



REFERENCE ACP/28/017/26 FINAL
Office of the Secretary-General

Malabo, 29 March 2026

11TH SUMMIT OF THE OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA
27-29 MARCH 2026

MALABO DECLARATION

A TRANSFORMED AND RENEWED OACPS IN A CHANGING WORLD


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**11th SUMMIT OF THE OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
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PREAMBLE

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), meeting at our 11th Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27-29 March 2026 under the theme: "A Transformed and Renewed OACPS in a Changing World."

- A.** Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Revised Georgetown Agreement (2019), which established the OACPS as a collective platform for cooperation, solidarity and shared progress among our Member States. Recalling the commitments and outcomes of previous OACPS Summits and Ministerial Meetings and reaffirming the collective resolve of our nations to strengthen unity, multilateral cooperation and sustainable development;
- B. Affirming** that the OACPS, representing over 1.5 billion people across three continents and seventy-nine (79) Member States, is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge among regions of the Global South and as an indispensable player in a rules-based system grounded on effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its core;
- C. Determined** to support the efforts of the OACPS as a unified strategic platform for the collective voice of its members in international decision-making processes, particularly in matters relating to trade, financing for development, climate action, digital governance and sustainable resource management;



- D. Recognising** the long-standing partnership between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union, including financial support to OACPS Member States and the Secretariat, and welcoming the strengthened cooperation under the OACPS–EU Samoa Agreement signed in November 2023, while underscoring the importance of continued dialogue and constructive engagement with the European Union to address outstanding institutional and partnership-related matters, in order to strengthen mutual trust and ensure the effective implementation of the Samoa Agreement;
- E. Recognising** the imperative need for a comprehensive institutional reset through a transformed and renewed OACPS that is institutionally resilient, politically cohesive and strategically repositioned to respond effectively to contemporary global realities, and affirming our shared commitment to strengthening unity, reinforcing solidarity and enhancing the effectiveness, credibility and relevance of the Organisation in the decades ahead; and affirming that transformation must reflect the aspirations of our peoples, particularly the youth who constitute the majority of our population;
- F. Conscious** that the financial sustainability and autonomy of the Organisation are indispensable to its effectiveness, and determined to advance innovative, predictable and diversified financing mechanisms, while promoting domestic resource mobilisation and equitable access to development finance and private sector collaboration to support the strategic priorities of our Member States;
- G. Recognising** the importance of sound financial governance, transparency and accountability, and further emphasising the need to strengthen prudent financial management, institutional oversight and internal accountability mechanisms to reinforce the confidence and trust of Member States and partners in the Organisation;
- H. Welcoming** the gracious acceptance by His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini to support as OACPS Champion for Resource Mobilisation and expressing our deep appreciation for his commitment and strategic leadership in advancing urgent and long-term financing solutions for the Organisation;



- I. **Acknowledging** that digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping global dynamics and offer significant opportunities for sustainable development in OACPS Member States, while underscoring the need to address associated risks through strengthened coordination, capacity-building and cooperation to promote ethical, secure and inclusive AI, safeguard data sovereignty, and foster local innovation;
- J. **Recognise** that the multilateral system is facing increasing pressures and fragmentation and reaffirm the commitment of Members of the OACPS to work collectively to strengthen and reform global governance institutions so that they better reflect contemporary realities and the needs of developing countries;
- K. **Further Recognising** the importance of peace and security in consolidating gains in sustainable development and economic transformation, and expressing concern over the activities of terrorist groups and transnational organised crime affecting certain OACPS Member States.

HEREBY DECLARE ON:

I. A TRANSFORMED AND RENEWED OACPS

1. **Commit** to comprehensive institutional modernisation through forward-looking structural reforms of the Secretariat and all institutions and consultative bodies of the Organisation with a view to strengthening fiduciary integrity, enhancing operational efficiency, promoting transparency, securing long-term financial sustainability, and embedding a robust culture of results-based management within the Secretariat, in line with the highest international standards;
2. **Appreciate the initiative** of the Secretary-General to place the issues of the Partnership, Action on Climate, Commerce and Trade, Transformation of Institutions, and Elections (PACTE) as a Strategic Framework (2026–2030), anchored in measurable deliverables, flagship programmes and regional project pipelines, and agree to prioritise a focused set of strategic areas with the highest potential for long-term impact and transformative development outcomes for Member States such as Trade and Economy, Climate Change, Agrifood systems, Sustainability, Digitalisation and Leveraging the Ocean and mineral resources;



