

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 June 2016

ACP-UE 2115/16

COVER NOTE

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 103rd session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Dakar, Senegal, on 26 and 27 April 2016

Delegations will find attached the Decisions and Resolutions of the 103rd session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Dakar, Senegal, on 26 and 27 April 2016.

**DECISION No.6/CIH/16
OF THE 103RD SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR (SENEGAL) FROM 26 TO 27 APRIL 2016**

OUTBREAK OF ZIKA VIRUS IN THE CARIBBEAN

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26 to 27 April 2016;

RECALLING the objectives of the Georgetown Agreement, including consolidating and strengthening the solidarity of the ACP Group;

HAVING REGARD TO the 11th EDF Intra-ACP indicative programme and particularly its objective 1.2 related to the strengthening of health systems in ACP countries;

HAVING REGARD also to Article 12B, paragraph b (iii) of the Annex IV of the Cotonou Agreement;

WHEREAS Caribbean states are being seriously affected by the Zika virus which has spread throughout the Americas and noting its potential economic and social impact;

WHEREAS the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the Zika virus as a Public Health emergency of International concern;

NOTING that the governments of the Caribbean region have been proactive and are giving priority attention to this health issue and are taking a multi-sectoral approach to eradicate this disease;

WHEREAS the WHO and Pan American Health Organization are working with Caribbean member states to communicate the risks of Zika, promote prevention and improve surveillance;

NOTING that this new health emergency situation, underscores the need to take urgent action to strengthen the health sectors in ACP Countries as recommended by the ACP Council following the Ebola outbreak;

NOTING also the efforts by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to provide technical support to the region especially through Zika testing;

HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. **Instruct** the Committee of Ambassadors to engage with the EU in order to provide an urgent response to this critical situation facing Caribbean member States, by approving an appropriate financial allocation from the 11th EDF Intra-ACP resources;
2. **Request** the Committee of Ambassadors to ensure that the modalities for allocation and contracting the resources respond adequately to the urgency of the situation.

Dakar, 27th April 2016

**Hon. Léon Raphaël Mokoko
Minister of Integration and Planning
of the Republic of Congo
President of the ACP Council of Ministers**

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH TO 27TH APRIL 2016

ACP-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAS)

The ACP Council of Ministers,

Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016,

- A. RECALLING** that the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the European Union (EU) set out to negotiate Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), meant to be “tools for development” contributing to poverty reduction, sustainable development, to support and strengthen regional integration, spurring trade, and the beneficial integration into the global economy;
- B. HAVING** received ministerial updates on the EPA process in the seven EPA regional configurations;
- C. WELCOMING** the conclusion of negotiations in West Africa, East Africa Community and SADC EPA regions; however **CONCERNED** by the EU’s unilateral-established deadline of 1st October 2016 for signing, ratifying and implementing the agreements concluded in 2014 ;
- D. NOTING** the completion of the monitoring studies on the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement which demonstrate that the region is facing implementation challenges and that limited benefits have accrued to countries in the region;
- E. FURTHER WELCOMING** the effective progress achieved in the implementation of certain interim EPAs;
- F. NOTING** that substantial negotiations for comprehensive EPAs have not taken place with Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Pacific regions for long periods of time due to continuing differences between the parties;
- G. WHEREAS** the existence of multiple trade regimes has a disruptive effect on the regional integration initiatives;
 - 1. **Reiterate s** its appeal to the EU to show sufficient flexibility in the EPA process so that outstanding negotiations can be concluded for mutual benefit;

2. **Calls** on the EU to resume negotiations with the Central Africa, the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and the Pacific EPA regions at the ministerial level to resolve the outstanding contentious issues on market access offers, non execution clause, development cooperation, financial support to implement the EPAs, fisheries and other trade-related matters, as soon as possible;
3. **Urges** the EU to work with the regions concerned to address the difficulties encountered in implementing the EPAs, in order to make them real tools for development that contribute to the realisation of SDGs;
4. **Urges** the EU to ensure that ACP States that comply with the set timelines are in no way disadvantaged by the deadline of 1st October 2016;
5. **Reiterates** the need for an effective follow-up and monitoring mechanism to ensure that the EPAs are implemented in a manner that meets the development objectives of the ACP States and regions;
6. **Affirms** that measures should be taken to ensure that Africa's regional integration agenda is not impeded in any way by commitments made in the EPAs; **Appeals** to the EU to relax demands on the EPAs, so that least developed countries can join and thereby enable ACP regions to deepen their integration;
7. **Reiterates** that as most ACP States and regions enter the EPA implementation phase, they require predictable, additional and adequate financial resources, as well as technical assistance, to support implementation of the EPAs;
8. **Reiterates** its request to the EU to ensure that policy measures, including commitments made to third parties in FTA negotiations, do not adversely affect the competitiveness of ACP exports;
9. **Notes** the proposal to convene the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee on 9 December 2016; **Expresses** the ACP Group's preference for an earlier date, before 1 October 2016 to take stock of the state of play, and therefore **Calls** on Members to seriously address all issues of interest and concern in the EPA process within the specific regions;

