



- 180 PARTICIPANTS
- 300 ONLINE VIEWS
- 5 LEADERS
- 30 SPEAKERS
(13 MEN, 17 WOMEN)
- 38 COUNTRIES
- 3 PILLARS OF COOPERATION
(POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL)

This high-level event is aimed at deepening the political, economic and cultural cooperation between Slovenia, Europe and Africa. Through the Africa Day conference, Slovenia is strengthening its partnership with African countries based on understanding and mutual respect.

This year, the conference centred on the green transition.

The event was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia and hosted by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. Other high-level guests included the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Rwanda, the Minister of Information and Digitalisation

of the Republic of Malawi, the EU Special Representative for the Sahel. In addition, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of NGOs, experts, researchers, civil society organisations, business people and journalists attended the event.





MS TANJA FAJON

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia:

"The green transition is no longer a matter of choice; it is a necessity. As a member of the UN Security Council, Slovenia pays great attention to climate and water security, because without taking environmental issues into account, conflicts cannot be effectively prevented and there can be no lasting peace. Solidarity and concern for future generations should be at the heart of all our actions."



MS URŠKA KLAKOČAR ZUPANČIČ

President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia:

"The green transition is the key to creating a resilient, sustainable and just society, which requires a change in current lifestyles and, above all, mindsets. It is essential that each and every one of us assumes responsibility for the future of the planet and the generations that come after us."



MS DONATILLE MUKABALISA

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Rwanda:

"Achieving a successful green transition requires concerted efforts all over the world. In addition to adequate legislation, the green transition requires investment in green energy, the sustainable use of natural resources and an appropriate agricultural policy."



MR MOSES KUNKUYU KALONGASHAWA

Minister of Information and Digitalisation of the Republic of Malawi:

"Modern and accessible technology, green engineering and reliable internet networks are a prerequisite for strengthening the resilience of societies to the devastating effects of climate change."



MS EMANUELA DEL RE

EU Special Representative for the Sahel:

"We need a more robust system, with better governance, knowledge sharing and greater attention to the specific needs of local communities."



MS RENATA CVELBAR BEK

MFEA Secretary General:

"The triple planetary crisis is a global challenge that can only be addressed through a closer partnership between Europe and Africa."

PANEL 1:

LEADERS' PANEL – GREEN TRANSITION FOR A SAFE FUTURE

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PANEL

- If we want to succeed in tackling the climate crisis, we need to push for more ambitious global agreements and solutions. The message from the upcoming UN Future Summit should be very clear: without more effective action and cooperation on climate change, there will be no secure future.
- The green transition is essential for sustainable and resilient development. The planet's triple crisis is a global phenomenon and only together – with a better understanding of the specific situation, closer cooperation and partnership – can we effectively tackle this crisis. We should look at the root causes of climate change. Just as we damaged the climate together, we should repair it together. We need a sense of urgency, focus and shared responsibility. Increased cooperation between Europe and Africa will benefit both continents.
- Many African countries are facing increasingly severe and frequent weather disasters linked to climate change, with severe impacts on basic infrastructure. A leap in development towards smart (transport, energy, telecommunications) infrastructure is needed to strengthen resilience, and this requires financial resources and technological breakthroughs. It would be very helpful if developed countries met their aid commitments.
- The European Union must continue the green transition, which is essential for the existence and quality of life of future generations and must be carried out in a way that does not deepen social inequalities.
- Climate change is a threat to security. Good governance and a more equal role for women are prerequisites. Politicians have a duty to think long-term and to act beyond the electoral cycle.



