

**DECISION No.1/CII/15**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015,

**HAVING REGARD** to Article 7 of the Georgetown Agreement on the Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government;

**HAVING REGARD** to Paragraph 38 of the Libreville Declaration in which ACP Heads of State and Government, meeting at their first Summit in Libreville, Gabon, on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 1997, undertook to meet on a regular basis and mandated the Council of Ministers to make the necessary arrangements to this end;

**HAVING REGARD** to Paragraph 71 of the Sipopo Declaration and Decision No. 2/XVI/12 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government regarding the presentation, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government, of the outcome of the work of the Committee of Ambassadors' Working Group and the Eminent Persons Group tasked with reflecting on the future of the ACP Group;

**HAVING EXAMINED** the progress report of the Ambassadorial Working Group on the Future Perspectives of the ACP Group as contained in (Document ACP/27/041/13 Rev.2) and the progress report on the ACP Eminent Persons Group on the future of the ACP Group as presented in the Secretary-General's report to Council (Document ACP/11/007/13);

**HAVING EXAMINED** the report of the Committee of Ambassadors to Council, in particular the Addendum on Preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit on ACP Heads of State and Government under the theme : "Repositioning the ACP Group to respond to the challenges of Sustainable Development" contained in document (ACP/28/020/15 Rev1 )

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**HEREBY DECIDES TO:**

1. **Approve** and acknowledge, with appreciation, the offer made by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to host the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government in Port Moresby from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.
2. **Instruct the Committee of Ambassadors**, the ACP Secretariat and the host country to proceed with the ongoing work on the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government.
3. **Appeal to all ACP Member States** to take all the necessary measures to ensure a successful Summit including the undertaking of diplomatic, promotional and advocacy activities.
4. **Approve the theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit** "Repositioning the ACP Group to respond to the challenges of Sustainable Development". *esa*

Done in Brussels on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015



**Honourable Dr Mamphono KHAKETLA**  
**Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Lesotho**  
**and President of the ACP Council of Ministers**

**DECISION No. 12/CII/15**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**ACP PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY** *209*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015,

**CONSIDERING** the resolution of the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium on 26, 27 and 29 May 2015, on the orderly closure of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and the setting up of the Light Structure for ACP private sector development support;

**CONSIDERING** the ACP strategy for private sector development adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers on 12 December 2015 during its 100<sup>th</sup> session held in Brussels, Belgium [ACP/85/070/14];

**RECALLING** Decision no. 6/XCIX/14 on the Centre for the Development of Enterprise, adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers during its 99<sup>th</sup> session in Nairobi, Kenya on 18 June 2014;

**RECALLING** Decision no. 7/XCIX/14 on the joint ACP-EU Cooperation Framework for private sector development support in ACP countries, adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers during its 99<sup>th</sup> session held in Nairobi, Kenya on 18 June 2014;

**UNDERSCORING** the compromise reached between ACP and EU Ministers during the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the joint Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, in June 2014, on the concurrence of the orderly closure of the CDE and the setting up of a light structure capable of adequately meeting the needs of the ACP private sector, while safeguarding the gains and the best practices of the CDE;

**REITERATING** the urgency of setting up an ACP-EU platform for private sector development in preparation for the creation of a Light Structure able to adequately meet the needs of the ACP private sector while safeguarding the gains and the best practices of the CDE;

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**REAFFIRMING** the crucial role of the private sector in the economic and social development of ACP States and regions;

**HAVING EXAMINED** the report of the Committee of Ambassadors on the ACP strategy for the development of the ACP private sector and moving forward the orderly closure of the CDE presented during the 102nd session of the Council of Ministers;

**HEREBY DECIDES:**

1. To **approve** the ACP Concept Note on the Light Structure [ACP/85/021/15 Final] as well as the Concept Note on the appointment of Regional Focal Points for ACP private sector support [ACP/85/052/15 Final]; and
2. To **instruct** the ACP Committee of Ambassadors to engage in negotiations with the European side, as soon as possible, with a view to making all the necessary arrangements for the speedy setting-up of a Light Structure, by including all the stakeholders, in particular, the Regional Integration Organisations and their specialised structures, intermediary private-sector regional and national organisations, and development partners. *log*

