



H.E DEO SARAN
Ambassador of the Republic of Fiji and Coordinator for the
Pacific Region

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PACIFIC COORDINATOR, FIJI,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE OACPS

01 April 2020

Your Excellencies,

It is my honor and privilege to share with you a few words to congratulate the ACP Group, on behalf of the Pacific peoples and their respective Missions, on the occasion commemorating the launch of the **Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)**.

Today, the 5th of April 2020, marks an important milestone in the history of the ACP Group of States, formed forty-five years ago through the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. Since our formation, we have witnessed the ACP's growth into a living, breathing manifestation of the hopes and ambitions of our very deserving peoples. The commitment of the ACP to remain true to its vision and its values have shaped the transformation of our member States and in this process, improved the lives of our ordinary citizens. And the enormous strides by the ACP have been due largely to our steadfast uniformity, as a Group, as a family.

Now more than ever, in the face of the growing emerging challenges confronting the global landscape, is our solidarity needed more than ever. That this message comes to you when the world has stopped and changed dramatically due to a flu virus reflects the world we now live in.

Now, we have an opportunity to renew our commitment to the values of our Group enshrined in the Georgetown Agreement. The launch of our organization reflects the boldness of our Group to go one step further than what our respective founding

leaders agreed to in 1975. The new name together with the repositioned strategic objectives demonstrates the visionary ambition to transform our Group into a key global player and integrate our group into the global economy.

On this occasion, I'm reminded on how much our ACP family has achieved and how much progress has been made, especially for the improvement of our peoples. And in the face of growing modern changes and threats on the global landscape, the Pacific region is encouraged by the dedication and commitment of this Group to confront those challenges.

The Pacific region, unites in renewing its commitment to the vision and values of the ACP. With the renaming of our Group, we stand with other regions in working closely with each other, in solidarity, to building a better future for our children. We will work closely with each of you to forge the *ACP WE WANT*, reflected in the new revised Georgetown Agreement. We believe, like each of you, that the greatest chapters of the ACP's story lies ahead and we look forward to what the future holds for our Group, our family.

Thank you and Vinaka Vakalevu.