

# 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.

**23 November, 2022**

9.00 am | 6.00 pm

**Novoli | Social Sciences Campus**

Piazza Ugo di Toscana 5, Florence  
Building D15 | room 005

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

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 Gazib** 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**

