



## **ACP Private Sector Development Information, Knowledge Sharing and Networking Event**

### **East Africa and Southern Africa**

#### **What?**

The ACP Private Sector Development Information, Knowledge Sharing and Networking Meeting for East and Southern Africa.

#### **Where?**

This important event for ACP Private sector will take place from 14 to 16 May 2019, at Hilton Mauritius Resort & Spa.

#### **Why?**

##### Background

The Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Secretariat), is launching a series of regional meetings with the main purpose of ACP Private Sector Information, Development Knowledge Sharing and Networking.

As an integral activity of the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Framework, these events are being organised with technical support from Business ACP - the ACP Private Sector Development Platform, in close concertation with the European Commission.

This is particularly useful at this point in time, as several new intra-ACP projects and substantial private sector financing facilities are being launched or expanded, namely under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) and the European External Investment Plan.

#### **Main objectives of this 1<sup>st</sup> Private Sector Development Information, Knowledge Sharing and Networking event are:**

- to provide targeted ACP stakeholders, intermediary organisations and selected private sector beneficiaries with comprehensive information on relevant intra-ACP programmes, the European External Investment Plan (EIP), European Investment Bank-managed and other European Commission-related Private Sector Development facilities and programmes targeting the ACP regions;
- to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing in the area of Private Sector Development;
- to ensure a high degree of interaction among ACP private sector participants, and with project implementation agencies as well as EU stakeholders, in the form of networking in the areas of finance, trade, know-how and technology transfer.



## Who?

The meeting brings together:

- European Commission and European Investment Bank representatives as well as international cooperation and development agencies
- Regional or national Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and selected national MSME-friendly financial institutions from East and Southern Africa;
- Regional and national Apex Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) from East and Southern Africa
- Private Sector Development organizations (Investment Promotion Agencies, SME Promotion Agencies, Investment Climate Reform Bodies, MSME Finance Bodies) from East and Southern Africa
- SADC and COMESA Secretariats and senior officials.
- ACP Group of States representatives

This regional event is structured in three parts:

- The first day will aim to provide detailed information on the way the ACP private sector can benefit from intra-ACP/EDF and EU-funded financing facilities and Private Sector Development programmes.
- Five thematic knowledge sharing sessions will avail participants with the opportunity to learn from peers and experts and discuss African development opportunities and challenges in areas as critical as **Investment Climate reform and Investment promotion, Digital entrepreneurship development, Digital start-up financing models, Africa's industrial transformation, Renewable energy and Industry 4.0.**
- The event will also feature field visits and networking sessions.

## Press activities for journalists based in Mauritius

- The media will be offered a 10-minute photo opportunity **at the opening of the conference only**, during the Official Welcome by the ACP Secretariat, the EU Delegation and the representative of the host country, Mauritius.
- In order to allow participants to be fully involved in the discussions, please note that interviews of participants and sessions speakers will be facilitated **ONLY** during the breaks (coffee/lunch, at the end of the day, or after the closing ceremony depending on availability).
- **A list of high level participants available for interviews during the ACP Private Sector Development event will be circulated on 8 May.**  
**We invite you to send your interview request (specifying which person you wish to interview) from 9 to 13 May 2019 to: [v.deoliveira@businessacp.com](mailto:v.deoliveira@businessacp.com)**



### **Note to editors**

**The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)** is an organization created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. The ACP Group's main goals centre around the sustainable development of its Member-States and their gradual integration into the global economy; coordination of the activities of the ACP Group in the framework of the implementation of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreements; consolidation of unity and solidarity among ACP states and establishing and consolidating peace and stability in a free and democratic society.

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