

GROUPE DES ETATS D'AFRIQUE
DES CARAIBES ET DU PACIFIQUE
(GROUPE ACP)



AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES
(ACP GROUP)

THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT

THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT ON THE ORGANISATION
OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP
OF STATES

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES,
hereinafter called the "ACP Group",

HAVING CONTRIBUTED, through united and concerted endeavours to the
acceleration of the process of solidarity of developing countries,

HAVING REGARD to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lome,

TAKING into account the objectives of the international and
regional organisations to which the ACP States belong,

DESIROUS of consolidating and strengthening the existing
solidarity of the ACP Group,

RESOLVED to promote and develop greater and closer trade and
economic relations between the ACP States,

DETERMINED to promote effective regional and inter-regional
co-operation among the ACP States,

DETERMINED to ensure that the Convention of Lome contributes
fully to the realisation of the common aspirations of countries
of the developing world,

RESOLVED to establish the Group of the African, Caribbean and
Pacific States to achieve the above objectives as a process
towards the realisation of the new international economic
order,

HAVE AGREED as follows :

CHAPTER I

THE ORGANISATION AND OBJECTIVES
OF THE ACP GROUP

Article 1

The Group

There is hereby formally established the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States which shall be known as the "ACP Group".

The Members of the ACP Group shall be the African, Caribbean and Pacific States which are signatory to the Convention of Lome and to this Agreement.

Any other State which accedes to the Convention of Lome may become a member of the ACP Group in accordance with Article 22 of this Agreement.

The ACP Group shall have legal personality. It shall have the capacity to contract, acquire, and dispose of movable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings.

Article 2

The objectives of the ACP Group

The objectives of the ACP Group shall be as follows :

- (a) to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the Convention of Lome,
- (b) to co-ordinate the activities of the ACP States in the application of the Convention of Lome,
- (c) to determine joint positions of the ACP Group vis-a-vis the EEC on matters covered by the Convention of Lome,
- (d) to promote and strengthen the existing solidarity of the ACP Group,

- (e) to contribute to the development of greater and closer trade, economic and cultural relations amongst the ACP States and amongst developing countries in general, and to this end to develop the exchange of information amongst the ACP States in the fields of trade, technology, industry and human resources,
- (f) to contribute to the promotion of effective regional and inter-regional co-operation amongst the ACP States and amongst developing countries in general, and to strengthen the links between the respective regional organisations to which they belong,
- (g) to promote the establishment of a new world economic order.

CHAPTER II

ORGANS OF THE GROUP

Article 3

The organs of the ACP Group shall be the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Ambassadors.

The Council of Ministers shall take steps to ensure a liaison with the members of the ACP States in the Consultative Assembly set up by the Lomé Convention.

The Organs shall be assisted by a General Secretariat of the ACP Group.

The Council of Ministers

Article 4

The Council of Ministers shall consist of a member of the Government of each of the ACP States or of a representative designated by the latter.

Article 5

The Council of Ministers shall define the broad outlines of the work to be undertaken for the attainment of the objectives specified in Article 2 of this Agreement.

It shall periodically review the attainment of the objectives set out in Article 2.

Article 6

The Council of Ministers may delegate to the Committee of Ambassadors any of its powers.

Article 7

The Council of Ministers shall elect its Bureau at the end of each ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

The Bureau shall be composed of six members designated as follows :

- four from Africa,
- one from the Caribbean,
- one from the Pacific.

The Council shall elect its President from among the members of the Bureau on a rotation basis between Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Groups.

Article 8

The Council of Ministers shall meet in ordinary session once in each six months.

In addition the Council may meet in special session whenever necessary on the decision of the President after consultation with all the members of the Bureau.

Article 9

The acts of the Council of Ministers may take the form of a decision, resolution or recommendation.

Article 10

Decisions made by the Council of Ministers shall be arrived at on the basis of a consensus of the members.

However, under special circumstances and after consultation, decisions may be arrived at by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Council.

Article 11

The Council of Ministers shall adopt its rules of procedure.

The Committee of Ambassadors

Article 12

The Committee of Ambassadors shall consist of an Ambassador or other representative of each of the ACP States.

Article 13

The Committee of Ambassadors shall assist the Council of Ministers in the performance of its functions and shall carry out any mandate entrusted to it by the Council of Ministers.

In particular the Committee of Ambassadors shall ensure the implementation of the Lome Convention.

The Committee of Ambassadors shall present to each meeting of the Council of Ministers a report of its activities.

Article 14

There shall be a Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors which shall co-ordinate the work of the Committee of Ambassadors.

The Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors shall be composed of a Chairman and five Vice-Chairmen who shall hold office for a period of six months.

Article 15

The acts of the Committee of Ambassadors shall take the form of a decision, resolution or recommendation.

Article 16

Decisions made by the Committee of Ambassadors shall be arrived at on the basis of a consensus of the members.

