

African People's Summit Joint Declaration

17 February 2022

"Whatever is done for Africa without the African people is not for Africa."

A joint declaration of Social Movements and Peasant farmers, Faith-Based Organizations and CSO delivered at the "[African People's Summit](#)" ahead of the 6th EU-Africa Summit, demanding more space for CSO and measures to guarantee land justice and agroecology.

Context

We, members of a broad alliance of social and peasants[\[1\]](#) movements, faith-based organisations and civil society[\[2\]](#) across Africa and Europe observe with great apprehension as the EU and the African Union hold their 6th summit. Over the last 20 years of partnership, we have not seen any significant added benefit from this partnership, which has failed to improve the livelihoods of African rural communities. This partnership and similar ones with other regions of the world have shown themselves to rather be shadow structures that facilitate the grabbing of land, the plundering of natural resources, ongoing corporate impunity with the complicity of national and international authorities, with aggressive market expansion that comes at the expense of people's prosperity and habitats.

We are saddened to observe that these issues of utmost urgency for Africa rarely make it to the centre of the negotiation table of the Summit discussions. Otherwise, how could we explain that food systems and agriculture and responding to Covid-19 were not part of the themes initially proposed for the Summit?

Notwithstanding the message of promoting a relationship of equals by the EU leaders, we observe with concern that the legacy of colonialism, now transformed into some kind of corporate-led neocolonialism, and substantial power asymmetries persist in the partnership, which continue to tilt the partnership in favour of the EU structurally. It is disturbing and problematic that there is no meaningful effort on the part of the EU to deal with this painful and sombre past. A different approach is indeed needed for a more transformative relationship between the two continents. The terrorism and conflicts in the Sahel and other regions of Africa and the forced migration of young Africans crossing the Mediterranean Sea are products of extreme poverty, inequality, climate emergency and economic downturns.[\[3\]](#)

We echo the essential words of late Bishop Desmond Tutu and say that we Africans are not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion. We want and demand the full menu of rights.

African Peoples' Vision

We reject partnerships that address the symptoms rather than the real needs of African people and their vision of a world where all can enjoy their fair share of the gifts of creation. We envision a culture of solidarity and democratisation of *ubuntu*, where the people - the poor,

youth and women - and the environment are at the heart of economic and social policies. We want an Africa that can define and shape its relations with other regions and world powers. Still, above all, that puts the dignity and wellbeing of all Africans at the centre of its policymaking.

Convinced that African People deserve better consideration in the partnership, we recommend European and African leaders to take the following points into account:

- Ensure space for civil society actors both inside and outside decision-making spaces. Civil society actors struggle to take their rightful seat at the table, while others may opt to remain 'outside'. Both must be able to freely and safely make their voices heard and to influence decisions.
- Support national governments - together with Civil Society - implementing the African Land Governance Strategy that will guarantee customary law of communities, women and youth rights and access to land, and ultimately reduce land governance challenges in the continent.
- End the financing of Large-Scale Land Acquisition projects and speculative investments by public development banks that result in land grabs.
- Recognise, value and support the vast potential of peasant agroecology to sustainably increase food security and sovereignty, reduce poverty and hunger, while conserving biodiversity and respecting indigenous knowledge and innovation. This requires a shift in the kind of development programmes that are funded, as the trend clearly shows that such transformative approach is largely ignored by public funders.[\[4\]](#)
- Recognise small-scale family farming as a viable structural model for the development of the agricultural sector in Africa.[\[5\]](#)
- Support and develop the concept of territorial food systems, by decentralizing value addition, stimulating the rural economy while promoting local food governance.
- Engage pro-actively in the negotiations towards a UN binding treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights to fill the legal gap in international law and hold big companies accountable for violations throughout their supply chains. The EU due diligence law should not be seen as an excuse for the region not to participate in this international process but rather as complementary.
- Live up to promise by effectively and urgently sending African countries the quantities of Covid-19 vaccine that it pledged under the Covax initiative.
- Support the initiative of India and South Africa for a patent moratorium on Covid vaccines at the WTO until the end of the pandemic. Furthermore, the EU should pressure the CVI vaccine companies to agree to their technology transfer.
- Demonstrate ambitious emissions reductions, and refrain from greenwashing.
- Support investments in a decentralized clean energy transition adapted to Africa such as solar energy.
- Ensure that African lands are not seen as carbon assets intended to offset the emissions of the main polluters - States and companies - under the cover of potential carbon credits which will only result in increased financialization of nature.
- Support knowledge, know-how, life skills and our vision for the future, not achieved by patenting life. We discourage countries to sign up for the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. But we ask for the support and the development of adapted and accessible peasant seed, food and therapeutic systems.