3. **Reaffirm** our strong commitment to the effective and timely implementation of the Samoa Agreement and call upon all Member States and partners to accelerate the ratification process in order to enable the Agreement to fully enter into force and deliver its intended benefits for sustainable development, economic cooperation and strengthened interregional partnership;
4. **Reaffirm** the central role of the OACPS Secretariat in supporting Member States in the implementation of the Samoa Agreement, in coordination with regional organisations and other relevant institutional actors and pledge our full political and financial support to ensure its effective implementation, transforming the Agreement's provisions into a living instrument for sustainable development and regional prosperity;
5. **Agree** to review the Revised Georgetown Agreement to ensure its alignment with the outcomes of the ongoing institutional reforms, the institutional framework of the Samoa Agreement, including its parliamentary dimension;
6. **Commit** to enhancing and diversifying economic and trade partnerships, including through the pursuit of mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership agreements with key economic partners and regional groupings, in order to expand market access, promote investment, and strengthen the economic resilience and competitiveness of OACPS Member States;
7. **Commit** to advancing sustainable management and value addition of ocean and mineral resources by promoting national blue economy strategies, port modernisation, maritime security, sustainable fisheries management and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU); and encourage local processing and value addition of mineral resources through stable, transparent and investor-friendly regulatory frameworks;
8. **Reaffirm** the sovereign right of Member States endowed with natural resources to promote local transformation, value addition and local content policies in the exploitation of critical and strategic raw materials, supported by equitable industrial partnerships, effective technology transfer and increased access to financing for industrial development;



9. **Further** commit to exploring modalities for broadening the membership of the OACPS, including through the inclusion of associate members and observers, in a manner that strengthens the Organisation's global reach and collective influence. Any such modalities regarding Associate Membership shall be developed in accordance with the Revised Georgetown Agreement.

II. FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE, CONTROL AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR THE OACPS

10. **Mandate** the strengthening of internal financial control mechanisms, including regular and independent audits, to ensure transparency, fiduciary integrity, and institutional trust and instruct that strict financial discipline, good governance, and accountability be enforced;
11. **Commend** His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini, in his capacity as OACPS Champion for Resource Mobilisation, for his steadfast commitment, strategic leadership and proactive engagement in advancing both immediate and long-term solutions to strengthen the Organisation's financial sustainability. We further pledge our full political support to his efforts to mobilise the necessary resources to secure the immediate stabilisation of the Organisation's finances and to reinforce the financial resilience, autonomy and long-term sustainability of the OACPS;
12. **Mandate** continued engagements with the European Union to address partnership issues with a view to strengthening mutual trust for effective implementation of the Samoa Agreement. Further mandates the development of diversified financing approaches that leverage innovative and non-traditional sources of revenue in order to strengthen the financial sustainability and resilience of the Organisation, and encourage further consideration of such options within the appropriate governing bodies;
13. **Resolve** to rationalise administrative and operational expenditures and the careful optimisation of costs associated with the current hosting and maintenance of the headquarters of the Organisation in Brussels, in accordance with Article 23 of the Revised Georgetown Agreement;



14. **Instruct** that the OACPS Endowment and Trust Fund be restructured to ensure that it is legally compliant and transparent, transforming it into a viable and professionally managed instrument for the Organisation's long-term fiscal autonomy;
15. **Request** the Secretariat to conduct a study of the cost of operating at the current headquarters with a view to relocating to an OACPS State as an option to consider.

III. SOLIDARITY OF THE 79 STATES

16. **Declare** that solidarity among OACPS Member States shall be grounded in respect for State sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual support, shared responsibility and collective advancement in times of stability as well as in moments of crisis; express our solidarity with Member States affected by conflicts, including terrorism in all its forms, transnational organised crime, piracy and other crises; and strongly reject any unilateral action, recognition or interference that seeks to fragment, destabilize or compromise the unity and stability of an OACPS Member State, and affirm that such actions are contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the foundational values of solidarity and mutual respect that underpin our Organisation;
17. **Resolve** to ensure that this solidarity translates into unity of voice and purpose, enabling us to defend common positions, uphold shared principles, strengthen political coordination and align our positions effectively in the international arena, thereby enhancing our collective credibility, amplifying our global voice and reinforcing our ability to act decisively and cohesively in pursuit of sustainable development, peace and prosperity for all our peoples;
18. **Determine** to address the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation particularly in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Africa and recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation, Welcome the COP31 Pre Cop meetings to be held in Fiji and Tuvalu and Further commend the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as host of the COP 32 scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in November 2027 and encourage High level participation of Member States of UNFCCC and other stakeholders;