Done in Brussels on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015



**Honourable Dr Mamphono KHAKETLA**  
**Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Lesotho**  
**and President of the ACP Council of Ministers**

DECISION No. 13/CII/15  
OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

**THE ACP ISSUES PAPER ON THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFERENCE (COP21)** *log*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015,

- A. **RECOGNIZING** that the adverse impacts of climate change poses immediate and long-term significant risks to sustainable development and threatens the very survival of the 79 developing countries, including 48 from Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific, that make up the ACP Group;
- B. **NOTING** with grave concern that the resulting impacts of global temperature rise would disproportionately affect the Small Island Developing States, the Least Developed Countries and African countries;
- C. **REAFFIRMING** its commitment to ensuring a successful 2015 Paris Agreement;
- D. **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors;

**HEREBY DECIDES TO:**

- 1. **Welcome** the efforts of the Committee of Ambassadors in preparing the ACP Group for the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21).
- 2. **Endorse** the ACP Issues paper on the Paris Climate Change Conference.
- 3. **Mandate** the ACP Group of States to continue its efforts to collaborate with like-minded Groups in supporting a strong and legally binding outcome in Paris and its implementation thereafter. *log*

Done in Brussels on 25 November 2015



**Honourable Dr Mamphono KHAKETLA**  
**Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Lesotho**  
**and President of the ACP Council of Ministers**

# RESOLUTIONS <sup>LOG</sup>

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 102<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS (BELGIUM) FROM 24<sup>th</sup> TO 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**ACP AGRICULTURE COMMODITY TRADE AND  
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT** *209*

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015,
- A. HAVING REGARD** to the resolution of the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, on 26, 27 and 29 May 2015, on the Development of the ACP Commodities sector;
- B. HAVING EXAMINED** the document on outcome and follow-up on issues arising from the 18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Trade Committee and the 13<sup>th</sup> Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee meetings held from 22 – 26 June 2015, as well as the ACP Ministers of Trade meeting held on 20 – 21 October 2015 - ACP/61/047/15 Rev 2;
- C. RECALLING** that the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas concluded in Geneva on 15 December 2009, between the European Union (EU) and some Latin American countries, and with the United States of America, aims to create a tariff reduction schedule meant to set tariffs for the import of banana into the European Union at €114 per tonne;
- D. NOTING** however, that in the meantime, Central American and Andean Pact Countries obtained a landing duty of €75 per tonne through bilateral agreements with the EU, beyond existing commitments, allowing them to save, to date, more than €1 billion in customs duties to the detriment of the ACP regions;
- E. RECALLING** that the abolition of EU sugar and isoglucose quotas in September 2017 would lead to a loss of preferential market share for the ACP States due to the open competition among ACP, EU and third countries;
- F. RECALLING FURTHER** that for trade preferences in sugar to have value and for EU Policy Coherence for Development to have meaning, it is essential that favourable trade rules promoted by Economic Partnership Agreements and the "Everything but Arms" initiative remain fully effective, secure and reasonably remunerative;

- G. CONCERNED** that in a completely liberalised EU market, ACP sugar producers will have to compete with some large low-cost exporters (i.e. the so-called CXL exporters, mainly Brazil and Australia) and an increasing number of countries benefiting from the new Free Trade Area agreements being negotiated by the EU;
- H. WELCOMING** the positive results achieved under the ACP Sugar Research Programme (ACP-SRP) and being made available to industrialists and other centres in ACP States with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of the ACP sugar sector;
- I. TAKING NOTE OF** the ongoing actions to implement the Conclusions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Steering and Follow-up Committee of the EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton (COS-Coton), held in Cotonou from 9 to 11 March 2015, particularly regarding the implementation of a Pan-African agenda on Cotton over the next 10 years;
- J. TAKING NOTE ALSO** of the results achieved by the various actions taken with the ultimate goal of enhancing Pacific Islands' policies on good agricultural practices, processing and trade in kava;
- K. CONSIDERING** the provisions in the European Parliament and Council Directive 2014/40/EU on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products referred to as the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD), which aims to regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of tobacco products within the European Union;
- L. UNDERLINING** that the implementation of Plain Packaging provisions in the TPD has not reduced tobacco consumption but rather rendered smoking cheaper, thereby resulting in the unwanted outcome of increasing the number of smokers;
- M. STRESSING** the fact that the Plain Packaging measures are not only disproportionate to the health provisions of TPD but also contrary to Multilateral rules, specifically two WTO Agreements, Article 2.2 of the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) and Article 20 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Agreement;

