



Africa week

S&D for Africa



www.sd4africa.eu





PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Africa is a political priority for the S&D Group. African countries are not just our neighbours but our partners. In this spirit, I am proud to present the S&Ds' Africa Week 2016 as another step forward on the path of our long-standing engagement with Africa and the African people.

Unlike the traditional vision of Africa, seen from the viewpoint of the lack of hope, poverty, development cooperation, political instability and conflicts, we believe that it is time for a positive and constructive approach.

The S&D Group believes that the African continent is not only our geographic neighbour, but also our partner. Africa and Europe are linked by their history and by interests and values that we hope are shared: respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, prosperity and justice. We share a common future.

The fates of Europe and Africa are linked, but new relations need to be defined.

As Patrice Lumumba said, "Africa will write its own history, and it will be, to the north and to the south of the Sahara, a history of glory and dignity". Let's write our history together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gianni Pittella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G".

GIANNI PITTELLA
S&D Group president

ABOUT AFRICA WEEK

The S&D Group's Africa Week is a series of political and cultural events – in the European Parliament and at external venues – aimed at celebrating EU-Africa relations and defining future collaboration through thought-provoking discussions.

It is organised by the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European

Parliament as it reflects our belief that a strategic partnership between Africa and Europe is of crucial importance in a rapidly globalising world which faces global problems requiring global solutions.

Joined by African and European guests – including politicians, academics, experts, intellectuals, artists and activists – we will hold a series of events to discuss key

topics on EU-Africa relations in the realms of politics, democracy, human rights, trade, sustainable development, culture and education.

The key message that we would like to convey is that EU-Africa relations need a closer partnership built on the principles of equality, dialogue and trust, for a stronger Africa, a stronger EU and a better world.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 5th - Monday 11th April 2016, Brussels

in partnership
with the

Global Progressive Forum (GPF)

in cooperation
with the

Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)
International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)
Party of European Socialists (PES) Women
Solidar
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Interpretation in **EN, FR**

 Webstreamed event (www.globalprogressiveforum.org)

 Contact person GPF secretariat: Cécilia Gondard
PES Women secretariat: Lesia Radelicki

Chaired by ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Women's Forum co-chair **Maria Arena** and Party of European Socialists (PES) Women chair **Zita Gurmai**

With the participation of **Ndoye Mame Penda** on behalf of the Fédération des femmes transformatrices de poissons de Mbour

Panel participants include **Dominique Aguessy, Wendy Bashi, Christa Randzio-Plath, Conny Reuter, Abdoulaye Sene**, and other African and European speakers

This round table will give the audience an opportunity to discuss African women's empowerment and health at work, and to address the issue of sexual health, reproductive rights and HIV, and will also include an award ceremony with the participation of women politicians from Africa and from Europe, who have fought for democracy and the respect for human rights, especially in the field of gender equality.

TUESDAY 5TH APRIL

14:00 - 14:45

Opening of photo exhibitions on conflict minerals and on education in Africa

Public event

-  Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) 3rd floor 3G2/3 balcony exhibition area, European Parliament
-  Contact person S&D Group secretariat: Doriano Dragoni
- With the participation of S&D Group president **Gianni Pittella**, ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly vice-president **Cécile Kashetu Kyenge**, and S&D Group vice-president **Enrique Guerrero Salom**

15:00 - 17:00

GPF-PES Women Round Table
Women's Empowerment in Africa including
the GPF Global Progressive Achiever Award ceremony

Upon invitation only

-  Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3H1, European Parliament

17:30 - 19:00

GPF-FES-Solidar Seminar
Decent Work and Social Protection for Africa

Upon invitation only

-  Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3H1, European Parliament
- Interpretation in **EN, FR**
-  Contact persons GPF secretariat: Cécilia Gondard
Solidar secretariat: Barbara Caracciolo, Maurice Claassens

With the participation of MEPs **Linda McAvan** and **Norbert Neuser**

Speakers include **John-Jean Barya, Michael Cichon, Sophia Kisting, Kaluzi Simekinala**

The Agenda 2030 as well as the Addis Ababa Consensus have reiterated governments' commitment to the realization of decent work and social protection for all. The EU, through its development cooperation policy and programs, is already greatly contributing to the achievement of these objectives. The forthcoming review of the national indicative programs, negotiated in the framework of the 11th European Development Fund, will be an opportunity to further pursue the progressive realization of these rights and better align EDF programs with the Agenda 2030 spirit. Through the launch of the Social Protection Monitor Report, this seminar will be the opportunity for an exchange between African CSOs and EU representatives on this issue.

