

Organisation of
African, Caribbean and Pacific
States (OACPS)



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

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Brussels, 9 June 2022

DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT
ON 8 and 9 JUNE 2022 :

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DECISIONS *20a*

**DECISION N° 1/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

NEW OACPS-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in a hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement (Revised 2019);

HAVING REGARD to its previous decisions on the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;

HAVING REGARD to the report of the Committee of Ambassadors contained in document [ACP/26/034/22 Rev 1]; and

WHEREAS in the absence of signing and provisional application of the new Agreement by 30 June 2022, the transition measures of the Cotonou Agreement need to be extended to avoid a hiatus in OACPS-EU cooperation.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Approve** the proposed 12-month extension of the transition measures to allow the continued application of the provision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement pending the signing and provisional application of the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;
2. **Express serious concern** about the delay in signing the new Agreement which Council **notes** is a result of EU internal procedures of the EU that requires unanimity for entering into international agreements;
3. **Urge** the concerned EU Member State(s) blocking EU approval of the new Agreement to positively consider facilitating the normal functioning of the relations, as foreseen in the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;

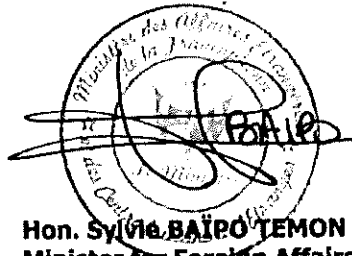
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4. **Commend** and **applaud** the President-in Office of the OACPS Summit of Heads of State and Government for conveying the collective OACPS' concern on this matter in writing to the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, respectively; and
5. **Instruct** the OACPS Secretary-General to convey this decision to the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission, European Parliament and High Representative of the European Council for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President at the European Commission, OACPS Heads of State and Government, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as well as Heads of OACPS Regional Organisations.

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Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. SYLVIA BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

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**DECISION N° 2/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

**DEPOSITION OF THE INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION TO THE
GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT AS REVISED IN 2019 AT THE
OACPS SECRETARIAT**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969, in particular Article 2(1)(b) which stipulates that ratification, acceptance, approval and accession, mean in each case the international act so named whereby a State establishes on the international plane its consent to be bound by a treaty;

HAVING REGARD to the fact that to date, 56 Member States have fulfilled their obligations under the revised Georgetown Agreement; and

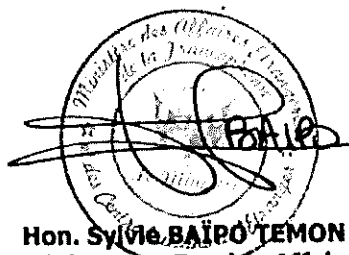
CONSIDERING the report of the Committee of Ambassadors to the 114th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers (ACP/26/034/22 Rev.1).

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

CALL on those Members of the OACPS that have not fulfilled their obligation to do so by depositing their instruments of accession at the Secretariat.

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Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



**Hon. SYLVE BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers**

**DECISION No. 3/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MALDIVES TO THE OACPS**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the request of the Republic of Maldives to join the OACPS as a Member;

RECALLING the Resolution adopted at the 109th Session of Council held in Brussels from 21 to 22 May 2019 on the Decolonisation of Mauritius;

RECALLING the objectives of unity and solidarity and the role of the OACPS as a forum for formulating and coordinating common positions on global issues; and

BEARING in mind the recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors in their report to the 114th Session of OACPS Council of Ministers (ACP/26/034/22 Rev.1).

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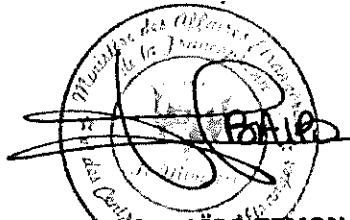
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HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **MANDATE** the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors to submit, pursuant to Articles 5 and 6 of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, a report to the next Session of Council outlining the process and procedures to be adopted for the examination of any applications by third country desirous to join the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States; and
2. **GRANT** the Republic of Maldives observer status to the OACPS.

