

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**STATEMENT AT THE 7TH
ANNUAL AFRICAN UNION –
EUROPEAN UNION SUMMIT**

Luanda, 24 November 2025

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address you today, and to visit Angola so close to the 50th anniversary of your independence.

I had the privilege of proposing and then co-chairing the very first AU-EU Summit in 2000.

To today's co-chairs:

Os meus sinceros agradecimentos a ambos.

25 years later, I am delighted to be back to this forum.

Right now, the world is changing at a radical rate.

Technology barrels ahead.

Climate chaos reigns.

And inequalities deepen.

We are moving towards a multipolar world, with global power in flux.

Against the division of the world into two blocs, led by two big powers, we need an interconnected multipolarity – with an inclusive network of intense relations on trade, development, financial institutions, and with increasing political coordination.

But multipolarity in itself is not a guarantee of peace and prosperity.

Europe was multipolar in 1914, but in the absence of strong multilateral governance, the result was war.

Today's multipolarity, to be successful, also needs multilateral institutions and dynamics as a condition for stability and equilibrium.

The partnership between the AU and the EU – two multilateral organizations – and more broadly the partnership between Europe and Africa, are well placed to be a central axis of a new multipolar world.

This emerging reality offers an opportunity to rectify historic injustices, and usher in a fairer, more equal system for countries long excluded from global decision-making.

I wish to address three areas where cooperation between your two continents can play a decisive role in guiding this new reality.

First, sustainable development.

Today's global financial architecture is both unfair and ineffective.

It favours already wealthy nations.

We must reform it, for everyone's benefit.

This means:

Ending the crushing debt cycle;

Tripling the lending capacity of multilateral development banks;

And giving developing countries – many of them in Africa – greater participation and influence in the global financial institutions, as part of the reform of the international financial architecture, to adapt it to today's world.

In Sevilla this year, the international community agreed on comprehensive steps to advance these goals.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also point the way.

Together, you can end the injustice of poverty, address the root causes of migration and displacement — and unleash the unmatched economic potential of this continent.

Second, climate action.

Africa is rich in sun, wind, and critical minerals. And demand for these critical minerals is set to triple by 2030, driven by the shift towards clean energy.

That must be an opportunity – to reject the old models of resource exploitation and replace them with high value-added processing and production in the countries of origin.

With the right training and financing, the renewables revolution can empower all of Africa.

But only if international cooperation enables a just transition away from fossil fuels, including the electrification of the continent;

To allow for a just transition, we need developed countries to keep their promises and engage all their partners;

To double adaptation finance to at least \$40 billion this year and to pursue all efforts to triple it by 2035;

Mobilize \$300 billion per year for both mitigation and adaptation;

And engage all partners in mobilizing \$1.3 trillion annually to fully meet the needs of developing nations.

Africa has the resources and a dynamic, young workforce.

Europe has the capital and the technological know-how.

Climate action is a duty, but between you, it is an opportunity.

Third, we come to peace.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine – Europe’s worst conflict in a generation – unleashed terrible suffering for civilians and deep disruptions in the global economy.

And in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, countless others endure bloodshed and pain.

But there is a way forward.

The Pact for the Future, adopted last year, calls for permanent seats for Africa on the United Nations Security Council – to rectify a deep injustice and strengthen the Council’s ability to deliver peace across the globe.

I repeat my call for sustainable, flexible and predictable funding for African Union-led peace operations – as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2719.

And I commend the European Union for their direct engagement and for advocating this over the past decade.

Dear Friends,

The solutions to these challenges lie in multilateralism — including strong regional and global institutions.

Together, the AU and the EU make up 40 per cent of UN Member States.

You have the power to uphold the Charter, broker agreements, and steer the world towards a more stable, more inclusive reality – where international law prevails, and injustices and inequalities are progressively eliminated.

Out of the turbulence of today, you can craft a new era of hope.

For unity.

For equality.

And for peace.

I thank you. Muito obrigado.