

**ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT**

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

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**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Brussels, 18 May 2017**

**ACP-UE 2113/17**

**COVER NOTE**

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From: Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States  
To: EU Co-Secretary of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers  
Subject: Decisions and Resolutions of the 105th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, on 3 and 4 May 2017

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Delegations will find attached the Decisions and Resolutions of the 105th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium, on 3 and 4 May 2017.

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Brussels, 4 May 2017

**DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM  
FROM 3<sup>rd</sup> TO 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017**

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**ENG**

**DECISION No.2/CV/17**  
**OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**POST COTONOU AGREEMENT**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,

**HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, in particular, Article 2 thereof;

**CONSIDERING** Decision No.1/CIV/16 of the 104<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers, in particular Article 6, which mandates the Committee of Ambassadors to immediately commence work on preparing a roadmap in readiness for negotiations with the EU on a new agreement post-2020, and in so doing, engage in the work required to prepare negotiating briefs, core principles to guide negotiations, and the establishment of appropriate negotiating groups/clusters including a central negotiating group;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Cotonou Agreement, revised in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010, in particular Article 95(4);

**HAVING REGARD** to the ACP policy framework document "Towards the ACP We Want" in document [ACP/1/1/11(Vol.1)/17 Rev.3 ;

**HEREBY DECIDES TO:**

1. **Approve in principle** the proposed priority areas under each of the three strategic pillars to guide future programmes, work and activities of the Group post-2020 and further mandate the Committee of Ambassadors to refine and enhance these strategic elements and pillars given its flexible and dynamic nature of the process underway including taking note of views of regional and continental organizations;
  - (i) Trade, Investment, Industrialisation and Services;
  - (ii) Development cooperation, technology, science and innovation/research; and
  - (iii) Political dialogue and advocacy.
2. **Approve in principle** the proposed processes, modalities and substance for negotiations with the EU for a legally binding successor agreement to Cotonou;

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3. **Mandate** the Committee of Ambassadors to:
  - (i) Constitute a central negotiating group which would provide oversight and guidance and three technical groups which should be established under the overall oversight of the central negotiating group;
  - (ii) Determine the Composition of these groups; and
  - (iii) Determine the draft core guiding principles such as: negotiating as one, securing a legally binding agreement, the single undertaking principle, maintaining the acquis of the Cotonou Agreement.
  
4. **Further mandate** the Committee of Ambassadors to submit a report on these matters to the 106<sup>th</sup> Council.

**Done at Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Honorable Dr Abraham TEKESTE  
Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation  
of Ethiopia  
President of ACP Council of Ministers**

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**ENG**

**DECISION No.3/CV/17**  
**OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN HAITI**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,

**HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, in particular Article 2;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Declaration of the 104<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels from 29 to 30 November 2016;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Committee of Ambassadors report of the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers;

**WELCOMING** the supportive response of the international community including Member States of the ACP Group;

**HEREBY DECIDES** to dispatch a small delegation to Haiti to:

1. Express solidarity to the People and Government of Haiti; and
2. Identify in consultation with the Haitian Authorities projects that could be supported by the ACP Group under the 11th EDF.

**Done at Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Honorable Dr Abraham TEKESTE**  
**Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation**  
**of Ethiopia**  
**President of ACP Council of Ministers**

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**ENG**

# RESOLUTIONS

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**[Final version]**

**ENG**

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**ACP AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY TRADE**  
**AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,
- A. HAVING REGARD** to the resolutions on cotton, sugar, bananas and new approach on support for the development of agricultural value chains adopted by the 104<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels, from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016;
- B. WELCOMING** the finalisation and approval of the New Approach on support to development of Agricultural Value Chains which targets small producers including women, as well as other value chain operators, and connecting them to the market;
- C. NOTING** that the New Approach is based on four (4) Pillars namely: Finance, Capacity Building, Trade and Investment and Climate Change; Finance is the main sector of concentration for intra-ACP intervention as it is the main constraint that weighs heavily on ACP farms and prevents the modernisation of the sector;
- D. ACKNOWLEDGING** the findings and recommendations from the Banana Study on “Comparative analysis and assessment of the level of competitiveness of the banana value chain in the BAM countries”;
- E. RECALLING** that the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) were provided to ACP Countries, in conformity with article 38a of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, to mitigate the negative impact of the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas concluded in Geneva on 15 December 2009, and with the aim to foster competitiveness and encourage diversification;
- F. CONCERNED** that as at December 2016, six (6) out of the ten (10) beneficiary countries had spent only a third or less of their BAM allocation and that the overall rate of allocation and disbursement stood at 93% and 44% respectively;

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- G.** **RECALLING** the commitment made by the European Commission not to go below the tariff rate floor of 75 euros per tonne applicable to third countries in the context of future Free Trade Agreements or those under negotiation with regard to the Banana sector;
- H.** **CONCERNED** at the discrepancy between this commitment and the answer sent by the European Commission on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to the Written Question E-000746/2017 submitted by Members of the European Parliament, , which implies the possibility for liberalising further the tariff rates for third parties in bananas sector beyond the agreed terms of the Geneva agreement on bananas and the limit of 75 / Tonnes and subjecting this liberalisation only to further analysis and consent of the European Parliament and the Council;
- I.** **FURTHER CONCERNED** at the preference erosion that continues to be caused by EU third party agreements, recently Ecuador's accession to the EU trade agreement with Colombia and Peru which may have a significant impact on ACP banana producers;
- J.** **CONSIDERING** the socio-economic importance of the cashew nuts sector for the development of several ACP countries, and the sustainable development prospects that this sector provides;
- K.** **RECALLING** the ambition expressed by the European Union and the African cotton-producing countries of the ACP Group when concluding the EU-Africa Partnership for the Development of the Cotton Sector in Paris, on 6 July 2004;
- L.** **TAKING NOTE** of the conclusions from the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting of the C4, the four (4) countries that jointly launched the sectorial initiative on Cotton, held in Cotonou, Benin from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017;
- M.** **NOTING** the significant progress made in the implementation on the Support Programme for the consolidation of the Framework for Action under the EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton as the current programme comes to an end in June 2017;
- N.** **FURTHER NOTING** the progress made on Implementation of the Pan-African Agenda for Cotton and that its operationalisation will require the development of a Pan-African Investment Program on Cotton (2PIC);
- O.** **CONCERNED** at the lack of significant progress in concluding the Cotton dossier at the WTO, specifically on domestic support which remains the greatest source of pressure on world cotton prices and Welcome efforts to ensure implementation of MC10 decision on Cotton as well as ongoing discussion aiming at a solution at MC11;

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- P. WELCOMING** the discussions between the ACP and the EU, on identifying ways for the implementation of the recommendations from the Sugar Study on “Current and Forecast Market Developments for ACP Sugar Suppliers to the EU market”;
- Q. RECALLING** that the abolition of EU sugar and isoglucose quotas in September 2017, in turn, will increase the level of competition within the EU, reduce imports and erode the price preference from which ACP countries have benefitted in the past. Moreover, it is also expected to result in an increase of EU sugar exports;
- R. CONCERNED** that the recent proposal to grant all EU beet farmers decoupled single farm payments, while beet farmers in 10 out of 19 sugar-producing member states would receive voluntary coupled support (VCS) would result in the EU sugar market to be more fully supplied by beet sugar, and the need for imports consequently less;
- S. UNDERSCORING** that as a result of increasing number of countries that are benefitting from the EU under new Free Trade Area agreements, not only will the ACP traditional suppliers suffer a large loss of volume of exports, but also the price obtained will be significantly reduced and more volatile as the EU and World markets are pushed into greater alignment;
- T. REITERATING** the longstanding request to the EU for funding support to be secured for the next phase of the Sugar Research Programme which is one of the success stories of the ACP-EU relations and **CONFIRMING** that the ACP is finalising submission of project proposals under the second phase;
- U. CONCERNED** at the potential harmful impact of the United Kingdom’s planned withdrawal from the European Union on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 on the market access and trade regime for ACP States in the United Kingdom, which may result in the reduction of imports;
- V. HAVING EXAMINED** the report of the Ministerial Consultations on Commodities held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, in Brussels, Belgium and paying particular attention to the recommendations thereof;
1. **Validates** the new Policy on Support to the development of Agricultural Value Chains, which will facilitate the mobilization of resources and offer a coherent framework to support development of agricultural value chains in ACP Countries and regions, including in the cashew, kava, tobacco, fisheries and livestock sectors, and instructs the Committee of Ambassadors to develop modalities for its implementation;