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Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

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DECISION No. 4/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE OACPS
SECRETARIAT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to Articles 18 (c) and (h) of the Financial Regulations of the OACPS Secretariat;

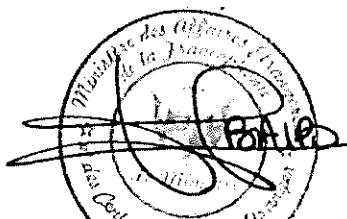
CONSIDERING that the External Auditor has certified the Secretariat's accounts for 2019 as giving a "*true and fair view of the OACPS Secretariat's assets, liabilities and financial position in accordance with its financial rules*"; and

HAVING REGARD to the External Audit Report on the Financial Statements for Year ended 31 December 2019 [ACP/45/018/22].

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Approve** the External Auditor's report for financial year ended 31 December 2019;
2. **Grant** discharge to the Authorizing Officer for financial year 2019; and
3. **Approve** the retention of RSM Audit to conduct the audit for the financial years ended 2020 and 2021. 209

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION N° 5/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 and 9 JUNE 2022

**DESIGNATION OF THE REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS-
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (ROs-RECs) AND THE
OACPS SECRETARIAT AS RESPONSIBLE BODIES FOR
COORDINATING PROGRAMMING OF MULTI-COUNTRY
PROGRAMMES AND MONITORING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, as extended, which acknowledges the role of ROs-RECs as actors of the Agreement responsible for programming of financial resources and implementation of programmes at regional level;

AWARE that the new European Union's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) makes provisions for allocation of financial resources to support multi-country programmes at regional, continental and trans-regional levels [Article 4 of Regulation EU 2021/947 of 9 June 2021];

AWARE that NDICI-Global Europe does not make specific provisions for allocating financial resources to ROs-RECs and the OACPS Secretariat for supporting regional and the Intra-ACP programmes;

OBSERVING that the programming of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes for the three OACPS regions (Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific) under the NDICI-Global Europe was marked by lack of meaningful engagement of ROs-RECs by the EU;

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CONCERNED by the lack of resources specifically allocated to Regional Organizations and the absence of formal mechanisms clearly defining the role of Regional Organizations in the programming and implementation of the new NDICI-Global Europe instrument;

NOTING that the conclusions of the Joint Technical Report on the End-of-Term Review of the Intra-ACP Strategy and Indicative Programme 2014-2020 underline that the Intra-ACP Cooperation Strategy and the Indicative Programme continue to be relevant instruments for cooperation between the OACPS and the EU;

DESIROUS of building on the acquis of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with reference to joint programming of resources with Regional Organisations as well as enhancing the role of the RECs as the mandated bodies for promoting regional integration;

RECALLING the leadership of Regional Organizations on actions of regional scope and their decisive role in monitoring the implementation of these actions in accordance with their mandate;

REITERATING in this regard the relevance of the principle of subsidiarity and the need for a coherent delineation of priorities to better reflect the complementarity of interventions between the different levels: national, multi-country, regional and continental; and

HAVING REGARD to the report of the OACPS Ministerial Committee on Development Finance Cooperation to the 114th Session of the Council of Ministers highlighting a number of concerns relating to the programming of multi-country projects.

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

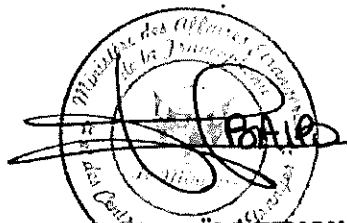
1. **Designate** ROs-RECs, as appropriate, as responsible bodies for the programming of regional and multi-country programmes within their geographical area, based on their respective mandates, strategies and priorities to undertake such programmes and monitor their implementation;

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2. **Designate** the OACPS Secretariat as a body responsible for the programming of multi-country programmes at the trans-regional level based on the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, and to monitor their implementation;
3. **Encourage** the EU to use existing mechanisms and institutional arrangements in the programming of resources and implementation of programmes at national, regional and inter-regional levels; and
4. **Instruct** the OACPS Secretary-General to convey this decision to the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission, European Parliament and High Representative of the European Council for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, OACPS Heads of State and Government, Chairpersons of the African Union Commission, Caribbean Commission and the Pacific Islands Forum, and Heads of OACPS' Regional Organisations and Regional Economic Commissions.

