About the Africa-Europe Foundation:

- The announcement of the “Africa Europe Foundation” represents a call to action and call for participation for all those organisations and individuals who are ready to join a major effort in transforming the partnership between Africa and Europe in the face of unprecedented global challenges.

- History has taught us that major crises create opportunities for accelerating social, economic and political change. Evolving global dynamics – from the climate crisis to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic – have exposed a lack of resilience in the fundamentals of life (water, food, health, energy and so on) and the urgency to reimagine our common future as Africa and Europe. The establishment of the Africa Europe Foundation takes place against this historic backdrop.

- The purpose of the Africa Europe Foundation is to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, catalyse partnerships and unlock new opportunities aimed at transforming Africa-Europe relations into action.

- The global announcement on 2nd December 2020 of the Africa Europe Foundation and Foundation Strategy Groups marks the start of a process to reach out to diverse partners across Africa and Europe. The Foundation will be an inclusive “platform of platforms”. The Foundation is open to various forms of cooperation with foundations and think-tanks, civil society organizations, private and public institutions, state institutions and organisations aligned with the values and objectives of this cooperation.

- The founding objectives of the Africa Europe Foundation are:
  - To enlarge the Africa-Europe partnership to new and diverse actors by building a multi-stakeholder “network of networks” and with a strong focus on the involvement and leadership on younger generations.
  - To drive fresh policy thinking and programming as an observatory of pioneering practices and by utilising strategic foresight at the nexus of development and global challenges.
  - To unlock opportunities and new avenues for development by acting as a partnerships incubator for catalytic initiatives, joint projects, innovative processes and tools in priority sectors of Africa-Europe cooperation.
  - To reinforce the Africa-EU partnership within the international arena.

- The Foundation is an independent platform of platforms founded by a leading European think-tank, Friends of Europe, and a leading African Foundation, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, in partnership with the first Africa-led strategic climate change grant-making foundation African Climate Foundation and the ONE Campaign, a global movement and international not-for-profit organisation that fights extreme poverty and preventable disease, and with a multitude of stakeholders from diverse organisation settings including civil society, business, policymaking and the youth sector, all of whom share the same values and strategic vision of the Foundation.
• The Foundation’s work will be guided by the High-Level Group of Personalities (composed of high-level experts and much-respected experienced leaders). Its Strategy Groups will work in priority areas of Africa-Europe of cooperation and critical in both the COVID context and in the face of the ongoing climate emergency: Health, Digital, Transport, Agriculture and Energy, with cross-cutting themes on Climate Change; Youth; Gender; Education; Mobility; Involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES); and Governance.

• The Africa Europe Foundation sets out to be an independent platform of platforms. Its establishment is receiving political backing from Member States and Commissions of the European Union and African Union. To prepare the ground for the launch of the Foundation, the founding partners have been running the “Debating Africa EU” series together with African Union and EU Commissioners and many hundreds of representatives of civil society, business, policymaking and the youth sector.

• In terms of political support, a joint letter of European Union Presidents Charles Michel (Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (Commission) has also been sent to all the Heads of State of the AU-EU partnership underlining support for the Foundation Strategy Groups. The European Commission is providing co-financing for the work of the Strategy Groups while respecting the independence of the Africa Europe Foundation.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

What is the Africa Europe Foundation? The Africa Europe Foundation is a platform to strengthen the ability of both continents to respond to a range of challenges (from structural economic shifts, to climate risk, disruptive technology waves, inequality and others). The historic ties and long-standing co-operation between Africa and Europe are a way to revisit old assumptions, revitalise the relationship and seek mutual reconstruction and recovery. The AEF will facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholders, catalyse partnerships and unlock new opportunities that can transform Africa-Europe relations into action.

