



ORGANISATION OF **AFRICAN,**
CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OACPS 3.0: THE POWER OF CHANGE





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It is my privilege as President-in-Office of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), to congratulate the Secretariat of the OACPS on the production of this annual report, highlighting the main activities for 2020, an unforgettable year for many reasons, apart from the dramatic changes within the OACPS.

It is an honour, to be of service to this worthy Organisation, at this auspicious moment in its 46-year history. In 2020, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States turned a new page to become the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Furthermore, it concluded the negotiations for the new Partnership Agreement with the European Union. It is clear that the OACPS is well on track to becoming the OACPS we all want and need, if we are to achieve the ambitious goals set by our leaders, which will drive further changes ahead.

FOREWORD

Challenges abound, multilateralism is being tested, and climate change is wreaking havoc globally, impacting greatly on Small Island States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with limited resources to handle these global threats. Moreover, in 2020, we battled a new foe, the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a devastating effect on the economies of all our regions, especially those which are dependent on tourism as their main source of income. The global nature of these threats, demands global responses and it is reassuring to know that we do not stand alone, but are members and equal partners of this tri-continental organisation, the OACPS, and by extension, the European Union (EU) and all of the other shared partnerships.

I applaud the leadership of the Secretariat of the OACPS for undertaking to share the work of the OACPS via this Report and take this opportunity to reiterate the considered support and solidarity of the Republic of Kenya, the East African region, the African block of countries, and the entire membership of our great organisation.

H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta

President of the Republic of Kenya, and
President-in-Office of the Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government



2020 – an historic year for many reasons

I am deeply honoured to have assumed the leadership of the OACPS during such an historic moment in history. There are times when many elements converge to, as it were, propel change and this, undoubtedly was one of them.

Hindsight, it is said, is 2020 vision, but who could have foreseen this year? 2020 was a test of agility, innovation, and preparedness.

To be at the reins of any organisation at such a time is sobering.

To take the reins, was shocking. I give credit to the staff at the Secretariat, our three organs, the Chairs of the Committee of Ambassadors, the Presidents of the Council of Ministers, and the President of the Summit, H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of Kenya, for their unwavering support and collaboration during this trying year.

The OACPS instituted significant changes at every level during 2020 - organisationally, constitutionally, and physically.

The year 2020 marked the end of the five-year tenure of the previous executive leadership team, led by H.E. Dr. Patrick Gomes, and the beginning of the new rotation under the leadership of the Southern Africa region of the OACPS. I thank my predecessor, Ambassador Gomes and his executive team for their stewardship over the last five years and for laying the path to bring us to where we are today. I again thank the Southern Africa region for nominating me, and the members of the Selection Committee for the confidence placed in me to serve at this historic moment.

I am pleased to note that in December 2020, the Chief Negotiators of the OACPS and the European Union (EU) reached a political deal on the new 20-year Partnership Agreement.

Constitutionally, following the endorsement of the decision to adopt the revised Georgetown Agreement at the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019, the revised Georgetown Agreement came into force, bringing with it a change of name to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States on 5 April 2020.

FOREWORD

Change even took place at a physical level, as the Secretariat, in preparation for the renovation of its Headquarters at Avenue Georges Henri, relocated its operations to Rue de l'Aqueduc in Brussels. In addition, as the world sought alternatives to physical meetings, the Secretariat accelerated the planned digitalisation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hosted the first virtual Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government in June 2020 and two virtual Council Meetings in July and December.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we supported the heroic efforts of the relevant organisations by making € 214.5 million available to boost health preparedness and recovery efforts throughout the OACPS.

Following on the mandate given to me at the start of my tenure, I have instituted the restructuring of the Secretariat to make it fit-for-purpose. For obvious reasons, this has been a difficult undertaking, but it is nevertheless a necessary one, as we prepare to be the world class organisation requested by our membership.

In closing, it would be remiss of me not to extend my sincere appreciation to the partners, organisations, and staff who have assisted during this historic journey. As we lay the foundation for the new OACPS, I thank you for your efforts and look forward to building the OACPS we want.

H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti

Secretary-General of the OACPS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Office of the Secretary-General (OSG) comprises the Cabinet of the Secretary-General and functions related to the legal counsel, protocol, media and communications for the OACPS, managed by the Chief of Staff.

On Sunday, 5 April 2020 the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, established a little under 45 years ago, in the Caribbean country of Guyana, officially changed its name to become the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

This followed the entry-into-force of the revised Georgetown Agreement, endorsed by the ACP Heads of State and Government during the 9th Summit in December 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.



The signature of the revised Georgetown Agreement by the Republic of Angola provided the requisite number of signatures for the entry-into-force of the Agreement.

The Georgetown Agreement, created in 1975, is the Constitutive Act of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. The calls to revise the Georgetown Agreement were initiated at the 7th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government in Sipopo, Equatorial Guinea. They were again raised at the 8th Summit in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, when Heads re-affirmed their aspirations and political will by calling for the transformation of the ACP Group of States into an international organisation, taking into account the changing global geopolitical context.

In calling for a revision of the Georgetown Agreement, ACP States, in recognition of the international impact they could have as a group and as a major multilateral actor, ascertained their desire to strengthen their cooperation, particularly in the economic field, to take full advantage of the global economy. The revision of the Agreement also demonstrated the Group's determination to tackle the challenges to development on all sides, including environment and climate change, peace and security, gender, and private sector development.

Upon receiving the mandate from the Council of Ministers, the Committee of Ambassadors established an Ambassadorial Editing Committee consisting of representatives from all six ACP regions to align and reflect the diverse proposals emanating from the ACP regions. The recommendations were approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the 9th Summit.

By December 2020
**51 Members -
65 % of OACPS**
had signed the
revised Georgetown
Agreement.

Significant changes resulting from the revision of the Agreement are:

- Organisational change of name to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS);
- Expansion of the themes to address global challenges and issues, such as the environment and climate change, peace and security;
- Inclusion of a dispute resolution mechanism;
- Inclusion of an Endowment and Trust Fund and an Audit and Budget Committee in the financial provisions.

LEADING CHANGE IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

At the beginning of his tenure as Secretary-General on 2 March 2020, Ambassador Chikoti announced a raft of measures to transform the ACP Group into the OACPS and to make the ACP Secretariat a Centre of Excellence. Never could he have imagined the changes in store, which in some cases required an acceleration of plans, for example, accelerating the digitalisation of the Secretariat, to facilitate the ongoing work of the Secretariat during the COVID-19 crisis.

With the change of name, discussions arose for and against the retention of the 'acp' logo, with the decision being made to keep the well-known triad of lower case letters which served equally well for the two working languages of the Secretariat and also formed the basis of the internet address for the corporate website. The Secretariat, however, refreshed the corporate brand imagery, with a consistent graphic across all its online platforms and via its social media, which, in keeping with the focus on women and youth, featured both groups.

The decision to opt for a totally digital launch for the new name, in early April, barely a month into the COVID-19 lockdown, was an innovation and demonstrated the OACPS' flexibility and determination to mark this significant step forward.

To maintain contact with two of its primary stakeholders- the Committee of Ambassadors and the staff of the Secretariat- the majority of whom were teleworking, the OSG sent regular briefs to both groups, to provide updates on the work of the Secretariat.

