

**The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is an organization created by the Georgetown Agreement on June, 6<sup>th</sup> 1975.** It is composed of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signatories to the Georgetown Agreement or the Partnership Agreement between the ACP and the European Union, officially called the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement" or the "Cotonou Agreement".

### Cooperation fields

The Group was originally created with the aim of coordinating cooperation between its members and the European Union. Its main objective was to negotiate and implement cooperation agreements with the European Community.

Over the years, the Group extended its range of activities. Since then, cooperation among its members has gone beyond development cooperation with the European Union and covers a variety of fields spanning trade, economics, politics and culture, in diverse international fora such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

### Objectives

Main objectives of the ACP Group are :

- sustainable development of its Member-States and their gradual integration into the global economy, which entails making poverty reduction a matter of priority and establishing a new, fairer, and more equitable world order;
- Coordinate the activities of ACP States in the framework of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement ;
- Promote and strengthen solidarity among ACP States, and understanding between ACP peoples and governments;



### Composition

The ACP Group comprises 79 Member-States. There are : 48 countries from sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean region and 15 from the Pacific region.

### Member states

*Angola - Antigua & Barbuda - Belize - Cape Verde - Comoros - Bahamas - Barbados - Bénin - Botswana - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cameroun - Central African Republic - Congo (Brazzaville) - Congo (Kinshasa) - Iles Cook - Côte d'Ivoire - Cuba - Djibouti - Dominican Republic - Dominica - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fidji - Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Guinea Republic - Guinea-Bissau - Guinée Equatoriale - Guyana - Haiti -Jamaïque - Kenya - Kiribati - Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands - Mauritius - Mauritania - Micronésie - Mozambique - Namibia - Nauru - Niger - Nigeria - Niue - Uganda - Palau - Papuasie New Guinea - Rwanda - Saint Kitts & Nevis - Saint Vincent et Grenadines - Santa Lucia - Salomon Islands - Samoa - Sao Tome y Principe - Sénégal - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland - Tanzania - Tchad - Timor Leste - Togo - Tonga - Trinidad & Tobago - Tuvalu - Vanuatu - Zambia - Zimbabwe.*

ACP Day is celebrated every year on **June 6th**.

### Institutions:

**The Summit** comprises Heads of States and Governments. It defines the Group's general policy orientation.

**The Council of Ministers** is the supreme body responsible for implementing the guidelines laid down by the Summit. Ministerial sectoral meetings such as Trade, Finance and Culture are held regularly.

**Trade ministerial Council** responsible for conducting, trade negotiations on behalf of the ACP Group.

**The Committee of Ambassadors** acts on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

**the ACP Parliamentary Assembly** defines the common positions of the ACP Parliamentarians with a view to contributing to the deliberations of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and promoting intra-ACP cooperation

### ACP-EU Institutions :

**The Joint Parliamentary Assembly** adopts resolutions guarantee human rights and common human values through dialogue and consultation.

**The ACP-EU Council of Ministers** takes decisions regarding the implementation of Agreements on cooperation between the ACP and EU.

**The ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors** monitors the implementation of cooperation agreements and assists the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

### The Secretariat

Is the executive organ of the Group. It is responsible for the administrative management of the Group and assists the ACP organs and joint institutions. The Secretariat is located in Brussels (Belgium).

### The Secretary General

- . ensures the quality of the technical and administrative support and services provided by the Secretariat to the members and organs of the ACP Group ;
  - . manages staff, projects and programmes
  - . implementing the Group's international policy, as well as directing and coordinating its cooperation policy
- He is appointed for a five-year term by the ACP Council of Ministers.

### A few dates :

**1975**

Signing of the founding Charter of the Group : **the Georgetown Agreement**.

Entry into force of the **Lome Convention** which marks the beginning of cooperation between Europe and the ACP Group. It grants non-reciprocal trade preferences to ACP countries.

**1980**

Signing of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Lome Convention**.

**1985**

Signing of the **3<sup>rd</sup> Lome Convention**. Emphasis is placed on food self sufficiency in ACP countries.

**1990**

Signing of the **4<sup>th</sup> Lome Convention** which introduces a political dimension to cooperation.

**1995**

Signing of the **4<sup>th</sup> Lome Convention bis** which emphasizes the importance of decentralised cooperation and the role of civil society.

**1997**

**1<sup>st</sup> ACP Summit in Libreville**, Gabon

**1999**

**2<sup>nd</sup> ACP Summit in Santo Domingo**, Dominican Republic, with the theme: "*On the road to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium*"

**2000**

Signing of the **Cotonou Agreement** which provides for the abolition of non-reciprocal trade preferences. From September 2002 until the end of 2007, **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)** will be negotiated between the European Union and ACP States

**2001**

ACP States obtain a **waiver from the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)** on the trade chapter of the Cotonou Agreement at the 4<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference

**2002**

**3<sup>rd</sup> ACP Summit in Nadi**, Fiji : "*ACP Solidarity in a globalized world*".

**2002**

Start of negotiations for **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** in Brussels (Belgium).

**2004**

**4<sup>th</sup> ACP Summit in Maputo**, Mozambique. Theme: "*Together shaping our future*".

**2005**

Creation of the **ACP Parliamentary Assembly** in Bamako, Mali

**2005**

Signature of the **revised Cotonou Agreement** in Luxembourg

**2006**

**5<sup>th</sup> ACP Summit** in Khartoum, Sudan. Theme: "*United for peace, solidarity and sustainable development*".



### CONTACT :

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## **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States**

**(ACP)**

*The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) is an inter-governmental institution that was created by the **Georgetown Agreement** in **1975**. Composed of **79 countries**, the main aim of the ACP Group is to foster cooperation among its Member States and with the European Union with a view to achieving economic, social and cultural development.*