



Declaration of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria 5 and 6 November 2015

Adopted at the 1st Think Tank Encounter between Africa and Spain, held at Casa África, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

We, the representatives of think tanks and research centres from Africa, Europe and Spain that deal with African and European issues, having gathered at this meeting,

- *Recognising* the fundamental role played by think tanks in the political, social and economic transformation of European and African societies;
- *Noting* the role of think tanks as catalysts and generators of ideas, which raise public awareness of national and international public policy research from a wide range of disciplines, as covering many fields;
- *Underlining* the role of think tanks in the definition, formulation and assessment of public policies, providing an objective analysis based on data and facts; bridging the gap between evidence, knowledge and policymaking and creating spaces for dialogue that prioritise careful and independent analysis;
- *Cognisant* of the growing importance of think tanks in facilitating policymaking in an increasingly interconnected world, where information and ideas flow quickly and constantly;

Agree to identify common challenges for think tanks having regard to:

- The difficulties in accessing sufficient economic and financial resources to give them the independence they require to work;
- The lack of effective channels for communication and exchange between different think tanks on both continents in which to set research priorities appropriate to the needs of both society and policymakers and citizens;
- The need to improve the perception among both policymakers and the public about the utility of think tanks in defining and influencing public policy in order for society as a whole to have a greater awareness of the realities and the impacts of different public policy options;

To address these challenges with a shared and coordinated approach, the participants of this 1st Think Tank Encounter between Africa and Spain agree to increase and



improve collaboration and coordination through more regular and intensive focused dialogue.

To this end, we are fully committed to repeating this forum on a regular basis, at least every two years, to promote exchange furthering the exchange of ideas and identify common research goals. We shall also seek to change the venue of future meetings, with the intention of alternating between the two regions.

Finally, with the aim of transferring the knowledge and ideas generated by African think tanks and research centres to the various stakeholders of Spanish society, Casa África undertakes to disseminate such knowledge and ideas through its communication channels.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 6th November 2015