

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



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

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COVER NOTE

The ACP Secretariat request the ACP Embassies and Missions to find attached herewith the State of play of Negotiations for a New ACP-EU Partnership Agreement – April 2019. *John*



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Chef de Cabinet/cko

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**STATE OF PLAY OF NEGOTIATIONS
FOR A NEW ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
APRIL 2019**

STATE OF PLAY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND

On 30 May 2018 in Lomé – Togo, following the adoption of the ACP Negotiating Mandate for a new Partnership Agreement with the European Union at the 107th Session of ACP Council of Ministers, the inaugural meeting of the ACP Ministerial Central Negotiating Group (CNG-M) was convened under the Chairmanship of H.E. Prof Robert DUSSEY, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration of the Togolese Republic and Chairman of the CNG-M.

ACP NEGOTIATING MANDATE

Principal Objective

“To contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in all ACP countries, in line with the provisions of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, through a strengthened and deepened political and economic partnership, with the ACP Group as a more effective global player” ACP has stated Agenda 2063, and trade and economic integration in the Caribbean and Pacific as necessary going beyond the Agenda 2030.

Guiding Principle

“The pursuit of a single Agreement which shall be legally binding, fair and balanced. The Agreement should maintain and build on the acquis of the Cotonou Agreement through a single negotiating framework and single undertaking, based on equality and mutual respect, inclusiveness and ownership of the development process by the Parties, as well as political and economic dialogue

Launch of the negotiations

On 28 September 2018 in New York – USA, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the ACP and EU Chief Negotiators Minister DUSSEY and the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven MIMICA met and their meeting marked the formal opening of the negotiations.

On 18 October 2018 in Brussels – Belgium, the ACP and EU negotiators at the ACP Ambassadorial Level/EU Senior Officials met for the first time to initiate Round 1 of the technical negotiations at ACP Ambassadorial/EU Senior Officials level.

ROUND 1: The Parties agreed on the structure of the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and defined joint strategic priorities for the main Agreement.

On 14 December 2018 in Brussels – Belgium, the ACP and EU Chief Negotiators held their 2nd meeting, endorsed the work done at Ambassadorial level, marking the end of Round 1 as well as the launch of Round 2 on drafting of the strategic priorities.

STRUCTURE OF THE NEW ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Preamble

Part I: General Provisions

Objectives; Principles; Political Dialogue; Actors; Policy Coherence for Development; Cross-cutting Themes (Capacity Building, Gender, Youth, and Resilience); [LDCs – LLDCs – SIDs – MICs – HIMICs]

Part II: Strategic Priorities

Title I: Human Rights, Democracy and Governance in a People-centred, Rights based Societies

Title II: Peace and Security

Title III: Human & Social Development

Chapter 1: Access to social services
Chapter 2: Social Cohesion and Protection
Chapter 3: Population and Development

Title IV: Inclusive Sustainable Economic Growth and Development

Chapter 1: Investment
Chapter 2: Economic Growth, Diversification and Industrialisation
Chapter 3: Science, Technology, Innovation and Research
Chapter 4: Trade Cooperation

Title V: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Chapter 1: Environmental Sustainability
Chapter 2: Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources
Chapter 3: Climate Change
Chapter 4: Natural Disasters

Title VI: Migration and Mobility

[Chapters on Legal Migration, Irregular Migration, International Protection, and Mobility]

Part III: Global Alliances, International Cooperation

Part IV: Development and Means of Cooperation

Part V: Institutional Framework

Part VI: Final Provisions

Annex: Regional Protocols

ROUND 2: on 14 January 2019, the Parties began drafting consolidated ACP-EU texts for the Foundation of the new Partnership Agreement.

The Parties agreed to commence with drafting of Part II on Strategic Priorities

On 4 April 2019, Chief Negotiators, Commissioner Mimica and Minister Dussey and the ACP Ministerial Central Negotiation Group met to take stock of progress of Round 2 and set out objectives for future work.

The Parties took note of the progress made by the technical teams since the Parties last met in Brussels in December 2018. Commissioner Mimica and Minister Dussey both noted that there had been substantial progress and broad convergence on three Titles (Peace and Security, Human and Social Development, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change) of the strategic priorities for the Foundation of the partnership and good progress on one other Title (Human Rights, Democracy and Governance). The Parties considered the first three texts with few remaining brackets as stabilised and decided to come back to these at a later stage of the negotiations.

The Parties agreed that the two Titles still to be discussed (Migration and Mobility as well as Inclusive Sustainable Economic Growth and Development) need to be addressed quickly. It was agreed as a priority to have all Titles of the Foundation priorities are completed (ie. 95% of text finalised with only a few key issues in brackets remaining) before the 4th Chief Negotiators meeting in May in Brussels in the margin of the ACP EU ministerial meeting, with brackets around the outstanding issues.

Despite the good progress made, both Parties also acknowledged the need to speed up negotiations in order to ensure concluding the bulk of the negotiations by summer 2019.

The Parties endorsed the decision to split Title I: 'People-centred, rights-based, peaceful and stable societies' into two different Titles, one on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance in people-centred and rights-based societies, and a second one on Peace and Security. The Parties launched Round 3 that consists of finalising the skeletons and the drafting of the regional protocols. This follows the sharing by the EU with the ACP of a draft skeleton for each of the regions. The Parties agreed that the skeletons will be at the forefront of the upcoming regional consultations in the Caribbean and Africa that will take place respectively on 15th of April in Jamaica and on 3rd/4th of May in Eswatini.

For the negotiations of the regional protocols, the ACP provided information on the appointed coordinators. For Africa these will be: Eswatini, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and another yet still to be identified country; for the Caribbean, it is Guyana and for the Pacific the coordinators are Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

The Parties confirmed that the negotiations and outcome document are one undertaking and one legal agreement, and that the regional protocols build upon the foundation.

The Parties agreed that by the 4th Chief Negotiators meeting in May the skeletons for each of the regions should be agreed upon. It is also expected that initial progress on the drafting of the text of the regional protocol is made, starting with the key areas for engagement.

The Parties agreed that the 4th Chief Negotiators meeting will also be the moment to launch Round 4, focused on the drafting of a common text on Parts I, III, IV, V and VI of the foundation (i.e. including parts on general provisions, institutional set-up, means of cooperation (including financing) and final provisions.

The Parties agreed that a 5th meeting of Chief Negotiators should take place in the second half of July, for which a specific date and place will be defined by the 4th Chief Negotiators meeting in May.

The EU proposed a timeline for round 3 and 4 of negotiations, with the bulk of work done by the summer break, so as to leave only the final outstanding issues and sticking points requiring intense political debate and endorsement for the month of September. It should remain the ambition of the Parties to conclude the negotiations by October this year.