Following the entry-into-force of the revised Georgetown Agreement, the OACPS guided users on the use of the new terminology through nomenclature guidelines and visual reminders of the transition. Secretary-General Chikoti, via numerous interviews with EU and OACPS media, further reinforced the messages with respect to the change process, sharing the news with a global audience.



H.E. ABOU DOSSO,
Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire in Brussels
and Chair of the Editing Committee
for the revision of the Georgetown Agreement.



The inauguration of the temporary Headquarters of the OACPS.

RENOVATION OF THE OACPS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

The Secretariat of the then African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States moved into its offices at Avenue Georges Henri 451 over four decades ago, with a little over half of its current 79 Member States. In the ensuing years, the Secretariat has expanded both the staff complement and the Member States, resulting in a crucial shortage of space. The technological changes in this period have also made different demands on the Secretariat.

To tackle the renovation of the OACPS Headquarters building, an Ambassadorial Working Group on the OACPS House was created to manage the renovation project as well as the temporary re-location of the Secretariat. Preparation of the documentation, permits, and contracts are currently ongoing and the renovation works are expected to be completed by 2023.

The Secretariat temporarily relocated to new premises at Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Ixelles in July 2020. The temporary new location was inaugurated on 3 October 2020, with presentations by Secretary-General Chikoti and H.E. Mr. Jestas Abuok Nyamanga, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chair-in-Office of the Committee of Ambassadors.



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (ECA)

The **new Department of Environment and Climate Action (ECA)** was established in early 2020 pursuant to Decision No.3/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya on 7 December 2019.

Environment and Climate Action are key priorities for the OACPS, and particularly for its thirty-eight (38) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Members who are at the frontline, and bearing the brunt, of many of the existential threats due to climate

change. It is clear that current and emerging themes are, and will continue to be, fundamental considerations of the 'improved, new normal' for the Members of the OACPS as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

MS. CRISTELLE PRATT,
of the Republic of Fiji,
Assistant Secretary-General
of the ECA Department.

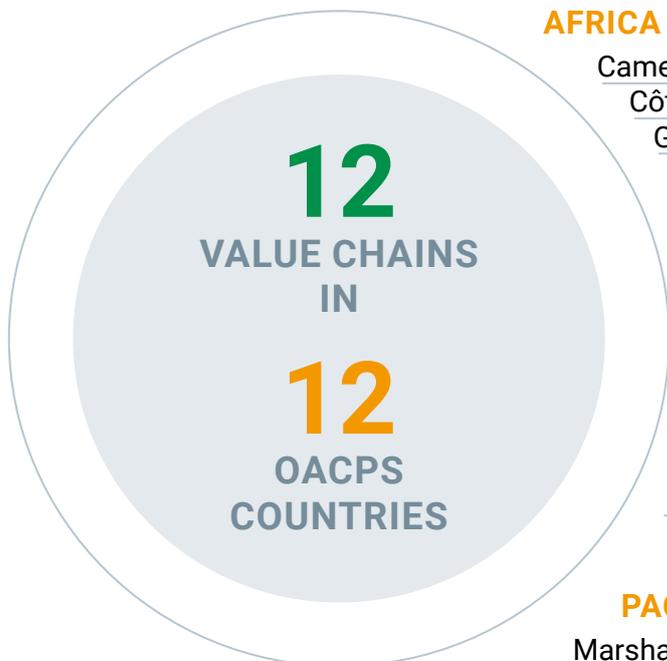


LAUNCH OF FISH4ACP



(L-R) Heads of the EU Commission for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, FAO, and OACPS at the signing of the Memorandum in 2019.

- FISH4ACP works to contribute to food and nutrition security, economic prosperity, and job creation, paying special attention to small and medium-sized enterprises because of their potential to deliver social and economic benefits.
- The initiative, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) increased from 10 to 12 value chains in 12 Members of the OACPS. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany added €8m to the original €40m from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).



AFRICA

Cameroon	Shrimp
Côte d'Ivoire	Farmed tilapia
Gambia	Oyster
Nigeria	Farmed catfish
São Tomé and Príncipe	Pelagics
Senegal	Oyster
Tanzania	Lake Tanganyika sprat, sardine and lates
Zambia	Small pelagic
Zimbabwe	Farmed tilapia

CARIBBEAN

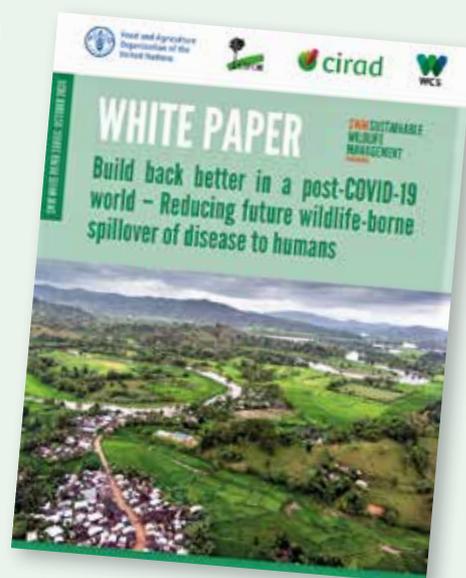
Dominican Republic	Mahi-mahi
Guyana	Atlantic seabob

PACIFIC

Marshall Islands	Tuna
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BUILD BACK BETTER IN A POST-COVID WORLD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of zoonotic diseases was on the radar in 2020. The **Intra-ACP Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme** launched a White Paper and Policy Brief called, “*Build back better in a post COVID-19 world – Reducing future wildlife-borne spill-over of disease to humans*”, which demonstrated the need for improved understanding of the **health and environment** nexus. In his foreword, OACPS Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, stressed that effective implementation of integrated public health solutions such as the “One Health Approach” will require effective national policies and will need significantly higher levels of additional investment and attention. He also stressed that biodiversity and environmental solutions are essential for building back better in a post COVID-19 world.



INTRA-ACP GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS (GCCA+) PROGRAMME

The **Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme** has, since the entry-into-force of the Paris Agreement and heightened action to implement the Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), seen increased

demand for technical support and assistance, with intense use and calls on Programme resources from both countries and regions of the OACPS.

The **ACP NDC Tool** is a comprehensive and collaborative tool designed under the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme to **support the ambitions with respect to the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Members of the OACPS**, and explore opportunities to raise the level of ambition needed for low-carbon and climate-resilient growth over the long term, **in line with their commitments to the Paris Agreement**. The online tool is now available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The tool is secured and gives Member States the flexibility to address all relevant issues that arise in the context of the preparation of NDCs revision/submission and in coordination with the various sectors of activities as per their commitments under the Paris Agreement. It ensures that all information required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is clearly spelt out in the form of an exhaustive checklist so that they are appropriately addressed by Member States. The tool also provides for the inclusion of additional information on adaptation, gender, capacity-building, and financial needs.

PARTNERSHIPS

PROGRAMME	COLLABORATORS	AREA OF FOCUS
BIOPAMA II	IUCN-led, FAO and UNEP-led MEA III	Biodiversity conservation – enforcing environmental treaties belonging to the biodiversity and chemicals cluster
10th EDF Intra-ACP DRR		Continued implementation and closure of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP DRR Programme and the recently signed, and yet to be programmed €100m 11th EDF DRR Programme, in November 2020
The Support Programme to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Countries	OECS, IOC, University of Mauritius and SPREP	Contribution to the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources using direct management modalities.

