



**1st Meeting of the Troïka of the Summit
of Heads of State and Government of the OACPS**

New York, 20 September 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ

His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in his capacity as President-in-Office of the OACPS Summit of Heads of State and Government, convened a meeting of the Troika of the Summit, which also includes the outgoing President (Kenya) and the next President (to be designated), represented here by the President of Suriname, on behalf of the Caribbean region.

The meeting was held in the margins of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in accordance with Article 13(2)(b) and (c) of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, and Resolution N°1 on the Strategy and Priorities of the Angolan Presidency for the period 2023-2025, of the 116th Session of the Council of Ministers held on 19 to 20 July 2023 in Brussels.

Also invited were the President of the Council of Ministers, the President of the Committee of Ambassadors, the Coordinators of the six OACPS regions, as well as the President of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and Co-President of the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly.

In this inaugural meeting since the adoption of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, the Troïka of the OACPS considered the following issues, presented by the Secretary-General, His Excellency Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti:

- (i)** Update on the implementation of the Summit declaration
- (ii)** OACPS's strategy for resource mobilisation;
- (iii)** the commitments of Member States to the decision-making process of the various bodies;
- (iv)** the signing of the new partnership agreement with the EU; and
- (v)** the diversification of partnerships.

At the end of its meeting, the Troika of the OACPS Summit of Heads of State and Government:

a) 10TH TROIKA OF THE SUMMIT AND THE 11TH SUMMIT

1. Welcomed the convening of the inaugural meeting of the Troika of the Summit and commended His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço for this initiative.
2. Instructed the Council of Ministers to organise an annual meeting in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly or other international conferences, according to the format of this first Troika meeting of the Summit of Heads of State and Government.
3. Welcomed the pledge by the President of Suriname to consult the Caribbean Region soon on the country that should host the 11th Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government in 2025.

b) ECONOMIC ISSUES

4. Noted that the EU has published three (3) new legislations– the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (RDFP), and the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) – under the European Green Deal.
5. Expressed concern the legislations are likely to result in increased compliance costs, loss of competitiveness, erosion of existing preferential edge, and general economic and trade deterioration for exporting developing countries.
6. Urged the OACPS to continue engaging the EU to accord more time for local sensitization, compliance, setting up necessary infrastructure and provide capacity building support.
7. Called for enhanced intra-OACPS cooperation, intra-OACPS collaboration, and private sector engagement and achieve real, and sustainable, South-South Cooperation.

c) CLIMATE CHANGE

8. Observed that climate change poses existential threat and major challenges to the economic growth and social development of the OACPS.
9. Noted that current global commitments in tackling climate change remains inadequate to significantly cut emissions and drive green growth. In this regard, underlined the critical importance of the establishment of the Loss and Damage Facility Fund and called for collaboration with the United Nations in ensuring speedy implementation to enable Member States access the Funds.
10. Expressed the need for enhancement of the resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), against climate change, and natural disasters, and the mitigation of threats, to stability, security, and democracy in our regions.

d) EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

11. Recalled that the 10th Summit reaffirmed the need to invest in and leverage emerging technologies as a critical tool in the fourth industrial revolution towards a knowledge-based economy, therefore reiterated the need for a mutually agreed criteria for categorizing middle income countries to allow them access concessional loans, grants and other forms of financing proportionate to their needs.

e) DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

12. Noted that the OACPS Diaspora form an integral part of the Member's economies and social fabric, and welcomes the creation of the OACPS Trade Platform for Engagement with the global diaspora initiatives as well as at the Nation-State level.
13. Commended the Secretary-General for establishing a strategy and mechanism for OACPS global diaspora engagement.

f) GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

14. Acknowledged that the world is experiencing a new cycle of geopolitical and geo-economic realities such as the war in Ukraine and the unrest all around the world, the rising cost of living and the recent increase in irregular migration have implications for the OACPS.
15. Reaffirmed the importance of multilateral coordination in global governance and that the OACPS, with its collective, 79 strong voice, has to be a primary player, to influence, and drive global initiatives in the shared interest of respective regions.
16. Urged the OACPS to continue upholding solidarity and speaking with one voice during the current session of the UN General Assembly and beyond.
17. Noted that the OACPS in its present form may not effectively cope with the emerging challenges, and in this context welcomed the reforms that the Secretary-General is undertaking to make OACPS fit-for-purpose.
18. Underlined the serious need in establishing an OACPS presence in New York to enhance and broaden the role and visibility of the OACPS on the international scene.

g) RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

19. Welcomed the consensus reached with the EU to expeditiously conclude signing of the Post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement on 15 November, 2023 at Apia, Samoa.
20. Called for strong participation of all Members of the OACPS to the signing of the Samoa Agreement and prepare for its effective implementation;
21. Deeply regrets the EU decision to apply unilateral and punitive measures, including sanctions and blacklisting of some OACPS countries with strategic deficiencies in Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes and pointed out that the unilateral measures are against the spirit of the OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement which aims to enhance strategic

dialogue and enhanced partnership. Therefore, notes the need to re-evaluate the political commitment with the EU to ensure a more productive relationship.

h) CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND EXCHANGE

22. Hailed the Samoa Agreement for recognizing the role of creative industries and cultural heritage in maintaining social cohesion, a source of creativity and innovation and a driver of economic development.

23. Emphasised the need to respect the cultural diversity amongst the OACPS, rejecting any attempts to impose foreign values and ensuring protection of the rich cultures of Member States.

i) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF PARTNERS

24. Welcomed the development of an OACPS resource mobilisation strategy, and Requested Member States to provide tangible support to all OACPS resource mobilisation efforts.

25. Commended the Secretary-General on his engagement with new partners and encourages him to continue in his efforts.

j) RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE ORGANISATION

26. Encouraged the participation of OACPS Member states in statutory meetings by their representatives, in order to improve the quality of decisions on the organisation and functioning of the OACPS.

27. Urged the Member States to honour their financial obligations to the organisation to enable the Secretariat to carry out its activities and meet its financial commitments

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