# Africa – EU Strategy : Civil Society in Strategic Partnerships

Françoise Moreau
Head of Unit Forward looking studies and policy coherence
DG Development and relations with ACP States
European Commission

# Joint Africa-EU Strategy:
# a new shared vision

The Strategy is inspired by a new vision, moving the EU-Africa partnership:

- **beyond development** elaborating a real political partnership

- **beyond Africa** building a global partnership

- **beyond institutions** launching a people-centred partnership

- **beyond fragmentation** treating Africa as one

# Africa – EU Strategy

- Facilitate and promote a people-centred partnership

= 1 of the 4 key objectives of the Strategy

# In the Strategy : A people- centered Partnership

Africa and Europe's women, men and children should be part and parcel of this new partnership:

- Broad-based consultation over one year in the run up to Lisbon

- Build a permanent platform for dialogue and implementation

- Promote cooperation between CSO ( ia: Promoting twinnings)

# What role for research?

"…. And European and African research institutes and think tanks will participate in dialogue mechanisms and initiatives and play a key role in monitoring the implementation of African, European and joint policies and commitments outlined in the Joint Strategy"

# First Action Plan 2008-2010 - Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation (1)

- Establish a **mapping** of existing European and African civil society networks;

- Establish a platform for European and African **research institutes and think tanks** to provide independent policy advice;

- Create a **web portal** to facilitate consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) ahead of key policy decisions;

# First Action Plan 2008-2010: Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation (2)

- Invite representatives from European and African **civil societies** to express themselves ahead of Ministerial Troika meetings (biannual) – produce reports on implementation;

- Establish planning and priority setting mechanism for future Action Plans;

- Establish informal **joint expert groups** on all priority actions identified in the Action Plan

# Build synergies with the **EU Research Initiative** - Objectives

Develop and express a European perspective on strategic issues in development:

– Feeding the intra-EU debate

– Improving visibility of European thinking

– Helping shape the international agenda

# Output & Process

- <u>Output of the Initiative</u>: *European Report on Development (ERD)*, an annual research-led review of development issues and a European counterpart to other major flagship global reports (first to be published in 2008) aimed at bridging the gap between researchers and policy-makers

- <u>Process of consultation</u>: March 2007first research workshop with the purpose of identifying multi-year story line for ERD
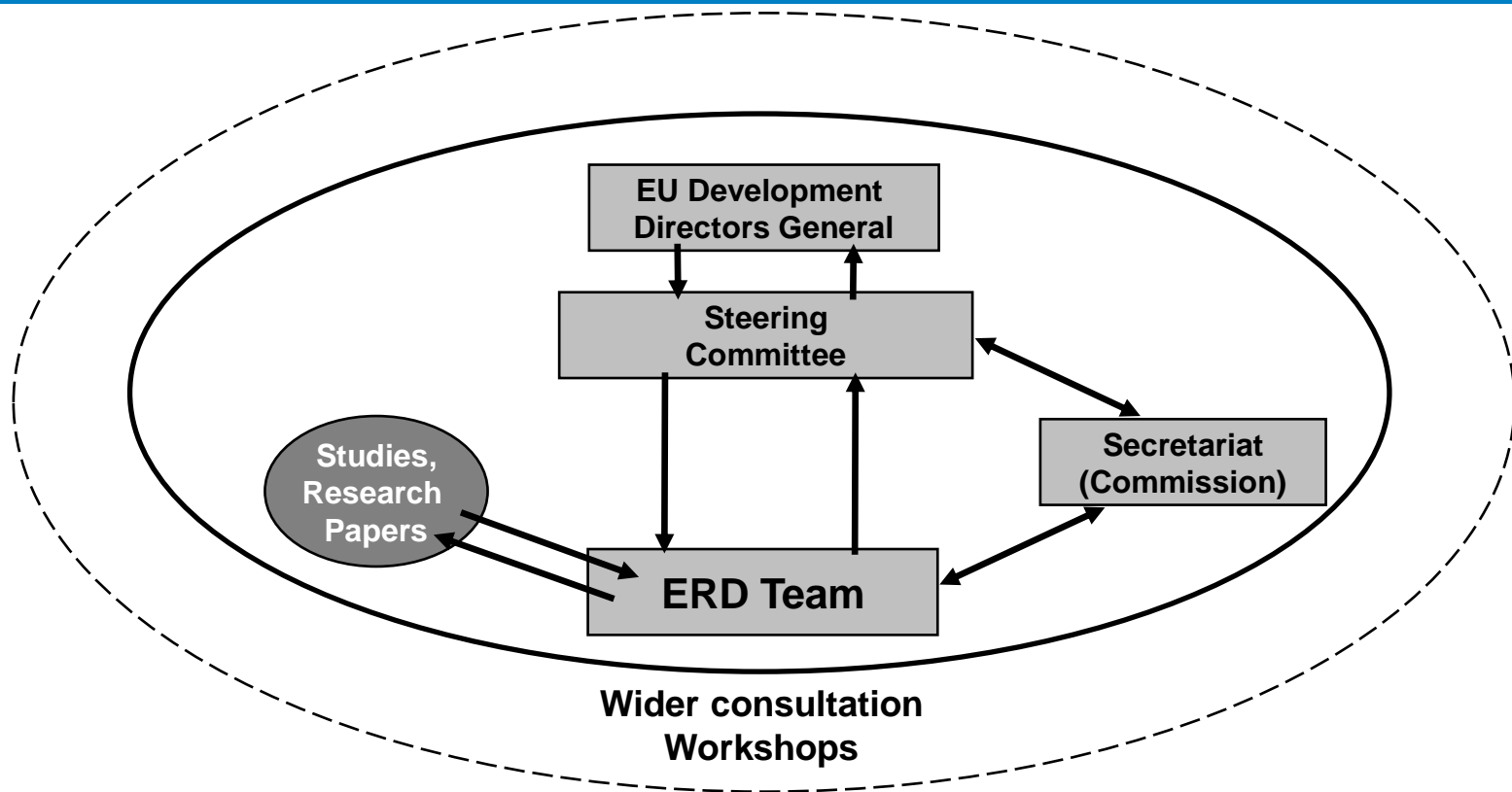
# Multi-Year Story Line of ERD

**Reconciling the MDGs with new global challenges
the EU's approach**

- How global changes (new geo economics, China, India, Afghanistan, security threats, migration, environmental degradation, climate change, etc) affect the development agenda?

- The European flavour - EU approach is based on values, norms and interests/ Europe's experiences as a governance system/poverty eradication does not only mean economic growth but also political and social aspects (democracy, inequality, well-being,..)

- What will be Europe's role in this new global context?

- First report will focus on Africa

# Governance Structure (1)



EU Development Directors General

Steering Committee

Secretariat (Commission)

Studies, Research Papers

ERD Team

Wider consultation Workshops

ToGEthé®
SINCE 1957

Together for a better world

50 ANS

European Commission
Development and relations with African,Caribbean and Pacific States

# Governance Structure (2)

- <u>Management/Steering Committee</u>: made of representatives from EU Member States, the European Commission and the European research community; it provides leadership and vision

- <u>Task Force</u>: composed of the Commission and researchers from contributing Member States; drafted the first proposals

- A <u>research institute/consortium</u> will be in charge of managing the <u>ERD Team</u>, permanent writing and editorial team, responsible for the content of the report and its overall quality, coherence and timeliness

- <u>ERD Secretariat</u>: based in the Commission, DG Dev; coordination role and links with policy making structures