

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

**AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES**

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 June 2016

ACP-UE 2114/16

COVER NOTE

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| From: | Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States |
| To: | EU Co-Secretary of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers |
| Subject: | Decisions and Resolutions of the 102nd session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 and 25 November 2015 |

Delegations will find attached the Decisions and Resolutions of the 102nd session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium on 24 and 25 November 2015.

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

8TH SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24th to 25th November 2015,

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

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

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

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

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

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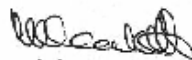
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HEREBY DECIDES TO:

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

Done in Brussels on 25th November 2015



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

DECISION No. 1/CII/15

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DECISION No. 4/CII/15
OF THE 102ND SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24TH TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

**THE REVIEW OF THE NEED AND RELEVANCE OF THE
ACP GENEVA OFFICE** *2015*

The ACP Council of Ministers,

Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24th to 25th November 2015,

HAVING REGARD to the Decision No 6 /C/14 of the 100th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, from 9th to 12th December 2014;

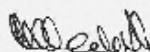
RECALLING that the Council Ministers mandated the Committee of Ambassadors to set up a working Group made up of members of the Committee of Ambassadors, to review the need and relevance of the ACP Geneva Office in light of the increasing costs of its operation;

HAVING REGARD to the report of the Committee of Ambassadors contained in document (ACP/61/089/15)

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

Approve the recommendation of the Committee of Ambassadors in their report on the need and relevance of the ACP Geneva office, and directs the Committee of Ambassadors to finalize outstanding issues on the restructuring of the Geneva Office and to report to the 103rd Council of Ministers. *2015*

Done in Brussels on 25th November 2015



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

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DECISION No. 6/CII/15
OF THE 102ND SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24TH TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014** *2014*

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24th to 25th November 2015,

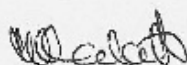
HAVING REGARD TO Article 18 (h) of the Financial Regulations of the Secretariat of the ACP Group [Document ACP/45/018/03 Rev. 4];

CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT The External Auditor has certified that the Secretariat's accounts for 2014 give a "*true and fair view of the ACP Group of States' Secretariat's assets, liabilities and financial position in accordance with its financial rules*";

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Approve** the External Auditor's report for financial year ended 31st December 2014; and
2. **Grant** discharge to the Authorizing Officer for financial year 2014.

Done in Brussels on 25th November 2015



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

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2014

DECISION No. 11/CII/15
OF THE 102ND SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 24TH TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

ACP HEADQUARTERS BUILDING *son*

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24th to 25th November 2015,

HAVING REGARD TO Decision NO. 4/CI/15 of the 101st session of the ACP Council of Ministers regarding funding for a new building for the Headquarters of the ACP Group;

HAVING REGARD TO the Contribution Agreement signed by the Committee of Ambassadors to avoid losing the funds earmarked for the ACP House;

RECALLING the technical and financial considerations advanced in favour of ACP Group's preferred option of a "turn-key" building on a new plot of land;

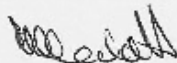
NOTING the European Commission's decision for a more extensive renovation of the current building;

ACKNOWLEDGING the in-depth dialogue between the ACP Group and the European Commission;

HEREBY DECIDES

1. **To approve** the recommendation for a more extensive renovation;
2. **Mandate** the Committee of Ambassadors to meet with the European Commission to further discuss and to agree on the implementation action plan including the timeframes for the ACP building. *son*

Done in Brussels on 25 November 2015



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

ACP/25/014/15

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

ACP PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY *eng*

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Brussels, (Belgium), from 24th to 25th November 2015,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEREBY DECIDES:

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

Done in Brussels on 25th November 2015



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

DECISION No. 12/CII/15

ACP/25/014/15

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