- Protect human rights defenders, particularly those working to protect land, water and natural resources, and to denounce their criminalisation.
- Support and apply the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Rural Workers, by ensuring that relevant international cooperation activities, including international development programmes, are inclusive, accessible and helpful to peasants and other people working in rural areas; and that peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to define and establish priorities and strategies concerning the exercise of their right to development.

Organisers



With support of other actors from the **Our Land is Our Life Platform**.

AFRICAN PEOPLE'S SUMMIT JOINT DECLARATION

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FINAL LIST OF SIGNATORIES AS OF 17 FEBRUARY 2022

AFRICA (131)

1. Action Batwa Pour Le Développement Intégral et L'Assistance Aux Vulnérables (ABDIAV), Burundi
2. Action pour la Protection Sociale en Afrique, Côte d'Ivoire
3. Action pour le Développement Durable, Mali
4. ActionAid Kenya
5. ActionAid Senegal
6. ADDAD, Benin
7. ADDAD, Burkina Faso
8. ADDAD, Côte d'Ivoire
9. ADDAD, Gambie
10. ADDAD, Ghana
11. ADDAD, Mali

12. ADDAD, République de Guinée
13. ADDAD, Senegal
14. ADDAD, Togo
15. Africa Europe Faith Justice Network, Kenya
16. Africa Europe Faith Justice Network, Nigeria
17. Afrique Europe Foi et Justice Network, Cameroon
18. Agissons Pour Sauver, Benin
19. AJUPE, République de Guinée
20. All Gambia Forest Platform
21. Alliance Citoyenne pour le Développement Durable, République de Guinée
22. Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Uganda
23. Alliance Nationale des Acteurs au développement en Guinée
24. AOPP, Mali
25. Arable International, Kenya
26. Association de Producteurs de Mangues et d'Ananas d'Iemberem et Cambeque, Guinée Bissau
27. Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire Urbaine
28. Association des Femmes Dynamiques de Yopougon, Côte d'Ivoire
29. Association des Jeunes Universitaires pour la Protection de l'Environnement, République de Guinée
30. Association Paysan Noir, Senegal
31. Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, AIDB (Indigenous Forum)
32. Association pour la Défense de l'Environnement et des Consommateurs
33. Association pour la Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques
34. Association pour le Développement Durable, Medenine, Tunisie
35. Association Raibani Kawral Rkiz, Mauritanie
36. Association Trait d'Union des Jeunes Guinéens, République de Guinée
37. ATTAC/ADDEA, Senegal
38. ATTAC-Togo
39. Banlieue du Monde, Mauritanie
40. Biowatch, South Africa
41. CAD, Mali
42. Capan, Cesa, Burkina Faso
43. Caritas Africa
44. Caritas Embu
45. CCPA, Senegal
46. Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD), Ghana
47. Centre for Minority Rights Development, Kenya
48. CERFLA, Senegal
49. CMAT, Mali
50. Collectif des OSC Guinéennes pour la Défense Des Droits Des Communautés- République de Guinée
51. Comité de Solidarité avec les Victimes de Violations des Droits Humains, Mauritanie
52. Comité Régional de Solidarité des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance/Usoforal, Senegal