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2016

09:30 - 11:30

FEPS Seminar Fostering a Sustainable Future for Africa: The Importance of Local Governance

Public event - registration required

 Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Rue Montoyer 40, 1000 Brussels
Interpretation in **EN, FR**

 Contact person FEPS secretariat: Vassilis Ntousas

For the EU, Africa is described as both an area afflicted by poverty, food insecurity, ill-governance and conflict, but also as a continent of opportunity and growth. Within this framework, local and regional authorities are recognised as playing an increasingly vital role in ensuring a more equitable implementation of development policies in the continent. This seminar will aim to explore the significance of local governance in reducing poverty, fighting inequality and fostering a more sustainable future for Africa.

S&D Group Conference Africa: In the Heart of a Globalised World

The conference “Africa: In the Heart of a Globalised World” is the focal point of the S&D Group Africa Week. It is a unique opportunity for distinguished African guests, high-level EU representatives, international experts and the wider audience to discuss common challenges and opportunities faced by Africa and Europe. Our aim is to facilitate an open and thought-provoking discussion on how Africa and the EU can re-shape their relations to make them more balanced, for the benefit of both sides, in the coming years and in the post-Cotonou era. We will engage in a debate on the crucial role that Africa is to play in responding to global challenges of the modern day: political, economic, social and environmental ones alike.

12:00 - 13:30

Conference lunch EU/EP Election Observation in Africa: Experiences and Challenges

Upon invitation only

 Members' Restaurant private salon, European Parliament
Interpretation in **EN, FR, IT**

 Contact person S&D Group secretariat: Zoltán Simon

14:00 - 19:00

S&D Group Conference Africa: In the Heart of a Globalised World

Public event - registration required

 Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3G2, European Parliament
Interpretation in **DE, EN, ES, FR, IT**

 Webstreamed event (www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)

 Contact person S&D Group secretariat: Renaud Savignat

Moderator: **Wendy Bashi**

With the participation of S&D Group president **Gianni Pittella**, vice-presidents **Victor Boştinaru** and **Knut Fleckenstein**, and MEPs **Maria Arena**, **Cécile Kashetu Kyenge**, **Linda McAvan**, **Norbert Neuser**, **Pier Antonio Panzeri**, **Elena Valenciano**

Panel speakers include **Floribert Anzuluni**, **Serge Baramba (Smockey)**, **Consuelo Cruz**, **Eric Gitari**, **Claude Grunitzky**, **Serge Kambale**, **Stavros Lambrinidis**, **John Mary Vianney Mitana**, **Sandrine Ngalula Mubenga**, **William Wilson Nokrach**, **Aliou Sane**, **Soraya Aziz Souleymane**, **Aissata Tall Sall**, **Yashpal Tandon**, **Marc Artur Zang**

Opening session

Africa/EU relations - Past, present and future

Speakers: European Parliament president **Martin Schulz**
 EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy/European Commission vice-president **Federica Mogherini**

Panel 1

Viva Africa - Africa in the eyes of Africans

Africa is an enormous continent inhabited by people with diverse social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Nonetheless, we are currently witnessing the emergence of a new pan-African identity. Speakers will try to define what it means in 2016 to be "African" and "European".