Who is behind it? The Foundation is co-founded by Friends of Europe, FoE (a leading European think-tank) and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, MIF (a leading African Foundation and think-tank), together with African Climate Foundation, ACF (the first Africa-led strategic climate change grant-making foundation) and the ONE Campaign (a global movement and international not-for-profit organisation that fights extreme poverty and preventable disease)

Why is the Africa Europe Foundation being established now? This moment presents a unique opportunity to accelerate and integrate shared efforts to open a new chapter of the Africa-Europe partnership:

(i) The COVID-19 crisis has shaken established economic and social models. It is a key opportunity to rethink and rebuild our current models, including the Africa-Europe partnership strategy;
Renewed political will expressed by African Union and EU Member States and Commissions, and the expansion of initiatives on Africa-Europe relations, opens space to influence new political commitments and new kinds of partnerships.

**What will the Foundation do?** To begin with, the work of the Africa Europe Foundation will focus on the following:

- **The High-Level Group of Personalities** acts as a platform for strategic foresight and guidance. An annual flag-ship report produced by the High-Level Group will focus on the political, economic and social-cultural trends impacting on Africa-Europe relations. The first flagship report, launched on 9th December, focuses on the Africa-Europe partnership on Climate.

- **The Africa Europe Foundation Strategy Groups**, launched in December 2020, will build on work initiated by the EU and Africa Union Commissions, focusing on 5 priority domains of partnership – Agriculture, Energy, Health, Transport, Digital – with climate change, youth, gender, the involvement of SMEs, mobility and governance embedded as key transversal themes.

- **The Debating Africa Platform** engages young Africans and policymakers in an on-going conversation on vital issues shaping the future of Africa and Africa-Europe relations. Running alongside Friends of Europe’s “Debating Europe”, Debating Africa brings a bottom-up and innovative approach to existing policy-making mechanisms.

- **An Annual Africa Europe Foundation Summit** will convene stakeholders to identify creative solutions to the challenges facing both continents.

- **A Partnerships Incubator**. The Foundation will ensure the required infrastructure to implement and sustain the work of the Strategy Groups and catalyse new partnerships and joint partnership action.

**Which sectors does the Foundation focus on?** The priority sectors the Foundation will begin to work on are: Health; Digital; Agriculture & Sustainable Food Systems; Sustainable Energy; Transport & Connectivity. Multi-stakeholder Strategy Groups composed of around 30 founding members will drive this work. The Strategy Groups meet on average three times a year with key meetings connected to high-level political events in the international calendar (for example in 2021, the UN Summit on Food Systems, UN High-Level Political Dialogue on Sustainable Energy, COP-26, Global Health Summit). Climate Change; Youth; Gender; Education; Mobility; Involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES); and Governance are cross cutting themes.

**Who is involved in the High-Level Group of Personalities?** The High-Level Group will be the steering group of the Africa Europe Foundation. It brings together high-level and much-respected experienced leaders from various “constituencies”: AU and EU Commissions, Governments, former Heads of State, business, civil society, experts, as well as the co-chairs of the Foundation Strategy Groups. The current list of members is HERE.

**Is the Foundation independent of the Africa-EU partnership?** The Africa Europe Foundation operates independently of the European Union and the African Union. This allows the Foundation, its High-Level Group of Personalities and Strategy Groups to open up a safe space for strategic
dialogue and candid debate. The Foundation will complement the political work of the Africa-EU partnership, documenting its decision-making, collaborating on outreach initiatives, leveraging its Strategy Groups to enhance the impact of the EU and AUC programming, and ensuring a direct contribution to the preparation of political fora such as the 6th AU-EU Summit in 2021.

**How is the Africa Europe Foundation to be run?** The Africa Europe Foundation High Level Group of Personalities assumes responsibility for the overall strategic orientation of the Foundation’s work and activities, including orientating the work of the Strategy Groups, and endorsing the annual work plan. The Foundation Executive Committee ensures accountability for overseeing the multi-annual work programme and guiding the team responsible for ensuring the project direction, as well as technical and financial leadership on a day-to-day basis. Ad hoc steering committees will be established to monitor specific projects and overall quality assurance is ensured by the executive and leadership team.