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- N. NOTING** that the TPD Directive calls on EU Member States to incorporate the Directive into their national laws by May 2016;
- O. STRESSING** the role played by the production of various commodities such as bananas, cashew nuts, cotton, tobacco, kava or sugar in ACP countries as a driver of economic development and a major foreign exchange earner;
- P. UNDERLINING** the fact that as an efficient development tool, the production of these commodities ties people to their communities;
- Q. ACKNOWLEDGING** that the commodities sector is included among the core sectors for private sector development under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Intra-ACP strategy;
- R. ANXIOUS** to make operational the ACP Group's New Approach to the Commodities Sector, currently under preparation by the ACP Secretariat, and to allocate adequate resources for its implementation;
- S. RECALLING** the urgent need to ensure that in the framework of the New Approach to the Commodities Sector, special attention is paid to the development of value chains at local and regional level, by taking account of the critical role played by small-scale producers;
- T. NOTING** the Report submitted to the ACP Council of Ministers on 24 November 2015 by the ACP spokesperson for Sugar;
- U. HAVING EXAMINED** the Report of the Secretary-General-ACP/11/002/15 Rev 1 and the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors to the 102<sup>nd</sup> Session of ACP Council of Ministers-ACP/26/081/15 Rev 1, particularly the Section on Sustainable Economic Development and Trade;

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1. **Welcomes** the European Commission's indication that no further tariff liberalisation will be granted to EU trade partners who are direct competitors of ACP Countries on the Banana market and calls on the European Commission to formally commit to that goal in order to prevent a further reduction in tariffs below €75 for the Latin American countries ;
2. **Welcomes also** the European Commission's oral indication that the special safeguard clause set out in EU Market Access Regulation 1528/07 and in the Economic Partnership Agreements cannot be used to discriminate against imports of ACP sugar but only as an indicator of possible market disturbance and invite again the European Commission to firmly confirm this in writing;
3. **Urges** the European Commission to refrain not only from a direct intervention in sugar market supply arrangements, but also from a continuing public debate, which might encourage buyers to hold back unnecessarily, and reminds the European Commission of article 12 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
4. **Invites** the Committee of Ambassadors to work closely with the ACP Secretariat to establish a clear finalization and implementation plan for the New ACP Approach to the Commodities sector;
5. **Calls on** the European Union and EU Member States to refrain from the inordinate extrapolation of the Directive 2014/40/EU, to extend the deadline for its entry into force by a year and to implement Article 11 of the Directive instead of Articles 9, 1, 9.2 and 10;
6. **Invites** the President of the Council of Ministers to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, EU Member States, and the European Commission. *eo*

Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**RESOLUTION ON FISHERIES** *209*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015
  
- A. HAVING CONSIDERED** the Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Brussels from 22-23 July 2015 (**ACP/84/089/15 FINAL**);
  
- B. RECALLING** the Resolution on the establishment of the ACP Fisheries Mechanism, adopted in Addis Ababa, at the 87<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, in June 2008;
  
- C. FURTHER RECALLING** the Resolutions of the ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture adopted at their meetings in June 2009, in Brussels, November 2010, in Mahé Seychelles; June 2012, in Nadi, Fiji, and in July 2015, in Brussels;
  
- D. AFFIRMING** the important role that fisheries and aquaculture play in the social and economic development of ACP States;
  
- E. REAFFIRMING** the shared commitment of the ACP States to work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 14; to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
  
- F. HAVING REGARD** to the proposed European Union (EU) Council regulation on opening and providing for the management of Autonomous Union tariff Quotas (ATQ) for certain fishery products for the period 2016 – 18;
  
- G. CONCERNED** with the sustained preference erosion of the ACP fish and fishery products in the European Union Market;
  
- H. DESIROUS** of ensuring proper stewardship of ACP fisheries resources and improving the competitiveness of production and trade in fish and fishery products;

1. **Welcomes** the Resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture held on the 22 - 23 July, 2015;
2. **Calls** for implementation of the ACP Strategic Action Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the priority areas identified in the Road map, to this end, **instructs** the Committee of Ambassadors to identify financing options from resources of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) as well as from other sources;
3. **Calls** on the European Union to remove Hake and shrimps of species *Penaeus vannamei* from the Annex of the proposed EU Council Regulation and review downwards the Tuna loins annual quota to 15,000 tons, at a higher tariff rate of 6%; and
4. **Invites** the President of Council to forward this Resolution to the Council of the European Union, European Commission and the European Parliament. *eca*

Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**ORDERLY CLOSURE OF THE CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF ENTERPRISE (CDE) 209**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

- A. CONSIDERING** the resolution of the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, on 26, 27 and 29 May 2015, on the orderly closure of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and the setting up of the Light Structure on ACP private sector development support;
- B. RECALLING** the decision on the orderly closure of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), adopted by the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers during its 39<sup>th</sup> session held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19 and 20 June 2014 [**ACP/21/007/14**];
- C. RECALLING** the declaration on the joint ACP-EU Cooperation Framework for Private Sector Development in ACP Countries, adopted by the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers during its 39<sup>th</sup> session held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19 and 20 June 2014 [**ACP/85/056/14**];
- D. REITERATING** the need to adhere to the mandate of the joint Council of Ministers of Nairobi on completing the CDE's ongoing support programmes for private sector development support in ACP countries;
- E. UNDERSCORING** the urgency of ensuring that the orderly closure of the CDE respects the rights of all stakeholders, avoiding any possible litigation;
- F. TAKING IN ACCOUNT** the final report on the closure of the CDE presented to the CDE's Executive Board on 29 and 30 June 2015 and on 24 and 25 September 2015;

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**RESOLUTION ON THE ORDERLY CLOSURE OF THE CENTRE  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTERPRISE (CDE)**

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**G. CONCERNED** by the lack of attention accorded by the CDE's Executive Board and the European side to the CDE's gains and good practices that should be identified, consolidated and transferred to a third structure in conformity with the joint declaration of Nairobi, Kenya on the CDE;

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**H. HAVING EXAMINED** the Committee of Ambassador's report on the orderly closure of the CDE, presented during the 102<sup>nd</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers;

1. **Urges** the CDE's Executive Board and the European Union to ensure that the appropriate and expeditious procedures as determined by the special context of the CDE's orderly closure be implemented for a better transfer of the support programmes for private sector development still under way to the third structures identified;
2. **Calls for** the CDE's Executive Board and Curator, to do the utmost to ensure that the social dialogue is a success both at headquarters and in the regional offices, so as to ensure that all stakeholders' rights are respected and to avoid creating discriminatory practices likely to lead to legal action that could slow down the CDE closure process;
3. **Calls for** the CDE Executive Board to make all the necessary means available to finalise the work to consolidate the CDE's gains and good practices that need to be transferred to a third structure, in conformity with the joint declaration of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2014;
4. **Invites** the President of the Council of Ministers to forward this Resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the EU Member States, the European Commission and the CDE Executive Board.