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2. **Welcomes** the outcome of the Banana Accompanying Measures Workshop held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and mandates the Committee of Ambassadors to engage with the EU on improving the disbursement rate for BAM funds such that the funds are exhausted by the close of the BAM Programme in 2018;
3. **Calls** upon the Committee of Ambassadors to ensure that the recommendations from the Banana Study on “Comparative analysis and assessment of the level of competitiveness of the banana value chain in the BAM countries” are addressed under the new ACP approach on support to the development of agricultural value chains, through identification and mobilisation of relevant financial resources;
4. **Reiterates** its concerns with the continued proliferation of trade agreements linking the European Commission to rival countries or regions of the ACP banana-producing countries and the consequences of such agreements on the exports of ACP banana-exporting countries;
5. **Calls** upon the EU to stand by its commitment not to go below the tariff rate floor of €75 per tonne applicable to third countries in the context of future Free Trade Agreements or those under negotiation, to ensure fair competition and safeguard the benefits brought about by the ACP banana production, in coherence with the strategic interests of the ACP-EU cooperation in the areas of trade and economic development, migration and sustainable agriculture, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. **Mandates** the Committee of Ambassadors to consider and identify the appropriate structure that would address the issue of cashew;
7. **Welcomes** the Commitment by the President of Burkina Faso to be the champion for the development of the Cotton Sector in Africa;
8. **Welcomes** the launch of the “Route du Coton” Program, which is aimed at strengthening production, processing and export capacities in the cotton sector, adding value and creating sustainable jobs;
9. **Mandates** the Committee of Ambassadors to consider support to the Cotton Sector under the New Approach by facilitating the identification and use of funding opportunities at the level of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF, specifically to contribute to the renewal of the development component of the EU-Africa Cotton Partnership, the Pan-African Investment Programme on cotton and the implementation of the route du coton programme;

10. **Urges** the Committee of Ambassadors to undertake joint actions with European Union in preparation for the MC 11, to secure commitment on implementation of MC10 decisions on cotton;
11. **Urges** Committee of Ambassadors through the ACP Sugar Subcommittee to identify Sugar projects which are feasible to be undertaken at the ACP Group level and to provide options for possible sources of funding and for the ACP members to pursue implementation of projects at the national and regional levels;
12. **Reiterates** also its concerns over the uncertainties in the lead up to and after the end of the EU sugar production quotas on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and **expresses** the need therefore to continue to engage with the EU with a view to seeking remedial measures to mitigate the adverse effects of the end of production quotas;
13. **Calls** upon the EU to exercise caution in bilateral FTA negotiations and the impact of these is fully assessed and taken into account, including the interests of the ACP suppliers of specialty sugars, and to declare sugar as a sensitive product;
14. **Calls** upon the EU to ensure that any additional EU Tariff Rate Quotas for sugar imports be subject to a minimum tariff of EUR 98 per tonne which is the CXL bound in-quota import duty;
15. **Calls** upon the EU to consider measures to retain ACP presence in value added market segments (e.g. refined and speciality sugars), which could help ease the transition to a more competitive market;
16. **Calls** upon the EU to recognise the impact the departure of the UK will have on the value of ACP preferences under trade agreements with the EU and calls on EU27 governments to commit to:
  - a) supporting ACP governments in ensuring existing preferential access to the UK market is extended;
  - b) taking the necessary regulatory measures to ensure disruption of existing ACP supply chains serving EU27 markets through the UK and UK through EU27 member states is minimised;
  - c) assisting ACP producers worst affected by BREXIT in finding alternative markets across the EU27, including here appropriate in the territories of OCTs and the Outermost Regions of the EU; and

