



Moussa S. BATRAKI

The OACPS Secretary-General

Statement of the OACPS Secretary-General on the Fifth Anniversary of the OACPS Foundation Day

Today, we celebrate a defining milestone in our shared history – the fifth anniversary of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). On April 5, 2020, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States evolved into the OACPS, cementing the unity 79 member states across three continents under a strengthened and dynamic international organisation. This evolution enshrined in the Revised Georgetown Agreement ratified in 2019 at the Nairobi Summit, built upon the vision sparked in 1975, when Foreign Ministers gathered in Georgetown, Guyana laid the foundation for a collective response to the pressing challenges facing Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

The Revised Georgetown Agreement articulates our mission with clarity: to eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development, to promote unity and solidarity among our nations, to uphold peace, democracy and good governance, to enhance economic, political, and cultural cooperation, and to champion environmental sustainability. It further commits us to inclusive multilateralism, strategic partnerships, and meaningful political dialogue, uniting 1.3 billion people in a shared pursuit of progress.

Over the past five years, the OACPS has translated these aspirations into impactful action. The Samoa Agreement, signed on November 15, 2023, and in provisional application since January 2024, has elevated our partnership with the European Union, advancing trade, investment, and development cooperation. Initiatives like FISH4ACP and BIOPAMA II, funded through the 11th European Development Fund, have enhanced food security, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods across our regions.

Our collective identity was powerfully affirmed at the 2022 Luanda Summit, themed “3 Continents, 3 Oceans, 1 Common Destiny”. The 2023 Global African Diaspora Symposium in Abuja and the planned Diaspora Centre of Excellence expected by 2025, reflect our determination to harness the potential of our global diaspora.

In the realm of peace and governance, the OACPS has taken meaningful strides – supporting Haiti through the International Security Assistance Coordination Group and collaborating with the United Nations and the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies. Inter-regional cooperation has deepened through the Inter-Regional Organisations Coordination Committee (IROCC) and expanded partnerships with countries like Indonesia, fostering mutual learning and innovation through knowledge exchange.

On environmental issues, we proudly supported Vanuatu’s campaign at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), culminating in a groundbreaking UN resolution in 2023. Our 2024 submission further demonstrates our leadership in climate justice. Resilience-building efforts have been strengthened through the Green Climate Fund financing in countries such as Mauritius and Comoros.

Globally, the OACPS has spoken with a strong, united voice – shaping critical dialogues at the UN Water Conference, COP28, and the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4). Our advocacy for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) reflects a commitment to equitable global frameworks. Our leadership in the ICJ case and COP28 negotiations further underscores our pursuit of environmental and social justice.



Expanded cooperation with the EU, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and partners in the Global South has widened our diplomatic and development horizons. Politically, our unified positions at COP28, and the establishment of regional parliamentary assemblies, affirm our dedication to democratic values visibility and institutional accountability.

As we look ahead, the OACPS remains resolute in confronting present and emerging challenges, guided by the Samoa Agreement an ambitious partnership and a renewed framework for the next twenty years. From now onwards, the OACPS is positioning itself to be at the forefront of addressing global challenges related to sustainable development, trade, and governance. However, to turn this vision into reality, the OACPS must strengthen its internal capacities and intensify its support to Member States.

Through a new upcoming initiative called: PACTE (Partnership, Climate Support, Trade, Institutional Transformation, and Elections), a structured and integrated approach that aims to fundamentally transform the organisation while delivering increased strategic support to Member States, we envisage to 1) revitalize of the OACPS-EU partnership, ensuring monitoring its effective implementation; 2) enhance our economic capacities, working through South-South researches and technical assistance in the trade sector; 3) strengthening our climate resilience and solidarity; 4) promote democratic governance by reinforcing parliamentary institutions and ensuring transparent electoral processes, and 5) modernize the OACPS Secretariat. Through PACTE we are laying the foundation for a more dynamic, effective, and influential OACPS, capable of meeting the evolving needs of its Member States and addressing global challenges with renewed ambition and strategic focus.

This fifth anniversary is therefore not only a moment for reflection but a renewed call to action: to deepen our solidarity reaffirm our shared commitment, and inspire future generations with the unity, purpose and ambition that define the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

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