53. Confédération Nationale Paysanne, République de Guinée
54. Conseil National de l'Agriculture Biologique, Burkina Faso
55. Coordination Maghrébine des Organisations des Droits Humains
56. CRAPH, ENDA, PRONAT, Senegal
57. East & Southern Africa Small Farmers Forum (ESAFF)
58. East African SusWatch Network
59. Ecumenical Association of Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development, Ghana
60. Entente de Diouloulou/Ziguinchor, Senegal
61. Espace d'Intégration des Jeunes Défavorisés
62. FAPD-Senegal
63. Federacion de Comites de Solidaridad con Africa Negra- Umoya
64. Fédération des Coopératives Maraichères, Niger
65. Fédération des Paysans du Foutah Djallon, République de Guinée
66. Fédération Nationale Des Communes Pastorales, Côte d'Ivoire
67. Fédération Nationale du Secteur Agricole, Maroc
68. FEDIA-Togo
69. FENOSCI
70. Ferme Agropastorale de Mamou, République de Guinée
71. FIAN Burkina Faso
72. FIAN Uganda
73. FIAN Zambia
74. FIOPA, Côte d'Ivoire
75. Foi et Justice, Cameroun
76. Forum Social Sénégalais – Senegal
77. Friends of the Earth Mozambique
78. GAJEL, Niger
79. Green Scenery
80. Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for Sustainable Development, IPGFforSD
(International Indigenous Platform)
81. Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development
(IRPAD/Afrique)-MALI-
82. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM)
83. Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Niger
84. Madee, Burkina Faso
85. Merci Guinée, République de Guinée
86. Missionaries of Mariannahill
87. Missionaries of The Sacred Heart
88. Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
89. Mouvement Gox Bi, Senegal
90. NACOFAG, Gambie
91. New Orientation for the Promotion of the Sustainable Development In Africa
92. NOVOX-Benin
93. NOVOX-Togo
94. OJEG-Senegal
95. ONG Ocjud-Côte d'Ivoire
96. ONG Optimiste, Côte D'Ivoire

97. OPV, Côte d'Ivoire
98. Organisation des Jeunesses Panafricanistes-OJP, Senegal
99. Panafricaine pour l'Education au Développement Durable, Senegal
100. Partnership for Rural Women Development, Nigeria
101. Peace and Development Foundation, Uganda
102. PELUM Zambia
103. Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty, Africa
104. Proddes Network
105. Radio Pacis
106. Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (RECOWA)
107. Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation, Senegal
108. Réseau des Journalistes pour L'Eau, l'Hygiène et l'Assainissement, Niger
109. Réseau d'Informatique et d'Appui aux ONG en République Démocratique Du Congo (RIAO-RDC)
110. Réseau Maghrébin d'Associations de Développement Local en Milieu Rural
111. S/Coop Gipa/An, Senegal
112. Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food
113. Society of African Earth Scientists
114. Society of The Holy Child Jesus
115. Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)
Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)
116. Synergie Paysanne, Benin
117. Tanzania Organisation for Agricultural Development (TOFAD)
118. Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)
119. UACDDDD/NOVOX, Mali
120. UFSSIN, Côte d'Ivoire
121. Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development
122. Ursuline Sisters
123. WASSA, Mali
124. WILDAF, Benin
125. WILDAF, Mali
126. Women and Equal Opportunities Desk, Moroto, Uganda
127. Women's Economy and Gender Support (WEGS)
128. Wonsminka Logouale-Côte d'Ivoire
129. YETIHO-Côte d'Ivoire, Organisation Ivoirienne Pour La Paix, Côte d'Ivoire
130. Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF)
131. 8 Fm Radio Wa, Lira Uganda

OUTSIDE AFRICA (23)

1. Action Center for Rural Development, Switzerland
2. ActionAid International
3. Africa Europe Faith Justice Network, Spain
4. Africa Faith and Justice Network, USA
5. Attac-France
6. Broederlijk Delen, Belgium

7. Brot für die Welt, Germany
8. CCFD-Terre Solidaire, France
9. Center for Rural Studies and International Agriculture, Spain
10. Confédération Paysanne-France
11. Coordination Européenne Via Campesina (ECVC)
12. DKA, Austria
13. European Christian Organisations in Relief and Development (EUCORD)
14. Fastenaktion, Switzerland
15. FEC - Fundação Fé e Cooperação, Portugal
16. Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario (FOCSIV), Italy
17. FIAN, Austria
18. FIAN, Belgium
19. Friends of the Earth International
20. International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE)
21. Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty, Europe
22. SOS Faim, Belgium
23. Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau, Austria

[1] Peasants include persons engaged in artisanal or small-scale agriculture, crop planting, livestock raising, pastoralism, forestry, hunting or gathering, and handicrafts related to agriculture or a related occupation in the rural area as defined in Article 1 paragraph 2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Rural Workers (UNDROP).

[2] African Civil Society Declaration: <http://aefjn.org/en/our-land-is-our-life-declaration/>.

[3] African Civil Society Declaration: <http://aefjn.org/en/our-land-is-our-life-declaration/>.

[4]
<https://www.cidse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CIDSE-Agroecology-and-Finance-Briefing-Sept-2020-1.pdf>.

[5] Neudert & L.Voget-Kleschin, What are the effects of Large-Scale Land Aquisitionsin Africa on Selected Economicand Social Indicators. MISEREOR.