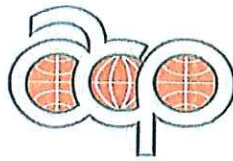


Organisation of
African, Caribbean and
Pacific States (OACPS)



Organisation des États
d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et
du Pacifique (OEACP)

ACP/25/006/21
[Final version] *2021*

Honiara, 8 July 2021

DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *2021*

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DECISIONS *2021*

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DECISION No. 1/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *2021*

**EXTENSION OF THE TIMEFRAME TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE
GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to Article 40 (1) of the Georgetown Agreement, which stipulates that, "This Agreement shall be open for signature by Member States for a period of one year from the date of its conclusion". The Georgetown Agreement was concluded on 6 December 2019, which means that the Members of the OACPS had until 6 December 2020 to sign it;

CONSIDERING the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors to the 112th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers [ACP/26/041/21 Rev.1]; and

CONSIDERING the fact that due to the unforeseen circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, some Member States were unable to sign the Georgetown Agreement within the prescribed time frame.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Recommend** to the Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government that the timeframe in Article 40 (1) of the Georgetown Agreement be extended to two years; and
2. **Allow** all Member States of the OACPS to apply the option of depositing their instruments of accession as per Article 6(1) of the Georgetown Agreement.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 2/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *ewr*

**THE OACPS SECRETARIAT'S BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL
YEAR 2021**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 - 10 December 2019;

HAVING EXAMINED the OACPS Secretariat's draft budget for 2021 [ACP/45/002/21 Rev.1] as recommended by the Committee of Ambassadors; and

NOTING the observations and recommendations made by Council.

HEREBY DECIDES TO: Adopt the OACPS Secretariat's Budget for 2021 with total expenditure amounting to **€8,685,006**. The projected contributions to the OACPS Secretariat's budget will be as follows:

1. From Members of the OACPS:	€ 4,036,236 (46.47%)
• Member States' assessed contributions:	€1,929,516
• Recovered arrears in contribution:	€1,124,000
• Interest on arrears in contribution:	€112,000
• Internal tax on staff emoluments:	€870,720
2. From the European Development Fund	€4,648,770 (53.53%)

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 3/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *l. da*

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE OACPS SECRETARIAT

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, in particular, Article 30 (5), which stipulates that, "Each Member State shall contribute to the Budget in accordance with the above provisions and Scale of Contributions established by the Council of Ministers";

HAVING REGARD to Council of Ministers Decision No. 4/CVI/17 adopting the revised scale of contributions based on the principle of burden-sharing and the capacity to pay of each Member State;

HAVING REGARD to Article 6a (3) of the Financial Regulations of the OACPS Secretariat, which requires Member States to pay at least fifty per cent (50%) of their assessed contributions by 31 March each year;

CONSIDERING the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors to the 112th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers [ACP/26/041/21 Rev. 1]; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the declining trend in contributions from Member States over the past ten years in breach of the Financial Regulations.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Urge** Member States to honour their obligations as provided for in the Financial Regulations and in accordance with the Georgetown Agreement; and
2. **Instruct** the Secretary-General, in accordance with Annexe I of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, to strictly apply the sanctions decided on by the Council of Ministers, in accordance with Article 32 of the Agreement.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 4/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *est*

**OACPS RESTRUCTURING PROCESS, INCLUDING ITS
SECRETARIAT**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to Decision No. 3/CXI/20 of its 111th Session held by videoconference in Dodoma, Tanzania, on 14, 15 and 17 December 2020, during which the Committee of Ambassadors was instructed to finalise the Secretariat's restructuring process and report to the next Session of Council; and

HAVING REGARD to the Committee of Ambassadors' Report [ACP/26/041/21 Rev.1].

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Approve** the proposed organisational structure of the OACPS Secretariat; and
2. **Instruct** the Committee of Ambassadors to continue working in order to finalise the Secretariat's restructuring process and report to the next Session of Council.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 5/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *esa*

**IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES OF CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES FOR
OACPS SIDS**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to Annexe II of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, *Subsidiary and Consultative Organs*, which authorised the creation of a SIDS Forum to address the specificities and needs of Small-Island Developing States (SIDS);

RECALLING that the Revised Georgetown Agreement mandated the SIDS Forum to improve the resilience of SIDS before and after disasters, and to further address the vulnerabilities and challenges caused by climate change, through the adoption and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures; and

HAVING REGARD to the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors on OACPS SIDS Priority Issues [ACP/26/041/21] and intent on implementing SIDS-related decisions in the Nairobi *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration adopted by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Mandate** the Committee of Ambassadors to support all actions for a coordinated, integrated approach to implementing the priority issues of the OACPS SIDS, including debt distress and debt sustainability, access to concessional finance, and advocacy for a universal/multidimensional vulnerability index; and
2. **Instruct** the Committee of Ambassadors, in pursuance of Article 82 of the recently initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, to urgently engage the relevant Institutions of the European Union, including International Partnerships (INTPA) and European External Action Service (EEAS), to ensure that in the allocation of resources under the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation (NDICI), priority is given to countries in need, including Small Island Development States (SIDS), in order to effectively address their multiple inherent constraints and specificities.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021.



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers



DECISION No. 6/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021 *254*

**CREATION OF AN OACPS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION
MECHANISM**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to Decision No. 4/20 of the Extraordinary Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers held by videoconference on 28 July 2020, mandating the Committee of Ambassadors to examine the possibility of transforming the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) into a subsidiary and consultative body of the OACPS; and

RECALLING the recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors [ACP/26/041/21 Rev. 1] in particular, paragraph 30.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Endorse** the recommendation by the Committee of Ambassadors to establish an OACPS Technical Hub and Spokes (OTHS) and a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts for Agricultural Transformation in Regions and Members of the OACPS (SAGE), building on the CTA's legacy and achievements, as a feasible, most expedient, and cost-effective institutional mechanism to support agricultural and food systems transformation, and to foster intra-regional cooperation and collaboration; and
2. **Instruct** the Committee of Ambassadors to submit a report on a feasibility study on the OACPS Food Systems Transformation Mechanism to the 113th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

**DECISION No. 7/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *2021***

**DEFERRAL OF THE 7TH MEETING OF OACPS MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD ALSO to Decision No. 10/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers mandating the hosting of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Ghana in 2021; and

RECALLING the recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors [ACP/26/041/21 Rev. 1] in particular, paragraph 41.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Endorse** the deferral of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture to be held in Accra Ghana, from 5th to 8th April 2022; and
2. **Take note** of the Concept Note for the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture [ACP/84/058/20 Rev.1].

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



**Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers**

DECISION No. 8/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *esr*

NEW OACPS-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of the Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD ALSO to Decision No.2/CVII/18 of its 107th Session held in Lomé, Togo, from 30 May to 1 June 2018, in which the ACP Negotiating Mandate was adopted;

HAVING REGARD to its previous decisions on the negotiation of a new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement; and .

HAVING REGARD to the report of the Committee of Ambassadors contained in document [ACP/26/041/21 Rev 1].

HEREBY DECIDES TO :

1. **Express** concern on the inordinate delay in defining the EU Party and on the subsequent impact this may have on the timeframe for the signing of the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;
2. **Endorse** that “**Samoa Agreement**” be the name of the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement; and
3. **Instruct** the Secretary-General to convey this decision to the President of the Council of the European Union, the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament, and Heads of OACPS Regional Organisations.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 9/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 and 8 JULY 2021 *2021*

**OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE OACPS MINISTERS
WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FISHERIES SUBSIDIES NEGOTIATIONS IN
THE WTO**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 - 10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to Resolution N° 1/CXI/20 of its 111th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers held by video-conference on 14, 15 and 17 December 2020; and

HAVING EXAMINED the outcomes of the Informal Meeting of OACPS Ministers with portfolio responsibilities related to the ongoing fisheries subsidies negotiations in the WTO that convened virtually on 24 June, 2021, to prepare for the meeting of the "WTO Ministerial -level Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC)", to be convened on 15 July 2021.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

Endorse the outcome of the Informal Meeting of OACPS Ministers with portfolio responsibilities for fisheries subsidies negotiations in the WTO, held on 24 June, 2021.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



Hon. Jeremiah MANELE
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Solomon Islands
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

RESOLUTIONS ²⁵³



RESOLUTION No. 1/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021 *ea*

**CLIMATE ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR THE 26TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,
- A. **HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;
- B. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Nairobi *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government;
- C. **HAVING REGARD** to the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement initialled on 15 April 2021;
- D. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to the 2018 Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)ⁱ on the impact of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty;
- E. **HAVING REGARD** to the UN Decade of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030ⁱⁱ and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021- 2030ⁱⁱⁱ;
- F. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters that have affected many members of the OACPS, including cyclones/hurricanes, storms, floods, fires, droughts, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise, which have an impact on OACPS peoples' lives, health and wellbeing, livelihoods, and ecosystems;^{iv}
- G. **FURTHER NOTING** that even though members of the OACPS have contributed little to greenhouse gas emissions, they are some of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, due to numerous existing exogenous shocks and stresses, ranging from low adaptive capacity to intrinsic exposure to climate change due to geographical conditions. Other existing stresses include poverty, political conflicts, population growth, and ecosystem and environmental degradation;

