

# REGIONALISED MULTILATERALISM?

## EU-AFRICA COOPERATION

### IN CYBERSPACE



**13 April 2021, 10:00-13:00**

Virtual Cyber consultations between the European Union and African partners

## Rationale

The EU is committed to deepening partnerships and alliances with other multilateral and regional organisations, including on promoting responsible state behaviour and strengthening resilience in cyberspace. International cooperation is a fundamental precondition of technology-enabled development and an essential component of the African Union's 2063 vision for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. The European Union has outlined a vision for deepening relations between the continents—while reiterating its own commitments to supporting the rules-based global order in a more focused, open and proactive way, including through its global engagements on cyber and digital issues.

As cybersecurity has moved up in the agendas of global and regional multilateral organisations, the United Nations have increasingly become venues for states to debate the use of digital, cyber and technology policies, while pursuing their interests and defending their values. However, cybersecurity—and the digital, social and economic development which it underpins—are ultimately of *global* concern. Amid the competition for influence in cyberspace, there is a need to ensure the legitimacy and value of multilateral institutions as arbiters and opportunities for meaningful cooperation and exchange. States and regions also need to work together towards building shared strategic visions, and explore new avenues for collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

The purpose of this EU-Africa track 1.5 engagement is to explore ways through which the EU and Africa could become a cornerstone of a 'regionalised multilateralism' whereby regional organisations play a key role in strengthening multilateralism. Some of the questions that the meeting aims to address are:

1. What are the concrete initiatives and actions that the EU and Africa could develop to strengthen their cooperation, both at the governmental and non-governmental level?
2. How can the EU and Africa strengthen their cooperation in the regional and multilateral organisations? What are the existing challenges to this cooperation currently?

### Invited Participants

- > **Africa:** South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Tunisia, African Union and ECOWAS;
- > **European Union:** European External Action Service, European Commission, EU Member States

# Draft Agenda

10:00-10:05 CET

Welcome and opening remarks

**Gustav LINDSTROM**

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:05-10:15 CET

Opening remarks

**Joanneke BALFOORT**

Director, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

**Atef MARZOEK**

Director, Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

10:15-10:45 CET

Perspectives on key issues in EU-Africa cyber cooperation

Responsible state behaviour in cyberspace

The malicious use of ICTs poses a serious threat to peace and security and is not an issue for the most technologically advanced countries alone. As the discussion about what constitutes responsible state behaviour intensify and become more tense what are the key issues on which the EU and Africa could strengthen their cooperation?

**François DELERUE**

*Chair*

Research Fellow in Cyberdefense and International Law, IRSEM, France

*Speakers*

**Hlengiwe DUBE**

Project Coordinator, University of Pretoria, South Africa

**Patryk PAWLAK**

Brussels Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies

Cybercrime and criminal justice in cyberspace

Cybercrime poses a growing threat to European and African economies, societies, and internet users, yet the international discussion on how to address it remains challenging and contested. How can Africa and the EU cooperate on the cross-border threats posed by cybercrime while respecting human rights and the rule of law?

*Speakers*

**Paula MUSUVA**

Lecturer in Forensic Information Technology, United States International University-Africa, Kenya

**Emmanuel KESSLER**

European Cybercrime Centre, Europol

State and societal resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the process of digitalisation while also illustrating our dependence on digital technologies for critical societal functions, from work and education, to hospitals and elections. How can Europe and Africa work towards coordinated and mutually beneficial strategies for building state and societal resilience?

*Speakers*

**Paul TIMMERS**

Research Associate, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

**Nnena IFEANYI-AJUFO**

Senior Lecturer of law and technology, Swansea University

10:45-11:45 CET

## Session I: Inter-regional cooperation

What are the concrete initiatives and actions that the EU and Africa could develop to strengthen their cooperation, both at the governmental and non-governmental level?

*Chair*

**Miguel Angel EXPOSITO VERDEJO**

Deputy Head of Unit, Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalisation, DG INTPA, European Commission

### **Interventions from participants**

*Countries interested in making an intervention in this segment are kindly requested to contact the organisers*

11:45-12:45 CET

## Session II: Multilateral cooperation

How can the EU and Africa strengthen their cooperation in the regional and multilateral organisations? What are the existing challenges to this cooperation currently?

*Chair*

**Wiktor STANIECKI**

Deputy Head of Division, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

### **Interventions from participants**

*Countries interested in making an intervention in this segment are kindly requested to contact the organisers*

12:45-13:00 CET

## Concluding remarks

**Luís BARREIRA DE SOUSA**

Ambassador for Cyber Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal