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(Second Session)

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REPORT OF THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY AND THE 36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY  
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Cotonou, Benin

25<sup>th</sup> November, to 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
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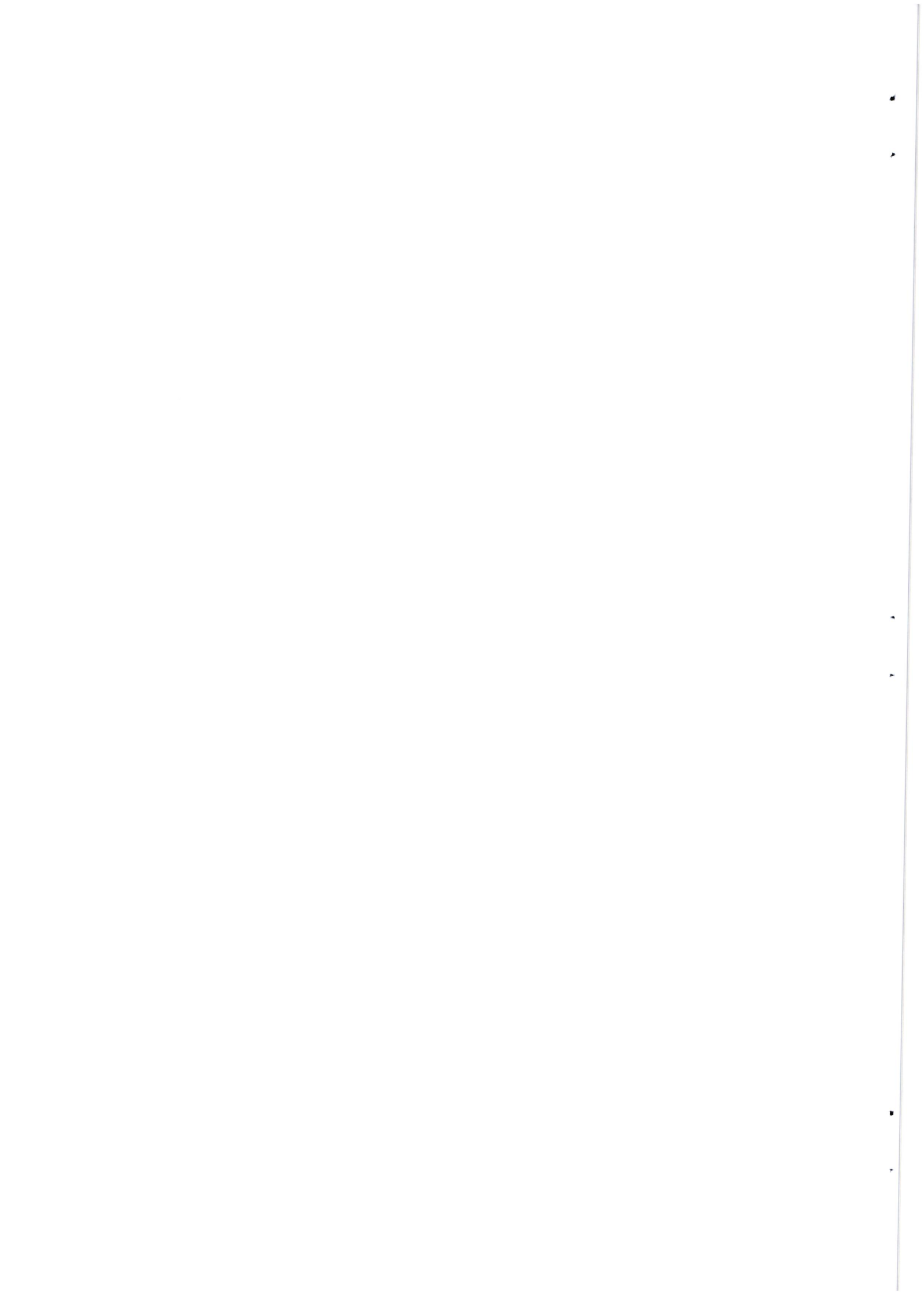
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## **Abbreviations**

ACP:	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ACP-EU JPA:	African, Caribbean and Pacific – European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly
ACP-PA:	African, Caribbean and Pacific Parliamentary Assembly
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
EAC:	East African Community
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
EDF:	European Development Fund
EPAs:	Economic Partnership Agreements
EU:	European Union
EUC:	European Commission
FTA:	Free Trade Area
JPA:	Joint Parliamentary Assembly
SADC:	Southern African Development Community



## **Preface**

### **Mr. Speaker,**

1. The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union (EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) was held in Cotonou, Benin from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The ACP-EU JPA was preceded by the 52<sup>nd</sup> ACP Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 at the same venue, during which ACP countries deliberated and agreed on a common position on various matters ahead of the JPA.
2. It is worth noting that the Session of the 52<sup>nd</sup> ACP and 36<sup>th</sup> ACP-EU JPA were convened at a historic time, when negotiations for a Post-2020 Agreement to succeed the subsisting Cotonou Agreement were underway. Moreover, the meetings were coincidentally hosted in Cotonou, the very city that where Cotonou Agreement was signed in March 2000 between ACP countries and the European Union. The sessions preceded the meeting of council of Ministers of the ACP-EU that was held deliberations on the post – Cotonou agreement at the same venue from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
3. As is the tradition, the Cotonou Sessions and meetings were a follow-up to the 35<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Sessional meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly that were held in Brussels, Belgium in October 2018.

### **Mr. Speaker,**

4. The Delegation of Parliament of Kenya to the meeting comprised of the following Members and staff of Parliament -
  - i) The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, M.P. – Deputy Speaker, National Assembly /Leader of Delegation
  - ii) Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, M.P. – Senate Member of Delegation
  - iii) The Hon. (Dr.) Christine Ombaka Oduor, M.P. – Senate Member of Delegation

- iv) The Hon. (Col.) Dido Ali Rasso, M.P – National Assembly Member of Delegation
  - v) Sen. Petronilah Were Lokorio, M.P. – Senate Member of Delegation
  - vi) Mr. Inzofu Mwale – Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
  - vii) Mrs. Lillian Osundwa – Delegation Secretary (Senate)
5. The delegation was joined by Ambassador Elfes Barine, Parliamentary Liaison Office and Mr. Nicholas Irungu, Economist, both from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Kennedy Mokaya from Kenya’s Mission to the European Union, based in Brussels. The Delegation actively engaged in the deliberations on all subjects and issued statements with regard to Kenya’s perspective on various topics that were listed for discussion.
6. The Leader of the Kenya Delegation also made a brief statement on the improved political situation in the country as well as the country’s successful co-hosting, with Canada, of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. He alluded to the improvement to the ‘*Building Bridges to a Better Kenya*’ Initiative by President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Opposition Coalition Leader, Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga.

**Mr. Speaker,**

7. Prior to the JPA, the three Standing Committees on Political Affairs; Economic Development, Trade and Finance and Committee on Social Affairs and Environment held their meetings to deliberate on Reports that were subsequently presented to the JPA. It is important to note that Kenya was privileged to have chaired the Session of the ACP Committee on Political Affairs and co-chaired the Joint Session of the ACP-EU Committee on Political Affairs as well as the Women’s Forum.
8. These Committees respectively presented reports on the following topical issues:
- (a) *The fight against cybercrime and drug trafficking;*
  - (b) *Combating the destabilizing effects of wildlife trafficking in ACP countries and promoting the implementation of the external dimension of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking; and*
  - (c) *Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries.*

9. These reports were thereafter considered and adopted by the Joint Assembly as resolutions of the JPA.

10. On the side-lines of the JPA, delegates also participated in the following events:

(a) Women's Forum under the theme: *'Ending Early Child Marriages – From Vision to Action'*;

(b) Field workshops organized by Beninese authorities on –

i) *Family farming as a means of achieving sustainable food security and*

ii) *Regional Electricity market and electricity interconnection, solutions to energy shortage problem in West Africa*

(c) Youth Conference with Beninese students drawn from various institutions of learning.

**Mr. Speaker,**

11. In exercise of its oversight function, the JPA ventilated on various issues affecting Member States and also engaged the European Commission, the ACP and EU Councils, respectively, through Question and Answer debates. There was a Question from a Member of the European Parliament touching on the partnership between the Government of Kenya and the European Union on environmental conservation, with relation to the controversy surrounding eviction of people from the Embobut Forest Water Tower in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The delegation noted the question and the reply from the EUC and undertook to pursue the matter with the relevant Kenyan government ministries.

12. Further, the JPA also exchanged views on various topics, such as the concrete *involvement of the international community in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel; the strategic significance and dimension of the ACP-EU partnership; reducing the number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth in ACP countries; and Post-Cotonou: the future Partnership of the EU-ACP after 2020; the Role of civil society in post Cotonou negotiations; and Women's Situation Rooms: Africa's approach to reducing gender violence.*

13. As a practice, Ms. Neven Mimica, the Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development made a statement to the JPA. She focused on the future partnership of the EU-ACP

after the Cotonou Agreement, which would be coming to an end in 2020. She opined that the post 2020 partnership should have a parliamentary dimension of the EU-ACP, which should not only be confined to the meetings of the JPA but also extend to national parliaments questioning their governments on the achievements of the partnership. She also outlined eight priorities of the EU-ACP partnership that are addressed in detail in another section of the report.

14. The JPA also debated urgent Motions for resolution on *the impact of the rise in populism on globalization* and the *impact of climate change, in particular on small developing island states*.

**Mr. Speaker,**

15. The robust participation of the delegation in the said meetings would not have been made possible without the support of the Offices of the Speakers of the two Houses for allowing us to attend the Sessions, facilitating travel and accommodation and also providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks of the two Houses of Parliament. On behalf of my colleagues, I convey our sincere gratitude.
16. It is now my honour and privilege, on behalf of the Delegation to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ACP and the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the JPA, to present and commend this report to the House for noting.



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**HON. MOSES CHEBOI, CBS, M.P.**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY/LEADER OF THE DELEGATION**

**DATE:** .....19.2.2019.....

## **Background of the ACP-EU Partnership**

1. The ACP-EU comprises of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States on one hand, and member states of the European Union (EU) on the other hand. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is a group of countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific that was created by the Georgetown Agreement of 1975. The main objectives of the ACP are sustainable development and poverty reduction within its member states, as well as their greater integration into the world's economy.
2. The European Union (EU), formerly European Economic Community (ECC) was established in 1958 as a post-World War II vehicle for promoting peace and security, sustainable development and creation of a common social market for progress of the citizens in the member states.
3. The EU and ACP have had trade relations from as early as 1976 through the series of the First Lome Convention, which was followed by a series of other Conventions, up to Lome IV. The turning point of the EU-ACP relations was in June 2000 when the two partners signed the Cotonou Agreement in Cotonou, Benin, with the exception of Cuba from the ACP side.
4. Some of the notable instruments of the economic partnerships between the EU and ACP countries are the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). During the ACP-EU JPA, Members were apprised of the status of implementation of EPAs between the EU and the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM); West Africa Region (WA); Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA); and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).
5. EDF was created in 1957, through the Treaty of Rome, with a view to granting technical and financial assistance, initially to African countries which at that time were still colonized, and with which some EU Member States had historical links. EDF remains the main instrument for providing Community aid for development cooperation by the EU to the ACP States.
6. The present EDF framework (2014 – 2020) is set to lapse in 2020 and ACP countries are keen to engage the EU counterparts to ensure that the fund is retained so as to support development in the ACP countries.

7. The EPAs is a framework for negotiating 'free trade' between the EU and individual and/or groups of ACP countries that began in 2002, founded on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement.
8. The overall objectives of EPAs are to ensure sustainable development of ACP countries, their smooth and gradual integration into the global economy and eradication of poverty. Specifically, EPAs aim at promoting sustained growth; increasing the production and supply capacity; fostering the structural transformation and diversification of the ACP economies and providing support for regional integration by being "tailor-made" to suit specific regional circumstances.
9. Some other key features of the EPAs include the following: they are WTO-compatible agreements but go beyond conventional free-trade agreements, focusing on ACP development, taking account of their socio-economic circumstances and including co-operation and assistance to help ACP countries benefit from the agreements; they open up EU markets fully and immediately, but allow ACP countries long transition periods to open up partially to EU imports while providing protection for sensitive sectors; they create joint institutions that monitor the implementation of the agreements and address trade issues in a cooperative way; and, they are also designed to be drivers of change that will help kick-start reform and contribute to good economic governance.
10. The EPAs negotiations are being undertaken at regional economic bloc levels and Kenya has been actively engaged alongside the other EAC partner states. An update on the status of EPAs was provided and is attached as **Annex 1**.
11. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the elected representatives of the European Community –(the Members of the European Parliament) on one hand and the elected representatives of the ACP Countries that have signed the Cotonou Agreement on the other hand. The ACP-EU JPA, which is uniquely the only institution of its kind in the world, endeavours to give the partnership of EU and ACP governments a parliamentary dimension.
12. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union and EU enlargement, it has acquired a more prominent role. Largely, the work of the

JPA is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy and the common values of humanity, which has culminated in the undertaking of joint commitments within the framework of the UN conferences.

13. The forum has uniquely continued to give a parliamentary dimension to the inter-governmental dialogue and negotiations among governments of the ACP countries and the European Union. This has, in the long run, played a fundamental role in enhancing the legitimacy of outcomes of ACP-EU negotiations among the citizens of the two partners, to the extent that they feel their shared aspirations are voiced by parliamentarians of the two parties and that they percolate into the outcomes of negotiations that affect them.

### **Membership, structure and working of the ACP-EU JPA**

#### **(a) Membership**

14. The ACP-EU JPA comprises of approximately 320 Members of Parliament drawn from legislatures of the 78 ACP states and Members of the European Parliament drawn from the 27 member states of the EU. The JPA holds plenary sessions for one week, twice a year and meets alternately in ACP and EU countries. The sittings of the JPA are governed by common, democratic rules.

#### **(b) Administration**

15. The JPA elects two Co-Presidents responsible for directing the work, activities and operations of the institution. The JPA also has twenty-four vice-presidents (12 from EU and 12 from ACP) who are also elected by the Assembly. The Co-Presidents and the Vice Presidents constitute the Bureau of the ACP-EU JPA that meets several times a year. The primary role of the Bureau is to ensure the continuity of the work of the Assembly; to prepare new initiatives aimed at reinforcing and improving cooperation; to consider topical political questions; and to adopt positions on all human rights cases. The work of the ACP-EU is facilitated by a Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General.

#### **(c) Standing Committees**

16. In 2003, the JPA established three Standing Committees, namely –
  - a) the Committee on Political Affairs;
  - b) the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade; and

c) the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment

17. The Committees draw up substantive proposals and deliberate on various matters, which they report to the JPA for consideration and voting.
18. The Assembly also forms exploratory or fact-finding missions to various countries to have a direct contact with the situation on the ground in various developing countries that are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement and to propose suitable mitigating measures.

**(d) Meetings**

19. Prior to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the Committees of the ACP Group of countries hold meetings and, thereafter, the ACP holds a Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-PA) to deliberate and agree on common positions on various issues on the agenda of the JPA.
20. The Joint Sessions of ACP-EU commences with Joint ACP-EU committee meetings, and culminates in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

**Significance of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

21. From its inception, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly has made the following notable contributions towards implementing and reinforcing successive ACP-EU Conventions and has put forward numerous proposals, including –
  - a) the upgrading of the role of women in the development process;
  - b) the integration of environment policy in development projects;
  - c) promotion of trade as a tool for development, particularly by way of the Economic Partnership Agreements foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement;
  - d) the drawing up of rural development programmes and micro-projects tailored to the needs of specific communities; and
  - e) the promotion of regional political and commercial cooperation.
22. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly is currently focused on ensuring that the negotiations for the Post 2020 Cotonou Agreement and future EU-ACP partnership take into consideration a Parliamentary Dimension of the partnership.

