Katjavivi on EU-Africa partnership

Since the first Africa-EU Summit held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2000, Africa and the EU have increasingly become partners on common issues. Our partnership has been reflected in our joint strategy to address security, development and peace in Africa-EU Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2007. Some have criticised the plan for not having been sufficiently implemented. This forum will provide us with an opportunity to review our actions, as well as the strategy, not only for the development and security of Africa and Europe, but of the world too.

Indeed, this conference comes at a pertinent time, as we prepare for the upcoming UN General Assembly where we will be assessing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Joint Strategy itself is comprised of eight areas which overlap and support one another. They are built on strong principles which require us to treat Africa as a whole entity, to enhance political dialogue within the framework of a partnership characterised by equality, joint ownership and shared responsibility, and toward addressing common challenges through strengthened institutions.

Mr President, I believe that there will be no argument during this conference that without development there can, ultimately, be no real security. If I may add, a development dimension that a colleague and friend of mine, the late Prof. Walter Kambari, has characterised as: 

“The Holy Trinity of Human Rights, Democracy and Development.”

He went on to state: “If development means as I think it does, the attainment ultimately of a good quality of life, then separating and removing any one of the three elements from the trinity would detract from genuine development. All three are inseparably interdependent.”

It is all very well for us to point out that we need to focus our efforts on peace keeping and peace enforcement, but the truth is that without peace building and the accompanying focus on development in the economic and trade spheres, we will perpetuate a situation of instability and, therefore, insecurity. The contribution of the European Union to development and peace on the African continent is substantial, highly appreciated and should be encouraged. We acknowledge the regular high level contacts between the Peace and Security Council of the AU and the European Union which have been growing our partnership.

A result of these and other sustained efforts, the African Union can today boast of a predictable and peace enforcement. The truth is that without peace building and the accompanying focus on development in the economic and trade spheres, we will perpetuate a situation of instability and, therefore, insecurity. The contribution of the African Union to development and peace on the African continent is substantial, highly appreciated and should be encouraged.

We have expressed our stance towards such offers earlier. We reject in principle the issue of incentives and pressures that are unacceptable,” handsome, Sudanese Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salih said on reporters Wednesday.

If there is a constructive plan from the U.S. to develop the relations between the two countries and actively contribute to the resolution of the Darfur issue, we will look into such a constructive plan, but to present matters as reasons or approaches to impose sanctions or give incentives, then this method is unacceptable”, he noted.

“We are not to receive benefits from anybody. We must take what is ours and others must take what is theirs”, he added.

On Tuesday, the United States announced a package of new incentives to urge the Sudanese government to conduct the south Sudan referendum.

The U.S. incentives included full normalization of relations between South Sudan and the U.S., which will remove its naming from the U.S. list of so-called countries harboring terrorism, where Washington associated these incentives with ending violence in Darfur and conducting the referendum, according to local media reports.

The southern Sudanese are expected to vote for unity with North Sudan or separation in the forthcoming referendum, but a number of increasing bending issues cast doubts on the possibility of conducting the referendum.

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The EU has given important support to the African Union in implementing the Architecture through cooperation at technical, expert and official level. Furthermore, it is also important for our side to set up the Committee on Sanctions at the EU, in order for the practice of sanctions to be more effective and decisions to be made operational.

Mr President, Africa is putting its money where its mouth is regarding peace keeping operations. Indeed, this conference that with the AU Summit in Kampala, Uganda, in July this year, decided that it would increase the number of troops in Somalia, to the extent that it would need peace to that country. The decision to increase troops has been at a high cost for these African Governments who in many cases needed peace to that country. I hope that the EU and the UN will decide to support the decision, not only in terms of financial resources, but in a manner that will ensure that they are active logistical support, and the provision of material support to provide for a clear advantage in an urban war context, which Mogadishu of course is. I am sure that our friends realize that the loss of Mogadishu would provide for substantial, negative implications not only for itself and East Africa, but that it would undoubtedly become a hotbed of terrorist elements.

Somnia, on the Horn of Africa, has become a security threat, not only to its citizens, but also to its neighbours and to the world as a whole. Indeed, it is indicative of the seriousness of the situation that just recently announced was to go to Mogadishu and understand its decision to set up a military base in the Horn of Africa in order to address issues of security rising in Somalia. This is not to target only the people in the region, but governments near and far. Is it not time for us to take a more serious approach to addressing the security situation in Somalia? Mr President, while we have made progress in the peace and security partnership of the first Action Plan 2008-2010, we have not yet agreed on members of the Abuja referendum commission. Enditem (Xinhua)