



**The new EU-Africa-Strategy
and its implementation -
recommendations from a
Central European Perspective**

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I. Relevance of Africa for NMS

- in general for Europe:

ties that bind:

~ common history

~ interlocking cultures

In the case of HU two layers we can dig back:

- in earlier decades: generations of Africa specialists (explores, geography-anthropology experts) with internationally recognised scientific achievements
- 70's 80's (question: How to deal with this part of earlier CEE interactions with the continent – what can be used?)

shared objectives - common concern and interest

- With EU 10 and upcoming enlargements:
shared objectives, common concern and interest coming to the fore

II. Driving forces behind the enhanced Africa agenda

- **OMS - NMS:**
 - ~ **Policy decision makers**
 - ~ **ODA bureaucracy**
 - ~ **Other stakeholders (NGO's companies, institutions)**
 - ~ **Media, public**

III. Challenges

- Budget constraints
- Other geographic ODA priorities
- Less interaction with Africa after change of system in CEE
- Sporadic diplomatic presence

IV. Opportunities

- Several EU Documents (DPS – Africa Strategy – 2006 Communication package of the Commission)
- 10th EDF – NMS as contributors – Programming with NMS involvement started early 2006

- *One Africa.* The EU Strategy for Africa will therefore, for the first time, address Africa as one entity (sub-Saharan African countries + South-Africa + the countries of North Africa. Earlier NMS interest toward Euro-Mediterranean partnership, together with the European Neighbourhood Policy.

V. Specificities of NMS approach

- Ambitious but not to loose touch with realities
- Counterproductive to push too strongly and only in financial terms
- Trend is more important than immediate statistical breakthrough
- Too early for them the full scale adaptation of some of the leading principles (however noble and relevant they are)

- If there is two speed in
 1. ODA financial commitments
 2. EDF contribution keys

⇒ perhaps we should apply differentiation in methodology

⇒ Should be less demanding in the application of direct budget aid
- Co-financing schemes (OMS - NMS;
COM - NMS)
- Closer co-ordination among NMS

VI. Follow-up to concrete proposals in the Communication which was in the base of the AS

- Hoped that partnership will be formalized with the conclusion of a Euro-African Pact at a second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon
- Governance Initiative that encourages participation in the APRM process and provides support to African countries for implementation of APRM - driven reforms (in Northern Africa: Governance Facility)

- Euro-African Business Forum bringing together entrepreneurs and public and private investors from both Europe and Africa – special efforts needed to bring in NMS

TOOLS:

- Categorisation of tools:

- I. prerequisites for attaining the MDG-s (**peace and security - good governance**)
- II. areas that create the economic environment necessary for achieving the MDG-s (**economic growth, trade and interconnection**)
- III. areas directly targeting the MDG-s (**social cohesion, decent work, gender equality and environment**)

Our point of departure :

- there is a role today in each of the three:

