

Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up

Shaping our future together

8-10 July 2020 – online

An event curated by the AU-EU Youth Hub.

If the world trends show us anything, it is that the invention of another future is inevitable, and that Youth, key agents of social, political and economic change, have to play a role in this invention. It is particularly the case in the partnership between Africa & Europe.

The current pandemic makes this collaboration even more imperative, in order to reinvent our future.

With the next Summit of African and European Heads of States planned for 28-29 October – as well as the accompanying Youth Summit - it is paramount for Youth from both continents to be able to debate, interact, and weigh in. Youth outreach is essential.

The AU-EU Youth Hub (www.aueuyouthhub.org), along with EU, AU, Youth organisations and various partners, are organising the **Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up**, early July online. Seven panels with European & African speakers, combining young and more senior profiles. Keynote Opening session focused on climate (Vanessa Nakate (confirmed), Jane Goodall (confirmed), as well as Afro-European culture through online performances.

The Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up is preceded by “**Speak-Up!**”, a public Youth consultation on the 7 panel topics, enabled through partnership with UNICEF’s U-Report tool and feeding into the panels. It will end with “**Listen Up!**”, a closing session where Youth will present conclusions to EU & AU leadership (Commissioners from both continental institutions).

The Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up (and preceding Speak Up!) engages African, European and diaspora Youth at large to exchange knowledge, ideas and solutions towards tackling global issues, in preparation for the coming EU-AU Youth Summit with all Youth stakeholders later this year.

1. Since 2017, an innovative, operational AU-EU Youth Track has been in place: young people from both continents have been working together on 6 key topics: Education & Skills, Business & Job Creation, Environment & Climate Change, Culture, Arts & Sports, Peace & Security, Governance & Political Inclusion. These Youth have developed new ideas on each theme. Some of these ideas are being implemented by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 17 countries across Africa & Europe, with Youth monitoring progress and communicating lessons learned. This is the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub (www.aueuyouthhub.org), which enables non-traditional partnerships among institutions, Youth from both continents, CSOs and private sector to collaborate together). Seeing Youth from both continents working together, joining hands to enable the piloting and scale-up of innovative approaches targeting both continents is a powerful message: be they from Africa or Europe, Youth have common challenges and common aspirations, and Youth have innovative solutions to bring to the table as owners of their own development.

Format

The Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up is an online open event, with a programme attracting a wide African & European Youth audience interested in Africa-Europe relations and the active participation of Youth. The **Meet-Up** in itself consists of an inspirational opening session focused on Climate, 7 panel discussions¹, and Afro-European cultural interludes.

The Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up is preceded by “**Speak-Up!**”: a 7-question online consultation on the panel topics, open to Youth from Africa & Europe, enabled thanks to a partnership with UNICEF U-Report tool and feeding into the 7 panels.

It ends with “**Listen-Up!**”: a closing session where conclusions/recommendations from each panels are presented to AU & EU leadership.

Platform for discussion, the Meet-Up will be also an opportunity to introduce the work of the AU-EU Youth Hub to a wider Youth audience.

When

Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 July 2020 :

2.5 hours daily sessions, towards the beginning of the afternoon to accommodate the different African time zones.

Key objectives

- ☉ To share and shape ideas on the future of the Africa-EU partnership, and propose solutions for existing challenges through concrete recommendations, proposals and plans for action;
- ☉ To raise awareness on the 5th Africa-Europe Youth Summit² & the 6th EU-AU Summit³ on 28- 29 October in Brussels, and prepare Youth for their meaningful contribution and engagement at these intercontinental high-level spaces;
- ☉ To foster cultural exchanges through visual and audio contributions during the event (poetry, short stories, art, music, etc.)
- ☉ To mobilize visibility and partnerships for the AU-EU Youth Hub collaboration model.

Schedule

- ☉ **22-30 June: Speak-Up!** Online consultation on the panel topics (disseminated through UNICEF U-Report and all partners' platforms)
- ☉ **8 July: Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up** opening act:
 - Vanessa Nakate & Jane Goodall, hosted by Valériane Gauthier, Journalist (France24)
 - African-European music duet

¹ The panel discussions will be related to the 7 key topics of the AU-EU Youth Hub: Education & Skills, Business & Job Creation, Environment & Climate Change, Culture, Arts & Sports, Peace & Security, Governance & Political Inclusion, and Digitalisation.

² Currently foreseen mainly between 18-23 October (with potential division into two parts with 1st part on 28-29 September in Bonn and 2nd part during the week of 18-23 October in Brussels).

³ 28-29 October in Brussels.

☉ 8-10 July: **Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up**: 2 panels per day, with artistic Afro-European interludes (short movies, poetry, music)

☉ **10 July: Listen-Up!**: Closing session with AU & EU leadership; from each panel, 1 young person presents recommendations to AU & EU leadership.