- H. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the interlinkages between the global challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental degradation, **Noting** the positive contribution of ecosystem-based approaches in addressing these challenges, and **Highlighting** the important need to conserve and protect forest cover in this context;
- I. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the urgent need to secure food systems transformation, to ensure that food security and nutrition are the foundation of a healthy population⁶;
- J. **CONVEYING** the devastating socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the members and peoples of the OACPS, as well as its compounding effects on the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, but **Noting** that COVID-19 must not be used as an excuse by developed Country Parties to backslide on their mitigation targets/contributions and promises to annually mobilise climate finance to support the needs of developing countries;
- K. **EXPRESSING** deep concern regarding the challenges faced by members of the OACPS to access appropriate and at-scale climate finance due to burdensome accreditation, project identification, and preparation and approval processes, despite increasing demands for climate finance to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation objectives;
- L. **REAFFIRMING** the OACPS' commitment to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG.13) on Climate Action;
- M. **REAFFIRMING ALSO** the OACPS' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement;
- N. **REITERATING** the OACPS' commitment to the attainment of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement for the security and prosperity of its peoples and of Planet Earth;
- O. **REAFFIRMING** the OACPS' commitment to promoting coherent policies and strategies at all levels, in order to identify vulnerabilities and other drivers of risk;
- P. **NOTING** with serious concern the Initial 2021 NDC Synthesis Report, showing that the current aggregate effects of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) collectively fall far short of the level of ambition urgently needed to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise by 2°C and ideally to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;



- Q. **FURTHER NOTING** that even with the implementation of the encouraging commitments announced during the US President's Leaders' Summit on Climate, the emissions gap will only narrow by 11 to 14%, and a further reduction of 20 to 23 GtCO₂ will be required to stay on an emissions trajectory needed to remain below 1.5°C;
1. **Commits** to cooperate on enhanced disaster risk reduction and resilience to the short and long-term impacts of disasters, and to pay particular attention to promoting coordination, complementarity, and synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies;
 2. **Reaffirms** its existing commitment to strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, from all countries, and **Calls** on all Parties to commit to further strengthening their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in the next round of NDCs, and to enhance their adaptation actions and ambition, with developed countries scaling up technical and financial support, including capacity building for and technology transfer to developing countries;
 3. **Reiterates** the urgency of taking action to address climate change, ensuring that adaptation is given the same treatment as mitigation; that transparent, at-scale, appropriate, easily accessible, additional and predictable financial resources are made available in order to support climate adaptation and resilience building initiatives, specifically for the most vulnerable countries, such as OACPS Small Island Developing States (SIDS), low-lying coastal countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-locked Least Developed Countries (LLDCs);
 4. **Calls** for global momentum to accelerate action on adaptation and **Welcomes** the continued efforts of members of the OACPS, regional agencies and non-state actors to transition to low greenhouse gas emissions development and climate resilient economies, as exemplified in their ambitious revised NDCs^{vi};
 5. **Stresses** that flexibility should be afforded to developing countries in the submission of NDCs based on varying national circumstances, and **Urges** the COP26 to adopt a decision on the implementation timeframe;
 6. **Calls** for additional support, including easily accessible, long-term and predictable finance for the urgent implementation of adaptation actions, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and the adaptation component of NDCs for all 79 members of the OACPS, particularly African countries, SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;




7. **Calls also** for further guidance on Adaptation Communications as important documents in the context of the ongoing discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and to inform the Global Stocktake. Further **Calls** for the Communications to include priorities for support needs, plans, and actions, and to be an integral part of NAPs, NDCs, or national communications, and to not create additional reporting burdens for developing countries, noting in particular challenges related to adaptation data – including types, availability, collection and assessments;
8. **Stresses** that adaptation should be given greater prominence at COP26, with a clearly articulated GGA, with relevant processes on how to measure progress, and with clear methodologies on how to translate the GGA into national frameworks, complemented by the development and application of risk-informed methodologies for assessing adaptation needs through the development of climate services for adaptation^{vii}, provisions for adequate finance, capacity building, and technology support, particularly for developing countries;
9. **Emphasises** the importance of addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. Loss and Damage must be included in the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement;
10. **Looks forward** to strong leadership from developed countries at COP26, to provide clarity, certainty and predictability on how they will redouble their long-term commitments to mobilise at least US\$100 billion in climate finance in the post-2020 period and beyond, as well as mechanisms to coherently access and canalise that finance;
11. **Welcomes** the launch of the deliberations on the new collective quantified goal (post-2025) on finance that will start at COP26;
12. **Calls** for decisions on modalities for biannually communicating finance information, from developed countries, while reflecting the needs of vulnerable countries, and providing clarity on how to scale up climate finance beyond the current US\$100 billion commitment;
13. **Calls also** on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund (AF) to expedite work on simplifying and facilitating access to impactful financial resources, in particular for African countries, LDCs, and SIDS, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans, taking into account the actions needed to maintain global temperature rise below 1.5°C, as highlighted in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C;