MACROECONOMICS, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND INTRA-ACP PROGRAMMING (MDFIP)

The Department of Macroeconomics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming (MDFIP) coordinates the activities of the OACPS in the areas of ACP-EU financial and technical cooperation and intra-ACP programming. It identifies, analyses, and reviews strategies to assist Members of the OACPS to take advantage of development cooperation resources, and manages financing requests relating to “all-ACP” funding

and financing instruments with the European Commission (EC). It also examines the availability of, and promotes the use of international financing to fund projects.

MRS. TCHALE BANATA SOW,
of the Republic of Chad,
Assistant Secretary-General
of the MDFIP Department.



● CHAD

INTRA-ACP



Online Map of the Intra-ACP Programme
on the OACPS website at www.acp.int.

The 11th EDF intra-ACP strategy promotes inclusive development through direct development actions and by supporting dialogue and consensus-building among Members of the OACPS. The strategy is intended to address the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development and is structured around three sectors to ensure access to basic needs, contribute to a sustainable environment, and promote the private sector as an engine of economic growth.

HIGH MARKS FOR END-OF-TERM REVIEW OF THE COOPERATION STRATEGY AND INTRA-ACP INDICATIVE PROGRAMME



Intra-ACP Programmes contribute to bettering the lives of citizens within the OACPS.

The end-of-term review, a requirement of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (Article 14 of Annex IV), carried out jointly by technical teams from the OACPS Secretariat and the EC, took place in the context of the wrapping-up of the 11th EDF programming on 31 December 2020.

The three main conclusions from the evaluation validated the efficiency and effectiveness of the intra-ACP programme: i) the continued relevance of the intra-ACP strategy and the indicative programme as an instrument of cooperation between the OACPS and the EU; ii) joint monitoring of budget consumption has facilitated timely decision-making regarding the release of certain resources; and iii) almost all intra-ACP resources have been committed in priority areas as defined in the strategy document.

OACPS ENDOWMENT AND TRUST FUND (ETF)

The OACPS Endowment and Trust Fund (ETF), which will allow the OACPS to explore options for financial independence, was legally established in March 2020, with a registered office and domicile in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It is made up of a General Partner, which has the status of a non-profit association (ASBL) under Luxembourgish law, and a Special Limited Partnership. The OACPS will move ahead with the operationalisation of the ETF during 2021.



CLEARING THE AIR ON THE EU LIST OF NON-COOPERATIVE TAX JURISDICTIONS

Following Decision No.3/CXI/20 of the OACPS Council of Ministers of 28 July 2020 on the EU List of Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdictions and that of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT), the mandate of the OACPS ad hoc Ministerial Contact Group on Tax Matters was extended. This extension has led to several steps to strengthen the ad hoc Contact Group's ability to tackle the issue and has also increased its activity in this regard.

Resolution No.2/CXI/20 of the Council of Ministers of 14, 15 and 17 December 2020 reinforces the system

with specific guidelines, in particular the holding of seminars on these issues and the establishment of a joint political framework for consultation between the EU and the OACPS and a joint cooperation mechanism at the international level to coordinate dialogue and joint actions at that level.

Given the difficulty for Members of the OACPS, or even regions to deal individually with the EU on this issue, it was recommended that an "All OACPS" approach be designed and structured to raise awareness and to engage effectively in dialogue with the EU, with mutual respect between the parties.

INFORMATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION, MALABO

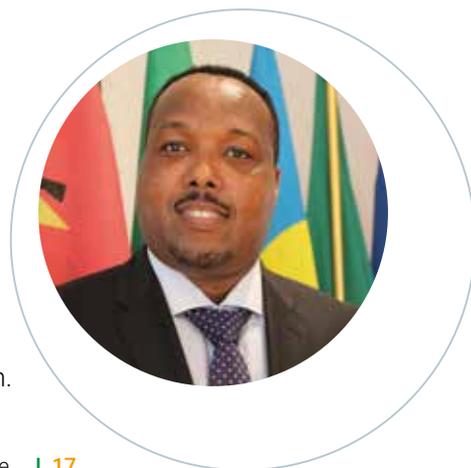


(L-R) P. Niyongabo, H.E. Carmelo Nvono Ncá, Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea, ASG Sow, SG Chikoti.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Information Centre for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) was inaugurated in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 5 October 2018. The Headquarters Agreement was signed a year later, in August of 2019. The President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who presided over the inauguration ceremony, stated that, "this Centre is the manifestation of solidarity between the peoples and countries of the South in order to contribute to their autonomy and to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, especially those related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

The launching of the Centre is an important political event for the OACPS, both for its uniqueness in being the first-ever representation of the OACPS in a Member State, and for being a milestone in the promotion and implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. In 2020, the operationalisation of the Centre was further boosted by the recruitment of the Head of the Centre, Mr. Patrice Niyongabo, and his deployment to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to set up the Centre.

Mr. Patrice Niyongabo,
Head - ACP Information Centre
for South-South and
Triangular Cooperation.



OACPS HIGHLIGHTS – 2020

In January 2020, little did anyone suspect that the yet unnamed coronavirus would have a global impact that would last throughout the year to come. Here are the OACPS' highlights for 2020, against the backdrop of COVID-19.

JANUARY

- The OSG drafted a memo, distributed by AFHR to the Secretariat, on the new coronavirus.

FEBRUARY

- AFHR distributed a second memo to staff on the new virus, now officially called COVID-19. Precautions were instituted at the Secretariat as per the national guidelines.
- **4-5 FEBRUARY:** The 2nd Knowledge-Sharing Event on Trade and Investment Good Practices was organised by the TradeCom II Programme.
- **14 FEBRUARY:** The last 'in-person' meeting of the ACP-EU Chief Negotiators for the post Cotonou Agreement was held at ACP House.
- **20-22 FEBRUARY:** The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held its 18th regional meeting in Maseru, Lesotho.
- **25 FEBRUARY:** In collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Secretariat of the OACPS hosted

a one-day symposium entitled, "Building Alliances to Strengthen Multilateralism through South-South and Triangular Cooperation" at ACP House.

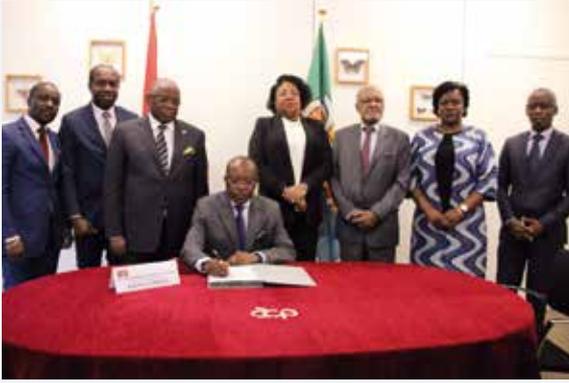
- **26 FEBRUARY:** The 60th briefing on "The future of food and agricultural transformation" was organised by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development (CTA), the European Commission/EuropeAid, the ACP Secretariat, and CONCORD.
- **27 FEBRUARY:** Special session of the Committee of Ambassadors for the outgoing Secretary-General, H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes.

MARCH



- **2 MARCH:** Special session of the Committee of Ambassadors for the incoming Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti.
- **5 MARCH:** H.E. Mr. Manuel Domingos Augusto, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola signed the revised Georgetown Agreement, giving the OACPS the requisite number of signatures to proceed with the entry-into-force of the revised Georgetown Agreement.