22 - 30 JUNE	WEDNESDAY 8 JULY	THURSDAY 9 JULY	FRIDAY 10 JULY
Speak Up! Online consultation on the 7 panel topics, circulated via U-Report and other social media platforms	12:30 – 1:30 PM (CET) Opening session - Focus on Climate	12-1:00 PM (CET) Digitalisation panel	12-1:00 PM (CET) Education Panel
	1:30-2:00 PM (CET) Cultural interlude	1:00-1:30 PM (CET) Cultural interlude	1:00-1:30 PM (CET) Cultural interlude
	2:00 3:00 PM (CET) Environment panel	1:30- 2:30 PM (CET) Peace & Security panel	1:30-2:30 PM (CET) Business panel
	3:00-3:30 PM (CET) Cultural interlude	2:30-3:00 PM (CET) Cultural interlude	2:30-3:00 PM (CET) Cultural interlude
	3:30-4:30 PM (CET) Governance panel	3:00-4:00 PM (CET) Culture & Arts panel	3:00 PM (CET) Closing: Listen Up! : each panel recap & AU-EU institutional response

Speak-Up! – a prior online consultation

The Panel topics questions are put out to the wider African & European Youth. UNICEF's U-Report tool (Global U-Report Platform) serves to transmit the questions; the link is also shared on all other social media platforms involved.

The responses to the questions are analysed by the AU-EU Youth Hub clusters and the Meet-Up organizing Taskforce. The results feed into the panel discussions as first elements of answers.

Meet-Up! - Panel topics

Each panel gathers 4 speakers (various age, background, fame) and is moderated by a Young Expert from the AU-EU Youth Hub. The panel topics are the following:

Environment & Climate Change: Post-COVID-19 in Africa & Europe: what form of government intervention to reach the Paris Agreement targets?

Education & Skills: Education Reimagined after COVID-19: how to meet the needs of the future and ensure inclusion & quality?

Business & Job creation: How can businesses of tomorrow be catalysts for new fairer societies in Africa & Europe?

Culture & Arts: How Can Cultural Co-creation be enhanced between African and European Youth post-COVID-19?

Governance & Political inclusion: How can Youth influence decision-making and spending in Africa and Europe and hold leaders accountable?

Peace & Security: How can Youth build peace and prevent violent extremism & exclusion in a post-COVID-19 context?

Digitalisation: How should we use technology to better promote Youth economic, social, and cultural rights in Africa and Europe?

Listen Up! – closing session with AU & EU leadership

The closing session enables moderators from each panel (Young Experts from the AU-EU Youth Hub) to deliver a few messages and key recommendations from each panel to AU & EU leadership.

From AU: Deputy Chairperson Kwesi, Commissioners Agbor, Abou Zeid, Elfadil, Chergui

From EU: EVP Vestager, VP Schinas, Commissioners Urpilainen, Lenarčič, Gabriel, Breton + President of the EESC L. Jahier

N.B. AU & EU leadership attendees to be determined.

The session should be “youthful” and not too formal. After short introductions by AU & EU (most senior attending), each moderator present in 2/3 minutes. Commissioners can react informally thereafter. Session will be co-hosted by Zainab Yunus, UNICEF U-Report Ambassador.

Communication/Visibility

Communication is absolutely essential to ensure wide outreach.

The Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up has several assets:

- **Clear pitch:** Africa-Europe Youth Meet-Up – Thinking our Future Together: African & European Youth thinking their post-COVID future together – recommendations brought to the Africa-Europe Youth Summit.
- **For Youth by Youth:** curated by the AU-EU Youth Hub & Youth networks.
- **Involvement of high-level speakers/celebrities** (Vanessa Nakate, Youssou N’Dour, Burna Boy (tbc), Angèle (tbc), Sanna Marin (tbc), Tony Elumelu (tbc), Christine Lagarde (tbc), Jane Goodall, Miguel Angel Moratinos (tbc), Trevor Noah (tbc), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (tbc). N.B all currently being contacted.
- **Afro-European Cultural performances** (music, poetry, short-movies).

The communication logic is one of **partnerships**: the more partners are involved, the more platforms will popularize the **Speak-Up!** consultation and stream the **Meet-Up**. This will come in complement to AU (AU Youth Programme) and EU (EEAS, EuropeAid, European Parliament) raising awareness through all their channels to attract participants.

- **Media** partnerships are therefore established on both continents – the Meet-Up is streamed on various online platforms (France 24 (tbc), RFI (tbc), Africa54, BBC Africa, etc.). Discussions are also ongoing with other platforms (i4Policy, Friends of Europe, Mo Ibrahim Foundation).

Partners

- European Parliament (European Youth Event)
- UNICEF
- Youth partners (YFJ, ONE campaign, ADYFE, ACP YPN, NIYOA)
- France 24/RFI
- GIZ
- Conseil Présidentiel pour l'Afrique
- Mstart agency
- BBC Africa*
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation*
- The Next Web*
- i4Policy*

* partnerships currently under discussion

TO CONTACT/FOLLOW THE AU-EU YOUTH COOPERATION HUB

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