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Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION N° 6/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 and 9 JUNE 2022

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OACPS SMALL
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES FORUM (OACPS SIDS FORUM)**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD ALSO to Article 25 and in particular Annexe II of the revised Georgetown Agreement, which establishes the OACPS SIDS Forum as a Subsidiary and Consultative Organ;

RECALLING Decision No.12/CXIII/21 of the 113th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers, held on 30 November, 1 and 2 December 2021, instructing the Committee of Ambassadors to align the Terms of Reference of the OACPS SIDS Forum with the status and functions of *Subsidiary and Consultative Organs* of the OACPS, in accordance with Article 25 and Annex II of the revised Georgetown Agreement;

RECALLING ALSO Decision No.12/CXIII/21 instructing the Committee of Ambassadors to mobilise financial resources, including climate finance to address increasing vulnerabilities of OACPS SIDS; and

FURTHER RECALLING Decision No.5/CXII/21 of the 112th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers held on 7 and 8 July 2021, mandating the Committee of Ambassadors to support all actions for a coordinated, integrated approach to implement the priority issues of OACPS SIDS Forum, including debt sustainability, debt distress, access to concessional finance and the advocacy of a vulnerability index to highlight OACPS SIDS unique specificities, challenges, and multiple inherent constraints.

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HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Endorse** the revised Terms of Reference of the OACPS SIDS Forum (ACP/84/018/21 Rev.2);
2. **Encourage** the OACPS SIDS Forum to pursue with the European Union and key partners the convening of, at the earliest opportunity, a joint OACPS-EU Resource Mobilisation Conference with the proposed theme '*Financing SIDS-OCTS Recovery, Resilience and Sustainability*';
3. **Task** the Secretariat to:
 - i. Expedite the finalisation of the OACPS Vulnerability Index, which must include Climate Vulnerability, for consideration and endorsement at the next Session of the Council of Ministers and at the 10th Summit of the Heads of State and Government, to be held in Luanda, Angola, during December 2022;
 - ii. Work with relevant OACPS regional organisations to prepare a paper on Climate Change and Climate Vulnerability, as soon as practicable, to support OACPS' solidarity in relevant global platforms and forums up to and at the UNFCCC COP27; and
 - iii. **Ensure** requisite resources are provided to complete this work.
4. **Instruct** the OACPS Secretary-General to convey this decision to the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission, European Parliament and High Representative of the European Council for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, OACPS Heads of State and Government, Chairpersons of the African Union Commission, Caribbean Commission and the Pacific Islands Forum, and Heads of OACPS' Regional Organisations and Regional Economic Commissions.

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Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022

Hon. Sylvie BAÏRO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 7/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022

OUTCOME DECLARATION OF THE
7TH MEETING OF THE OACPS MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format, from 8 to 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD 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;

RECALLING Decision No.7/CXCII/21 of the 112th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers, in particular concerning the deferment of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture to be held in Accra Ghana, from 5 to 8 April 2022; and

HAVING EXAMINED the outcomes of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture held in Accra, Ghana, from 5 to 8 April 2022.

HEREEBY DECIDES TO:

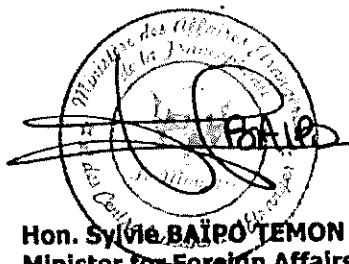
1. **Endorse** the outcome Declaration [**ACP/84/093/22**] of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture;
2. **Instruct** the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors to take appropriate actions to support the effective implementation of the outcome Declaration and the *OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2030*, including through advocacy and engagement in relevant multilateral forums;

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3. **Welcome and accept** the offer by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to host the 8th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture; and
4. **Instruct** the OACPS Secretary-General to convey the outcome Declaration of the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture to the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission, European Parliament and High Representative of the European Council for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President at the European Commission, Heads of UN Organisations, OACPS Heads of State and Government, Chairpersons of the African Union Commission, Caribbean Commission and the Pacific Islands Forum, and Heads of OACPS' Regional Organisations and Regional Economic Commissions. *CSA*

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 8/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022

**PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR OACPS AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MARKET**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

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

HAVING REGARD to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement ;