- Two weeks after taking up his tenure, H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, after meeting with the Executive Team and the Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors, postponed all meetings and temporarily closed the Secretariat, in keeping with the first national lockdown in Belgium, from 17 March – 3 April inclusive.
- In line with the guidelines from the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium on the COVID 19 measures, the ACP Group advised its staff and visitors on the protective and preventative measures to be undertaken with respect to COVID-19.

APRIL

- 5 APRIL:** The revised Georgetown Agreement entered into force.
- 5 APRIL:** The Secretariat digitally launched its new name, as the ACP Group of States became the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).
- Talks with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the EU on COVID-19 and the impact on at-risk countries result in the disbursement of over €25 million from the 11th EDF to boost health preparedness in Members of the OACPS.
- The OACPS signed an Addendum to the ongoing Memoranda of Understanding with the Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO) and the *Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique* (COLEACP), to reduce the impact of the health crisis on the agricultural

production systems and food supply in Members of the OACPS. The Addendum provides community, farm and company-level adapted information and training tools relevant to preventive health and safety measures and continued technical assistance to Farmers Organisations (FO) in Africa.

- 29 APRIL:** The OACPS and the Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (Intra-ACP GCCA+) host a seminar titled, “Can Local and Indigenous Knowledge strengthen adaptation and mitigation actions in ACP countries?”.

MAY

- The Secretariat updated its facilities to host virtual meetings and improved the digital footprint of the Secretariat.
- In collaboration with the Heads of the Caribbean Community and



- the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the OACPS issued a joint statement on the COVID-19 pandemic, in which they resolved to coordinate efforts and pool available resources to aid their respective Member States to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUNE

- 3 JUNE:** In collaboration with the President of the 9th OACPS Summit, H.E. President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta of Kenya, the OACPS convened the first virtual Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government, with the theme, “Transcending the COVID-19 Pandemic: Building Resilience through Global Solidarity”.

- The Secretariat was partially re-opened, adhering to the new regulations, including adjustments for social distancing.
- **5 JUNE:** The OACPS celebrated its 45th anniversary and the first-ever OACPS Day entitled “OACPS Day 3.0: The Power of Change”.
- **8 JUNE:** H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti celebrated his first 100 days in Office as Secretary-General with a video message transmitted in English, French, and Portuguese.
- **9 JUNE:** The SETT Department, in collaboration with COLEACP, hosted the first Information Session on the impact of COVID-19 on the agri-food production and supplies sector in Member States.
- **12 JUNE:** The post-Cotonou negotiations resumed at the ministerial level, with an online meeting between the two Chief Negotiators for the OACPS and the EU.
- The ACP-EU Culture Programme launched a new idea incubator and exchange platform, CultureXchange, which aims to be an incubator of ideas and projects and a hub where stakeholders from the cultural and creative sector can connect, meet, interact and exchange.



- **26 JUNE:** The SETT Department hosted a webinar in the context of World MSME Day, entitled “COVID-19 Crisis: Mitigating its impact on OACPS MSMEs, identifying and leveraging opportunities”, which aimed to enable OACPS MSMEs and other private stakeholders to understand the steps to be taken to protect their business, reduce risks and minimise the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, and to anticipate the redeployment of their indus-

trial and commercial activities in the context of the crisis.

- Mobilisation of €189.5 million to be utilised as part of the OACPS-EU joint response to the COVID-19 crisis.

JULY

- H.E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and the President of the 9th OACPS Summit, wrote to top EU officials to condemn the unilateral publication of the EU's Anti-Money Laundering Blacklist.
- Mr. Escipión Joaquín Oliveira Gómez, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for the Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade (SETT) Department, was the first ASG to arrive. His arrival was delayed, just like all the other ASGs, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- In preparation for the renovation of its Headquarters at Avenue Georges Henri, the Secretariat relocated its operations to Rue de l'Aqueduc.
- **28 JULY:** The Secretariat hosted its first fully virtual Council of Ministers meeting. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of The Gambia and President of the OACPS Council of Ministers.

AUGUST

- The Secretariat prepared and circulated a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
- Dr. Ibrahim Norbert-Richard arrived to take up his position as ASG for the Political Affairs and Human Development (PAHD) Department.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the EC, and the OACPS provided €6 million in emergency relief funding for biodiversity conservation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic on the management of protected areas and threatened species.



SEPTEMBER

- 7 SEPTEMBER:** Within the framework of Germany's EU Council Presidency, H.E. Dr. Gerd Müller, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development visited the OACPS Secretariat to exchange views with members of the Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors.
- Ms. Cristelle Pratt, ASG for the new Environment and Climate Action (ECA) Department, reported for duty.
- The first employee of the OACPS Information Centre for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Patrice Niyongabo, joined the OACPS as Head of the Centre.
- 29 SEPTEMBER:** The SETT Department, in commemoration of International Tourism Day, held a virtual webinar entitled "Jointly Addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the tourism industry of the Members of the OACPS".

OCTOBER

- 23 OCTOBER:** OACPS parliamentarians participated in the 56th Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly.
- 29 OCTOBER:** Virtual committee meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA).
- The last two ASGs for the Administration, Finance and Human Resources (AFHR) and Macroeconomics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming (MDFIP) Departments, Mrs. Isatou Auber-Faal and Mrs. Banata Tchale Sow, respectively, began their five-year terms.

NOVEMBER

- 5 NOVEMBER:** Virtual meetings of the Joint Standing Committees of the ACP-EU JPA.



- 27 NOVEMBER:** 57th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

DECEMBER

- 1 DECEMBER:** The Fish4ACP Programme, a joint OACPS, EU, and FAO Programme, launched its website to support the sustainability of aquaculture value chains in the Member States.
- 3 DECEMBER:** The OACPS' and EU's Chief Negotiators reached a political deal on the new Partnership Agreement with the EU.
- 14, 15 AND 17 DECEMBER:** The OACPS hosted the 111th Session of the Council of Ministers, chaired by H.E. Prof. Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, United Republic of Tanzania, and incumbent President of the OACPS Council of Ministers.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (PAHD)

The Department of Political Affairs and Human Development (PAHD) develops, implements and monitors a programme of activities, which includes preparations for OACPS consultations, joint ACP-EU negotiations, election observation, and fact-finding missions. It also coordinates the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), follows up on major developments within relevant regional

and international organisations, as well as relevant European Parliament Standing Committees on matters under the purview of the Department to promote the interests of Members of the OACPS.

DR. IBRAHIM NORBERT-RICHARD,
of the Republic of Madagascar,
Assistant Secretary-General
of the PAHD Department.



ACP-EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN ACP COUNTRIES – ACP INNOVATION FUND

This five-year programme, financed from the 11th EDF to the tune of €50.4 million, aims to strengthen research and innovation capacities, as well as develop related skills within the OACPS. By financing proposals made in the field, the programme aims to enable stakeholders to contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for research and innovation (RI) through a pilot innovation fund.

