



## Ibrahim Governance Forum 2023 & the Africa-Europe Foundation

A key strategic objective of the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is to contribute to **“reframing and reinforcing the Africa-Europe partnership on the multi-lateral and regional stage”**. AEF is an independent multi-stakeholder platform and safe space for dialogue on complex issues of cross-continental and global relevance, bringing together citizens and leaders from all walks of life united by a passionate belief in a deeper partnership between Africa and Europe.

During the inception phase of AEF, multistakeholder dialogue platforms were set up and mandated to offer a safe space for exchange on complex, sometimes contentious, issues of the partnership and catalyse innovative partnerships. These dialogue platforms form the backbone of this new partnership which seeks to support AEF in expanding its engagement with diverse audiences across Africa and Europe, catalysing innovative cooperation, bringing fresh thinking to international policymaking, and playing a key role in the monitoring of the AU-EU Dialogue.

**For the Ibrahim Governance Forum in 2023, AEF has a focus on a stronger Africa-Europe Partnership to catalyse cooperation from the redesign of financial systems to innovative partnership on health and climate, ocean governance and blue economy, energy access and transitions, and reinforcing the potential of youth voice, agency, and leadership to challenge misperceptions.**

## AEF Programme at A Glance

The Africa-Europe Foundation’s proposed programme combines meetings of high-level personalities from Africa and Europe (High-Level Group, Women Leaders Network) with dedicated sessions to areas of cooperation that hold promise for enhanced Africa-Europe cooperation:

### **Friday, 28 April, 12:00 – 14:00: High-Level Group of Personalities Meeting. Venue: Radisson Blu Upper Hill**

This represents the bi-annual meeting of the High-Level board of the AEF. This meeting will be focusing on the global governance redesign and will offer an opportunity for the AEF co-chairs of strategy groups to provide updates on the areas of cooperation of the AEF. The meeting brings together high-level personalities from Africa and Europe, in addition to the co-chairs of AEF’s strategy groups and the CEOs of partners affiliated to AEF’s multi-annual programming (leading global foundations and regional institutions working across Africa and internationally).

The HLG meeting takes place on the eve of the opening of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend and the African Leadership Ceremony (19.00-21.30) which will involve personalities including: H.E. former President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger; H.E. President William Ruto of Kenya; H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia; H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; H.E. Charles Michel, President of the European Council; H.E. Amina

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J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

**Friday, 28 April, 14:30-16:00: High-level Dialogue on Blue Economy and Oceans Governance.**

**Venue: Radisson Blu Upper Hill**

It is high time for Africa and Europe to work better together at the nexus of development and climate, to conserve the biodiversity of the ocean and its ecosystems for economic-related purpose and the advancement of commitments on climate. The high-level dialogue will address how political, technical and research cooperation can be enhanced on ocean and blue economy in the context of the Africa-Europe renewed partnership; how pockets of innovations on climate-related ocean action at the local, regional and continental level can be given the visibility they merit to enhance the Africa-Europe cooperation, and how the two continents can work closely to untap the opportunities that exist to meet the targets of SDG 14 (‘Life below water’) and SDG 13 (‘Climate action’)? How can Africa and Europe leverage the interlinkages between these SDGs.

**Saturday, 29 April, All Day:** AEF participation to the Ibrahim Forum on the theme of Global Africa, with AEF engagement in strategic sessions and working meetings with strategic partners. Meetings will also take place with co-chairs and members of the AEF strategy groups. A new AEF working group on Carbon Markets will be launched and a strategic agenda-setting meeting for a new Strategy Group on Blue Economy and Ocean.

**Sunday, 30 April, Side Events: Radisson Blu Upper Hill**

AEF and partners are involved in organising a series of side events. These include:

**7:30-9:00: Women Leaders’ Network (WLN) Meeting:** The in-person meeting will be an opportunity to consolidate the 2023 dialogues with the ‘Redesigning of the international financial systems’ as well as addressing complex issues including energy, agri-food systems, and clean cooking.

**9:00-10:00: Earth Shot B-team event:** The Africa-Europe Earthshot is a multi-stakeholder co-design, co-creation, and co-delivery process that seeks to identify and accelerate pathways to unlock finance and improve the investment climate for Africa’s just transition. By bringing together a diverse community of experts for a series of strategic convenings between April - December 2023, in alignment with global geopolitical opportunities to advance the agenda, the Earthshot will mobilize a groundswell of support for action on a set of priority opportunity areas in order to streamline activity rather than duplicate or undermine existing initiatives.

