

Seizing the EU-AU Summit: Advancing Health in Equal Partnership

Webinar Summary Report

27th October 2025

Ahead of the 7th EU-AU Summit in Luanda (Angola), ACTION Africa and Global Health Advocates gathered experts to reflect on health within the EU-AU Partnership. Speakers discussed the linkages between health, economic and social progress, the role of knowledge and reform in building genuine co-ownership between the two continents, in an effort to contribute to ongoing dialogues in the lead-up to and aftermath of the Summit.

Key insights from the discussion

- There is an **urgent need for health to be considered as an end in itself** and as a strategic sector. Investing in health drives innovation, creates employment and enables sustainable growth. Health is not a standalone pillar, but rather a scaffold for all other social and economic progress. **To support greater fiscal space for health, we must address the issue of debt, as this is an ongoing burden on African public expenditure at the expense of healthcare.** The EU and AU need to play an important role in framing **health as an economic and social imperative**, by strengthening health financing mechanisms that reduce dependency on external aid and promote domestic resource mobilisation (DRM).
- **The AU-EU Summit should deliver concrete, measurable actions**, and the success of the Partnership is conditional on **shared governance, evidence-based collaboration and mutual respect**. Sustainable growth depends on regional leadership and complementarity, underpinned by the empowerment of African research and technical agencies to co-lead all stages of policy design. There is also a need to move from short-term projects toward long-term cooperation, which includes **predictable and sustained financing**. On the EU side, this partnership is being approached as a mutual investment in resilience, as interdependence necessitates the establishment of regional value chains that can sustain both African and European needs.
- As we reflect on reform, **global health must be redefined as collectively owned**, not regionally dominated **Equity must remain central in these discussions**.
- **We must invest in African academia, policy, civil-society, and scientific institutions such as the Africa CDC and the African Medicines Agency.** These generate vital data, knowledge and evidence, and will ensure African voices shape solutions and validate new approaches beyond vertical, donor-driven models. Innovation often arises from iteration, and we must be open to testing new models, even those that might fail.
- Finally, **we need both accountability and alignment**, through clear monitoring mechanisms, jointly developed and owned by both sides, to track progress on commitments. CSOs play an instrumental role in guiding decision-makers and keeping them accountable.