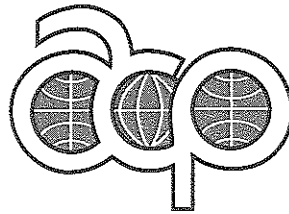


Groupe des Etats d'Afrique
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
(Groupe ACP)



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

REFERENCE

ACP/28/025/08 [Final]
PAHD Dept

Accra, 3 October 2008

6TH SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ACCRA, GHANA
2 AND 3 OCTOBER 2008

ACCRA DECLARATION

ACCRA DECLARATION

I. PREAMBLE

We, Heads of State and Government of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) meeting for our 6th Summit in Accra, Ghana, on 2 and 3 October 2008:

- A. **Reaffirming** our firm commitment to the objectives and principles enshrined in the Georgetown Agreement creating the ACP Group of States, ACP-EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the United Nations (UN) Charter;
- B. **Mindful** of commitments made at earlier ACP Summits in Libreville, Santo Domingo, Nadi, Maputo and Khartoum;
- C. **Acknowledging** the various Decisions, Declarations, Resolutions and initiatives of sub-regional, regional, continental and international Meetings that have an impact on human development;
- D. **Acknowledging** further that the strength of our Group lies in its common history, unity and solidarity, diversity and cultural wealth, as well as the common vision of the future shared by its Member States;
- E. **Emphasising** that the ultimate aim of development is human growth in its economic, political, social and cultural dimensions, and to this end, resolved to focus our immediate considerations and future actions on the theme of our Summit ***“Promoting human security and development”***, with a view to eradicating poverty and promote sustainable development and thereby guaranteeing peace, security and stability for all our communities.

II. HUMAN SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1. **Emphasize** that the effective and balanced use of the multilateral system underpinned by the UN Organisation is a necessary condition to progress towards achieving international peace and security.
2. **Undertake** to systematically use the Framework for intra-ACP Political Dialogue to alleviate tensions as soon as they emerge, and agree to allocate the necessary financial and other resources to the Framework to ensure its smooth operation.
3. **Reiterate** our respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, peaceful settlement of conflicts, respect of international agreements, as well as the right of peoples to build their own political systems in an environment of peace, stability and justice.

4. **Reiterate** further our firm condemnation of all acts of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever they are committed and by whoever, and **pledge** to continue to strengthen cooperation among States and regions so as to effectively prevent and eradicate this scourge.
5. **Condemn** the use of unilateral coercive measures such as illegal sanctions against certain developing countries with a view to preventing these countries from the exercise of their right to determine their own political, economic and social system, and **reject** the application of unilateral and extraterritorial laws and measures contrary to International Law, such as the Helms-Burton Act.
6. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the establishment and preservation of durable peace, security, and political stability through the strengthening of democratic processes in ACP States, taking into account that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives.
7. **Note** the request for the indictment of General Omar Hassan Ahmed EL BASHIR, President of Sudan, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur by the International Criminal Court (ICC), and **reaffirm** the call made by the African Union (AU) for the suspension of the ICC demarche to allow for political and diplomatic efforts to address the situation in Darfur.
8. **Note** that developments in Sudan generated interest at the level of both the UN Security Council (UNSC) and International Criminal Court (ICC), and **resolve** to redouble efforts to take all possible political and diplomatic actions to work towards lasting peace in the Sudan.
9. **Acknowledge** the positive results of intra-ACP and ACP-EU political dialogue, and **reaffirm** that political dialogue is the foundation for the promotion of peace, security and stability, as well as the consolidation of democracy, in our States.
10. **Recognise** that elections, one of the foundations of democracy, are often the source of violence in our countries, and consequently, **undertake** to promote better management of electoral processes and the deepening of democracy among our citizens and societies to guarantee peaceful and credible elections, as well as acceptance of such elected governments throughout the ACP Group, and **reaffirm** that our States are primarily responsible for the individual safety of their citizens and persons living within their national borders.
11. **Reaffirm** our commitment to political initiatives at national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels for the adoption of policies for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment that place environmental issues, especially climate change and the management of toxic waste, at the forefront of social, economic and cultural development.

