ivorian authorities.

African and European Heads of State and Government will gather for their 5th Summit, under the central theme *"Investing in Youth for an accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development"*. This will be in the presence of the President of the European Council (Donald Tusk), the President of the EU Commission (Jean-Claude Juncker), the President of the AU (Alpha Condé), and the Chairperson of the AU Commission (Moussa Faki Mahamat).

About **5,302** participants are expected at this important meeting. This includes: **83** Heads of State and Government – representing **55** African countries and **28** European countries; delegations from friendly countries, the AU Commission, the EU Commission, as well as other International, Regional and Sub-Regional Organisations.

2017 is a decisive year for Africa-EU relations (*ten years after the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in 2007*).

The challenges of this Summit are important for both Africa and Europe. As in the past, the Summit will focus on the common challenges facing both continents – such as peace and security, the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable growth, and youth employment.

The Africa-EU Summit is a crucial opportunity to **strengthen political and economic ties** between the two continents. Although Africa is expanding its economic relations with other continents, the EU remains Africa's largest trading partner. The EU is also the largest global contributor to official development assistance to Africa.

At the Summit, African and European leaders will look at the future of Africa-EU relations and **focus on investing in youth**. This is a priority for both Africa and the EU because 60% of the African population is comprised of persons under the 25-year age bracket.

African and European leaders will take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the 2014-2017 Action Plan adopted at the Brussels Summit in 2014. They will also have the opportunity to discuss and define a common Africa-EU strategy in view of the new challenges facing both continents.

Other priorities of the Africa-EU partnership will be discussed during the Summit, including:

- **peace and security;**
- **governance, democracy, and human rights;**
- **migration and mobility;**
- **investment and trade;**
- **development of skills;**
- **job creation.**

The Summit will be the culmination of a series of preparatory events to express the views of the key players in the partnership, including:

- Africa-EU Civil Society Forum (11-12 July);
- Africa-Europe Youth Summit (9-11 October);
- The Africa-EU Economic and Social Actors Forum (16-17 October);
- The Africa-EU Business Forum 2017 (27 November);
- The Africa-EU Local Government Forum (27 November);
- The Parliamentary Summit (27-28 November).



Africa and the European Union in figures

The EU and its Member States are the primary contributors to the promotion of development, stability and peace in Africa:

- 21 billion Euros (€) in development aid to Africa in 2016 from the EU and its Member States, which are the main donors of aid on the continent;
- 32 billion Euros (€) was invested in Africa in 2015 by EU companies, which represents almost one third of all foreign direct investment in Africa;
- 3.35 billion Euros (€) have been allocated to the European Fund for Sustainable Development, which should generate up to 44 billion Euros (€) in investments;
- Seven (7) civilian and military missions have been deployed throughout Africa;
- 1.4 billion Euros (€) have been allocated on educational programmes in Africa (*over the period 2014-2020*).



Special Events

The 6th Africa-EU Business Forum (EABF) will be held on 27 November in Abidjan. Its objective is to stimulate investment that promotes development in Africa. The debates will focus on young entrepreneurs and businesswomen.

The Forum will represent the economic component of the Summit and will make concrete proposals to political leaders. It will bring together African and European economic actors representing multinationals, large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, private and public donors, as well as multilateral and regional institutions, to discuss practical opportunities for growth, collaboration, and how to improve the business climate and investments.

Holding under the theme *“Investing in Job Creation for Youth”*, the Forum will be centred on Africa’s investment challenges and opportunities as well as strategic priorities such as renewable energy, agriculture and the digital economy. The aim is to provide solutions, particularly with regard to the growing number of young people and women starting their own businesses. The EABF will also be an opportunity to present investment proposals and organise B2B meetings.

The 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit was organised from 9-11 October 2017 in Abidjan with 120 youth leaders from **Africa** and **Europe** selected from over 7,500 candidates. They agreed on a declaration to be submitted to the Heads of State and Government at the 5th AU-EU Summit in November.

Their recommendations laid emphasis on six thematic areas: education and skills; peace and security; governance and inclusion; environment and climate; business and job creation; culture and arts. In their statement, youth representatives call on AU and EU Heads of State and Government to work collectively to support and promote education, skills development, mobility and market access, youth participation and young people's access to rights – the need to provide young people with an adequate environment so that they can reach their full potential and have a positive impact on their societies.

The declaration aims to empower young people to participate in democratic governance, by adjusting the age of eligibility to stand for election. With regard to peace and security, youth urge governments to combat racism and discrimination and to include young migrants and the diaspora in conflict prevention.

On the basis of this declaration, 36 young people from both continents will continue this action through the **“AU and the EU Youth Plug-In initiative”**.

The Africa-EU Civil Society Forum was held from 11-13 July in Tunis. This was the third edition of the forum, which brought together civil society organisations from both continents. They adopted a declaration stressing the importance of civil society participation in Africa-EU relations.



HISTORY OF AU-EU SUMMITS

The 5th edition of the African Union - European Union Summit will hold on 29-30 November in Abidjan. Thus, it is important to revisit the highlights of the four (4) previous editions, which shared similar objectives: *to strengthen relations and exchanges between both continents.*

❖ First Africa-EU Summit, Cairo 2000

The first edition of the Summit was held in Cairo (Egypt) in 2000. At this maiden meeting, at the continental level, European and African leaders pledged to unite and confer a new dimension to their partnership. As a result, considerable changes have taken place in both continents.

Democratisation and reform processes have been launched and are being deepened in both continents and efforts have continued in Africa and Europe to resolve conflicts and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents have been accelerated - on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been transformed into the African Union (AU) with its socio-economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and, on the other hand, the European Union (EU) has almost doubled in size and is strengthening its structure. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have emerged, globalisation has accelerated and the world has become increasingly interdependent.

❖ Second Africa-EU Summit, Lisbon 2007

The second Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon (Portugal) on 9 December 2007 adopted the "Joint Strategy", which allowed 27 European countries and 53 African countries to open a new era, as equals, in their relations.

It was agreed to change the donor-recipient relationship and make way

for a genuine partnership and to face, together, new challenges and new opportunities on a global scale. The Heads of State and Government present approved a *“strategy that must be guided by the principles of Africa’s unity, the interdependence of Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, respect for human rights and democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development.”*

❖ **Third Africa-EU Summit, Tripoli 2010**

The third summit in Tripoli (Libya) took an inclusive approach and did not involve only the institutions. A series of side events brought together representatives of civil society, youth, the private sector, unions, researchers and scientists from both continents.

The aim was to give new impetus to the Africa-EU Joint Strategy by placing people at the heart of the partnership and inviting all stakeholders to contribute to its implementation. It is during this third summit that the second action plan (2011-13) of the Africa-EU strategy was adopted.

❖ **Fourth Africa-EU Summit, Brussels, Belgium 2014**

On 2-3 April 2014, the fourth EU-Africa Summit brought together more than 80 African and European leaders in Brussels to discuss the future of EU-Africa relations and strengthen ties between the two continents. The theme of the summit was *“Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace”*. The aim was to address common challenges and bring tangible benefits to citizens, in line with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Participants addressed issues of peace, security, investment, climate change and people. An economic forum was also organised.

The fourth EU-Africa Summit adopted three main instruments: the Brussels Declaration, the EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility and the 2014-2017 Roadmap.

• **The Brussels Declaration**

In their Declaration at the end of the Brussels Summit, the leaders underlined the close links between Africa and the EU, as well as their attachment to the shared values of democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and the right to development.

The Brussels Declaration addressed the three elements of the general theme of the summit: peace and security, prosperity, and people. An order that acknowledged the necessity for human beings to remain at the heart of the partnership that exists between Africa and the EU.

Peace and security

The leaders recognised the paramount importance of peace and security, without which there can be no development or prosperity. In particular, they confirmed their determination to strengthen the political dialogue on international criminal justice and universal jurisdiction. They also expressed their support for Africa's vocation and commitment to peace and stability. This led to an agreement to support African capacities in this area by all means, with particular emphasis on development capacities. Representatives from both continents decided to strengthen their joint efforts to combat international terrorism and to combat the spread of small arms and light weapons.

