

**Brussels, 1 October 2019**

***Protocol and Public Relations Service***

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**WORDS OF THANKS BY  
H.E. MR DANIEL EVINA ABE'E  
DEAN OF THE ACP COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT  
TO THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. CHRISTOPHE JOSEPH MARIE DABIRE  
PRIME MINISTER OF BURKINA FASO**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ACP COMMITTEE OF  
AMBASSADORS**

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

**Mr. Prime Minister,**

I thank you for taking the opportunity, during your visit to Brussels, to address the ACP Committee of Ambassadors.

You have sought to keep us informed about the situation in your country, Burkina Faso, which is firmly committed to the process of social dialogue, peace, and democracy, for the well-being of the population.

We have noted, with appreciation, the many efforts made by your Government, in keeping with the vision of his Excellency, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, to address the most pressing concerns of the people of Burkina Faso.

The ACP Group commends the progress made by Burkina Faso since your appointment as Prime Minister.

In terms of security, we commend the reforms undertaken by your Government to reorganise the army and build the operational capacities of the defence and national security forces, so as to provide a structural response to the problems of the Burkinabe army.

In this regard, the ACP Group welcomed the holding of the ECOWAS Summit on Terrorism on 14 September 2019.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay a heartfelt tribute to the Heads of State and Government of the G5 Sahel - which is currently chaired by your country, in the person of His Excellency President Kabore - for their unwavering determination to eradicate the threat of terrorism in the West African sub-region.

Convinced that the fight against terrorism cannot be won by military means only, your country has consistently made efforts to satisfy the populations' fundamental needs, by implementing the Sahel Emergency Programme using Burkina Faso's own funds, to the tune of over CFAF 455 billion.

Politically and socially speaking, it is with keen interest that we have followed the major decisions taken by your Government, to promote fruitful social dialogue for a peaceful working environment.

Under your leadership, the Burkinabe Government has embarked upon rebuilding the social fabric, which was seriously put to the test by terrorist attacks, and is continuing with reforms to improve the business environment, with the aim of making the country more attractive to investors and boosting private sector development, as a means of creating jobs and wealth.

**Mr. Prime Minister,**

Your visit comes at a time when the ACP countries and our European Union partners are involved in negotiations for a new agreement to succeed the current Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, which will expire in 2020.

Significant work has already been done by our negotiating teams, based on the Negotiating Mandate, which draws on the clearly defined vision and priority objectives adopted by the Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government. The latter gives clear guidance to the ACP Group for negotiating with the EU as a single, unified, and solidary transcontinental entity.

As it continues to negotiate the new agreement, the ACP Group knows that it can continue to count on your guidance and Burkina Faso's support, to strengthen the many ties that bind us within the ACP Group, as it seeks to become a coherent political force that is dedicated to defending the interests of its Member States.

**Mr. Prime Minister,**

I cannot conclude without mentioning the invaluable contributions made by Her Excellency Mrs. Jacqueline Marie Zaba Nikiema, Ambassador of Burkina Faso, to our different deliberations.

We wish you a safe journey home. It will always be a pleasure and an honour for us to welcome you, whenever possible, to our shared home, ACP House, to receive your valuable advice on moving the ACP Group forward.

I thank you for your kind attention.