



## WHY DO WE NEED THE AFRICAN UNION?

28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 9:00AM- 1700PM

The Hague Institute for Global Justice, Sophialaan 10, 2514JR The Hague, Netherlands

What is the African Union (AU)? What role does it play in Africa and beyond? How effectively does it operate? What can the Netherlands achieve with the AU in areas such as peace and security, migration and international justice? Especially as the Netherlands prepares for the 2018 term in the UN Security Council: what do we need to do more, or differently, with African multilateral partners who coordinate the African voice in Addis Ababa, the diplomatic capital of Africa?

These are some of the questions up for discussion in this interactive meeting that is organised by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and hosted by the Knowledge Platform on Security and the Rule of Law, in partnership with the Representation of the Netherlands to the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa. The meeting, which will take place on 28 September 2016, will be held in The Hague.

The meeting will map out strategic opportunities for a 21st century engagement with the AU, based on equality and respect between all partners. The meeting will be an interactive space for participants from different backgrounds, including involved practitioners to share insights based on the latest analysis of the workings of the AU.

The goal of the meeting is three-fold:

1. Understand the role of the AU as an emerging actor in the African and global arenas;
2. Explore the role that AU and other regional actors play in peace and security, justice and migration;
3. Identify options for Netherlands engagement with the AU

### Programme

9h30 – 10h00	<p><b>Opening and introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Netherlands and Africa relations: Robert-Jan Siegert (Deputy Director DAF, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</li> <li>- Framing the meeting: Doris Voorbraak (Representative, Permanent representation of The Netherlands to the African Union)</li> </ul>
10h00 – 12h00	<p><b>Opening Session - The African Union today</b></p> <p><i>Introduction and moderation: Faten Aggad, Head of Programme, ECDPM</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cedric de Coning (Senior Research Fellow, ACCORD &amp; NUPI, Oslo)</li> <li>- Francoise Moreau (Head of Unit, EU-Africa relations and African Peace Facility, European Commission)</li> <li>- Sarah Lawan Gana (Senior Policy Officer, NEPAD/AU Bureau in New York) (TBC)</li> <li>- Michelle Ndiaye, (Programme Director, IPSS, Addis Ababa)</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Key questions to be addressed by the Panelists:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the AU making a difference in the global arena? If yes what are the indicators and what role does it play?</li> <li>2. How is the AU relying in its growing portfolio of partnerships in its international engagement?</li> <li>3. How is the AU influencing the peace and security agenda globally?</li> <li>4. What are the enablers that would allow the AU to increase its autonomy as an actor (including financially) and what is being done to strengthen it?</li> </ol>
12h00 – 13h00	<b>Lunch Break &amp; networking</b>
13h00 – 14h45	<b>Session 1 - Firefighting or prevention? What pathways to addressing peace and justice in Africa</b>
	<p><b>Introducer:</b> <i>Leen van Hijum, Defense attaché, Embassy of The Netherlands, Ethiopia</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Volker Hauck, Head of Programme, ECDPM</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Michelle Ndiaye (Programme Director, IPSS, Addis Ababa)</li> <li>- Vasu Gounden (Director, ACCORD, Durban)</li> <li>- Stella Sabiiti (Consultant to the AU)</li> <li>- George Mukundi (Coordinator, African Governance Architecture, AUC, Addis Ababa)</li> <li>- Cyril Obi (Program Director, Social Science Research Council, New York – joining by pre-recorded video)</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Key questions to be addressed by the Panelists:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there an African peace and security agenda?</li> <li>2. How is the peace and security agenda (defined broadly beyond peace operations) being shaped in Africa?</li> <li>3. How is Africa tackling the issues of justice to ensure peace on the continent? What are the different narratives regarding the role of international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC)?</li> <li>4. What direction can we expect the debate on peace and security to take place in the coming years? Why?</li> <li>5. What role for international actors in strengthening the role of the AU in these areas?</li> </ol>
14h45 – 15h00	Coffee / Tea break
15h00 – 16h45	<b>Session 2 - Migration: Key Narratives in Europe and Africa</b>
	<p><b>Introducer:</b> <i>Mariko Peters, Regional Migration Coordinator, Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Frauke de Weijer, Programme Associate, ECDPM</i></p>

	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bram van Ojik (Netherlands' Special Envoy on Migration)</li> <li>- Maureen Achieng (Representative of IOM to the AU, Addis Ababa)</li> <li>- Caroline Njuki (Regional Migration Coordinator, IGAD, Addis Ababa)</li> <li>- Philip Bob Jusu (Permanent Mission of the AU to the EU, Brussels)</li> <li>- Koos Richelle (Chair of the Netherlands' Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs &amp; Deputy Chairman of the ECDPM Board)</li> <li>- Awil Mohamoud, Director (Africa Diaspora Policy Centre, The Hague)</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Key questions to be addressed by the Panelists:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is the migration issue viewed by the different actors? What are their incentives?</li> <li>2. What are the key challenges in Africa in the area of migration?</li> <li>3. What is the merit of engaging regionally (including with the African Union) on migration versus bilateral engagement?</li> <li>4. How will the migration debate shape relations between Europe and Africa in future?</li> </ol>
16h45 - 17h30	<b>Closing Session: Key considerations from the afternoon sessions and implication for the Netherlands' engagement</b>
17h30 - 18h30	Cocktail drinks and networking