

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



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26/02/18*

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

(First Session)

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**REPORT OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY AND THE 34<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY**  
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Port-au-Prince, Haiti

13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

*Approved  
[Signature]  
27/2/2018*

Clerks Chambers  
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December, 2017

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

**ACP:** African, Caribbean and Pacific

**ACP-PA:** African, Caribbean and Pacific Parliamentary Assembly

**CARIFORUM:** Caribbean Forum, a subgroup of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

**EC:** European Commission

**EU:** European Union

**JPA:** Joint Parliamentary Assembly

**ACP-EU JPA:** African, Caribbean and Pacific – European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly

**EPAs:** Economic Partnership Agreements

**EDF:** European Development Fund

**EAC:** East African Community

**SADC:** Southern African Development Community

## **PREFACE**

### **Mr. Speaker,**

The 34th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Session was preceded by meetings of the three Standing Committees and the plenary of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The Sessions and meetings were a follow-up to the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Sessional meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly that were held in October in Brussels, Belgium. Various resolutions on matters affecting the member States were adopted.

### **Mr. Speaker,**

The Kenya delegation to this meeting comprised of the following -

- i) The Hon. Patrick Mariru, M.P. – Leader of Delegation
- ii) Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, M.P. – Senate Member of Delegation
- iii) The Hon. (Dr.) Lilian Gogo, M.P. – National Assembly Member of Delegation
- iv) The Hon. Cornelly Serem, M.P. – National Assembly Member of Delegation
- v) The Hon. Athanas Wafula Wamunyinyi, M.P. – National Assembly Member of Delegation
- vi) Ms. Wanjiru Ndindiri – Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
- vii) Mr. Noah Too – Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
- viii) Mrs. Lillian Osundwa – Delegation Secretary (Senate)

The Kenya delegation was also joined by Ambassador Johnson Weru from the Kenyan Mission to the European Union in Brussels. The group participated actively in all the deliberations and issued statements with regard to the topics that were under discussion. Kenya also provided a brief on the political situation in the country following the General Elections, assuring the delegates that there was peace despite the ongoing political differences observed.

### **Mr. Speaker,**

As mentioned earlier, the JPA was preceded by meetings of the three Standing Committees on Political Affairs; Economic Development, Trade and Finance and



Committee on Social Affairs and Environment. They presented reports on topical issues such as *the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies*; *Blue economy: the opportunities and challenges for ACP states*; and *on improving the access to basic health systems, notably to medicines in the fight against infectious diseases*. The reports were thereafter discussed in the Joint Assembly, where they were adopted and resolutions made. There was also a Women's Forum, two workshops and a Youth Conference with Haitian students, conducted before the main plenary session.

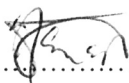
**Mr. Speaker,**

The JPA deliberated on various matters of concern to the Member States, and also exercised scrutiny over the European Commission, the ACP and EU Councils, respectively through a Question and Answer debate. Further, deliberations were conducted on a variety of topics, namely, the role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development, demographic growth, sustainable tourism, enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, among others, in addition to discussions with Commissioner Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development. The Commissioner focused his statement on the future of the Cotonou Agreement, which would be coming to an end in 2020, citing the need to adapt to the changing environment and to the emergence of global challenges such as climate change and migration. Other debates also included urgent motions on the ongoing situations in Mauritania, Libya and Zimbabwe. Kenya was also given an opportunity to clarify the situation following the repeat Presidential election.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The delegation is grateful to the Speakers of the two Houses for allowing them to attend the Session, for facilitating travel and accommodation and providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks from the two Houses.

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation, to present and commend this report to the House for noting.



.....  
**SEN. (PROF.) MARGARET KAMAR, M.P.**

**MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION**

**DATE:** ..21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2018.....

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACP AND JPA COMMITTEES, ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY: PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI – 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the elected representatives of the European Community – the Members of the European Parliament – and the elected representatives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP Countries) that have signed the Cotonou Agreement: it is the only institution of its kind in the world.
2. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union and EU enlargement, it has acquired a more prominent role. A substantial part of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy and the common values of humanity, and this has produced joint commitments undertaken within the framework of the UN conferences.

**Composition and working methods**

3. The representatives of the 78 ACP states, who under the Cotonou Agreement must be members of Parliament, meet their European Parliament counterparts drawn from the 27 member states of the EU in a plenary session for one week twice a year, bringing together more than 320 MPs. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly meets alternately in an ACP country and an EU country. The institution is governed by common, democratic rules.
4. Two Co-Presidents who are elected by the Assembly direct their work. Twenty four vice-presidents (12 European and 12 ACP) who are also elected by the Assembly constitute the Bureau of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, together with the two Co-Presidents. The Bureau meets several times a year in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and to prepare new initiatives aimed notably at reinforcing and improving cooperation. It also considers topical political questions and adopts positions on all human rights cases.

5. Three Standing Committees have been established to draw up substantive proposals, which are then voted on by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly. These Committees, which began their work in March 2003, are:-
  - a) the Committee on Political Affairs;
  - b) the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade; and
  - c) the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
6. The Assembly regularly forms exploratory or fact-finding missions. The members of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly are thus in direct contact with the situation on the ground in various developing countries which are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement.
7. The impact of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly goes well beyond economic considerations and embraces the fundamental objectives of the development of mankind and the establishment of peaceful relations between the nations and the world. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly is a democratic parliamentary institution, which aims to promote and defend democratic processes in order to guarantee the right of each people to choose their own development objectives and decide on how to attain them.

