

Delegation from
Central African Republic

Represented by
ESCP Europe (London Campus)

Position Paper for African Union

The topics before the African Union are: Limiting the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa; Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security; and Supporting the Sudan Peace Process. The Central African Republic is dedicated to collaborative multilateral to help developing common programmes in Africa to create an environment enabling the development of our continent.

I. Limiting the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa

It is by no chance that 2/3 of all people infected with HIV live in Sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS has caused severe suffering on our continent. Illness and Death have severely affected our societies and economies, badly affected our schooling and education efforts and left many children as orphans. In the Central African Republic school enrolment for example has fallen by 25-30% due to AIDS, just to show the severe impact of AIDS on our continent. It is therefore our firm belief that the African Union has to address AIDS as one of its main issues of concern. Less than half of all Africans who need treatment are currently receiving it. This calls for urgent action. We need to fight AIDS and we can only succeed if we fight it together. The most disturbing feature of AIDS is its effect on life expectancy which cancels out all our development efforts of the last decades. AS UNAIDS states “In the world’s seven hardest-hit countries (all of them in Africa) where at least 1/5 of the adult population has HIV, the average life expectancy for a child born in 2000-2005 will fall to under 40 years, from the pre-AIDS expectation of 60 years. This represents a reversal of most development gains of the past 30 years – affecting an entire generation.”¹ To limit the impact of HIV we therefore need to treat those infected to increase their life expectancy at a price they can afford, enlighten those of our people not yet affected about HIV and support those families most affected by the disease with our strongest efforts to prevent further impoverishment. A programme for fighting the impact of HIV in Africa should therefore immediately be implemented and funded by the African Union.

¹ <http://www.peopleandplanet.net/doc.php?id=294>

II. Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security

As one of the poorest countries in the world and among the ten poorest countries in Africa itself, the Central African Republic has however a proven success record of sustainable development. Together with forestry, subsistence agriculture builds the backbone of the Central African Republic's economic development. In fact the agricultural sector generates 55% of the Central African Republic GDP with products such as timber, cotton, coffee or bananas as main sources of income.² The Central African Republic therefore calls for large investments in agriculture for economic growth and food security by the African Union. Our example shows how successful these investments are and we urge once more that they are especially important as grants from the international community can only meet humanitarian needs to a small degree in the Central African Republic in particular and all Africa in general.

III. Supporting the Sudan Peace Process

The Central African Republic is delighted to hear that the Sudan Peace Process is advancing as it is and congratulates the Sudanese government to this progress. Securing Peace and well-being of our as well as our neighbours' civil population are among Central African Republic's greatest aims which let us stand united with this assembly of friends. Our sincerest thanks in this regard go out to the international community for its efforts on rebuilding Sudan and stabilizing the country, which has brought stability and peace back into our region. We are pleased to see that Sudan's sovereignty is highly regarded and well considered by the international community and that our dearest neighbour is flourishing again. We wish for its fast and profound recovery and are glad to have been of greatest help in past and present to our neighbour and the international community in consolidating the peace process.

² CIA The World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html>