In response to a call for proposals, which began in 2019 and was closed in January 2020, eight (8) grant contracts were signed for a total of €33.2 million. Grant recipients will pilot a wide range of projects aimed at advancing solutions in the following areas:

- Improving access to digital culture, knowledge, and the use of emerging technologies;
- Creating or strengthening concrete links between the development of RI skills and the needs of the labour market;
- Creating or enabling synergies in the research and innovation ecosystem, including with the private sector; facilitating the conditions for technology transfer; promoting the adoption of RI; and
- Promoting local and indigenous knowledge and its use, in combination with formal knowledge systems and practices.

ACP-EU CULTURE PROGRAMME – TOWARDS A VIABLE CULTURAL INDUSTRY

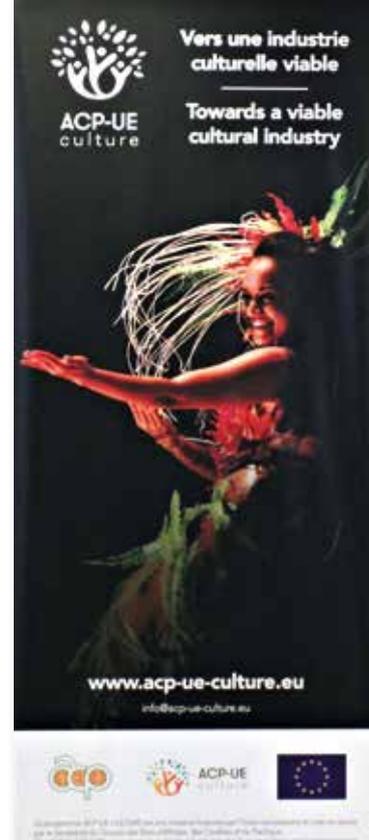
Financed by the 11th EDF in the amount of €40 million for the period 2019-2024, the ACP-EU Culture Programme aims to encourage entrepreneurship and cultural innovation, to create new jobs, and to increase the income of artists and cultural professionals. It also seeks to improve the quality of cultural production within the OACPS and promote artists and creators from the Organisation's Member States in regional and international markets.

The ACP-EU Culture Programme covers all cultural sectors, from cinema and audiovisual arts to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, crafts, fashion and styling, including visual and performing arts, literature, and multimedia and digital creation.

The Programme set up a sustainable support mechanism for OACPS audiovisual coproduction, supplementing, through annual calls for proposals, the funding granted to operators by existing co-production funds. In 2020, this made it possible to support more than fifty projects (fiction films, series and documentaries) for approximately €1.8 million. In addition, an important support mechanism for the cultural and creative sectors

within Members of the OACPS has also been inaugurated, through the signing of subsidy contracts with six consortia totalling €26 million. These six consortia, will, in turn, be responsible for launching annual calls for proposals to operators in the cultural and creative sectors at the regional level.

The ACP-EU Culture Programme has also successfully launched the online platform '*CultureX-change*', which aims to serve as an incubator of ideas and projects, a documentation centre, and a social network where stakeholders from the cultural and creative sector can meet, interact, and exchange.



FACILITATING ACP-EU POLITICAL DIALOGUE

The PAHD Department actively contributes to the preparation and organisation of the work of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA). These two bodies are among the main channels for political dialogue between the OACPS and the EU. Their members freely debate issues of common interest of a social, economic, and political nature.

Two major events dominated the debates within the two assemblies in 2020, namely the COVID-19 pandemic and Part V of the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement relating to the institutional framework, concerning, in particular, the institutionalisation of the ACP-EU JPA.

The PAHD Department, on behalf of the OACPS Secretariat, co-organised, with the Co-Secretariat of the European Parliament, a total of 14 statutory meetings at which parliamentarians from 106 countries deliberated on global issues, including, "The consequences of COVID-19 on ACP and EU countries"; "Democracy and the respect for constitutions in EU and ACP countries"; "The diversification of ACP economies: Challenges and opportunities"; and "Reducing the number of unemployed youth in ACP and EU countries".

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY INTER-SESSIONAL SUMMIT OF OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT



H.E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta.

H.E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and President-in-Office of the Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government, in collaboration with the OACPS Secretariat, convened the Organisation's first-ever **Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government**, on 3 June 2020.

The virtual three-hour Summit themed, "Transcending the COVID-19 Pandemic: Building Resilience through Global Solidarity", aimed to assess the global COVID-19 situation, and in particular, the effects and consequences on Members of the OACPS. In addition, the Summit sought to identify opportunities for global solidarity, action, and mitigation.

Having as its objective the creation of a platform for dialogue among OACPS leaders on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Summit provided

a strategic opportunity for the exchange of views on the interventions adopted by the three main regions of the OACPS since the onset of the pandemic. The OACPS also engaged with strategic development partners on common strategies and synergies to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the OACPS has mobilised over €200 million from the 11th EDF, which is financed by the European Union and co-managed by the OACPS, to aid its Member States to boost health systems and preparedness measures, and assist in the fight against COVID-19. Since the Summit, Members of the OACPS have collaborated with international partners to strengthen partnerships, fortify national health systems, and re-boot economies, which have been severely impacted by COVID-19.



The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados at the virtual Summit.



H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council at the virtual Summit.

“ COVID-19 makes the possibility of a macro-financial crisis in OACPS Member States very likely. OACPS countries must find between US\$50 and 60 billion this year, and much more in 2021, to meet their international obligations, in a context of foreign currency shortages. This will reduce their capacity to finance imports, and brings the risk of default and lower ratings, which will restrict their access to international capital markets. ”



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND TRADE (SETT)

The Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade (SETT) Department formulates and implements policies, programmes, and strategies in the areas of agricultural value chains, commodities, investment, economic infrastructure, private sector development, and trade, with the objective of contributing to the inclusive and sustainable economic

MR. ESCIPIÓN JOAQUÍN OLIVEIRA GÓMEZ,
of the Dominican Republic,
Assistant Secretary-General
of the SETT Department .

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME ON AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT

The €154 million “Framework programme for support to Agricultural Value Chains Development” was signed in October 2020. This intra-ACP funded programme, to be implemented over a period of more than 15 years, is critical to reducing the commodity dependence of several Members of the OACPS.

The programme’s overall objective is to empower actors along sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural value chains, specifically family farmers and MSMEs, with an emphasis on women and youth, to participate fully in the transformation and modernisation of the agriculture sector at the

COVID-19 CRISIS: MITIGATING ITS IMPACT ON OACPS MSMES - #ACPMSEDAY

growth and development of Members of the OACPS, their integration into the world economy, and the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty.



national/regional level, thereby increasing their incomes and reducing poverty and hunger, as well as improving maternal and child nutrition in Members of the OACPS. The programme specifically aims to develop and enhance the capacities of actors to attract financing and investment.

Among the expected results of the programme are greater COVID-19 recovery measures through specific short and medium-term actions, to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the agri-food sector in Members of the OACPS and on their food and nutrition security.

Based on the 2019 statistics from the SME Finance Forum, there are more than 50 million registered micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the OACPS regions. These MSMEs account for

approximately 90% of entrepreneurs and a share of employment that fluctuates between 50 and 70% across OACPS regions. In light of the importance of MSMEs to private sector development, the OACPS hosted a webinar to observe World MSME Day on 26 June 2020. Secretary-General, H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, in his welcome comments at the webinar, reaffirmed the OACPS Secretariat's commitment to support the private sector.