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Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**TRADE MATTERS INCLUDING ACP-EU ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS** *209*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015
  
- A. Having** regard to the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors - Doc ACP/26/081/15 Rev 1;
  
- B. Having** regard to the outcome and follow-up on issues arising from the 18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Trade Committee and the 13<sup>th</sup> Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee meetings held from 22 – 26 June 2015 as well as the ACP Ministers of Trade meeting held on 20 – 21 October 2015 - Doc ACP/61/047/15 Rev 2
  
- C. Having** regard to the Report of the Secretary-General - ACP/11/002/15 Rev 1;
  
- D. Having** regard to the draft minutes of the 13<sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee - Doc ACP/61/076/15 and ACP-UE 2120/1;
  
- E. Having** regard to the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  
- F. Whereas** the key objective of the bilateral ACP-EU trade relations enshrined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement is to contribute to the transformation of the economies of ACP States, improve competitiveness, promote sustainable development, and thereby reduce poverty with a view to its eradication and to improve ACP's share of world trade;
  
- G. Recalling** that the ACP and the EU set out to negotiate EPAs intended to be instruments of development for ACP States;

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- H. Whereas** to date, the CARIFORUM region is implementing a full EPA and has embarked on the first five-yearly review; the ESA four countries<sup>1</sup>, plus Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea and Fiji are implementing interim EPAs; and the SADC EPA Group, the East Africa Community and West Africa have completed negotiations of full EPAs and plan to sign and ratify the agreements by October 2016;
- I. Noting** that a majority of ACP States remain outside the EPA framework and are trading under the EU's GSP Everything but Arms, GSP normal or Most favoured Nation (MFN) terms;
- J. Concerned** that the EU has concluded or is engaged in negotiations of FTAs with third countries that compete with ACP suppliers with the result that benefits from preferences that would have accrued from EPAs and other EU trade arrangements available for ACP States are eroded;
- K. Whereas** the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference will take place from 15 – 18 December 2015 in an ACP capital – Nairobi, Kenya - for the first time in the organizations 20 year history; and
- L. Recalling** the importance of trade related capacity building at the all-ACP level to address multilateral and global trade policy issues and challenges:

#### Resolves to

- 1. Reiterate** that the conclusion and implementation of EPAs must be balanced with a view to speeding up the sustainable and inclusive development of the ACP States through, inter alia, improving competitiveness and the strengthening of regional integration of ACP States.
- 2. Re-affirm** the need for additional EU resources to be endowed in specially set up EPA Funds, and augment aid for trade financing, so as to provide dedicated and predictable resources to address the supply side constraints, build productive capacities, improve competitiveness as well as finance EPA related costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe



3. **Call on** the EU to speed up negotiations with the remaining regions by taking full account of the interests and addressing concerns of the countries involved, many of which are LDCs and vulnerable small economies.
4. **Instruct** the Secretary-General to establish an effective coordination, monitoring and supportive mechanism for EPAs.
5. **Urge** the EU to respect provisions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement by safeguarding preference benefits accrued to ACP States in EPAs and GSP Schemes when negotiating free trade agreements with third parties.
6. **Call for** effective implementation of SDGs, particularly Goal 17 - "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" - in a balanced manner that, inter alia, safeguards and builds on the trade related gains made under the Millennium Development Goals ensures.
7. **Stress** the need for the design of appropriate programmes and activities in the context of implementation of SDGs as well as the 11th EDF, including an extension of the current TBT Programme or a new second phase of the Programme.
8. **Endorse** the ACP Group declaration on the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference adopted by the ACP Ministers of Trade; affirm our support to Kenya in its organization and hosting the Conference; and to encourage ACP Ministers to participate in large numbers.
9. **Invites** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the European Commission, Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the ACP regional integration organizations. *etc*

Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**DECLARATION  
OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**ON THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP21)**

*lca*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium from 24 to 25 November 2015:
- 1. Reaffirm that the adverse impacts of climate change poses immediate and long-term significant risks to sustainable development efforts and threatens the very survival of the 79 developing countries, including 48 from Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific, that make up the ACP Group.
- 2. Recognize that adapting to climate variability and climate change is of critical importance to enable ACP countries to contribute to poverty eradication and achieve sustainable economic development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

***We therefore:***

- 3. Strongly believe that the new agreement to be adopted in Paris should be a legally binding agreement under the Convention and in accordance with its principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and the principle of equity.
- 4. Stress that enhancing mitigation ambition in order to close the mitigation gap by 2020 is critical towards contributing to reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to a level that "prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".
- 5. Call for additional support from the international community for the implementation of adaptation actions in all ACP countries, especially the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and African countries which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as slow onset impacts, many of which will have permanent and irreversible damage.

