MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

AND

THE AFRICAN UNION ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL
Preamble

The European Economic and Social Committee, on one hand, and the African Union acting through the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union on the other hand,

Whereas the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), established by the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community of 25 March 1957, is the official advisory body of the European Union (EU) representing civil society.

Whereas the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), established under the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the African Union’s Constitutive Act of 11 July 2000, is an advisory organ of the African Union (AU) composed of different social and professional groups of the AU Member States, being the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil society.

Whereas both parties share the aims of the Africa-EU Partnership which continues to be guided by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), including the following priorities:

- moving beyond development & cooperation;
- addressing global challenges such as migration, climate change, peace and security;
- encouraging trans-regional and continental responses;
- ensuring better participation of African and European citizens.

Whereas the JAES underlines the importance of a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership and the need to empower non-state actors and ensure ongoing dialogue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered by the Strategy.

Whereas the JAES encourages cooperation between socio-economic partners at both sides, including closer cooperation and dialogue between the EESC and the ECOSOCC, with a view to feed into the institutional EU-AU political dialogue.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1: Objectives

1) By means of this Memorandum of Understanding, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) are establishing a non-legally binding formal framework for cooperation, the aim of which will be to enhance cooperation and promote synergies between the two bodies. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any kind of partnership or association between the signatories and does not provide for any exclusivity in cooperation and it is not intended to create legal rights or obligations.

2) The EESC and the ECOSOCC intend by means of this cooperation to enhance economic and social stakeholder involvement in the Africa-EU partnership.
Article 5: Entry into force, amendment and termination

1) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of the signature by the parties.

2) Any proposal for amendment of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be submitted to the competent authorities of both parties for approval.

3) Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving no less than three months' written notice to the other party. Any such termination will be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing activity pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding as of the time of such notice.

Signed in duplicate in , on

For the European Economic and Social Committee, on one hand, and For the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council

Oliver Röpke
President

Khalid Boudali
Presiding Officer