Prosperity

Leaders committed to policies that create jobs and drive sustainable growth on both continents. In particular, they agreed to cooperate more closely in the field of maritime policy. The EU also emphasised its commitment to continue to help African countries develop strategies for climate-resilient and low-carbon development. On both sides, the leaders stressed the importance of careful and transparent management of the respective natural resources, as well as a responsible mineral supply. The summit declaration also stresses the importance of fostering increased investment and economic development within and between countries on both continents, while developing transport, access to potable water, and access to sustainable energy at an affordable price.

Population

The summit concluded that it is important to defend human rights on both continents, and the leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to continue efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Leaders agreed to pursue policies to foster inclusive employment – with special attention to youth and women, and to encourage student exchange programmes between the two continents, as well as on the African continent. The summit stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to address the serious social and human consequences of irregular migration. The leaders reiterated their assurance to fight against human trafficking and to ensure respect for the human rights of all migrants. Summit participants also adopted a separate declaration on migration and mobility.

- **The EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility**

The content of this Declaration illustrates the complexity of this issue, which is perceived by all as a concern. Participants stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of clandestine migration between Africa and Europe. Recognising that migration and mobility are both an opportunity and a challenge, the Heads of State and Government of Africa and the EU pledged to consolidate their efforts in the fight against human trafficking. Thus, efforts were directed towards the strengthening of partnership and cooperation in the field of prevention, protection and prosecution as well as combating those who benefit from all these forms of exploitation, both in Africa and Europe. They also agreed to better organise legal immigration and to ensure the “*respect for the fundamental human rights of migrants, regardless of their legal status*”. This formula is probably the main achievement of this declaration, because it puts on the same level and for the needs of protection only, all the migrants, illegal or not.

- **The 2014-2017 Africa-EU Roadmap**

The Summit also confirmed the commitment of the two continents to the objectives set out in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in 2007. Leaders, however, acknowledged the need to improve the implementation of this joint strategy and to lay cooperation on a results-based approach.

That is why the Summit adopted a roadmap for structuring Africa-EU relations for the 2014-2017 period. This roadmap has five priority areas, namely:

- Peace and security;
- Democracy, good governance and human rights;
- Human Development;
- Sustainable, inclusive development and growth, and continental integration;
- Global and emerging issues.

For each of these objectives, a number of actions have been identified at the inter-regional, continental or global levels, which could have a real impact on the inhabitants of the two continents. These actions are in addition to cooperation at national and regional levels.

For more information, visit the website: <http://www.sommetuaue2017.ci/le-sommet/>



The remarkable participation of President Paul BIYA at the Brussels Summit, 2014

The fourth EU-Africa Summit on *“Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace”* was held in Brussels on 2 to 3 April 2014. This event was a great moment of multilateral diplomacy, with the presence of the then Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, alongside the Heads of State and Government of the EU and Africa; including the President of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Paul BIYA. Moment of intense, rich and fruitful debates, also times of exchanges and many meetings.

President Paul BIYA took an active part in building the consensus reached at Brussels especially in the First Working Session on “Peace and Security”. This was characterised by his effective sobriety, discreet but influential presence, and reasonable speech.

In addition to the situation in the Central African Republic, the Head of State championed a genuine Cameroonian request in Brussels. He appealed for a *“united and concerted action to reduce poverty”*, to support the implementation of the common regional strategy and instruments adopted in June 2013 in Yaounde at the Summit on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Managing the crisis in CAR, Paul BIYA was right

The EU-Africa summit was decisive for the continuation of the management of the Central African file. For Cameroon, the success of the summit was largely linked to the EU's attention to the crisis in CAR. In his two formal pronouncements in Brussels, President BIYA stressed that this crisis worried him *"to the highest degree"*. He pointed to *"the deteriorating situation in CAR and the scale of the security and humanitarian disaster,"* which *"have reached the critical threshold"*. He noted lucidly that *"efforts to save CAR are inadequate"*.

For the Head of State, *"time is up for action"*, as to use a formula used in other circumstances at national level. He called for the transformation of *"MISCA into a large-scale peacekeeping operation with more people and more resources"*.