10. **Invites** ACP States that have not done so to sign the agreement on Customs Administrative Cooperation, with a view to its operationalization and to effect cumulation;
11. **Instructs** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the European Commission, Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, ACP Parliamentary Assembly as well as to the African Union Commission and the ACP Regional Integration Organizations.

Dakar, 27 April 2016

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH AND 27TH APRIL 2016

FISHERIES

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th and 27th April 2016 ,
- A. RECALLING** the resolution on Fisheries, adopted in Brussels, at the 102nd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers in November 2015;
- B. HAVING REGARD** to the Cotonou Agreement and, in particular, article 23(A) thereof;
- C. HAVING REGARD ALSO** to the Economic Partnership Agreements and, in particular, the relevant articles on fisheries thereof;
- D. RECALLING** the obligations under the Cotonou Agreement which require future fisheries agreements to give due consideration to the development needs of coastal states, inter alia, obtaining maximum sustainable value from its fisheries resources;
- E. WHEREAS** the European Union negotiates bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership agreements with ACP Coastal States that grant EU vessels access to fishing opportunities in respective ACP coastal states waters;
- F. NOTING** the expressed need of ACP coastal states to negotiate or renew their bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and their implementing protocols with the European Union;
- G. RECOGNIZING** the potential of marine resources to contribute to the sustainable development of ACP coastal states;
- H. CONCERNED** by the negative impact of climate change on the oceans which result inter alia, in placing severe strain on the marine environment and access to marine living resources;
- I. CONCERNED** that the threat to label some ACP countries as “non-cooperative” in the fight against IUU fishing, under EC Regulation No.1005/2008 could morph into a technical barrier to trade or a non-tariff barrier;

J. HAVING EXAMINED the report of the Committee of Ambassadors to the 103rd session of the Council of Ministers and paying particular attention to its recommendations thereof:

1. **Calls upon** the ACP Secretariat to take the necessary steps to support Member States in negotiating improved Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements that ensure the sustained and equitable flow of benefits and contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector;
2. **Instructs** the ACP Secretariat to ensure that issues regarding fisheries subsidies and Special Differential Treatment that were not resolved at the WTO MC10 Conference in Nairobi are effectively pursued and included in the Post-Nairobi Work Programme;
3. **Encourage s** the ACP Secretariat to continue working closely with Regional Fisheries Mechanisms and Regional Fisheries Organisations to identify the appropriate level of contribution and support to adequately meet the national needs including in the context of threats that IUU regulations have brought to bear on their fishing industries;
4. **Call on** Committee of Ambassadors to ensure that the ACP Secretariat considers fisheries as one of the climate-sensitive areas in the Intra-ACP Indicative Programme;
5. **Requests** the Committee of Ambassadors to accelerate efforts to mobilize financial resources in support of actions for fisheries and aquaculture development and blue growth initiatives to unlock the potential of ocean-based economies.

