

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

**AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES**

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Subject: Joint ACP-EU Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Joint ACP-EU Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

We the ACP-EU Council of Ministers meeting in Nairobi 19-20 June 2014 and taking into consideration the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

1. **Reaffirm** our shared commitment to work together towards the achievement of the objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable development, as outlined in the Cotonou Agreement. In this context, we strongly believe that the international community should agree an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda, that will build on the foundations laid by the Millennium Development Goals, complete unfinished business and respond to new challenges and we pledge our commitment to working together to such end.
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. We will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in those texts.
3. **Reaffirm** all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.
4. **Acknowledge** that the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation (MSI) of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the UN Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) remain relevant.

5. **Welcome** the designation of 2014 as the International Year of the SIDS and recognise that the Third United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be held in Samoa in September from 1-4 September 2014 under the theme “The Sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships” provides an opportunity for SIDS to ensure their concerns are taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.
6. **Welcome** the contribution of the Report of the UNSG “A life of dignity for all” and of the report of the UNSG High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to the process of elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the various consultations and the progress to date in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.
7. **Welcome** the Outcome Document of the Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals, which decided to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly, which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. We are committed to a transparent and inclusive process, which is country-driven, people centred and involves all stakeholders, and ensures that the needs and aspirations of developing countries are fully reflected.
8. **Welcome** the significant progress achieved in ACP countries, including in partnership with the EU and its Member States, since the Millennium Summit in September 2000, to address, inter alia, the promotion of primary education, water and sanitation, protecting the environment, and the eradication of poverty in all its forms. We note however that, for many ACP countries, notwithstanding this progress, additional efforts are needed in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular those related to child and maternal mortality and concerning the spread of HIV/AIDS.

9. **Reaffirm**, that we will intensify our efforts to accelerate progress towards the attainment of the MDGs by the 2015. These efforts, the current state of implementation, the challenges which remain and the recommendations to accelerate progress should be taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.
10. **Emphasize** that the overall objective of the post-2015 development agenda should be to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, through the establishment of a single comprehensive and coherent universal framework, defined around a single set of goals and targets, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.
11. **Stress** that the post-2015 development agenda should address in a coherent, integrated and balanced manner, the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.
12. **Maintain** that sustainable development can only be achieved in an environment of peace, stability, security, good governance, and respect for human rights, democratic principles, gender equality and the rule of law, which are essential core values as well as objectives in themselves.
13. **Believe** that the persistent development challenges and the unique vulnerabilities of all ACP countries, and in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Countries and ACP States which have endured the negative impacts of conflicts, political and social instability, should be addresses in the development of the post-2015 development agenda.
14. **Recognise** that Middle Income Countries face specific development challenges which should be taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.

15. **Further believe** that many ACP States, particularly the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Countries are extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, which poses immediate and long term significant risks to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and stress the importance of integrating the cross cutting issue of climate change into the post-2015 development agenda while calling on all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to adopt in 2015 an ambitious global agreement - a new protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the convention applicable to all parties - at COP 21 in Paris.
16. **Emphasize** that the framework should address, inter alia,:
- a. Basic living standards and a life of dignity for all, with a view to eradicating poverty in all its dimensions and to ensure sustainable well-being. This would include, inter alia, improved health outcomes including through universal health coverage;
 - b. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The framework should be a key driver to reduce inequalities, create decent and productive jobs, and improve the sustainability of consumption and production patterns and promote structural economic transformation;
 - c. The sustainable use, management and protection of natural resources and the ecosystems services they provide;
 - d. Good governance, equality and equity, with a strong focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups and the empowerment and rights of women and girls;
 - e. Peaceful and stable societies and freedom from violence.

17. **Agree** that the goals should be limited in number, easy to understand and communicate, and should drive meaningful action. The associated targets and indicators should be formulated to be measurable, reportable and verifiable, and take into consideration inter-linkages within the framework.
18. **Believe** that the post-2015 development agenda should have a focused timeframe with provision for action in the medium term and have a coherent longer-term vision.
19. **Stress** the importance of transparency, coherence and accountability. We call for regular monitoring and review of progress of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
20. **Emphasize** that the post-2015 development agenda should be nationally-driven, and that the primary responsibility for its implementation lies with each country, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including inter alia, civil society and the private sector.
21. **Recognize that** an inclusive, transformative and effective global partnership to underpin the post-2015 development agenda will require strong political commitment and determined action at all levels and by all stakeholders and should take into account the Paris and Busan principles, including country ownership.
22. **Welcome** the outcome of the first High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Mexico (15-16 April 2014) and highlight the important contribution the GPEDC can make to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
23. **Emphasize** the need for all means of implementation, to be addressed in a comprehensive manner in order to ensure their effective mobilization and use for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. This entails that each country and the international community at large do their part in working towards policy coherence at all levels, effective institutions and predictable financing from a variety of sources, including, domestic and international public resource mobilization, debt sustainability, innovative financing and mobilization of private financial and investment flows.

24. **Acknowledge** that Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains an important and catalytic source of financing for developing countries, in particular countries most in need, and call on the developed countries that have not done so to fulfill their pledge to commit 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as ODA.
25. **Acknowledge** that issues of science, technology and innovation, including technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms, and capacity building, should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda in order to support its successful and sustained implementation in all countries, including ACP countries.
26. **Call** for a successful outcome of the third international conference on financing for development in the context of effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
27. **Call** for the strengthening of existing partnerships, such as North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation in order to facilitate the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda at the national, regional and global levels.
28. **Emphasize** that the establishment of new multi-stakeholder partnerships - including public-private partnerships - where appropriate, could serve as a catalyst for diversifying and transforming the economies of ACP countries and contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
29. **Reaffirm that** in the spirit of our ACP-EU partnership, we pledge to work together to build consensus around a strong overarching post-2015 development agenda, so as to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development for this and future generations.