

Brussels, 20 September 2019

**INTRODUCTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHRISTOPHE JOSEPH
MARIE DABIRE
PRIME MINISTER OF BURKINA FASO**

To

THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS

BY

**H.E. DR. PATRICK I. GOMES
SECRETARY-GENERAL**

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ACP COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS

BRUSSELS, 4 OCTOBER 2019, AT 10:00 A.M.

**Mr. Prime Minister,
Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors,
Dean of the ACP Ambassadors,
Excellencies,**

The ACP Group is honoured this morning by the visit of His Excellency Mr. Christophe Dabire, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, to the Committee of Ambassadors.

In fact, the Committee is not only welcoming the Head of Government of a very active country within the ACP family, but also a statesman who is open, and believes in dialogue.

His Excellency Christophe Dabire, who is honouring us with his visit, is unequivocally one of the experienced leaders dedicated to the cause of development.

He has held several prominent positions, within both his country's executive and legislative branches.

A seasoned economist, who specialised in development planning and business administration, he first served in the Ministry of Economy and Planning, successively as Director of Studies and Projects, and Director-General of Cooperation.

It was no surprise that he joined his country's Government in 1992 and successively held the posts of Minister of Health, Minister of Social Action and Family, and Minister of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research.

In 2000, he became a Member of Parliament in his country and was appointed to chair the Finance and Budget Committee of the National Assembly.

From 2007 to 2017, he was the Commissioner in charge of the Regional Market, Trade, Competition and Cooperation Department of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Commission.

In this position, our distinguished guest showed dynamism, and more specifically, that he was a man of action.

He therefore initiated major planning projects, including a regional economic integration project.

Noted for his professionalism and integrity, he was appointed Prime Minister of Burkina Faso on 20 January 2019.

Since assuming this prestigious office, he has continued to work to improve the living conditions of the people of his country.

At the national level, his Government has set its priorities, which include the task of overcoming the security challenges, the obligation to establish a more ethical system of governance, the development of human capital, and the willingness to revitalise the national economy.

Mr. Prime Minister,

In conclusion, allow me to underscore that your presence this morning, alongside the Representatives of the ACP Group's Member States, is a testament to the interest that your country, Burkina Faso, has always shown in strengthening and ensuring the cohesion of the ACP Group, particularly at this crucial stage where the ACP States and our European Union partners are engaged in the post-Cotonou negotiations.

Once again, thank you for honouring us with your visit here to ACP House,
your house.

Welcome Mr. Prime Minister!