12. **Undertake** to respond to the plight of ACP States most vulnerable to the catastrophic effect of climate change by providing assistance with long term strategies at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.
13. **Urge** our development partners to mobilize and provide adequate resources and incentives, including market based mechanisms, in support of the efforts of ACP States to effectively manage tropical forests and river basins, and **reiterate** our support for a post-Kyoto Climate Agreement that recognizes that forests represent considerable economic, environmental and social benefits for the lives and development of our populations.
14. **Reiterate** our resolve to increase and improve access to safe, affordable and sustainable water supply, and irrigation, as well as increase and improve affordable sanitation services in ACP States, **reaffirm** our support to the activities of ACP-EU Water Facility, and **call** for the speedy and effective disbursement of funds, as well as funding for the Facility to be increased and extended to the 10th EDF.
15. **Welcome** the establishment and implementation of the ACP-EU Natural Disasters Facility (NDF) to address the adverse impact of natural disasters, **acknowledge** the commitment made by the European Commission to allocate an additional amount of 180 million euros to the Facility under the 10th EDF, and **call** for the maintenance of its focus on prevention and management of natural disasters in ACP States and Regions, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
16. **Underscore** the need for action in the fight against desertification, coastal erosion and the encroachment of the sea, and **call** for adequate and dedicated resources to be allocated to prevent and combat these threats to infrastructures and human lives in an increasing number of ACP States.
17. **Welcome** the establishment of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, **call** upon our development partners to contribute to the Fund, and **develop** methodologies to expand coverage to all the Regions of the ACP Group.
18. **Welcome** further and fully support the establishment of the ACP-EU Energy Facility, and **stress** our commitment to its objective of increased access to sustainable energy services for all our people, especially the rural and urban poor, and **call** for the speedy and effective disbursement of funds, as well as the extension of this Facility with additional funding under the 10th EDF.

19. **Recognize** the close linkage between access to energy, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, **acknowledge** that the current energy model based on fossil fuels is neither sustainable nor environmentally viable, **commit** ourselves to search for, and develop alternative sources of clean and affordable energy, and **urge** our development partners to support our efforts by providing requisite assistance.
20. **Call** on the international community to agree on a global strategy to stabilize oil prices at affordable levels in order to protect the growth prospects of the developing countries, **urge** the UN to convene an International Summit to address the problems, particularly for Net-Fuel Importing Developing Countries, and propose solutions to high oil prices and its impact on the livelihoods of people, and **commit** ourselves to develop alternative sources of energy as a means of mitigating the impact of rising oil prices.
21. **Reaffirm** our commitment to alleviate the current food price crisis and its humanitarian impact on ACP States and Regions, through increased production, productivity, sharing best practices and experiences, as well as the development and strengthening of agricultural value added activities as an effective means of enhancing access to affordable nutritive food products at national and regional levels, and **urge** partners and international institutions to assist ACP States and Regions by providing financial assistance to overcome the structural and systemic problems of food security through short, medium and long-term measured responses.
22. **Welcome and support** the proposal of the European Commission to establish a 1 billion euro Food Facility for a rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries, **urge** the European Council and European Parliament for its early approval, and **request** the Commission to extend the benefits of this Facility to all ACP States, irrespective of their level of income and socio-economic development, as well as to channel the resources through national, regional and international mechanisms as being proposed by the European Parliament.
23. **Welcome further recent** global initiatives taken with a view to addressing the current food crisis in developing countries, and **commit** ourselves to taking full advantage of the momentum created in international fora, such as the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security in Rome (Italy), G8 Summit in Tokyo (Japan), and 3rd African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo (Norway),

24. **Reiterate** our commitment to the full and unconditional attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), **urge** development partners to fulfill their commitments to financing development, as well as to establish appropriate mechanisms for accelerating the access to these resources, and **call** for the full and speedy implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), with particular regard to Middle Income Countries that are generally neglected by the international donor community.
25. **Recognize** that the current financial crisis could have a serious negative effect on the world economy, impede economic growth and the attainment of MDGs, and thereby **call** on the international community and financial institutions to urgently examine its causes and expeditiously implement specific measures to mitigate the impact on developing countries, particularly in ACP States.
26. **Underscore** the importance of health in the global development agenda, **commit** ourselves to improving the delivery of accessible and quality health care, and **undertake** to mobilize ourselves at the global level to secure additional funding and technical assistance from our development partners.
27. **Recognize** the importance of taking account of the “gender” dimension in development policies, **commit** ourselves to promote the coordination, development, implementation and monitoring of gender activities in the framework of the implementation of “gender” policies at the national, regional and intra-ACP levels, and **undertake** to support the development of institutional frameworks and appropriate mechanisms to better prevent and combat gender-related violence.
28. **Reaffirm** our commitment to improved investment in quality education, particularly the provision of universal primary education, vocational and professional training, including capacity building of teachers and teacher trainers, as well as ensuring that gender disparities in education programmes are drastically reduced.
29. **Acknowledge** that our future lies in young people, and **commit** ourselves to providing the necessary opportunities and support to equip the youth for future challenges through targeted capacity building initiatives.

