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Africa-Europe relations: **Choose a specific aspect and explain**, from your perspective, **what the priorities should be** to achieve a stronger relationship?

800 words (minus cover page and references)

ASPECT: A Partnership on Green Technological Industrialization through expanding the use of geothermal energy

Green industrialization is the driving force of the next stage of development across human civilizations. The damage that present day manufacturing and consumerism inflicts on our environment and society at large has been universally acknowledged. In recognizing this fact, political discourse, communities, policies and other movements have formed around the matter of green development. Unfortunately, there has not been any substantial inclination towards realizing this future- especially when it comes to strong partnerships in securing efficient and sustainable sources of energy.

As it stands, Africa hasn't managed to completely pierce the development shield due to a multitude of factors, the most prominent of which is the lack of power. Due to inability to secure consistent or even relative electricity, domestic unrest and public dissatisfaction is felt across all walks of life. With a growing global population, energy scarcity has become a matter of concern for all states in the international community, e.g; in the world, 75% of the global population which do not have access to electricity are in Sub Saharan Africa while although Europe is 100% electrified, only 22.1% of electricity use is green. Green technological industrialization is a gap in international mobility that should inspire the priorities between Europe and Africa.

The first stage of 'green technological industrialization' must involve the move from using traditional means of energy production such as coal, gas and other natural resources, to geothermal plants. Geothermal plants offer an alternative to energy production that will ensure that the surrounding environment isn't degraded for industrial purposes and will (with the correct legislation and management offices in place), lead to the energization of Africa. For citizens, this will mean that they are able to gain access to the internet, increased social mobility and improved communication systems. For native industries, this will mean consistent and cheaper energy which equates to a lower production costs and possible reduction in product cost. For the government, it will mean happier citizens (and possibly less domestic conflict). For the environment, it means that native animals and trees will not have to suffer the cost of deforestation for the sake of energy.

Once energy is secured with the help of technology transfer and technical assistance from Europe, Africa will be taking its first steps towards a green industrialization. It will be able to truly aim for ambitions that manifest achievements such as that which was earned by the US in 2018- 100% energization of all counties, regions, countries and even rural spaces. The goal

behind using energy as a stepping stone in sustainable development and green industrialization is to achieve industrial and entrepreneurial flexibility which allows for consistent development. An example of this is perfectly encapsulated by Denmark who “through decades of extraordinary and sustained efforts, Denmark has built a world-class green energy system that delivers a cleaner everyday life and more green energy. In particular, Denmark has focused on making buildings more energy-efficient, an important contributor in a country where heating is required for more than half of the year¹.”

Conversely, the European Union will also benefit from a partnership in Green Technological Industrialization through expanding the use of geothermal energy. This is in reference to the European Climate Law where the aim of zero emissions by 2050 was established in 2021². As of 2020, Europe's carbon emissions rest at 2.54 billion metric tons (Statista, 2021) and as of 2018, it has been noted that the energy production sector is the one which produces the most greenhouse emissions at 28%³. Although there has been a 21.7% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from the 1990's⁴, there's still a long road ahead. With that said, the Africa and Europe partnership with a focus on green technological industrialization can be used as an opportunity for Europe to meet its sustainable development goals.

Finally, ‘Green’ centered technological Industrialization centered around securing green energy as a priority is the next stage of development. It is intended to be a development that benefits the welfare of the planet as a whole and eventually lead to a reduction in the human contribution to global warming and environmental degradation. This partnership will place both regions in a powerful position and in the front line of a new age of development which works to respect and

¹Sustainability and the Danes. (n.d.). Denmark.Dk. Retrieved January 27, 2022, from

<https://denmark.dk/innovation-and-design/sustainability>

²Hoof, S. V. (2021, June 30). European Commission launches proposals to reach 55% emissions reduction by 2030. Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Retrieved January 28, 2022, from

<https://www.unsdsn.org/european-commission-launches-proposals-to-reach-55-emissions-reduction-by-2030#:~:text=In%20June%202021%2C%20the%20EU,2030%20compared%20to%201990%20levels>

Statista. (2021, July 21). Carbon dioxide emissions in the European Union 1965–2020. Retrieved January 28, 2022, from

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/450017/co2-emissions-europe-eurasia/>

³Shedding light on energy on the EU: How are emissions of greenhouse gases by the EU evolving? (n.d.). Shedding Light on Energy on the EU. Retrieved January 28, 2022, from

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/energy/bloc-4a.html#:~:text=In%202018%2C%20the%20energy%20producing,1990%20to%2024.6%20%25%20in%202018.>

⁴Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe. (n.d.). European Environment Agency. Retrieved January 28, 2022, from

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emission-trends-6/assessment-3%23:%7E:text%3DIn%202017%252C%2520the%2520EU%27s%2520greenhouse,2%2520%2525%2520from%25202017%2520to%25202018&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1643386837579029&usg=AOvVaw1IkSZ-QYnt9tdDUDhgq-z0>

fulfill the provisions disclosed in the Paris Agreement of 2015- strengthening their relationship. It would be a symbolic and inspiring partnership that presents the bold statement that 'development and mutual green industrialization knows no boundaries but intention'.

With all this in mind, it is important to mention additional priorities that could also be considered: improve value supply chains between Africa and the EU, collaborating on research programs to help resolve water shortages, technical support in conflict; management, resolution, and reconstruction to reduce the influx of African migrants into Europe.

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