

The Future of EU Strategy toward Africa

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The context in which the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership is implemented is changing rapidly. A host of emerging development challenges on the African continent provide the background against which future EU strategies for engagement with Africa will have to be formulated. These challenges include demographic changes relating to population growth in cities and rural areas, accelerated effects of a changing climate, and challenges related to advancing the development of systems of innovation, fostering political development, accommodating the rise of new actors in international development, and shaping a global governance system that allows African states to strengthen their participation in the world economy. Building on analyses of long-term drivers of change and the future of African development appearing in an edited book entitled “Africa toward 2030: Challenges for Development Policy” featuring contributions from researchers based in Africa and Europe to be completed in early 2011, this paper discusses the implications of the changing African development context for EU strategic engagement with the continent. The paper places special emphasis on possible changes in orientation within the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership that relate to the selection of priorities and the organisation of EU-Africa relations. As such, the paper offers a critical assessment of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership in terms of its ability to confront future challenges rather than providing an evaluation of the implementation of programmes implemented under the umbrella of the Partnership to date.