The Africa-Europe Earthshot will contribute to a catalytic transformation of the global financial system in service of Africa’s just transition. At the Ibrahim governance Weekend, AEF will hold and in-person convening with stakeholders.

**11:00-12:00: Carbon Markets Working Group:** As part of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend, the Africa-Europe Foundation is launching a new Africa-Europe Working Group on Carbon Markets. It will complement existing dialogue platforms and strategy groups and provide a space for leading experts from across Africa and Europe to share insights and make recommendations

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to enhance the cross-continental partnership – with a specific focus on critically evaluating risks and opportunities associated with carbon markets.

**13:30-14:30: Now Narratives:** The session will be part of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation ‘Now Generation Network’ agenda and will convene young leaders from Africa and Europe to discuss the following issues:

- What fuels misperceptions and false and outdated narratives, and how does this affect directly prospects for a strengthened and transformative Africa-Europe Partnership?
- What are the areas of action we need to prioritise to generate at scale new narratives about Africa-Europe and to put in place the building blocks for a real partnership of equals?
- How can we significantly reinforce the centrality of youth voice, agency, and leadership in driving this next chapter of Africa-Europe relations?

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## ANNEX 1: High-level Dialogue on Oceans governance

### OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND BLUE ECONOMY: AN EMERGING AGENDA FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP

**Date:** Friday, 28 April 2023, 14:30-16:00 (60-people room)

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Upper Hill

**Format:** Hybrid

#### Context

Ocean governance and blue economy represents a strategic domain of cooperation which is not yet central to the AU-EU dialogue as well as one of the most under-resourced SDGs. There is an important constellation of opportunities in 2023 to reinforce cooperation on ocean governance from the follow-up of the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Union-European Union (AU-EU) Summit to the mid-term review of SDGs and the preparation of COP28.

At the Mo Ibrahim Governance weekend, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) will facilitate an open dialogue on key, potentially contentious, issues between Africa and Europe, demonstrating that cooperation on ocean governance and blue economy can contribute to human development and economic opportunities. The session will mark the first global profiling of the new Africa-Europe Strategy Group and programme on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy, supported by the European Commission in partnership with the African Union Commission.

#### Speakers:

- **H.E Josefa Sacko**, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
- **H. E Nancy Kirigithu**, Kenya's Ambassador for Maritime and Blue Economy, former Principal Secretary at the State Department for Shipping and Maritime in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, European Commission Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)
- **Pascal Lamy**, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and High-Level Group member of the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)
- **Jean-Paul Adam**, Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **David Obura**, Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa • **Arthur Tuda**, Executive Secretary of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**, Chairperson of the Board of the MIHARI Network, and Madagascar's small-scale fisheries Ambassador
- **Brenda Kibiku**, Technical Advisor on Blue Economy at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- **Thomas Sberna**, Senior Fellow for Ocean at the Africa-Europe Foundation (Moderator)

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## ANNEX 2: High Level Personalities – Working Group on Carbon Markets

**Date:** Sunday, 30 April 2023, 11:00-12:00

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Upper Hill

**Format:** Hybrid

### Context:

As part of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend, the Africa-Europe Foundation is launching a new AEF Working Group on Carbon Markets at the Ibrahim Governance Weekend. It will complement existing dialogue platforms and strategy groups and provide a space for leading experts from across Africa and Europe to advance insightful recommendations to enhance the cross-continental partnership.

Africa and Europe are at very different stages in their transitions. Nonetheless, the two continents can support each other by working together, notably on issues related to compliance and voluntary carbon markets. Both sides could greatly benefit from making the best of EU's long-lasting expertise and lessons learned in the field of carbon markets whilst making the best of Africa's carbon potential.