Titled, "COVID-19 crisis: Mitigating its impact on OACPS MSMEs, identifying and leveraging opportunities", the webinar aimed to enable OACPS MSMEs and other private stakeholders to understand the steps necessary to protect their businesses, reduce risks, and minimise the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. It also sought to help them anticipate the redeployment of their industrial and commercial activities in the context of the crisis.

Reflecting on the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on OACPS MSMEs, the Secretary-General

A €15.5 million endowment from the 11th EDF intra-ACP reserve helped finance the "OACPS-EU digital connectivity and digital solutions to strengthen the resilience of education, health and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) systems to COVID-19 in OACPS countries". This brought the total allocation for private sector programmes to €615.5 million. The above-mentioned programme seeks to support OACPS MSMEs in their digital transitions and assure business continuity during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

spoke of the critical importance of MSMEs to the socio-economic transformation of the OACPS regions. He also highlighted the work of the Joint Private Sector Development (PSD) Framework - a joint project of the OACPS and the European Commission, under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), which is financed for approximately €600 million.

MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE OACPS TOURISM LANDSCAPE

On the occasion of World Tourism Day on 25 September, in order to share experiences relating to the pandemic's negative impact on its Members' tourism industries, the OACPS hosted a webinar entitled, "Jointly Addressing the Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the tourism industry of the Members of the OACPS". The virtual event, comprised of two sessions, gave the floor to speakers from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, to share their perspectives on the challenges facing their tourism products and the socio-economic fallout resulting from the measures taken to contain the pandemic.

Session I of the webinar was dedicated to regional perspectives and explored support mechanisms for the tourism industry to counter the effect of the pandemic, with respect to employment and the industry's overall competitiveness.

In Session II, speakers concentrated on best practices in the private sector at national levels, for countering the effects of COVID-19 across the tourism sector.

The recommendations and strategic actions arising out of the webinar focused on restoring consumer and traveller confidence to visit tourist destinations in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific; developing local tourism products, such as eco-tourism and community-based tourism with greater involvement of women and indigenous peoples; establishing linkages with other value-chain suppliers; establishing requirements for harmonised international travel rules; supporting private sector involvement in tourism; and improving the business climate and undertaking reforms to relaunch job creation throughout regions served by the OACPS.

NEGOTIATING A NEW DEAL FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS: OACPS-EU POST-COTONOU PARTNERSHIP

The OACPS and EU Chief Negotiators, H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration of the Togolese Republic and Mrs. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, reached a political deal for a new partnership agreement to replace the current post-Cotonou Agreement, on 3 December 2020.

The negotiations were formally opened by the ACP and EU Chief Negotiators, Minister Dussey and the then European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development,

Mr. Neven Mimica, on 28 September 2018 in New York, USA, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The new Agreement covers a large number of areas, from sustainable development and growth, to human rights, and peace and security, and is geared towards empowering each region. Once in effect, the Agreement will serve as the new legal framework and guide for cooperation as well as political and economic relations between the EU and the 79 members of the OACPS, for the next twenty years.

BACKGROUND

Upon the adoption of the ACP Negotiating Mandate for a new Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EU) at the 107th session of the ACP Council of Ministers in Lomé, Togo, on 30 May 2018, the ACP Ministerial Central Negotiat-

ing Group (CNG-M) was established under the Chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey.

The negotiations comprised five rounds (see *Synopsis of the Negotiations*).

THE POST-COTONOU AGREEMENT



H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey.

The new partnership agreement includes a “Common Foundation”, which sets forth the values and principles that bring the States together and indicates the **strategic priority areas** that both sides intend to work on. These are: (i) human rights, democracy, and governance; (ii) peace and security; (iii) human and social development; (iv) inclusive sustainable economic growth and

development; (v) environmental sustainability; and climate change; and (vi) migration and mobility.

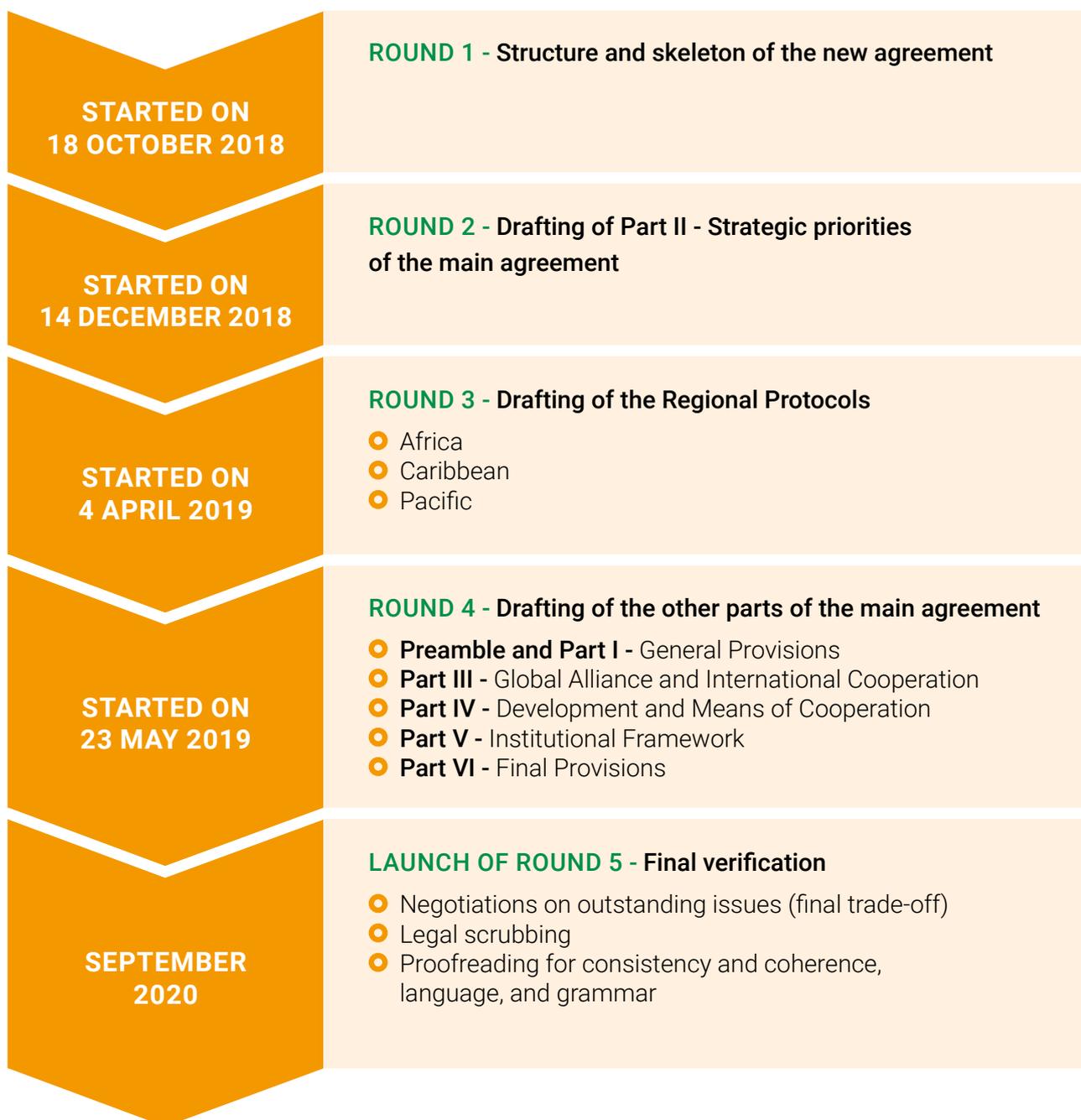
The new Agreement differs from previous agreements as it includes, most notably, three specific, action-oriented Regional Protocols for Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, in addition to the Common Foundation, which allow for an unprecedented regional focus. In addition, it places stronger emphasis on issues relating to climate change and environmental management, and includes the cross-cutting issues of gender and youth. The Agreement also pays special attention



(L-R): H.E. Prof. Dussey, H.E. Kokou Nayo M'beou, Ambassador of Togo and Commissioner Urpilainen.

to sustainable, inclusive growth and job creation, with particular focus on investment and private sector development.