Panel 2

Gifted Africa - The Africa of talents

Africa is in the midst of a remarkable demographic shift with profound consequences for the continent's future. It is about to benefit from a sharply rising ratio of people of working age to dependents. When Asia experienced a similar demographic revolution three decades ago, it gave a powerful boost to economic growth. However, much more is needed to unleash the full potential of African people, and this panel discussion will be an opportunity to share views on how Africa and Europe can collaborate to create more favourable conditions for the talents to flourish, as well as to support education, human development and entrepreneurship skills.

Panel 3

Changing Africa - New waves of citizens' activism for democracy and human rights

Far-reaching ambitions of young democratic movements in Africa are often confronted with harsh realities of undemocratic regimes. It is thus essential to draw our attention to these movements by discussing ways of supporting democratisation and the promotion of human rights by youth activists in the continent. We believe that the EU is capable of playing a greater role in this process, and that the perspectives of African youth activists can greatly enrich also the European understanding of democracy and human rights.

20:00 - 23:00

Reception and concert of Fredy Massamba

Public event - registration required

-  Bouche à Oreille, Rue Félix Hap 11, 1040 Bruxelles
-  Contact persons GPF/S&D Group secretariat: Simona Russo

THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2016**09:00 - 10:30**

GPF-IUSY Seminar

Youth and Development in Africa:

Opportunities for the Generation of the Future

Upon invitation only

-  Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3H1, European Parliament
 Interpretation in **EN, ES, FR, IT + DE**
-  Contact person GPF secretariat: Simona Russo
 With the support of S&D40 MEPs and the participation of MEPs **Javi López, Victor Negrescu, Elly Schlein**, and IUSY secretary general **Evin Incir**
 Speakers include **Divaika Kiemba, Benedicta Lasi, Lawrence Ndambuki Muli, Giovanni Pertica, Brian Randich**

This round table will give the opportunity to discuss what are the main challenges in the field of empowering young people to take an active role in society, but also what are the interests of young people in Africa and in Europe, as well as what kind of support they need in order to achieve their full participation in the promotion of core progressive values. The youth holds the future of our continents - therefore, listening to the views, hopes and fears of young people is essential when defining our agenda for the years and decades to come.

10:30 - 12:00

S&D Group Seminar Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Public event - registration required

-  Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3G3, European Parliament
Interpretation in **DE, EN, ES, FR, IT**
 -  Contact person S&D Group secretariat: Ciprian Matei
With the participation of S&D Group vice-presidents **Victor Boștinaru** and **Enrique Guerrero Salom**
Speakers include **Daniel Emery Dede, Michel Luntumbue, György Tatár**
- The EU and the S&D Group are devoted to work with our African partners in further consolidating regional and local capabilities, and are considering ways to further strengthen and extend our support for the development of African capacities in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution. As well, the EU is committed to help strengthen and consolidate UN peace support operations and assist post-conflict reconstruction efforts. This co-operation is entrenched in the fundamental principle of ownership, with the main responsibility lying with Africa itself. In this regard, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which is based on this principle, will shape up the framework for strengthening the African security architecture. In this respect, we underline the vital role to be played by African sub-regional organisations in contributing to the resolution of conflicts. They are important building blocks for African political and economic integration, and they have the potential to contribute to securing peace and prosperity in the continent.

12:30 - 14:30

Projection of the movie Rumeurs du lac and exchange of views with film director Wendy Bashi

Public event - registration required

-  Sandwich lunch, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) room 3G3, European Parliament
-  Contact person S&D Group secretariat: Radostina Mutachieva
With the participation of ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly vice-president **Cécile Kashetu Kyenge**
The Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a lake in one of the most unstable regions in the world, is portrayed through the stories of local fishermen. They live on and thanks to the lake, they know all his secrets. They tell them, drifting with the flow on their pirogue, or during a late evening gathering along the lake's banks: Two warring countries: Rwanda and the DRC, the rumour of a killer fish, a gigantic reserve of methane about to blow up, or old women's fabulous memories... So many stories about life and death, fishing and legacy, which form a tales' collection, and reveal the secret identity of an amazing place.