Article 17

The Committee of Ambassadors shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

CHAPTER III

THE ACP GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 18

The ACP General Secretariat for servicing the organs of the ACP Group shall be located in Brussels, Belgium.

Article 19

The ACP General Secretariat, under the authority of the organs of the ACP Group shall :

- monitor the implementation of the Lome Convention,
- service the organs of the ACP Group and the joint institutions established under the Lome Convention, and
- carry out such tasks as may be assigned to it by the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Ambassadors.

Article 20

The Council of Ministers, on the proposal of the Committee of Ambassadors, shall determine the organisational structure of the ACP General Secretariat, and define its staff regulations.

Article 21

The Council of Ministers shall establish the financial regulations and the Budget of the ACP General Secretariat.

Each ACP State shall contribute to the Budget in accordance with provisions established by the Council of Ministers.

CHAPTER IV

FINAL AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

A State which accedes to the Lome Convention may accede to this Agreement, with the approval of the Council of Ministers. The new State shall assume all the rights and the obligations arising from this Agreement.

Article 23

Regional bodies of the ACP States shall be entitled to participate as observers in the meetings of the organs of the ACP Group.

Article 24

The provisions of this Agreement may be amended by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 25

The working languages of the ACP Group shall be English and French. A delegation may oppose the examination of any text if it has not been drawn up in both languages.

Article 26

This Agreement is open for signature at the ACP General Secretariat from the Sixth day of June, 1975, being the date on which the approved text, in the English and French languages, was initialled in Georgetown, Guyana.

This Agreement shall come into force two months after signature thereof by at least two-thirds of the Member States of the ACP Group.

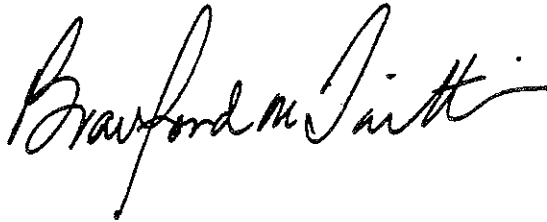
In witness whereof the respective ACP States
through their duly authorized representatives
have signed this Agreement in the English and
French, both texts being equally authentic,
on the dates specified in relation to the
signatures.

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For the Head of State of the Bahamas

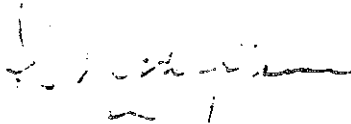
23 May 1979

For the Head of State of Barbados



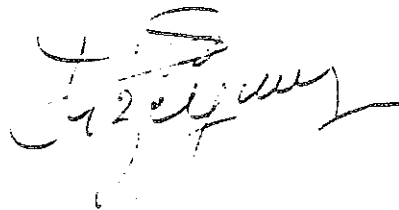
14 January 1976

For the President of the Republic of Botswana



29 September 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Burundi



1 Décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République Unie du Cameroun



4 Avril 1976

Pour le Président de la République Centrafricaine

M. K. Njome 3 Février 1976

Pour le Président de la République Populaire du Congo

Colt J. Raoul

1 Décembre 1975

[Signature]

Pour le Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire

[Signature]
11 Décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Dahomey

[Signature]

3 Octobre 1975

For the Chairman of the Provisional Administrative
Military Council and Council of Ministers of Ethiopia

[Signature]

25 March 1977

Her Majesty the Queen of Fiji

30 October 1975

Pour le Président de la République Gabonaise

12 November 1977

For the President of the Republic of Gambia

11 December 1975

For the President of the National Redemption Council
of the Republic of Ghana

1 December 1975


For the Head of State of Grenada

25 February 1977

Pour le Président de la République de Guinée

S.E. Mr FILY CISSOKO,
Ministre des Affaires Extérieures

30 Juin 1975



Pour le Président du Conseil d'Etat de la Guinée Bissau

Pour le Président de la République de Guinée Equatoriale

For the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana



13 November 1975

Pour le Président de la République de Haute-Volta



3 Octobre 1975

For the Head of State of Jamaica

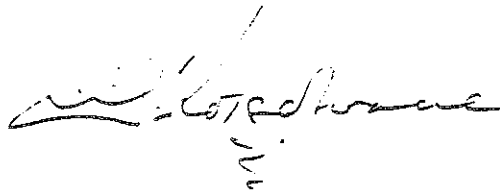
21 November 1975

For the President of the Republic of Kenya

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M. ...', written over a horizontal line.

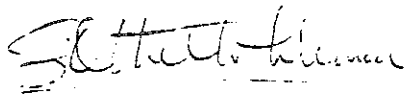
13 November 1975

For the King of the Kingdom of Lesotho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. M. ...', written over a horizontal line.

4 November 1975

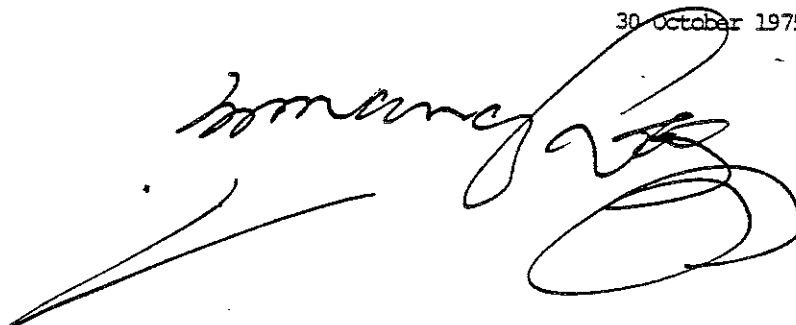
For the President of the Republic of Liberia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. ...', written over a horizontal line.

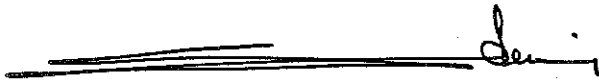
13 November 1975

For the President of the Republic of Malawi

30 October 1975

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Pour le Chef d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la
République Malgache



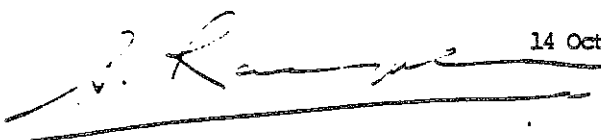
11 Décembre 1975

Pour le Président du Comité Militaire de Libération
Nationale du Mali, Chef de l'Etat, Président du Gouvernement



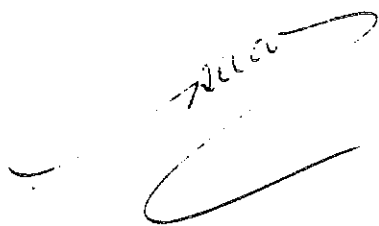
26 Novembre 1975

Pour Sa Majesté La Reine de l'Ile Maurice



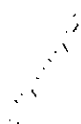
14 Octobre 1975

Pour le Président de la République Islamique de Mauritanie



13 Novembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Niger



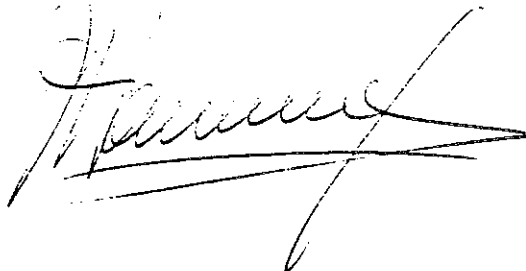
5 Avril 1977

For the Head of the Federal Military Government
- of Nigeria



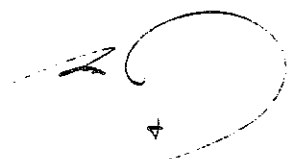
29 September 1975

Pour le Président de la République Rwandaise



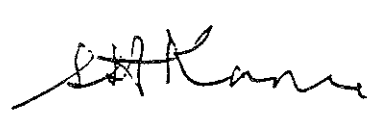
2 Décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Sénégal



24 Juillet 1975

For the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone



22 October 1975

For the President of the Somali Democratic Republic
President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council



17 July 1975

For the President of the Democratic Republic of
The Sudan

F. Amin

11 December 1975

For the King of the Kingdom of Swaziland

J. B. Bame

3 October 1975

For the President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Ambulegwa

11 December 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Tchad

D. 1/4

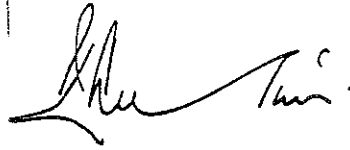
18 Octobre 1979

Pour le Président de la République Togolaise

Winagbo

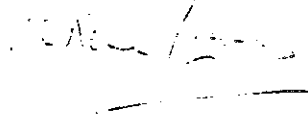
1 Décembre 1975

For the Head of State of Tonga



12 April 1977

For the Head of State of Trinidad and Tobago



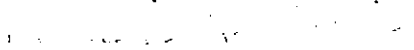
30 October 1975

For the President of the Republic of Uganda



16 February 1976

For the Head of State of Western Samoa




27 November 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Zaïre



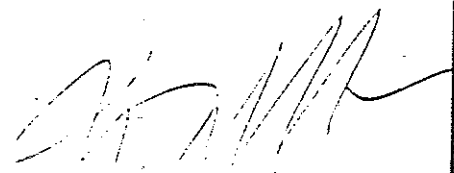
13 Novembre 1975

For the President of the Republic of Zambia



The preceding text is a certified true copy of the
Georgetown Agreement deposited in the archives of the
General Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific
States, in Brussels.

Brussels 1st July, 1981



The Secretary-General of
the African, Caribbean and
Pacific States