#### **Initiatives by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

8. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly has made an active contribution towards implementing and reinforcing successive ACP-EU Conventions and has put forward numerous proposals, including –
  - a) the upgrading of the role of women in development process;
  - b) the integration of environment policy in development projects;
  - c) promotion of trade as a tool for development, particularly by way of the Economic Partnership Agreements foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement;
  - d) the drawing up of rural development programmes and micro-projects tailored to the needs of specific communities; and,
  - e) the promotion of regional, political and commercial cooperation.

#### **Membership and meetings**

9. The forum has elected members drawn from the European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states. Prior to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the ACP committees hold meetings. These are followed by a

meeting of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-PA), then by the Joint ACP-EU committee meetings, and finally the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

### **The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)**

10. From 2002, the European Union and individual as well as groups of countries that together make up the ACP group of states have been negotiating “free trade” under Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The general framework for negotiating EPAs is found in the Cotonou Agreement.
11. The overall objectives of EPAs are to ensure sustainable development of ACP countries, their smooth and gradual integration into the global economy and eradication of poverty. Specifically, EPAs aim at promoting sustained growth; increasing the production and supply capacity; fostering the structural transformation and diversification of the ACP economies and providing support for regional integration by being "tailor-made" to suit specific regional circumstances.
12. Some other key features of the EPAs include the following: they are WTO-compatible agreements, but go beyond conventional free-trade agreements, focusing on ACP development, taking account of their socio-economic circumstances and including co-operation and assistance to help ACP countries benefit from the agreements; they open up EU markets fully and immediately, but allow ACP countries long transition periods to open up partially to EU imports while providing protection for sensitive sectors; they create joint institutions that monitor the implementation of the agreements and address trade issues in a cooperative way; and, they are also designed to be drivers of change that will help kick-start reform and contribute to good economic governance.
13. Kenya, along with other EAC Partner States initialled the framework EPA Agreement on 27th November 2007. This was followed by negotiations towards a comprehensive EPA, which was initialled by the EU and EAC Partner States on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. The EPA is due for signature and ratification by each of the EAC and EU Partner States to enter into force.



14. In general, Kenya and the EAC are keen to conclude an EPA Agreement that addresses the concerns of the region, bring industrial and general development, and lead to poverty reduction. The agreement should also not lead to displacement of Kenya products in the EAC markets by EU products. At present, Kenya and Rwanda have concluded with the ratification process, awaiting the other EAC states to finalize on the EAC EPA.

### **The European Development Fund (EDF)**

15. The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main instrument for providing Community aid for development cooperation by the EU to the ACP States. The 1957 Treaty of Rome made provision for its creation with a view to granting technical and financial assistance, initially to African countries which at that time were still colonized, and with which some EU Member States had historical links.

16. The tenth EDF covered the period from 2008 to 2013 and provided an overall budget of EUR 22 682 million. The current eleventh EDF is scheduled to run from the year 2014 to 2020, with a budget of EUR 31.5 billion set aside for this particular period. This is divided into grants, national and regional indicative programmes; intra-ACP and inter-regional cooperation; the investment facility managed by the European Investment Bank; and for the European Investment Bank loans to be used to promote the public sector in ACP states.

## **2. MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

17. The ACP Committee Meetings took place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, to discuss and agree on common positions on the Agenda items scheduled for discussion by the JPA Committees. Subsequently, the JPA Committees met on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, and discussed several matters as follows -

### **Committee on Political Affairs**

18. After adopting its agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 1.**



19. The Committee then considered and approved the minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 that was held in Brussels.
20. This was followed by a presentation by Co-rapporteurs Mohammed Goumane (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom (EU) on the topic '*the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies*'. The presenters stressed on security–development interfaces in terms of policy priorities and operational realities.
21. The Committee thereafter considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic '*the challenges in the field of the security development nexus in ACP and EU policies*', as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs. Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee, with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.
22. Subsequently, the Committee received a working document on the next report presented by Cristian Dan Preda (EU) and Jacob Oulanyah (Uganda) on '*ACP-EU relations post-cotonou: a strong parliamentary dimension committee on Political Affairs*', calling for full involvement in the Post-Cotonou discussions, given the crucial role it creates for genuine dialogue on various issues and democratic processes. The need was also highlighted for a strong parliamentary dimension in the next ACP-EU partnership.
23. The ACP Co-Chair strongly condemned the recent trade of African migrants in Libya, stating that these ignoble acts were crimes against humanity which had no place in the modern world. He called for appropriate measures to be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes were held accountable for their actions.
24. Members subsequently reported on the political situations in their respective countries; among them, a brief on the political situation in Kenya delivered by the Head of the Kenya Delegation, the Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP.

### **Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade**

25. After adopting its Agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 2.**

26. The Committee considered the working document for its next topic, *'The impact of the illicit trade in phytosanitary products, seeds and other agricultural inputs on the economies of ACP countries'*, as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Mrs. Lucie Milebou Aubusson Mboussou (Gabon) and Ms. Maria Arena (EU). This document is to be improved upon and discussed substantively at the Committee's next meeting.
27. Members subsequently received and exchanged views on EPA implementation in the Caribbean region, with CARIFORUM, and the European Commission (EC), on the one hand, and on EPA negotiations in the other regions, with the EC, on the other on the topic ***'Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA): Update on negotiations and implementation'***. An update was provided on the status of negotiations in all the regions as shown in **Annex 3**.
28. The meeting was informed that in the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) sub-region, Comoros had signed and would join the existing EPA after concluding the necessary ratification procedures. In the SADC region, talks were held with the civil society on their possible role in monitoring and implementation of the EPA. In addition, Mozambique had ratified the agreement. There had been no change in the Central Africa region, leaving Cameroon as the only signatory to the EPA. The EU had further indicated that time for negotiations had lapsed in this region. Consultations between the EU and EAC were still ongoing, with Kenya and Rwanda having ratified the EPA.
29. The Committee also heard that only Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in the Pacific region had signed the EPA, and its implementation was ongoing. Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia and three other EU states had also not signed the EPA with the CARIFORUM, however Jamaica had now ratified the EPA. Generally, most countries were in the process of preparing strategic plans for EPA implementation.
30. Members also received and exchanged views on *Mechanism of financial support in case of natural disasters: experiences in the Caribbean region and ACP-EU cooperation*. Following the presentation, Members noted that there was a strong correlation between exogenous shocks and macroeconomic variables. The macroeconomic instability resulting from such shocks is detrimental to

economic growth and, more often than not, compromises or delays the achievement of the countries' development goals.