14. **Stresses** that work on Market Mechanisms, under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, includes safeguards to avoid double counting and ensures environmental integrity, while at the same time facilitating the implementation of NDCs and progressively more ambitious mitigation efforts by Parties. The OACPS recognises that Parties can choose voluntary cooperation to implement their NDCs, to allow for higher ambition both in their mitigation and adaptation actions, and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of leveraging Article 6.4 to enhance the scope of mitigation actions by linking them to adaptation or contributing towards enhancing climate adaptation actions through a predictable source of financing;
15. **Emphasises** that the first global stocktake, which is due to take place in 2023, should be undertaken in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, taking into consideration mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, and remaining mindful of equity and the best available science;
16. **Recognises** the importance for Parties to prepare and submit the first biennial transparency reports by 2024, and to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, and henceforth **Calls** for the development of common modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs)^{viii} for the ETF to promote effective implementation and provide a clear understanding of the climate change actions to be undertaken, ensuring to include the principles of:
 - No backsliding to enhance existing arrangements under the Convention;
 - Different starting points providing flexibility for developing countries;
 - Improvement over time with support to be provided to developing countries on a continuous basis, to build transparency-related capacity over time; and,
 - Incorporating loss and damage reporting, and linking it to the Global Stocktake;
17. **Stresses** the importance of COVID-19 recovery finance and debt reduction strategies in achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and supporting national and/or sectoral climate actions for the most climate- vulnerable;
18. **Promotes** mutually reinforcing solutions to the biodiversity, land degradation, and climate challenge, highlighting the role of ecosystem-based approaches and land use that have dual adaptation and mitigation benefits;



19. **Emphasises** the importance of highlighting Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, balancing its six elements (education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation) and providing clarity on the next steps to structure a successor to the Doha Work Programme;
20. **Reiterates** the OACPS' commitment to working together and with partners, to support ambitious climate action and seek further opportunities to receive and mobilise access to climate finance in support of OACPS actions relating to adaptation, mitigation, and building resilience to climate change, noting ongoing recovery efforts to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;
21. **Decides** that the current resolution will be used as a basis for international cooperation with the European Union, including the possibility of adopting joint positions, during the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC; and
22. **Seeks and calls** for further means of implementation and investment towards the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021

End Notes

ⁱ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/10/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://oceandecade.org/>

^{iv} 9th Summit of Heads of State and Government Declaration Paragraph 22.

^v 9th Summit of Heads of State and Government Declaration Paragraph 25

^{vi} <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

^{vii} According to Decision 11/CMA.1 COP24 of UNFCCC, under "Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries, calls on the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to report regularly on the global status of climate services, in terms of assessing the adaptation needs and their application, as well as on the related gaps, good practices, lessons learned, and guidelines, for consideration and further guidance by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its fifty-seventh session (November 2022), in the context of its consideration of the report of the Adaptation Committee". The intra-ACP – ClimSA Programme is instrumental for the OACPS to report progress on the matter.

^{viii} Annex to Decision 18/CMA.1




RESOLUTION No. 2/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021 *ES*

**BIODIVERSITY FOR THE 15TH SESSION OF THE UN CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (COP15)**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,
- A. **HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;
- B. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to paragraphs 23 and 28 of the Nairobi *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government;
- C. **HAVING REGARD** to the UN Decade of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030;
- D. **MINDFUL** of the immense importance of ecosystems and biodiversity in securing the lives, wellbeing, and livelihoods of the peoples of the Members of the OACPS, and emphasising the underpinning importance of biodiversity for our present and future generations;
- E. **REAFFIRMING** the important role of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SAMOA Pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as important roadmaps for achieving sustainable development, including the sustainable management, use, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- F. **CONSIDERING** the enormity of threats to human health, survival, and sustainable development caused by destruction to ecosystems and biodiversity;
- G. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many livelihoods and eroded the gains achieved in addressing biodiversity loss, and mindful that the effects of the pandemic will certainly exacerbate the degradation of biodiversity by undermining the existing capacity of Members of the OACPS to effectively manage and protect biodiversity;



- H. **CONCERNED** about the unsatisfactory progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, noting the failure to receive the promised support from developed countries and mobilise adequate financial resources, resulting in the curtailed implementation of the concrete actions needed to ensure that fisheries are managed and harvested sustainably (Aichi Biodiversity Target 6) and halt biodiversity loss;
- I. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** the grave status of global biodiversity, which is in crisis, pushed and provoked by human activities, which has prompted unprecedented levels of biodiversity loss as highlighted in the 2019 report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), with grave impacts on people and planet;
- J. **CONSIDERING** the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature" adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity where "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people";
- K. **MINDFUL** of the ongoing initiatives and activities supported by the Secretariat of the OACPS, including the multi-year programme in support of Member States on issues relating to the effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (ACP MEAs 3) and the need to expedite delivery of such initiatives and activities within the agreed timeline;
- L. **THEREFORE, SUGGESTS** the following actions, leaving no one behind, to conserve biodiversity, promote its sustainable management, and use and support ecosystem and biodiversity restoration.
1. **Supports** global efforts to develop and implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and **Calls on** the global community to secure an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework to reverse biodiversity loss, transform society's relationship with biodiversity, and contribute to the shared vision of "living in harmony with nature", by 2050;
 2. **Underlines** that while ecosystem protection is vital to halting further biodiversity loss, **Stresses** that priority be accorded to restoring degraded ecosystems and maintaining them in a healthy productive state, to sustain and safeguard the socioeconomic development needs of present and future generations and combat climate change;




