

Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) Ibrahim Governance Weekend 2023

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

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) will organise on 30th April 2023 a Talking Africa-Europe Special, live from Nairobi, connecting young leaders from across our neighbouring continents.

Taking place on the occasion of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend, 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/AEFCharter.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 up space for exchange, innovation and change.

The AEF Talking Africa-Europe Special, to run in a hybrid format to connect young leaders present in Nairobi with peers across Africa and Europe and internationally, will focus on three main questions:

- What fuels misperceptions and false and outdated narratives, and how does this affect directly prospects for a strengthened and transformative Africa-Europe Partnership?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 in order 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?

The session will benefit from data generated by partners involved in regular polling and focus group work with young citizens as well as the association of diverse youth leadership networks affiliated to the work of AEF (among them the MIF Now Generation, FoE European Young Leaders and ONE Champions) and the output will be shared with policymakers involved in the AU-EU Dialogue. 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.

Format and timing

- Date/Time: 30th April 2023, 13:30 – 14:30
- Venue: Radisson Blu Upper Hill
- Duration: 60 minutes
- The language of the debate is English
- The format is hybrid

Speakers

FOUNDED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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- **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.
- **Mutanu 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.

Moderator (TBC)

Zeinab Badawi, Television and radio journalist. Member of the AEF High-Level Group of Personalities.

Zeinab Badawi is a prolific broadcast journalist for the BBC. She has worked on programmes Hard Talk, Global Questions and Word Debate among many others.

Contact person

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