

***The Africa Charter:
Advancing transformative research collaborations between Africa and the rest of the world
6-7 November 2024, Brussels***

AGENDA

**Part I: Relevance and translation into practice of the Africa Charter's principles in the evolution of
Africa-Europe research collaborations**

Wednesday 6 November: Venue - [Fondation Universitaire \(Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels\)](#)

Moderator: Ms Emmanuelle Gardan, Director, Coimbra Group Office

10:00-10:30

Registration and Refreshments

10:30-11:30

Welcoming Remarks

- Prof Judith Squires, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Bristol, UK
- Prof Margareth Hagen, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway, Coimbra Group Rectors' Advisory Group Member

Africa-Europe research partnerships and future perspectives

- Dr. Nils Gunnar Songstad, University of Bergen, Norway, Vice-Chair, Coimbra Group Global Partnerships Working Group
- Prof Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia

Introduction to the Africa Charter

- Prof Shose Kessi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Prof Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha, Head of Research and Graduate Studies, College of Human Sciences, University of South Africa
- Prof Isabella Aboderin, Director of the Perivoli Africa Research Institute, University of Bristol, UK
- Q&A

11:30-12:45

Panel Debate:

Re-balancing the global science ecosystem through transformative research collaborations: relevance of the Charter for Africa-Europe partnerships?

Moderator: Prof Leon P Tikly, Global Chair in Education, University of Bristol

- Dr. Stephan Milich, Member of the Board, Global South Studies Centre, University of Cologne, Germany
- Dr. Dominique Dumet, Scientific Advisor for Africa, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France
- Prof John Gyapong, Secretary-General, African Research Universities Alliance
- Dr. Giacomo Ciambotti, Research Fellow, E4Impact Foundation, Italy
- Prof Amanda Hammar, President, African Studies in Europe Group

This workshop is convened jointly by the University of Bristol and the Coimbra Group, with the support of the University of Bergen

- Prof Shose Kessi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Q&A

12:45-13:45 *Lunch*

Moderator: Prof Juliet Thondhlana, Coordinator, AAU Europe Regional Office

13:45-14:30 ***Early Career Researcher perspectives on Africa-Europe collaboration***

- Dr. Ovie Augustine Edegbene, Associate Professor, Federal University of Health Sciences Otukpo, Nigeria, hosted by the University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Ms Ebsitu Abate, Lecturer, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, hosted by Charles University, Czech Republic
- Dr. Wesley Maraire, Research Project Manager, University of Bergen, Norway
- Dr. Stéphanie Perazzone, Senior Researcher, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Q&A

14:30-15:45 ***Small Group Discussions Part I***

Implementing the Africa Charter's principles for redressing the imbalances: what does it mean in practice?

- In moderated small group discussions participants will discuss what promising approaches and barriers exist in redressing power imbalances at the level of institutional resourcing and concrete project collaboration arrangements in Africa-Europe research

15:45-16:00 *Refreshments*

16:00-17:30 ***Small Group Discussions Part II***

Implementing the Africa Charter's principles for redressing the imbalances – what does it mean in practice?

- In moderated small group discussions participants will discuss what promising approaches and barriers exist in redressing power imbalances at the level of epistemologies, languages, theories and concepts, and the development frame used in Africa-Europe research

17:30-17:45 ***Conclusions and next steps***

- Dr. Nils Gunnar Songstad, University of Bergen, Norway, Vice-Chair, Coimbra Group Global Partnerships Working Group

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- Prof Isabella Aboderin, Director of the Perivoli Africa Research Institute, University of Bristol, UK

17:45-19:30

Networking Reception

Part II: Implications of the Africa Charter's aspirations for the further shaping of Africa-Europe research and innovation policy and funding

Thursday 7 November: Venue - [Norway House \(Rue Archimède 17, 1000 Brussels\)](#)

Moderator: Prof Juliet Thondhlana, Coordinator, AAU Europe Regional Office

09:00-09:30

Registration and Refreshments

09:30-09:45

Welcoming Remarks

- Prof Isabella Aboderin, Director of the Perivoli Africa Research Institute, University of Bristol, UK
- Prof Shose Kessi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Prof Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha, Head of Research and Graduate Studies, College of Human Sciences, University of South Africa

09:45-10:15

Keynote Addresses

- Prof Judith Squires, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Bristol, UK
- Prof John Gyapong, Secretary-General, African Research Universities Alliance

10:15-10:45

The Africa-Europe research and innovation policy and funding landscape

- Mr Jean-Michel Sers, Policy Officer, Youth, Education and Research, Culture, DG for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Ms Dora Czifra, Policy Officer, MSCA Staff Exchange action, stakeholder engagement and outreach, cooperation with Africa, DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
- Mr Jens Hoegel, Team Leader, International Cooperation - Asia, Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Q&A

10:45-11:00

Refreshments

11:00-11:30

The AU-EU Innovation Agenda through the lens of the Africa Charter

- Dr. Vincenzo Lorusso, Policy Officer, STI cooperation with the African Union and bilateral cooperation with Rwanda, Nigeria and South Africa, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission

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- Q&A

11:30-12:45

Panel Debate:

What are the implications of the Africa Charter and avenues for further shaping Africa-Europe research funding, policy and regulatory frames?

Moderator: Mr Jens Hoegel, Team Leader, International Cooperation - Asia, Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission

- Prof Margareth Hagen, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway, Coimbra Group Rectors Advisory Group Member
- Prof Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia
- Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General, Science Europe
- Dr. Ana Persic, Programme Specialist for Science Technology and Innovation Policies and Open Science, UNESCO
- Ms Karin Schneider, Head of Central Africa Unit, Focal Point Academic and Scientific Cooperation, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Prof George Openjuru, Vice-Chancellor, Gulu University, Uganda
- Q&A

12:45-13:00

Conclusions and next steps

- Prof Isabella Aboderin, Director of the Perivoli Africa Research Institute, University of Bristol
- Dr. Nils Gunnar Songstad, University of Bergen, Norway, Vice-Chair, Coimbra Group Global Partnerships Working Group

13:00-14:30

Networking Lunch