

# Namibia-Angola

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*EU- AU Summit 2022: An analysis of the agenda highlights tabled at the EU-AU Summit and the outcomes in the Namibian/Angolan context.*

## Introduction

The current European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) leaders together with the respective member states met for the seventh European Union – African Union summit in Brussels on the 17th and the 18th of February 2022. The summit presented a unique opportunity to lay the foundations for a renewed, revitalized and deeper EU- AU partnership with a high standard of political involvement based on trust and a clear understanding of mutual interests. The overall aim of this summit was to launch an ambitious African-European Investment Package, that takes into account the prevailing global challenges such as climate change and the rampant global health crisis.

In addition, discussing the tools and solutions that promote stability and security through renewed peace and prosperity. The EU-AU summit sought to issue a joint “Vision for 2030” aimed at consolidating a renewed partnership between the two continents.

Through a series of thematic round-tables, the following topics were debated:

- Growth financing
- Health systems and vaccine production
- Agriculture and sustainable development
- Education, culture and vocational training, migration and mobility
- Private sector support and economic integration
- Peace, security and governance
- Climate change and energy transition, digital and transport (connectivity and infrastructure)

EU and African leaders adopted a joint declaration outlining common priorities for the EU-Africa partnership in four strategic areas:

- Economic opportunities for youth
- Peace and security
- Mobility and migration cooperation on governance

- The EU-AU summit plays an important role in moving “beyond a donor/recipient relationship towards long term cooperation” on joint interests. A stronger Africa is in Europe’s economic interests it unlocks new opportunities for capital investments, cheaper and more varied imports and an increase in human capital supply at a time when Europe’s working age population is declining.

## The current country level realities Namibia/Angola: A brief overview

Namibia and Angola are part of the Southern African Development Community (SADAC) and therefore is also a part of the EU-SADAC economic partnership agreement, thereby the outcomes of the upcoming summit directly impact their current realities.

Firstly, a review of Namibia’s financial system through the Namibia Financial Sector Strategy shows that although the system is sound and well-functioning there are a myriad of structural weaknesses that need to be addressed to enable the financial sector to contribute meaningfully to the overall performance of the country’s economy.

Angola on the other hand, is forecast to emerge from a six-year recession in 2022 amid a rebounding oil sector. Moreover, activity in the non-oil sectors should be buoyed by progress on the vaccination front, moderating price pressures and the halving of the VAT. Social unrest and weakened public finances cloud the outlook, however. The GDP is set to expand by 2.5% in 2022.

Today’s realities make the EU-AU relationship all the more important as it is through platforms such as these that various member states can display great interdependency, seize shared opportunities and tackle common challenges.

The prevailing COVID-19 pandemic as reflected in Namibia's latest COVID-19 report has shown that the increasing number of new infections are not at par with the number of vaccinations, thus new infections exceed the rate of vaccination. The latest update shows that 75.0% of the total number of cases detected is not vaccinated.

The tarrying vaccination rate can be attributed to various factors, chief of which is the lack of public reception to vaccination as well as delays in acquiring the vaccines. The government to date, has paid to acquire vaccines to vaccinate 20% of the population which will be delivered in small scales. There is clearly insufficient vaccine supply in the country. Angola, on the other hand, is experiencing a decrease in COVID-19 infections with 17 new cases reported daily with 98,638 infections in total.

Angola has at least administered 15,505,389 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines so far and assuming each person needs two doses that's enough to have vaccinated about 24% of the country's population. One of the topics tabled at the EU-AU Summit constituted the improvement of health systems and vaccine production. Namibia is one of the youngest populations in Africa and could possibly reach a staggering 50.30% youth

#### **Impact of the EU-AU summit on the Namibian Green-Hydrogen Initiative**

Renewable hydrogen is one of the central discussion topics at the ongoing European Union- African Union summit. The EU has made its ambitions to import hydrogen from the African continent clear: in its 2020 Hydrogen Strategy, the European Commission foresees 40 GW of renewable hydrogen electrolyzers in the EU neighborhood, a large proportion of which are expected to be in North Africa, by 2030.

Alongside EU plans to import renewable hydrogen from the neighborhood, member states are setting up bilateral hydrogen initiatives with countries across the African continent. Germany is a frontrunner, having set up a global hydrogen import scheme and bilateral initiatives with African countries, including Morocco, Namibia and South Africa.

The ongoing Green-Hydrogen initiative presents a myriad of benefits to Namibia. Firstly, hydrogen trade between the EU and AU can provide substantial economic benefits for Namibia.

In addition, employment opportunities can be generated by building up the necessary local renewable energy capacity and producing low-carbon final products.

#### **Outcomes of the EU-AU Summit**

- Global Gateway package worth €150 billion which aims for higher quality, greener and more transparent infrastructure.
- To mobilize € 150 billion of public and private funds over the next seven years for investment in Africa.
- The EU seeks to foster a number of projects on renewable energy and digital connections.
- Join in the fight against climate change.
- The EU-AU summit brought together young people, civil society and private sector from Africa and Europe to discuss the aspects of the summit that apply to them.
- Africa and European Civil Society and Local Authorities have prepared two forums on the way forward towards "Participatory and transparent governance: A people-centered approach" for the African-Union partnership.
- The EU stressed its commitment towards being Africa's partner of choice, a trusted economic partner.
- The EU rebuffed a push for a temporary waiver to allow the generic production of vaccines.
- €425 million will be mobilized to speed up the pace of vaccination in Africa.
- EU committed €100m to support the African Medicines Agency over 5 years.
- EU confirms commitment to provide "at least" 450 million vaccines to Africa by mid-2022.
- EU commits €500 million from the European Investment Bank to strengthen health systems.
- EU and AU "commit to engage constructively towards a comprehensive WTO response to the pandemic" including "trade" and "intellectual property related aspects."
- Launch of the "Just Energy Transition (JET) Partnership" between South Africa and international donors which was made official at COP26 in Glasgow.

#### **Criticism surrounding the EU/AU Summit.**

The EU has not delivered on many pledges from the past and some of the financing commitments announced at the summit were criticized as simply old initiatives repackaged as new. Therefore, the just ended summit has not presented any new initiatives and ideas as it is seen as a repetition of ideas shared at previous summit.