**What is the timeframe of the Foundation’s work cycle?** The Africa Europe Foundation will begin its first multi-annual programming phase at the start of 2021. Each strategic programming phase is reviewed on average every three years, meaning that the initial programming phase is 2021 to 2023.

**How is the Africa Europe Foundation funded?** The Africa Europe Foundation founders will now be working on drafting the first multi-annual programme from 2021. The Foundation’s work will begin based on the combined resourcing of the founders (Friends of Europe, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, ONE Campaign, African Climate Foundation). The intention is to secure funding for the future multi-annual programme from public and private donors including other foundations, international development institutions and organisations aligned with the AEF values and objectives.

In a first phase, the European Commission provides support for the activities of the Foundation Strategy Groups through a grant agreement with co-funding complemented by a consortium composed of two of the founders of the AEF (FoE and MIF) and a number of academic partners including IPEMED (Mediterranean World Economic Foresight Institute) and the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS), the Next Einstein Forum, FERDI (Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International).

**Will the Foundation run a grants programme?** No, this is not a grant-making organisation.

**How does the Africa Europe Foundation work with EU & AU Member States?** The Foundation is open to explore partnership opportunities with EU and AU Member states aligned with the values and objectives of its mandate. This can include: collaboration on policy reports; joint actions in the at international fora; mapping and network-building; facilitating and supporting pilot projects, innovative processes and tools of cooperation.

**High-Level Group of Personalities:**

Mo Ibrahim Founder and Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Etienne Davignon President of Friends of Europe, Belgium Minister of State and former Vice-President of the European Commission
Bono Co-Founder of the ONE Campaign

Clare Akamanzi Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board
Ayodeji Adewunmi Co-Founder & Director, Emprego Holdings
Zeinab Badawi Chair of the Royal Africa Society, BBC presenter and member of the advisory board of Afrobarometer
Ousmane Badiane Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Agriculture, Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA 2063
Fatih Birol Executive Director of the International Energy Agency
Gunilla Carlsson Vice-Chair of the Strategy Committee at Global Fund
Joaquim Alberto Chissano Former president of the Republic of Mozambique and former president of the African Union
Aliko Dangote Founder of Dangote Industries Ltd. and Dangote Group Ltd.
Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe Former prime minister of Ethiopia and former president of the African Union
Tanja Gonner Chief Executive Officer of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Arancha González Minister of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation of Spain
Bernard Gustin Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Transport and Connectivity and former CEO, Brussels Airlines
Connie Hedegaard Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Energy, former EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Chair of KR Foundation
Paula Ingabire Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Digital and Minister of ICT & Innovation of Rwanda
Abdouli Janneh former UN Under-Secretary- General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Honorary President of the Africa Europe Foundation, Former President of the Republic of Liberia and Nobel Laureate
Donald Kaberuka High Representative for the Peace Fund of the Africa Union Commission and former President of the African Development Bank
Ramtane Lamamra African Union Commission High Representative for Silencing Guns in Africa and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria
Pascal Lamy Honorary President of Notre Europe- Jacques Delors Institute and former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation
Carlos Moedas Member of the Board of Trustees at the Gulbenkian Foundation and former EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation
Festus Mogae Former President of Botswana
Amina Mohammed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group
Louise Mushikiwabo Secretary General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda
Federica Mogherini Rector of the College of Europe and former EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Chair of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and former Minister of Finance of Nigeria
Mary Robinson Honorary President of the Africa Europe Foundation, first woman President of Ireland and Chair of the Elders
Vera Songwe Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Ingrid Wünning Tscho1 Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Agriculture and Senior Vice-President Strategic Development, Robert Bosch Stiftung
Kandeh Yumkella Co-Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Energy and former Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All

Executive committee
Geert Cami Co-Founder and Secretary General of Friends of Europe
Nathalie Delapalme Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Saliem Fakir Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation
David McNair Executive Director for Global Policy at the ONE Campaign