31. In addition, the negative impact of external shocks on development is cause for concern in ACP countries, especially in the Caribbean region, where the magnitude of, and exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters are extremely high, while, at the same time, the capacity to respond remains low. The need to have a financial support mechanism in the event of natural disasters is now urgent, given their frequency and magnitude. Such a mechanism would help to counter the negative effects of these shocks and maintain the affected countries' development strategies. Currently, the EDF allocations received by Caribbean states can be reallocated to support disaster relief efforts. Other financing mechanisms are availed through the European Development Bank, and via grants from the United Nations and neighbouring countries like the United States and Canada for emergencies and reconstruction projects.
32. The Committee lastly considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic '*The blue economy: opportunities and challenges for ACP States*', as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Oumori Mmadi Hassani (Comoros) and Thierry Cornillet, MEP. The blue economy encompasses all economic activities taking place in or on bodies of water, such as lakes, watercourses, groundwater tables, oceans and seas, as well as on their shores.
33. As a generator of many economic services, jobs and income, the blue economy is responsible for a major share of economic growth in ACP countries, and also contributes significantly to global economic development. Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee, with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.

#### **Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment**

34. After adopting its Agenda and approving Minutes of the previous meeting, the Committee proceeded to consider the substantive agenda items as shown in **Annex 4.**

35. The Committee considered amendments proposed to the draft Report on the topic *‘on improving access to basic health systems, notably to medicines in the fight infectious diseases*, as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Hon. Magnus Kofi Amoatey (Ghana) and Norbert Neuser (EU). Following a vote, the Report was adopted by the Committee with amendments, and approved for consideration by the JPA.
36. The Committee also considered the working document on its next topic: *‘the social and environmental consequences of urbanisation, particularly the sound management of industrial and domestic waste in ACP countries,*’ as presented by the Co-Rapporteurs, Kalifa Sallah (Gambia) and Eleni Theocharus (EU).
37. Members identified different types of waste which needed to be enumerated in the report, that is, industrial, sanitary, plastic and sea/ocean/marine waste. It was noted that there was need for changes in legislation at national and international levels, and innovative mechanisms to deal with issues of waste management. The principles to apply in waste reduction were listed as the 3R’s – reduce, recycle and reuse.
38. Members also received a follow-up report by the European Commission on the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary on the role of sport in education and poverty eradication. Sport should be used for the personal development of children to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty. The Commission highlighted that is the EU is exploring the use of sport diplomacy in external relations and development efforts, as it can help unite people and eliminate borders, enhance economic activity, and address social tensions, conflicts and radicalization among the youth.
39. The Committee also held an exchange of views with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on eliminating Child labour in ACP countries. It was observed that 152 million children aged between 5 and 17 years around the world are being put to labour. This issue is still prevalent even in higher-income countries. As such, efforts to reduce child labour need to be addressed at regional and national levels to deal with the factors leading to this practice.



Any measures created to deal with child labour also need to be multi-faceted and tailored to specific areas or industries where children are working.

## **THE 48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

40. The ACP Parliamentary Assembly was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The meeting was presided over by the President of the ACP, the Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu from Sierra Leone. He welcomed Members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to those who were attending the meetings for the first time. This was followed by adoption of the Agenda and accreditation of non-Parliamentary Assembly representatives.
41. The President then invited the ACP Assistant Secretary General, Amb. Leonard-Emile Ognimba to address the Assembly on behalf of the ACP Secretary General. He made the following remarks:
  - a) He reiterated the deep appreciation of the ACP Group to the people and the Government of Haiti for having offered to host the meetings at hand.
  - b) He elaborated on the work that the ACP Secretariat had been preoccupied with since the previous meetings of the ACP, noting that the breadth and depth of deliberations at ACP meetings demonstrated the keen concern on the part of Member States for the future of the ACP Group.
42. In reaction to the Statement, Members observed that, with the 2020 expiry of the Cotonou Agreement fast approaching, there was need to expedite negotiations on a successor agreement.
43. The ACP President then made his address to the Assembly. In his remarks, the President –
  - a) informed the Assembly of the deliberations and outcome of the previous intersessional meeting of the JPA that took place in Brussels in October 2017; and
  - b) reiterated previous concerns at the lack of participation by ACP Members in the submission of amendments and resolutions for adoption by the JPA and questions to the Commission and Council.



44. The Assembly then received and considered reports from the three Standing Committees of the ACP-PA, on the agenda items scheduled for discussion during meetings of the Joint Committees.

## **WOMEN'S FORUM**

45. A Women's Forum was held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The meeting was held under the theme ***"Empowering Women as Climate Defenders"*** with the sub themes: *"Women's role in nations' reconstruction in the wake of a natural disaster"* and *"Protecting women from sexual abuse in emergency situations"*.
46. The meeting highlighted some of the significant roles women play in the wake of disaster and recalled that women remain champions of hope even when they are the most hit during a natural disaster. On the discussion on protecting women from sexual abuse in emergency situations, it was acknowledged that often after a disaster, women are the most affected and their mobility is reduced when they lose their shelter, and property or belongings they had at their disposal, along with sustainable means of livelihood. A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached as **Annex 5**.

