

OACPS SECRETARY- GENERAL'S STATEMENT

6 June 2025



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)

Dear friends and colleagues,

Today, we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) - fifty years of solidarity, shared purpose, and collective resilience across three continents.

When the Georgetown Agreement was signed in 1975, it brought together countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific - nations that, despite their distinct histories and geographies, shared a deep faith in cooperation, equity and the strength of unity.

From those bold beginnings as the ACP Group, the OACPS has established itself as one of the largest and most diverse groupings of developing countries in the world, today comprising 79 Member States.

Our mission has always been clear: to promote sustainable development; to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty; and to support our members' gradual and meaningful integration into the global economy.

At the same time, we have worked to strengthen multilateralism, promote peace and democratic governance, and ensured that women and young people are at the heart of building the future.

Over the decades, our partnerships have yielded real and lasting impact.

Through the Lomé Conventions, the Cotonou Agreement, and most recently, the Samoa Agreement (signed in November 2023 and provisionally applied since January 2024), we have deepened our collaboration with the European Union.

These frameworks have helped support agriculture, open opportunities for young people, boost entrepreneurship, and address the unique challenges faced by small island states, landlocked countries, and least developed nations.

But the OACPS transcends being simply a partnership platform.

It constitutes a family of nations determined to work together, even when global winds change direction. We have built mechanisms for dialogue and accountability through regular ministerial meetings, joint parliamentary assemblies while progressively constructing robust institutions that embody our common values and the richness of our concerted positions.

In 2020, we took a crucial step with the revised Georgetown Agreement, which allowed us to establish ourselves as an Organisation.

This change of name, far from being purely symbolic, reflects a deeper transformation. We have expanded our scope of action to tackle climate change, gender equality, private sector development and digital inclusion.

We have made a commitment to strengthen our internal governance.

Throughout all these years, we have spoken with one voice on issues of global trade, climate action and social justice.

This unity has forged our strength. It was made possible thanks to generations of leaders:

- By the heads of state who set our course during summits;
- By the ministers who knew how to navigate with discernment through changes; and
- By the ambassadors who represent us with tireless diplomacy.

This unity was also made possible by the Secretaries-General as well as the Secretariat staff who have kept this organisation on the path of progress.

Looking at the world around us today, we see that it is of unprecedented complexity.



Enequalities are widening. Multilateralism is being severely tested. Climate disasters are increasing in frequency and devastating power. Millions of people remain excluded from the digital universe. Global trade dynamics are evolving according to patterns that, too often, leave our members on the margins.

These are considerable challenges.

However, they are not insurmountable. And they remind us acutely of the enduring nature of the OACPS mission.

No country can, alone, confront these forces. But together, drawing on the deep wisdom of Africa, the indomitable spirit of the Caribbean and the creativity of the Pacific, we can offer a vision of hope, cooperation and shared prosperity.

What we need now is action: renewed political will, strengthened coordination and sustained investment in our common priorities.

We must continue our reforms, continue to adapt and remain attentive. Above all, we must remain faithful to the founding vision: the one that proclaims that together, we are stronger.

As we pay tribute to our predecessors, let us reaffirm our commitment to carry forward their legacy. Let us build a more just, more inclusive and more sustainable future - for all our peoples.

The next chapter of the OACPS opens today.

Let us write it together.

Thank you.

Moussa S. Batraki
Secretary - General