In the same light, subsequent developments at the United Nations led to the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2149 of 10 April 2014 on the deployment of approximately 12,000 peacekeepers in CAR. Thus, President Paul BIYA's call was heard loud and clear as he received support from other actors, notably the then French President, François HOLLANDE and the Transitional President in CAR, Mrs. Catherine SAMBA-PANZA.

If this appeal had been heard since January 2014, when it was formulated by the Cameroonian Head of State, time would have been saved and lives saved in CAR. But, better late than never. The foresight and skill of President BIYA prevailed.



Statement by the Head of State during the working session No. I on “Peace and Security”

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
The Current Chairperson of the African Union,
The President of the European Council,
The President of the European Union Commission,
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission,**

The theme of our discussion, “Peace and Security in Africa” is always on the agenda of our meetings. This shows the importance we attach to it.

The insidious activities of terror organizations, various forms of trafficking, hostage taking and piracy, do pose a constant threat to peace and security in our Continent.

Regrettably, our sub-region, Central Africa, is no exception to this. The current situation in the Central African Republic, Cameroon’s neighbour, is a prime concern for us. I use this opportunity to hail the mobilization and commitment of the international community to back us up. I specially commend the United Nations Organization, France and CEMAC countries which have stepped in to end the atrocities and restore civil peace.

For its part, the European Union is lending Cameroon its support in dealing with the influx into its territory of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing the CAR. We would like such solidarity, which is so highly appreciated, to continue. The worsening situation, as well as the scale of the security and humanitarian disaster in the CAR, has reached the critical threshold. They call for the establishment of a peacekeeping force under the aegis of the United

Nations. We commend and support the action taken in this direction by France within the Security Council.

Extreme poverty is fertile ground for all types of extremist movements; it thus represents a threat to peace. Therefore, fighting poverty is essential for preserving security and peace.

More than ever before, the Africa-European Union partnership is the effective way of moving forward in that direction. It is imperative that we adopt joint programmes of concrete and concerted action to roll back poverty.

I believe that the proliferation and circulation of light weapons and the activities of money laundering and drug trafficking rings are also closely linked to insecurity. All of these issues should be given special attention during this Summit.

Beyond the domestic measures it has taken to deal with these threats, Cameroon organized a Summit on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea in June 2013 in Yaounde, where a common regional strategy and legal instruments were adopted.

These instruments deserve the support and involvement of the international community. Because the battle we are waging is for and on behalf of the international community. The same applies to our counter-terrorism initiatives.

We must join our efforts.

Ensuring peace and security in Africa, means, to a certain extent, contributing to peace and security in the rest of the world.

Thank you.



Speech by The Head of State during the meeting on the Situation in the Central African Republic

**Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
The President of the European Council,
The Chairman of the African Union,
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
The President of the European Union Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I wish to congratulate the initiators of this meeting on the situation in the Central African Republic. As a neighbouring country, Cameroon is most concerned.

I wish to thank in particular the United Nations, France and the European Union for intervening with Africa in this brotherly country.

The purpose of this concerted action was to restore peace, order and security in the Central African Republic. By so doing, we hoped to prevent the chaos that loomed on the horizon, protect the innocent and defenceless populations that have been taken hostage by Seleka and Anti-Balaka armed gangs.

The continuous violence on the ground suggests that our efforts to save CAR are insufficient.

The speeches made, particularly that of the President of the Transition

Government of CAR, have had the merit of helping us to gauge the full and exact scale of the gravity of a situation that is deteriorating with each passing day.

We must therefore take a quick and reasoned decision. We must act.

First, we must keep all the promises made to provide financial and humanitarian assistance and troops. Second, we must act within the framework of the United Nations. I welcome the recent Security Council proposal to upgrade MISCA to a major peacekeeping operation, with more staff and resources.

Since January 2014, Cameroon has been clamouring for this. The President of the Transition, Her Excellency SAMBA PANZA, has strongly appealed for the setting up of this operation. We are calling on all the friendly countries of CAR and the entire international community to support this idea. We must help the Security Council to accelerate its implementation. In this regard, I wish to commend the action of France and the commitment of the Secretary- General of the United Nations.

Time has come for action. Ending the war in CAR is a categorical imperative. The stability of all neighbouring countries and the entire sub-region and peace in Africa depend on it.

Thank you.