30. **Welcome** the establishment of the intra-ACP Migration Facility, **call** for its continuation under the 10th EDF, **reaffirm** our commitment to support regional and sub-regional efforts to formulate common strategies for the attraction, and retention of ACP skilled nationals within our countries, promote mobility of skills through intra-ACP and South-South cooperation programmes, and **acknowledge** the positive contribution of the diaspora and well-managed circular migration programmes that can lead to enhanced relations between the countries of origin and destination.
31. **Promote** ACP cultures and cultural industries as a multiplier agent of sustainable development.
32. **Reiterate** our commitment to support the access and utilization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a necessary attribute for sustainable development, **reaffirm** our commitment to mainstreaming ICTs in all development sectors, particularly in capacity-building for ICT policy and regulation, and the development of national ICT strategies and infrastructures, and undertake to seek support from, and collaboration with our development partners.
33. **Recognize** that a developed and efficient infrastructure is essential to promote sustainable development, poverty alleviation and the greater integration of ACP States and Regions into the global economy, and **undertake** to prioritize infrastructural development at the national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels.
34. **Endorse** the Declaration on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 87th Session held in June 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and **note** that some ACP States have initialed the full EPA concept, while others have expressed serious concerns about both the process and content, in particular in relation to the interim EPAs.
35. **Welcome** the May 2008 conclusions of the EU Development Ministers acknowledging ACP concerns in relation to EPAs, **call** for flexibility in the subsequent process of negotiations, and **urge** the European Commission to extend to interested ACP Regions any favorable treatment already provided to other ACP Regions, particularly in relation to rules of origin.
36. **Call** on the European Commission to offer alternative trading arrangements to ACP States not in a position to conclude EPAs in accordance with the provisions of Article 37.6 of the ACP-EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

37. **Reiterate** that further progress in the EPA process must be based on adequately addressing these legitimate concerns that would allow for all ACP States to become part of the Agreements.
38. **Emphasize** that EPAs must be instruments for sustainable economic growth and development that shall build on existing regional integration processes, and promote further the unity, cohesion and solidarity of the ACP Group.
39. **Call** on EU Member States and the European Commission to provide adequate resources on a sustainable and predictable basis in addition to European Development Fund (EDF) resources to finance EPA adjustment related costs.
40. **Reaffirm** our commitment to a multilateral trading system based on flexible rules, transparency, equity and participation in decision-making processes, and **call** for the urgent conclusion of the Doha Development Round (DDA) in a way that delivers development and tangible benefits to our States and Regions.
41. **Urge** EU Member States to urgently operationalize their commitment on Aid for Trade (AFT) to release resources for ACP States to implement their trade liberalization commitments under EPAs and DDA.

III. ACP GROUP AND GLOBAL ISSUES

42. **Reaffirm** that effective and democratic international institutions are the foundation for safe and mutually beneficial interdependence, and the smooth integration of developing countries into effective participation in the international system.
43. **Underline** that the dominant position of a few nations in the international peace and security architecture undermines democratic decision making, legitimacy of international actions, and contributes to a climate of resentment, distrust, fear and insecurity, thereby weakening and marginalising international peace efforts.
44. **Reaffirm** that the international system must distribute international responsibilities among nations in an acceptable manner, and **uphold** the principle of democratic decision making at international level, which could contribute to the promotion of internationally acceptable policies, avoid the use of unilateral actions and policies and respect sovereignty of nations.

