

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



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TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

(First Session)

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REPORT OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY AND THE 34TH SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

13th to 20th December, 2017

Clerks Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

December, 2017

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACP: African, Caribbean and Pacific

ACP-PA: African, Caribbean and Pacific Parliamentary Assembly

CARIFORUM: Caribbean Forum, a subgroup of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

EC: European Commission

EU: European Union

JPA: Joint Parliamentary Assembly

ACP-EU JPA: African, Caribbean and Pacific – European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly

EPAs: Economic Partnership Agreements

EDF: European Development Fund

EAC: East African Community

SADC: Southern African Development Community

PREFACE

Mr. Speaker,

The 34th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 13th to 20th December 2017. The Session was preceded by meetings of the three Standing Committees and the plenary of the 48th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly between 13th and 16th December 2017.

The Sessions and meetings were a follow-up to the 37th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Sessional meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly that were held in October in Brussels, Belgium. Various resolutions on matters affecting the member States were adopted.

Mr. Speaker,

The Kenya delegation to this meeting comprised of the following -

- i) The Hon. Patrick Mariru, M.P. – Leader of Delegation
- ii) Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, M.P.
- iii) The Hon. (Dr.) Lilian Gogo, M.P.
- iv) The Hon. Cornelly Serem, M.P.
- v) The Hon. Athanas Wafula Wamunyinyi, M.P.
- vi) Ms. Wanjiru Ndindiri – Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
- vii) Mr. Noah Too – Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
- viii) Mrs. Lillian Osundwa – Delegation Secretary (Senate)

The Kenya delegation was also joined by Ambassador Johnson Weru from the Kenyan Mission to the European Union in Brussels. The group participated actively in all the deliberations and issued statements with regard to the topics that were under discussion. Kenya also provided a brief on the political situation in the country following the General Elections, assuring the delegates that there was peace despite the ongoing political differences observed.

Mr. Speaker,

As mentioned earlier, the JPA was preceded by meetings of the three Standing Committees on Political Affairs; Economic Development, Trade and Finance and Committee on Social Affairs and Environment. They presented reports on topical

issues such as *the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies; Blue economy: the opportunities and challenges for ACP states; and on improving the access to basic health systems, notably to medicines in the fight against infectious diseases.* The reports were thereafter discussed in the Joint Assembly, where they were adopted and resolutions made. There was also a Women's Forum, two workshops and a Youth Conference with Haitian students, conducted before the main plenary session.

Mr. Speaker,

The JPA deliberated on various matters of concern to the Member States, and also exercised scrutiny over the European Commission, the ACP and EU Councils, respectively through a Question and Answer debate. Further, deliberations were conducted on a variety of topics, namely, the role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development, demographic growth, sustainable tourism, enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, among others, in addition to discussions with Commissioner Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development. The Commissioner focused his statement on the future of the Cotonou Agreement, which would be coming to an end in 2020, citing the need to adapt to the changing environment and to the emergence of global challenges such as climate change and migration. Other debates also included urgent motions on the ongoing situations in Mauritania, Libya and Zimbabwe.

Mr. Speaker,

The delegation is grateful to the Speakers of the two Houses for allowing them to attend the Session, for facilitating travel and accommodation and providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks from the two Houses.

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation, to present and commend this report to the House for noting.



.....
HON. PATRICK MARIRU, M.P.

LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

DATE:

INTRODUCTION

1. 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 – and the elected representatives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP Countries) that have signed the Cotonou Agreement: it is the only institution of its kind in the world.
2. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union and EU enlargement, it has acquired a more prominent role. A substantial part of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy and the common values of humanity, and this has produced joint commitments undertaken within the framework of the UN conferences.

Composition and working methods

3. The representatives of the 78 ACP states, who under the Cotonou Agreement must be members of Parliament, meet their European Parliament counterparts drawn from the 27 member states of the EU in a plenary session for one week twice a year, bringing together more than 320 MPs. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly meets alternately in an ACP country and an EU country. The institution is governed by common, democratic rules.
4. Two Co-Presidents who are elected by the Assembly direct their work. Twenty four vice-presidents (12 European and 12 ACP) who are also elected by the Assembly constitute the Bureau of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, together with the two Co-Presidents. The Bureau meets several times a year in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and to prepare new initiatives aimed notably at reinforcing and improving cooperation. It also considers topical political questions and adopts positions on all human rights cases.

5. Three Standing Committees have been established to draw up substantive proposals, which are then voted on by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly. These Committees, which began their work in March 2003, are:-
 - 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
6. The Assembly regularly forms exploratory or fact-finding missions. The members of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly are thus in direct contact with the situation on the ground in various developing countries which are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement.
7. The impact of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly goes well beyond economic considerations and embraces the fundamental objectives of the development of mankind and the establishment of peaceful relations between the nations and the world. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly is a democratic parliamentary institution, which aims to promote and defend democratic processes in order to guarantee the right of each people to choose their own development objectives and decide on how to attain them.

Initiatives by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

8. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly has made an active contribution towards implementing and reinforcing successive ACP-EU Conventions and has put forward numerous proposals, including -
 - a) the upgrading of the role of women in 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.

Membership and meetings

9. The forum has members drawn from the European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states. Prior to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the ACP committees hold meetings. These are followed by a

meeting of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-PA), then by the Joint ACP-EU committee meetings, and finally the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

10. From 2002, the European Union and individual and groups of countries that together make up the ACP group of states have been negotiating "free trade" Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The general framework for negotiating EPAs is found in the Cotonou Agreement.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Kenya, along with other EAC Partner States initialled the framework EPA Agreement on 27th November 2007. This was followed by negotiations towards a comprehensive EPA, which was initialled by the EU and EAC Partner States on 14th October, 2014. The EPA is due for signature and ratification by each of the EAC and EU Partner States to enter into force.

14. In general, Kenya and the EAC are keen to conclude an EPA Agreement that addresses the concerns of the region, bring industrial and general development, and lead to poverty reduction. The agreement should also not lead to displacement of Kenya products in the EAC markets by EU products. At present, Kenya and Rwanda have concluded with the ratification process, awaiting the other EAC states to finalize on the EAC EPA.

The European Development Fund (EDF)

15. The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main instrument for providing Community aid for development cooperation by the EU to the ACP States. The 1957 Treaty of Rome made provision for its creation 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.

16. The tenth EDF covered the period from 2008 to 2013 and provided an overall budget of EUR 22 682 million. The current eleventh EDF is scheduled to run from the year 2014 to 2020, with a budget of EUR 31.5 billion set aside for this particular period. This is divided into grants, national and regional indicative programmes; intra-ACP and inter-regional cooperation; the investment facility managed by the European Investment Bank; and for the European Investment Bank loans to be used to promote the public sector in ACP states.

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

17. The ACP Committee Meetings took place on 13th and 14th December, 2017, to discuss and agree on common positions on the Agenda items scheduled for discussion by the JPA Committees. Subsequently, the JPA Committees met on 16th December, 2017, and discussed several matters as follows -

Committee on Political Affairs

18. After adopting its agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in Annex 1.

19. The Committee then considered and approved the minutes of the meeting of 12th October, 2017 that was held in Brussels.
20. This was followed by a presentation by Co-rapporteurs Mohammed Goumane (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom (EU) on the topic '*the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies*'. The presenters stressed on security-development interfaces in terms of policy priorities and operational realities.
21. The Committee thereafter considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic '*the challenges in the field of the security development nexus in ACP and EU policies*', as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs. Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee, with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.
22. Subsequently, the Committee received a working document on the next report presented by Cristian Dan Preda (EU) and Jacob Oulanyah (Uganda) on '*ACP-EU relations post-cotonou: a strong parliamentary dimension committee on Political Affairs*', calling for full involvement in the Post-Cotonou discussions, given the crucial role it creates for genuine dialogue on various issues and democratic processes. The need was also highlighted for a strong parliamentary dimension in the next ACP-EU partnership.
23. The ACP Co-Chair strongly condemned the recent trade of African migrants in Libya, stating that these ignoble acts were crimes against humanity which had no place in the modern world. He called for appropriate measures to be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes were held accountable for their actions.
24. Members subsequently reported on the political situations in their respective countries; among them, a brief on the political situation in Kenya delivered by the Head of the Kenya Delegation, the Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP.

Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade

25. After adopting its Agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 2**.

26. The Committee considered the working document for its next topic, *'The impact of the illicit trade in phytosanitary products, seeds and other agricultural inputs on the economies of ACP countries'*, as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Mrs. Lucie Milebou Aubusson Mboussou (Gabon) and Ms. Maria Arena (EU). This document is to be improved upon and discussed substantively at the Committee's next meeting.
27. Members subsequently received and exchanged views on EPA implementation in the Caribbean region, with CARIFORUM, and the European Commission (EC), on the one hand, and on EPA negotiations in the other regions, with the EC, on the other on the topic ***'Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA): Update on negotiations and implementation'***. An update was provided on the status of negotiations in all the regions as shown in **Annex 3**.
28. The meeting was informed that in the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) sub-region, Comoros had signed and would join the existing EPA after concluding the necessary ratification procedures. In the SADC region, talks were held with the civil society on their possible role in monitoring and implementation of the EPA. In addition, Mozambique had ratified the agreement. There had been no change in the Central Africa region, leaving Cameroon as the only signatory to the EPA. The EU had further indicated that time for negotiations had lapsed in this region. Consultations between the EU and EAC were still ongoing, with Kenya and Rwanda having ratified the EPA.
29. The Committee also heard that only Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in the Pacific region had signed the EPA, and its implementation was ongoing. Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia and three other EU states had also not signed the EPA with the CARIFORUM, however Jamaica had now ratified the EPA. Generally, most countries were in the process of preparing strategic plans for EPA implementation.
30. Members also received and exchanged views on *Mechanism of financial support in case of natural disasters: experiences in the Caribbean region and ACP-EU cooperation*. Following the presentation, Members noted that there was a strong correlation between exogenous shocks and macroeconomic variables. The macroeconomic instability resulting from such shocks is detrimental to

economic growth and, more often than not, compromises or delays the achievement of the countries' development goals.

31. In addition, the negative impact of external shocks on development is cause for concern in ACP countries, especially in the Caribbean region, where the magnitude of, and exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters are extremely high, while, at the same time, the capacity to respond remains low. The need to have a financial support mechanism in the event of natural disasters is now urgent, given their frequency and magnitude. Such a mechanism would help to counter the negative effects of these shocks and maintain the affected countries' development strategies. Currently, the EDF allocations received by Caribbean states can be reallocated to support disaster relief efforts. Other financing mechanisms are availed through the European Development Bank, and via grants from the United Nations and neighbouring countries like the United States and Canada for emergencies and reconstruction projects.
32. The Committee lastly considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic *'The blue economy: opportunities and challenges for ACP States'*, as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Oumori Mmadi Hassani (Comoros) and Thierry Cornillet, MEP. The blue economy encompasses all economic activities taking place in or on bodies of water, such as lakes, watercourses, groundwater tables, oceans and seas, as well as on their shores.
33. As a generator of many economic services, jobs and income, the blue economy is responsible for a major share of economic growth in ACP countries, and also contributes significantly to global economic development. Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee, with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.

Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment

34. After adopting its Agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 4**.

35. The Committee considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic *'on improving access to basic health systems, notably to medicines in the fight infectious diseases*, as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Hon. Magnus Kofi Amoatey (Ghana) and Norbert Neuser (EU). Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.
36. The Committee also considered the working document on its next topic: *'the social and environmental consequences of urbanisation, particularly the sound management of industrial and domestic waste in ACP countries*,' as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Kalifa Sallah (Gambia) and Eleni Theocharus (EU).
37. Members identified different types of waste which needed to be enumerated in the report, that is, industrial, sanitary, plastic and sea/ocean/marine waste. It was noted that there was need for changes in legislation at national and international levels, and innovative mechanisms to deal with issues of waste management. The principles to apply in waste reduction were listed as the 3R's – reduce, recycle and reuse.
38. Members also received a follow-up report by the European Commission on the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary on the role of sport in education and poverty eradication. Sport should be used for the personal development of children to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty. The Commission highlighted that is the EU is exploring the use of sport diplomacy in external relations and development efforts, as it can help unite people and eliminate borders, enhance economic activity, and address social tensions, conflicts and radicalization among the youth.
39. The Committee also held an exchange of views with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on eliminating Child labour in ACP countries. It was observed that 152 million children aged between 5 and 17 years around the world are being put to labour. This issue is still prevalent even in higher-income countries. As such, efforts to reduce child labour need to be addressed at regional and national levels to deal with the factors leading to this practice.

Any measures created to deal with child labour also need to be multi-faceted and tailored to specific areas or industries where children are working.

THE 48TH SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

40. The ACP Parliamentary Assembly was held on 15th December, 2017. The meeting was presided over by the President of the ACP, the Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu from Sierra Leone. He welcomed Members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to those who were attending the meetings for the first time. This was followed by adoption of the Agenda and accreditation of non-Parliamentary Assembly representatives.
41. The President then invited the ACP Assistant Secretary General, Amb. Leonard-Emile Ognimba to address the Assembly on behalf of the ACP Secretary General. He made the following remarks:
- a) He reiterated the deep appreciation of the ACP Group to the people and the Government of Haiti for having offered to host the meetings at hand.
 - b) He elaborated on the work that the ACP Secretariat had been preoccupied with since the previous meetings of the ACP, noting that the breadth and depth of deliberations at ACP meetings demonstrated the keen concern on the part of Member States for the future of the ACP Group.
42. In reaction to the Statement, Members observed that, with the 2020 expiry of the Cotonou Agreement fast approaching, there was need to expedite negotiations on a successor agreement.
43. The ACP President then made his address to the Assembly. In his remarks, the President –
- a) informed the Assembly of the deliberations and outcome of the previous intersessional meeting of the JPA that took place in Brussels in October 2017; and
 - b) reiterated previous concerns at the lack of participation by ACP Members in the submission of amendments and resolutions for adoption by the JPA and questions to the Commission and Council.

44. The Assembly then received and considered reports from the three Standing Committees of the ACP-PA, on the agenda items scheduled for discussion during meetings of the Joint Committees.

WOMEN'S FORUM

45. A Women's Forum was held on Saturday, 16th December, 2017. The meeting was held under the theme "*Empowering Women as Climate Defenders*" with the sub themes: "*Women's role in nations' reconstruction in the wake of a natural disaster*" and "*Protecting women from sexual abuse in emergency situations*".
46. The meeting highlighted some of the significant roles women play in the wake of disaster and recalled that women remain champions of hope even when they are the most hit during a natural disaster. On the discussion on protecting women from sexual abuse in emergency situations, it was acknowledged that often after a disaster, women are the most affected and their mobility is reduced when they lose their shelter, and property or belongings they had at their disposal, along with sustainable means of livelihood. A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached as **Annex 5**.