## **Meetings of the Standing Committees of the ACP**

23. Meetings of the ACP Committees took place on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, to deliberate and agree on common positions on the Agenda items scheduled for discussion by the JPA Committees. Subsequently, the JPA Committees met on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, and deliberated on various matters as summarised hereunder –

### **(a)The Committee on Political Affairs**

24. The Committee adopted the proposed agenda and thereafter approved the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The Committee then proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as contained in **Annex 2**.
25. Upon invitation by the Co-President, the Co-rapporteurs of the Committee, Hon. Agnima Alain Lobognon (Cote d'Ivoire) and Deirdre Clune (EU) presented a Summary Report of the Committee on *'the fight against cybercrime and drug trafficking'*.
26. The Co-rapporteurs underscored the importance of tackling the threats of cybercrime and drug trafficking from a global dimension involving both the EU and ACP countries.
27. The Committee thereafter considered and adopted various proposed amendments to the draft Report. The amended Report was then adopted and approved for presentation to the JPA for consideration.
28. As a practice, the Co-Presidents invited Leaders of Delegation to report on the political situations in their respective countries. Among the statements made was a brief by the Leader of the Kenya Delegation, Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP on the improving political situation in Kenya. In his brief, Hon. Cheboi hailed the stable political situation in the country, following the *'Building Bridges to a Better Kenya'* Initiative by President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Opposition Coalition Leader, Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga. He also informed the Assembly of the country's successful hosting of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as a result of the prevailing peace in Kenya.

## **(b) Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade**

29. The Committee's meeting commenced with adoption of the Agenda and approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The Committee considered and adopted the substantive agenda as listed in **Annex 3**.
30. Subsequently, the Committee considered proposed amendments on the draft report on, "*Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries*", as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Sangeet Fowdar (Mauritius) and Nicholas Bay (EU). Following a vote on various proposed amendments, the Report was adopted as amended and approved for consideration by the JPA.
31. Members also received a draft Report by Co-Rapporteur, Hon. Clifford Andre and exchanged views on the topic '***possibilities of renewable energies in bringing sustainable economic development to ACP countries, and particularly to remote areas***'.
32. The Committee contended that access to adequate, affordable and sustainable energy was fundamental for the sustainable economic development and growth of ACP economies, particularly in remote areas. Further, the Committee acknowledged the increasing need for ACP countries to provide reliable and clean sources of energy to their populations in order to put in place basic services in areas such as health and education and power their economic potential. The Committee observed that ACP countries had significant potential for sustainable energy resources, which remained largely untapped and underestimated.
33. The Committee identified high and prohibitive costs of technologies required to develop renewable energies as one of the major challenges encountered in promoting renewable energies in ACP countries. Consequently, the Committee encouraged Members to rally their respective governments to pursue public-private partnerships and co-operation in the renewable energy sector in order to increase energy supply and reduce the cost of energy for all.

34. The Committee members also engaged in a general discussion and exchange of views with Adama Bocar Soko, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP and the EUC on *'the impact of Corruption on the ACP-EU Economic Partnership'*.
35. Members underscored the cultural aspect of corruption, which often lead to corruption sometimes being perceived differently from one country to another. However, whatever the perception of corruption may be, the Committee had a unanimous agreement that corruption has adverse consequences on development and public policies and that solutions to curb corruption could be found as long as there was the political will to do so.
36. The Committee also had a discussion, led by Tei Konzi, Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement, the ECOWAS and the EUC on the *"Economic Partnership Agreements: State of play of negotiations and implementation"*

#### **(c)The Committee on Social Affairs and Environment**

37. The Committee on Social Affairs and Environment met on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Proceedings commenced with adoption of Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee. Afterwards, the Committee considered the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 4**.
38. Subsequently, the Committee considered the draft Report on *"Combating the destabilizing effects of wildlife trafficking in ACP countries and promoting the implementation of the external dimension of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking"* and proposed amendments thereof as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Gilbert S. Mangole (Botswana) and Ms. Catherine Bearder (EU).
39. The Committee voted in support of adoption of the Report as amended and approved it for consideration by the JPA.
40. Members of the Committee exchanged views on the topic *'Reducing out of school children, particularly in ACP countries.'* The Committee observed that the number of out of school children in ACP countries was alarmingly high. It was noted that about 15 million girls and 10 million boys in ACP countries were unable to get basic education. Consequently, the Committee underscored the need to put in place mechanisms to ensure that the goal to have universal access to formal as well as vocational education is achieved.

41. Members also stressed the importance of guaranteeing the quality and relevance of education offered to young people in ACP countries so as to enable them to acquire relevant skills for the job market and develop practical skills for self-employment. The Committee encouraged Members to support initiatives for establishment of community schools in the respective areas they represent so as to widen access to education by rural families. Emphasis was also put on efforts to end early child marriages that contribute to a significant number of girls out of school in ACP countries.

### **Overview of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly**

42. The ACP Parliamentary Assembly was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Madiba Room, Hotel Golden Tulipe. The Assembly was presided over by the ACP President, the Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu from Sierra Leone. He welcomed Members to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session and thanked the Government of the Republic of Benin for hosting the meeting. The President extended a special welcome to Members who were making their maiden attendance of the Committee and Assembly meetings of the ACP.
43. Thereafter, the President guided the Assembly in adopting the proposed Agenda for the Assembly and accreditation of non-Parliamentary Assembly representatives to participate in the meetings.
44. The President then invited the ACP Secretary General, Amb. Leonard-Emile Ognimba to address the Assembly. In his remarks, the Secretary-General thanked the Government of the Republic of Benin for hosting the meeting. He stressed the importance of building on the success of the ACP over the years of its existence as the ACP Group charts the way forward for stronger partnership.
45. The Secretary-General also challenged Members to consider transforming the ACP to an Organization of African Caribbean Pacific (OACP) Group as a step towards making the ACP group stronger. Finally, he urged Members to consider the future financial sustainability of the ACP Group in the face of shrinking external financing. He proposed an endowment trust fund of approximately 30 million US Dollars to sustain the activities of the group.

46. In reacting to the speech by the Secretary-General, Members urged that ACP negotiates the Post 2020 ACP-EU Partnership as a bloc rather than as regions. They also emphasized the need for a stronger parliamentary dimension in the new partnership.
47. On the budget constraints facing the ACP, Members supported the suggestion for self-sustainability of the group and challenged each other to rally their respective governments to consider providing funding for the ACP in their national budgets.
48. The ACP President made his address to the Assembly. He encouraged Members to study the amendments proposed by the ACP on various reports and resolutions of the Standing Committee
49. Thereafter, the Assembly received and considered reports of the three Standing Committees of the ACP-PA, on the agenda items scheduled for discussion during meetings of the Joint Committees.

## **Overview of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

### **(a) Opening Session**

50. The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Golden Tulip Le Diplomate Hotel in Cotonou, Benin. The Session was Co-Chaired by the ACP President and Acting EU President. The Opening Session of the JPA was graced by H.E. Patrice Talon, President of the Republic of Benin and Hon. Adrien Houngbedji, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Benin.
51. The Opening Session was marked by addresses by the two Co-Presidents of the JPA, the President of the National Assembly of Benin and H.E. the President of the Republic of Benin.

#### **(i) Summary of Remarks by Hon. Adrien Houngbedji, President of the National Assembly of Benin**

52. The President of the National Assembly of Benin welcomed delegates from various ACP countries and the EU Parliament to Benin. He stated that the National Assembly of Benin and the country at large was privileged to host the ACP-EU JPA and Council of Ministers at a time when Post-Cotonou

negotiations were underway. With regard to the negotiations for a new partnership, he expressed his optimism that the new partnership will present opportunities for renewed partnership between the ACP and EU.

53. The President of the National Assembly lauded the contribution parliaments have made in actualization of the existing Cotonou Agreement and the on-going negotiations.
54. In conclusion, he challenged the negotiating teams for both the ACP and EU to work in accordance with the Malta Declaration and approach the negotiations from a win-win perspective.

**(ii) Summary of remarks by Mme. Michele Rivasi, Ag. EU President**

55. The Co-President of the ACP-EU, Mme. Rivasi welcomed Members and non-parliamentary representatives to the Session. She focused her remarks on the future ACP-EU partnership that she stressed should take into account the new social, economic and political dynamics in both EU and ACP countries. Mme. Rivasi urged Members to protect the achievements and gains realized under the existing partnership and tap from it on how to improve operations and the efficacy of the new partnership under negotiation.
56. She also observed that it is important for both the ACP and EU to focus deliberations on the future partnership on the global nature of the social, economic and political challenges that require a more effective global government to manage them. She concluded by emphasizing that the ACP-EU is a strategic global partnership with capacity to mitigate the global challenges facing the ACP and EU countries, such as migration, cybercrime and drug trafficking among others.
57. A copy of the Acting Co-President's speech is attached as **Annex 5**.

**(iii) Summary remarks by Hon. Joseph Owona Kono, ACP President**

58. Hon. Joseph Hyacinthe Owona Kono, the ACP Co-President, welcomed delegates, particularly those making their maiden participation in the JPA. He thanked the Beninese Government for offering to host the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA meetings. The Co-President appreciated the Beninese

- Government for the excellent preparations made and the facilities that had been put in place for the convenience and comfort of delegates.
59. He underscored the historical importance of holding the meetings in Cotonou, Benin, where the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement had been signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000, at a time when negotiations for the Post-Cotonou Agreement were on going.
  60. He also stated that the sustained holding of Sessions of the JPA was a re-affirmation of the commitment to parliamentary governance in the multilateral context and that the JPA provided a framework for open, democratic and in-depth dialogue between ACP and EU legislators on the implementation of the subsisting Cotonou Agreement and envisaged future Agreement.
  61. The Co-President highlighted to the Members the topics listed for discussion during the debates and urged Members to engage candidly on those topics as they are at the heart of governance, particularly of the ACP countries. A copy of the Co-President's speech is attached as **Annex 6**.

**(iv) Summary of keynote address by H.E. Patrice Talon, President of the Republic of Benin**

62. H.E. President Talon welcomed Members to Benin and thanked the ACP-EU for allowing Benin to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA in Cotonou. He observed that Cotonou was symbolic significance to the ACP-EU partnership as it was there that the Cotonou Agreement of 2000 was signed. He expressed his delight that the city of Cotonou was hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA at a time when negotiations of a successor agreement to the Cotonou Agreement and hoped that Cotonou would be honoured to host the signing of the Post 2020 Cotonou Agreement.
63. Noting that the partnership had yielded significant gains, the President challenged the Co-Presidents to envision a more creative parliamentary role of the ACP-EU partnership in the Post 2020 ACP-EU partnership.
64. The President also highlighted the important role the ACP-EU can play in addressing and reversing the underlying causes of the rise of populism as reflected in election results in different countries. He urged the ACP - EU to support youth entrepreneurship through *Small and medium Enterprises (SME)*

and accelerate both public and private investments as an avenue reversing populism among the youth. He also expressed his delight that the JPA was scheduled to deliberate and vote on a Motion on *Small and medium Enterprises (SME) development at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries*.

65. In conclusion, he hoped that the Post 2020 Cotonou Agreement would establish a new paradigm and model of partnership and challenged the ACP-EU to double its effort to make the new partnership more mutually beneficial.
66. Thereafter, H.E. President Talon declared the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA officially open and wished Members deliberations.

**(b) Highlight of the Plenary Sessions of the ACP-EU JPA**

67. The Plenary Session of the ACP-EU JPA commenced with the constitution of the JPA and accreditation of non-parliamentary representatives. Thereafter, the Co-Presidents guided the Assembly through the proposed Agenda, which was the Assembly adopted for consideration. The Agenda is attached as **Annex 7**.
68. Having adopted the Agenda, the JPA received, considered and approved the Minutes of the last sittings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the JPA. The Assembly also received announcements from the Co-Presidents on various matters, including decisions taken at the Bureau meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 ahead of the JPA.
69. Ms. Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development made a Statement to the Assembly. In her Statement to the Assembly, Commissioner Mimica addressed following three key priority issues of the common agenda of the ACP and EU:
  - (i) The negotiation on Post 2020 Partnership between EU and ACP countries;
  - (ii) The Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs; and
  - (iii) The on-going COP 24 in Katowice.
70. On the negotiations for Post 2020 Partnership between the EU and ACP countries, Commissioner Mimica reported to the Assembly that negotiations were on course and that the Chief Negotiator for the ACP, Honourable Robert

Dussey and herself had agreed on a very ambitious schedule and work agenda for the coming months of the matter.

71. She stressed the need to ensure that the outcome is of the new partnership is of a win-win nature, which takes care of everyone's expectations and citizens aspiration. She emphasized her believe in multilateralism and international cooperation in addressing the challenges of the present time, which cannot be solved by countries, regions or continents acting as lone actors.
72. The Commissioner stated that the new agreement should open up greater opportunities by taking into account the different regional diversities that require a strong regional dimension to tackle. The Commissioner emphasized that this approach would ensure that the ACP and EU better targets its actions to particular regional characteristics and needs, in the interest and benefit of all. She also welcomed the outcome of recent AU Summit that reaffirming that Post Cotonou negotiations ought to proceed within the current ACP-EU format.
73. On the Africa-Europe Alliance for sustained investment and job creation, the Commissioner stated that Europe remains Africa's main trading partner while Europe still stands out as Africa's biggest development partner and investor. She reaffirmed the commitment of the EUC to redouble its efforts in Africa through a coherent economic strategy for EU-Africa relations. She pointed out that the EUC was aiming at leveraging one trillion euros of new investments with development outcome by 2027 across the world, half of it in Africa through four target priorities, namely –
  - a) Facilitating and leveraging much more private investments, those with development impact, by blending a part of our grant funding with lending capacities of multilateral and national financing and development institutions and by providing a huge de-risking guarantee scheme. This would enable us to provide the most concessional loans and the best European level guarantee for development-relevant private investment in Africa and worldwide;
  - b) Investing in education and skills is a priority to make sure the workforce has what it takes to meet the demands of the labour market;

- c) Creating a more favourable business environment and investment climate will give businesses and investors that much needed certainty; and
  - d) Finally, enhancing trade flows between the EU and Africa will be a powerful tool for change. Because putting in place a true Africa-Europe continent-to-continent free trade agreement is the key to an economic partnership between equals.
74. Commissioner Mimica assured the Caribbean and Pacific regions that the strategies outlined for Africa were also valid for the Caribbean and the Pacific regions from the perspective of creating strong regional pillars with relevance to the priorities of specific relevance to the two sub-regions of the ACP. She gave the examples of specific priorities like sustainable fisheries, ocean governance, blue economy, renewable energy, coast erosion and more generally climate change as the backbone of our relations and priorities for private sector development and sources of job creation as critical to the Caribbean and the Pacific.
75. On the third priority area of the ongoing COP 24 in Katowice, the Commissioner reminded Members that the Paris Agreement was a game changer for international community and global resolve and solidarity on managing climate change. She attributed the success of the Paris agreement to the long-standing cooperation on climate change between the EU and ACP countries and urged the ACP-EU to double the effort.
76. The Commissioner credited the Joint Declaration on climate change by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in June 2018 for reaffirming the joint commitment of the EU and ACP countries to an ambitious climate action agenda and the determination to mobilise further investments towards implementation of the Paris Agreement.
77. She challenged Members to support efforts for accelerating transition to lower emissions and robust implementing rules that take into account different responsibilities and different capacities.
78. The Commissioner concluded her statement by urging Members to support the negotiating team in ensuring that the right priorities for Post 2020 EU-ACP Partnership are identified and incorporated in the new framework.