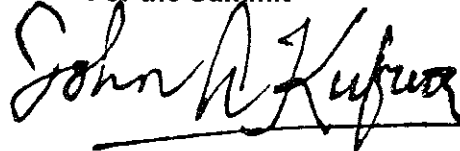
45. **Recognize** the need for a stronger, democratic UN, with more participatory decision making procedures in its bodies and agencies, as the driving force for a consistent, democratic, responsible and effective system of international institutions.
46. **Stress** the need for coordination and cooperation in the international financial and economic system in order to ensure transparency and rule of law, in particular in the administration of the rules of trade, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and global macroeconomic stability.
47. **Reaffirm** that global trading rules and international financial institutions need to respect the sovereignty of developing nations, and provide adequate policy space to structure national economies according to their own development needs and priorities.
48. **Note** that the link between human security on the one hand and international trade and financial systems on the other hand has been manifested in the consequences and impact of the policy prescription of the Bretton Woods institutions and their conditionalities, which scaled down public expenditures by recipient governments, thereby indirectly undermining human security and sustainable development in ACP States.
49. **Stress** that the establishment of cooperation with other countries and organisations will increase the global appeal and credibility of the ACP Group, which is particularly important in the light of changing geo-politics and the role of emerging markets in global trade and development issues, as well as the need to forge relations with other developed countries.
50. **Reaffirm** also our commitment to enhance intra-ACP cooperation, and to ensure that the ACP Group becomes one of the most prominent organizations to articulate and represent the interest of the developing world, and emerges as a dynamic force in the international arena.
51. **Emphasise** that global policy dialogue calls for a continued and sustained collective approach of the ACP Group with the view to maximizing our collective bargaining power in collaboration with other organisations and nations in bodies such as the UN and other international organisations, as a way of contributing to sustainable human security and development.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

52. **Pledge** to collaborate among ourselves and with our development partners to promoting human security and development in order to attain the ultimate goal of poverty eradication among our people, and foster sustainable development.
53. **Request** the Secretary-General of the ACP Group to forward this Accra Declaration to the Secretary-General of the UN, President-in-Office of the G8, President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, President of the European Commission, President of the European Parliament, Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organisations and International Organisations, as well as to other development partners of the ACP Group of States.

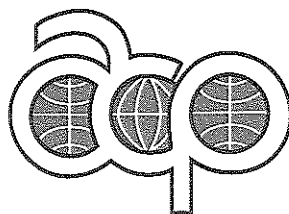
Done at Accra, 3 October 2008

For the Summit

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Agyekum Kufuor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

H. E. Mr. John Agyekum KUFUOR
President of the Republic of Ghana
and
President-in-Office of the 6th Summit of
ACP Heads of State and Government

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



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

REFERENCE **ACP/28/056/08 [Final]**
PAHD Dept

Accra, 3 October 2008

**6TH SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ACCRA, GHANA
2 AND 3 OCTOBER 2008**

DECISION

**DECISION NO 1/VI/SUMMIT/2008
ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP);

Meeting at our Sixth Summit in Accra, Ghana from 2 – 3 October 2008;

Having considered the negotiations and process of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs) between our States and the European Union;

Concerned that the process has split the Group into countries that have initiated interim or full EPAs and those that have not initiated any agreement, while most have expressed concerns about the process and content of the EPAs;

Concerned about the undue pressure that is being put on some ACP countries to move forward to signing and ratification of interim or final EPA's before legitimate concerns have been adequately addressed in a way that creates conditions for all ACP countries to become part of agreements that genuinely contribute to growth, development and the advancement of regional integration;

Determined to safeguard and further enhance our unity and solidarity;

Desirous of ensuring that the EPAs are inclusive, foster regional integration and provide tangible development benefits for our peoples; and

Stressing that in order to smooth the process for finalization of the EPA negotiations, the European Commission and its Member States must take account of the interests and concerns of ALL our States.

HEREBY DECIDE

1. That ACP Heads of State and Government, represented by the Chairperson of the Africa Union, and those of CARIFORUM and Pacific ACP Summits, and headed by the President of the ACP Summit, engage in high level consultations on the EPAs, with a number of EU Member States,

.../...

2. To instruct the President of Council and the Secretary-General to explore by the end of October 2008, modalities for conducting this high level engagement with key stakeholders in the European Union; and
3. To instruct the Council of Ministers to pursue the consideration of the creation of an ACP Free Trade Area (FTA).

Done at Accra, 3 October 2008

For the Summit



**H. E. Mr. John Agyekum KUFUOR
President of the Republic of Ghana
and
President-in-Office of the 6th Summit of
ACP Heads of State and Government**