WORKSHOPS

47. During the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, two workshops organized by the Haitian authorities and held concurrently on Sunday, December 17, 2017. They were on the following topics:
- a) On Haitian Innovation and Art – this entailed a visit to the Village of Noailles, which is a joint initiative between the Government of Haiti and the EU. Delegates got a chance to observe the contemporary art and crafts sector at close quarters, including the production of quality articles made out of cut iron, and paintings in numerous workshops by the local artists, sculptors and craftsmen. The Haitian Government has improved the infrastructure in the area, notably access roads and electricity, while the EU has financed several projects aimed at improving technical capabilities and promoting Haitian culture globally.
 - b) On Urban Architecture of Port-au-Prince – the delegates visited the public space Source la Grotte, which is a voodoo pilgrimage site, rebuilt and protected with a public wash house and playground area; Quartier Turgeau

- Gingerbreads, Maison Dufort, houses which make up part of the architectural Haitian heritage; Avenue N which connects two isolated neighbourhoods to bring about city integration; Hotel Oloffsson/Place Jeremie; Nouvele Cite administrative; and Mupanah, the National Museum Pantheon located in the Champ de Mars, the downtown central square which portrays Haiti's history and heroes.

THE YOUTH CONFERENCE

48. The Youth Conference, which was held on 17th December, 2017, is a new forum in the JPA that is aimed at interacting with young leaders in the host country. It provides a platform for interaction between the youth and the ACP and EU parliamentarians so as to promote the skills, energy, innovation and potential of youth, and enhance their economic, social, employment and cultural opportunities. It is further aimed at promoting the active participation of young citizens in public life as well as fostering student exchanges and interaction of ACP and EU youth organisations. The meeting came up with the "*Port-au-Prince Declaration*" attached as **Annex 6**.

OVERVIEW OF THE 34TH SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Opening Session

49. The 34th Session of the ACP-EU JPA was held from 18th to 20th December, 2017 at the Karibe Convention Centre in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Session was Co-Chaired by the ACP President and Acting EU President. The Session commenced with addresses by the two Co-Presidents, Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu and Hon. Michele Rivasi, as well as H.E. Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti and Hon. Youri Latortue, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Haiti.

50. The President of the National Assembly of Haiti welcomed the delegates to the country. He further thanked the ACP-EU delegates for the resolution made during the December 2016 meeting in Nairobi on mobilizing support for Haiti to counteract the effects of Hurricane Matthew which had affected the region then.

51. He assured the delegates that the Parliament of Haiti was working to ensure citizens' involvement and interest in politics does not wane. The Legislature

was ensuring return of normalcy and even increasing the pieces of legislation passed. He also stated that Haiti supports all measures for fair international trade. In this regard, the Haitian Parliament was reviewing the EPAs on areas of concern raised by civil society groups, the private sectors and others, before ratifying the agreement.

52. The Acting EU Co-President, Mme. Michele Rivasi also welcomed all the delegates and thanked the hosts for organizing the meeting. She noted that climate change disasters had doubled globally, so there was need to focus on mitigation, prevention and building resilience. She also commented on the topic on mineral resources in ACP countries as part of sustainable resources, which should be developed to aid in development of these states, instead of a focus on solely mineral extraction and exportation, among other topics. She concluded by encouraging all parliamentarians present to take part in the ongoing consultative processes on the post-Cotonou negotiations.
53. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, the ACP Co-President, congratulated the President of Haiti for his election on February 7, 2017 on behalf of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. He also thanked the Haitian Government for offering to host the JPA meetings, especially on short notice, and given the natural disasters and other emergencies that Haiti has gone through in the recent past. He cited partnership as a major part of the ACP and EU relationship, which extends to the way global issues are addressed and managed in the larger international community. A self-based approach based on national interest only may not be sustainable in the long-term. He highlighted that the greatest challenge most ACP states grapple with is maintaining the right political and institutional environment for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.
54. He also made a few remarks on topics regarding the role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development, the blue economy and the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies. A copy of the Co-President's speech is attached as **Annex 7**.
55. H.E. President Jovenel Moise addressed the delegates, and acknowledged that the ACP-EU is a beneficial partnership to both sides. He further stated that Haiti is going through a transition in its democracy, but things are progressing

positively. He highlighted that his administration will focus on three key areas during its term: good governance, growth and sustainable development. This will involve dealing with corruption, improving infrastructure and reviving agricultural productivity, among other things. He reiterated that Haiti continues to rely on the support of external partners like the JPA, EU and others, but from a position of partnership, and not assistance.

56. He concluded by requesting the international community to continue offering support to Haiti, especially in mitigating the effects of natural disasters experienced. He also stated that the country is still reviewing the EPAs to ensure issues of concern are addressed. Subsequently, President Moïse declared the JPA officially open.

Plenary Sessions of the ACP-EU JPA

57. Members of the Assembly began the plenary sessions with accreditation of non-parliamentary representatives, following which the Assembly proceeded to adopt and consider the Agenda of the Assembly. This agenda is attached as **Annex 8**.

58. The Assembly received and exchanged views on a presentation by Commissioner Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development. The Commissioner focused his statement on the future of the Cotonou Agreement, which would be coming to an end in 2020. While recognising the unique nature of the Agreement, the Commissioner underlined the need to adapt it to the changing environment and to the emergence of global challenges such as climate change and migration.

59. The presentation 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, among them on resumption of talks about Cuban ACP-EU JPA membership, Post-Cotonou and wildlife trafficking, EU funds to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean islands, Effects of the extended global gag rule on SRHR and HIV (Mexico City Policy), Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Haiti, Ending female genital mutilation, Conditionality of development aid and respect for human rights, IDPs and the

right to return in ACP countries, 2030 agenda for sustainable development and Uncommitted appropriations.

60. During catch-the-eye debate with Commissioner Mimica, it was highlighted by Members that there was need to separate humanitarian aid from development aid. The EU Commission also confirmed that in discussions with the ACP states regarding the post-Cotonou agreement, the negotiations were not being conducted separately with the three different regions, but with the ACP states as a bloc. It was hoped, however, that the specificities of each region would be included in the new post-2020 partnership. Mention was also made of the situation in Libya where migrants were being sold as slaves. It was stated that this problem was difficult to deal with due to the absence of government structures to engage with, especially in the southern part of Libya.
61. The European Commission gave feedback on the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly during its meeting in Malta in June 2017.
62. The Assembly also considered urgent motions for resolution on *the Situation in Mauritania* and *on enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP states*. These motions are attached as **Annex 9**.
63. Other topics without resolution discussed during the plenary sessions included Sustainable Tourism, the situations in Catalonia and Zimbabwe and an exchange of views with the authorities of Haiti, among others.
64. The Co-Presidents then presented a report on the 14th regional meeting (Pacific Region) held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 19th to 21st July, 2017, and highlighted the main topics discussed at the meeting. Members thanked and congratulated Vanuatu for the successful organisation of the meeting.
65. The Assembly then received summary reports from the workshops that had taken place on the sidelines of the JPA, as well as those from the Youth Conference and Women's Forum.
66. The Assembly subsequently 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 10**.

Dates of Next Meetings

67. The 49th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional meetings of the JPA Committees will be held in Brussels, Belgium, from 20-22 March 2018, while the 35th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly will take place from 18 -20 June 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Recommendation

The Delegation recommends this report to the Houses of Parliament for information and noting.

END

Annexes

- Annex 1:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs
- Annex 2:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
- Annex 3:** Status of EPAs negotiations in the different regions
- Annex 4:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
- Annex 5:** A copy of the Agenda for the Women's Forum
- Annex 6:** "Port-au-Prince Declaration" from the Youth Conference
- Annex 7:** Remarks made by the ACP Co-President during the official opening
- Annex 8:** JPA Agenda/work programme
- Annex 9:** Urgent motions for resolution adopted on Mauritania and on Climate change and natural disasters in ACP states
- Annex 10:** Adopted resolutions of the 3 standing committees

Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda for the meeting of the Committee
on Political Affairs



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE

Committee on Political Affairs

ACP_OJ(2017)1216

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting

Saturday 16 December 2017, 15:00-18:30

Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

Room Cattleya

1. Adoption of agenda

OJ – AP 102.388v01-00

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of

- 12 October 2017

PV – AP102.377v01-00

3. Co-chairs' announcements

****Voting time****

4. The challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies

Co-Rapporteurs: Mohammed Goumaneh (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom

- Consideration of amendments

AM – AP102.369v04-00

****End of voting****

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AP102.388v02-00

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5. ACP-EU relations post-Cotonou: A strong parliamentary dimension
Co-Rapporteurs Cristian Dan Preda and Jacob Oulanya (Uganda)
• Consideration of working document DT - AP102.387v01-00
6. Decision on the title of the next report
7. The fight against corruption, in particular in the judicial sector
• Exchange of views with Jean Joseph Exumé, former Minister of Justice
8. Political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement
• Exchange of views with the European External Action Service
9. The political situation in ACP and EU Member States
• Exchange of views
10. Any other business
11. Date and place of next meeting

Annex 2: Agenda for the meeting of the Committee
on Economic Development, Finance and
Trade



REFERENCE

ACP/23/106/17
MDFIP/BL/gn/13/17

Brussels, 21 November 2017

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE¹

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2017 FROM 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

PORT-AU-PRINCE (HAITI)

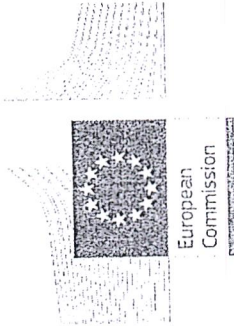
DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the draft agenda
[ACP/23/106/17]
2. Statement from the Chair
3. Adoption of the summary record of the Committee meeting held in
Brussels on 10 October 2017
[ACP/23/107/17]
 - Approval of the Summary record
 - Matters arising
4. Consideration of the draft agenda for the joint Committee meeting to be
held on 16 December 2017
[AP102.392v01-00]
5. Any other business.

¹ Members:

East Africa: Kenya (Kenya); Comoros, Rwanda, Mauritius, Burundi
Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname
Central Africa: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea
Pacific: Tonga, Niue, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea
Southern Africa: Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia
West Africa: Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Nigeria

Annex 3: Status of EPAs negotiations in the
different regions



OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Updated January 2018 – Updates in red

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<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 Ivorian National Assembly on 12 August 2016. It entered into provisional application on 3 September 2016. The first meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Abidjan on 5 April 2017.</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.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA were closed by Chief Negotiators on 6 February 2014 in Brussels. The text was initiated 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.</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. The Second Meeting of the joint EPA committee will take place in March 2018 for Ivory Coast and the First Meeting of the joint EPA committee will take place on the 24th January 2018 for Ghana.</p> <p>Regional EPA: After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p>



REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p><u>CENTRAL AFRICA</u></p>	<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 will 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>
<p><u>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA)</u></p>	<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 agreed to submit 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>Dedicated meeting of the Parties to discuss the proposal of each Party on the scope and objectives of a possible deepening of the current agreement: The meeting will take place in the first quarter of 2018.</p> <p>Meeting of the EPA Committee: the seventh meeting will take place in Brussels in the 3rd quarter 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 next EAC Summit will discuss 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 first meeting of the joint Trade and Development Committee (TDC) took place on 16-17 February 2017. A second meeting of the TDC took place on 21 October 2017. The third one is scheduled for 22-23 February 2018.</p> <p>Mozambique ratified the agreement on 28 April 2017.</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.</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"> • The Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (ministers) held its fourth meeting in Brussels in November 2017. • The Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its seventh meeting in Brussels in November 2017 • The Consultative Committee representing civil society held its third meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2017 	<p>Both regions need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue working on the further implementation of the various aspects of the EPA; • agree on a joint system for monitoring the EPA; • negotiate an agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs), valuable regional product names.

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
PACIFIC	<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"> • 11 April 2011, Port Moresby • 24 February 2012, Port Moresby • 11 July 2013, Brussels • 24 June 2015, Brussels • 19 October 2017, Brussels <p>In the meantime, Samoa and Solomon Islands have recently informed the EU of their intentions to accede to the existing EPA</p>	<p>To work towards the accession of Samoa and Solomon Islands</p>

Annex 4: Agenda for the meeting of the Committee
on Social Affairs and the Environment



REFERENCE

ACPI/23/108/17

PAHD Dept/JPALC/brh

Brussels, 29 November 2017

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT¹

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2017

10:00 - 13:00

KARIBE HOTEL CONVENTION CENTRE, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the draft agenda [ACP/23/108/17].
2. Statement from the Chair.
3. Adoption of the Summary Record of the Previous Meeting and matters arising [ACP/23/109/17].
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, 15 December 2017.
5. Any other business.

¹ Members:

Pacific: Samoa (Chair), Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau
Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, The Bahamas, Cuba
Southern Africa: Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland
Central Africa : Sao Tomé et Príncipe, Chad
East Africa: Madagascar, Somalia, Eritrea, Seychelles
West Africa: Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Ghana.

Annex 5: A copy of the Agenda for the Women's
Forum



WOMEN'S FORUM

"Empowering Women as Climate Defenders"

Saturday, 16 December 2017 at 08h00 to 10h00

Venue
Karibe Convention Center, Room Ginger
Porte au Prince, Haiti
Interpretation in FR & EN

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

EU Co-Chair: Hon. Cécile Kashetu Kyenge (Italy)
ACP Co-Chair: Hon. G. Amataga Gidlow (Samoa)

8H20 - 8H30 Keynote speaker:

SEM Eunide Innocent (Minister of Woman's affairs - Haiti)
Hon. Senator Dieudonne Luma Etienne (Senate - Haiti)

8H30 - 9H10 Panel 1: Women's role in nation's reconstruction in the wake of a natural disaster

Speakers

- Dorine Jean Paul (UNDP Project on Resilience to Natural Disasters UNPD)
- Mrs. Yolette Nicole Altidor (DG of Ministry of Environment - Haiti)
- Députée Guerda Alexandre (Haitian Parliament)
- Me Nathalie Wakam Cyprien (Lawyer - Haiti)

Questions and answers - Debate

9H10 - 9H50 Panel 2: Protecting women from sexual abuse in emergency situations

Speakers

- Ms Jocelyne Colas (President Justice and Paix Haiti)
- Ms Dieula A. Esperance (Coordinator of REFASCHA)
- Ms Maria Noichi (Hon. Member European Parliament)
- Députée Gladys Lundi (Haitian Parliament)

Questions and answers - Debate

9H50 - 10H00 Conclusions and Closing Remarks by: H.E. Amb. Leonard Emile Ognimba
(ACP Assistant Secretary General)

Annex 6: “Port-au-Prince Declaration” from the
Youth Conference

4th ACP-EU JPA Youth Forum
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
17th December 2017

Port-au-Prince Declaration

Declaration.....2

DECLARATION PREAMBLE

Guided by Article 26 of the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) on 'Youth Issues', this ACP-EU JPA Youth Forum aims to "promote the skills, energy, innovation and potential of youth in order to enhance their economic, social and cultural opportunities and enlarge their employment opportunities in the productive sector" (Art. 26.b. CPA);

Aiming to "promote the active participation of young citizens in public life as well as fostering student exchanges and interaction of ACP and EU youth organisations" (Art. 26.e CPA);

Referring to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 16, target 16.7 on ensuring 'responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels';

Taking into account the recommendations of the African Union Youth Charter; the Caricom Civil Society Charter; the Pacific Youth Charter, and the European Youth Charter;

Considering the topics of (i) trade and agriculture, (ii) environment and climate change, (iii) education and employment, and the three cross-cutting themes of (a) youth entrepreneurship, (b) women and gender equality, and (iii) digital inclusion and innovation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 4th ACP-EU Youth Forum in Port au Prince,

On the subject of education:

1. *Recommends* that parliamentarians push for a decentralisation of opportunities, inter alia, through investment in education and opportunities for youth development, in both rural and urban contexts, in order to curb brain drain at the local and national levels.
2. *Recommends* that parliamentarians establish indicators to better understand the accessibility of structures in societies, which allow for youth development, including, inter alia, education and leisure facilities and infrastructure, such as libraries and sports ground respectively, for youth well-being
3. *Recommends* that parliamentarians work to drive reforms in the education system to ensure a pragmatic education system which is relevant to local, national and regional realities, which teaches national and regional history in order to foster a sense of unity and integration and common understanding of local, national and regional heritages.

4. *Recommends* that parliamentarians support diversity in the education system, whereby training includes, inter alia, education on civic and moral codes; foster creativity via subjects such as fashion and artisanal production; trainings on geography, and in particular, agriculture and fisheries, or the green and blue economies respectively, in order to ensure that education provides choices to youth.
5. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps with the Ministries of Education & Health to ensure sexual health education to curb early child birth and prostitution, especially concerning young girls; as well as the establishment of a medical insurance for youth, with special attention paid to 'street children'.
6. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps with the Ministries of Education & Finance, as well as private sector, to provide an education in finance, loans and tax systems, which can support youth start ups, and foster youth access to micro-credit schemes.
7. *Recommends* that parliamentarians support initiatives to foster intra-ACP learning, especially concerning trade and investment for development, inter alia, through intra-ACP exchanges.
8. *Recommends* that parliamentarians push for an intra-Caribbean Erasmus+ scheme to foster regional learning and exchange, and ensure that Caribbean youth also benefit from the existing provisions under Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus for true ACP-EU youth exchanges.

On youth participation and inclusion:

9. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps to reinforce legal structures for youth inclusion in policy and decision-making, in line with SDG16, target 16.7, to ensure 'youth mainstreaming'.
10. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps to ensure that the Ministry of Youth is only charged with 'youth', in order to guarantee a dedicated, effective and targeted youth strategy, while recognising the importance of policy coherence with other Ministries.
11. *Recommends* that parliamentarians act to reinforce capacities at the level of the regional organisations on youth affairs.
12. *Recommends* that parliamentarians work together to give youth a consultative role in the analysis of national budgets.

13. *Recommends* that parliamentarians work to ensure political continuity between government change-overs to guarantee that youth and society at large are not negatively impacted.

14. *Recommends* that parliamentarians assist youth networks to foster their synergies and networking opportunities in the EU-ACP partnership, from the national, regional to international levels so that sustainable solutions can be found through partnership.

15. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps with the respective Ministries to have a human-rights based approach to addressing disabilities and the issues of accessibility in EU and ACP societies.

16. *Recommends* that parliamentarians support exchanges through twinning of young people, including members of youth parliaments across the EU and ACP regions.

On entrepreneurship:

17. *Recommends* that parliamentarians dedicate part of their budgets, and take the necessary steps with their respective ministries, to invest in youth-led and youth-owned organisations that are already providing solutions to the multi-faceted problems via targeted support to capacity building and technical support to their initiatives.

18. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps to ensure all Ministries, and ACP and EU institutions, offer ACP and EU youth distant working opportunities, such as freelance contracts.

19. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps with their respective ministries to support youth in tech through technology programmes that foster a digital education by raising awareness and youth engagement on issues including cyber-security, net-neutrality, e-reputation, crypto-currencies, and artificial intelligence amongst others.

20. *Recommends* that parliamentarians assist youth organisation to leverage the opportunities provided by existing EU-ACP commitments and institutions, such as the European Investment Bank amongst others, to ensure that investment in youth entrepreneurship is reinvested in youth, while also ensuring a key focus on social entrepreneurship as a vector to enhance social well-being

On employability

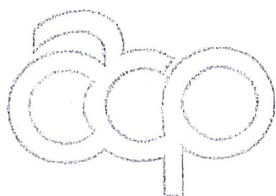
21. *Recommends* that parliamentarians work with youth to ensure that their volunteer activities are considered as professional;

experience, which can lead to boosting youth employment through gaining additional skills and expertise, albeit in the voluntary context.

22. *Recommends* that parliamentarians take the necessary steps to ensure all Ministries, and ACP and EU institutions, offer ACP and EU youth formal internship experiences.

23. *Recommends* that parliamentarians encourage both private and public sector to provide formal opportunities for youth to build their skills, through having more flexible experience-building based professional immersion opportunities, which are less stringent on previous professional experiences.

Annex 7: Remarks made by the ACP Co-President
during the official opening



STATEMENT¹ BY
HON. IBRAHIM RASSIN BUNDU
CO-PRESIDENT OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
at the
34th SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Karibe Conference Centre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Monday, 18 December 2017

¹ Check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT-IN-OFFICE OF THE ACP
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (JAMAICCA) AT THE 34th SESSION OF
THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

- *H.E. Mr. Jovenel Moise, President of the Republic of Haiti,*
- *The Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Mr. Guy Lafontant,*
- *President of the Senate of Haiti, Hon Youri Latortue,*
- *President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Haiti, Hon. Cholzer Chancy,*
- *Ministers of the Government of Haiti,*
- *Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*
- *Members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies of Haiti,*
- *Acting Secretary-General of ACP Group of States, H.E. Mr. Léonard-Emile Ognimba,*
- *Distinguished invited guests,*
- *Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is a singular honour and privilege for me to address this session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly here in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Since Haiti is still in effect in an election year, allow me to present the congratulations of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to you, Mr. President, on your election as President of Haiti on 7 February 2017. We wish you success in your onerous task of continued political, economic and social transformation of your beautiful country.

I also take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the ACP Group and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in particular, to the Government, Parliament and People of Haiti for offering to host these meetings, and for all the attendant facilities that they have put in place for the convenience and comfort of Members.

Members of the JPA are well cognizant of the fact that hosting these kinds of parliamentary meetings is a huge undertaking in terms of the logistical, human

and financial resources involved. That Members States are willing to take on these costs in the face of other national demands is truly an expression of ACP solidarity and demonstration of commitment to ACP-EU cooperation, and one that deserves special recognition especially in the case of Haiti, which had a very short notice to plan for these meetings. It is even more remarkable given the natural disasters and other emergencies that Haiti has gone through in the recent past.

Prime Minister, President of the Senate,

Haiti occupies a special place in the consciousness of ACP countries, having been the first independent Republic founded by people of African descent.

Historian Laurent Dubois in his book "Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution" put it very succinctly when he said that,

"By creating a society in which all people, of all colours, were granted freedom and citizenship, the Haitian Revolution forever transformed the world. It was a central part of the destruction of slavery in the Americas, and therefore a crucial moment in the history of democracy, one that laid the foundation for the continuing struggles for human rights everywhere. In this sense we are all descendants of the Haitian Revolution, and responsible to these ancestors."

The history of Haitians is mirrored in the travails of peoples of the third world. Their struggles to free themselves from the shackles of oppression, to found a new nation, to define their own place in a hostile world, are experiences most ACP countries can identify with. Along the way, most ACP states have experienced similar false dawns and false hopes, internal strife as well as external interference and intervention.

The vision of the founding father of Haiti's independence, Toussaint Louverture, to create a society in which people of all races would be equal before the law and could rise according to their abilities, is still as relevant today as it was then.

Hon. Members,

At this JPA, ACP and EU Parliamentarians will again have an opportunity to reflect on the issues that affect the ACP partnership and uphold the democratic principles on which it is based. This Assembly and its members individually and collectively have been a force for good in the quest for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

The JPA is a product of the evolution of the ACP-EU Partnership, and was created to provide parliamentary legitimacy and an institutional framework for parliamentary cooperation between the ACP Group and the EU, its principle development partner. The primary objective of the JPA is to promote and facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the EU and those of the ACP States, and in furtherance of this primary objective, to compliment the efforts of other institutions and organisations in realising the objectives of the ACP-EU partnership.

The JPA helps to play an important role in fostering the democratic nature of ACP-EU cooperation. There are still no equivalent international organisations that bring together legislators representing peoples of diverse economic, cultural and political backgrounds from developing and developed countries dedicated to fostering and enhancing development.

The post-Cotonou Agreement must therefore continue to have a strong Parliamentary dimension, as we clearly stated in the Declaration that we adopted at the 33rd Session of the JPA in Malta.

Mr. President,

The key word in ACP-EU relations is 'partnership'. This extends to the way global issues are addressed and managed beyond the ACP-EU circle, as we are all part of the larger international community. The social, political, financial and ecological emergencies that the world has been experiencing recently have vindicated the need for the international community to address the challenges that the world faces from the premise of partnership and shared common interests. The antithesis to this approach is a self-centred approach based on unbridled national interest only, which might not be sustainable in the long-term.

Mr. President,

The greatest challenge that most ACP States still have to grapple with before they can make any advances on the development front is ensuring and sustaining the right political and institutional environment for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty. This is the responsibility of each and every Member State, because sustainable development and political processes have to be driven by the citizens themselves, who have intimate knowledge of the needs of their populations and who can take long-term responsibility for their development processes. The international community can only assist in this respect, especially through vigilance to ensure that governments respect the political and development aspirations of their own people.

Mr. President,

The themes of the Urgent Motions for Resolution and the Reports from the Standing Committees that will be presented during this Session amply reflect some of the most pressing challenges of ACP and EU States.

For instance, the debate on the role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development is a multi-faceted question with implications for peace and security as well as the health and well-being of people, especially with regard to mineral extraction. A number of resource rich countries have been being adversely affected by the lack of efficient and sustainable management of their natural resource base. There is, further, concern about how natural resource depletion is affecting environmental diversity.

A related topic to that of natural resources is the blue economy. This is an issue of special importance for countries in the Caribbean such as Haiti. Oceans, which are critical to the ecological and climatic balance of our planet, will be discussed in the context of the opportunities and challenges offered by the appropriate utilisation of ocean resources. The same concern about natural resources motivated our thinking to discuss sustainable tourism.

The Committee on Political Affairs will present a report on challenges in the security development-nexus in ACP and EU policies. Development and peace are closely linked. Indeed, real, sustainable development can only be achieved in an environment of peace, stability, security and solidarity.

Mr. President, Hon. Members,

As I end, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate those ACP States that held successful legislative and presidential elections in 2017. Electoral cycles are a fundamental feature of democracy. However, I must hasten to add that elections should not be seen as an end in themselves, but as part of a wider process of institutional building and strengthening that promotes effective political participation, good governance and respect for human rights. These are our only refuge against tyranny and oppression from which our people have already suffered enough.

Mr. President, Prime Minister, Hon. Members,

I thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 8: JPA Agenda/work programme



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE

Plenary session

11.10.2017

34th SESSION

18-20 December 2017

Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

**DRAFT AGENDA
and WORK PROGRAMME**

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

1. Deadline for tabling questions to the Council and Commission
 - Wednesday 18 October at noon

2. Deadline for tabling urgent motions for resolution
 - Monday 20 November at noon

3. Deadline for tabling compromise motions for resolution
 - Monday 18 December at 3 p.m.

4. Deadline for tabling amendments
 - to the motions for resolution included in the reports submitted by the standing committees
 - Monday 18 December at noon
 - to compromise resolutions and other urgent motions for resolution to be put to the vote
 - Tuesday 19 December at noon

5. Requests relating to voting methods (votes on separate parts of the text, by secret ballot, by separate houses)
 - Wednesday 20 December at 10 a.m. in writing

6. Limitation of speaking time (cf. Article 15(2) of the Rules of Procedure)
 - 5 minutes for introductory statements
 - 3 minutes for speakers in debates (unless speaking time is allocated differently on the basis of a division of the total time available)
 - 2 minutes for winding up

Other meetings

WEDNESDAY 13 to FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

ACP meetings

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Women's Forum

10.00 a.m. to 13.30 p.m.

Meeting of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade

3.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

(simultaneously)

Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs
Meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment

7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Possibly, meeting of an EP political group with its ACP counterparts

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Workshops:

1. xxx
2. xxx

2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Youth Conference

3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Meeting of the EP Members with the EU Delegation

5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Meeting of the Bureau

MONDAY 18 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 34th Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

List of speakers:

- Cholzer Chancy, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Haiti
- Louis Michel, Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Ibrahim Rassim Bundu, Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti

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 non-parliamentary representatives

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last sittings of the 33rd session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (OJ C xxx. xxx)
3. Co-Presidents' Announcements including decisions taken at the Bureau meeting of 17 December 2017
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 33rd session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
8. Urgent topic No 1: Enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP States

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

9. Urgent topic No 2: The situation in Mauritania
10. The role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development
Debate without resolution
11. The blue economy: opportunities and challenges for ACP States
Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
Co-rapporteurs: Oumouri Mmadi Hassani (Comoros) and Thierry Cornillet
12. Consolidation of the Rule of Law in the Central African Republic
Debate without resolution

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

13. Sustainable Tourism
Exchange of views with Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations
Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
14. Challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies
Committee on Political Affairs
Co-Rapporteurs: Mohammed Goumaneh (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom
15. Demographic growth: challenges and opportunities
Keynote debate with Natalia Kanem, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations
Population Fund

7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Possibly, Bureau Meeting

WEDNESDAY 20 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.