79. In exchange of issues with the Commissioner, Members raised a number of issues. Firstly, Members sought clarification from the Commissioner whether an assessment of current Cotonou Agreement had been made to form a basis for the negotiations for Post 2020 agreement. They also urged the EUC to harmonize its contextualization of the regional pillars with those of the ACP. Concerns were also concerned that the EU negotiating directive did not make mention of the JPA, yet Commissioner believed that JPA would play a leading role in the negotiation for ACP-EU Post 2020 Partnership.
80. Members were also keen to establish from the Commissioner the EUC regarding the plans put in place to finance Post-Cotonou in the multi-annual financing framework. On renewable energy, Members observed that renewable energy require extraction of metals that would result in environmental problem relating to mining in and urged that mitigating measures to strike a delicate balance between environmental conservation and extraction of resources ACP countries.
81. In her response to some of the concerns of Members, Commissioner Mimica assured the JPA that the EUC's new approach based on regional-specific pillars was focused on investment and job creation. She stated that the EU would mix aid and investment impact for ACP countries and was envisaging enlarging the EU development funding to the world to 44billion Euros by 2020. She also stated that the EU was committed to support value-added products of trade and emphasize non-tariff trade among regions and between the ACP and EU and also support African Continental FTA and also continent-to-continent FTA.
82. On the weak Parliamentary dimension in the Post-2020 negotiations, the Commissioner assured the JPA that negotiation Directives would be aligned with recommendations of the JPA, so as to strengthen parliamentary and political dimension of the new agreement.
83. Regarding environmental degradation relating to extraction, the Commissioner stated that measures for fair mining practices that would not endanger the environment should be put in place.
84. The exchange of views with Commissioner Nevene Mimica was followed by Question Time to the Commission. The Commission had previously responded

- to questions in writing, and Commissioner Mimica gave oral replies to the supplementary questions raised by Members on the floor.
85. The European Commission also provided, to the JPA, feedback on the actions taken by the Commission on the resolutions adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels in October 2018.
  86. The JPA also considered urgent motions for resolution on *the impact of the rise of populism on globalization and the impact of climate change, in particular on small, developing island states*. Copies of the motions are attached as **Annex 8**.
  87. Further, the Assembly debated the following topics without resolution:
    - (a) the concrete involvement of the international community in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel;
    - (b) Post-Cotonou: the future partnership of the EU-ACP after 2020;
    - (c) the political situation in Cameroun;
    - (d) young people with disabilities in the context of sustainable development;  
and
    - (e) the new Beninese electoral Code.
  88. The Co-Presidents then presented to the Assembly a report on the 16<sup>th</sup> regional meeting held in Yaoundé, Cameroun (Central Africa Region) from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018. They also gave a brief of the deliberations of the meeting and lauded the efforts being made to ensure sustainable political stability in the Country.
  89. The Assembly then received summary reports from the Women Forum, the Youth Conference and workshops that had been conducted as side events during the JPA.
  90. Finally, the Assembly considered the amendments proposed to the motions for resolutions included in the reports submitted by the three standing committees, and upon a vote, the resolutions were adopted with amendments. A copy of the Resolutions is attached as **Annex 9**.
  91. The Assembly also voted on the urgent motions for resolution.

## Overview of the Side Events

### (a) Women's Forum

92. On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, a Women's Forum was convened was held under the theme "**Ending Child Marriages – From Vision to Action**" with the sub themes: "*Challenging approaches to child marriages*" and "*Success stories – Exchanging Best Practices.*" Sen. Prof. Margaret Kamar, MP, a Member of Kenya Parliament Delegation from the ACP Group Co-chaired the Forum.
93. The meeting noted that early child marriage was not only a grave human rights violation but also an affront to human dignity and the well being of the girl-child. The Forum also decried the vice as a serious impediment to attainment of sustainable development in affected communities.
94. On **challenging approaches to child marriages**, the meeting was informed of the practise in Benin and the challenges faced in addressing this scourge. The meeting noted that girls were married as early as at 12 years of age while some were identified and introduced to future husbands and in-laws as early as at the age 5 years.
95. Other challenges identified included rape, violence, enslavement, stifling of sexual and reproductive rights and inability to participate in the development of the nation.
96. CEDAW-Benin observed that there exist adequate and elaborate laws but the agrarian nature of most African societies reduces families into poverty, which makes women, including girls, to become producers. This nature makes girls more vulnerable to child marriages as an avenue for attracting resources to their families through payment of dowry.
97. The Organization challenged legislators to take a lead role in rallying their countries and communities to empower women with means of production so that they do not depend on others for survival, hence reducing the susceptibility of girls to early marriages. Further, the Forum called for strict enforcement of laws that curb early child marriages so as to deter potential perpetrators of the vice.

98. The Forum also exchanged views on **Best Practices** in mitigating early-child marriages. Kenya shared the country experience whereby rescue centres have been established in the country, particularly in communities where the vice is prevalent; where young girls seek refuge from early forced marriages. Other measures put in place by the Government of Kenya included sacking government officers that abate early child marriages as well as making education mandatory and affordable so that girls could attend school.
99. The Forum also heard that the Widows for Peace organization, with support from the United Kingdom was engaged in raising awareness at the UN level and global interventions aimed at reducing and finally ending early forced child marriages. A copy of the Agenda for the Women's Forum is attached as **Annex 10**.

#### **(b) Workshops**

100. As part of sharing and exchanging of experiences between delegates from the ACP-EU countries and the host country, the government of Benin arranged two concurrent workshops on Sunday, December 2, 2018. The two workshops were on **Integrated family farming** and **Regional Electricity Market for ECOWAS**.

##### **(i) Integrated family farming project at Songhai centre, Port-Novo**

101. The workshop was undertaken at the Songhai Centre, situated in Ouando area near Porto-Novo. Delegates were informed that the agricultural project, which lies on approximately 22 hectares of land, was launched in October 1985 as an initiative of Prof. Godfrey Nzamujo. The basis of the project was to use agriculture and agricultural technology as the impetus that would provide take-off of for economic transformation of African countries.
102. The Songhai Centre is an integrated project that utilizes locally developed appropriate and sustainable technology and biotechnology to the harness potential, particularly of the youth through agriculture. The Centre provides mentorship to young scholars and innovators on agricultural technology, biotechnology and organic farming. Delegates learnt that the Centre is using green energy and is generating its own power.

103. The project is replicated in several West African countries and beyond, for instance the Republic of Uganda, where the Songhai Centre has exporting a number of agricultural machines and agricultural biotechnology.

**(ii) Regional Electricity market and electricity interconnection, solutions to energy shortage problems**

104. Delegates toured the **West Africa Power Pool Information Coordination Centre (WAPP-ICC)**, which aims to reduce the energy shortage in Benin and the ECOWAS sub-region. Noting that a large number of ACP countries still suffered from problems related to energy shortage, delegates were informed that the WAPP-ICC would create a regional electricity market and electricity interconnection between the countries of the ECOWAS.

105. Delegates appreciated the potential of the project in meeting its objectives of promoting operational coordination among WAPP members and the daily exchange of information as well as to facilitate an effective electrical energy exchange between the interconnected entities of the different countries in the region.

**(c) The Youth Conference**

106. Delegates engaged with about 350 youths participated in the conference youths drawn from various institutions of higher learning in a **Youth Conference**, which was held on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018. The purpose of the youth forum is to avail an opportunity to youths from the host country to interact and exchange views with parliamentarians from the ACP countries and the EU as part of an induction of the young people to participation of in public life.

107. Youths emphasized on the need for accelerating job creation and elimination of obstacles experienced by youth when setting up SMEs. They also made various proposals on salient issues of youth empowerment such as –

- (a) reorienting the education systems and curricular, particularly in AP countries to be in sync with the expectations of the job market;
- (b) making it easy for youth to use land as security for agriculture through banks so as to assist young entrepreneurs to modernize agriculture as a potential source of self employment for youth;

- (c) reviewing the taxation regime to improve land use and put in place systems to support female farmers and co-operatives for youths;
- (d) easing access to micro credit facilities to enable youths to start business and investments; and
- (e) promoting value addition through universities such as the National University of Benin and volunteer schools with a view to equip youths with skills and enhance their capacity for local production and consumption.

108. In the exchange of views, delegates observed that there was need for ACP leaders to understand that economies are imbalanced and therefore put in place relevant strategies for growing the economy. It was observed that no common strategy would work for Africa and the Caribbean with regard to tackling youth empowerment.

109. Delegates were challenged to ensure that their countries have national development plans for youth on key priorities as training, job creation and access to financing for empowerment of youths, among others.

110. On best practices, the Leader of the Kenya Delegation shared some of the initiatives the government and private sector have made to empower the youth. The delegation cited such initiatives as the Youth Enterprise Fund for funding youth investment initiatives; National employment Authority and the requirement and focus on the role of private sector as a potential partner in entrepreneurship. The Leader of Delegation highlighted youth entrepreneurship initiatives; start-ups and incubation programmes supported by private corporates such as Safaricom Ltd, Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd, etc. for start up, incubation.

111. Delegates welcomed the proposal by Youth representatives that the Youth Forum be institutionalized in the ACP-EU JPA and the respective Regional meetings of the ACP and the EU.

### **Dates of Next Meetings**

112. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was notified that the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly would be held in Sinaia, Romania, from March 13-20, 2019.

## **Recommendations**

113. The Delegation commends this report to the Houses of Parliament and recommends to the Houses of Parliament to–

- (a) note the contents of the Report of Kenya Parliament delegation to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly; and
- (b) put in place mechanisms and structures for regular consultations between the ACP Delegation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to ACP-EU meetings with a view ensuring that the delegation exchanges views with the Ministry and is apprised of the government's position on various matters scheduled for deliberation at the ACP and JP Assemblies.

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## **Annexes**

- Annex 1:** An update on the State of play of negotiations and implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements
- Annex 2:** Agenda for the meeting of the ACP Committee on Political Affairs
- Annex 3:** Agenda for the meeting of the ACP Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
- Annex 4:** Agenda for the meeting of the ACP Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
- Annex 5:** A copy of the Agenda for the Women's Forum
- Annex 6:** Remarks made by the ACP Co-President during the official opening
- Annex 7:** JPA Agenda/work programme
- Annex 8:** Urgent motions for resolution adopted on *the impact of the rise of populism on globalization and the impact of climate change, in particular on small developing island states.*
- Annex 9:** Adopted resolutions of the 3 standing committees



European  
Commission

## OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Updated November 2018 – Updates in red

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
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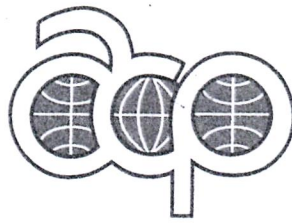
Trade

<p><u>WEST AFRICA</u></p>	<p>The stepping stone EPA with Côte d'Ivoire was signed on 26 November 2008, approved by the European Parliament on 25 March 2009, and ratified by the Ivoirian National Assembly on 12 August 2016. It entered into provisional application on 3 September 2016. The second meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Abidjan on 21-22 March 2018. It discussed the state of play of implementation and related issues (liberalization schedule, rules of origin...).</p> <p>The last technical meeting with Côte d'Ivoire took place in October 2018.</p> <p>The stepping stone EPA with Ghana was signed on 28 July 2016, ratified on 3 August 2016 by the Ghanaian Parliament and approved by the European Parliament on 1 December 2016. It entered into provisional application on 15 December 2016. The first Meeting of the joint EPA committee with Ghana took place on 24 January 2018 in Accra. It laid the foundations of the interim EPA.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA were closed by Chief Negotiators on 6 February 2014 in Brussels. The text was initialed on 30 June 2014. All EU Member States and 13 West African Countries signed the EPA in December 2014, except Nigeria, Mauritania and The Gambia. Gambia signed on 9 August 2018 and Mauritania on 21 September 2018. Nigeria remains the only country of West Africa which has still not signed the EPA.</p> <p>Mauritania and ECOWAS signed an Association Agreement on 9 August 2017 to define the country's participation in ECOWAS trade policy including the EPA.</p>	<p>Stepping stone EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: the agreements are provisionally applied.</p> <p>The next technical meeting with Ghana will take place on 15-16 November 2018.</p> <p>Regional EPA: After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p>
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REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<u>CENTRAL AFRICA</u>	<p>Cameroon signed the EPA between the EU and Central Africa as the only country in the region on 15 January 2009. The European Parliament gave its consent in June 2013. In July 2014 the Parliament of Cameroon approved the ratification of the Agreement and on 4 August 2014 the agreement entered into provisional application.</p> <p>The third EPA Committee between Cameroon and the EU took place on 7 and 8 December 2017 in Brussels. It discussed the state of play of implementation and related issues (liberalization state of play, updating of the liberalization timetable, rules of origin, accompanying measures, fiscal impact, rendez-vous clauses, etc.).</p> <p>Contacts are ongoing between the region and the EU on accession to this EPA by other Central African countries.</p>	<p>Meeting of the EPA Committee: The fourth meeting is scheduled to take place in Yaoundé in December 2018.</p> <p>In the meantime, discussions continue between the Parties to deepen the implementation of the agreement. Negotiations are also ongoing to agree a joint protocol on rules of origin.</p>
<u>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA)</u>	<p>In 2009 Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Agreement is provisionally applied since 14 May 2012. The European Parliament gave its consent on 17 January 2013.</p> <p>The inaugural EPA Committee was held in October 2012 in Brussels, and the latest, sixth, meeting took place in October 2017 in Antananarivo (Madagascar). The Customs Cooperation Committee and the Joint Development Committee also met alongside the EPA Committee.</p> <p>During this meeting, both Parties agreed on a package modernizing the rules of origin for this EPA. Both Parties submitted to each other their proposal with a view to jointly defining the scope and objectives of the possible deepening of the current agreement before launching negotiations.</p> <p>The outcome of the first meeting in June in Harare was positive as both Parties showed their willingness to go for a comprehensive and high-end agreement.</p>	<p>The Parties are exploring the scope and objectives of a possible deepening of the current agreement: a second meeting to discuss the EU revised proposal for a joint scoping paper based on the outcome of the meeting in Harare will take place in December 2018.</p> <p>Meeting of the EPA Committee: the seventh meeting will take place in Brussels in December 2018.</p>