Dakar, 27th April 2016

RESOLUTION

OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH TO 27TH APRIL 2016

RECENT TENSIONS BETWEEN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th and 27th April 2016 ,
- A. **RECALLING** that the Republic of Guatemala continues to maintain territorial, insular and maritime claims against Belize, and that Belize wholly rejects such claims;
- B. **NOTING** with concern the recent tensions along Belize's border with the Republic of Guatemala that threatens peace and stability between these sovereign neighbouring States;
- 1. **AFFIRMS** its commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Belize;
- 2. **CALLS** on Belize and the Republic of Guatemala to continue to abide fully by their Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures of 2005, which commits both countries to refrain from the threat or use of force and lays out a verification process to address border incidents under the auspices of the Organisation of American States;
- 3. **WELCOMES** the recent discussions that is taken place between the leaders of Belize and the Republic of Guatemala to de-escalate the ongoing high-level of tensions and to return focus to building bi-lateral confidence;
- 4. **Expresses** its support for the call by Belize to establish confidence-building measures between Belize and the Republic of Guatemala on the Sarstoon-River which forms the southern boundary of Belize;
- 5. **URGES** both governments to hold, as early as possible, the required national referenda to submit Guatemala's claims to the International Court of Justice for a final resolution in accordance with the Special Agreement of 2008 between the Governments of Belize and the Republic of Guatemala;
- 6. **CALLS** on the international community, including the European Union, to support the efforts of Belize and the Republic of Guatemala to seek a peaceful, final and just resolution to the dispute arising from Guatemalan claims over Belize's territory and, in particular, to support the facilitation role of the Organisation of American States.

Dakar, 27th April 2016

RESOLUTION

OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH TO 27TH APRIL 2016

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016,
- A. **WELCOMING** the holding of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 - 22 July 2016;
- B. **NOTING** that UNCTAD 14 will bring together Heads of State and Government, Ministers and other prominent players from the business world, civil society and academia to tackle global trade and economic development issues;
- C. **RECOGNIZING** that UNCTAD XIV comes at a watershed moment, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015. The forthcoming quadrennial conference will pave the way for UNCTAD to make its contribution to the achievement of the ambitious goals established by these outcomes;
- D. **NOTING** that the Conference will also decide on UNCTAD's programme of work;
- E. **WELCOMING** the theme of the Conference "From decision to action: moving toward an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development" and its four sub-themes;
- F. **RECOGNIZING** that UNCTAD has an excellent and proven record in development research and innovative thinking, an efficient and effective intergovernmental machinery as a vital development forum, and its technical cooperation activities have acted as powerful tools for tackling the common challenges facing ACP countries and other developing countries as well as economies in transition in the past and coming years;
- G. **REAFFIRMING** the resolution of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph 88) to "strengthen the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development";

- H. BELIEVING** that UNCTAD is suitably placed to support ACP States as they implement various commitments under the EPAs, complex outcome of Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development;
- I. DESIROUS** of participating and benefitting from the mandate and work programme to be approved by UNCTAD 14;
1. **Express** our satisfaction with the work of UNCTAD and **Call** for the further strengthening of UNCTAD, also recognizing its role as major institutional stakeholder for Financing for Development, in supporting the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other major international agreements in relation to trade and development and inter-related issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.
 2. **Commit** to do all that is necessary to ensure high level participation of its Members at the UNCTAD 14 in Nairobi as an important opportunity to translate the decisions of last year into concrete actions, as well as to further advance the evolution of UNCTAD's role and mandate as one of the major UN institutions on development, its holistic approach to development, and the enhancement of its capacity to meet the needs of ACP and other developing countries;
 3. **Stress** the importance of more effectively harnessing trade as an engine for sustainable and inclusive development, and of establishing national, regional and international economic environments conducive to the successful pursuit of sustainable development, in line with Agenda 2030, and in particular for ensuring prosperity for all;
 4. **Establish** a stronger working relationship with the UNCTAD post Nairobi with a view to derive real benefits from the UNCTAD technical resources and in this regard **instruct** the ACP Ambassadors in Brussels and Geneva to work closely in coordination to ensure ACP States' effective participation in UNCTAD;
 5. **Instruct** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for this resolution to be distributed as an official document for the Conference.

Dakar, 27th April 2016

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103RD SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26th TO 27th APRIL 2016

COTTON

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016;
- A. RECALLING** the resolution on Agriculture Commodity Trade and Sector development adopted in Brussels, at the 102nd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, November 2015;
- B. HAVING REGARD** to the outcomes of the 10th WTO Nairobi Ministerial Conference (MC 10) held in Nairobi, Kenya, which adopted a decision on cotton with three principle elements on market access, domestic support and export competition;
- C. NOTING** that the ACP Group was engaged in the WTO negotiations striving for fairer trade rules for cotton with the longer term strategic objective of increasing its competitiveness and value addition of African cotton to optimise producers' incomes;
- D. RECALLING** that while European Union's support to its cotton sector is deemed to serve the purpose of maintaining the ginning capacity in the countries concerned, 90% of the production of some EU Member States are currently being exported, therefore competing with ACP Cotton on the international market ;
- E. WELCOMING** the good results achieved by the Support programme for the Consolidation of the Action Framework under the EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton which will come to an end in early 2017;
- F. NOTING** that nearly all the Focal points supported in the framework of this programme are not in post for a variety of reasons thereby negatively impacting implementation of cotton activities;

G. HAVING EXAMINED the report of the Ministerial Consultations on commodities held on 25 April 2016, in Dakar, Senegal and paying particular attention to the recommendations thereof;

- 1. Welcomes the** outcomes of the 10th WTO Nairobi Ministerial Conference (MC10) held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015 as positive step towards achieving a fairer rule based trading regime for African cotton, which are essential in contributing to increased competitiveness and value addition of African cotton and to optimise producers' incomes;
- 2. Calls upon** the European Union to support the implementation of MC10 decisions and the continued support for the Cotton dossier at WTO and to demonstrate its continued support and leading role in this context by taking necessary actions to revise further its support to the EU Cotton sector;
- 3. Calls upon** the ACP Secretariat to ensure that support to cotton is considered during the programming of the relevant 11th EDF Intra-ACP resources, principally to support the development of the value chain; **through setting up a new support programme for the consolidation of the Action Framework under the EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton;**
- 4. Encourage s** the regional organisations as well as African Union institutions to devote appropriate attention to cotton in defining their sectoral agricultural and industrial priorities; and
- 5. Instructs** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Union Member States, and the European Commission.

Dakar, 27 April 2016

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103RD SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN
DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26th TO 27th APRIL 2016

SUGAR

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016;
- A. HAVING REGARD** to the resolution on Agriculture Commodity Trade and Sector development adopted in Brussels, at the 102nd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, November 2015;
- B. HAVING REGARD ALSO** to the Economic Partnership Agreements and in particular the relevant provisions on sugar thereof;
- C. CONCERNED** with the existing and ongoing Free Trade Agreements concluded by the EU, from the perspective of ACP preferential sugar market access, and **NOTING** that overall there are tariff rate quotas arising from these deals in excess of 600,000 tonnes of sugar, including high sugar content products, many of those agreements also providing for an increase over the years ;
- D. HAVING EXAMINED** the forecasts made in the European Commission's latest publication entitled "*Prospects for EU agricultural markets and income 2015-2025*" issued in December 2015 on the basis of likely key outcomes on the expiry of EU sugar and isoglucose quotas in 2017 and concerned that some of the forecasts, if materialised, will have adverse effects on the viability of sugar industry in the ACP Country;
- E. NOTING** that both ACP and EU parties have confirmed that the Joint Technical Committee on Sugar will remain an official structure for the ACP to convey its concerns and views on EU sugar policy issues;
- F. NOTING ALSO** that Commission officials continue to review the need for market measures to increase the supply of sugar within the EU;
- G. WELCOMING** the launching of the Study on "Current and Forecast Market Developments for ACP Sugar Suppliers to the EU market", at the request of the ACP Group and financed through the European development fund;

H. HAVING EXAMINED the report of the Ministerial Consultations on commodities held on 25 April 2016, in Dakar, Senegal and paying particular attention to the recommendations thereof;

1. **Welcomes** the written assurances provided by the European Commission to the effect that the EU Safeguard Mechanism will not be applied automatically and mechanically, as well as the resolution of the issue of co-mingling of sugar in ship holds and looks forward to the extension of this provision to all EPAs;
2. **Also welcomes** the fact that the EU will not impose any mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for sugar;
3. **Welcomes further** the assurances from the European union that the Joint Technical Committee on Sugar as an official structure for the ACP to convey its concerns and views on EU sugar policy issues and the proposal made to occasionally, allow the ACP views to be aired in the "Sugar Experts Group" of the EU's Mancom (Management Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets);
4. **Calls upon** the European Commission to regularly inform the Secretariat of planned proposals and communicate simultaneously, for prior consultations, any measures which might affect the interests of the ACP as provided for by Article 12 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
5. **Urges** that no intervention is made to increase the supply of sugar within the EU which could undermine the fragile recovery in the sugar prices in some Member States;
6. **Urges** the EU to engage with the ACP States to find avenues for continued support to the efforts of our countries in ensuring the viability and resilience of our sugar sector in the light of the forecasts made in the European Commission's latest publication entitled "*Prospects for EU agricultural markets and income 2015-2025*" issued in December 2015 on the basis of likely key outcomes on the expiry of EU sugar and isoglucose quotas in 2017;
7. **Looks forward** to the submission of the draft report of the study on the "Current and Forecast Market Developments for ACP Sugar Suppliers to the EU market", prior to its finalisation as agreed in the Joint Technical meeting;

8. **Request** the ACP Secretariat and the Subcommittee on sugar to accelerate efforts towards the identification of resources and the launching of the follow up phase of the Sugar Research and Innovation Programme; and
9. **Instructs** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Union Member States, and the European Commission.

Dakar, 27 April 2016

RESOLUTION

OF THE 103rd SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH TO 27TH APRIL 2016

ESCALATING CLAIMS BY VENEZUELA ON GUYANA'S TERRITORY

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, (Senegal), from 26th to 27th April 2016,
- A. BEARING IN MIND** the statement delivered by the Honourable Carl B. Greenidge, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana to the 30th Session of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly on the threats to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Guyana by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the wish of the government of Guyana to keep the Council apprised of the relations between Guyana and Venezuela, and to remind it of Guyana's need for ACP support to overcome this challenge to Guyana's sovereignty and its very existence;
- B. HAVING BEEN REMINDED** that Venezuela has sought to unilaterally repudiate an International Arbitral Award that had brought full, perfect and final settlement of the Guyana/Venezuela borders, which was accepted by all parties for over six decades;
- C. NOTING** that in the spirit of goodwill, on February 17, 1966, the representatives of the United Kingdom and Guyana signed the Geneva Agreement which set out several mechanisms for the settlement of the controversy that had arisen as a result of the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award is null and void, and all but one of the mechanisms identified in the Geneva Agreement have been attempted for 49 years without any success and have been abused by Venezuela over the years;
- D. FURTHER NOTING** that the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) was approached to make a determination on the way forward in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement;
- E. HAVING BEEN INFORMED** of the lack of progress on the commitments made during the trilateral meeting held in September 2015, among the UNSG and Presidents David Granger and Nicolas Maduro of Guyana and Venezuela, respectively;

- F. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Guyana has always striven to maintain cordial and cooperative relations with Venezuela, notwithstanding the continuing claim by Venezuela to the Essequibo region and latterly to its entire maritime space;
- G. ALSO NOTING** that during 2015 Guyana was prompted to raise the alarm and request the intervention of UNSG following the issuance of Decrees Nos. 1787 and 1859 by the President of Venezuela purporting to annex all of Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone, and a part of the area Guyana has claimed as its extended continental shelf, as well as the mobilization of troops and armed vessels by Venezuela on the border;
- H. CONSIDERING** the economically damaging impact of these tactics on Guyana's development and the welfare of Guyanese;
- L. FURTHER CONSIDERING** Guyana's calls for the UNSG to refer the matter to ICJ so that the Court can address those legal questions raised in the Venezuela's claims;

Hereby urges the parties to:

- **Adhere** to the principles of international law by respecting the 1899 Arbitral Award, Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty over all the areas defined and marked out by Venezuelan and British experts between 1899 and 1905 including the Essequibo;
- **Fulfill** the commitments undertaken in the trilateral meeting of September 2015 with the UNSG and;
- **Participate** in good faith in the efforts of the UNSG for the peaceful resolution of the controversy.

The Council commends the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a definitive and peaceful end to this controversy which would serve both countries with the desired, respectable end premised on international law.

Dakar, 27th April, 2016

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103RD SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26th TO 27th APRIL 2016

BANANAS

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016;
- A. RECALLING** the resolution on Agriculture Commodity Trade and Sector development adopted in Brussels, at the 102nd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, November 2015;
- B. RECALLING ALSO** the provisions of the Bananas Accompanying Measures (BAM), which was set up following the conclusion in December 2009 of the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas and entered into force in 2012 ;
- C. RECALLING FURTHER** that all the resources made available in the framework of these accompanying measures shall be committed by end of June 2016;
- D. NOTING** with disappointment that the European Commission (EC) has indicated that it will not be in position to mobilise any additional resources as foreseen at the time when the BAM was being set up, in order to bring the total financing envelope of the Programme to 200 million euros, compared to the 190 million initially provided;
- E. RECALLING** that the entire series of measures proposed and funded under the BAM should contribute to improve banana production in ACP countries, through competitiveness gains and, taking into account the changing character of the global banana market, it would be useful to foresee additional support for ACP banana producers with a view to ensure the profitability and the competitiveness of ACP bananas on the world market;
- F. NOTING WITH SATISFACTION** that the European Commission pledged to not go below the tariff rate floor of 75 euros per ton applicable to third countries, in the context of future Free Trade Agreements or those under negotiation, on 23 February 2016 during the 73rd meeting of the ACP-EU Trade Cooperation Subcommittee and reiterated that commitment during the 66th meeting of ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors held on 4 March 2016;

G. HAVING EXAMINED the report of the Ministerial Consultations on commodities held on 25 April 2016, in Dakar, Senegal and paying particular attention to the recommendations thereof;

1. **Welcomes** the commitment made by the European Commission not to go below the tariff rate floor of 75 euros per ton applicable to third countries, in the context of future Free Trade Agreements or those under negotiation and **calls upon** the EU to take all necessary measures to guarantee the effectiveness of this commitment;
2. **Calls upon** ACP Members of the JPA to regularly keep the JPA informed of the challenges facing the ACP banana sector;
3. **Encourages** the Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP Secretariat to continue their efforts to identify the means to support the reinforcement of the competitiveness of the ACP banana sector and sustain the development of the value chain ;
4. **Underscores** the need for all the recipient countries to take the necessary measures to ensure full absorption of the available funds; and
5. **Supports** the initiative and commitment made by ACP banana producers in line with the Working Group on Bananas of the Committee of Ambassadors to regularly organise one or two events a year to promote and keep bananas on the agenda for ACP-EU cooperation;
6. **Calls upon** the ACP Secretariat to explore all opportunities to review the implementation of the BAMs especially in light of extenuating circumstances of a natural or economic nature; and
7. **Instructs** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Union Member States, and the European Commission.

Dakar, 27 April 2016

RESOLUTION
OF THE 103RD SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, FROM 26TH TO 27TH APRIL 2016

**NEW INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**

The ACP Council of Ministers,

- Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 26th to 27th April 2016;
- A. RECALLING** the resolution on the Development of Trade and the ACP Agricultural Commodities Sector adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 102nd session held in Brussels, in November 2015;
- B. HAVING REGARD TO** the report of the Committee of Ambassadors at the 103rd session of the ACP Council of Ministers, notably the information contained in it on the progress made on the New Integrated Approach to Support the Development of Agricultural Value Chains, as well as those relating to the difficulties met by several other agricultural sectors in ACP countries such as kava and tobacco;
- C. HAVING RECEIVED** the report on the Ministerial Consultations on Commodities held in Dakar, on 25 April 2016, and paying specific attention to the elements relating to the presentation made jointly by the representatives of the Government of Senegal, the National Fund for Agricultural Development of Senegal and the National Council for Dialogue and Rural Cooperation of Senegal;
- D. WELCOMING** Senegal's success in structuring and implementing the various support mechanisms for financing agricultural activity, notably in favour of family farms, and **NOTING** the significant challenges that are yet to be overcome in this area;
- E. NOTING** that the success of these experiences resides in the close and frank cooperation between farmers' organisations, financial institutions dedicated to agriculture and the Government of country;
- F. RECALLING** the discussions initiated with the African Cashew Initiative since the 99th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 June 2014;

G. CONSIDERING the socio-economic importance of the cashew nuts sector for the development of several ACP countries, and the sustainable development prospects that this sector provides;

1. **Hereby commends** the various stakeholders who have ensured the success of the agricultural financing policy in Senegal;
2. **Acknowledges** the degree to which the new integrated inclusive approach to support the development of agricultural value chains has been finalised and encourages the Committee of Ambassadors to work closely with the ACP Secretariat to honour the deadlines set;
3. **Invite s** the ACP Secretariat to work on the possibilities of amplifying Senegal's successful experiences with regard to financing agricultural activity and to make proposals to the Committee of Ambassadors on how it can possibly be replicated in other ACP countries and regions; and
4. **Invite s** the Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP Secretariat to ensure that, in the framework of the discussions under way on programming the Intra-ACP resources of the envelope for the 11th EDF, development support for the value chain for cashew nuts is duly taken into consideration.

Dakar, 27 April 2016