16. **Improving the access to basic health systems, notably to medicines in the fight against infectious diseases**
Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
Co-rapporteurs: Mfanawemakhosi Dlamini (Swaziland) and Ana Zabojska
17. **Statement by xxx, Minister of xxx, President-in-Office of the ACP Council**
18. **Statement by xxx, Minister of xxx, President-in-Office of the EU Council**
19. **Question Time to the Council**
20. **Debate with the Council – catch-the-eye**
21. xxx
Exchange of views with the authorities of Haiti
22. **Report on the 14th regional meeting held in Port Vila, Vanuatu (Pacific Region) from 19 to 21 July 2017 – report by the Co-Presidents**

2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Meeting of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

23. **Summary reports from the workshops**
24. **Report of the economic and social partners**
Presentation by Yves Somville, Chair of the ACP Follow-up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee
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 35th Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**



Annex 9: Urgent motions for resolution adopted on Mauritania and on Climate change and natural disasters in ACP states

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.384/17/fin

RESOLUTION¹

on the situation in Mauritania

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- having regard to the statement by the UN Secretary-General of 8 August 2017, urging stakeholders to address disagreements on the Constitutional Referendum in Mauritania peacefully and within the confines of the law,
- having regard to the report of 8 March 2017 of the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on his mission to Mauritania,
- having regard to the report of 13 December 2016 of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Mauritania,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and in particular to Article 1, under which the Republic ‘guarantees equality before the law to all of its citizens without distinction as to origin, race, sex, or social condition’,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ratified by Mauritania in 1986) and to Article 5 thereof, which explicitly prohibits slavery,
- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,
- having regard to Articles 7 and 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region continues to deteriorate; whereas Mauritania is directly confronted with the consequences of the war in neighbouring Mali and threats ranging from terrorism and cross-border crime to arms and

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

- drug trafficking; whereas Islamist armed groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have been targeting Mauritania since 2005;
- B. whereas the stability of Mauritania is critical for the stability of the region as a whole; whereas Mauritania is a significant partner in the EU strategy for security and development in the Sahel;
- C. whereas Mauritania is an active member of the G5 Sahel; whereas the EU has stepped up its cooperation with the G5 Sahel countries in areas of shared interest such as security, migration, the fight against terrorism and long-term development and committed to provide EUR 50 million in financial support for the next few years; whereas UN Security Council Resolution 2359 (2017) welcomed the deployment of the joint force of up to 5 000 military and police personnel, and called on MINUSMA and the French forces in Mali to ensure adequate coordination and exchange of information;
- D. whereas the EU, together with its international partners, continues its support to the population of Mauritania to ensure that the necessary funding and assistance are provided with a view to improving their living conditions, with a particular focus on tackling food insecurity, the consequences of natural disasters and resilience to climate change, which is seriously affecting the Sahel region;
- E. whereas following a lengthy period of turmoil in Mauritania, the country has been enjoying relative stability since 2009 and has engaged in a process of political and economic reforms;
- F. whereas Mauritania has in the past been torn by strong racial and ethno-cultural tensions, which pose a major challenge to the stability of the country;
- G. whereas Mauritania formally abolished slavery in 1981, criminalised it in 2007 and introduced a roadmap for its eradication in March 2015 including the establishment of a special court for slavery cases; whereas the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery has called on the Mauritanian authorities to take more measures to ensure the full implementation of the roadmap, in order to eradicate all forms of slavery and its remnants once and for all;
- H. whereas the Mauritanian Constitution establishes a limit of two presidential terms;
- I. whereas a constitutional referendum was held on 5 August 2017 which led to the abolition of the Senate, the creation of a Supreme Council of the Fatwa, and a change of the national flag and the national anthem;
- J. whereas it is the government's responsibility to focus on upholding human rights and dignity in all policies to ensure peaceful coexistence among citizens, irrespective of their race, belief and political affiliation;
- K. whereas Mauritania has ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- L. whereas the Government of Mauritania is responsible for ensuring that elections are held

in conformity with the country's international human rights obligations, and must therefore take all necessary measures to ensure free, transparent and credible elections, and that the right to peaceful assembly, and to freedom of opinion and expression are fully respected;

M. whereas an appropriate framework for a constructive political dialogue able to guarantee a peaceful and democratic environment for timely and credible elections in 2019 requires the efforts of all political players in Mauritania;

1. In the light of the above-mentioned situation, decides to send a joint ad hoc fact-finding delegation before its next session, scheduled to take place in June 2018, in order to meet the Mauritanian authorities, parliament, opposition parties, civil society and non-governmental organisations, the purpose being to obtain first-hand information on Mauritania's continued commitment to uphold our shared principles of the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, non-discrimination based on race, democracy, and good governance including the separation of powers, as well as the full implementation of the roadmap on the eradication of slavery; gives the delegation a remit to assess the allegations on the political and human rights situation in the country, including the treatment of political opponents, of demonstrators during the referendum campaign and of human rights defenders, and to verify whether the rights of freedom of expression, of association and of peaceful assembly are not restricted, and report back to the Assembly;
2. Calls on the Mauritanian authorities to grant the delegation full and unhampered access to information and to all parties mentioned above; notes that the delegation will be established pursuant to Article 28 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
3. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Council of the European Union, the ACP Council, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the UN, the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union and the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Annex 10: Adopted resolutions of the 3 standing committees

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.369/17/fin

RESOLUTION¹

on the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting at Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- having regard to the Treaty on European Union, as revised by the Treaty of Lisbon, adopted on 13 December 2007, and in particular Article 41(2) thereof,
- having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, adopted on 26 October 2012, and in particular Article 208(1) thereof,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the Member States of the European Union and the ACP countries, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010, and in particular Articles 1, 8, 11, 28 and 29 thereof,
- having regard to the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, adopted in Lisbon in 2007² and confirmed in April 2014 at the EU-Africa summit,
- having regard to the 2014-2017 roadmap for the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, adopted on 2 and 3 April 2014 at the Fourth EU-Africa Summit in Brussels and the five priorities that it set out³,
- having regard to the EU global strategy on foreign and security policy, adopted on 28 June 2016⁴,
- having regard to its resolutions of 19 February 2004 on conflict prevention and resolution and the establishment of a lasting peace,⁵ of 22 June 2006 on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security⁶ and of 9 December 2015 on the

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 at Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/97496.pdf

³ http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/documents/2014_04_01_4eme_sommet_ue-afrique_feuille_fr.pdf

⁴ <https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/global-strategy-foreign-and-security-policy-european-union>

⁵ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 22.

⁶ OJ C 307, 15.12.2006, p. 17.

- evaluation of the African Peace Facility after ten years: effectiveness and prospects for the future⁷,
- having regard to the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenburg Programme) of 7 June 2001,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions on conflict prevention of 20 June 2011,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolutions of 25 November 2014 on the EU and the global development framework after 2015⁸, of 6 October 2015 on the role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation⁹, of 7 June 2016 on Peace Support Operations – EU engagement with the UN and the African Union,¹⁰ of 13 September 2016 on the EU Trust Fund for Africa: the implications for development and humanitarian aid,¹¹ of 4 October 2016 on the future of ACP-EU relations beyond 2020¹² and of 1 June 2017 on a joint statement by the Parliament, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, and the Commission on the new European Consensus on Development – Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future¹³,
 - having regard to the European Commission communications of 11 April 2001 on conflict prevention,¹⁴ of 13 October 2011 entitled ‘Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change’¹⁵ and of 22 November 2011 entitled ‘A proposal for a new European Consensus on Development – Our World, our Dignity, our Future’¹⁶,
 - having regard to the European Commission decision of 15 July 2014 on the 2014-2016 action programme of the African Peace Facility to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility and the 11th European Development Fund¹⁷,
 - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 11 December 2013 entitled ‘The EU’s comprehensive approach to external conflict and crises’¹⁸,
 - having regard to the Joint Communication by the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 28 April 2015 on ‘Capacity building in support of security and development – Enabling partners to prevent and manage crises’¹⁹,

⁷ OJ C 179, 18.5.2016, p. 24.

⁸ OJ C 289, 9.8.2016, p. 5.

⁹ Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA(2015)0336.

¹⁰ Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA(2016)0249.

¹¹ Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA(2016)0337.

¹² Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA(2016)0371.

¹³ Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA(2017)0241.

¹⁴ COM(2001)0211.

¹⁵ COM(2011)0637.

¹⁶ COM(2016)0740.

¹⁷ C(2014)4907.

¹⁸ JOIN(2013)0030.

¹⁹ JOIN(2015)0017.

- having regard to the EU Council conclusions on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015 - 2019 of 20 July 2015,
- having regard to the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 5 July 2016 entitled ‘Elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support security sector reform’²⁰,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 22 November 2016 entitled ‘A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP)’²¹,
- having regard to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Crime and Security Strategy, adopted at the 24th intersessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti,
- having regard to the Pacific Human Security Framework and the Pacific states’ human security objectives,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 4 May 2017 for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership²²,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 7 June 2017 entitled ‘A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU’s external action’²³,
- having regard to the European Commission report of 3 August 2015 entitled ‘Policy Coherence for Development’²⁴,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 13 November 2006 on Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 20 November 2007 on security and development,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 21 March 2011 on the EU’s Sahel strategy,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 28 May 2013 on the EU approach to resilience,

²⁰ JOIN(2016)0031.

²¹ JOIN(2016)0052.

²² JOIN(2017)0017.

²³ JOIN(2017)0021.

²⁴ SWD(2015)0159.

- having regard to the EU Council decision of 26 June 2013 on the Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the EU, meeting within the Council, on the financing of EU aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU applies,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 20 April 2015 on the Sahel Regional Action Plan 2015-2020,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 26 May 2015 on a New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 18 and 19 April 2016 on external affairs,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, adopted on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1631 of 17 October 2005 on UN cooperation with regional organisations in maintaining international peace and security,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 2151 of 28 April 2014 on the maintenance of international peace and security: Security sector reform: challenges and opportunities,
- having regard to the joint resolution 2282 of the UN Security Council and General Assembly of 27 April 2016 on the review of the UN's peacebuilding architecture,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 2349 of 31 March 2017 on peace and security in Africa,
- having regard to the resolution of the UN General Assembly of 25 September 2015 entitled 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'²⁵,
- having regard to the resolution of the UN General Assembly of 23 December 2016 on the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027²⁶,
- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 26 July 2016 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of sustainable peace and development in Africa,
- having regard to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai (Japan) on 18 March 2015,

²⁵ UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1

²⁶ UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/251



- having regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development adopted on 16 July 2015 by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa,
 - having regard to the UN Secretary-General’s Report ‘One Humanity: shared Responsibility’ for the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016,
 - having regard to the global agreement on climate change sealed in Paris on 12 December 2015,
 - having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé (Togo) and in particular Article 3 thereof,
 - having regard to Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union at the 24th ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 30-31 January 2015,
 - having regard to the decision of the African Union of 12 July 2003 on the establishment by the European Union of a Peace Support Operation Facility for the African Union,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights,
 - having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/102.369/fin.),
- A. whereas security and development are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing, since ‘without development and poverty reduction there will be no sustainable peace and security, and that without peace and security there can be no sustainable development’²⁷; whereas addressing the security-development nexus should be a key component of the post-Cotonou partnership between ACP countries and the EU;
- B. whereas two billion people live in countries where development outcomes are affected by fragility, conflict and violence; whereas half of the world’s poor live in fragile or conflict-affected states;
- C. whereas the ACP countries and the European Union are bound by deep historical ties and a privileged partnership; whereas in last decade the EU became the largest foreign investor in Africa and its main trading partner, and made an unambiguous commitment to its security and development and the supply of humanitarian aid;
- D. whereas fragility is exacerbated by poor governance and economic vulnerability; whereas the new Consensus on Development therefore commits to prioritise development cooperation for the least developed countries and fragile states; whereas in 2016, 53% of the EU’s development budget was directed to countries in a situation of conflict and fragility;

²⁷ Article 11 of the Cotonou Agreement.

- E. whereas the African Peace Facility, funded through the EDF, is the main EU supporting instrument for peace and security in Africa; whereas more than EUR two billion have been allocated since its creation, thus contributing greatly to improving capacity-building and crisis response mechanisms in this region; whereas, however, the sustainability of its financing has been recently put into question;
- F. whereas the EU is pursuing, together with its Member States, security policies, with more than 19 civilian and military operations in Africa, out of a total of 33 around the world; whereas the EU is also a major global player in development cooperation, as the world's largest donor, with a budget of EUR 30.5 billion allocated under the 11th EDF for 2014-2020;
- G. whereas the ACP countries, particularly those in Africa, have shown their willingness to put an end to conflicts to concentrate their efforts on the continent's development, as the 2063 Agenda demonstrates; whereas, however, several conflicts persist, undermining development efforts; whereas 544 million Africans still live in poverty;
- H. whereas the Agenda 2030 and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, highlights the importance of promoting peace and building resilience, however no explicit reference is made to security;
- I. whereas the EU has nine common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions deployed on the African Continent alone, six of which are military missions; whereas these missions are affected by limitations in their mandate from the Council of the EU and as a consequence their efficiency is greatly reduced due to the lack of military equipment, including but not limited to weapons, as is the case of EUTM Mali or EUTM CAR;
- J. whereas security threats today, including conflict, organised crime and terrorism, are mostly transnational; whereas in ACP countries, conflict and instability often bear a regional dimension;
- K. whereas it is impossible to create active and effective military units when these are not provided with military equipment and weaponry during their training, nor can their instructors evaluate them in real combat situations;
- L. whereas conflict and insecurity cause millions of people to flee their homes every year; whereas the resulting forced displacement constitutes a major development, humanitarian and security challenge for the countries concerned as well as at the regional and global level;
- M. whereas these military training missions aim at bestowing resilience, self-sufficiency and combat capacity to the national and local governmental forces, as the sole actors of internationally recognised states entitled to the legitimate use of force; whereas they therefore require full and complete training with none of the above-mentioned constraints;
- N. whereas climate risks interact with economic instability, migration and access to natural resources, which may represent an additional threat to peace and security, in particular in fragile states and small island developing states; whereas the recent wave of hurricanes

in the Caribbean region has raised global attention on the impact of natural disasters on human security; whereas significant world-wide efforts have been made under the COP 21 agreement to cut CO₂ emissions;

- O. whereas the Caribbean and the Pacific are vulnerable to natural disasters, which can increase their vulnerability to criminal activities;
- P. whereas the unprecedented demographic explosion in the African continent is likely to see its population reach 2.4 billion by 2050, of whom the vast majority will be young people under 25 years of age; whereas there will be inevitable consequences in terms of political, social and migratory crises if no future prospects for them are forthcoming;
- Q. whereas extremism, terrorism, state fragility and conflict are a global threat affecting peace, stability and sustainable development, and need to be fought in a coordinated manner by national, regional and international actors and organisations;
- R. whereas the greatest threats to the security and sustainable development of the regions of the Caribbean are cross-border criminal activities involving illicit drugs and illegal firearms, gangs and organised crime, as well as cybercrime;
- S. whereas the strict distinction the EU maintains between development and security policies and instruments may limit the effectiveness of its external action and cultivates the gap between short-term crisis response and long-term development objectives;
- T. whereas the EU has engaged in attempts to better integrate security and development policies, notably by adapting its Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) to explicitly enable a policy combining development and security to be implemented;
- U. whereas there is undoubtedly a need for mutually adapted planning of the use of security and development instruments in order to increase their effectiveness;
- V. whereas the Commission, the EEAS and the Council have been requested to develop and implement, by 2017, a due diligence policy to ensure that EU support to security forces is in compliance with and contributes to the implementation of the EU human rights policy and is consistent with the promotion, protection and enforcement of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- W. whereas the EU has committed to increase development spending to 0.7% of GNI, but is still far away from reaching this objective;
- X. whereas increasingly using development funds for security purposes will make the reaching of the 0.7% goal less likely;
- I. Welcomes the commitment shown by the EU and the ACP countries in implementing their security, development, humanitarian aid, human rights, rule of law and good governance policies in a coherent and balanced manner, and encourages them to pursue their efforts according to an inclusive and holistic approach; notes in particular the enormous financial contribution the EDF has made for security policies over the years through the African Peace Facility; highlights as well the contribution EU development

funds have made to security sector reform, demobilisation, reintegration and rehabilitation of combatants;

