



**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC STATES**

**H.E. MR. GEORGES REBELO PINTO CHIKOTI ON THE
CHANGE OF NAME OF THE ACP GROUP OF STATES TO
THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC STATES**

Forty-five years ago, 46 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific signed a document in Georgetown, Guyana, pledging their joint commitment to one another and to the ACP Group of States. Since its inception, this Georgetown Agreement has provided the framework for, and guided the ACP Group.

The ACP Group has grown in size over the years, and now includes 79 Member States. Today, the 5th of April 2020, we mark the coming into force of the revised Georgetown Agreement, approved at the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers in Nairobi, Kenya on December 7 2019; endorsed by the 9th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government; and just one month ago, on 5 March 2020, ratified by one third of our Member States. This paved the way for the entry into force of the revised Agreement.

I am excited to announce that with the entry-into-force of the revised Georgetown Agreement, the name of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States changes to that of the **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States**, the O-A-C-P-S.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States**, I recognise and salute the dedicated commitment of the

women and men whose efforts have brought us to this historical moment today. I want to especially thank all of our 30 Member States who have already signed or ratified the revised Agreement and encourage those who have not yet signed, to do so.

Today is a day to acknowledge the many accomplishments of our beloved ACP and set our sights on the goals we have yet to accomplish. This is not merely a change of name, it is a change of perspective and of mindset. This name change will allow us to present ourselves as an international organisation, and provide improved service delivery to our Member States.

This unique, tri-continental organisation is forever indebted to the great thinkers and brave statesmen who had the audacity to believe that they could pool their political, economic and intellectual resources to negotiate with countries beyond themselves: globally, in Europe and in the Hemisphere - to paraphrase Sir Shridath Ramphal, one of the architects of our Constitutive Act, the Georgetown Agreement.

The Revised Georgetown Agreement allows greater opportunities for the OACPS to create a new path for itself, building on the achievements of the past to transform into an international organisation. It is our aspiration to become one of the leading international organisations promoting multilateralism in a geopolitical world order.

The revision of the Agreement also puts into evidence the Group's determination to tackle sustainable development challenges in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In the midst of the particularly challenging times that surround us at this moment, I am extremely pleased to have been able to deliver on one of the key measures of my First 100 Days in Office - that of achieving **the ratification / signing of the revised Georgetown Agreement**. I look forward to continuing the process of strategic change and innovation to ensure that our organisation is "fit for purpose". To this end, I will work tirelessly towards the full implementation of the new and amended provisions of the Georgetown Agreement for the benefit of all ACP States and Regions, including its people.

Let me also take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the health and safety of all, during the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you and your families are safe and doing all that is necessary to remain so.

I am convinced that our newly created **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, will be successful.**