



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND PRESIDENT-IN-OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT OF OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OACPS

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), celebrates its first anniversary since the coming into force of the revised Georgetown Agreement a year ago, on 5th April, 2020. The celebration of this event against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, attests to the will of the 1.2 billion people of our tri-continental regions who are dedicated to achieving the lofty mission and vision of the OACPS.

Almost a year ago in collaboration with the OACPS as President-in-office of the Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government, I convened an Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government; to assess the global situation of COVID-19, in particular, the effects and consequences to the members and regions of the OACPS with a view to identifying opportunities for global solidarity and action.

The overwhelming message arising out of this meeting was the re-affirmation of the unity and solidarity of the members of the OACPS, and with their development partners. As we continue to battle this virus, the resolve of the OACPS remains strong. A year after adopting our revised mandate and changing our name, the organization has, despite the challenges of the times we live in, gone through tremendous changes to live up to its aim of being an advocate for multilateralism, a promoter of global solidarity; and a reliable, respected as well as engaging partner on the global scene.

As we celebrate our first year as the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, I congratulate the Secretary-General and his team on the bold changes made during the past year. As the theme of this first anniversary says "OACPS of the future: Transition, Solidarity, Unity", we look towards an OACPS in transition that is linked through our commitment to unity and solidarity.

As the great Nelson Mandela said "A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of".

Happy anniversary to the OACPS family!