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<u>EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)</u>	<p>The negotiations for the regional EPA were successfully concluded on 16 October 2014.</p> <p>On 1 September 2016, Kenya and Rwanda signed the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East African Community and the EU. All EU Member States and the EU have also signed the Agreement.</p> <p>The EAC Summit of 20 May 2017 requested from EU to provide clarifications on issues raised by certain EAC members. The EU provided these clarifications.</p>	<p>The EAC Summit of 23 February 2018 mandated President Museveni to follow up on the way forward for the EPA.</p>
<u>SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) EPA Group</u>	<p>On 15 July 2014 the EPA negotiations were successfully concluded in South Africa.</p> <p>The agreement was signed by the EU and the SADC EPA group on 10 June 2016 and the European Parliament gave its consent on 14 September 2016. Pending ratification by all EU Member States, the agreement came provisionally into force as of 10 October 2016.</p> <p>The provisional application for Mozambique started on 4 February 2018.</p> <p>The third meeting of the Trade and Development Committee took place on 22-23 February 2018 in Brussels.</p>	<p>Following provisional application, the Parties are addressing implementation issues including the twin questions of EPA monitoring and civil-society involvement and putting in place the institutional framework for the Agreement. A first Joint Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2019 and should put in place the institutional and dispute settlement framework.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Trade and Development Committee will take place in Pretoria on 6 November 2018.</p>
<u>CARIBBEAN</u>	<p>The CARIFORUM – EU EPA was signed in October 2008 and approved by the European Parliament in March 2009.</p> <p>The EPA joint institutions have met regularly since 2010 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (ministers) held its fourth meeting in Brussels in November 2017.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its seventh meeting in Brussels in November 2017</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consultative Committee representing civil society held its third meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2017</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> work on the further implementation of the various aspects of the EPA;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> agree on a joint system for monitoring the EPA;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> negotiate an agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs), valuable regional product names.</li> </ul>

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p><u>PACIFIC</u></p>	<p>The EU and Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed the EPA on 30 July and Fiji on 11 December 2009. The EP gave its consent on 19 January 2011. The Parliament of PNG ratified the EPA on 25 May 2011. On 17 July 2014 Fiji decided to start provisionally applying the Agreement.</p> <p>Five meetings of the Trade Committee established under the EPA have taken place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 April 2011, Port Moresby</li> <li>24 February 2012, Port Moresby</li> <li>11 July 2013, Brussels</li> <li>24 June 2015, Brussels</li> <li>19 October 2017, Brussels</li> <li>24 October 2018, Brussels</li> </ul> <p>In the meantime, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga have recently informed the EU of their intentions to accede to the existing EPA. Samoa has submitted a formal request (dated 5 February 2018) with WTO-compatible market access offer to the EU for consideration.</p> <p>Solomon Islands also submitted its request (dated 31 May 2018) with a draft market access offer to the EU for consideration.</p>	<p>To conclude internal EU procedures towards the accession of Samoa and to launch the procedures relating to Solomon Islands and Tonga.</p>



REFERENCE

**ACP/23/102/18**

PAHD Dept: JPA/MMM/bm

Brussels, 22 November 2018

## ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

### MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS<sup>1</sup>

WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2018

10:00 - 13:00

AT THE HOTEL GOLDEN TULIP – LEDIPLOMATE  
COTONOU - BENIN

#### DRAFT AGENDA

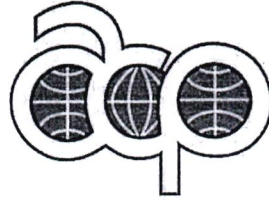
1. Adoption of the draft agenda [ACP/23/102/18].
2. Statement from the Chair.
3. Draft Summary Record of the previous meeting [ACP/23/103/18].
  - Adoption; and
  - Matters arising.
4. Consideration of items on the agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to be held on Saturday, 1 December 2018.
5. The political situation in ACP States.
6. Any other business.

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<sup>1</sup> Members:

**Central Africa:** Democratic Republic of Congo (**Chair**), Tchad, Sao Tomé & Principe  
**West Africa:** Mali (**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**), Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Togo, Benin  
**Pacific:** Nauru, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Cook Islands  
**Caribbean:** Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
**East Africa:** Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya  
**Southern Africa:** Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho

Groupe des Etats d'Afrique  
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique  
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and  
Pacific Group of States  
(ACP Group)

REFERENCE ACP/23/098/18  
MDFIP/BL/gn/131

Brussels, 20 November 2018

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE<sup>1</sup>  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2018 FROM 15:00 TO 18:00  
COTONOU (BENIN)

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DRAFT AGENDA

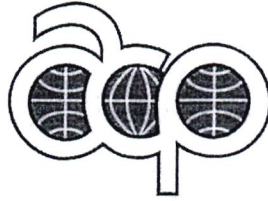
1. Adoption of the draft agenda [ACP/23/098/18]
2. Statement from the Chair
3. Adoption of the Summary Record of the Committee meeting held in Brussels on 13 June 2018 [ACP/23/096/18]:
  - Approval of the Summary Record;
  - Matters arising.
4. Consideration of the draft agenda for the joint Committee meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 [ AP102.724v01-00 ]
5. Any other business.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the Committee:

Southern Africa	: South Africa (Chair), Angola, Namibia, Swaziland
East Africa	: Comoros (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania
Caribbean	: Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
Central Africa	: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea
Pacific	: Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga
West Africa	: Cape Verde (1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair), Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal

Groupe des Etats d'Afrique  
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique  
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and  
Pacific Group of States  
(ACP Group)

REFERENCE

ACP/23/104/18  
PAHD Dept : JPA/MMM/bm

Brussels, 22 November 2018

## ACP- EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT<sup>1</sup>

THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2018

10:00 - 13:00

AT THE HOTEL GOLDEN TULIP – LE DIPLOMATE  
COTONOU - BENIN

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the draft agenda [ACP/23/104/18]
2. Statement from the Chair.
3. Approval of the Draft Summary Record of the Previous Meeting and matters arising therefrom [ACP/23/105/18].
4. Consideration of items on the agenda for the meeting of the ACP-EU JPA Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment to be held on Saturday, 1 December 2018.
5. Any other business.

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<sup>1</sup> Members:

Pacific: Papua New Guinea, The Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Tuvalu  
Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, the Bahamas, Cuba  
Southern Africa: Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique  
Central Africa: Central African Republic, Cameroon  
East Africa: Eritrea (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President), Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan  
West Africa: Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Ghana



30 November 2018

## WOMEN'S FORUM

### ENDING CHILD MARRIAGES - FROM VISION TO ACTION

Saturday 1 December 2018, 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Cotonou, Benin  
Venue  
Salle Madiba  
Golden Tulip le Diplomate  
*Interpretation in EN & FR*

#### **8H00 - 8H20 Opening speeches by the Co-Chairs**

**EU Co-Chair:** Ms Maria ARENA (Member of the European Parliament - Belgium)

**ACP Co-Chair:** Sen. Prof. Margaret Kamar (Member of Parliament, Kenya)

#### **8H20 - 8 H 30 Introductions:**

**Mme Kassouho Elise, Deputy Secretary General Ministry of Social Affairs**

#### **8H30 - 9H10 Panel 1: 'Challenging approaches to child marriages'**

##### **Speakers**

Françoise Sossou Agbaholou- coordinator WILDAF-Bénin  
Elvire Ahounou Houenassou - lawyer, Gender Specialist

##### **Questions and answers - Debate**

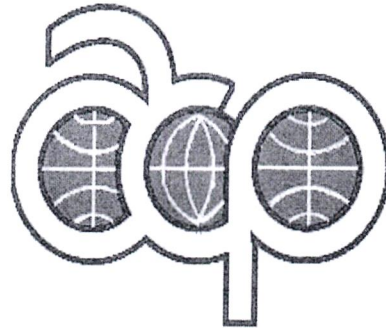
#### **9H10 - 9H50 Panel 2: 'Success stories- exchanging best practices'**

##### **Speakers**

Marie – Consolée Mukangendo, Chef de la Protection de l'enfant, UNICEF  
Testimony (tbc)

##### **Questions and answers - Debate**

#### **9H50 - 10H00 Conclusions and closing remarks by H.E. Patrick I. Gomes (ACP Secretary General) and by Co-Chairs**



**Draft**

**STATEMENT BY HON. JOSEPH HYACINTHE OWONA KONO CO-PRESIDENT**

**at the opening ceremony of the**

**36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**Cotonou - Benin**

**03 December 2018**

STATEMENT BY HON. JOSEPH HYACINTHE OWONA KONO CO-PRESIDENT  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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- *Your Excellency Patrice Talon, President of the Republic of Benin,*
- *Hon. Louis Michel, Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*
- *Distinguished invited guests,*

It is once again, an honour and privilege to address this distinguished gathering. Allow me also to thank the Government and National Assembly, and indeed the people of the Republic of Benin, for hosting these meetings of the JPA. We are appreciative of all the facilities that have been put in place for the convenience and comfort of Members.

It is indeed very befitting to be back in this magnificent city at a time when we are in the midst of the negotiations for the Post-Cotonou Agreement. As we may all recall, the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, was signed in this very City on 23 June 2000 with a life span of 20 years. Since then, it has been the framework for EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). With a

view of ensuring relevance and the effectiveness of the ACP-EU cooperation, in 2010, it was adapted to address new challenges such as climate change, food security, regional integration, State fragility and aid effectiveness.

**Your Excellency,**

**Hon. Members,**

Sessions of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly are a re-affirmation of our commitment to parliamentary governance in the multilateral context. This Assembly provides a framework for open, democratic and in-depth dialogue among ACP and EU legislators on the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement but also on the scrutiny of development cooperation mechanisms across the entire globe to ensure that they are in harmony with the objectives of sustainable development, including, peace, justice, respect for human rights as well as civil and political liberties.

That is why at our 33<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Sessions, we adopted Declarations in which we made it very clear that we would like a Post-Cotonou Agreement with a strong Parliamentary Dimension. This will not only enable this Assembly to continue ensuring that multilateral governance encompasses the values, rules, institutions, and processes through which people and organizations work towards common

objectives but that it does so more effectively. As I mentioned earlier that in 2010, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement was adapted to cater for the new challenges, the Members of this Assembly see a need to do the same to this organ to be able to deliver on its oversight role. As the ACP Group, we recently concluded a JPA impact assessment study and we are optimistic that its findings will be useful both for the negotiations purpose as well as the for the implementation phase of the new Agreement. We look forward to the thoughts that the Keynote Speaker will be sharing with us on the future partnership of the ACP-EU after 2020.

**Your Excellency,**

**Hon. Members,**

Political concerns and issues of international justice and security will dominate our debates at this session. We shall debate and hopefully adopt a Resolution on the impact of the rise of populism on globalisation. We hope to have consensus on how to preserve and protect the freedoms that came with globalisation such as; the movement of goods, services and people which are now under threat due to the rise of populism.

We shall also have a resolution on the impact of climate change, in particular on Small Islands Developing States. Climate change is affecting local economies dependent on land and natural resources the most. Rising seas will not only erode shorelines and destroy ecosystems, coastal cities and towns will surely be displaced by rising seas. The Paris Agreement; seems to be the only viable answer to this challenge, as it sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

Another debate will afford us to once again come up with strong strategies on the concrete involvement of the international community in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel. The leaders in this region stand ready to confront this scourge head-on but for lack of funds to operationalise the G5 Sahel Task Force. Hence, our longstanding call on the EU to deliver on the funding pledged for the Task Force. Terrorism feeds on fear, illusion and ignorance, let us not allow it to feed on lack of financial resources by those on the front-line of its firing; in this case the communities living in and around the Sahel.

Furthermore, the Assembly will have an opportunity to deliberate on the political situation in Cameroon.

I shall refrain from pre-empting the debate on this topic. However, I am looking forward to actively participate in the debate when we come to that agenda item. The debate on the young people with disabilities in the context of sustainable development will be in the context of a follow-up, as you will recall that in our previous Session of the JPA a Declaration of the Co-Presidents on putting youth, especially young people with disabilities, at the heart of ACP-EU relations was adopted.

**Your excellency,**

**Hon. Members,**

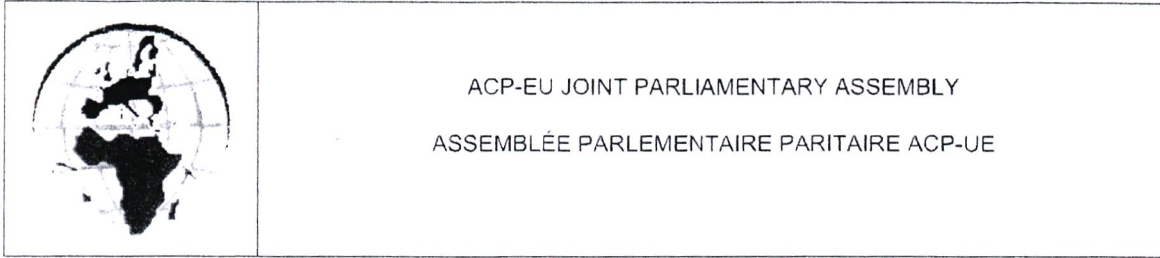
All the challenges I have alluded to above threaten the very core of what the ACP-EU Cooperation is all about; the people centred economic development. If all that countries are doing is merely copying with the current difficulties without preparing for the next generation, humanity itself is in peril. While some countries have made significant investments to ‘future proof’ their economies, they too will be affected by exogenous shocks of unsatisfied demands elsewhere.

In conclusion, I need to reaffirm the commitment and trust we have as the ACP Group on the cooperation we have with our EU partners. We

are cognisant of the fact that it alone, cannot be a panacea to the surmountable problems we are facing but to date, it is the most valuable partnership we have.

It is very encouraging to note that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the heart of both our negotiating mandates. Let us ensure that, indeed the new Agreement will enable most of the ACP countries to achieve most if not all of the SDGs, for the betterment of our people's lives.

I thank you all for your kind attention.



*Plenary session*

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02.12.2018

## **36<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

**3-5 December 2018**

**Cotonou (Benin)**

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

**and WORK PROGRAMME**

Website of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp>

## **MONDAY 3 DECEMBER**

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

### **Conciliation meetings on urgent motions for resolution**

11.00 a.m.

### **Formal opening sitting of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

List of speakers:

- Michèle Rivasi, acting Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Joseph Owona Kono, Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Patrice Talon, President of Benin
- Adrien Houngbedji, President of the National Assembly of Benin

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

### **Sitting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

#### **Constituent meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and accreditation of nonparliamentary representatives**

1. **Adoption of agenda**
2. **Approval of the minutes** of the last sittings of the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
3. **Co-Presidents' Announcements** including decisions taken at the Bureau meeting of 2 December 2018
4. **Statement by Neven Mimica**, Member of the Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development
5. **Debate with Neven Mimica**, Member of the Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development – catch-the-eye
6. **Question Time to the Commission**
7. **Action taken by the Commission** on the resolutions adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
8. **The fight against cybercrime and drug trafficking**  
Committee on Political Affairs  
Co-Rapporteurs: Deirdre Clune and Agnima Alain Michel Lobognon (Côte d'Ivoire)

## **TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER**

*9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.*

9. **Statement by** Issa Doubragne, Minister of Economy and Development Planning (Chad), President-in-Office of the ACP Council
10. **Statement by** Maria-Magdalena Grigore, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Secretary (Romania), replacing President-in-Office of the EU Council
11. **Question Time to the Council**
12. **Debate with the Council** – catch-the-eye
13. **Combating the destabilizing effects of wildlife trafficking in ACP countries and promoting the implementation of the external dimension of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking**  
Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment  
Co-rapporteurs: Gilbert S. Mangole (Botswana) and Catherine Bearder
14. **Urgent topic 1:** The impact of the rise of populism on globalisation

*3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.*

15. **The concrete involvement of the international community in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel**  
Debate without resolution with Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for West Africa
16. **Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries**  
Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade  
Co-rapporteurs: Sangeet Fowdar (Mauritius) and Nicolas Bay
17. **Post-Cotonou: the future partnership of the EU-ACP after 2020**  
Keynote debate with Maurizio Carbone, Professor, University of Glasgow (United Kingdom), School of Social and Political Sciences

## **WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER**

*8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.*

*Meeting of ACP Drafting Committee  
Possibly, meetings of EP Political groups*

9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

18. **The political situation in Cameroon**  
Debate without resolution with Nsoh Christopher Ndikum, Head of Department of Political Science, University of Buea, Cameroon
19. **Urgent topic 2:** The impact of climate change, in particular on small, developing island states
20. **Young people with disabilities in the context of sustainable development**  
Debate without resolution with Alba Gonzales, EU Policy Officer, International Advocacy & Alliances, CBM International
21. **New Beninese electoral code**  
Exchange of views with Robert Gbian, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Benin on political reforms in Benin: state of play and outlook

2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

*Meeting of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly*

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

22. **Report by the economic and social partners**  
Presentation by Jaroslaw Mulewicz, Chair of the ACP Follow-up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee
23. **Summary reports from the workshops**
24. **Report on the 16th regional meeting held in Yaoundé, Cameroon (Central African Region) from 17-19 July 2018** – report by the Co-Presidents
25. **Report on the Youth Conference**
26. **Report on the Women's Forum**
27. **Vote** on the motions for resolution included in the reports submitted by the three standing committees
28. **Vote** on the urgent motions for resolution
29. **Any other business**
30. **Date and place** of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

ACP-EU/102.730/18/fin.

**RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>****on the impact of the rise of populism on globalisation***The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*

- meeting in Cotonou (Benin) from 3 to 5 December 2018,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the UN International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD),
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in June 1981,
- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,
- having regard to Articles 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR),
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised respectively in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 (hereinafter 'the Cotonou Agreement'),
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 5 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin)

- having regard to the 1947 GATT Agreement, the 1994 Uruguay Round Agreement and the establishment of the WTO in 1995,
  - having regard to the Georgetown Agreement of 1975,
  - having regard to the Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System of the G20 summit held in London on 2 April 2009,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 October 2018 on the EU’s input to a UN Binding Instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with transnational characteristics with respect to human rights,
- A. whereas populism is a term used as a description of political movements not confined to a single political family, anti-establishment and anti-elitism, which claim their foundation in the people and use demagogical arguments;
  - B. whereas populism seeks to capitalise on citizens’ fears and to offer overly simplistic solutions to complex, interconnected problems;
  - C. whereas populism often takes its roots in socio-economic difficulties; whereas populism often promotes nationalism as a response, and undermines further global efforts to address common challenges such as migration, climate change, poverty eradication and terrorism;
  - D. whereas populist rhetoric and campaigns have been on the rise throughout the world as a consequence of a crisis in States’ legitimacy, efficiency and financing; whereas this has led to greater distrust among citizens towards governments, globalisation and international cooperation and has created significant political and economic uncertainty;
  - E. whereas populism deliberately portrays a growing distance between ‘the people’ and ‘the elites’, which is used by populist forces for their gain; whereas this creates divisions within society and weakens the social fabric and has led to an increasing disconnect between citizens and institutions;
  - F. whereas populism undermines and seeks to destabilise principles, rights and values including representative democracy, the rule of law, equality and non-discrimination, and the protection of fundamental rights;
  - G. whereas globalisation is a process that has created a new set of political, economic and social possibilities and challenges for the future; whereas globalisation, global trade and open markets have contributed to technological progress, increased trade, productivity, prosperity, competitiveness and wealth, and have improved living standards and reduced extreme poverty in some parts of the world;
  - H. whereas the benefits of globalisation are spread unequally among people, countries, regions and sectors; whereas the growth of the financial industry and its rising share of the

global gross domestic product has led to a vast increase in the wealth of a small elite in some countries;

- I. whereas in countries which have undergone economic austerity measures, growing inequalities, a persistent lack of public investment, stagnating wages, rising living costs and a lack of job opportunities, the divide between citizens and governments has been aggravated; whereas in given countries, the lack of good governance undermines the implementation of efficient public polices and exacerbates this divide;
- J. whereas the global economic crisis of 2008 caused huge economic imbalances around the world; whereas the crisis was primarily caused by poor financial regulation and unscrupulous lending practices;
- K. whereas unrestricted globalisation allows investment to occur in less developed or under-regulated economies where well-capitalised companies can avoid their legal or moral responsibilities and not respect international and domestic laws, in areas such as the environment, human rights, labour law and property rights, resulting in dangerous and predatory employment practices, neglect and abuse of the environment and land-grabbing;
- L. whereas globalisation must be managed and rendered more humane and equitable so as to serve sustainable development; whereas there is a shared responsibility at all levels of government in harnessing globalisation; whereas this requires international cooperation, multilateralism and the reduction of inequalities;
- M. whereas protectionism is a simplistic and weak answer to the challenges posed by globalisation given the complex and high interconnection of economic activities in the global supply chain; whereas populist movements reject the potential for poverty reduction through globalisation;
- N. whereas any responsible government must ensure the economic emancipation of the population through the establishment of good human rights based governance, incorporating the individual dimension in the pursuit of the common good and peaceful co-existence;
- O. whereas multilateralism, based on cooperation and negotiation, is the glue which holds together the moral order in the fight to eradicate poverty and the combating of all forms of exclusion and hate speech; whereas the world's growing interdependence requires that progress be made towards these forms of governance, but international cooperation must not be allowed to result in a dilution of responsibilities to the detriment of democracy;
- P. whereas many ACP countries are still marginalised in the global context and need to enhance their competitiveness, since this would enable them to better participate in global markets;
- Q. whereas wars, civil unrest and changing weather patterns in many parts of the world have given rise to danger, disease, hunger and insecurity, causing large numbers of people to migrate to neighbouring or distant countries;

- R. whereas states trying to take on the challenges of globalisation and populism on their own encounter difficulties handling transnational challenges such as migration flows, financial crises, tax evasion, terrorism and climate change;
1. Regrets the rise of populist movements, which pose a threat to, and fail to take a responsible approach to, democratic-political and civil life, and gravely undermine representative democracy and its institutions;
  2. Strongly condemns populism that contributes to reinforcing stereotypes and obfuscating the advantages of intensified cooperation between European countries on the one hand and developing and industrialising countries on the other, on both public and private levels;
  3. Acknowledges that the benefits of globalisation include a general increase in wealth across the world, an increase in education opportunities, especially in less developed countries, and a worldwide improvement in healthcare; deeply regrets, however, that both the benefits and harmful effects of globalisation are unequally distributed among countries, regions and within societies; recalls, in this regard, that urgent and comprehensive action on globalisation is needed in order to work towards public trust and thereby halt the rise of populism;
  4. Notes that this, together with several factors including the global financial crisis, the increase in inequality of wealth, technology shifts such as automation and digitalisation, and a perception of inability to influence or control events, have led to a loss of belief in the benefits of globalisation and to a rise in populism;
  5. Recalls that populism can only be tackled by addressing the root causes of distrust in governments and state institutions; notes that corruption in the public and private sectors further widens the disconnect between citizens and state institutions and fuels the rise of populism; calls on the EU and ACP countries to adopt and enforce strong measures to tackle corruption and tax evasion and avoidance in order to restore public confidence; observes that the middle class has shrunk in many EU Member States, while its share of overall income has equally decreased; urges governments to expand globalisation adjustment programmes to help counter the negative effects of globalisation;
  6. Insists on stronger requirements for transparency in the financing of political campaigns and activities; urges national and regional authorities to uphold and strictly implement laws on admissibility and traceability on domestic and foreign political financing, including donations and loans;
  7. Welcomes 2018 as marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; reaffirms in the strongest terms its commitment to democracy, the rule of law and separation of powers, open societies, tolerance, multiculturalism and equality; urges national governments and international organisations to enforce existing commitments so as to ensure that states fulfil their national and international obligations regarding democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights including minority rights;

8. Calls on the ACP and EU Member States to strengthen policies that support the values of democracy, in particular an enabling environment that enhances the inclusiveness and participatory dimensions of nation building;
9. Deplores the increasing use of hate speech against minorities and condemns demagogical discourses on exclusion; denounces all forms of authoritarian governance, extremism, racism and discrimination; deeply regrets the exploitation and perpetuation of divisions within society;
10. Notes with concern the impact of social media and digital communication tools in the spreading of 'fake news' and inaccurate information; calls for greater regulation of social networking sites and large tech companies in order to monitor and halt the spread of false information;
11. Deeply regrets the exploitation of the arrival of migrants and refugees to further populist campaigns; notes that migration has always been a constant human phenomenon, and regrets the lack of solidarity from some EU Member States over sharing the responsibility to address the challenges of the arrival of migrants and refugees; notes that migration is a global phenomenon to be managed collectively; recalls that most ACP migration remains intra-African; calls for a humane migration policy in the countries of origin, transit and destination, including fair resettlement programmes, evidence-based policymaking, and a positive narrative of migration, also regarding opportunities for host countries, in order to combat populism;
12. Calls on political leaders in EU Member States and ACP countries to promote and defend the principles of international cooperation, multilateralism, inclusive societies, solidarity between national governments and parliaments, state institutions, regional organisations, and civil society to promote and defend the universality of human rights;
13. Reiterates its commitment to multilateralism and calls for ACP countries to be better represented in international fora; expresses the view that the needs and expectations of developing countries should be better reflected in international agreements; stresses that nationalism and isolationism should have no place in today's interdependent world; urges the international community to strengthen international standards intended to prevent the most egregious abuses and judicial institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) whose purpose is to respond to such abuses;
14. Calls on the ACP and EU Member States to jointly lead the political debate in the UN to control and prevent the expansion of populist ideology from disrupting the global achievement of integration;
15. Stresses the need for greater solidarity in global governance, regulation and worldwide solutions under democratic scrutiny and with the full involvement of civil society in order to better harness a globalisation that can benefit all, and to ensure citizens have adequate access to the democratic decision-making process; reiterates that only through regional and international cooperation and compromise can globalisation be managed and made to work in the interests of all citizens; notes that the OECD nations have instituted increased

financial regulation, and expects that this regulation will continue to be applied and not be relaxed;

16. Stresses that international trade and cooperation not only play a decisive role in economic development and relations between countries in the globalised economy, but also have a fundamental influence on peace, socially and environmentally sustainable growth, employment, the eradication of poverty and food insecurity, human rights, the fight against climate change, respect for cultures and diversity; recognises, therefore, the growing responsibility of the EU to contribute to answering these challenges, and calls on the EU and its Member States not to disengage from their international commitments and to recall their responsibilities as leaders in global development;
17. Calls for free, fair, rules-based and value-based trade between countries, with the maintenance or establishment of a level playing field and the binding linkage to high social and environmental standards, as well as the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights, in a spirit of reciprocity and mutual benefit; expresses the view that protectionism is a simplistic answer to common fears, while recognising the asymmetrical relationship between developed and developing countries; notwithstanding the aforementioned principles, reiterates the right of ACP countries to protect infant industries and liberalise more gradually, in accordance with their relevant international commitments;
18. Commends initiatives led by business actors for sustainable cooperation, and calls for trade strategies for SMEs, including social enterprises, aimed at integrating them more easily into international and regional value chains and overcoming trade-specific hurdles;
19. Recalls that inclusive education is a key tool to expand opportunities, attain stable, quality employment and facilitate exchanges and intercultural mobility; urges the European Union and its Member States and the ACP countries to use national budgets to support inclusive education, skills development, social integration, sustainable development and the creation of decent quality jobs, particularly for young people;
20. Calls on the ACP and EU Member States, in the context of the JPA, to strengthen the JPA's oversight role to safeguard good governance, accountability and transparency so as to prevent and discourage the social ills caused by populism;
21. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Pan-African Parliament, CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum, the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

ACP-EU 102.731/18/fin.

**RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>****on the impact of climate change, in particular on Small Island Developing States***The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*

- meeting in Cotonou (Benin) from 3-5 December 2018,
- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular that of 20 December 2017 on enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP states<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to its declaration of 21 June 2017 on climate change<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement and the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States of October 2015<sup>5</sup>,
- having regard to the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre<sup>6</sup>,
- having regard to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017-2030<sup>7</sup>,
- having regard to the World Risk Report 2017<sup>8</sup>,
- having regard to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, which supports disaster risk management projects worldwide<sup>9</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 5 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2017\\_haiti/pdf/1142805en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2017_haiti/pdf/1142805en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.acp.int/content/declaration-acp-eu-joint-parliamentary-assembly-climate-change>

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 349, 17.10.2017, p. 67.

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8537MilanDeclaration.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/2009-2021-regional-planning-for-climate-compatible-development-in-the-region/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/FRDP\\_2016\\_Resilient\\_Dev\\_pacific.pdf/](https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/FRDP_2016_Resilient_Dev_pacific.pdf/)

<sup>8</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WRR\\_2017\\_E2.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WRR_2017_E2.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/documents/Ref04\\_GFDRR.pdf](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/documents/Ref04_GFDRR.pdf) +

- having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>10</sup>,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 respectively (hereinafter ‘the Cotonou Agreement’), and in particular to Article 32a thereof, dedicated entirely to climate change<sup>11</sup>,
- having regard to the Special Report from October 2018 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impact of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty<sup>12</sup>,
- having regard to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030<sup>13</sup>,
- having regard to the resolution adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> ACP Meeting of Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture held in the Bahamas on 20 September 2017<sup>14</sup>,
- having regard to the 2011 Reefs at Risk Revisited report by the World Resources Institute<sup>15</sup> (WRI),
- having regard to the 2013 Asian Development Bank report entitled ‘The economics of climate change in the Pacific’<sup>16</sup>,
- having regard to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway of 2014, the Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, the Liliendaal Declaration on Climate Change and Development, the African Union Strategy on Climate Change, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific<sup>17</sup>,
- having regard to the UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, as adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 and updated by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March 2015 in Sendai (Japan)<sup>18</sup>,
- having regard to the joint declaration by the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states and the EU on climate change, adopted at the 43<sup>rd</sup> ACP-EU Council of Ministers

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/23232/The0global0fac0lobal0program0review.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/03\\_01/pdf/mn3012634\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/03_01/pdf/mn3012634_en.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15\\_SPM\\_High\\_Res.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_High_Res.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261962>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.acp.int/content/opening-5th-acp-meeting-ministers-charge-fisheries-and-aquaculture>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-risk-revisited>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/31136/economics-climate-change-pacific.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/15&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/15&Lang=E)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/1037>

in Lomé, Togo, on 1 June 2018<sup>19</sup>,

- having regard to the resolution adopted unanimously at the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva between 14 and 18 October 2018 entitled ‘Climate change - let us not cross the line’<sup>20</sup>,
  - having regard to the Declaration by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Parliaments adopted at the IPU General Assembly held in St Petersburg on 14 October 2017<sup>21</sup>,
  - having regard to Articles 7 and 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas climate change is a global challenge; whereas, if left unaddressed, extreme weather can impede economic development and lead to a rise in instability, poverty, food insecurity, pandemics including insect-borne diseases, water scarcity, flooding and droughts;
  - B. whereas the number and scale of natural disasters have increased, as have sea-level rise, cyclones, super storms, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which are putting people’s lives, health and livelihoods at risk, and destroying ecosystems and biodiversity, leading to humanitarian crises and the displacement of millions of people;
  - C. whereas the most serious effects of climate change are felt in developing countries, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS, where climate change and natural disaster-related phenomena exacerbate existing economic and social vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups;
  - D. whereas SIDS are especially and regularly exposed to extreme natural events, such as hurricanes, tropical storms and cyclones; whereas according to the World Risk Report 2017, many of the top 15 countries at the greatest risk worldwide are ACP SIDS;
  - E. whereas the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has highlighted the fact that more than 60% of countries with the highest losses from disaster events are SIDS, suffering damages of up to 9% of GDP;
  - F. whereas the SIDS are also having to contend with specific economic vulnerabilities, such as a narrow resource base, remoteness from markets, high dependency on development assistance and international trade, susceptibility to external shocks, high transportation costs and low connectivity; whereas the development in the SIDS is happening in their coastal areas;
  - G. whereas the SIDS have a potential comparative advantage in the blue economy, taking into account their geographical location, their natural oceanic capital and their wealth of