Synopsis of the Negotiations



ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (AFHR)

The Department of Administration, Finance and Human Resources (AFHR) manages the daily administration and resources of the OACPS Secretariat, including direct oversight of the Secretariat's Information Technology (IT), Conference and Language Services. The AFHR Department is coordinating several major OACPS transformative projects, such as the Organisation's restructuring, the implementation of the new Staff Regulations, and the renovation of the OACPS Headquarters.

MRS. ISATOU AUBER-FAAL,
of the Republic of Gambia,
Assistant Secretary-General of the AFHR Department.



RESTRUCTURING OF THE OACPS SECRETARIAT



OACPS Council of Ministers in debate in Nairobi, Kenya, during the 110th session

The 110th session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, mandated the Committee of Ambassadors (CoA), via Decision No.3/CX/19, to commission a complete review of the Organisation's structure. The mandate to restructure the Secretariat was premised on the need to establish a Secretariat that is 'fit-for-purpose', results-oriented, and efficient in the use of its human, financial, and material resources, so as to become a "Centre of Excellence".

The restructuring exercise, which simultaneously represents the vision of the leaders of the OACPS as well as the main tenets of the revised Georgetown Agreement and the Nairobi "Ngunvu Ya Pamoja" Declaration, aims to reduce the overall human resources cost, create the possibility of harnessing new and young talent, ensure proper utilisation of the available talent and skills at hand, and automate systems and processes.

To facilitate the planned restructuring, which is expected to be completed by the 2nd quarter of 2021, contractual arrangements with staff were changed at the end of December 2020.



ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

The OACPS Council of Ministers, at its 106th session in December 2017, mandated the CoA to consider the establishment of a Board of External Auditors.

By Decision No. 5/CVIII/18 of 14 December 2018, the Council adapted the proposal and approved the establishment of an Audit and Budget Committee to assess the Secretariat's risk management and internal control practices in a systematic and

structured manner. The new Audit and Budget Committee will function as a supervisory body under the direction of the CoA.

Modifications to the Financial Regulations of the OACPS were required to facilitate the establishment of the Committee. Consequently, these amendments were approved at the 111th session of the Council of Ministers in December 2020.

REVISION OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

The OACPS Council of Ministers, during its 109th session held in Brussels, Belgium, from 21 to 22 May 2019, mandated the CoA to obtain a legal opinion on the draft amended Staff Regulations of the OACPS Secretariat [ACP/41/050/11 Rev. 2]. The Council of Ministers further required the CoA, upon receipt of the legal opinion, to finalise the revision of the Staff Regulations and assess its financial implications. The new Staff Regulations arising from these actions were approved during the 111th session of the OACPS Council of Ministers.

A consultant with experience in international civil service law and domestic labour and social security laws was engaged to provide the required legal opinions, in collaboration with the Senior Management of the Secretariat. Significant in the revised Regulations was the introduction of separate Regulations for two categories of staff: Expatriate and Locally-Recruited Staff. Consequently, a separate document for locally-recruited

staff, entitled 'Employment Regulations' has been prepared, in line with Belgian labour and social security laws.



OACPS Council of Ministers during the 109th session at the OACPS Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET FOR THE OACPS SECRETARIAT

The AFHR Department is responsible for the preparation and management of the OACPS' budget. In 2020, the Secretariat's budget comprised mainly the assessed contributions from Members of the OACPS and the contribution from the 11th EDF.

Contributions to the Secretariat's budget, as approved by Decision No. 7/CX/19 of the 110th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019.

Contributions:

1. From Member States of the OACPS

- Member States' assessed contributions
- Recovered arrears in contributions
- Interests on arrears in contributions
- Internal tax on staff emoluments
- Other revenue

€9,458,671 (59.46%)

€5,933,965

€1,877,263

€192,589

€1,451,354

€3,500

2. From the European Development Fund

€6,450,000 (40.54%)

TOTAL BUDGET

€15,908,671

OACPS in numbers - 2020

Staff members: **75**

Active Intra-ACP projects: **60**

Departments: **5 +**
Office of the Secretary-General

Member Countries: **79**

Member Regions: **6**

Nationalities represented
on staff: **29**

MANAGEMENT OF THE OACPS SECRETARIAT 2020

(January – December 2020)



Office of the Secretary-General (OSG)

H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti

Secretary-General

Department of Political Affairs and Human Development (PAHD)

Dr. Ibrahim Norbert-Richard

Assistant Secretary-General

Department of Structural Transformation and Trade (SETT)

Escipión Joaquín Oliveira Gómez

Assistant Secretary-General

Geneva Office

Felix Maonera

Department of Macro-Economics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming (MDFIP)

Tchale Banata Sow

Assistant Secretary-General

OACPS Information Centre for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Patrice Niyongabo

Department of Environment and Climate Action (ECA)

Cristelle Pratt

Assistant Secretary General

Department of Administration, Finance, Budget and Human Resources (AFHR)

Isatou Auber Faal

Assistant Secretary-General

Management Team who completed their term-in-office in 2020

- **H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes** – *Secretary-General*
- **Viwanou Gnassounou** – *Assistant Secretary-General*
- **Leonard Ognimba** – *Assistant Secretary-General*
- **Henrique Banze** – *Assistant Secretary-General*
- **Georges Maniuri** – *Assistant Secretary-General*

THE ORGANS OF THE OACPS

The Organs of the OACPS consist of the Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers (CoM), the Sectoral Ministerial Committees, the Committee of Ambassadors (CoA), the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly, and the Secretariat of the OACPS. The Organs and functions of the OACPS are delineated in the revised Georgetown Agreement [ACP/27/005/18 Rev.13].

The presidency of the Summit is currently held by H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

Leadership of the Bureau of the CoM and the CoA is organised on the basis of a six-month rotation among the six OACPS regions.