3. **Calls** for the responsible and effective management of 100% of coastal and marine biodiversity to ensure its health, productivity, resilience, and safety, based on the best available scientific information and traditional knowledge. Redouble efforts to ensure that all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, to achieve Target 7 of Sustainable Development Goal 14^{viii} of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and acknowledge area-based management, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as important tools to reverse biodiversity loss;
4. **Calls** for a substantial increase in financial commitments, enhanced effectiveness, and efficiency in the use of financial resources, by using national systems to build and sustainably finance national resource management institution;
5. **Calls** for a substantial increase in the financial resources to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to assist Parties, including those that are SIDS and LDCs, to support the effective implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and **Urges** that the support from the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) should be synergistic and complementary in the reversing or halting of biodiversity loss at the international, regional, and national levels.
6. **Highlights** the importance of island biodiversity with its associated high levels of endemism, biodiversity hotspots, and extinction epicentres, and upon which peoples' cultural connections and wellbeing, and SIDS economies are particularly dependent to meet their needs and build resilience;
7. **Calls** for a strategy and implementation plan, which includes a capacity development roadmap that focuses on the special needs and vulnerabilities of members of the OACPS, including SIDS, socio-ecological systems that are most vulnerable to species and habitat loss, to support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
8. **Stresses** that capacity building, technical assistance, technology and knowledge transfer and cooperation are critical for the implementation of agreed biodiversity targets, and **Requests** the development of long-term strategies to identify, monitor, and strengthen actions, including the establishment of regional hubs for knowledge management, innovation, and development on issues such as climate change and biodiversity;



9. **Instructs** the Secretariat of the OACPS to develop a plan to support Member States' implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by establishing special programmes supported by relevant partners, focusing on strengthening good environmental governance and climate governance as underpinning imperatives, including enhancing the role of women, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples in decision making and the implementation of various commitments related to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
10. **Requests** actions to support the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and related agreements in a manner that serves the long-term interests and aspirations of Members of the OACPS; and
- 10.bis **Decides** that the current resolution will be used as a basis for international cooperation with the European Union, including the possibility of adopting joint positions, during the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



RESOLUTION No. 3/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021 

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: SITUATION IN THE MEMBERS OF THE
ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES
(OACPS)

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

- A. **HAVING REGARD** to the outcome of the virtual 1st Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), held on 3 June 2020 under the theme, "*Transcending the COVID-19 Pandemic: Building Resilience through Global Solidarity*";

- B. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to the Resolution entitled, "*The consequences of COVID-19 in ACP and EU countries*," adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting remotely on 29 October and 3 December 2020;

- C. **HAVING FURTHER REGARD** to the Resolution concerning a global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient, adopted by the 109th International Labour Conference held on 17 June 2021;

- D. **REAFFIRMING** the solidarity and commitment of the Members of the OACPS to intra-OACPS cooperation, as well South-South, North-South, and Triangular cooperation in responding to the socio-economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- E. **EXPRESSING** deep appreciation for the commitment of the health and other front-line workers in the Members and Regions of the OACPS, in their efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, and in the treatment of those infected by COVID-19;

- F. **CONVEYING** the condolences of the OACPS to the global community, and in particular to the Members of the OACPS, for the loss of lives due to the COVID-19 Pandemic;

- G. **EXPRESSING** gratitude to the Prime Minister, government and people of India for the generous life-saving donation of tens of thousands of Astra Zeneca (Covishield) vaccines produced by the Serum Institute of India, to allow for the inoculation of critical portions of the populations of many members of the OACPS;



- H. **EXPRESSING ALSO** concern however, that while the World Health Organisation (WHO) has authorised the emergency use of the Astra Zeneca (Covishield) vaccine since February 2021, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has not since authorised the use of this vaccine, thereby not recognising and allowing those that have received this vaccine, to enter the European Union without the imposition of restrictions;
- I. **RECOMMITTING** the OACPS' support for global health security through multilateralism in the context of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, noting that health is a global public good;
- J. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the challenges and disruptions several Members of the OACPS are faced with in ensuring that the measures put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 infections, are sustained by their fragile health systems and vulnerable economies;
- K. **RECOGNISING** that the population of no country is safe until the populations of all countries are safe from the COVID-19 virus, through the roll-out of safe vaccinations to all countries;
1. **Welcomes** the multilateral and bilateral support received by the Members of the OACPS from Development Partners, such as the EU, the COVAX Facility co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the WHO; the EU Global Response to COVID-19 and the "Team Europe" package; and UNICEF, to control the COVID-19 pandemic;
 2. **Emphasises** the urgent need to address the equitable access to and distribution of the vaccines against COVID-19 and its variants, and **Urges** the global community to eliminate vaccine discrimination and nationalism;
 3. **Welcomes** the recent announcement by the EU that it will be donating 100 million doses of COVID 19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries by the end of the year. While we understand that the donations would be channelled through the COVAX Facility, there may be scope for support to Members of the OACPS bilaterally;
 4. **Calls** on the EU to give favourable consideration to donating COVID-19 vaccines to Members of the OACPS on a bilateral basis, taking into account the limitations of the COVAX Facility; and the absorptive capacity of Member States. COVAX has committed to supplying only 1.6-20% of what Member States of the OACP require in order to vaccinate their populations and facilitate socio-economic recovery;



