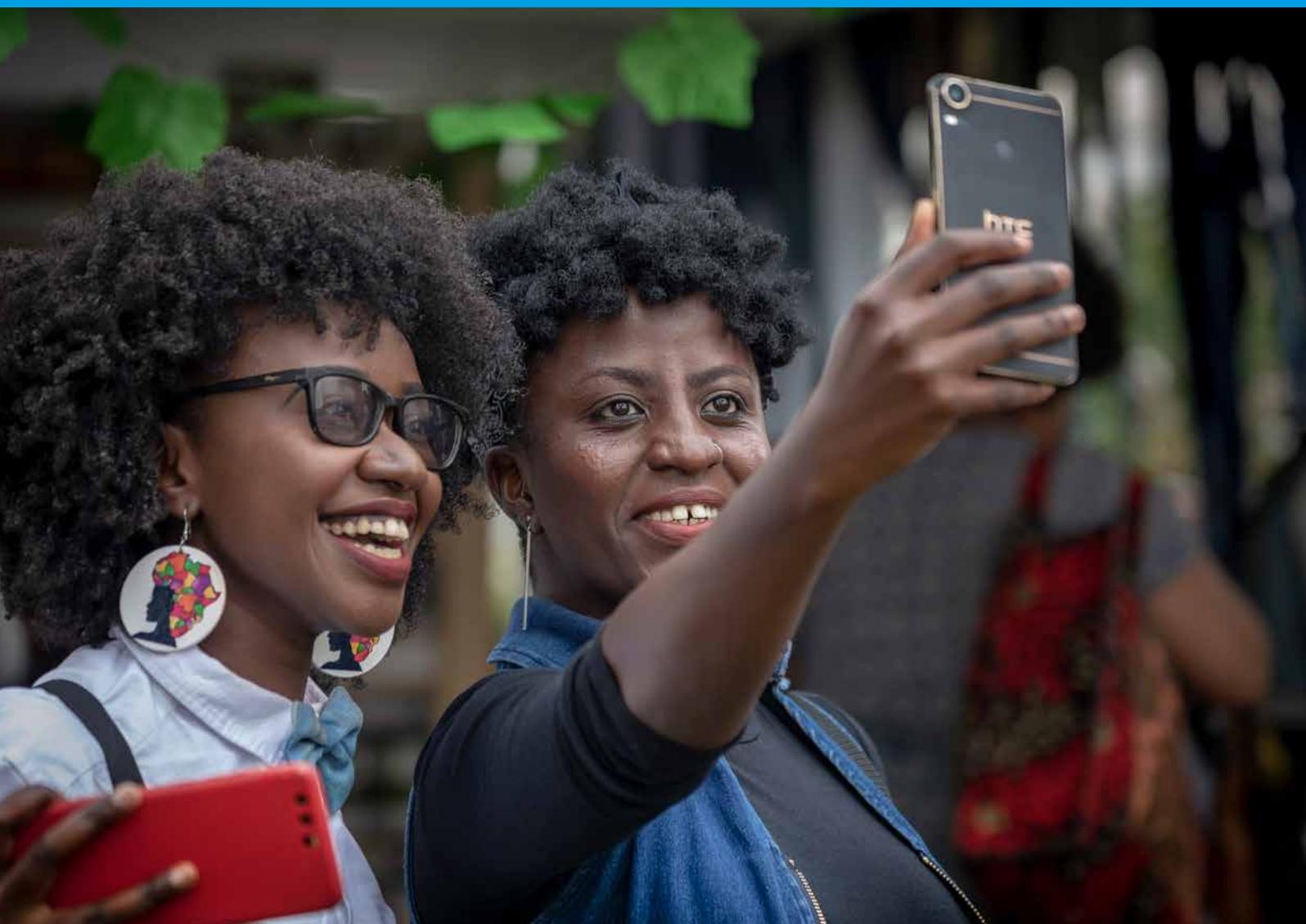




Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*Summary*

# The Africa Strategy of the Netherlands 2023-2032



The first Dutch continent-wide strategy on Africa comprises an integrated vision of political and economic cooperation with the continent of Africa. As stated in the coalition agreement, the government wishes to encourage economic development founded on equality, reduce poverty, improve respect for human rights and limit irregular migration. The fundamental shifts in global geopolitical relations mean that more cooperation with Africa is not only necessary but urgent. A strategy is required that sets out clearly how the Netherlands intends to collaborate successfully with its African partners, now and in the future, in fostering a stable, peaceful and secure neighbouring continent.

The collaboration with Africa will be founded more on equality than it was in the past. Equality requires an understanding of each other's position, puts the relationship at the heart and seeks collaboration on the basis of mutual interests. A successful, equal collaboration brings together important issues: intensive bilateral and multilateral cooperation, promoting Dutch, African and mutual economic and strategic interests, enhancing (regional) stability, making mobility and migration agreements, achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, and enhancing the prosperity as well as the climate resilience of people and communities in Africa and Europe.

At the European Union (EU) – African Union summit in February 2022, a joint vision was endorsed setting out a commitment to a prosperous and sustainable Africa and Europe, centring on solidarity, security, peace and sustainable and sustained economic development and prosperity for the citizens of the two Unions. With the Global Gateway strategy, the EU is pursuing a recognisable external strategy and investment agenda. The Netherlands is working through the EU and in collaboration with EU member states on the basis of this vision, while also maintaining intensive bilateral relations of its own with many African countries and partners. Policy coherence is essential for the relevance and credibility of the Netherlands and Europe in their collaboration with Africa.

With this strategy, the Netherlands is striving for effective trade agreements, stronger economic ties and improved access for Dutch businesses to the African market in combination with support for African partners to gain enhanced access to the European market. Making raw materials and value chains more sustainable should result on the one hand in improved European access to vital raw materials and, on the other, greater added value and employment opportunities in Africa. The Netherlands also sees a major role for close European-African collaboration on equitable and inclusive energy transitions on the basis of renewable energy, focused on achieving universal access. In addition, the Netherlands wants to collaborate on secure and inclusive digitalisation that will contribute to economic opportunities and employment as well as improved access to social and health services.

Furthermore, in this strategy the Netherlands underlines the importance of stability, peace and security for African countries and the continent's inhabitants. This also helps to make Europe's southern border secure and to combat and prevent violent cross-border extremism. Peace and security in Africa are thus also in the Netherlands' interests and require a sustained commitment. An effective multilateral order is a shared interest in the pursuit of enhanced economic, political and security agreements, in Africa and worldwide. In this context, the Netherlands regards good governance and transparency as foundations for legitimacy, legal certainty and broad social development. Support for civil society organisations fosters inclusive societies and helps to achieve the UN's SDGs.

The Netherlands is pursuing effective, sustainable cooperation on migration. It should be developed in collaboration with African partners, within the frameworks of international and European law. The Netherlands will also continue to contribute to the realisation of the sustainable reception of refugees and displaced persons in the region, on the basis of self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion in the national systems of receiving countries. The Netherlands will also continue to be a reliable partner in terms of socioeconomic ambitions, the reduction of extreme poverty in Africa, enhanced food security, improved health and climate resilience. A just climate transition and the attainment of the goals of the Paris Agreement are crucial in this respect. Women and young people play a key role in all aspects of the policy.

The Dutch Strategy on Africa is worked out in detail in an action-based agenda that translates vision and commitment into recognisable actions in the short, medium and long term.