## **WORKSHOPS**

47. During the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, two workshops organized by the Haitian authorities and held concurrently on Sunday, December 17, 2017. They were on the following topics:
- a) On Haitian Innovation and Art – this entailed a visit to the Village of Noailles, which is a joint initiative between the Government of Haiti and the EU. Delegates got a chance to observe the contemporary art and crafts sector at close quarters, including the production of quality articles made out of cut iron, and paintings in numerous workshops by the local artists, sculptors and craftsmen. The Haitian Government has improved the infrastructure in the area, notably access roads and electricity, while the EU has financed several projects aimed at improving technical capabilities and promoting Haitian culture globally.
  - b) On Urban Architecture of Port-au-Prince – the delegates visited the public space Source la Grotte, which is a voodoo pilgrimage site, rebuilt and protected with a public wash house and playground area; Quartier Turgeau

– Gingerbreads, Maison Dufort, houses which make up part of the architectural Haitian heritage; Avenue N which connects two isolated neighbourhoods to bring about city integration; Hotel Oloffsson/Place JerEmie; Nouvele Cite administrative; and Mupanah, the National Museum Pantheon located in the Champ de Mars, the downtown central square which portrays Haiti’s history and heroes.

## **THE YOUTH CONFERENCE**

48. The Youth Conference, which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, is a new forum in the JPA that is aimed at interacting with young leaders in the host country. It provides a platform for interaction between the youth and the ACP and EU parliamentarians so as to promote the skills, energy, innovation and potential of youth, and enhance their economic, social, employment and cultural opportunities. It is further aimed at promoting the active participation of young citizens in public life as well as fostering student exchanges and interaction of ACP and EU youth organisations. The meeting came up with the “*Port-au-Prince Declaration*” attached as **Annex 6**.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

### **Opening Session**

49. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU JPA was held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at the Karibe Convention Centre in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Session was Co-Chaired by the ACP President and Acting EU President. The Session commenced with addresses by the two Co-Presidents, Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu and Hon. Michele Rivasi, as well as H.E. Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti and Hon. Youri Latortue, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Haiti.

50. The President of the National Assembly of Haiti welcomed the delegates to the country. He further thanked the ACP-EU delegates for the resolution made during the December 2016 meeting in Nairobi on mobilizing support for Haiti to counteract the effects of Hurricane Matthew which had affected the region then.

51. He assured the delegates that the Parliament of Haiti was working to ensure citizens’ involvement and interest in politics does not wane. The Legislature

was ensuring return of normalcy and even increasing the pieces of legislation passed. He also stated that Haiti supports all measures for fair international trade. In this regard, the Haitian Parliament was reviewing the EPAs on areas of concern raised by civil society groups, the private sectors and others, before ratifying the agreement.

52. The Acting EU Co-President, Mme. Michele Rivasi also welcomed all the delegates and thanked the hosts for organizing the meeting. She noted that climate change disasters had doubled globally, so there was need to focus on mitigation, prevention and building resilience. She also commented on the topic on mineral resources in ACP countries as part of sustainable resources, which should be developed to aid in development of these states, instead of a focus on solely mineral extraction and exportation, among other topics. She concluded by encouraging all parliamentarians present to take part in the ongoing consultative processes on the post-Cotonou negotiations.
53. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, the ACP Co-President, congratulated the President of Haiti for his election on February 7, 2017 on behalf of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. He also thanked the Haitian Government for offering to host the JPA meetings, especially on short notice, and given the natural disasters and other emergencies that Haiti has gone through in the recent past. He cited partnership as a major part of the ACP and EU relationship, which extends to the way global issues are addressed and managed in the larger international community. A self-based approach based on national interest only may not be sustainable in the long-term. He highlighted that the greatest challenge most ACP states grapple with is maintaining the right political and institutional environment for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.
54. He also made a few remarks on topics regarding the role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development, the blue economy and the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies. A copy of the Co-President's speech is attached as **Annex 7**.
55. H.E. President Jovenel Moise addressed the delegates, and acknowledged that the ACP-EU is a beneficial partnership to both sides. He further stated that Haiti is going through a transition in its democracy, but things are progressing

positively. He highlighted that his administration will focus on three key areas during its term: good governance, growth and sustainable development. This will involve dealing with corruption, improving infrastructure and reviving agricultural productivity, among other things. He reiterated that Haiti continues to rely on the support of external partners like the JPA, EU and others, but from a position of partnership, and not assistance.

56. He concluded by requesting the international community to continue offering support to Haiti, especially in mitigating the effects of natural disasters experienced. He also stated that the country is still reviewing the EPAs to ensure issues of concern are addressed. Subsequently, President Moïse declared the JPA officially open.

### **Plenary Sessions of the ACP-EU JPA**

57. Members of the Assembly began the plenary sessions with accreditation of non-parliamentary representatives, following which the Assembly proceeded to adopt and consider the Agenda of the Assembly. This agenda is attached as **Annex 8**.
58. The Assembly received and exchanged views on a presentation by Commissioner Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development. The Commissioner focused his statement on the future of the Cotonou Agreement, which would be coming to an end in 2020. While recognising the unique nature of the Agreement, the Commissioner underlined the need to adapt it to the changing environment and to the emergence of global challenges such as climate change and migration.
59. The presentation was followed by Question Time to the Commission. The Commission had previously responded to questions in writing, and Commissioner Mimica gave oral replies to the supplementary questions raised by Members on the floor, among them on resumption of talks about Cuban ACP-EU JPA membership, Post-Cotonou and wildlife trafficking, EU funds to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean islands, Effects of the extended global gag rule on SRHR and HIV (Mexico City Policy), Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Haiti, Ending female genital mutilation, Conditionality of development aid and respect for human rights, IDPs and the



right to return in ACP countries, 2030 agenda for sustainable development and Uncommitted appropriations.

