



119TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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PRESS RELEASE

OACPS Concludes 119th Council of Ministers Session with Renewed Commitment to Reform, Regional Solidarity, and Structural Transformation.

Brussels, 25 May 2025 – The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) concluded the 119th Session of its Council of Ministers, held from 23 to 25 May 2025 in Brussels, Belgium. The session marked the Organisation's historic 50th anniversary, celebrated under the theme: "A Transformed and Renewed OACPS in a Changing World."

Chaired by Senator Pholile Dlamini-Shakantu, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Eswatini and President of the OACPS Council of Ministers, the session was the first regular Council meeting under the leadership of Secretary-General H.E. Moussa Saleh Batraki, who assumed office in March 2025.

Over three days, ministers representing the 79 Member States deliberated on four strategic priorities:

1. Institutional reform and financial sustainability
2. Implementation of the OACPS-EU Samoa Agreement
3. Launch of the "OACPS@50" commemorative initiative
4. Strengthening inter-regional cooperation across Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific

Ministers reaffirmed their collective resolve to reposition the OACPS as a credible, agile, and results-driven institution. They stressed the urgency of restructuring the Secretariat to align with financial constraints, promote transparency, and support a focused development agenda through streamlined governance, enhanced accountability, and restored trust among Member States and development partners.

Secretary-General Batraki presented a comprehensive programme to stabilize the Secretariat, restore its financial footing, and reactivate delivery of core mandates. His proposal to establish a Ministerial Advisory Group on Reform and Financing received strong endorsement, with ministers supporting granting him space to implement his reform vision while reinforcing oversight through the Committee of Ambassadors.

The Council formally launched OACPS@50, a global initiative to commemorate five decades of multilateral cooperation, adopting a concept note and activity calendar with observances planned across Member States.

Delegates noted that global instability, climate challenges, and persistent inequalities make the OACPS's mission more urgent than ever, emphasizing the need for a future-oriented agenda grounded in regional realities and international partnerships.

Ministers voiced strong support for the Secretary-General's reform agenda, including a new Ministerial Advisory Group on Reform and Financing, and called for continued oversight by the Committee of Ambassadors. The commemorative OACPS@50 programme was officially launched, with activities adapted to reflect the Organisation's financial constraints.

In the face of global instability, climate threats, and persistent inequalities, members reaffirmed their commitment to a revitalised OACPS grounded in regional realities and international partnerships. Several countries underscored the need for urgent reform, full ratification of the Samoa Agreement, and stronger governance structures.

The Council adopted 9 decisions and 4 resolutions to advance these priorities and agreed its next session will review progress. In closing, Council President Dlamini-Shakantu described the session as "a critical juncture for collective action," while Secretary-General Batraki stressed that the Organisation's future depends on unity, determination, and shared responsibility.

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