### Tentative composition:

#### Co-chairs:

Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy

Jos Delbeke, EIB Chair in Climate Policy and International Carbon Markets, School of Transnational Governance (EUI), former Director-General of the European Commission's DG for Climate Action

#### Potential members:

- Amar Inamdar, Managing Director, KawiSafi Ventures, member of the AEF SG on Energy
- Tariye Gbadegesin, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the ARM-Harith Infrastructure Investment LTD, member of the AEF SG on Energy
- Bianca Gichangi, Coordinator at Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance
- Olufunso Somorin, Regional Principal Officer at the African Development Bank
- Najma Mohamed, Policy Director of Green Economy Coalition; and member of the WLN
- Alice Carr, Executive Director, Public Policy, Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)
- Paula DiPerna, Special Advisor to CDP North America
- Rebekah Shirley, Africa Research Director at the World Resources Institute
- Linus Mofor, Senior Natural Resources Officer – Energy, Infrastructure and Climate Change, UNECA; or Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources, UNECA
- Laurence Tubiana, Chief Executive Officer of the European Climate Foundation; and member of the WLN
- Sebastien Treyer, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI); and member of the AEF SG on Energy

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### ANNEX 3: Earth Shot B Team Event

The Africa-Europe Earthshot is a multi-stakeholder co-design, co-creation, and co-delivery process that seeks to identify and accelerate pathways to unlock finance and improve the investment climate for Africa's just transition. By bringing together a diverse community of experts for a series of strategic convenings between April - December 2023, in alignment with global geopolitical opportunities to advance the agenda, the Earthshot will mobilize a groundswell of support for action on a set of priority opportunity areas in order to streamline activity rather than duplicate or undermine existing initiatives.

The Africa-Europe Earthshot will contribute to a catalytic transformation of the global financial system in service of Africa's just transition. At the Ibrahim governance Weekend, AEF will hold and in-person convening with stakeholders.

**Purpose:** Launch the Earthshot tracks and announce co-chairs for each track, introduce the Earthshot and get buy-in from key decision-makers across the system.

**What to expect:** An in-person convening gathering feedback, insights and inputs on the 3 priority pathways from high-level stakeholders and decision-makers.

A curated group of high-level participants will respond to the previously-designed hypotheses behind the priority pathways to unlocking finance and improving the investment climate for Africa's just transition. During the session, we will name two members – one African, one European - of the Women's Leaders Network (WLN) who will act as co-chairs for each of the pathways' workstreams. Participants will leave with a better understanding of the Earthshot's objectives and upcoming plans, as well as an awareness of how they can further contribute to each pathway's progress as the ideas develop.

### ANNEX 4: Now Narratives: Setting new ground for a transformative Africa-Europe partnership

**Date:** 30th April 2023, 13:30 – 14:30

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Upper Hill

**Format:** Hybrid

#### Context:

The Talking Africa-Europe Special will be part of the Weekend's 'Now Generation Network' agenda and focuses on the theme of "Now Narratives". As set out in the charter of the AEF ([https://www.africaeuropefoundation.org/AEF\\_Charter.pdf](https://www.africaeuropefoundation.org/AEF_Charter.pdf)), we recognise that there is no prospect of a transformative Africa-Europe Partnership without addressing prevailing misperceptions and generating narratives which reflect the realities of our societies today.

Narratives have the power to influence perspectives, attitudes and beliefs, and young people have a central role to play in driving the new vision of a partnership of equals and opening space for exchange, innovation, and change.

Timed to coincide with AEF's new multi-annual programming phase, this Talking Africa-Europe Special will also provide the basis for establishing a permanent platform and safe space for ongoing exchange and action among young leaders of the Africa-Europe partnership.

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### Speakers:

- **George Gachara**, creative industry strategist, fund advisor, and Managing Partner at HEVA, Africa's first dedicated finance, business support and knowledge facility for creative industries.
- **Julius E. O. Fintelmann**, co-Founder of The European Correspondent, a community-funded online medium that tells the stories of Europe. Serves on the advisory board of the European Youth Press.
- **Mutau Kyanya**, Programs and Outreach Coordinator at African Digital Heritage, a non-profit organization working at the intersection of culture and technology.
- **Jonas Nitschke**, Programme Manager for Democracy and Sustainable Development at the Multinational Development Policy Dialogue of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, ONE Youth Ambassador, Y20 Delegate 2023, EU Climate Pact Ambassador.
- **Gertrude Kitongo**, Producer and Journalist with the Africa Features team for CNN International office based out of Johannesburg, South Africa, former Mo Ibrahim scholar and Now Generation Network leader.
- **Zeinab Badawi**, Television and radio journalist. Member of the AEF High-Level Group of Personalities. (Moderator)