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.acp.int/content/joint-declaration-african-caribbean-and-pacific-group-states-and-eu-climate-change>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ipu.org/download/5670>

<sup>21</sup> [http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/cop23/sids\\_outcome\\_statement.pdf](http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/cop23/sids_outcome_statement.pdf)

natural resources;

- H. whereas 20% of the population of SIDS, or 4.2 million people, currently live in low-elevation coastal zones that are prone to flooding; whereas climate change particularly affects women, children, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, farmers and fishermen;
- I. whereas although most SIDS rely heavily on fossil fuels, they account for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- J. whereas SIDS have considerable potential for the development of renewable energy, on account of their location, climate and geomorphology;
- K. whereas the IPCC's special report of 8 October 2018 draws attention to the fact that limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels instead of 2°C would have a direct and significantly less negative impact on the island states, by modifying not only the environmental consequences of global warming, sea level rises and the increase in the number of extreme meteorological events, but also socioeconomic consequences and the degradation of the living conditions of island populations;
- L. whereas on average, countries in the Pacific region will require an estimated USD 447 million per year until 2050, or 1.5 % of GDP, in order to prepare for the impact of climate change under a business-as-usual scenario; whereas climate change may reduce the Pacific region's tourism revenue by 27 to 34%;
- M. whereas in the 2010 revision of the Cotonou Agreement, the EU and the ACP recognised the global challenge of climate change as a major subject for their partnership and committed to raising the profile of climate change in their development cooperation and supporting ACP efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change;
- N. whereas within the framework of the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway, held in Apia, Samoa from 30 October to 1 November, the SIDS committed to redoubling their efforts to achieve sustainable development; whereas the Apia Outcome reaffirms that the SAMOA Pathway is a standalone, overarching framework for guiding SIDS in their global, regional and national development efforts and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- O. whereas biodiversity will come under greater pressure on account of warmer and more acidic seas, extreme weather and migratory changes, bringing shifts in agriculture and fishing practices;
- P. whereas almost 50% of reefs in the Pacific region are considered threatened at present, with around 20% rated as either highly or very highly threatened;
- Q. whereas SIDS suffer the most as a result of natural disasters on account of poor resilience to climate change; whereas building resilience in SIDS is a long-term process which needs to be systematically integrated into EU and ACP development programmes;
- I. Reiterates the commitment of the ACP states and the EU to build on joint efforts that

- support ambitious climate action and to seek further opportunities to work together and mobilise further investment towards the full and effective implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, with a particular focus on the next conference (COP 24), to be held from 3-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland;
2. Strongly condemns the irresponsible attitude of those countries which have decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which is vital for the future of the planet;
  3. Calls on the EU and the international community to take due consideration of the IPCC report, which is based on the results of scientific research, and to take collective action to prompt the countries intending to leave the Paris Agreement to reconsider their position, so that a consensus can be reached;
  4. Calls on the EU to lead the negotiations with a view to reaching a more ambitious international collective commitment in the form of a concrete action plan that will reduce carbon emissions and thereby restrict the increase in temperature to just 1.5 °C by 2050;
  5. Calls on the ACP and EU governments, in the context of the negotiations on a new ACP-EU agreement, to place more emphasis on investments in projects and infrastructure that will help to make the ACP states – and in particular the SIDS – more resilient, so that they can mitigate the impact of climate change and better adapt to it;
  6. Calls on the ACP SIDS to focus on key economic sectors with a view to boosting long-term resilience in a broad way;
  7. Calls for the EU and all public and private stakeholders to speed up efforts towards low carbon emissions policies and action to forestall the negative and devastating impact of climate change;
  8. Calls on the countries most at risk of natural disaster to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as disaster risk reduction strategies into their sustainable development policies at all levels – state, local government and civil society; insists on the importance of building partnerships to support initiatives by developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, to produce risk information and early warnings;
  9. Welcomes the launch of the intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Programme (2018-2022) to support ACP member states, including SIDS, to better address climate change;
  10. Welcomes the fact that the SIDS have, through the 2014 SAMOA Pathway, reaffirmed their commitment to key priority areas, including climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, the sustainable management of the oceans and improved connectivity between SIDS and between SIDS and other states;
  11. Calls on the ACP states to swiftly establish national and regional emergency response systems for a swift and effective response to natural disasters, in line with the UN Sendai Framework;

12. Recalls that enhancing adaptive capacity is critical for SIDS; notes that vital infrastructure, such as seaports, airports, public service facilities and tourism infrastructure, are highly concentrated in locations at a low elevation along the coast; stresses the need to integrate urban planning into disaster risk-reduction strategies;
13. Calls for the EU and ACP Member States to establish effective measures to predict and prevent natural disasters; calls for enhanced scientific cooperation in this regard at regional and international level;
14. Underlines the importance of raising awareness and developing education in the context of disasters and crises in order to build resilient communities and promote awareness;
15. Calls for the EU to support the efforts of the SIDS in their transition towards an environmentally sustainable economy and to alleviate the constraints they face in implementing climate adaptation strategy, notably: inadequate data, information and technical capacity for timely and effective adaptation planning; weak institutional capacity; and limited financial resources;
16. Stresses that increasing technology transfer to developing countries is a critical component of the Paris Agreement;
17. Calls on the governments of the ACP and EU states, in the context of their partnership, to conclude and adopt a new agreement on the transfer of renewable energy technologies in order to help the ACP states more quickly to reach their ambitious renewable energy targets with a view to meeting their nationally determined contributions;
18. Recalls that the SIDS have huge potential for the development of renewable energy; urges them and all other developing countries to strengthen their efforts towards renewable energy sources and to mainstream renewable energy into their national and regional energy planning; calls for the EU to support the SIDS in this process; encourages the exchange of best practices, at regional and international level, to improve energy efficiency and diversification, building on existing initiatives such as the Energy Policy of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);
19. Insists on the continued inclusion of trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters in all trade agreements between EU and ACP states, with binding and enforceable provisions; urges the parties to introduce sanction-based mechanisms;
20. Deems it necessary for countries to agree on binding, multilateral rules designed to govern the sustainable harvesting of marine resources as part of a broader strategic approach to safeguarding the ecological diversity of the world's oceans;
21. Calls on the EU to take the lead in drawing up rules for the Paris Agreement, mobilising resources and simplifying procedures for accessing climate finance, in particular for the SIDS and the most vulnerable LDCs in the ACP Group;
22. Recalls that the SIDS are heavily dependent upon oceanic and coastal fisheries for their livelihoods; recalls that the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of these ecosystems, including by means of indigenous know-how, can help to alleviate

- poverty and prevent climate-induced migration; stresses the need to support subsistence and small-scale commercial artisanal fisheries; recalls that ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation can offer cost-effective alternatives to technological solutions;
23. Underlines the adverse impact of climate change on agricultural activities on inland settlements and in rural communities in SIDS; encourages the use of agro-ecology and forestry in order to enhance resilience against climate change; recalls the need to mainstream risk management into water supply and water resources management;
  24. Calls for climate change and environmental protection to be made a standalone priority for the Post-Cotonou negotiation and to be identified as challenges to be addressed with targeted action and to be effectively integrated and mainstreamed throughout the future framework;
  25. Calls on the EU, in the context of the post-Cotonou negotiations, to help the ACP SIDS draw up a sustainable development plan for the blue economy and their maritime security strategies;
  26. Emphasises that the revision of the Cotonou Agreement represents an opportunity to put the Paris commitments into practice, and that climate change mitigation should be complemented by further support for climate adaptation efforts and to reiterate climate finance commitments;
  27. Calls for joint ACP-EU work to be intensified in the international arena in support of ambitious climate action and the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement;
  28. Calls on the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) to strengthen their oversight role over their national and international Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments and respective governments' national legislation and to enhance transparency and accountability through periodic climate change progress reports;
  29. Calls on the ACP-EU JPA members to encourage their respective governments to remain committed to achieving the 100% renewable energy targets;
  30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

ACP-EU/102.578/18/fin.

**RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>****on the fight against cybercrime and drug trafficking***The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*

- meeting in Cotonou (Benin) from 3 to 5 December 2018,
- having regard to the Treaty on European Union and in particular Article 2 and Article 3(2) thereof,
- having regard to the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement and in particular Article 5, Article 8(4), Article 11(1) and (7), and Article 29(1)(b) thereof,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions of 22 May 2007 entitled ‘Towards a general policy on the fight against cyber-crime’<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 28 April 2015 entitled ‘The European Agenda on Security’<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council of 13 September 2017 entitled ‘Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU’<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 15 March 2017 entitled ‘Evaluation of the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2013-2016: a continuous need for an EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020’<sup>5</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 5 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin)

<sup>2</sup> COM(2007)0267.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2015)0185.

<sup>4</sup> JOIN(2017)0450.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2017)0195.

AP102.578/fin

- having regard to the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe of 23 November 2001, known as the Budapest Convention<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the final report of the T-CY Cloud Evidence Group of the Council of Europe of 16 September 2016 entitled ‘Criminal justice access to electronic evidence in the cloud: Recommendations for consideration by the T-CY’<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010 on the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 72/196 of 19 December 2017 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, held in New York on 19-21 April 2016,
- having regard to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Resolutions 22/7 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime<sup>5</sup> and 22/8 on promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation against cybercrime<sup>6</sup>, of 26 April 2013,
- having regard to the Joint United Nations statement on ending discrimination in health care settings of 27 June 2017,
- having regard to the joint statement by the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organisation of 12 March 2018 on ‘Working together for the health and welfare of humankind’,
- having regard to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report of February 2013 entitled ‘Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime’<sup>7</sup>,
- having regard to the UNODC World Drug Report 2017<sup>8</sup>,
- having regard to the UNODC report on the meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017<sup>9</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> The Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (CETS No 185).

<sup>2</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/16806a495e>

<sup>3</sup> <http://undocs.org/A/RES/65/230>

<sup>4</sup> <http://undocs.org/A/RES/72/196>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime\\_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/CCPCJ/Resolution\\_22-7.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/CCPCJ/Resolution_22-7.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime\\_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/CCPCJ/Resolution\\_22-8.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/CCPCJ/Resolution_22-8.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/cybersecurity-capacity/system/files/Comprehensive%20Study%20on%20Cybercrime.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/world-drug-report-2017---executive-summary-conclusions-and-policy-implications.html>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/Cybercrime-April-2017/Cybercrime\\_report\\_2017/Report\\_Cyber\\_E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/Cybercrime-April-2017/Cybercrime_report_2017/Report_Cyber_E.pdf)

- having regard to Europol Public Information Intelligence Notification 004-2013 of June 2013 entitled ‘Hackers deployed to facilitate drugs smuggling’<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the Europol Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) of 28 February 2017 and the Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) of 28 September 2016<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to a Europol press release of 28 November 2017 on ‘Drugs and the darknet: A growing threat to health and security’<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to a Europol press release of 6 December 2017 on the Europol Strategic Report entitled ‘How illegal drugs sustain organised crime in the EU’<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the joint publication of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol of 2017 entitled ‘Drugs and the darknet - Perspectives for enforcement, research and policy’<sup>5</sup>,
  - having regard to the EMCDDA Trendspotter study undertaken in 2014 on ‘The Internet and drug markets - Summary of results’<sup>6</sup>,
  - having regard to the Organization of American States’ Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission report on ‘Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet’, prepared for the CICAD Experts Group Meetings of August 2006<sup>7</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/102.578/fin.),
- A. whereas the increasing use of drugs is devastating for lives and economies, both in European and ACP countries; whereas one third of the criminal groups active in the EU are involved in the production, trafficking or distribution of various types of drugs, making drug trafficking one of the most lucrative criminal sectors;
- B. whereas the darknet facilitates illegal trade and is becoming one of the biggest engines of organised crime in European and ACP countries;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/cyber-bits-hackers-deployed-to-facilitate-drugs-smuggling>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/serious-and-organised-crime-threat-assessment>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/drugs-and-darknet-growing-threat-to-health-and-security>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/europol-strategic-report-how-illegal-drugs-sustain-organised-crime-in-eu>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/drugs-and-darknet-perspectives-for-enforcement-research-and-policy>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_234684\\_EN\\_Internet%20and%20drug%20markets%20study.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_234684_EN_Internet%20and%20drug%20markets%20study.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.cicad.oas.org/reduccion\\_oferta/grupoexpertos/Farma\\_docs/Drugs\\_in\\_Cyberspace\\_Distribution\\_Controlled\\_Substances.pdf](http://www.cicad.oas.org/reduccion_oferta/grupoexpertos/Farma_docs/Drugs_in_Cyberspace_Distribution_Controlled_Substances.pdf)

- C. whereas it is important to know and understand the distinction between the ‘surface web’ and the ‘deep web’, in order to better unravel the workings of the online drug market and how it appeals to buyers and sellers;
- D. whereas an understanding of the functioning of the darknet and the first online drug market (the ‘Silk Road’) is necessary to better comprehend the appeal of the darknet, as this offers anonymity and easy accessibility; whereas research done on the subject should be analysed, assessed and improved to obtain accurate results;
- E. whereas countries such as Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Côte d’Ivoire and the Gambia are known drugs arrival and transit points; whereas the drug issue is an extremely sensitive one in each of these countries, yet very few reports have provided specific details about them;
- F. whereas little is known about drug seizures that are carried out on a daily basis in ACP countries;
- G. whereas some ACP and EU countries have become gateways or transit points for all types of drugs, which are then shipped to the United States, Europe, and Asia; whereas the production of synthetic drugs has, in just a few years, become common in most ACP and EU countries;
- H. whereas the fight against drug abuse requires a comprehensive approach, including prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimising the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse;
- I. whereas the UN<sup>1</sup> calls on its Member States to review and repeal punitive laws on drug use or personal use of drugs that have been proven to have negative health outcomes;
- J. whereas the UN<sup>2</sup> notes with concern that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world;
- K. whereas the technical knowledge needed to be able to hack into security systems should also be possessed by investigators so that they can keep pace with professional hackers and counter attacks against IT systems;
- L. whereas diverging legal provisions in the various EU Member States and ACP countries pose a problem in the international battle against online drug trafficking; whereas better cooperation and communication between different countries and different players (national, police and customs authorities) has been underlined in many reports as the key to success but also, considering the current ambiguities, as a serious starting point for action;
- M. whereas repressive policies have largely dominated the policy response in the fight against illegal drugs, at the expense of a more comprehensive and balanced approach;

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<sup>1</sup> Joint United Nations statement on ending discrimination in health care settings of 27 June 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem.