5. **Calls also** for a coordinated mobilisation of knowledge transfer, financial and technical resources and logistical support to address the short- and medium-term impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the health systems of the Members of the OACPS, and in their mitigation of and preparedness for future pandemics/public health crises;
6. **Recognises** the vulnerability of the economies of the Members of the OACPS, particularly the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which depend on tourism and the hospitality sector, as a consequence of the travel restrictions, border closures, and other measures imposed to control the spread of COVID-19 and its variants;
7. **Supports** the call for a temporary waiver of certain provisions of the WTO TRIPS Agreement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
8. **Stresses** the need to remove export restrictions of vaccines and their components, including those arising from unilateral coercive measures;
9. **Calls** upon the international community to cooperate to increase vaccine production capacities in developing countries, as well as the medical infrastructure and health personnel necessary to effectively carry out mass vaccination in the shortest possible time.
10. **Underlines** the need to embrace the "One Health" approach, which combines animal, human and environmental health, in tackling future threats like the COVID-19 especially taking into account that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the world's most urgent threats to human, animal, plant and environmental health – endangering food security, international trade, economic development and undermining progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
11. **Welcomes** the European Council recommendation 2021/816 of May 20, 2021 amending European Council Recommendation 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction and calls on the European Council to adopt an objective approach to the application of its criteria in the lifting of restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU recognising the significance of tourism and the hospitality sector for many Members of the OACPS;
12. **Calls** for EU-wide authorisation, including by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), of the life-saving Astra Zeneca (Covishield) vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India on the basis that this vaccine was authorised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and administered to tens of thousands of people in the OACPS;



13. **Further Calls** on the Members of the OACPS to support the establishment of an International Pandemic Treaty on Preparedness and Response;
14. **Urges** all Members and Regions of the OACPS to put in place appropriate strategies for the control and prevention of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, on the basis of the On the Health approach, as well as the sharing of knowledge and best practices, appropriate technologies and innovations, for the control of epidemics and pandemics, and the procurement of essential medicines;
15. **Encourages** the convening of a follow-up Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), to deliberate on the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts of Members, particularly in the context of the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement; and
16. **Requests that** the Secretary-General bring this Resolution to the attention of the Council of the European Union, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and the United Nations Organisation.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



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**RESOLUTION No. 4/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 6, 7 AND 8 JULY 2021**

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU) LIST OF NON-COOPERATIVE TAX
JURISDICTIONS AND THAT OF HIGH-RISK THIRD COUNTRIES WITH
STRATEGIC DEFICIENCIES IN THEIR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND
COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AML/CFT) REGIMES**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,
- A. **HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, and its entry into force on 5 April 2020;
- B. **HAVING REGARD** to the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement between ACP States and the European Union, as revised in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010, in particular, Articles 8 and 12 thereof and its successor, the newly initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;
- C. **HAVING REGARD** to the previous resolutions on the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, the reports of the Ad hoc OACPS Ministerial Contact Group and those of the Committee of Ambassadors to the Council of Ministers on the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and that of third countries, regarding AML/CFT;
- D. **HAVING REGARD** to the OACPS Webinar held on 21-24 June 2021 on the European Union (EU) list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and that of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes;
- E. **HAVING REGARD** to the Common OACPS Strategy adopted on 6 July 2021 by the Ad hoc OACPS Ministerial Contact Group on the EU List of Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdictions and that of Third Countries, regarding Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism;
- F. **HAVING REGARD** to the Council of the European Union's conclusions of 26 February 2021 on the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes;
- G. **HAVING REGARD** to the European Commission's Delegated Regulations (EU) 2016/1675, (EU) 2018/105, (EU) 2018/212, (EU) 2018/1467, (EU) 2020/855, and (EU) 2021/37 – on the EU list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes, which pose a significant threat to the EU's financial system;

- H. **HAVING REGARD** to the European Parliament's resolution of 21 January 2021 on reforming the EU list of tax havens;
- I. **HAVING REGARD** to the European Parliament's resolution of 10 July 2020 on a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing, the Commission's Action Plan, and other recent developments;
- J. **HAVING REGARD** to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;
- K. **HAVING REGARD** to the 14 recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel on Financial Accountability Transparency and Integrity (FACTI) of 25 February 2021 to reform, redesign, and revitalise the global architecture, so that it can effectively foster financial integrity for sustainable development, as contained in its final Report on Achieving the Objectives of the 2030 Agenda;
- L. **WHEREAS** the EU lists and its associated measures have had serious negative consequences on the international image, reputation, economy, and sustainable development of the OACPS members concerned;
- M. **WHEREAS** the listed OACPS jurisdictions have reported significant economic losses due to the exodus of companies and investments, the fear of investing and doing business, as well as the increased cost of money transfers and transactions in these jurisdictions;
- N. **WHEREAS** the obligation of enhanced due diligence has led to generalised de-risking by international banks; **WHEREAS** when de-risking occurs, corresponding banking services and financial institutions purposefully stop providing certain services to certain categories of clients or specific geographical regions or countries because they have determined that the risk or costs of providing the services outweigh the return or benefits of providing these services;
- O. **WHEREAS**, a risk analysis approach has determined that the listed members of the OACPS do not pose a major threat to the integrity of the European Union's financial system and internal market; **WHEREAS**, according to certain studies the listed OACPS jurisdictions represent less than 2% of the worldwide tax avoidance; **WHEREAS** the lack of a well-developed financial infrastructure limits the threat of listed OACPS jurisdictions being money-laundering centres;
- P. **WHEREAS** the establishment of parallel EU unilateral lists sets a dangerous precedent for the proliferation of blacklists across the world at national and regional levels, thereby undermining international multilateralism centres, **WHEREAS** the recent proliferation of listing, as evidenced by the U.K. listing, creates instability that undermines the attractiveness of the small international financial services centres of the listed members of the OACPS;



- Q. **AWARE** of the challenges of international fiscal and financial governance for the economies of members of the OACPS and of the importance of establishing fair and equitable standards in tax matters and anti-money laundering; **WHEREAS** at present the OECD and the FATF remain the only generally recognised bodies to set standards and rules in international tax matters and the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, respectively;
- R. **RECALLING** the relevance of the proposals for the creation of an intergovernmental body within the United Nations to address tax matters and AML/CFT and the need to further involve the OACPS and its Members in such processes as this will ensure transparency and fairness in the international system;

Intra-OACPS cooperation

1. **Underscores** the importance of enhanced intra-OACPS cooperation, unity, and solidarity to address and prevent the blacklisting of OACPS countries by the EU for tax and AML/CFT;
2. **Welcomes** the political will for coordinated actions between the OACPS, the African Union (AU), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS), African regional integration organisations, and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRB) in order to protect financial integrity, combat illicit financial flows, as well as improve good tax governance, and strengthen the AML/CFT regimes of OACPS jurisdictions;
3. **Requests** that the President of the OACPS Summit make a declaration on the EU lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and anti-money laundering at the upcoming Summit of Heads of State of the African Union (AU) and the AU-EU Summit;
4. **Calls on the Secretariat to** organise webinars at the regional level in order to raise awareness on the challenges as well as the EU criteria and listing process, evaluation methodology, and the negative impact of the EU blacklists, including the sharing of experiences and good practices in order to meet internationally agreed standards on tax good governance and AML/CFT;

Partnership between the OACPS and the European Union

5. **Recommends** the establishment, as part of the joint institutions to be established in the newly initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, in its 3 Regional Protocols, of a joint OACPS-EU mechanism for structured partnership dialogue on tax good governance and AML/CFT issues;
6. **Underlines** the importance of financial support and technical assistance, for capacity building for the Members of the OACPS in order to meet internationally agreed standards, taking into account national specificities and the country's context;

7. **Calls on** the OACPS and the EU to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of their partnership dialogue on tax good governance and AML/CFT;
8. **Urges** the EU to immediately suspend its list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and **calls** for prior OACPS-EU structured partnership dialogue as well as the provision of technical and financial support to enable the listed members of the OACPS to effectively address any tax governance matters;

International cooperation

9. **Reiterates** the commitment of the members of the OACPS to effectively fight all criminal activities associated with tax evasion and money laundering and terrorism financing as it is in their own interest to protect the integrity of their financial services sector and their tax governance systems;
10. **Welcomes** the discussions at the level of the United Nations with a view to the adoption of a UN Tax Convention; **Supports** the establishment of an inclusive intergovernmental body on tax matters under the auspices of the United Nations, **and Invites** the Members of the OACPS to adopt a coordinated approach and position;

Common OACPS Strategy

11. **Endorses** the common OACPS Strategy and Recommendations adopted by the Ad hoc OACPS Ministerial Contact Group on the EU List of Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdictions and that of Third Countries, regarding Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism in document **ACP/81/071/21**;
12. **Invites** the Ad hoc OACPS Ministerial Contact Group to draw up an implementation roadmap for the common OACPS Strategy at the national, regional, and OACPS levels, as appropriate, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity;
13. **Mandates** the Secretary-General of the OACPS to undertake a study on the legality, under international law, of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and that regarding AML/CFT; and
14. **Requests that** the President of the OACPS Council of Ministers forward this Resolution to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN FACTI Panel, the FATF, the OECD Global Forum, as well as the African Union Commission, CARICOM, PIFS, Regional Integration Organisations, and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRB) within the OACPS.




Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021

RESOLUTION No. 5/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021 *2021*

**ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE IMPOSED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,

- A. **RECALLING** Declarations adopted in Accra and in Port Moresby during the 6th and 8th Summits of ACP Heads of State and Government, respectively, condemning the use of unilateral coercive measures, such as illegal sanctions against Cuba and certain other developing countries, with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to determine their own political, economic, and social system, and rejecting the application of unilateral and extra-territorial laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act;
- B. **ALSO RECALLING** the Nairobi *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration condemning the use of unilateral and coercive measures, such as the illegal sanctions against certain developing countries, in particular Sudan, Burundi, and Zimbabwe, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to determine their own political, economic, and social system; and rejecting the increased application of the unilateral and extra-territorial laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the "Helms-Burton Act" in the case of Cuba, in particular, and reaffirming our solidarity with the Government and people of these Member States;
- C. **RECALLING** its Declaration adopted at the 102nd Session of the Council of Ministers in November 2015; and its Resolutions adopted at the 105th, 106th and 109th Sessions of the Council of Ministers held in May and December 2017 and May 2019;
- D. **REITERATING** its support for United Nations General Assembly Resolution **75/289** entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", adopted on **23 June 2021**;
- E. **RECALLING** General Assembly Resolution **74/200** on "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" adopted on 19 December 2019 urging the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorised by the relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

- F. **TAKING NOTE** of the letter sent by the Representative of the Republic of Cuba to the Secretary-General of the OACPS on the increasingly difficult situation faced by the country as a result of the tightening of the blockade, whose effects are multiplying in the midst of the economic and health crisis generated by the pandemic;
- G. **ALSO TAKING NOTE** with concern of the significant damage caused to the Cuban population and society by the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the US against Cuba, as well as the increase in its extra-territorial application through the activation of Title III of "The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (Helms-Burton Act) whose devastating effects impact not only Cuba's economic and social development but also foreign investments in the country, the interest of companies from third countries, as well as those of American entities;
- H. **TAKING NOTE** of the negative impact of the blockade on the country's capacity to fulfil its financial obligations to the OACPS budget;
- I. **TAKING NOTE ALSO** that despite the difficulties, Cuba continues to demonstrate its solidarity with the international community, most recently cooperating with other developing nations in tackling the pandemic;
- J. **TAKING NOTE** that the economic, commercial and financial blockade constitutes an exceptional circumstance that seriously affects the economy of Cuba, in accordance with Annexe I of the Revised Georgetown Agreement;
- K. **ALSO TAKING NOTE** of the fact that despite the exceptional adverse circumstance that affects its economy, Cuba has not fully stopped its support for the OACPS but has continued making partial payments to honour its contribution to the budget, which attests to its strong commitment and support to our Organisation;
- L. **TAKING NOTE** of the country's commitment to resuming its traditional path of payment of its contribution when its economic situation improves;
1. **Expresses** its full support for, and solidarity with the Cuban people and government and its resolute opposition to the unilateral and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the US against Cuba;
 2. **Also expresses** its deep concern and rejection of the activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and its extra-territorial effects;
 3. **Urges** the government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against the Cuban people;
 4. **Acknowledges** that the blockade is the main obstacle to Cuba's implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;



5. **Invites** the international community as a whole to express its support for, and solidarity with, the people of Cuba for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the Blockade;
6. **Requests** that the Secretary-General of the OACPS keep it informed of any development in this area; and
7. **Also Requests** that the Secretary-General of the OACPS forward this Resolution to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021



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**RESOLUTION No. 6/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021**

THE GUYANA-VENEZUELA BORDER CONTROVERSY

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

Meeting by videoconference from 7 to 8 July 2021,

- A. **RECALLING**, the Declaration of the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group of States of 1 June 2016, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea wherein the Heads noted with concern the adverse impact of the controversy and of escalating territorial and maritime claims on Guyana's development and the welfare and well-being of its people;
- B. **FURTHER RECALLING** that the Heads had called on all parties to the controversy to support in good faith the commendable efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to resolve the controversy within the confines of international law in keeping with his responsibilities and the principles set out and agreed on by all signatories to the 1966 Geneva Agreement;
- C. **HAVING BEEN INFORMED** of the decision made by the International Court of Justice on 18 December 2020, that it has jurisdiction to hear the case, on the merits of Guyana's application concerning the validity of the Arbitral Award of 1899 and the related question of the definitive settlement of the land boundary between the two countries;
- D. **NOTING** that the International Court of Justice has provided a Schedule for Guyana to submit its Memorial on the merits and Venezuela to submit its Counter-Memorial;
- E. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** Venezuela's rejection of the decision of the Court;

HEREBY:

- 1. **Expresses** full support for the ongoing judicial process that is intended to bring a peaceful and definitive end to the long-standing controversy between the two countries and urges Venezuela to participate in the process;
- 2. **Reiterates** the consistent support of the OACPS for the efforts by Guyana to preserve and maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity; and
- 3. **Acknowledges** the expression of appreciation of the Government and people of Guyana for the steadfast support of the OACPS.

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021