19. **Reaffirm** strong support to combat drought, Land degradation and desertification, recognising these as critical challenges for sustainable development and community resilience. Underline political commitment to actively contribute to the success of the upcoming COP in Mongolia and fully support the efforts undertaken by the UNCCD to strengthen collective action on sustainable land management, land restoration, and food security.

IV. OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE: MULTILATERALISM AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

20. **Reiterate our call** for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations system, including the Security Council, and international financial institutions to ensure that they are fit for purpose and more equitable representation of developing countries, particularly those of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, as well as ensure that their objectives are aligned with the needs of developing countries. We also reaffirm the central role of regional and sub-regional organisations in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and global governance, and call for a strengthened, structured partnership between the United Nations and these organisations, based on mutual respect and the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity;
21. **Commit** to promote as far as practical and without prejudice to existing caucuses pre-negotiation consultations and strengthening coordination among OACPS Permanent Missions in New York, Geneva, Brussels, Nairobi and other strategic centres, including in the areas of trade, financing for development, climate action, digital governance, operationalisation of the multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI), debt sustainability, the sustainable and equitable management of critical raw materials (CRM) and strategic resources to ensure coherence, consistency and effective collective advocacy in defense of our common interests;



22. **Resolve** to deepen strategic engagement with international and regional partners, including the African Union, CARICOM, the Pacific Islands Forum, the European Union and other regional and emerging groupings and partners, through structured dialogue mechanisms grounded in mutual respect, shared priorities and equitable partnership;
23. **Intensify** coordinated engagement on Climate Change and Sustainability and related processes to advocate for the interests of Member States and facilitate improved access to climate finance and relevant global climate funds, while promoting sustainable development pathways across the OACPS;
24. **Recognise** the strategic role played by Member States endowed with significant forest and marine ecosystems in global climate regulation and the preservation of biodiversity, and call, where feasible, for consideration to be given to the establishment of equitable, predictable and climate justice-based international mechanisms to remunerate ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and the conservation of forests.

V. TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

25. **Express** concern over recent geopolitical disruptions, unilateral tariff measures and regulatory fragmentation, which create uncertainty regarding market access conditions, disrupt supply chains, deter investment, and disproportionately affect Members of the OACPS;
26. **Reaffirm** our commitment to a fair and open rule-based multilateralism to strengthen trade, investment and economic integration among the members of the OACPS in order to expand intra-ACP trade, enhance participation in regional and global value chains, and promote economic diversification, value addition and sustainable industrial development;
27. **Commit** to improving the enabling environment for trade and investment through strengthened trade facilitation, enhanced connectivity, and the development of efficient infrastructure, logistics and digital trade systems to support private sector development and competitiveness.



VI. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

28. **Encourage** the elaboration of a Digital OACPS Vision aimed at expanding cross-regional digital infrastructure connectivity, promoting regional cooperation to combat cybercrime, promoting data sovereignty and secure governance frameworks, strengthening innovation ecosystems and digital entrepreneurship, and enhancing digital literacy and workforce mobility across Member States, as well as ensuring that emerging technologies serve inclusive and development-oriented objectives while preserving data privacy;
29. **Resolve** to establish an OACPS emerging technologies Cooperation Framework to promote structured data-sharing partnerships, foster open and inclusive innovation ecosystems, strengthen local research capacity and safeguard our collective technological sovereignty. In this regard, we support the development of regional AI research and innovation hubs, as centres of excellence serving all OACPS regions;
30. **Promote** strengthened intra-OACPS cooperation in digital transformation, including artificial intelligence research, digital trade integration, cybersecurity cooperation, and the development of standardised and secure digital public infrastructure. In this context, encourage collaboration among Member States, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems to support the development of regional centres of excellence in artificial intelligence, foster knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, and promote inclusive innovation that contributes to sustainable development and technological sovereignty across OACPS regions;
31. **Establish** a digital Platform for innovation and entrepreneurship aimed at linking the youth and entrepreneurs in the OACPS Regions, to share their experience, seek collaboration, raise capital and develop a market for their projects and innovative ideas.