- whereas there is a need to strengthen international, regional and sub-regional cooperation to address drug abuse in a comprehensive manner not limited to its criminal aspects, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of states through the provision of technical assistance;
- N. whereas the fact that perpetrators of cybercrime are often located in different regions around the world from those of their victims can have disruptive effects on societies worldwide;
- O. whereas investigations show that when illegal websites disappear, this is mostly due to action taken by the operators themselves and not as a result of law enforcement action, which means that cybercriminals are one step ahead;
- P. whereas the development of decentralised networks allowing marketplaces to exist on multiple servers enhances the anonymity factor and creates a multiplier effect;
- Q. whereas the French West Indies in the Caribbean have, over the last few years, become a major international transit point for cocaine trafficking, with a growing share of the market;
- R. whereas several investigations have shown the importance of cyber-attacks in the drug trafficking process; whereas raids conducted by the police in Belgium, the Netherlands and elsewhere have shown that drug traffickers can avoid border controls and find out the location and movement of containers via spam, emails and the hacking of security systems;
1. Calls on the EU to focus on gathering sound information to gain an understanding of drug-related cybercrime, in strict compliance with data protection and online privacy rules and with full respect for individual freedoms, and to introduce systematic and on-going analyses of the features of the drug trade and the business models underlying it in order to shape strategic responses, meet specific challenges and identify new opportunities to fight this scourge more effectively; urges the EU to make progress on facilitating cross-border access to electronic evidence for criminal investigations, in particular to counter the anonymity factor; stresses at the same time that cybercrime must not be used as a pretext for mass surveillance;
  2. Calls in particular on the EU Member States to make meaningful political and financial contributions also in the context of the post-Cotonou negotiations in order to allow for the development of inclusive societies, through legal employment opportunities, free education and universal health programmes, since drug trafficking also has its root causes in poverty and the absence of socio-economic prospects;
  3. Encourages the EU and the ACP countries to promote technical research, capacity-building and consumer education, in view of the ease of access to the internet and the similarities between illegal online markets and legitimate websites, which make it difficult for consumers to recognise the difference and make every internet user vulnerable to sellers/suppliers of illegal products;

4. Calls for a strengthening of the social and territorial structure in the context of multilateral cooperation, particularly between the EU and the ACP countries, by giving citizens more tools to access, understand and properly use new digital networks and to be able to detect illegal practices and report them to the competent authorities;
5. Calls for a holistic approach to research since cyber criminality and drug trafficking are interwoven with other branches of illegal trade and crime;
6. Calls on the international community to focus on reducing the production and trafficking of synthetic drugs and on disrupting related criminal activities;
7. Underlines the fact that the fight against drug trafficking needs to be accompanied by a more comprehensive approach to drug abuse, including the review and repeal of punitive laws on drug use or personal use of drugs; underlines the importance of scaling up effective prevention of non-medical drug use, treatment services and interventions for drug use disorders and evidence-based prevention of drug use, with special focus on young people, families and communities;
8. Encourages the ACP and EU countries to invest in enhanced land and sea border controls, international security cooperation and information-gathering; notes that even though a significant part of drug trafficking can be processed online, the drugs themselves cannot exist in cyberspace, and a physical address from which the drugs are actually shipped is still needed;
9. Encourages the EU to cooperate and coordinate its investigations and actions with countries of origin and transit countries to curb the growing amounts of cannabis, heroin and cocaine smuggled into the EU;
10. Calls for reinforced cooperation with the international community in the area of training law enforcement officers and data-sharing in order to tackle drugs-related cybercrime more efficiently;
11. Underlines the need to diversify the approach to the problem and to make investigation more dynamic by setting up ad hoc think tanks to look specifically at these issues;
12. Calls for international cooperation with regard to monitoring the internet while respecting individual freedoms; calls, in this regard, for enhanced cooperation between government institutions and agencies, law enforcement agencies and public and private organisations;
13. Urges the international community to modernise drug trafficking legislation through enhanced cooperation with the relevant UN bodies, in particular to fill the gaps existing between criminal activities, online and offline traffic, the visible web and the invisible web, digital evidence compared to classical scientific evidence, and between different countries and different laws;
14. Calls on the international community, in particular the ACP countries and EU Member States, to devote more resources to training and awareness raising, including at school level for children and adolescents, about the family and social problems that can lead to drug use;

15. Calls for additional resources to be made available to families and the individuals concerned, as well as to professionals trained in prevention and the rehabilitation of adolescents and young people who use drugs;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Union, the regional organisations of the ACP states and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

ACP-EU/102.614/18/fin.

**RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>****on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cotonou (Benin) from 3 to 5 December 2018,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement)<sup>2</sup>, as amended in 2005 and 2010<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolution of 3 December 2014 on private sector development strategy, including innovation, for sustainable development<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 April 2016 on the private sector and development (2014/2205(INI))<sup>5</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 13 May 2014 entitled ‘A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries’ (COM(2014)0263)<sup>6</sup>,
- having regard to the 2014-2020 intra-ACP strategy and the intra-ACP indicative programme under the 11th European Development Fund<sup>7</sup>,
- having regard to the Joint ACP-EU Cooperation Framework for Private Sector Development Support in ACP Countries, adopted in Nairobi on 20 June 2014<sup>8</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 5 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin).

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2014\\_strasbourg2/pdf/1042709en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2014_strasbourg2/pdf/1042709en.pdf), p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 58, 15.2.2018, p. 209.

<sup>6</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2014/EN/1-2014-263-EN-F1-1.Pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2015/EN/3-2015-7766-EN-1-1-ANNEX-1.PDF>

<sup>8</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/appui\\_au\\_developpement\\_du\\_secteur\\_privé\\_0.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/appui_au_developpement_du_secteur_privé_0.pdf), p. 2.

- having regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, meeting from 13 to 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 27 July 2015<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, and to its 17 Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to the resolution designating a Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, adopted on 6 April 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly at its 71st session<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to the ACP private-sector development strategy 2015-2019 adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers on 12 December 2014<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) SME Ministerial Conference of 22 and 23 February 2018<sup>5</sup>,
- A. whereas the role of the public sector is fundamental to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); whereas the private sector is the engine of wealth creation and economic growth in market economies, generating the bulk of jobs and income in developing countries; whereas particular attention should be paid to SMEs and small and medium industries (SMIs), which constitute the backbone of the worldwide economy;
- B. whereas, according to the United Nations, the private sector accounts for around 84% of developing countries' gross domestic product and can sustainably be used for the mobilisation of domestic resources, provided that it pays its fair share of taxes;
- C. whereas the private sector's contribution to the SDGs can take two main forms: good governance in business practices; and investment in sustainable development;
- D. whereas social dialogue and trade union rights constitute an essential pillar of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) Decent Work Agenda and are an important tool to ensure that the private sector engages effectively in the fulfilment of the SDGs;
- E. whereas - according to the OECD - micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) make a vital contribution towards opening up new prospects for more sustainable growth because of the role they play in development, the dissemination of innovations, the provision of goods and services, and job creation;
- F. whereas MSMEs are key players in the private sector, which is the decisive factor for transforming the economies of ACP countries, and whereas that sector should therefore be given greater responsibility in the area of ACP-EU cooperation policies in order to help increase investment in ACP countries so as to establish value chains that create jobs;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/FFD3-2015/document-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/ga11902.doc.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://acp.int/fr/content/la-100eme-session-du-conseil-des-ministres-marque-un-tournant-pour-le-groupe-acp>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/SME-Ministerial-Chairs-Summary.pdf>

- G. whereas a lack of investment slows economic recovery, reduces market confidence and negatively affects job creation, long-term growth prospects and competitiveness; whereas structural reforms and a business-enabling environment are necessary in order to improve access to private and domestic capital;
  - H. whereas the necessary reforms should include the fight against corruption, modernisation of public administration, improvements to transport and energy connections, promotion of trade and educational exchanges, and youth empowerment;
  - I. whereas MSMEs in ACP countries face not only regulatory and legal obstacles and constraints, but also obstacles and constraints to do with funding, technological capacity and marketing, which acts as a brake on setting them up and hamper their ability to transform ACP countries' economies, and whereas it is important to highlight the challenges to SME growth in those countries and prevent the establishment of a transparent environment that is conducive to SME start-up and development;
  - J. whereas the economic and social role of MSMEs in ACP countries' sustainable economic development, the opportunities resulting from making the informal economy part of the formal economy and the economic and social empowerment of low-income, non-bankable MSMEs reduce poverty by creating jobs for low-skilled workers and providing ways and means for them to increase their incomes;
  - K. whereas MSMEs have an inclusive impact on women's empowerment, job creation, action to realise young people's potential, and the prospects that digital technologies offer;
  - L. whereas it is important that local economic ecosystems - key resources in MSME development - should exist;
1. Acknowledges that private investment in developing countries can contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), if properly regulated; takes the view, in particular, that private sector contribution can take two forms: good governance in business practices and investment in sustainable development, which implies private sector commitment to transparency and accountability in honouring sustainable development practices, and responsibility to avoid harm, including through environmental externalities;
  2. Takes the view that development of MSMEs should be part and parcel of strategies and objectives for development of the ACP countries in the medium and long term, which involve, in particular, transforming, diversifying and industrialising their economies and, on the basis of value chains, integrating them into the global economy;
  3. Points out that it is essential that the ACP countries define the political framework for the actions to be carried out by public authorities and their development partners, which include private-sector actors, development cooperation providers and civil society organisations, in order to act in a comprehensive and consistent manner;
  4. Underlines the added value provided by the European Union in its cooperation with ACP countries to foster the development of MSMEs, notably through significant financial instruments such as the European Development fund (EDF), which funds programmes

such as the ACP Investment Facility and MARKUP (Market Access Upgrade Programme aimed at SMEs), but also through extensive trade programmes such as the ‘Aid for Trade’ strategy and the ‘Everything But Arms’ initiative;

5. Notes that sustainable development of the ACP private sector will be possible only on condition that it is properly regulated and capable of producing the goods and services needed to meet populations’ needs, but also requires account to be taken of the structural context of the sector, which is made up mainly of micro-enterprises, most of which operate in the informal economy;
6. Recommends that policies geared to investment in human capital and to innovation, technology and digitisation be strengthened through tailored partnerships so as to help the economies of ACP countries to become competitive while making use of their potential to improve the well-being of their peoples and liberating themselves from dependence on external aid;
7. Considers that e-commerce can facilitate cross-border trade and create business opportunities on the global market for MSMEs; underlines that access to internet connectivity and digital payment methods that are reliable and compliant with international standards, with legislation protecting consumers of online goods and services, intellectual property rights, rules protecting personal data and tax and customs legislation appropriate to electronic commerce are pivotal to enabling digital trade, sustainable development and inclusive growth;
8. Calls for stepped-up implementation of policies and legal frameworks that are responsible and business-friendly and for the development of infrastructures and reliable and stable national, regional and trans-national institutions to be promoted so as to maintain an environment conducive to SME start-up and development and ensure sound and effective cooperation between European institutions and ACP countries; emphasises that cooperation should be built on a partnership that is based on common challenges and interests in order to improve national infrastructure and the institutional capacity of ACP countries; underlines however the need to find the right balance between creating a climate conducive to investment on the one hand, and protecting public interests and the environment through regulation on the other, i.e. by guaranteeing accessibility and affordability of services for all;
9. Stresses that social dialogue is essential to ensure that the private sector engages effectively in development; encourages ACP countries to support social dialogue as a way to improve good governance and state stability;
10. Reasserts the need to improve access by MSMEs to flexible financing modalities and conditions that are tailored to their requirements; calls on the EU to continue to dovetail its programmes of support for private-sector development, including its external investment plan, with a global approach to public and private investment while continuing to ensure that those programmes provide financial and technical support for the development of ACP countries’ economic policies and infrastructures;
11. Calls for further facilitation of the creation of public-private partnerships in ACP countries, which should also include MSMEs or parcels thereof;

12. Stresses the need to take account of the issues relating to MSME integration into the formal sector of economies by establishing financial and non-financial means of encouraging informal economies to register their businesses with the relevant authorities, in order to enable a more solid tax base to develop, thus enabling states to fund themselves and create more resilient economies;
13. Supports the adoption of transparent allocation criteria for EU and ACP countries' funding for the development of MSMEs and the strengthening of the mechanisms for control and monitoring of that funding, in order to ensure that it has an inclusive impact and that it is used effectively;
14. Calls for the impact of ACP-EU programmes and projects fostering entrepreneurship, SMEs and the private sector to be taken into account from the outset when drawing up such programmes, on the basis of concrete, quantifiable and measurable indicators concerning the development of SMEs, such as: (i) the number of viable SMEs created; (ii) the SMEs' access to funding facilitated or raised by SMEs; (iii) the SMEs' facilitated access to markets (export, local subcontracting and public procurement markets); (iv) the SMEs' facilitated growth; (v) the number of SMEs in the informal sector that have become officially registered or gained 'formal' SME status;
15. Stresses the importance of strengthening the production, processing, promotion and marketing capabilities of SMEs in ACP countries, advocates that markets be integrated in order to provide SMEs with access to local, regional and international markets, in particular by capitalising on cooperation between ACP countries or with EU Member States, including their outermost regions, and draws the attention of the ACP countries' governments to the need for safeguards to protect particular sectors against competition;
16. Backs investment in training a skilled local labour force to meet the needs of the labour market while taking account of the impact of new technologies and access to digital financial services, knowledge management and innovative investment solutions and mechanisms that facilitate the creation of jobs, especially for women and young people;
17. Calls on cooperation from undertakings to be encouraged in the implementation or reform of training programmes where this can render them more professional and to allow undertakings to participate in funding them under certain conditions; draws attention to the existence of projects by means of which the private sector supports training centres, and calls on the European Commission and the governments of ACP countries to consider how the development of such initiatives could be funded; points out that the EU's External Investment Plan and the EDF could be used to achieve these objectives and calls for the strategic involvement of civil society organisations in planning and implementation in this field;
18. Underlines the opportunities offered by digitalisation for MSMEs; insists on the need to develop advanced training centres in ACP countries (including coding schools), to train developers and to stimulate the creation of IT solutions and digital applications in line with reality and the needs of local MSMEs;
19. Recommends that encouragement be given to setting up technology and innovation transfer partnerships between SMEs in ACP countries and the EU and its Member States; encourages the use and strengthening of existing cooperation frameworks, in particular

the ACP-EU joint cooperation framework for private sector development (PSD), via pillar 4 thereof, on knowledge management, dialogue and exchange of best practices;

20. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the regional and national parliaments, the regional organisations relating to ACP countries, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank.

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

ACP-EU/102.617/18/fin.

**RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>****on combating the destabilising effects of wildlife trafficking in ACP countries and promoting the implementation of the external dimension of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking***The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*

- meeting in Cotonou (Benin) from 3 to 5 December 2018,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement), and to subsequent revisions to the agreement adopted in 2005 and 2010<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Statement of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the importance of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals on protecting natural resources, wildlife and habitats into post-Cotonou negotiations, Port-au-Prince, 19 December 2017<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the financing of projects and intra-ACP programmes, in particular the Intra-ACP wildlife trafficking programme, under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for 2018,
- having regard to the Declaration adopted at the 5th Meeting of Ministers responsible for Aquaculture and Fisheries of the ACP countries, Bahamas, September 2017<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Declaration of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the post-Cotonou negotiations on the occasion of the 15th Regional Meeting of the JPA, Nairobi, 12 April 2018<sup>5</sup>,
- having regard to the Declaration of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary

<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 5 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin).

