

Inequality. A Challenge for African-European Cooperation

**Dialogue Conference within the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the
European Union**



Dates: 26th and 27th November, 2018

Venue: Haus der Europäischen Union – Wien, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Wien

Organised by:

Vienna Institute for international Dialogue and Cooperation | VIDC
Southern Africa Documentation and Cooperation Centre | SADOCC

Partners:

Radio Africa TV
North South Dialogue of Parliaments
Global Responsibility | Austrian Platform for development and humanitarian aid
Liaison Office of the European Parliament and Representation of the European Commission
in Austria



**NorthSouthDialogue
of Parliaments**

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**Global
Responsibility**



Program Monday, 26 November 2018

Language: English and German with simultaneous interpretation

17:30 – 18:00 Registration

18:00 – 18:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

- **Marc Fähndrich** | Head of Economic Team | Advisor European Semester | Representation of the European Commission in Austria
- **Sybille Straubinger** | Director VIDC
- **Bernhard Bouzek** | Board Member SADOCC

18:30 – 21:00 **Panel Discussion: The State of Inequality**

- **Pravin Gordhan (skype interview)** | Minister Public Economy | South Africa
- **Antonio Teixeira** | European Commission, DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) | Brussels
- **Léo Czajka** | World Inequality Lab | Paris | Université catholique de Louvain | Belgium
- **Neeshan Bolton** | Executive Director Ahmed of Kathrada Foundation | South Africa
- *Chair: Marie Roger Biloa | Africa International | Paris*

Program Tuesday, 27 November 2018

Language: English only!

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 **Introduction**

- **Franz Schmidjell** | VIDC

10:15 – 12:30 **Panel II: Solidarity matters**

- **Angela Dziedzom Akorsu** | University Cape Coast | Ghana
- **Nonhle Mbuthuma** | Human Rights Defender | Amadiba Crisis Committee | Xolobeni | South Africa
- **Akhator Joel Odigie** | Int'l Trade Union Congress Africa | Lomé | Togo
- **Kékéli Kpognon** | ADEPT – African Diaspora in Europe | Brussels
- *Chair: Alexis Neuberg | Radio Afrika TV | Vienna*

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch Break**

- 13:30 – 16:00 **Workshops I: Post Cotonou**
Addressing inequality and civil society participation in times of shrinking political spaces
Inputs by
Geert Laporte | European Centre for Development Policy Management
Kékéli Kpognon | ADEPT – African Diaspora in Europe
Antonio Teixeira (tbc) | European Commission, DG for International Cooperation and Development
- 13:30 – 16:00 **Workshop II: Solidarity matters**
Local struggles and international alliance building to push policy changes for social justice
Inputs by
Nonhle Mbuthuma | Human Rights Defender | Amadiba Crisis Committee
Neeshan Bolton | Executive Director Ahmed of Kathrada Foundation
Akhator Joel Odigie | Int’l Trade Union Congress Africa
- 13:30 – 16:00 **Workshop III: Inequality**
National policies and global governance to tackle economic inequality and wealth accumulation
Inputs by
Léo Czajka | World Inequality Lab
Wilfried Altzinger | Research Institute Economics of Inequality
Angela Dzedzom Akorsu | University Cape Coast
- 16:00 – 16:30 Break
- 16:30 – 17:30 **The Way Forward**
‘walk around’ presentation of results, recommendations and proposals
*Moderator: **Marie Roger Biloa** | Africa International and **Walter Sauer** | SADOCC*
- 17:30 – 18:00 Break
- 18:00 – 19:00 **African Diaspora Award Ceremony**
Diplomas will be awarded to African diaspora consultants in Austria by the **Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform and Radio Afrika TV**.
The African diasporas play an important role as a catalyst for sustainable development and social justice. ADEPT enhances the capacity and impact of the African diaspora organisations that are involved in development activities in Africa. This includes training courses of diaspora activists to create an expert pool. The trainings and the award ceremony is organised by the Austrian ADEPT partner, Radio Afrika TV.

Refreshments

Background

The conference aims to look at relations between the European Union and Africa under the perspective of inequalities, both between and within these two regions and to explore answers to following questions: What are the different dimensions of inequalities? What are the current trends in and drivers for income and wealth inequalities within the African-European context (economic analysis)? Is transnational solidarity an effective approach to reduce inequalities (political response)? With regard to the ongoing negotiations about the Post-Cotonou Agreement, what could be an adequate institutional response to the existing and growing inequalities?

The colonial legacy in terms of wealth distribution has not been eliminated by the current global economic order and perhaps even exacerbated. The economic discrepancies, and therefore also political unevenness, between the two neighbouring continents Europe and Africa remain significant. In addition, unequal distribution in income and wealth within both regions also remains high or is rising. The European welfare systems, important to compensate inequality, seem to be insufficient or even decreasing. Neither the concept of „Social Europe“ nor the „Rising Africa“ movement has managed to properly respond to this trend. Women are most affected as they constitute the majority of people living in precarious circumstances.

„To overcome inequality“ is a key issue within the Agenda 2030 (SDG No 10).

There is the experience of previous solidarity campaigns in a European-African context undertaken by churches, trade unions, human rights organisations and others, like the Anti-Apartheid movements or Jubilee2000. The panel will discuss how transnational solidarity could be organised today under conditions of a globalised economy and unipolar world. What are the reasons for the absence, or weakness, of progressive organisations and alliances? How could civil society and African diasporas help to shape EU-Africa relations in a more equitable manner?

The present regulatory Cotonou framework of trade, development and political relations between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries will expire in 2020. Whereas the current debate is dominated by issues like regionalisation (one foundation, three compacts, continent-to-continent agreement), the budgetisation of the European Development Fund, the conference will offer another perspective by bringing in issues of equality and social justice. How should a new compact address these issues? How to involve key actors like civil society and academia in the debate and the implementation?

„Inequality – A Challenge for African-European Cooperation“ continues the longstanding Austrian tradition of North-South dialogue and builds on the Europe-Southern Africa Conference convened by the same organisers under the first Austrian EU Presidency in 1998.