MEMBERS OF THE BUREAUX OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS 2019 – 2021



***1 AUGUST 2020 - 31 JANUARY 2021**

President of the CoM: H.E. Prof. Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, United Republic of Tanzania

Chair of the CoA: H.E. Mr. Jestas Abuok Nyamanga, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania

- **Caribbean Region:**
The Republic of Suriname
- **Central Africa Region:**
The Republic of Congo
- **East Africa Region:**
The Republic of Djibouti
- **Southern Africa Region:**
The Republic of Zambia

- **West Africa Region:**
The Republic of Liberia
- **Pacific Region:**
Papua New Guinea

Troika:

- **Chair:** The United Republic of Tanzania
- **Outgoing:** The Republic of The Gambia
- **Incoming:** The Independent State of Samoa



1 FEBRUARY 2020 - 31 JULY 2020

President of the CoM: H.E. Mr. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of The Gambia

Chair: H.E. Mrs. Teneng Mba Jaiteh, Ambassador of the Republic of The Gambia

○ **Caribbean Region:**

Jamaica

○ **Central Africa Region:**

The Republic of Congo

○ **East Africa Region:**

The Republic of Seychelles

○ **Southern Africa Region:**

The Republic of Zambia

○ **West Africa Region:**

The Republic of Guinea Bissau

○ **Pacific Region:**

The Republic of Fiji

Troika:

○ **Current:** The Republic of The Gambia

○ **Outgoing:** The Independent State of Papua New Guinea

○ **Incoming:** The United Republic of Tanzania



1 AUGUST 2019 - 31 JANUARY 2020

President of CoM: Hon. Patrick Pruaitch, CMG. MP., Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Papua New Guinea

Chair: H.E. Mr. Joshua Kalinoe, Ambassador of Papua New Guinea

○ **Caribbean Region:**

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

○ **Central Africa Region:**

The Republic of Congo

○ **East Africa Region:**

The Republic of Rwanda

○ **Southern Africa Region:**

The Republic of Botswana

○ **West Africa Region:**

The Republic of Guinea

○ **Pacific Region:** Vanuatu

Troika:

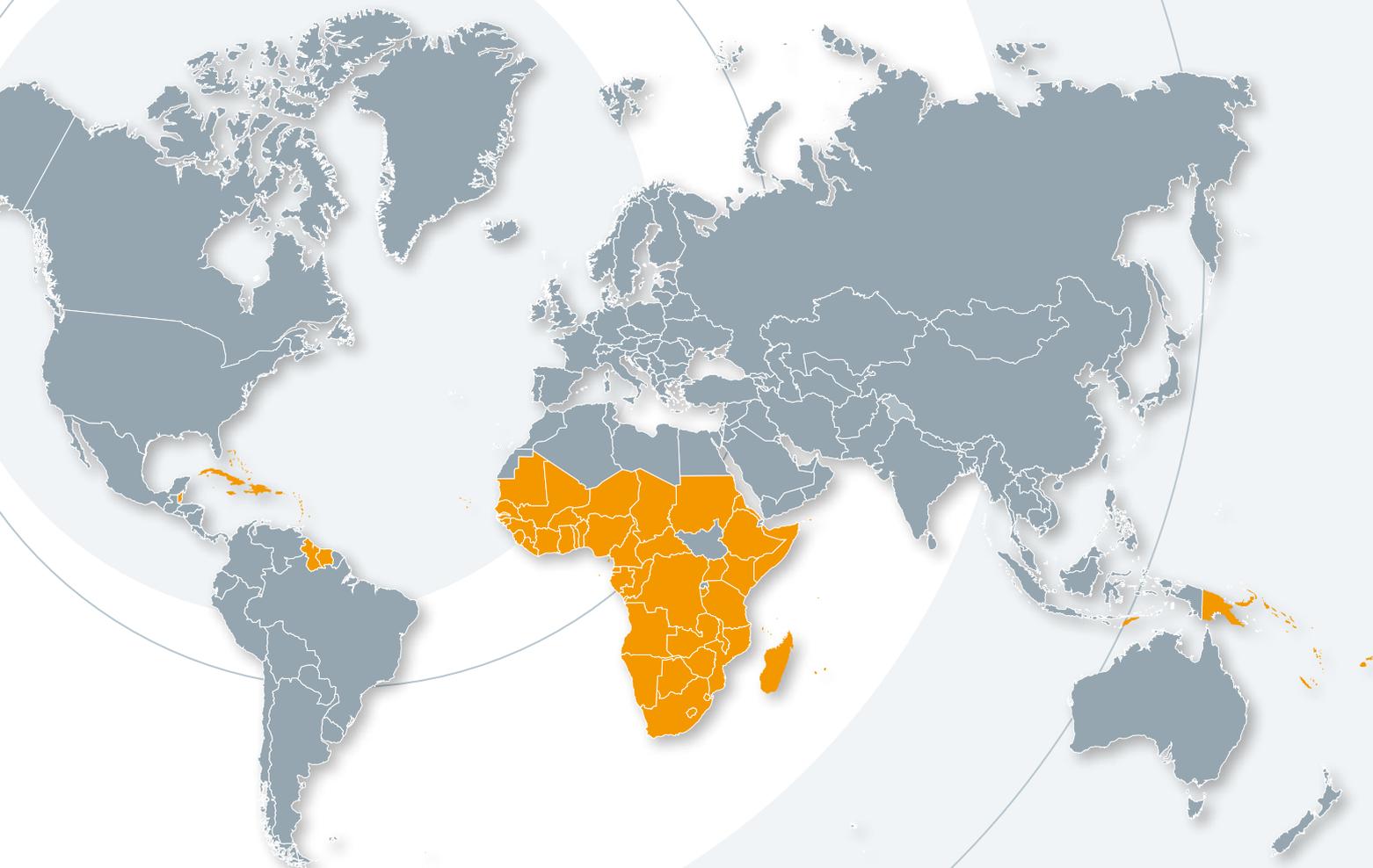
○ **Current:** The Independent State of Papua New Guinea

○ **Outgoing:** The Republic of Namibia

○ **Incoming:** The Republic of The Gambia

**Listed in reverse chronological order*

MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES



AFRICA

Angola; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Cabo Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Republic of Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Eswatini; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; São Tomé and Príncipe; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Tanzania; Togo; Uganda; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; and Trinidad and Tobago.

PACIFIC

Cook Islands; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

LIST OF ACRONYMS ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
AFHR	Administration, Finance and Human Resources
AMDC	African Minerals Development Centre
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
AUC	African Union Commission
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management
CMO	Caribbean Meteorological Organisation
CoA	Committee of Ambassadors
COLEACP	Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique
CoM	Council of Ministers
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
DG	Director-General
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Community
ECA	Environment and Climate Action
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
ETF	Endowment and Trust Fund
EU	European Union
EUMETSAT	European Organisation for the exploitation of Meteorological Satellite
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FISH4ACP	Sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+)
HE	His/Her Excellency
IGAD	Intergovernmental Agency for Development
Intra-ACP ClimSA	Intra-ACP Climate Services and related applications Programme
Intra-ACP GCCA+	Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme
IOC	Indian Ocean Community
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JRC	EU Joint Research Centre
MDFIP	Macro-Economics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSG	Office of the Secretary-General
PAHD	Political Affairs and Human Development
RCC	Regional Climate Centre
RI	Research and Innovation
RO	regional organisations
SADC	South African Development Community
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SETT	Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade
SG	Secretary-General
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
TIP	Technical Implementing Partners
TRADECOMM II	Trade Capacity Building Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNWTO	World Tourism Organisation
WMO	United Nations World Meteorological Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation



The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which became an international organisation in April 2020, evolved from the ACP Group, founded via the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The main goals of the OACPS centre around the sustainable development of its Members and their gradual integration into the global economy with the ultimate objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty; coordination of OACPS activities in the framework of the implementation of the existing Partnership Agreement with the European Union; consolidation of unity and solidarity among Members of the OACPS; the promotion of multilateralism; the establishment and strengthening of peace, security and stability in free and democratic societies; and the empowerment of Youth and Women.



Secretariat of the OACPS

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