PANELISTS

MS DONATILLE MUKABALISA

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Republic of Rwanda

MS URŠKA KLAKOČAR ZUPANČIČ

President of the National Assembly, Republic of Slovenia

MR MOSES KUNKUYU KALONGASHAWA

Minister of Information and Digitalisation, Republic of Malawi

MS TANJA FAJON

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

EMANUELA DEL RE

European Union Special Representative for the Sahel

MODERATOR

DR SMILJANA KNEZ

Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia



PANEL 2:

GREEN TRANSITION AS A CATALYST OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PANEL

- The green energy transition is an area of great potential for cooperation between Europe and Africa, as the two continents are highly interdependent.
- Africa has the potential to become a leader in green energy. To increase investment in the green energy transition, an appropriate legal and regulatory framework is needed, as well as measures to de-risk investments and attract more private investors.
- The EU's Global Gateway mechanism and cooperation with financial institutions such as Slovenia's SID bank (export bank) are crucial.
- It is important to invest in more sustainable green energy systems and to train the local population to manage them. The local aspect is paramount; addressing the specific needs of the local population and raising awareness of the need for a green transition are important aspects of corporate social responsibility.
- Africa has great potential in the field of renewable energy. It is essential that access to electricity is ensured as soon as possible for the part of the African population that does not yet have it (including off-grid systems); this is even more important than building connections between the continents.



PANELISTS

MR BAHAA ABDULLAH

CEO and Executive board member, Iskraemeco Group

MRS FLORENCE LARBI

COO of the Environment and Sanitation, Jospong Group

MR DOMENICO ROSA

Head of Unit on Strategic Partnerships with Africa and ACP, DG INTPA, European Commission

MS CAROL AWUOR OFAFA

Research Associate, African School of Regulation / Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

MR JAN KOSTEVČ

Team leader – Energy Infrastructure, EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

MR DAG KRALJ

MBA, Member of the Board, BISOL Group

MODERATOR

DR SMILJANA KNEZ

Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia



PANEL 3:

FOSTERING GREEN INNOVATION – SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PANEL

- The panel highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnerships in addressing global challenges, particularly in the areas of sustainability, climate change and health crises. It emphasised the need for joint efforts between governments, academia, civil society and the private sector to achieve sustainable solutions.
- The partnership between the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities is a significant step towards fostering scientific collaboration between Africa and Europe. It provides a platform for universities to work together, share knowledge and address global challenges in a collaborative and inclusive manner. Such initiatives should be expanded and encouraged to further enhance the partnership.
- One of the challenges in the collaboration is the difference in resources and infrastructure between African and European universities. To ensure an equitable partnership, it is crucial to address this disparity. Greater support and collaboration from European institutions is needed. Funding opportunities, capacity building support and technology transfer can help bridge the gap and ensure both sides benefit and contribute equally.
- Establishing long-term partnerships that go beyond individual projects is essential. Joint research centres or institutes, regular exchange programmes, and joint funding initiatives can create a framework for continuous collaboration and ensure the longevity of the partnership.
- There is a need to improve processes and policies to facilitate academic mobility and promote inclusivity in collaboration efforts. Overcoming barriers such as accessing visas for African professors and students is crucial to ensure equal opportunities and foster a truly global perspective in research and innovation.

PRESENTATION OF SLOVENIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

V Ambassador Edvin Skrt, Director General of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, presented Slovenia's development cooperation policy and activities. Dr Tomaž Rodič, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Space, Science and Technology (Vesolje-SI), presented the project implemented by the Centre in cooperation with Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya. Audrey Namdiro-Walsh, Director of the Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) Secretariat, briefly presented the background and GDL experience in this respect.

PANELISTS

ASSOC PROF KAYIHURA MUGANGA DIDAS
Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda

PROF DR GREGOR MAJDIČ
rektor, Univerza v Ljubljani

PROF HESTER C. KLOPPER
Deputy-Vice Chancellor, Stellenbosch University

PROF JAN PALMOWSKI
The Guild lead on Africa-Europe CoRE, The Guild

MR IBRAHIM ELREFAEY
PhD Researcher at the Department of Analytical Chemistry,
Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana

MODERATOR
MS ELIZABETH MALOBA
Global Diplomacy Lab



PANEL 4:

STRENGTHENING CULTURAL COOPERATION – SUSTAINABLE NETWORKS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PANEL

- International networks and cooperation are key to Africa's cultural development, enabling the exchange of expertise and experience and fostering better understanding with the rest of the world, including Europe. Through cooperation and co-creation between Africa and Europe, and by bringing together different perspectives, knowledge and skills, new and innovative solutions can be developed to address common challenges and opportunities. Partnerships and cooperation are essential to address the challenges and opportunities facing Africa. By working together, stakeholders can harness resources, expertise and networks to create a more vibrant, inclusive and sustainable cultural sector.
- Infrastructure and institutional frameworks for cooperation play a vital role in supporting sustainable international networks of artists and cultural practitioners. They foster networking and community building, which in turn facilitates the development of cultural cooperation.
- In order to increase the mobility of African artists, visa restrictions should be eased and procedures simplified, thereby increasing cultural exchange and stimulating creativity.