HAVING REGARD to the Economic Partnership Agreements concluded between the regions and countries of the OACPS and the European Union;

HAVING REGARD to the outcome of discussions on commodities and value chains of the virtual Meeting of the OACPS Ministers of Trade held on 30 May 2022, and Council's further exchange thereon;

RECALLING the objective of the Economic Partnership Agreements between OACPS countries and regions and the European Union: *"to participate in the diversification of economies and the creation of jobs through greater intra-regional integration and carefully controlled openness to the global economy;*

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the graduation process from Least Developed Country (LDC) status of OACPS Members, which will lead such countries to no longer be able to use the Everything But Arms (EBA) Facility in order to maintain their preferential access to the European Union's market;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the Global Sustainability Agenda in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals;

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NOTING the importance of the European Union's Green Deal, and its policy initiatives, which aims to set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050;

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED of the adverse economic and social effect that climate change is having in our countries and peoples;

CONVINCED that discussions/negotiations on "sustainability" must be human centred and thus have as primary objective the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal # 1: No Poverty;

CONCERNED that the European Union' Green Deal with its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies might result in unsurmountable Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) and/or Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) for OACPS exporters and that compliance to new rules and regulations derived from the EU's Green Deal will place a considerable economic burden to OACPS farmers thus leading to increased poverty in our countries; and

UPHOLDING the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility", as adopted by the United Nations, to ensure historical responsibilities and the principle of fairness and solidarity with a view to promoting resilience and sustainability in Members of the OACPS.

DECIDES TO:

1. **Instruct** the OACPS Secretary-General and Committee of Ambassadors to engage in discussions with the European Council, European Parliament, and European Commission, with a view to ensuring that:
 - a. OACPS exporters and farmers maintain a competitive access to the EU market;
 - b. Compliance challenges to new rules and regulations derived from the EU' Green Deal faced by OACPS exporters are correctly addressed by the development partners;
 - c. OACPS exporters and farmers have sufficient time and resources to adapt to the ever-evolving regulations;

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- d. Necessary actions are taken as to reduce the negative impact of new EU regulations on OACPS Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs);
 - e. OACPS producers receive a fair price form their crops following the example of the Living Income Differential (LID)¹ derived from the Cocoa Industry;
 - f. Effective consultation is undertaken with relevant OACPS stakeholders prior to the implementation of new regulations and directives that impact OACPS' exports to the EU;
 - g. There is greater coherence between the EU's trade liberalization policy and its agricultural, and environmental policies, including the Green Deal, in order to ensure that its regulations and directives do not negatively affect OACPS' exports, and are consistent with WTO rules; and
 - h. The principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" is contained in all trade related discussion and/or negotiations.
2. **Call upon** the Secretariat to ensure that the outcome of the Study on the impact of the EU Regulations and Directives on OACPS Exports is presented to the next Council. *esa*

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

¹ Initiative promoted by Cote d'Ivoire's and Ghana that seeks to rural producers of Cocoa receive an income that guarantees decent living conditions.

**DECISION No. 9/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

**10TH SUMMIT OF THE OACPS HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the Nairobi Nguvu ya Pamoja Declaration, adopted at the 9th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government held on 9 and 10 December 2019; and

HAVING REGARD to the Report on the Preparations of the 10th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government to the 114th Session of OACPS Council of Ministers [ACP/28/015/22].

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. Endorse

- a) 9 - 10 December 2022 as the proposed dates for the 10th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government; and
- b) The Central theme and Sub-themes for the 10th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government as follows:

Theme: "3 Continents, 3 Oceans, 1 Common destiny – Building a Resilient and Sustainable OACPS"

Sub- themes:

- Building a knowledge-based economy by harnessing science and technology, research, and innovation;
- Optimizing leadership and action to address global challenges; and
- Fostering Investment and Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) Competitiveness and Trade, in the OACPS;

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2. **Take note** of the progress made on the preparations of the 10th Summit; and
3. **Mandate** the Committee of Ambassadors and the Secretary-General to make adequate preparations for the Summit and undertake necessary advocacy and visibility efforts to ensure high participation of OACPS Heads of State and Government. *esa*