2. Welcomes the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF) – by virtue of a protocol of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSC) – within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); the PSC encompasses multinational and multidisciplinary military, police and civil components grouped in five continental sub-regions and has an ASF headquarters, a planning headquarters (PLANELM) and a logistics base (LOGBASE);
3. Welcomes the efforts undertaken in the Caribbean by regional security mechanisms, particularly the establishment of a Regional Management Framework for Crime and Security and the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), together with its sub-agencies, the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre, the Joint Regional Communications Centre and the regional security systems, among others;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the G5 Sahel Force, involving Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Mauritania, which is to deploy a battalion of 5 000 people to the region, which has been racked by political instability and criminal activities, including people trafficking, arms dealing and drug smuggling;
5. Welcomes the efforts made in the East African region by the Eastern African Standby Force, which is contributing towards peace, security and regional and continental stability and strengthening regional integration;
6. Recognises the increasing role played by the African Union in setting priority development and peace-keeping objectives on the African continent; calls for the full operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture with the support of European and international partners, while upholding international human rights standards;
7. Stresses the urgent need to increase the capacities of developing countries and cooperation between the EU and Africa in the field of security and in combating organised crime and trafficking in human beings by means of strengthening coordination and dialogue to increase conflict resilience and to enhance early warning and conflict prevention capabilities, and by supporting the African Union, sub-regional organisations and countries in improving conflict management and peacebuilding efforts;
8. Recognises that the need for a common defence and security mechanism for Africa was a focus of debate at the inaugural summit of the African Union, held in July 2002 in Durban (South Africa), at which Africa's leaders agreed on the urgent need to devise African solutions to address the multifaceted challenges which pose a threat to stability, security and cooperation on the continent;
9. Calls for the establishment of a centre to address the problems of drug and small arms and light weapons trafficking, in the Caribbean and the Pacific in particular;
10. Calls on the EU Member States to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the negotiations for a new post-Cotonou partnership agreement to undertake a process of

extremely in-depth reflection into how to make its instruments supporting security and development more effective and how to address emerging threats by means of an integrated approach between all its external instruments; stresses, in this regard, the need to increase the level, frequency, intensity and thematic scope of political and strategy dialogue at all levels as well as support for efforts undertaken by countries;

11. Stresses the need to further focus development action on addressing the root causes of violence and conflict and to increase funding for conflict prevention programmes and strategies;
12. Highlights in this context the EU re-engagement with African countries with security, human rights and rule of law issues in order to tackle migration; warns against a lenient approach towards these states in the field of human rights, which could actually increase insecurity;
13. Calls to that end for stronger cooperation between the EU and Africa in the field of security and justice in respect of the international legal framework in order to take a holistic approach to tackling problems and to better combat organised crime, human trafficking and smuggling particularly in relation to children, and terrorism; EU action should be in synergy with the strategies adopted by African countries, particularly those related to peace and security expressed in Agenda 2063;
14. Urges the members of the international community, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council in particular, to redouble their conflict-prevention and mediation efforts and to provide the necessary support to peace consolidation processes – which must be durable – once conflicts are over; calls for the establishment of national and pan-African mobile battalions, to operate with the support of voluntary permanent members of the UN Security Council;
15. Calls on all ACP-EU regional organisations to initiate and pursue integrated, autonomous security policies, backed up by a robust, adequately funded security framework with the full support of all governments;
16. Stresses that an effective global response to climate change is essential to achieve sustainable development; encourages the EU, its Member States and the ACP countries as a whole to honour their global climate commitments, targeting their efforts on fragile states and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where environmental vulnerability and the damages caused by natural disasters are often exacerbated by poor governance and instability, as exemplified in the Caribbean region; stresses that the Paris Agreement and the underlying philosophy behind the creation of a fund to combat climate change could be a benchmark for a model for targeted cooperation in energy transition, the sustainability of the planet and meeting the basic needs of people, such as education and health as a means to prevent forced migration and growing inequality in the different countries;
17. Calls for reinforced cooperation between the EU and ACP countries in the fight against organised crime, human trafficking and smuggling, and terrorism; insists on stepping up efforts to promote the rule of law, prevent impunity and fight radicalisation; in this

- context, calls for strengthening judicial cooperation and facilitating a better exchange of information and best practices between ACP countries and the EU;
18. Stresses the crucial importance of more effective cooperation and coordination – both between Member States within the EU and with international players – and in exchanging information and best practices, studying the real impact of the projects implemented, devising strategies and implementing their respective projects in order to ensure the complementarity of action;
 19. Calls on the Member States to honour their financial commitments by setting aside 0.7% of their gross national income for official development assistance, and calls on the Member States to leave channels of dialogue open for an increase to be made to these financial commitments;
 20. Regrets the very limited contribution by European states to peacekeeping missions in Africa and considers that an increased commitment would make a valuable contribution to the security-development nexus;
 21. Calls on all ACP-EU countries to strengthen the capacities of the security and law-enforcement sectors with a view to combating threats and addressing terrorism and organised crime in a more efficient and specialised manner in the security field;
 22. Calls on the ACP states to prevent and combat violent extremism, to provide basic social services, economic possibilities and job prospects, particularly for young people vulnerable to radicalisation, to support states and legitimate non-state actors in devising and implementing strategies, and to conduct activities to tackle these phenomena;
 23. Highlights the inherent risks of equipping security forces in states with a lack of democratic oversight and problematic human rights records; stresses therefore the importance of supporting security sector reform for military or police capacity building; underlines that such support can already be financed through development instruments;
 24. Advises all security and development actors to facilitate a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the results; adds that such assessments, which should form the basis for development and security policy programming, need to take account of both raw data and citizens' perceptions of the improvement or the deterioration of their livelihood and security, with security conceptualised in such a way as to facilitate development; recalls that development aid, investment and exploitation of resources must benefit first and foremost the resident population and society; calls for the inclusion of the priorities and policies of the regions and countries concerned in the elaboration of EU strategies for security and development;
 25. Believes that regional organisations play a critical role in conflict prevention and management, and in addressing security issues; insists that peace and security are included in broader regional development programmes; in this regard, calls on the EU to continue to help strengthen regional mechanisms and capacity for conflict management;
 26. Stresses the need for a re-evaluation of the tools at the EU's disposal to fill the gaps left by existing instruments; regrets the lack of means available for EU security policies in

third states, which results systematically in siphoning EU development budgets; calls for the creation of a dedicated instrument clearly separate from development instruments; takes the view that the new agreement should provide for more flexible procedures and faster decision-making by adopting variable geometry, with projects tailored to each specific regional context within a framework of generally applicable values and principles;

27. Calls on the EU to act in synergy with or support of its Member States in security and development initiatives and to demonstrate flexibility concerning the involvement of public and private operators in security and development projects;
28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the heads of state of the ACP countries, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and African regional organisations.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.368/17/fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on the Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for ACP States

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting at Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- 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)², and to the revisions of the Cotonou Agreement of 2005 and 2010³,
- having regard to the resolution of 19 March 2014 of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on mining for oil and minerals on the seabed in the context of development⁴,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 2 July 2013 on Blue Growth: Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors⁵,
- having regard to the objectives of the common fisheries policy as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 regarding environmental sustainability, the precautionary principle and protection of the marine ecosystem⁶,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 8 September 2015 entitled 'Untapping the potential of research and innovation in the blue economy to create jobs and growth'⁷,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 April 2016 on Fisheries aspects within the international agreement on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

² OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

³ OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

⁴ OJ C 345, 2.10.2014, p. 32.

⁵ OJ C 75, 26.2.2016, p. 24.

⁶ OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22-61.

⁷ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0291.

- jurisdiction, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹,
- having regard to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2017 on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries²,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2011 establishing a Programme to support the further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy³,
 - having regard to Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning⁴,
 - having regard to Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)⁵,
 - having regard to the joint statement of 30 June 2017 by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the New European Consensus on Development – Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future⁶,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 24 March 2017 on International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans⁷,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 26 June 2017 on Blue Growth⁸,
 - having regard to the statement by the EU Ministers responsible for the Integrated Maritime Policy of the Council of the European Union on the Blue Economy⁹,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 3 March 2010 entitled 'Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'¹⁰,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 8 September 2010 on Marine knowledge 2020¹¹,

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0100

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0280

³ OJ L 321, 5.12.2011, p. 1

⁴ OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 135-13

⁵ OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19-40

⁶ Texts adopted, P8_TA-PROV(2017)0241

⁷ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/04/03-international-ocean-governance/>

⁸ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/S1-10662-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Local-and-regional-leaders-call-for-EU-agenda-for-the-future-of-our-oceans0120-6558.aspx>

¹⁰ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:COM\(2010\)0028&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:COM(2010)0028&from=EN)

¹¹ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:COM\(2010\)0025&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:COM(2010)0025&from=EN)

- having regard to the Commission communication of 13 September 2012 entitled ‘Blue Growth – opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth’¹,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 13 May 2014 entitled ‘Innovation in the Blue Economy: realising the potential of our seas and oceans for jobs and growth’²,
- having regard to the report of the European Committee of the Regions of 11 May 2017 on the next stage of the European ‘blue growth’ policy³,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly of 25 September 2015 and the outcome document of the sustainable development summit entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, and in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14⁴,
- having regard to the high-level United Nations conference on oceans to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, held on 5-9 June 2017⁵,
- having regard to the Blue Growth Initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations⁶,
- having regard to the 19th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa in Antananarivo (Madagascar) in March 2015 to respond to the expectations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union⁷,
- having regard to the outcome document of the 3rd United Nations Summit on Small Island Developing States (SAMOA Pathway) of 4 September 2014⁸,
- having regard to the 2014 and 2016 Abu Dhabi Declarations on the Blue Economy⁹,
- having regard to the Lomé Charter signed at the October 2016 Extraordinary Summit of the African Union on Maritime Security and Development in Africa¹⁰,
- having regard to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation of 1 December 2016¹¹,

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0494&from=EN>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0254R%2801%29&from=EN>

³ CDR 6622/2016 ; <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/opinions/Pages/opinion-factsheet.aspx?OpinionNumber=CDR%206622/2016>

⁴ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁵ <http://en.unesco.org/events/conference-support-implementation-sdg14>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk541f/mk541f02.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.uneca.org/ea-ice19>

⁸ <http://www.sids2014.org/>

⁹ <http://commissionoceanindien.org/activites/leconomie-bleue/sommet-mondial-dabu-dhabi-leconomie-bleue-mere-dopportunitites-pour-lindianocceanic-20-21-jan-14/>

¹⁰ <https://www.sommetdelome.org/>

¹¹ <http://effectivccooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Global-Partnership-Nairobi-Outcome-Document-FINAL-1-December-2016.pdf>

- having regard to the outcome document of the 5th meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture of 20-21 September 2017,
 - having regard to the decisions and resolutions of the 105th session of the ACP Council of Ministers of 3 and 4 May 2017¹,
 - having regard to the commitments entered into at the ‘Our Ocean’ conference of 2017²,
 - having regard to the Mauritius ministerial conference of 1 September 2016 on building a sustainable and smart blue economy in the face of climate challenges in Africa³,
 - having regard to the Joint Declaration on Rio+20 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 14 and 15 June 2012⁴,
 - having regard to the reports on the blue economy and the active support programmes for sustainable development of the World Bank Group, in particular the 2014 report on trade in fishing services⁵,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/102.368/fin),
- A. whereas, in this report, the blue economy is understood to mean all oceanic, maritime, lake, river and groundwater economic activities; whereas, following the World Bank definition, the blue economy concept seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and the preservation and improvement of livelihoods, while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas; whereas it generally ensures that socioeconomic development based on ocean-related sectors and activities is not harmful to ecosystems or the environment; whereas it draws from scientific findings that ocean resources are limited and that the health of the oceans has drastically declined owing to anthropogenic activities;⁶
- B. whereas the fact of exploiting the potential of the blue economy must not serve as a pretext for subjecting the seas and oceans to forms of unsustainable exploitation of resources and growth models which have already proved to be unsustainable, and whereas marine and ocean resources must be exploited strictly in accordance with the need for their sound management and conservation, without altering marine ecosystem balances and by restoring degraded ones;
- C. whereas the oceans and seas cover more than 70% of the earth’s surface, generate an increasing share of economic growth and development and are at the heart of

¹ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-2113-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

² <https://ourocean2017.org/our-ocean-commitments>

³ <http://climatesmartoceans.org/>

⁴ http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/RioDeclaration2012_EN.pdf

⁵ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/504571468164949623/pdf/92622-REVISED-PUBLIC-Trade-in-Fishing-Services-WEB-withaddendum.pdf>

⁶ World Bank Group (2017) The Potential of the Blue Economy
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26843>

globalisation, as 90% of global trade is conducted via seas and oceans and 95% of global communications use submarine cable networks;

- D. whereas the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs incorporated, for the first time, a stand-alone goal related to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and marine resources (Goal 14);
- E. whereas Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda provides a catalyst for improving and/or implementing existing treaties and soft law instruments more effectively, including among others the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and the Port Measures Agreement;
- F. whereas many ACP countries have a potential comparative advantage in the blue economy on account of their geographical location, their natural oceanic capital and their wealth of natural resources;
- G. whereas ACP countries must be the first beneficiaries of their own genetic resources, as stressed in the Nagoya Protocol;
- H. whereas the blue economy makes a strong contribution to economic growth in ACP countries, accounting for 50% of the total volume of exports of certain countries;
- I. whereas the blue economy sector is one of the key contributors to the structural transformation of the ACP countries and their sustainable development;
- J. whereas fishing is of strategic importance for ACP countries in terms of economic development, participation in international trade, food security, nutrition and supply;
- K. whereas seas and oceans are vital for ACP countries' social and economic well-being, providing food, employment, energy and resources; whereas, however, the current overexploitation of marine resources risks leading to irreversible degradation of marine ecosystems and loss of the services and benefits they provide;
- L. whereas Africa loses billions of dollars each year to IUU fishing;
- M. whereas small-scale fisheries are crucial for the livelihoods of whole communities, and whereas the integration of global fish markets may increase the risk of excluding small-scale producers;
- N. whereas the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is expecting sustained growth in maritime tourism, which, by 2030, should account for 26% of the blue economy;
- O. whereas the desire for an energy transition offers new prospects for the development of clean energy, including marine energy and offshore wind power;
- P. whereas harnessing the full potential of the blue economy is hampered by a number of factors including a lack of information about the seas and oceans and their resources, as well as by maritime insecurity and difficulties in accessing resources;

- Q. whereas accelerating growth in the blue economy increases the environmental risks to ecosystems and threatens the sustainability of the growth model;
- R. whereas around one fifth of annual catches worldwide come from illegal overfishing, which compromises the regeneration of fish stocks and leads to significant economic losses;
- S. whereas marine pollution comes, in large part, from terrestrial sources, such as the accumulation of nutrients from industry and agriculture and plastic waste;
- T. whereas marine pollution from oil spills endangers economic activities, biodiversity and human health, and whereas many ACP countries do not have the resources to respond to a marine disaster of this nature;
- U. whereas global warming and the acidification of the oceans are causing a rise in sea levels and disrupting ocean ecosystems;
- V. whereas a rise in sea levels negatively impacts the established maritime boundaries of low-lying small island and coastal states (SIDS, with potential negative consequences for the size of maritime zones under national jurisdiction);
- W. whereas the blue economy gives the economies of many ACP countries a stimulus, in particular SIDS;
1. Stresses that the blue economy must be sustainable and take account of ecological concerns, the improvement of livelihoods, the fragile nature of the marine environment and the exhaustible or limited nature of available resources; advocates, in particular, the application of an integrated approach to all sectors of the blue economy rooted in an ecosystem-based approach to human activities, which implies an understanding of the relationships between human society and the ecosystems that support it;
 2. Underlines that seas and oceans are already under considerable anthropogenic pressure, and are suffering the related consequences (pollution, environmental and climate change, overexploitation of resources, overfishing, etc.), while still retaining important ecosystem reserves that are inaccessible and thus intact; believes that the blue economy should therefore protect, restore and maintain the ecosystems, biodiversity, resilience and productivity of seas and oceans and include services associated with marine biodiversity and a functioning ecosystem; believes that the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach should be at the core of the blue economy; calls on the ACP countries and EU Member States to step up their cooperation to this end;
 3. Recognises that a number of challenges facing the ACP countries are cross-border in nature; stresses, therefore, the importance of regional and international action and better cooperation between countries and the public and private sector to:
 - preserve the environment, in particular by complying with international climate agreements, intensifying waste management efforts, combating water pollution and sustainably managing fish stocks;
 - tackle crime by improving the monitoring and prevention of illegal fishing and piracy; welcomes, in this regard, the action taken by the European Naval Force

in the Horn of Africa; stresses the importance of information exchange and enhanced cooperation in maritime law enforcement;

4. Emphasises that the oceans and seas are very diverse and that it is therefore essential that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not adopted; draws attention to the need to promote an integrated approach to different sectors of the blue economy, based on common principles such as sustainability, recognising and respecting the specificities and needs of the different regions and the priorities of countries, as well as supporting them in working on these priorities;
5. Stresses the need for ACP countries to act together on the international stage to ensure that better account is taken of their specific circumstances;
6. Notes with concern that, according to the FAO, 87% of the world's marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted¹; recalls that fish stock sustainability is a global matter and that the international community has an obligation to assist developing countries in meeting this challenge¹;
7. Reiterates the need to prohibit, within the remit of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), certain forms of subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, as requested, among others, by ACP countries;
8. Takes the view that every regional trade agreement should include an environment chapter that incorporates provisions on living marine resources;
9. Calls for the EU and the ACP group to pursue an agenda of sustainability and reform in regional fisheries management organisations and other relevant international fora, in particular in relation to improving stock management, the conservation of endangered species, the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, compliance and transparent decision-making;
10. Emphasises the need to develop a comprehensive multilateral IUU fishing regulatory and monitoring system that brings together all principles developed under international law and soft law that is fair, transparent, uniform, effective and predictable for all;
11. Calls on ACP and EU countries to put in place dispute resolution mechanisms concerning their maritime borders, as recognised by the United Nations;
12. Considers that coastal and island communities in the EU Member States and ACP countries should be fully involved at every stage in the development of the blue economy, concerning or potentially impacting them, this being a sine qua non for realising its potential in terms of innovation, jobs, prosperity and sustainable development; acknowledges the diversity and particularity of coastal and island communities and calls for the adoption of exceptional measures in order to effectively promote the development of the blue economy in these communities and create favourable conditions for growth;
13. Calls for capacity-building vis-à-vis ACP countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), in the negotiation of fisheries agreements with the most developed

¹ Source: www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf.

- countries to ensure an equitable flow of benefits to the parties when implementing the access agreement;
14. Calls for Union fishing vessels, in the context of bilateral fisheries agreements, to tranship non-contractual fisheries products, that is to say incidental catches of species not targeted by the fisheries agreement, for the ACP country concerned, in accordance with the international rules in force; stresses the importance of continuing to combat IUU fishing through strong political commitment and concrete actions;
 15. Calls for transparency and innovation in the fisheries sector by providing stakeholders with relevant information such as fish catch data and licence agreements;
 16. Calls for capacity-building vis-à-vis ACP countries in order to improve their mapping and resource assessment capabilities and for the development of reliable and objective statistics to inform policy-making and the development of economic strategies;
 17. Calls for the untapped biological potential of the marine environment to be harnessed, particularly in the area of pharmaceutical and biotechnology research, and for the ACP country in which these resources are found to be the first to benefit from them;
 18. Stresses the importance of investment and an attractive regulatory framework; calls for a dedicated facility to be made available for financing blue economy projects;
 19. Notes the importance of sustainable management of marine resources and enhanced cooperation between all stakeholders (governments, universities, think tanks, private companies, etc.) in order to achieve maritime safety and security;
 20. Calls on the EU to fund projects relating to the blue economy and on the ACP countries to focus international aid on specific priorities, and the specific needs of the local communities, while observing best practices to maximise its benefit to the people concerned and the environment;
 21. Stresses that financial and technical assistance are essential for many SIDS and LDCs to create and implement national and regional strategies for the sustainability, preservation and protection of their fisheries industries;
 22. Recalls that sustainable management of marine ecosystems is crucial for climate mitigation strategies; in particular, recalls that conservation, restoration and sustainable management of these ecosystems, including relying on indigenous know-how, can contribute to protecting the communities who depend upon them, reinforce their livelihoods and prevent forced migration;
 23. Calls on the EU to help ACP countries, particularly the SIDS and LDCs, access the Adaptation Fund;
 24. Emphasises the need to support small-scale fishing in ACP countries, in particular in the SIDSs and LDCs, which in some cases is the sole activity and source of income for a large part of the coastal population;

25. Calls on the EU and its Member States to participate fully in the aid project financed by the International Development Association and the Green Climate Fund and to strengthen their positions therein;
26. Recalls that maritime transport remains by far the most common mode of international freight transport and that port infrastructure needs to be improved, especially in Africa; recalls equally that port development and related activities should not have a harmful environmental impact on land, nor lead to a deterioration in the marine environment through pollution; urges multilateral development banks and agencies, accordingly, to develop a strong environment policy to mitigate the potential negative impacts of their projects and programmes, including those in the infrastructure sector, and to mainstream environmental and sustainability safeguards throughout the project cycle; stresses, in particular, the need to ensure that all port development projects conform to international best practice, including that of the International Maritime Organisation and the Convention on Marine Pollution¹;
27. Considers that the harmonious development of the blue economy must respect the dignity of the professions associated with it, creating quality employment and ensuring that the rights of maritime workers, including health and safety, are respected, while raising awareness of these rights to ensure that the sector remains attractive to workers; considers, moreover, that since the blue economy has traditionally been strongly dominated by men, efforts should now be made to attract women into this economic niche; urges, further, the ACP countries and EU Member States to promote gender mainstreaming at every stage in developing the blue economy and ensure that women are in fact more fully involved; urges the ACP countries and EU Member States to safeguard the rights of workers and guarantee safe working conditions in all sectors within the blue economy, whether already established or newly emerging;
28. Underlines that the business model of intensive aquaculture involves similar risks to those of industrial farming, including strong impacts on surrounding ecosystems together with the occasional outbreak of disease; calls for the development of sustainable aquaculture, through effective fisheries management policies and aquaculture best practices, to provide an alternative to overfishing and respond to the growing demand for food; calls on developed countries and development agencies to provide technical assistance to facilitate the certification of producers in developing countries, in particular small producers;
29. Highlights the prospects for investment and job creation resulting from the development of tourism; calls, therefore, for priority to be given to economic development which preserves tourism attractiveness, in particular by controlling urban development;
30. Draws attention to the unfavourable development and clear deterioration of some of the more traditional sectors of the blue economy (such as fisheries and shipbuilding and repair), especially in areas where they played a key role, generating business activity upstream and downstream, creating jobs and stimulating growth; considers that any strategy relating to the blue economy should take account of these activities and regions,

¹ MARPOL73/78

focusing on potential for innovation and taking advantage of national and regional know-how (e.g. ship retrofitting) to reverse this decline;

31. Stresses the importance of addressing the problem of marine pollution by plastic waste from land and sea, particularly in connection with the recommendations of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment¹;
31. Stresses the need to adapt coastal infrastructure to the effects of climate change;
33. Calls for the energy transition to be promoted by investing in clean energy, including renewable marine and offshore energy, as a means of achieving energy security and employment and finding suitable energy solutions for coastal enclaves or islands;
34. Considers the shortage of qualified professionals in various fields of study and activity – including researchers, engineers, technicians and workers – to be a major hurdle that could prevent the blue economy from fully realising its potential; points out that this shortage is attributable, notably, to growing disinterest and diminishing investment by the authorities in science and education, not to mention the downgrading of professionals in this field and therefore calls for measures to reverse these trends without delay; invites the ACP countries, the EU Member States and the regional authorities to invest in an ambitious social dimension of blue growth and maritime expertise in order to provide young people with better training in the maritime professions and access thereto; calls on the ACP countries and the EU Member States to support both higher education and professional training and retraining programmes, and to ensure that these programmes incorporate blue economy perspectives;
35. Warns against the potentially devastating and irreversible effects of the extraction of non-renewable marine resources; calls for the World Bank's recommendations on a cautious approach to marine extraction to be implemented;
36. Advocates strong and coordinated EU involvement in the International Seabed Authority to ensure an effective and precautionary environmental regulatory framework aiming to prevent adverse impacts from deep-sea mining exploration and exploitation – including in areas of particular environmental interest – to prevent their societal impact as well as that from deep-sea mining and bioprospecting on local communities and to guarantee full data transparency;
37. Stresses the importance of scientific and technology transfer from the EU to research institutions and technological SMEs in ACP countries;
38. Stresses the importance of training for new 'blue jobs'; proposes the establishment of partnerships between European and ACP educational structures to improve the qualification and training of young people; calls for people to made aware, from a very early age, of the importance of the blue economy and the need to preserve marine ecosystems;

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/addressing-land-based-pollution>

39. Welcomes the ambitious commitments¹ entered into at the 'Our Ocean' conference of October 2017 in Malta by the European Union, its Member States, the European Investment Bank and countries such as Mauritius and Ghana, as well as by NGOs, foundations, research institutions and international organisations; calls for regular monitoring of the implementation of these commitments, particularly at the next conference in 2020;
40. Encourages the introduction of maritime spatial planning policies; recalls that, faced with the rise of offshore activities and competition for access to maritime areas, proper planning is an effective means of ensuring the more coherent, sustainable and reliable management of offshore activities;
41. 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.

¹ <https://ourocean2017.org/our-ocean-commitments>

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.371/17/fin

RESOLUTION¹

on improving access to basic health-care systems, notably to medicines against infectious diseases

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting at Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- 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 2010²,
- having regard to its reports of 9 December 2015 on how to improve economic and social conditions in developing countries, including the contribution of family businesses, in order to prevent health disasters³, of 22 November 2007 on access to health care and medicines, with a particular focus on neglected diseases⁴, and of 19 February 2004 on poverty diseases and reproductive health in ACP countries, in the context of the ninth European Development Fund (EDF)⁵,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 2 March 2017 on EU options for improving access to medicines⁶,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 31 March 2010 entitled ‘The EU Role in Global Health’⁷,
- having regard to the Brussels Conclusions and Recommendations on Health in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda in ACP States of 9 March 2015, resulting from the second meeting of ACP Ministers of Health, held from 25 to 26 February 2015 in Brussels, (Belgium)⁸,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2015 on the

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 in Port au Prince (Haiti).

² OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

³ OJ C 179, 18.5.2016, p.34.

⁴ OJ C 58, 1.3.2008, p. 29.

⁵ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 29.

⁶ P8_TA(2017)0061.

⁷ (COM(2010)0128)

⁸ <http://acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.bc/files/ACP8301014%20Brussels%20Conclusions%20on%20Health.pdf>

Commission Work Programme 2016⁹,

- having regard to the European Parliament legislative resolution of 6 February 2013 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products for human use and their inclusion in the scope of public health insurance systems¹⁰,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use and repealing Directive 2001/20/EC¹¹,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1999 on orphan medicinal products¹²,
- having regard to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which stipulates that a high level of human health protection should be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities,
- having regard to the obligations set out in Article 81 of Directive 2001/83/EC for the maintenance of an appropriate and continued supply of medicinal products,
- having regard to the European Commission's Communication entitled 'EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries'¹³,
- having regard to the Council's conclusions on innovation for the benefit of patients of 1 December 2014¹⁴,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council's informal meeting on health of 18 April 2016,
- having regard to the Commission's sixth Report on the Monitoring of Patent Settlements in the pharmaceutical sector,
- having regard to the Commission's communication entitled 'Secure, Innovative and Accessible Medicines: a Renovated View for the Pharmaceutical Sector'¹⁵,
- having regard to Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC¹⁶,
- having regard to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Panel

⁹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0323.

¹⁰ OJ C 24, 22.1.2016, p. 119.

¹¹ OJ L 158, 27.5.2014, p. 1-76

¹² OJ L 18, 22.1.2000, p.1.

¹³ COM(2005)642.

¹⁴ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/145978.pdf.

¹⁵ COM(2008)0666.

¹⁶ OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p.1.

on access to medicines – ‘Promoting Innovation and Access to Health Technologies’, published on 14 September 2016,

- having regard to the EC/ACP/WHO Partnership on Pharmaceutical Policies (PPP), and incorporating the 2012 Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), and the 2011 Caribbean Pharmaceutical Policy (CPP) for the promotion of access to health technologies in the ACP regions,
- having regard to the Council of the European Union’s conclusions of 10 May 2006 on common values and principles in EU health systems, and the conclusions of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council of 6 April 2011 and of 10 December 2013 on the reflection process on modern, responsive and sustainable health systems,
- having regard to the Commission’s communication entitled Effective, Available and Robust Health Systems¹⁷,
- having regard to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report entitled ‘WHO Expert Committee on the Selection of Essential Drugs, 17-21 October 1977 – WHO Technical Report Series, No. 615’, the report by the WHO Secretariat of 7 December 2001 entitled ‘WHO medicines strategy: Revised procedure for updating WHO’s Model List of Essential Drugs’ (EB109/8); the WHO report of March 2015 entitled ‘Access to new medicines in Europe’ and the WHO Report of 28 June 2013 entitled ‘Priority Medicines for Europe and the World’,
- having regard to the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health (WT/MIN(01/DEC/2) and to the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration of 1 September 2003 (WT/L/540), and paying particular recognition to the first legal amendment to Article 31a of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of 23 January 2017, related to compulsory licenses for the export of pharmaceutical products (WT/MIN(15/APR/94)),
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 816/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on compulsory licensing of patents relating to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems¹⁸,
- having regard to the Conference of Experts on the rational use of drugs, held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 25 to 29 November 1985,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP/EU/WHO Renewed Partnership to strengthen pharmaceutical systems and improve access to quality medicines in 15 African ACP countries (2012 - 2016),

¹⁷ COM(2014)0215.