SHOWCASING OF EUROPE-AFRICA CULTURAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

The panel included short presentations of three international cultural cooperation projects involving Slovenian NGOs. **Nataša Zavolovšek**, Director and Producer, and **Inti Šraj**, both from Exodos Ljubljana, presented their activities within the collaborative project **Share: Creative powers of art**. **Maja Drobne**, Head of Education at the Pina Association, presented their **Starts4Africa** project, and **Sara Božanić**, Director of the Institute for Transmedia Design, outlined the institute's activities in the project entitled **Deconfining Arts, Culture and Policies in Europe and Africa**.

- To preserve cultural diversity and identity, it is important to nurture indigenous knowledge and traditional practices.
- Cultural projects can contribute to a greener future. By raising awareness of environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices, they can stimulate positive change and foster a deeper connection between people and nature.

PANELISTS

MS SAMBA YONGA

Founder of Ku-Atenga Media, Co-founder of the Women's History Museum of Zambia

MS VYDIA TAMBY

Cultural Advisor to the Mayor of Dakar

MS BARBARA EIGNER

International Relations, European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024

DR STOJAN PELKO

Head of Programme, European Capital of Culture Nova Gorica/Gorizia 2025

MODERATORKA

MS SARA BOŽANIĆ

CEO, Institute for Transmedia Design



CULTURAL AND ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Similar to the conference, the cultural programme was designed in the spirit of partnership, cooperation and dialogue between Slovenia and Africa. It featured joint performances by Slovenian and African musicians and an interplay of different musical traditions, from traditional African music to jazz, creating a unique musical fusion.



The guests of the evening were **Mr Majid Bekkas** from Morocco and **Mr Njami Sitson** from Cameroon. Mr Bekkas is a singer and instrumentalist, internationally renowned for his contribution to ethno-jazz with North African roots. He was accompanied by Slovenian musicians **Mr Marko Črnčec** (keyboards), **Mr Kristijan Krajnčan** (drums) and **Mr Jošt Lampret** (bass). Sitson is a singer, percussionist, composer and storyteller who combines Cameroonian musical tradition with music from other parts of the world. He was accompanied on stage by **Ms Živa Ciglencečki** and **Ms Mariko Umae** on violin and **Mr Miha Petric** on guitar.



The programme also featured the African diaspora in Slovenia with the music and dance group **Kankele**, led by percussionist **Mr Issiaka Sanou**, and percussionist **Mr Lazaro Zumeta**, who performed with drummer **Mr Žiga Kožar**.

The cultural programme also included performances by the Slovenian bands **Ecliptic** and **Sherzer Brigade**. The main part of the programme was recorded by RTV Slovenia for the Ars programme and was moderated by **Jose**, who, together with **Murat**, closed the event with the song "From People for People".

The latter two embassies also presented their respective countries at stands in the park in front of the Rog Centre. Similarly, the African diaspora presented their handmade products, art and cuisine, along with the University of Ljubljana and Platforma Sloga, which showcased their projects.

The cultural program was prepared by the **Cultural Arts Society 13** based on the concept of the **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs**. The program was financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the embassies of the Kingdom of Morocco and Burkina Faso.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY

From 20 to 22 May 2024, the second training on Climate Change, Peace and Security was held at the Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) of Slovenia to provide peacekeeping personnel with a deeper understanding of the complex challenges that climate change poses to global peace and security. The training brought together participants from 13 countries around the world that are dealing with the impact of climate change in different ways. Among other things, participants improved their knowledge and gained a comprehensive insight into climate security issues.



LINKS

[Africa Day Website](#)

[Conference video](#)