



BUILDING AN AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP ON PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

#AUEUTracker Special Dialogue

**Online (Zoom & Livestream) - Brussels, 17 May 2023
3pm - 4:30pm CET**

CONTEXT /

Since its launch in December 2020, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) has identified pandemic preparedness as a key area of work for its health workstream. The 2021 edition of its High-Level Group [report](#) focused on “Pandemic preparedness and the future of healthcare” and it organised a special Talking Africa-Europe Dialogue on Vaccine Access and Equity in the Africa-Europe Partnership ahead of the 6th AU-EU Summit in February 2022.

This #AUEUTracker Special Dialogue aims to engage African and European stakeholders to deliver on the AU-EU commitment on pandemic preparedness. Convening heads of state, policy makers, civil society, business leaders and youth across both continents, it will bring a renewed focus to the AU-EU commitments on health and spotlight AEF recently launched [#AUEUtracker](#), an online platform, that aims to provide up-to-date information and data on the latest developments within the Africa-Europe partnership.

PROGRAMME /

Organised in February 2022, against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Africa-Europe Foundation Talking Africa-Europe Special Dialogue on “[Addressing the vaccine challenge for a renewed Africa-Europe partnership](#)” paved the way for unprecedented commitments towards the health partnership between both continents announced in the following weeks during the 6th AU-EU Summit. The Summit Commitments focus on mobilising resources towards vaccine delivery and deployment, the development of manufacturing infrastructure for health products, and strengthened pandemic preparedness and health security.

Following the sixth AU-EU Summit, historic funds have been unlocked towards vaccine delivery and deployment for COVID-19 and other diseases and several multi-lateral and bilateral flagship initiatives have been launched. For example, the EU has provided financial support to the World Health Organization for the rollout of COVID-19 national vaccination campaigns in 16 African countries and to increase local capacity for vaccine development in several African countries.

However, serious concerns remain. On the global stage, the EU has actively impeded African leaders in their efforts to secure intellectual property right waivers for COVID diagnostics and treatments. The EU and the AU have not converged on a shared position on global health, including on the WHO’s first draft of a pandemic preparedness treaty. Finally, the lack of publicly available information on the development and implementation of many initiatives announced as part of the Summit commitments on health underlines the need for transparency to ensure long term success and accountability.

Debate questions will include:

- Despite considerable progress on Summit Commitments, both continents remain on opposite sides of negotiations on key global health challenges related to pandemic preparedness. Specifically, emergency patent waivers for new vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments remain a barrier to manufacturing and production in Africa. How can progress be achieved towards finding common ground?
- In the context of prevailing poly-crises related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, climate change, and a global recession, how can we ensure that health, particularly pandemic preparedness, remains a priority in the AU-EU partnership and engagements?
- Since the AU-EU Summit, there have been several new strategies and initiatives focused on health such as the EU Global Health Strategy and the USA-Africa Partnership in Health Cooperation. How do these new strategies and initiatives promote or distract from the achievement of the AU-EU Summit commitments on health by 2030?

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS /

- € **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, Honorary President of the Africa-Europe Foundation, Former President of the Republic of Liberia, Nobel Laureate
- € **Anders Nordström**, Ambassador for Global Health, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- € **Dr Jean Kaseya**, Director General, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- € **Dr Phionah Atuhebwe**, Vaccine and Preventable Diseases Expert, World Health Organization Africa Regional Office
- € **Jeremy Knox**, Head of Policy, Infectious Disease, Wellcome Trust
- € **Eloise Todd**, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network
- € **Dr Hannses Malan**, Managing Director, Chemical Process Technologies Pharma South Africa
- € **Elsa Zekeng**, Founder SökerData Ld, Co-Founder, Northwest Biotech Initiative, Forbes 'Sciencepreneur', and Member of the Africa-Europe Foundation Youth Delegation

MODERATOR /

- € **Tamsin Rose**, Senior Facilitator at the Africa Europe Foundation

AUDIENCE /

Participants will log-on from across Africa and Europe and will include representatives of governments, international organisations and institutions, business and trade associations, academia, civil society and youth.

FORMAT /

This #AUEUTracker Special Dialogue will be lively and animated as well as interactive with the audience.

- Duration of 90 minutes. The language of debate is English.
- The dialogue will be conducted online.
- The audience consists of a targeted and well-balanced group of participants from a tailored list of the Africa-Europe Foundation's exclusive network of African and European stakeholders, partners, members of youth networks, and civil society.
- The remaining audience will be composed of a diverse group of individuals from EU and African institutions, governments, international organisations, policymakers, business and trade associations, academia, social partners, and the international press.
- The event will be live streamed on our website and social media.