¹⁸ OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p.1.

- having regard to the report on ‘Strengthening Pharmaceutical Innovation in Africa’ (2010) in support of the African Union’s Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property,
- having regard to the restrictive and disruptive global policies (e.g. structural adjustment programmes and unfair terms of trade), conditionality and actions that have an adverse impact on Africa’s health systems, as specified in the Africa Health Strategy: 2007-2015,
- having regard to the Caribbean Cooperation in Health, which provides guidelines for the regional health agenda for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states,
- having regard to the resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, meeting at its 44th Ordinary Session, on access to health and essential medicines in Africa,
- having regard to the Lusaka Decision on the African Union Decade for African Traditional Medicine and its plan of action,
- having regard to the Gaborone Declaration on a Roadmap towards Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care adopted at the second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health,
- having regard to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) report on the State of World Population 2017, Worlds Apart, Reproductive Health and Rights in an age of Inequality,
- having regard to the WHO Medicines and Health Products Programme Strategic Framework 2016-2030,
- having regard to WHO resolution WPR/RC59.R4 for the Pacific Region on the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Health Systems and Primary Health Care in the Western Pacific Region,
- having regard to the Statement of the Co-Chairs of the international conference ‘Ebola: from Emergency to Recovery’ held on 3 March 2015 in Brussels (Belgium)¹⁹,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/102.371/fin),
- having regard to the adoption of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁰; in particular, calling for States to explore the numerous tools based on mechanisms de-linking the cost of biomedical R&D from the prices of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics,

¹⁹ https://ebolareponse.un.org/sites/default/files/statement_of_the_co-chairs_-_brussels_-_3_march_2015.pdf

²⁰ A/HRC/35/L.18/Rev.1

- A. whereas Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right of all people to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their family; whereas universal access to health care and medicines is necessary for the effective exercise of this right;
- B. whereas good health is integrally linked to having sufficient, safe and healthy food as well as access to unpolluted water;
- C. whereas ensuring access to essential medicines is one of the core objectives of the EU, the WHO, and of SDG 3, under which target 3b is to support R&D of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries;
- D. whereas access to affordable, safe and effective health care constitutes a basic human right; whereas less than 2% of medicines used in Africa are produced on the continent; whereas 90% of people living in poor countries have no health insurance, whether public or private; whereas these people are obliged to pay for medicines themselves and must at times, therefore, spend some 80% of their household budget on health care, thus causing their financial ruin; whereas basic and urgent health care should be based on solidarity and financed from the state budget;
- E. whereas over one-third of the world's population, with over 50% in Africa, does not have access to medicines;
- F. whereas the failure to provide people with the health care they need is often the result of a combination of many factors, such as poverty, low levels of health awareness in the population, missing infrastructure (such as access to drinking water, electricity, roads, etc.), a sparse network of health-care facilities, a shortage of medical personnel (doctors, nurses, midwives), and the availability and affordability of medicines and medical equipment; whereas these shortcomings are further exacerbated by the regulatory environment, the unavailability of health insurance, social exclusion, stigma and discrimination;
- G. whereas traditional medicine has a useful and important role to play in primary health care in many countries but traditional medicines are marginalised in the national health systems of ACP countries;
- H. whereas the efficient performance of a health-care system strongly depends on the quality, composition, distribution and retention of qualified health-care workers, particularly for populations living in rural and remote areas and isolated communities; whereas the higher-income countries have an average doctor-patient ratio of 300 per 100 000 people and the lower-income countries have an average doctor-patient ratio of 17 per 100 000 – the major cause of this discrepancy being the brain drain – which undermines efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;
- I. whereas high prices of diagnostics and medicines pose a serious threat to the

sustainability of national health-care systems, in both ACP and EU countries;

- J. whereas additional barriers to access to medicines in developing countries include inequalities such as lower education levels, lower incomes and limited access to information, shortages of diagnostic tools and medicines, lack of TRIPS-compliant national legislation, limited infrastructure and limited reachability of points of access in rural areas, limited manufacturing capacity, poor quality or counterfeit pharmaceuticals, the lack of accurate diagnostics, poorly managed distribution and supply chains, a shortage of health-care workers and pharmacovigilance, weak public health-care systems and limited access, especially for women and children, to the right to health and social protection; whereas low doctor-patient ratios in low-income countries, caused inter-alia by the brain drain, undermine efforts to reach the SDGs by 2030;
- K. whereas the circulation of counterfeit or falsified medicines poses a major danger to public health and is a particularly serious and amoral crime that endangers the lives of millions of people and can undermine people's confidence in health-care systems;
- L. whereas access to suitable and safe diagnostic tools and vaccines is as critical as access to safe, effective and affordable medicines;
- M. whereas the system for protecting intellectual property is all too often used to generate economic benefits for pharmaceutical companies beyond lawful profit margins instead of according to the needs of patients, resulting in an irreconcilable conflict with the fundamental right to health, and whereas the entry of generic medicines onto the market is an important mechanism for reducing prices and ensuring the sustainability of health-care systems;
- N. whereas only around 3% of EU health budgets goes towards measures to prevent and promote public health, and sometimes even less in the ACP countries;
- O. whereas each year an estimated 100 million people fall into poverty because of health costs which are disproportionate to their incomes;
- P. whereas neglected diseases represent a major challenge for health-care systems in developing countries, even though most of them are easily curable;
- Q. whereas patents hinder innovation regarding medicines for diseases where there is no profitable market;
- R. whereas the transfer of health-related technologies through licence agreements, transparent patent licensing information and partnership in R&D can enable recipient countries to produce the products locally;
- S. whereas the R&D costs of new medicines are partially covered through public and government financing;
- T. whereas notably the R&D of poverty-related and neglected diseases suffers from the lack of investment from pharmaceutical companies;

- U. whereas the least developed countries are the most affected by poverty-related communicable and non-communicable diseases including, among others, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- V. whereas tuberculosis has become the world's leading infectious killer and the most dangerous forms of the disease are the drug-resistant strains, which are also gaining and increasing resistance to antimicrobials;
- W. whereas in ACP countries, 37 million people need anti-HIV treatment, with 3.3 million children living with HIV and only 32% receiving antiretroviral therapy;
- X. whereas in certain ACP countries people are neither sufficiently empowered to improve their health nor adequately involved in efforts to do so, while cultural factors play a role in behaviour aimed at improving health;
- Y. whereas women rely more than men on affordable access to health care and medicines and on their availability, especially with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Z. whereas the childbirth-related mortality rate among women in ACP countries remains high; whereas gender and age inequalities in biomedical research and the underrepresentation of women in clinical trials further undermine patient care;
1. Reiterates that the right to health is a human right recognised in both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
 2. Recalls that in line with SDG 3, governments have a duty to develop universal health coverage and to ensure that all people have equitable and affordable access to medicine and health technologies for the effective exercise of the right to health; calls on the ACP and EU countries to promote public systems for free, universal access to health care and medicines, in particular to guard against infectious diseases;
 3. Stresses the important role of the WHO in the fight against infectious diseases; commends its efforts in building emergency capacities, and leading and coordinating the health response in beneficiary countries; encourages countries to cooperate closely with the WHO in identifying risks and priorities and in setting strategies, as well as in building and strengthening their national core capacities to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from health emergencies;
 4. Recalls that emergency response systems are necessary to effectively prevent and/or respond to a possible outbreak; welcomes the launch of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in January 2016 as a result of cooperation among the Member States of the African Union (AU); stresses the Africa CDC's importance as a reliable source of information about emergencies and outbreaks of infectious diseases; urges medical bodies especially in the pharmaceutical industry to share crucial medical information in order to tackle the spread of infectious diseases;

5. Recognises the contribution of the EU as the most important international donor to the health sector in developing countries through programmes like 'Agenda for Change' and 'Horizon 2020'; takes note as well of its consistent contributions to public private partnerships such as the Innovative Medicines Initiative to give effect to the EU/ACP/WHO Partnership on Pharmaceutical Policies;
6. Stresses the need for consistency and development coherence between all EU-ACP policies, including global public health, development and research, and trade;
7. Notes with concern that, according to the WHO, most low- and middle-income countries lack a robust institutional framework to mitigate high prices of patented pharmaceutical products; urges the EU to step up efforts to support developing countries in strengthening their capacities and help them design working public-health systems that aim at improving universal access to health services and medicines;
8. Invites the EU and the ACP to propose country-binding mechanisms such as scholarships and student exchange programmes to prevent the brain drain and stabilise the doctor-patient ratio in developing countries at levels recommended by the WHO, without infringing the rights of medical personnel;
9. Recalls that tiered pricing does not necessarily lead to affordability; points out that, on the contrary, experience shows that robust generic competition and technology transfers result in lower prices; stresses that the ongoing revision of the EU Tiered Pricing Regulation for medicines should aim at further promoting lower prices in developing countries, and calls on the EU to open a broader and transparent discussion on pricing regulation and strategies that ensure access to quality and affordable diagnostic tools and medicines;
10. Calls for international cooperation to stimulate pharmaceutical R&D, technology transfer and other conditions needed to facilitate and strengthen the manufacturing of medicines in ACP countries; underlines the importance of scientific cooperation between the EU and ACP countries for capacity building in the field of research, better synergy and sharing expertise between countries, as the transfer of health-related technologies to developing countries can enable them to produce pharmaceuticals locally; emphasises the importance of the availability of benefits and products of successful medical research to populations in developing countries, especially in cases when these populations carry the disproportionate burden of research trials;
11. Urges the EU, G20, G8 and emerging economies such as the BRICS nations, to step up their financial support towards global programmes and initiatives promoting access to medicines in developing countries, such as the GAVI Alliance, UNTAID, PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, as these programmes have been instrumental in advancing health goals and enhanced access to diagnostics, medicines and vaccines;
12. Stresses that the human right to health, which includes access to medicine and health technologies, supersedes Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); calls on the EU Council and the European Commission to fully safeguard the practicability of biomedical innovation

models working collaboratively with other bodies to eliminate intellectual property (IP) regimes, and to foster approaches, which explore the possibility of de-linking the cost of biomedical R&D from the prices of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, e.g. through the use of patent pools, open-source research, grants, subsidies, etc.;

13. Welcomes the decision of 6 November 2015 of the WTO TRIPS Council to extend the drug patent exemption for the least developed countries until January 2033;
14. Requests that medicines, particularly those declared to be essential by the WHO, be excluded from the scope of international agreements governing intellectual and commercial property, like the WTO Agreement on TRIPS;
15. Emphasises that the IPR regime for pharmaceutical products must be consistent with international human rights law and public health requirements; urges, accordingly, that free trade agreements not be used with low- and middle-income countries to introduce TRIPS-plus intellectual property (IP) rules that extend monopoly protection, and that new IP enforcement rules or investment protection arrangements not be introduced to the detriment of access to medicines; insists, more broadly, that measures should be negotiated at WTO level to ensure that international trade and investment agreements do not include provisions that interfere with a government's obligation to fulfil the right to health or that undermine the right of governments to use the flexibilities inherent in the WTO TRIPS framework; deems it equally essential not to include provisions in investment agreements that allow investor-state dispute settlement, i.e. with respect to IP or other investment claims based on health products;
16. Stresses that women in the Global South often lack access to affordable health care and medicines, a situation which can be exacerbated by strong IPR protection in trade agreements, as IPR provisions related to patents often impede the production of generic medicines;
17. Recalls that a fair balance must be struck between innovation and patients' access to affordable medicines; recognises the importance of voluntary licensing of generic medicines, and supports competition in this sector, which can contribute to broader access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries and encourage cost savings in the health sector; calls on the ACP countries and EU Member States to activate legal mechanisms such as compulsory licensing with a view to enabling effective access to affordable health care and medicines; invites the governments to follow the WHO Guideline on Country Pharmaceutical Pricing Policies;
18. Notes with concern that the unavailability of medicines gives rise to counterfeiting; warns that while counterfeit medicines are ineffective in the fight against diseases, they deprive the poorest of financial resources; stresses the need for truly dissuasive criminal penalties for the circulation and the sale of counterfeit or falsified medicines; calls on local authorities to exercise increased vigilance with regard to this major public health problem; asks for stronger regulatory and quality-control capacities concerning medical products and equipment to ensure safe, high quality medicines.
19. Highlights the critical need to develop local capacities in developing countries, in terms

- of pharmaceutical research, including traditional medicine, through product-development, public-private partnerships and the creation of open centres of research and production; in particular, encourages countries in Africa to invest, as a priority, in district and community health systems to contribute towards universal health coverage; likewise, calls on developed countries to fully take into account the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel so as to avoid the brain drain of Africa's health workers, especially from countries that face critical shortages; reiterates the need for better oversight and regulation on health-related infrastructure projects;
20. Recalls that TRIPS allows compulsory licensing which enables developing countries to produce generic medicines without consent of the originator, particularly in the event of a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency; welcomes the first legal amendment to Article 31a related to compulsory licenses for the export of pharmaceutical products;
 21. Calls on the Commission, ACP and the EU Member States to make use of the flexibilities inherent in the TRIPS agreement and support coordination of their domestic implementation;
 22. Observes that the EU's current biomedical R&D system based on the protection of intellectual property rights has sometimes limited the delivery of safe, accessible and affordable lifesaving medicines in the developing world and has not offered sufficient incentives for encouraging innovation and knowledge transfer; calls for the EU, against this backdrop, to engage in meaningful technology transfer with LDCs with the aim of attaining the SDG 3 objective on health; calls, likewise, for the EU to further contribute to the achievement of universal health coverage in developing countries through technical assistance and development aid;
 23. Asks the ACP countries and EU Member States to guarantee access to food security for all so as to ensure the right to health;
 24. Underlines the key role played by public investments in R&D and notes that, regarding medicines for diseases where there is no profitable market, such as poverty-related and rare diseases, innovation is driven by public investment and non-profit initiatives; stresses that medical research should focus on the medical needs of all people, including those suffering from neglected diseases in developing countries;
 25. Asks the ACP countries and EU Member States to strengthen women's access to health care and medicines, including sexual and reproductive health;
 26. Calls for the transparency in the use of publicly financed R&D in order to strike a balance between the profit made for innovation and the 'access incentive'; stresses that the high level of public funds used for R&D should be reflected in pricing, guaranteeing a fair public return on public investment,
 27. Underlines the need to increase the number of women involved in the development of health-care policies, programme planning and the provision of health-care services