18:30 - 22:00

IUSY Evening Event LGBTI Rights in Africa

Public event - registration required

-  L'Horloge du Sud, Rue du Trône 141, 1050 Bruxelles
-  Contact person IUSY: Simona Russo
With the participation of MEP **Daniele Viotti** and IUSY secretary general **Evin Incir**
Speakers include **Eric Gitari, Carly Walker Dawson, Aurélien Mazuy, José Santoro**

According to Human Dignity Trust, an important NGO supporting those who want to challenge anti-gay laws wherever they exist in the world, 78 pieces of legislation in force across the world criminalise homosexuality: 34 of those are in Africa, in over 60 per cent of the total of 54 independent African states. Most of these criminal laws are the heritage of colonialism, but in many instances they have taken on a new life, inflamed by religious bigotry, political scapegoating, and Western evangelical organisations. Nevertheless, change is coming to Africa, and old attitudes are changing. The condemnation of criminalisation by the international community - by actors like the UN or the EU - is significant. Notably, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted last year its first-ever resolution calling on African states to end all acts of violence and abuse against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Also in 2015, three African court decisions - in Botswana, Kenya and Zambia - have asserted basic freedoms in the face of popular prejudice and discriminatory laws. These cases represent significant progress and have broader implications with regard to countries' obligations to uphold basic rights for marginalized or unpopular groups. In this spirit, GPF and IUSY have decided to focus attention on LGBTI rights in the framework of this evening event.

MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016

20:00 - 22:00

ULB Conference

Nouvelles mobilisations citoyennes en Afrique:
Y'en a marre, Balai citoyen, Filimbi

Public event - registration required

-  L'amphithéâtre Chavanne UD2.120, Campus du Solbosch, Université libre de Bruxelles
Conference language: **FR**
-  Contact persons S&D Group secretariat: Zoltán Simon
ULB: Marie-Soleil Frère
- Moderators: **Marie-Soleil Frère** and **Marc Poncelet**

With the participation of ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly vice-president **Cécile Kashetu Kyenge** and MEP **Maria Arena**

Speakers include **Floribert Anzuluni**, **Serge Baramba (Smockey)**, **Didier Lalaye (Croquemort)**, **Aliou Sane**

Ils défient démocratiquement et pacifiquement les pouvoirs aux tendances autoritaires dans leur pays. Ils rendent de l'espoir et l'envie de l'action collective à des jeunes Africains marginalisés par leurs gouvernements. Ils utilisent les technologies de la communication, la téléphonie mobile, Internet et les réseaux sociaux pour entretenir des contacts et créer des solidarités au-delà des frontières. Ils inventent, à travers des actions concrètes simples, un nouveau mode de mobilisation citoyenne. Depuis 2011, les mouvements Y'en a marre au Sénégal, puis Balai citoyen au Burkina Faso, et enfin Filimbi ("sifflet" en swahili) en République démocratique du Congo se sont érigés en sentinelles face aux dirigeants. Se démarquant des partis politiques et des syndicats, dans lesquels la jeunesse ne se reconnaît souvent pas, ils encouragent les jeunes et les moins jeunes à s'intéresser au débat politique, à faire entendre leur voix, à développer des réflexes citoyens. Et surtout à ne pas accepter la soumission à un autoritarisme politique trop fréquemment présenté en Afrique comme une fatalité. "Nous sommes conscients de notre condition de 'génération sacrifiée', mais nous ne comptons pas nous laisser sacrifier. En tant que citoyens, nous avons le devoir de participer à la gestion de la chose publique et à la démocratie. C'est par nous que viendront les changements", disait Kilifeu, du mouvement Y'en a marre, dans une interview avec Jeune Afrique (19 mars 2015). Et de fait, au Burkina Faso, le Balai citoyen a joué un rôle moteur dans l'insurrection populaire qui a mené à la chute du régime de Blaise Compaoré le 31 octobre 2014.

Registration

for one or several public events
of the S&D Group Week

 www.sd4africa.eu

LOCATIONS





ABOUT THE S&D GROUP

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 191 members from all 28 EU Member States.

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We campaign for social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.



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