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

DECISION No. 10/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022

**SETTING UP OF AN OACPS PLATFORM OF ENGAGEMENT
WITH DIASPORAS AND PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the revised Georgetown Agreement as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the Nairobi Declaration "Nguvu ya Pamoja", adopted by the 9th Summit of the Heads of State and government, Nairobi, Kenya, 9-10 December 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the conclusions of the 1st CARICOM-Africa Summit, held virtually on 7 September 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya and President in office of the OACPS;

HAVING REGARD to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement ;

CONSIDERING the outcomes of the 1st Intergovernmental consultation of the OACPS Diasporas Focal Points, held virtually, on 5 and 10 May 2022, and endorsed by the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors at its 947th meeting held on 19 May 2022;

CONVINCED that Diasporas have become strategic agents of development and are strategic stakeholders in development cooperation circles;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to support Member States in implementing effective policies that will advance the contribution of Diasporas to economic and social development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024; and

CONVINCED that the engagement between Diasporas and OACPS Governments through regular meetings and consultations have a crosscutting dimension to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals.

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HEREBY DECIDES TO :

1. **Approve** the setting up of an OACPS Platform of Engagement with Diasporas and People of African Descent, in a consultative and inclusive process;
2. **Instruct** the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors to:
 - i) **Encourage** the organisation of regular intra-OACPS consultations, exchanges, networking and sharing of good practices;
 - ii) **Present** the legal structure, a Strategic plan for the years 2022-2025 and a fundraising strategy for the Platform to Council at the next meeting of the Council; and
 - iii) **Promote** close collaboration with the OACPS South-South and Triangular Cooperation Office in Malabo, in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan 2022-2025. *lsa*

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

**DECISION No. 11/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

**VANUATU'S CAMPAIGN FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised in 2019;

HAVING REGARD to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its related agreements, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and other relevant sources of international law, including international human rights law;

RECOGNISING the adverse impacts of climate change on our planet's natural ecosystems and the livelihoods and well-being of billions of people, and its existential threat to the very survival of some Member States of the OACPS;

REAFFIRMING the OACPS' consistent position with regard to combatting climate change in the context of the UNFCCC;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; and

HAVING REGARD to the presentation by Vanuatu during its 114th Session of the Council of Ministers.

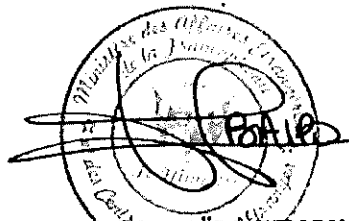
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HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Endorse** the initiative of Vanuatu to seek the adoption of a UN General Assembly Resolution requesting an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change; and
2. **Call** on all Member States of the OACPS to give strong consideration to co-sponsor the proposed Resolution during the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. *EOA*

Done at Brussels, 9 June 2022



Hon. Sylvie BAÏPO TEMON
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Central African Republic
President of the OACPS Council of Ministers

RESOLUTIONS *e s a*

**RESOLUTION N° 1/CXIV/22
OF THE 114th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2022**

COMMODITIES AND VALUE CHAIN ISSUES

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The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in hybrid format on 8 and 9 June 2022,
- 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** to the outcome document and conclusions of the virtual meeting of the OACPS Ministers of Trade held on 30 May 2022 [**ACP/61/023/22**];
- C. NOTING PROGRESS** made on the implementation of value chain programmes under the ACP New Approach on support for development of Agriculture Value Chains;
- D. RE-EMPHASISING** OACPS' commitment to the development of sustainable value chains and stressing that negotiations and regulations on "sustainability" be human centred, include the economic aspect and give priority to SDG 1 : No Poverty; thus promoting instruments such as the "Living Income Differential (LID)" developed by Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana in favour of their Cocoa Industry;
- E. RECOGNISING** that the European Union has set ambitious goals to promote sustainable development in its human, social, economic, and environmental dimensions, notably through the European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Farm to Fork Strategy, or in the areas of sustainable corporate governance and deforestation, which will trigger fundamental changes in trade patterns which could translate into insurmountable Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) for OACPS exporters;

