

## **THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES, 1975**

**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 organizations 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 cooperation among the ACP States,

**DETERMINED** to ensure that the Convention of Lome contributes fully to the realization 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 realization of the new international economic order,

**HAVE AGREED** as follows:

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **THE ORGANIZATION 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 realization of the objectives of the Convention of Lome;
- (b) to coordinate 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 organizations 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 Lome 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 coordinate 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 organizational 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 States 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 initialed 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.