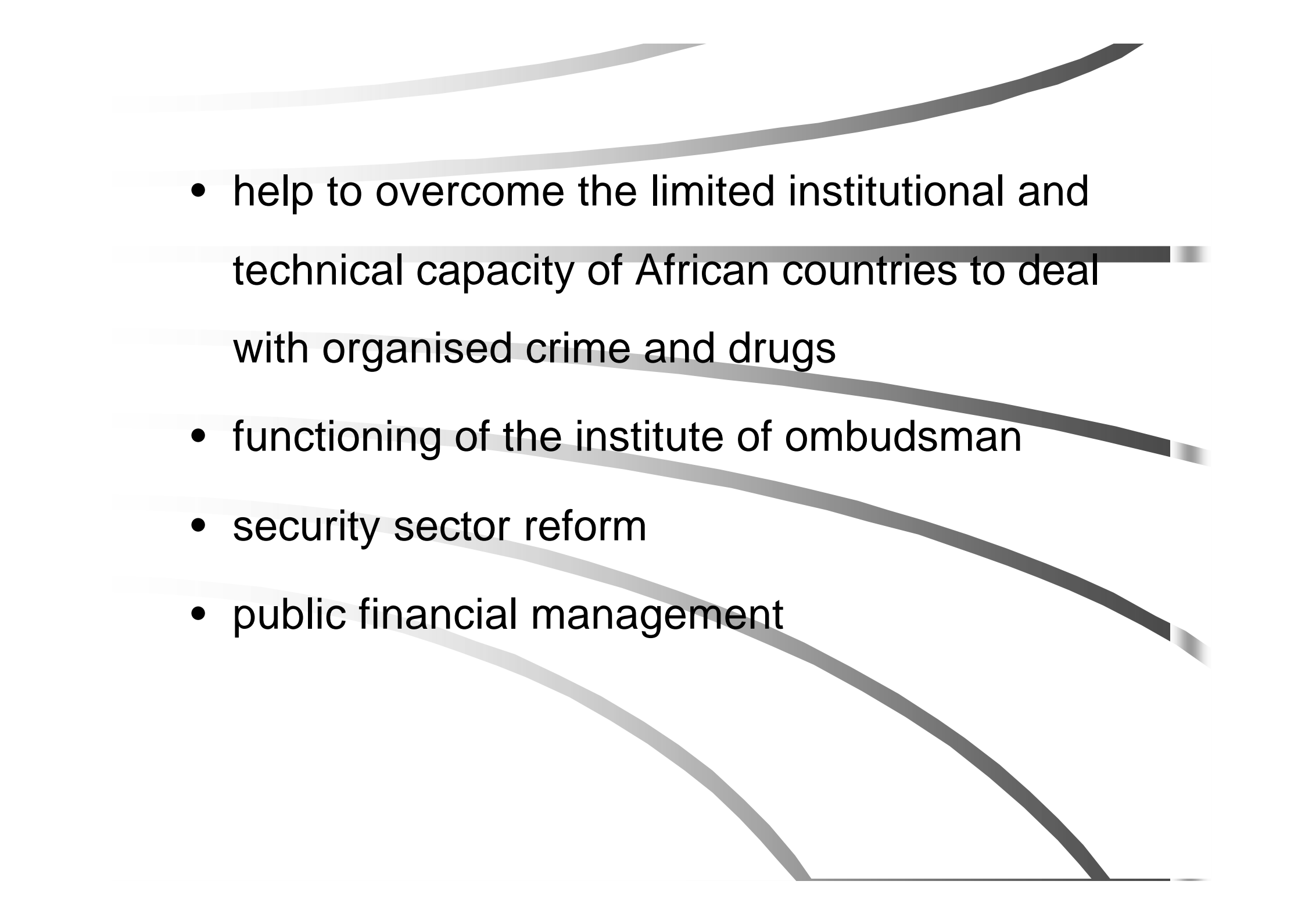
Depending on time scale, depth or on the contrary limitation of NMS involvement

Short term NMS involvement capabilities:

- **good and effective governance**

Assist in building efficient central institutions:

- election commissions
- empowerment of legislative organs
- police and judiciary system
- fight against money laundering, tax fraud
and avoidance

- 
- help to overcome the limited institutional and technical capacity of African countries to deal with organised crime and drugs
 - functioning of the institute of ombudsman
 - security sector reform
 - public financial management

- Support local level and civil societies

~ **Municipal organs**

~ **Decentralisation**

~ **NGO's, other non-state actors**

- **Human rights**

- ~ **EU-Africa Forum on human rights**

- ~ **NMS active participation in the network of human rights experts in Africa and Europe**

- **Regional integration:**
CEFTA as a useful tool among pre accession CEE countries - experiences, best practices to share in Africa
- **Non high-tech medium advanced, cost effective electronic communication**
- **Organic farming - agricultural research**
- **Fresh water fishery in landlocked countries**
- **Addressing human resources shortages in the health sector**

Mid term, longer term or limited NMS involvement capabilities

- **peace and security:**
 - ~ **conflict prevention**
 - ~ **conflict management**
 - ~ **conflict resolution**
 - ~ **post-conflict reconstruction**
- Improved *access for SME-s to financial and non-financial services*
- Facilitate better connected Africa

Can and should NMS seek to
play a substantial role in the
new *Governance Initiative to*
be launched soon ?

ICDT

- Recognition:
 - ~ Over the last decades many countries have made a dramatic transition from dictatorship to democracy, built up free societies and market economy
 - ~ Their experiences should be conveyed to other countries to help and encourage them to make their own transition.
- ⇒ The International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) was set up in Budapest last year

Legal status

- The ICDT is an international, independent, non-profit organisation
- It functions within the frames of a public foundation, established by the Hungarian Government, and is legally and financially independent
- Governments from all around the world offered seconded personnel, financial and other support while prominent personalities agreed to join the International Board of the Centre

What makes ICDT unique?

- Concentrates on *democratic transition as a process*. Rather than a momentary move from dictatorship to democracy.
- Focuses on the interactions of simultaneously changing dimensions rather than analysing the transition as a series of political events

What region is in ICDDT's primary focus?

- Not restrained – good perspectives in Africa

How does ICDT plan to conduct its projects?

- In strategic partnerships - goal is to find for each particular project the best expertise available in the world.



Thank you for your attention!