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- F. NOTING** that in one vein, the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy present opportunities such as increase in demand for organic products while at the same time may present challenges as OACPS producers must modify their production and supply systems, to demonstrate that goods and products exported to the EU market, have not contributed to deforestation, forest degradation or indeed child labour;
- G. WELCOMING** the OACPS Approach adopted on Trade and Commodities to support Members address, among others, the proposed Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, the Deforestation Regulation, and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), EU measures that have been identified to contribute to the development of sustainable value chains;
- H. AWARE** that improving transparency and traceability has become a priority in ensuring responsible consumption and production in line with SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, however concerned that setting up of Traceability and Forest monitoring systems, is expensive and requires considerable investments and adequate time to be established;
- I. NOTING** the endorsement by the International Trade Committee, European Parliament, on 3 May 2022, of the new EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) which focusses on sustainability and concerned that OACPS Least Developed Countries that will be graduated and decide to access GSP+ arrangement, may now be required to also ratify the conventions on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998) and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that aims at abolition of the death penalty (1989) in order to gain EU market access;
- J. NOTING** the call by the International Trade Committee, European Parliament on 16 May 2022, for a WTO -Compatible trade instrument to ban the import and export of products made or transported by forced labour;

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- K. RECOGNISING** the impact that the war in Ukraine has had on the commodity sector and value chains, including the rerouting to the European market of Latin American bananas, which has led to a drop in prices; and
- L. NOTING** that the United Kingdom government is currently preoccupied with the Ukraine war, resulting in slow progress on discussions on the post-Brexit OACPS-UK Partnership Framework.

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

1. **Endorse** the OACPS Approach on Trade, Commodities and Value Chains that includes measures to support Member States address the imminent market access challenges that could arise from EU Regulations and Directives and to explore market opportunities including the demand for organic products;
2. **Requests** the Subcommittee on Trade and Commodities to implement the measures below which are encapsulated in the OACPS Approach on Trade, Commodities and Value Chains:
 - a. Engagement and dialogue with European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament;
 - b. Collaboration with advocacy bodies such as Fair Trade;
 - c. Conducting impact studies and assessments on EU regulations vis a vis OACPS Exports;
 - d. Monitoring and Disseminating Information on EU regulations in collaboration with Partners through various instruments including the Early Warning Mechanism and Agroinfo;
 - e. Participation in Public consultations on EU regulations and Directives;

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- f. Use of intra- ACP programmes to build capacity and position Member States to explore EU market opportunities including in the organic sector;
 - g. Organise information Dissemination events on OACPS Programmes supporting the development of value chains;
 - h. Facilitate intra-OACPS and OACPS-EU exchange of best practices and cooperation including on lessons learnt from the Cocoa value chains on the sustainability agenda that can be shared and applied to other value chains, notably the concept of Living Income Differential (LID); and
 - i. Use the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiating platform to raise Brussels based issues through the enhancements of ties with OACPS Missions in Geneva.
3. **Requests** the Secretariat to pursue the goal of strengthening ties with OACPS Missions in London with the objective of initiating discussions on an OACPS-UK Partnership Framework Post-Brexit;
4. **Calls** upon the European Commission to ensure that:
- a. New regulations do not become a disguised form of protectionism and do not transform themselves into barriers to trade which will disadvantage OACPS producers and Exporters;
 - b. Regulations and Directives being developed take into account the needs of Members of the OACPS including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Land linked Developing Countries (LLDCs);
 - c. Targeted development and technical assistance is designed and provided to OACPS producers and exporters in order to enable them to fully comply with the new rules on sustainable trade in line with the New OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;

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- d. Special attention is given to guaranteeing that sufficient time and resources are channeled to OACPS Producers and Exporters as to allow them to comply with new trade related regulations;
- e. Compliance costs are not transferred to the small holder farmers;
- f. That an Early Warning Mechanism for New Trade Regulations is put in place to assist OACPS Producers and Exporters to understand and participate in the development of the same;
- g. New regulations and directives impacting trade should be developed jointly with all stakeholders and include meaningful dialogue with those affected along the value chains in an effort to mitigate unintended effects from their implementation, particularly those related to market access; and
- h. Greater coherence between its trade policy and its agricultural and environmental policies, including the Green Deal, in order to ensure that its regulations and directives do not negatively affect OACPS' exports and are consistent with WTO rules. *RE*

Done in Brussels, 9 June 2022

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