VII. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

32. **Commend** the ICJ for its favourable Advisory opinion on the obligations of states in respect to climate change;
33. **Acknowledge** that the climate crisis constitutes the most serious existential threat to several of our Member States, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We urge the international community to honour the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and to accelerate the implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring that resources reach the most vulnerable communities in a timely manner;
34. **Underscore** the Bridgetown Initiative, the financing for Development in the Era of COVID 19 and Beyond Initiative and the *Compromiso de Sevilla*, and further call for urgent reform of international financial architecture to reflect contemporary global realities and to ensure equitable representation, improved access to concessional and climate finance that does not put pressure on public debts, to ensure the implementation of SDGs and a fairer global economic system responsive to the needs of developing countries;
35. **Advocate** for the universal adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the operationalisation of Loss and Damage mechanisms, specifically tailored to the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) fragile economies, and middle-income OACPS States that are disproportionately affected by external shocks.

VIII. PEOPLE-CENTERED AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

36. **Reaffirm** that our transformation must be people-centred, inclusive, and equitable and commit to empowering youth and women as agents of innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship, including through the institutionalisation of permanent youth and women's engagement platforms within the OACPS framework, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes at all levels;



37. **Endorse** the outcomes and recommendations of the Youth Forum, Women's Forum, Business Summit and SIDS Forum and call for their implementation and encourage all OACPS members to advocate for these recommendations in multilateral and international foras as well as their national context;
38. **Call** for strengthened engagement with multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia, and diaspora communities, as partners in development, as well as commitment to a flexible and conducive financial system to facilitate diaspora remittances;
39. **Acknowledge** the sustained efforts of our Member States to progressively realise the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
40. **Deeply concerned** about the growing risk of reversing decades of progress in global health, including in women's and girls' health. We underline that the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic must not fade as the world confronts fractures in multilateralism and solidarity in addressing pressing health challenges, including pandemic preparedness and response, equitable benefit-sharing, and the health impacts of climate change;
41. **Reaffirm** our unwavering commitment to accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage and the full realisation of the right to health. We renew our commitment to multilateralism for health and the central role of the UN system. We also recognise the critical contribution of partners and international organisations to address universal health coverage and the right to health. In this regard, we recognise the OACPS partnership with the Global Centre for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI) to advance south-south cooperation and to develop a shared vision in global health;



42. **Emphasise** that pandemic prevention, preparedness and response must be grounded in solidarity, fairness and equity, and support the effective implementation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, including the timely operationalisation of an equitable and enforceable Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) mechanism, ensuring that global health governance is just, inclusive and sustainable.

IX. FINAL PROVISIONS

43. **Agree** to convene the 12th Summit of the OACPS at a time and venue to be determined between the President of the 11th Summit and the authorities of the future host country;
44. **Invite** Member States wishing to host the 12th Summit to express their interest to the Secretariat within six months from the date of the conclusions of the 11th Summit, with a view to ensuring the full constitution of the Summit Troika;
45. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of the Summit Troika to ensure continuity, political coordination and strategic oversight between Summits;
46. **Commend** the outgoing President of the 10th Summit and President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, for his outstanding visionary leadership of the organisation and the manner in which he steered and protected the interests of the organisation in the international fora;
47. **Express** our profound appreciation to His Excellency the President-in-Office of the Summit and President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the Government and the People of Equatorial Guinea for hosting a historic 11th Summit and for their warm hospitality;
48. **Express** our sincere appreciation to all Heads of State and Government who served as Champions of the various forums convened on the margins of the 11th Summit;



49. **Declare** that the Malabo Declaration marks a decisive step toward a technologically empowered, financially resilient and globally influential OACPS;
50. **Request** the Secretary-General to present to the Council of Ministers, at its first ordinary meeting following the Summit, a detailed roadmap for the implementation of this Declaration, with progress indicators, clear responsibilities and implementation timeline, and to report annually on the progress achieved;
51. **Instruct** the Secretary-General of the OACPS to forward this Malabo Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament, Heads of OACPS regional integration organisations and international organisations, as well as to the other development partners of the OACPS.

Done in Malabo, 29 March 2026

**Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
President of the Republic of
Equatorial Guinea and
President of the 11th Summit of the
OACPS Heads of State and Government**