EU-Africa relations in troubled waters
Time to reverse the trend?

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP
organisers | Valeria Fargion and Maria Stella Rognoni

Despite the optimistic narrative running through all EU official documents, over the last fifteen years the relations between the European Union and African Countries have progressively deteriorated as the latter could increasingly turn to alternative partners for development cooperation and investments. This one-day workshop intends to discuss the lamentable state of affairs in the current EU-Africa relations, the unexpected openings provided by the current situation and the existing opportunities for a reversal of the trend.

9.00 am Opening remarks
Emanuela C. Del Re EU Special Representative for the Sahel - video message

9.15 am Panel one
The security issue: Conflicts and terrorism across the Sahel
Chair | Stefano Costalli University of Florence
Speakers | Andrea Beccaro SUISS, University of Turin - online
Terrorism in North Africa: the current state of affairs
Reuben Lewis University of Sierra Leone - online
The African Union perspective on the current challenges in EU-Africa relations
Luca Raineri Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa
EU security interventions in Sahel: a post-colonial critique

10.45 am Coffee break

11.15 am Panel two
The migratory conundrum
Chair | Valeria Fargion University of Florence
Speakers | Ioannis Papageorgiou Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
The politics of migration and its impact on EU-Africa relations
Sihem Djebbi Sciences Po, Paris
The EU migratory policy and the reconfigurations of intra-African migrations

12.15 am Keynote speech
Mamoudou Gazibo University of Montreal
Africa’s changing domestic landscape and its international implications

1.15 pm Lunch break

2.30 pm Panel three
The West and the Rest in Africa
Chair | Maria Stella Rognoni University of Florence
Speakers | Corrado Tornimbeni University of Bologna
Stability and security for authoritarian State-building: Sub-Saharan Africa and the international community
Arrigo Pallotti University of Bologna
Development, at last? Africa and the emerging countries
San Bilal European Centre for Development Policy Management ECDPM - online
Towards European (geo)strategic engagement for African recovery and transformation

4.00 pm Coffee Break

4.30 pm Panel four
Development Cooperation: business as usual?
Chair | Mario Biggeri University of Florence
Speakers | Niels Keijzer German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
From EU development policy to EU international partnerships policy: assessing change and continuity
Valeria Fargion University of Florence
A tale of missed opportunities. EU development policy with Africa and the Covid 19 pandemic

5.30 pm Round-up session