60. During catch-the-eye debate with Commissioner Mimica, it was highlighted by Members that there was need to separate humanitarian aid from development aid. The EU Commission also confirmed that in discussions with the ACP states regarding the post-Cotonou agreement, the negotiations were not being conducted separately with the three different regions, but with the ACP states as a bloc. It was hoped, however, that the specificities of each region would be included in the new post-2020 partnership. Mention was also made of the situation in Libya where migrants were being sold as slaves. It was stated that this problem was difficult to deal with due to the absence of government structures to engage with, especially in the southern part of Libya.
61. The European Commission gave feedback on the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly during its meeting in Malta in June 2017.
62. The Assembly also considered urgent motions for resolution on *the Situation in Mauritania* and on *enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP states*. These motions are attached as **Annex 9**.
63. Other topics without resolution discussed during the plenary sessions included Sustainable Tourism, the situations in Catalonia and Zimbabwe and an exchange of views with the authorities of Haiti, among others.
64. The Co-Presidents then presented a report on the 14<sup>th</sup> regional meeting (Pacific Region) held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017, and highlighted the main topics discussed at the meeting. Members thanked and congratulated Vanuatu for the successful organisation of the meeting.
65. The Assembly then received summary reports from the workshops that had taken place on the sidelines of the JPA, as well as those from the Youth Conference and Women's Forum.
66. The Assembly subsequently considered the amendments proposed to the motions for resolutions included in the reports submitted by the three standing committees, and upon a vote, the resolutions were adopted with amendments. A copy of the Resolutions is attached as **Annex 10**.



### **Dates of Next Meetings**

67. The 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional meetings of the JPA Committees will be held in Brussels, Belgium, from 20-22 March 2018, while the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly will take place from 18 -20 June 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

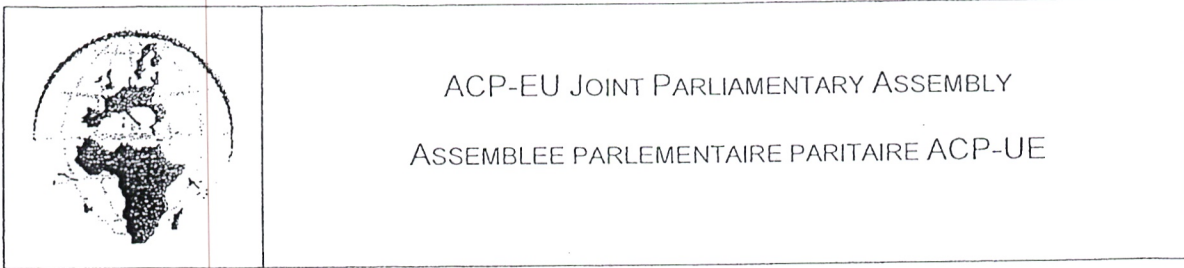
### **Recommendation**

The Delegation recommends this report to the Houses of Parliament for information and noting.

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**END**

## **Annexes**

- Annex 1:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs
- Annex 2:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
- Annex 3:** Status of EPAs negotiations in the different regions
- Annex 4:** Agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
- Annex 5:** A copy of the Agenda for the Women's Forum
- Annex 6:** "Port-au-Prince Declaration" from the Youth Conference
- Annex 7:** Remarks made by the ACP Co-President during the official opening
- Annex 8:** JPA Agenda/work programme
- Annex 9:** Urgent motions for resolution adopted on Mauritania and on Climate change and natural disasters in ACP states
- Annex 10:** Adopted resolutions of the 3 standing committees



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE

*Committee on Political Affairs*

ACP\_OJ(2017)1216

## DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting

Saturday 16 December 2017, 15:00-18:30

Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

Room Cattleya

1. Adoption of agenda OJ – AP 102.388v01-00
2. Approval of minutes of meeting of
  - 12 October 2017 PV – AP102.377v01-00
3. Co-chairs' announcements

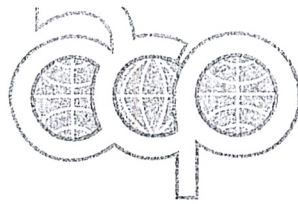
*\*\*\*Voting time\*\*\**

4. The challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies
  - Co-Rapporteurs: Mohammed Goumaneh (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom
  - Consideration of amendments AM – AP102.369v04-00

*\*\*\*End of voting\*\*\**

5. ACP-EU relations post-Cotonou: A strong parliamentary dimension  
Co-Rapporteurs: Cristian Dan Preda and Jacob Oulanya (Uganda)
  - Consideration of working document DT – AP102.387v01-00
6. Decision on the title of the next report
7. The fight against corruption, in particular in the judicial sector
  - Exchange of views with Jean Joseph Exumé, former Minister of Justice
8. Political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement
  - Exchange of views with the European External Action Service
9. The political situation in ACP and EU Member States
  - Exchange of views
10. Any other business
11. Date and place of next meeting

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REFERENCE

ACP/23/106/17  
MDFIP/BL/gn/13/17

Brussels, 21 November 2017

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE<sup>1</sup>

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2017 FROM 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

PORT-AU-PRINCE (HAITI)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the draft agenda  
[ACP/23/106/17]
2. Statement from the Chair
3. Adoption of the summary record of the Committee meeting held in  
Brussels on 10 October 2017  
[ACP/23/107/17]
  - Approval of the Summary record
  - Matters arising
4. Consideration of the draft agenda for the joint Committee meeting to be  
held on 16 December 2017  
[AP102.392v01-00]
5. Any other business.

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<sup>1</sup> Members:

East Africa: Kenya (Kenya); Comoros, Rwanda, Mauritius, Burundi  
Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname  
Central Africa: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea  
Pacific: Tonga, Niue, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea  
Southern Africa: Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia  
West Africa: Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Nigeria



in conformity with the country's international human rights obligations, and must therefore take all necessary measures to ensure free, transparent and credible elections, and that the right to peaceful assembly, and to freedom of opinion and expression are fully respected;

- M. whereas an appropriate framework for a constructive political dialogue able to guarantee a peaceful and democratic environment for timely and credible elections in 2019 requires the efforts of all political players in Mauritania;
1. In the light of the above-mentioned situation, decides to send a joint ad hoc fact-finding delegation before its next session, scheduled to take place in June 2018, in order to meet the Mauritanian authorities, parliament, opposition parties, civil society and non-governmental organisations, the purpose being to obtain first-hand information on Mauritania's continued commitment to uphold our shared principles of the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, non-discrimination based on race, democracy, and good governance including the separation of powers, as well as the full implementation of the roadmap on the eradication of slavery; gives the delegation a remit to assess the allegations on the political and human rights situation in the country, including the treatment of political opponents, of demonstrators during the referendum campaign and of human rights defenders, and to verify whether the rights of freedom of expression, of association and of peaceful assembly are not restricted, and report back to the Assembly;
  2. Calls on the Mauritanian authorities to grant the delegation full and unhampered access to information and to all parties mentioned above; notes that the delegation will be established pursuant to Article 28 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
  3. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Council of the European Union, the ACP Council, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the UN, the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union and the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

# ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.383/17/fin.

## RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>

### on enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP states

*The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,*

- meeting in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 18 to 20 December 2017,
- having regard to Article 7 and to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which establishes eradication of poverty as the primary objective of EU development policy, as well as the principle of policy coherence for development,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised respectively in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 (hereinafter 'the Cotonou Agreement'), and in particular Article 32 thereof, dedicated entirely to climate change,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992 and its Kyoto Protocol,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21 and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11), held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
- having regard to the most recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP23), which took place from 6 to 17 November in Bonn (Germany), presided over by the Government of Fiji, and to the European Parliament resolution of 4 October 2017 on the COP23,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 December 2017 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 13 November 2017 on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2017 on resilience as a strategic priority of the external action of the EU,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 11 December 2013 on the EU approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction in developing countries: learning from food security crisis,
  - having regard to the UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, as adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 and updated by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March 2015 in Sendai (Japan),
  - having regard to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway 2014, the Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, the Liliendaal Declaration on Climate Change and Development, the African Union Strategy on Climate Change, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific,
  - having regard to the World Risk Report 2016, calculated with 28 individual indicators rating the disaster risk for 171 countries in the light of five natural hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and sea-level rises) combined with the social, economic and ecological conditions within the respective countries,
  - having regard to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General of 23 August 2016 on the Outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (A/71/353),
  - having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',
  - having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolutions adopted in Prague (Czech Republic) on 9 April 2009 in Luanda (Angola) on 3 December 2009 and in Tenerife (Spain) on 1 April 2010,
  - having regard to the Declaration of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on climate change of 21 June 2016, adopted in St. Julian's, Malta,
- A. whereas climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate disasters; whereas, if left unaddressed, climate change will lead to a rise in poverty and inequalities, food insecurity, health problems, surface-water scarcity, coastal flooding, air pollution and droughts, inducing the displacement of people;



- B. whereas in September 2017, hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged several Caribbean islands, leading to the death of 44 people; whereas in November 2017, a number of lives were lost and thousands were forced to evacuate following severe flooding in Haiti;
- C. whereas the most serious effects of climate change are felt in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries and small island states, where climate change and natural disaster-related phenomena exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting women, children, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, farmers and fishermen;
- D. whereas, according to the World Risk Report 2016, seven ACP countries are at higher risk of extreme natural events, with the island state of Vanuatu in the first position, followed by Tonga (2nd), the Solomon Islands (6th), Papua New Guinea (10th), Timor-Leste (12th), Mauritius (13th) and Guinea-Bissau (15th);
- E. whereas resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to prepare for, to withstand, to adapt, and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks without compromising long-term development prospects;
- F. whereas there is a risk of natural disasters posed by unsafe and inappropriate residential construction techniques and practices and the establishment of human settlements in ecologically fragile areas such as mountain sides, flood plains, earthquake zones and other high-risk areas;
- G. whereas the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has underlined that climate change is a global phenomenon, with dramatic outcomes on the environment, reaffirming its commitment to implement the COP 21 Paris Agreement as well as those signed at the COP22 and the COP23;
- H. whereas the JPA has previously emphasised that concerted global action is necessary to combat greenhouse gas emissions and prevent negative impacts of climate change and has urged all stakeholders to move forward with the economy-wide low-carbon transition measures needed to reduce these emissions, and ensure that all nations are provided with support for implementation, so that no one is left behind;
- I. whereas a country cannot mitigate or adapt to climate change without first having the knowledge and capacity to do so; whereas indigenous knowledge can provide the backbone of successful adaptation strategies in areas such as farming, livestock and fisheries;
- J. whereas climate change may affect the incidence and distribution of infectious diseases around the globe; and whereas Africa is likely to be the continent most vulnerable to climate change in terms of food security according to the fourth assessment report of the UN FCCC;

- K. whereas ACP states suffer the most severely as a result of natural disasters due to a lack of resilience to climate change;
- L. whereas resilience has to be addressed at multiple levels (state, society and community); whereas local governments and civil society are often the basis on which resilience can take root and grow at community level;
- M. whereas every state has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation;
- N. whereas Cuba has been able to significantly reduce the impact of meteorological hazards such as tropical storms and floods; whereas, in response to hydro-meteorological threats in the Caribbean, the Cuban Government has collaborated with UNDP Cuba and the UNDP's Caribbean Risk Management Initiative since 2005 to create Risk Reduction Management Centres;
- O. whereas investing in early warning and response systems in line with the priorities of the UN Sendai Framework is essential to achieving resilience and therefore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- P. whereas building resilience in partner countries is a long-term process, which needs to be integrated into EU and ACP development programmes that are inclusive of the most vulnerable segments of the population;
- Q. whereas only 4% of the estimated EUR 10 billion in annual humanitarian assistance is devoted to prevention, yet every euro spent on risk reduction saves between EUR 5 and EUR 10 in economic losses from disasters; whereas in 2016, 9% of the EU's humanitarian funding went to disaster risk reduction activities;
- R. whereas EU civil protection legislation was revised in 2013 to ensure a better response to natural and man-made disasters in a swift, pre-planned and effective manner, thereby increasing the safety of EU citizens and disaster victims worldwide;
- S. whereas communities and populations affected by disasters are not homogeneous; whereas different groups have different needs, different skills and different capabilities; whereas the specific needs of women and girls, and other disadvantaged groups, must be taken into account;
1. Expresses its deepest sympathy for the loss of life and devastation caused by the recent climatic events in the Caribbean;
  2. Recalls that while developing countries are the least responsible for climate change, they are facing its most severe social and environmental consequences, particularly in those least developed countries and developing small island states,



in the Horn of Africa; stresses the importance of information exchange and enhanced cooperation in maritime law enforcement;

4. Emphasises that the oceans and seas are very diverse and that it is therefore essential that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not adopted; draws attention to the need to promote an integrated approach to different sectors of the blue economy, based on common principles such as sustainability, recognising and respecting the specificities and needs of the different regions and the priorities of countries, as well as supporting them in working on these priorities;
5. Stresses the need for ACP countries to act together on the international stage to ensure that better account is taken of their specific circumstances;
6. Notes with concern that, according to the FAO, 87% of the world's marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted<sup>1</sup>; recalls that fish stock sustainability is a global matter and that the international community has an obligation to assist developing countries in meeting this challenge<sup>1</sup>;
7. Reiterates the need to prohibit, within the remit of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), certain forms of subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, as requested, among others, by ACP countries;
8. Takes the view that every regional trade agreement should include an environment chapter that incorporates provisions on living marine resources;
9. Calls for the EU and the ACP group to pursue an agenda of sustainability and reform in regional fisheries management organisations and other relevant international fora, in particular in relation to improving stock management, the conservation of endangered species, the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, compliance and transparent decision-making;
10. Emphasises the need to develop a comprehensive multilateral IUU fishing regulatory and monitoring system that brings together all principles developed under international law and soft law that is fair, transparent, uniform, effective and predictable for all;
11. Calls on ACP and EU countries to put in place dispute resolution mechanisms concerning their maritime borders, as recognised by the United Nations;
12. Considers that coastal and island communities in the EU Member States and ACP countries should be fully involved at every stage in the development of the blue economy, concerning or potentially impacting them, this being a sine qua non for realising its potential in terms of innovation, jobs, prosperity and sustainable development; acknowledges the diversity and particularity of coastal and island communities and calls for the adoption of exceptional measures in order to effectively promote the development of the blue economy in these communities and create favourable conditions for growth;
13. Calls for capacity-building vis-à-vis ACP countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), in the negotiation of fisheries agreements with the most developed

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf).

countries to ensure an equitable flow of benefits to the parties when implementing the access agreement;

14. Calls for Union fishing vessels, in the context of bilateral fisheries agreements, to tranship non-contractual fisheries products, that is to say incidental catches of species not targeted by the fisheries agreement, for the ACP country concerned, in accordance with the international rules in force; stresses the importance of continuing to combat IUU fishing through strong political commitment and concrete actions;
15. Calls for transparency and innovation in the fisheries sector by providing stakeholders with relevant information such as fish catch data and licence agreements;
16. Calls for capacity-building vis-à-vis ACP countries in order to improve their mapping and resource assessment capabilities and for the development of reliable and objective statistics to inform policy-making and the development of economic strategies;
17. Calls for the untapped biological potential of the marine environment to be harnessed, particularly in the area of pharmaceutical and biotechnology research, and for the ACP country in which these resources are found to be the first to benefit from them;
18. Stresses the importance of investment and an attractive regulatory framework; calls for a dedicated facility to be made available for financing blue economy projects;
19. Notes the importance of sustainable management of marine resources and enhanced cooperation between all stakeholders (governments, universities, think tanks, private companies, etc.) in order to achieve maritime safety and security;
20. Calls on the EU to fund projects relating to the blue economy and on the ACP countries to focus international aid on specific priorities, and the specific needs of the local communities, while observing best practices to maximise its benefit to the people concerned and the environment;
21. Stresses that financial and technical assistance are essential for many SIDS and LDCs to create and implement national and regional strategies for the sustainability, preservation and protection of their fisheries industries;
22. Recalls that sustainable management of marine ecosystems is crucial for climate mitigation strategies; in particular, recalls that conservation, restoration and sustainable management of these ecosystems, including relying on indigenous know-how, can contribute to protecting the communities who depend upon them, reinforce their livelihoods and prevent forced migration;
23. Calls on the EU to help ACP countries, particularly the SIDS and LDCs, access the Adaptation Fund;
24. Emphasises the need to support small-scale fishing in ACP countries, in particular in the SIDSs and LDCs, which in some cases is the sole activity and source of income for a large part of the coastal population;