28. Highlights the importance of increasing the availability of antiretroviral therapy in the ACP countries, through the free patenting of generic anti-HIV cocktail of medicines; warns, however, that the prices of second and third line retroviral medicines are still out of reach for the developing countries; encourages these countries to make full use of the tools and flexibilities of the TRIPS agreement;
29. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP countries to invest more in health-care systems – especially for capacity building and the subsequent rapid deployment of local frontline health-care workers for public health emergencies, such as antimicrobial resistance, Ebola strains, cholera, malaria, Hepatitis B and other communicable diseases; underlines, in this regard, the importance of involving local communities' primary health care programmes;
30. Stresses that in many cases, only a timely and proper treatment of illness can prevent permanent damage of patient's health; highlights the importance of developing early screening (including for hepatitis and HIV), investing in prevention and making preventative HIV treatment easily available in ACP countries; notes that a large amount of HIV antiretroviral medication is left unused and destroyed in some EU Member States; urges the EU Member States and institutions to make this medication accessible in ACP countries;
31. Underlines that the rate of success in curing infectious diseases depends on respecting the rules of hygiene, access to clean water, and sufficient nutrition; points out the relationship between unregulated urbanisation and rapid spread of infectious diseases; asks the ACP countries and EU Member States to promote water purification projects and guarantee access to drinking water for all in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases;
32. Highlights the importance of the patient care provided by medical personnel such as nurses and midwives, especially in less accessible and remote regions; encourages governments to invest in basic medical education and training of nurses as a way of addressing the shortage of doctors and of effectively preventing the spread of infectious diseases;
33. Recognises the contribution of traditional medicine to health care under conditions of safety, cost-efficiency and effectiveness; invites the governments to develop proactive policies as recommended by the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2014-2023; underlines that for many ACP populations, traditional medicine is popular because it is generally available, affordable; recalls that the Progress Report on the Decade of African Traditional Medicine in the African Region (WHO-AFRO, 2011) indicates that during the decade countries popularised traditional medicine, established and strengthened their institutional capacity and developed national policies and regulatory frameworks for the practice of traditional medicine; recalls that by 2010, 22 ACP countries were conducting research on traditional medicines for malaria, HIV/AIDS, sickle-cell anaemia, diabetes and hypertension using WHO guidelines; calls for the implementation of the African Traditional Medicine Plan of Action, as elaborated in the African Health Strategy; warns, however, that traditional medicine can only complement, not substitute, conventional biomedicine, especially in relation to infectious diseases;

34. Recognises the importance of efforts to re-invigorate the comprehensive prevention agenda, which have been overtaken by treatment-focused outcomes within the field of global public health, in order to meet SDG 3 by 2030;
35. Urgently recognises and underlines the importance of tackling the emerging antimicrobial resistance crisis, including through the funding of R&D for new tools for vaccines, diagnostics and treatment, while ensuring sustainable and affordable access to new tools;
36. Recognises that poverty reduction strategies should be at the core of social protection to meaningfully improve of the health status of the ACP population; calls on the EU and ACP to improve tools for monitoring and ex-post evaluation of development programmes and financial instruments in order to achieve the desired outcomes, transparency and accountability;
37. Stresses that any intervention or clinical trial in the field of biology and medicine cannot be performed without the free and informed consent of the person concerned; recalls, moreover, that in order to increase transparency in the area of clinical trials, data from a clinical trial should only be submitted in support of a clinical trial application if that clinical trial has been recorded in a publicly accessible and free of charge database which is a primary or partner registry of, or a data provider to, the international clinical trials registry platform of the WHO ICTRP, and that data providers to the WHO ICTRP create and manage clinical trial records in a manner that is consistent with the WHO registry criteria;
38. Calls on the ACP countries to review their health policies regularly to ensure that they are an up to date reflection of government's vision and priorities, reflect best practice and take into account the realities and socio-cultural circumstances of the country; calls for improved access to reliable information on the pharmaceutical sector and the policy of countries in this field;
39. Urges that the availability and supply of essential medicines in national, regional and community health facilities in ACP countries be improved;
40. Calls on the ACP countries to address the push factors by putting in place mechanisms that value, respect, motivate, adequately compensate, allow for the professional development of and equip the health workforce;
41. Calls for the UN, EU, ACP and WHO to look for sustainable solutions by bringing together the global community, including researchers, pharmaceutical companies, policymakers and health professionals to mitigate the effects of the brain drain in developing countries and to encourage health professionals to return to their countries of origin by offering economic and social incentives;
42. Instructs its 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.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.383/17/fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP states

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- having regard to Article 7 and to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which establishes eradication of poverty as the primary objective of EU development policy, as well as the principle of policy coherence for development,
- 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'), and in particular Article 32 thereof, dedicated entirely to climate change,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992 and its Kyoto Protocol,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21 and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11), held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
- having regard to the most recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP23), which took place from 6 to 17 November in Bonn (Germany), presided over by the Government of Fiji, and to the European Parliament resolution of 4 October 2017 on the COP23,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

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- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 13 November 2017 on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2017 on resilience as a strategic priority of the external action of the EU,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 11 December 2013 on the EU approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction in developing countries: learning from food security crisis,
 - 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),
 - having regard to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway 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,
 - having regard to the World Risk Report 2016, calculated with 28 individual indicators rating the disaster risk for 171 countries in the light of five natural hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and sea-level rises) combined with the social, economic and ecological conditions within the respective countries,
 - having regard to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General of 23 August 2016 on the Outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (A/71/353),
 - 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',
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolutions adopted in Prague (Czech Republic) on 9 April 2009 in Luanda (Angola) on 3 December 2009 and in Tenerife (Spain) on 1 April 2010,
 - having regard to the Declaration of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on climate change of 21 June 2016, adopted in St. Julian's, Malta,
- A. whereas climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate disasters; whereas, if left unaddressed, climate change will lead to a rise in poverty and inequalities, food insecurity, health problems, surface-water scarcity, coastal flooding, air pollution and droughts, inducing the displacement of people;

- B. whereas in September 2017, hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged several Caribbean islands, leading to the death of 44 people; whereas in November 2017, a number of lives were lost and thousands were forced to evacuate following severe flooding in Haiti;
- C. whereas the most serious effects of climate change are felt in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries and small island states, where climate change and natural disaster-related phenomena exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting women, children, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, farmers and fishermen;
- D. whereas, according to the World Risk Report 2016, seven ACP countries are at higher risk of extreme natural events, with the island state of Vanuatu in the first position, followed by Tonga (2nd), the Solomon Islands (6th), Papua New Guinea (10th), Timor-Leste (12th), Mauritius (13th) and Guinea-Bissau (15th);
- E. whereas resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to prepare for, to withstand, to adapt, and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks without compromising long-term development prospects;
- F. whereas there is a risk of natural disasters posed by unsafe and inappropriate residential construction techniques and practices and the establishment of human settlements in ecologically fragile areas such as mountain sides, flood plains, earthquake zones and other high-risk areas;
- G. whereas the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has underlined that climate change is a global phenomenon, with dramatic outcomes on the environment, reaffirming its commitment to implement the COP 21 Paris Agreement as well as those signed at the COP22 and the COP23;
- H. whereas the JPA has previously emphasised that concerted global action is necessary to combat greenhouse gas emissions and prevent negative impacts of climate change and has urged all stakeholders to move forward with the economy-wide low-carbon transition measures needed to reduce these emissions, and ensure that all nations are provided with support for implementation, so that no one is left behind;
- I. whereas a country cannot mitigate or adapt to climate change without first having the knowledge and capacity to do so; whereas indigenous knowledge can provide the backbone of successful adaptation strategies in areas such as farming, livestock and fisheries;
- J. whereas climate change may affect the incidence and distribution of infectious diseases around the globe; and whereas Africa is likely to be the continent most vulnerable to climate change in terms of food security according to the fourth assessment report of the UN FCCC;

- K. whereas ACP states suffer the most severely as a result of natural disasters due to a lack of resilience to climate change;
- L. whereas resilience has to be addressed at multiple levels (state, society and community); whereas local governments and civil society are often the basis on which resilience can take root and grow at community level;
- M. whereas every state has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation;
- N. whereas Cuba has been able to significantly reduce the impact of meteorological hazards such as tropical storms and floods; whereas, in response to hydro-meteorological threats in the Caribbean, the Cuban Government has collaborated with UNDP Cuba and the UNDP's Caribbean Risk Management Initiative since 2005 to create Risk Reduction Management Centres;
- O. whereas investing in early warning and response systems in line with the priorities of the UN Sendai Framework is essential to achieving resilience and therefore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- P. whereas building resilience in partner countries is a long-term process, which needs to be integrated into EU and ACP development programmes that are inclusive of the most vulnerable segments of the population;
- Q. whereas only 4% of the estimated EUR 10 billion in annual humanitarian assistance is devoted to prevention, yet every euro spent on risk reduction saves between EUR 5 and EUR 10 in economic losses from disasters; whereas in 2016, 9% of the EU's humanitarian funding went to disaster risk reduction activities;
- R. whereas EU civil protection legislation was revised in 2013 to ensure a better response to natural and man-made disasters in a swift, pre-planned and effective manner, thereby increasing the safety of EU citizens and disaster victims worldwide;
- S. whereas communities and populations affected by disasters are not homogeneous; whereas different groups have different needs, different skills and different capabilities; whereas the specific needs of women and girls, and other disadvantaged groups, must be taken into account;
1. Expresses its deepest sympathy for the loss of life and devastation caused by the recent climatic events in the Caribbean;
 2. Recalls that while developing countries are the least responsible for climate change, they are facing its most severe social and environmental consequences, particularly in those least developed countries and developing small island states.

that have insufficient resources to mitigate, prepare for and adjust to climatic changes;

3. Calls on the countries most at risk of natural disasters to mainstream climate change adaptation strategies into their sustainable development policies; emphasises that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required;
4. Calls for the EU to support developing countries' efforts in the transition towards low-carbon, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies; insists that efforts to tackle global climate change should be undertaken jointly by both developed and developing countries, in line with the 'common but differentiated responsibility' principle; stresses that the long-term resilience approach must address the deterioration of the ecosystem, particularly agriculture, water, biodiversity and fish resources;
5. Welcomes the OECD 'Roadmap to USD 100 Billion' for achieving the goal of USD 100 billion by 2020 for climate action in developing countries, in line with UNFCCC aims; calls on EU Member States to actively contribute their fair share to this fund, the fulfilment of which is easily within their financial capabilities; calls for the EU to use new sources of finance;
6. Emphasises that adaptation and capacity-building must be well financed by frameworks established within and outside the UNFCCC in order to address the immediate and urgent, as well as long-term, adaptation needs of vulnerable countries, particularly small islands and low-lying coastal developing states and least developed countries;
7. Recognises the need to grant financial support to small islands and low-lying coastal developing states in order to enhance their capacities to respond to the challenges brought on by climate change and provide access to the technologies that will be required to undertake the necessary mitigation action and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change;
8. Calls on the international community to facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in small island developing states on renewable energy and energy efficiency;
9. Recalls that ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation can offer cost-effective alternatives to technological solutions, while progress in many applied sciences depends on the long-term availability and diversity of natural assets; encourages both developing and developed countries to address effectively the contribution of biodiversity in adapting and reversing climate change;

10. Calls on the EU and ACP states to establish effective and sustainable measures to predict and prevent natural disasters; reiterates the fact that resilience requires risk-informed programming to protect populations from natural disasters, limit their impact and assist a quick recovery;
11. Urges governments to consider putting in place private forms of risk insurance, for instance ex-ante risk financing instruments to absorb losses, such as catastrophe bonds, reserve funds or contingent credit instruments providing necessary post-disaster liquidity for relief and reconstruction; notes that multilateral finance institutions such as the World Bank can be requested to provide assistance to improve access to traditional and non-traditional insurance and reinsurance and facilitate access to guarantees for sustainable and affordable financial protection;
12. Insists on the introduction of observation methods for risk reduction within international cooperation and the need to enhance scientific cooperation in this field; requests that coordination and organisational structures be put in place to this end; encourages ACP countries to further promote South-South cooperation, such as the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative;
13. Underlines the importance of raising awareness and develop education in the context of disasters and crises and to improve the dissemination, compilation and communication of information and knowledge that will help build community resilience and promote behavioural changes and a culture of disaster preparedness;
14. Urges the EU und ACP states to increase the availability of, and access to, internet-based early warning systems and disaster risk information for people; stresses the necessity of establishing a link between early warning needs and effective early action, which means that a complete assessment has to be linked to the appropriate decision-making processes;
15. Calls for an increase in storage capacities in the countries most affected by natural disasters in order to cope with droughts and flooding in years with a harvest surplus; calls for more effective flood control measures and storm warnings for poorer communities at high risk of recurrent flooding, through low-cost solutions such as afforestation, floodplain zoning, embankments, better warnings and restoration of wetlands;
16. Calls on developing countries to strengthen national health systems for effective prevention and treatment of diseases associated with natural disasters and climate change;
17. Notes with concern that millions of people in ACP countries are forced to leave their homes because of natural disasters; notes that the status of climate refugees is not yet recognised as such;

18. Calls for the EU to integrate the resilience approach into current EU programming, as far as possible, and into its reflections on the future financing of EU external action; underlines that the next multiannual financial framework should reflect the unprecedented need for humanitarian aid and disaster risk reduction; recalls that people should remain central to the EU's approach to resilience;
19. Urges the EU to scale up its assistance to sustainable agriculture, targeting its support to small-scale farmers, access to and control over locally-adapted seeds and natural resources, crop diversification, and agro-forestry and agro-ecological practices;
20. Calls for gender-responsive programming that strengthens the participation of women and addresses women's concerns in developing their resilience to disasters and climate change and that guarantees women's rights;
21. Welcomes the assistance of the EU in response to natural disasters; encourages the EU to continue its efforts to coordinate its action with relief agencies and the governments of affected countries; recalls that, when the scale of a natural disaster overwhelms national response capabilities, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism enables coordinated assistance from its participating states to be sent anywhere in the world;
22. Notes the increasing demand for relief funding around the world and recognises that there is a high value added by monies spent on preventative action, which lessen the financial requirements for post-disaster aid;
23. Endorses and calls on governments and international partners to adhere to the principle of 'build back better' espoused by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which refers to the use of the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities by integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems;
24. Calls for national governments and international relief efforts to provide opportunities to communities to use their own resources wherever possible, as recovery is more robust and sustainable when communities are able to draw on their own capabilities, as well as social and economic resources; notes that this provides an opportunity for local markets and businesses to grow, and for people to re-gain skills and confidence;
25. Underlines the importance of ensuring the principle of policy coherence for development in all EU external action by ensuring that EU policies do not undermine developing countries' efforts to achieve the SDGs;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the

Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Pan-African Parliament,
the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Secretary-General of the
United Nations.