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6. Acknowledge that the scientific evidence shows that drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed if the global goal to limit warming to well below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is to be achieved. Consequently, the ACP Group urges developed countries to take the lead in further reducing their emissions such that the world can be on a pathway consistent with a temperature increase that is well below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, by the end of the century.
7. Emphasize that the 2015 Paris Agreement must ensure that climate finance is scaled up, adequate, new and additional, predictable, equitable, sustainable, to support, inter alia, adaptation, loss and damage and mitigation, technology development and transfer and capacity building to ACP countries.
8. Believe that REDD-plus can play an integral part of the 2015 Paris Agreement in order to contribute to the drastic reductions needed to limit global warming to well below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as well as to support Sustainable Development.
9. Pledge our full support towards ensuring a 2015 Paris Agreement that will contribute, in a concrete manner, to the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on all vulnerable communities in ACP Countries and protect planet earth for the present and future generations.

*EOA*



**DECLARATION**  
**OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**ON THE NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND  
FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AGAINST CUBA AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*2015*

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium from 24 to 25 November 2015:
- 1. Having examined the Report of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors;
- 2. Noting the Cuban presentation on the report of the Government of Cuba on the implementation of General Assembly **Resolution 69/5** adopted on **28 October 2014** entitled '*Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*';
- 3. Reiterating its support for UN General Assembly Resolution **70/5 of 27 October 2015**, entitled '*Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*'.
- 4. Having heard the statements from Representatives of ACP countries on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States;
- 5. Recognising the expressed will of the President of the United States of America to work for the elimination of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba;
- 6. Welcoming the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Governments of Cuba and the United States of America;
- 7. Recognizing the significant role played by Cuba in the struggle for freedom and liberation of people from the scourge of colonialism and apartheid;
- 8. Grateful to the Government and the People of Cuba for the important role they have played in development cooperation with ACP States in particular and in South-South relations in general;

9. Recalling in particular the remarkable interventions of Cuba in the health sectors of various countries, most recently illustrated in the fight against Ebola, which have been critical in complementing other forms of multilateral and bilateral support, including that of the EU and its Member States;
10. Commending the People of Cuba for the resilience demonstrated over the decades-long embargo imposed on them by the US Government;
11. Noting that the United States of America continued to apply illegal economic embargoes against some ACP countries, the extraterritorial impact of which encroached on the sovereignty of these countries and the legitimate freedom to exercise their political and economic rights;
12. Noting that some ACP countries continue to be affected by illegal economic embargoes;
13. Recalling the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/186 of 22 December 2011 entitled '*Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries,*' in which the General Assembly inter alia, urged the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of coercive economic measures against developing countries, that were or not authorised by relevant organs of the United Nations or were inconsistent with the principles of international law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravened the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;
14. Reiterates its gratitude to the People and Government of Cuba for their invaluable contribution to the liberation of oppressed people all over the world as well as for their commitment to the development of countries of the South in particular in health systems;
15. Calls upon the international community as a whole to continue to express its support and solidarity to the People of Cuba for the immediate and unconditional lifting of sanctions imposed on Cuba;
16. Expresses its solidarity with the Government of Cuba at this critical moment of its struggle for its economic liberation, development and the wellbeing of the People of Cuba;
17. Calls for the unconditional repeal or invalidation of unilateral and unjustified economic embargoes on other ACP countries to relieve the suffering of the innocent, poor and vulnerable populations of these countries that has been brought about by the sanctions. *esg*



ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECLARATION ON THE NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA