

ACP-EC COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 June 2006

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ACP-EC JOINT DOCUMENT

Subject : Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change and Development

**WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATES OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC (ACP) GROUP AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER
STATES,
MEETING IN PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
1-2 JUNE 2006**

SOLEMNLY COMMITTED to support the full implementation of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and WELCOMING, in this context, the agreement reached in Montreal in December 2005 to initiate a dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention and to begin consideration of further commitments for developed country Parties for the period beyond 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol;

HAVING regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and in particular Article 32 which provides for cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable utilisation and management of natural resources;

WELCOMING the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and its full operationalisation by the Marrakech Accords adopted in Montreal in December 2005, and urging all countries not yet parties to ratify the Kyoto Protocol;

CONSIDERING the Brussels Declaration and Framework for action on the Environment for Sustainable Development in ACP States, approved by the first meeting of ACP Ministers of Environment in Brussels on 10 December 2004, the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, adopted in Apia on 16 June 1993, the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States approved at Bridgetown, Barbados, May 1994;

BEARING in mind the commitment in the "Bonn Political Declaration" on climate change funding for developing countries;

WELCOMING the adoption of EU Council Conclusions on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation on 22 November 2004, including the EU Action Plan to accompany the EU Strategy on Climate Change in the context of Development Cooperation, and *ENCOURAGED* by the European initiative to create a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development aiming at the integration of the environmental dimension in developing countries and by the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Commission for the period of 2005-2010;

RECALLING the European Consensus on Development, which reconfirms the EU's determination to combat climate change and state that adaptation to the negative effects of climate change will be central in the Community's support to LDCs and Small Island Developing States;

CONVINCED that climate change is not only an environmental problem, but also a development problem that must be addressed in order to ensure the long-term achievements of the Millennium Development Goals;

DEEPLY CONCERNED with the vulnerability of many of our countries and populations to climate variability and change, in particular LDCs and Small Island Developing States;

MINDFUL of the transboundary characteristics of environmental disasters and the consequent imperative for collective commitments and actions in the field;

REITERATE that mainstreaming of responses to climate change into poverty reduction strategies and/or national strategies for sustainable development is the main avenue to address both adaptation to the adverse effects and mitigation of the causes of climate change. Climate change is a risk to development. Adaptation strategies should seek to manage the risk, thereby supporting developing countries in building their resilience to climate change impacts, and protecting national and EU efforts to eradicate poverty;

REITERATE its support for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which addresses the adverse impacts of climate change affecting ACP countries' national development across a range of key areas, including agriculture, food security, water resources and climate-related natural disasters.

CONVINCED that the use of investments tools, such as the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, will help encouraging the deployment of cleaner, in particular lower-emitting technologies, as well as energy efficiency for the benefit of ACP's countries national development.

AGREE TO PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

At the level of the UNFCCC process:

- Commit to continued international collaboration given that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge to sustainable development and poverty reduction that has the potential to affect every part of the globe and by its global nature calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of UNFCCC.
- Agree to continue support for all decisions of COP-11, including on Agenda Item 6: "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries: Approaches to Stimulate Action", an important initiative launched by a number of ACP countries to link climate stability and the Millennium Development Goals.
- Urge the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, World Bank and the UNDP to continue their engagement on climate change with ACP countries and invite the EU to continue to support a substantial replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.
- Agree to consult regularly on issues related to climate change and sustainable development in the context of meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC.
- Build capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of ACP country participation in the upcoming negotiations on the future of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes.

At the level of European Community and its Member States' development cooperation with ACP States through their respective cooperation agreements, including the Cotonou Agreement:

- Agree to enhance dialogue, involving relevant stakeholders at country level, and to improve the integration of climate change considerations into ACP country and regional development strategies, derived from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), in coherence with the MDGs;
- Support a better integration of Climate Change considerations into development co-operation strategies, policies and programmes of the European Community and its Member States, including the consideration of climate change aspects in Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Consider the need to provide substantial resources for climate change activities, including support for the implementation of the UNFCCC;
- Agree to report on the progress of implementation of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change and Development at subsequent Sessions of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers.