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2017\\_haiti/pdf/rv\\_statement\\_co-presidents\\_natural\\_resources\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2017_haiti/pdf/rv_statement_co-presidents_natural_resources_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/eaafcbf4-cf57-498f-8a55-aa6169afde90/ACP+++Declaration%2C+OCTOBER%2C+2017.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT\\_TO=url&CACHEID=eaafcbf4-cf57-498f-8a55-aa6169afde90](https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/eaafcbf4-cf57-498f-8a55-aa6169afde90/ACP+++Declaration%2C+OCTOBER%2C+2017.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=eaafcbf4-cf57-498f-8a55-aa6169afde90)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2018\\_nairobi/pdf/declaration\\_on\\_post-cotonou\\_negotiations\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2018_nairobi/pdf/declaration_on_post-cotonou_negotiations_en.pdf)

AP102.617/fin

Assembly on the poaching of African elephants, Paramaribo (Surinam), 29 November 2012<sup>1</sup>,

- having regard to the Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission entitled The New European Consensus on Development: ‘Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future’, Brussels, 7 June 2017<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission Communication of 26 February 2016 entitled ‘EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking’ (COM(2016)0087)<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 24 November 2016 on the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission Communication of February 2017 entitled ‘EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking – One year after – Overview of actions and initiatives taken by the EU Member States and the European Commission’<sup>5</sup>,
- having regard to the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), implemented in the EU through Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97,
- having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2015/451 of 6 March 2015 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)<sup>6</sup>,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (IUU Regulation)<sup>7</sup> and Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 of 29 September 2008 concerning authorisations for fishing activities of Community fishing vessels outside Community waters and the access of third country vessels to Community waters, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93 and (EC) No 1627/94 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 3317/94 (Fishing Authorisations Regulation)<sup>8</sup>,
- having regard to the African Elephant Action Plan, 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, March 2010,
- having regard to the Commission Action Plan to strengthen the fight against terrorist

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2012\\_paramaribo/pdf/elephants\\_app\\_declaration\\_en\\_final.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2012_paramaribo/pdf/elephants_app_declaration_en_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 210, 30.06.2017, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> COM/2016/087 final.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 224, 27.6.2018, p. 117.

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/Achievements\\_WAP\\_overview.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/Achievements_WAP_overview.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 75, 19.3.2015, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 33.

financing presented in Strasbourg on 2 February 2016<sup>1</sup>,

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy (2011/2318(INI))<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 8 September 2015 on untapping the potential of research and innovation in the blue economy to create jobs and growth (2014/2240(INI))<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to United Nations Resolution A/69/L.80 of 15 July 2015 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,
  - having regard to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2000<sup>5</sup>,
  - having regard to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), comprising CITES, Interpol, UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organisation,
  - having regard to the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, February 2014,
  - having regard to the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce Buckingham Palace Declaration of 15 March 2016,
  - having regard to the 4th and 5th EU-Africa Summits of April 2014 and November 2017,
  - having regard to the African Elephant Summit, Botswana, December 2013<sup>6</sup>,
- A. whereas the human-induced crisis of biodiversity loss is eroding the foundations of life on earth, with many flora and fauna on the brink of extinction;
- B. whereas marine and terrestrial ecosystems are faced with the challenges of climate change, the unsustainable use of natural resources, pollution and urbanisation, in addition to the increasing volume of illegal trade in plants and animals;
- C. whereas wildlife trafficking is one of the most profitable forms of organised cross-border criminal activity, is linked to other serious organised crimes, is thwarting conservation efforts and is threatening the welfare of many countries;
- D. whereas around 70% of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend directly on biological diversity for their livelihoods; whereas, conversely, the involvement of local

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<sup>1</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:e6e0de37-ca7c-11e5-a4b5-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:e6e0de37-ca7c-11e5-a4b5-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 419, 16.12.2015, p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 316, 22.9.2017, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN\\_Convention\\_Against\\_Corruption.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN_Convention_Against_Corruption.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/mammals/african-elephant-specialist-group/african-elephant-summit>

communities can be crucial for the protection of biodiversity;

- E. whereas wildlife trafficking is not a new phenomenon, but its scale, nature and impacts have changed considerably in recent years; whereas poaching has reached unprecedented levels for some species, and the world is currently facing a dramatic surge in wildlife trafficking;
- F. whereas the limitless and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources is compounding the fragility of ecosystems; whereas each ACP country has a unique natural environment on which it depends for food, water, health and tourism, and which is linked to its socio-economic and political system;
- G. whereas more than 80% of the ACP countries are island countries or countries with sizeable coastal areas, hence the maritime dimension of these countries is considerable; whereas the blue economy already plays an important role in more traditional activities, such as fishing or tourism, and will do so in the future in emerging activities, such as blue biotechnology;
- H. whereas the ACP countries' annual financial losses related to IUU fishing are estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of euro, with an impact not only on local economies but also on marine ecosystems, which are exploited indiscriminately and without sustainability;
- I. whereas a large majority of the ACP countries are source and/or transit countries and wildlife trafficking can have destabilising effects on them, threatening natural heritage, communities and livelihoods; whereas ACP countries have different approaches towards conservation and wildlife trafficking;
- J. whereas Caribbean and Pacific countries have unique island ecosystems posing challenges to conservation and the development of their blue economies; whereas IUU fishing is still a major challenge for ACP countries;
- K. whereas environmental conservation is linked to sustainable development, with marine and terrestrial areas protecting indigenous wildlife and associated human heritage assets and providing economic and social benefits to local populations; whereas nature-based tourism contributes to awareness, respect for ecosystems, job creation and the economy;
- L. whereas human-wildlife conflict is an obstacle to conservation efforts; whereas the activities of poachers threaten the lives of rangers and local people who are often their victims, with poachers using weapons and equipment against often poorly-trained and poorly-equipped anti-poaching agents;
- M. whereas the illegal trade in wildlife encourages corruption, which in turn destabilises governments, eroding the rule of law and undermining border controls; whereas in some instances wildlife trafficking has contributed to the instability of entire regions, with profits funding militias and sustaining armed conflict;
- N. whereas markets for illegally traded wildlife are located mainly outside ACP countries, the EU being one of the main transit zones or destinations for these products;

- O. whereas illegal wildlife markets are global, complex, corruptive and well established, with networks of traffickers fuelling a circle of demand and supply and the growing involvement of other forms of transnational organised crime, such as money laundering, gun-running or terrorism; whereas the trade is increasingly conducted online;
- P. whereas the link between transnational environmental crimes and corruption, money laundering and drug trafficking has been acknowledged in many reports, such as those by Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Europol, Eurojust and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW);
- Q. whereas wildlife trafficking is a serious and growing threat to security, political stability, economic development and the rule of law in ACP countries;
- R. whereas organised criminal groups find wildlife trafficking attractive and easy because of low risks, high profits and weak penalties due to the low priority attached to it by law enforcement authorities;
- S. whereas criminal networks are still operating, despite anti-trafficking policies and cooperative efforts; whereas enforcement is generally failing, with too many cases of seizures of wildlife products leading to too few arrests, prosecutions and convictions, a lack of data collection and the halting or closure of investigations;
- T. whereas CITES regulates international trade in flora and fauna to avert over-exploitation, but there is a lack of clear guidance on implementation for law enforcers and prosecutors at national level;
- U. whereas the SDGs urge the international community to develop more coordinated efforts to ensure the conservation, protection and sustainable use of our terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and whereas the eradication of wildlife trafficking is important in order that the SDGs be achieved;
- V. whereas Article 32 of the 2000 Cotonou Agreement has been the framework for the ACP-EU partnership on environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources, including wildlife and biodiversity;
1. Recalls that ACP ecosystems play a role in preserving financial, ecological and cultural values at local and global level; emphasises that the use of natural resources must be sustainable; calls for the ACP-EU Partnership to include environmental protection;
  2. Recalls the Statement of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) on the importance of integrating the SDGs on protecting natural resources, wildlife and habitats into the post-Cotonou negotiations;
  3. Urges the ACP and EU countries to make wildlife trafficking a priority of the new partnership under the forthcoming Post-Cotonou Agreement, encompassing the external dimensions of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking;
  4. Underlines the fact that environmental crime represents a global threat to sustainable development, stability and security; stresses that wildlife trafficking should be classified as a 'serious crime', in accordance with the United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organised Crime, in order to facilitate international cooperation; urges the ACP and EU countries to commit to fighting wildlife trafficking and related crimes, with a focus on key source, transit and market countries; calls for a solution-based exchange and for a strong ACP-EU course of action;

5. Calls on the ACP and EU countries to commit to combating IUU fishing, whether by improving the monitoring of the fishing activity of vessels registered in its ports, by preventing vessels from other countries fishing in their waters or using their port infrastructure, by unloading and storing IUU fishing products or by distributing them elsewhere;
6. Invites the ACP and EU countries to develop a holistic approach to stopping the operations of internationally organised wildlife trafficking by working with law enforcement bodies, the judiciary, the private sector, civil society and stakeholders;
7. Calls for the creation of an ACP action plan against wildlife trafficking; acknowledges the need for each individual ACP country to adopt flexible measures to accommodate their different circumstances, recognising their achievements and conservation efforts;
8. Urges the ACP countries to further develop and implement wildlife conservation strategies at local, national, regional and international levels, alongside anti-corruption measures and foreign policy; emphasises that environmental protection needs a long-term return on investment; notes the benefits of Transfrontier Conservation Areas and Marine Protected Areas;
9. Calls on the ACP countries to ensure cooperation and respect between bodies dealing with wildlife, such as park authorities, local authorities, CITES authorities, inspection services, law enforcement agencies, veterinary services, researchers and customs authorities;
10. Recognises that regional and international cooperation, political commitment, stability, good governance and implementation are prerequisites for sustainable conservation efforts, in particular for effectively tackling networks of illegal wildlife trade, which in turn benefits local communities in source countries;
11. Urges supply, transit and demand countries to deepen their levels of cooperation to combat illegal wildlife trade along the entire chain; in particular, urges the governments of supply countries to: (a) improve the rule of law and create effective deterrents by strengthening criminal investigation, prosecution and sentencing; (b) enact stronger laws treating illicit wildlife trafficking as a 'serious crime' of the same gravity and deserving of the same level of attention as other forms of transnational organised crime; (c) allocate more resources to combating wildlife crime, particularly to strengthening wildlife law enforcement, trade controls, monitoring, and customs detection and seizure; (d) commit to a zero-tolerance policy on corruption;
12. Calls for the EU to reduce its biodiversity footprint worldwide and to bring it within the ecological limits of ecosystems by making its trade and other relevant policies consistent with its commitments on biodiversity protection;
13. Stresses that protection of local ecosystems should support the development of local

economies, lifting rural populations out of poverty, fostering the responsible use of natural resources and reducing migration;

14. Encourages the ACP countries to further develop and safeguard marine and terrestrial nature reserves with an enforceable governance system that has legal authority, support the involvement of civil society, rangers and local communities in conservation and anti-poaching efforts, and ensure fair allocation of the income and wealth obtained; urges the ACP governments to provide the necessary support to wildlife rangers;
15. Emphasises the importance of engaging with civil society and addressing local needs; notes that empowering communities is a central element in tackling illegal wildlife trade by ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills, resources and incentives to engage in wildlife protection;
16. Urges the ACP countries to empower local populations to sustainably manage their natural resources and develop alternative livelihoods in order to avoid wildlife consumption and human-wildlife conflict in protected areas (buffer zones); welcomes continued EU financial and technical support to community-led programmes;
17. Calls on governments to invest in awareness raising, education, deterrence and prevention with a view to the eradication of the illegal wildlife trade, and to adopt tailored behavioural change campaigns to stop the demand for wildlife products such as bush meat;
18. Stresses the need to address the root causes of environmental crime; welcomes EU support to ACP priority countries, particularly those with insufficient resources to enforce wildlife legislation and prosecute smugglers, helping them and their communities to implement national and international wildlife regulations in line with the CITES Convention; in particular, encourages international agencies, notably Interpol, UNDOC and the World Customs Organisation, to step up further their engagement against wildlife trafficking in order to strengthen the implementation of CITES;
19. Welcomes the efforts of ACP countries to develop national and joint initiatives at regional, continental and international levels to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking, such as the African Elephant Action Plan and the development of cross-border conservation areas;
20. Urges the EU to increase financial support to ACP countries and projects through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the EDF and the new multiannual financial framework for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI); welcomes enhanced mechanisms for environmental crime and wildlife trafficking efforts, including training for the law enforcement, judicial and prosecution services;
21. Emphasises the principle of policy coherence for development in order for the EU's related policies to make a significant contribution to the EU's action against wildlife trafficking, as a tool both to underpin efforts directly related to the Action Plan and to create the overall conditions conducive to preserving biodiversity, particularly by creating alternative revenue options for people living in rural areas in partner countries affected by poaching;

22. Recognises the call from the ACP countries for the EU to close down the legal ivory market, which is undermining the global fight against illegal poaching;
23. Encourages the EU countries to ensure implementation and better enforcement of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, to drastically reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products, and to impose stronger restrictions on imports of wildlife products such as ivory and hunting trophies;
24. Welcomes the increase in the activities of Europol and Eurojust on wildlife trafficking and insists on multilateral coordination, cross-border operational actions and support for joint investigations with the ACP countries;
25. Urges the EU to make available both technical and financial assistance mechanisms for middle-income and highly-indebted middle-income countries with the objective of addressing wildlife trafficking in those countries;
26. Recognises that Interpol is key to facilitating international police cooperation on wildlife trafficking between ACP and EU countries through its sub-regional structure; urges governments to allow inter-agency collaboration and Interpol investigations;
27. Recognises that IUU fishing in ACP countries is increasingly complex, as fishing operators are systematically linked to other serious illegal activities, such as the smuggling of wildlife, money laundering, corruption and human trafficking, among others;
28. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to work towards stricter law enforcement and sanctions for wildlife trafficking, making sure that arrests are followed by fair prosecutions and commensurate convictions; notes the benefits of case law; highly recommends the establishment of wildlife enforcement agencies in source, transit and market countries;
29. Urges the ACP and EU countries to strengthen technical cooperation and data sharing on wildlife conservation and trafficking; calls on governments and agencies to report arrests of traffickers and seizures of wildlife products, making them available for analytical purposes; takes note of Africa-Twix and EU-Twix;
30. Calls for stricter ACP-EU border and customs controls on illegal wildlife products; reminds governments that customs reporting to a central database and training for the whole law enforcement chain should be key priorities;
31. Recognises the need for ACP and EU countries to address environmental crime that feeds corruption within the legal systems; calls for the monitoring of suspicious financial flows from wildlife trafficking linked to other forms of serious organised crime;
32. Calls for cooperation with enforcers, NGOs and technology companies on the illegal online wildlife trade; invites governments to introduce or strengthen legislation to address enforcement challenges associated with cyber-enabled wildlife crime;
33. Recalls that the economic weakness of some ACP countries makes it difficult to effectively combat transnational wildlife trafficking; calls on the EU to support these

countries in their efforts to combat wildlife trade and trafficking, promoting economic opportunities for local communities and promoting good governance;

34. Suggests to the EU Member States that they should be more coherent and effective in the control of catch certificates and consignments so as to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal entry of fish, marine and aquatic species and products on the European market;
35. Underlines the fact that trade and development should respect human rights and promote environmental conservation; recalls that there is no EU legal instrument providing for the possibility of prosecuting European companies abroad for environmental crimes or activities that cause environmental damage; reiterates, in this context, its support for the intergovernmental process initiated in the United Nations through the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (IGWG), which aims to create a binding UN instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights;
36. Instructs the Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the regional and national parliaments of the ACP countries and of the EU Member States, and the regional organisations of ACP countries.