25. Calls on the EU and its Member States to participate fully in the aid project financed by the International Development Association and the Green Climate Fund and to strengthen their positions therein;
26. Recalls that maritime transport remains by far the most common mode of international freight transport and that port infrastructure needs to be improved, especially in Africa; recalls equally that port development and related activities should not have a harmful environmental impact on land, nor lead to a deterioration in the marine environment through pollution; urges multilateral development banks and agencies, accordingly, to develop a strong environment policy to mitigate the potential negative impacts of their projects and programmes, including those in the infrastructure sector, and to mainstream environmental and sustainability safeguards throughout the project cycle; stresses, in particular, the need to ensure that all port development projects conform to international best practice, including that of the International Maritime Organisation and the Convention on Marine Pollution<sup>1</sup>;
27. Considers that the harmonious development of the blue economy must respect the dignity of the professions associated with it, creating quality employment and ensuring that the rights of maritime workers, including health and safety, are respected, while raising awareness of these rights to ensure that the sector remains attractive to workers; considers, moreover, that since the blue economy has traditionally been strongly dominated by men, efforts should now be made to attract women into this economic niche; urges, further, the ACP countries and EU Member States to promote gender mainstreaming at every stage in developing the blue economy and ensure that women are in fact more fully involved; urges the ACP countries and EU Member States to safeguard the rights of workers and guarantee safe working conditions in all sectors within the blue economy, whether already established or newly emerging;
28. Underlines that the business model of intensive aquaculture involves similar risks to those of industrial farming, including strong impacts on surrounding ecosystems together with the occasional outbreak of disease; calls for the development of sustainable aquaculture, through effective fisheries management policies and aquaculture best practices, to provide an alternative to overfishing and respond to the growing demand for food; calls on developed countries and development agencies to provide technical assistance to facilitate the certification of producers in developing countries, in particular small producers;
29. Highlights the prospects for investment and job creation resulting from the development of tourism; calls, therefore, for priority to be given to economic development which preserves tourism attractiveness, in particular by controlling urban development;
30. Draws attention to the unfavourable development and clear deterioration of some of the more traditional sectors of the blue economy (such as fisheries and shipbuilding and repair), especially in areas where they played a key role, generating business activity upstream and downstream, creating jobs and stimulating growth; considers that any strategy relating to the blue economy should take account of these activities and regions,

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<sup>1</sup> MARPOL73/78



focusing on potential for innovation and taking advantage of national and regional know-how (e.g. ship retrofitting) to reverse this decline;

31. Stresses the importance of addressing the problem of marine pollution by plastic waste from land and sea, particularly in connection with the recommendations of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment<sup>1</sup>;
31. Stresses the need to adapt coastal infrastructure to the effects of climate change;
33. Calls for the energy transition to be promoted by investing in clean energy, including renewable marine and offshore energy, as a means of achieving energy security and employment and finding suitable energy solutions for coastal enclaves or islands;
34. Considers the shortage of qualified professionals in various fields of study and activity – including researchers, engineers, technicians and workers – to be a major hurdle that could prevent the blue economy from fully realising its potential; points out that this shortage is attributable, notably, to growing disinterest and diminishing investment by the authorities in science and education, not to mention the downgrading of professionals in this field and therefore calls for measures to reverse these trends without delay; invites the ACP countries, the EU Member States and the regional authorities to invest in an ambitious social dimension of blue growth and maritime expertise in order to provide young people with better training in the maritime professions and access thereto; calls on the ACP countries and the EU Member States to support both higher education and professional training and retraining programmes, and to ensure that these programmes incorporate blue economy perspectives;
35. Warns against the potentially devastating and irreversible effects of the extraction of non-renewable marine resources; calls for the World Bank’s recommendations on a cautious approach to marine extraction to be implemented;
36. Advocates strong and coordinated EU involvement in the International Seabed Authority to ensure an effective and precautionary environmental regulatory framework aiming to prevent adverse impacts from deep-sea mining exploration and exploitation – including in areas of particular environmental interest – to prevent their societal impact as well as that from deep-sea mining and bioprospecting on local communities and to guarantee full data transparency;
37. Stresses the importance of scientific and technology transfer from the EU to research institutions and technological SMEs in ACP countries;
38. Stresses the importance of training for new ‘blue jobs’; proposes the establishment of partnerships between European and ACP educational structures to improve the qualification and training of young people; calls for people to be made aware, from a very early age, of the importance of the blue economy and the need to preserve marine ecosystems;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/addressing-land-based-pollution>

39. Welcomes the ambitious commitments<sup>1</sup> entered into at the 'Our Ocean' conference of October 2017 in Malta by the European Union, its Member States, the European Investment Bank and countries such as Mauritius and Ghana, as well as by NGOs, foundations, research institutions and international organisations; calls for regular monitoring of the implementation of these commitments, particularly at the next conference in 2020;
40. Encourages the introduction of maritime spatial planning policies; recalls that, faced with the rise of offshore activities and competition for access to maritime areas, proper planning is an effective means of ensuring the more coherent, sustainable and reliable management of offshore activities;
41. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the regional and national parliaments, the regional organisations relating to ACP countries, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ourocean2017.org/our-ocean-commitments>