- d) consulting ACP governments on how the UK's departure will impact on existing EU trade preferences extended to third countries in sensitive ACP commodity exports such as sugar and bananas.
17. **Calls** on the UK government to continue to grant duty free access for ACP and LDC origin raw and refined sugars to the UK market after Brexit, and establish preferential access by retaining a tariff on non-preferential raw and refined sugar;
18. **Invites** the President of the Council of Ministers to forward this resolution to ACP regional economic integration organisations, the Commission of the African Union, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, EU Member States, the European Commission and the UK Government.

**Brussels, 4 May 2017**

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**ENG**

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**ACP-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs)**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,
- A. HAVING** considered the presentations on the EPA process in the seven EPA regional configurations;
- B. RECALLING** that the CARIFORUM-EU EPA that was signed in 2008 is under provisional application by all parties with the exception of Haiti; that the departure from the European Union by the United Kingdom will significantly impact the CARIFORUM-EU EPA; and that the region is facing institutional and capacity constraints to implement the EPAs;
- C. NOTING** that in West Africa, preparations are underway to commence implementation of the regional EPAs concluded in 2014 pending signing by Gambia, Mauritania and Nigeria, and while Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana are implementing an interim EPA which was concluded with the EU in 2007;
- D. WELCOMING** the convening of the first Trade Development Committee of the SADC-EU EPA and the decision to step up structures for EPA implementation, however **NOTING** that the region is facing some challenges and there is need to fast-track supportive measures for EPA implementation;
- E. WHEREAS** in East Africa Community, Kenya and Rwanda have signed the full EPA with the only non-LDC in the regional grouping, Kenya, having also ratified, although all countries in this region have to ratify for the full EPA to come into force; further **NOTING** that the European Union's sanctions against Burundi have complicated the completion of the signing and ratification process in the region;
- F. DEEPLY CONCERNED** that in Central Africa, Cameroon is the only country that is provisionally implementing an interim EPA, and **WHEREAS** the European Union has unilaterally ended the regional negotiations with a call to other countries in the region to accede to the Cameroon-EU EPA;

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- G. NOTING** that the ESA region is engaged in two different EPA processes, with some countries in the stage of preparation of their market access offers while have been implementing the interim EPA signed in 2009; and **CONCERNED** that this situation undermines the unity, solidarity and cohesion of the Group, thus hindering the process of regional integration.
- H. RECALLING** that in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Fiji are the only two countries currently implementing an interim EPA, and **NOTING** that Samoa and Solomon Islands have indicated their intent to accede to the existing interim EPA signed by the European Union with Fiji and Papua New Guinea;
- I. SERIOUSLY CONCERNED** that many ACP States remain outside the EPA framework, with EPAs causing friction at the regional level and posing a risk of undermining regional integration processes, due to the existence of different trade regimes operating in the various ACP regions;
- J. FURTHER CONCERNED** about the likely adverse impact of the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreements with third parties, including with outermost regions (OR) and overseas countries and territories (OCTs);
- K. MINDFUL** of the serious implications of the impending exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union on ACP-EU and ACP-UK trade relations;
- L. DESIROUS** of ensuring that EPAs, truly become “tools for development” that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable development, regional integration and industrial transformation through value chains and value addition, attracting investment, creating employment and stimulating trade and to the beneficial integration of ACP States into the world economy;
- 1. Reaffirms** its commitment to enhance ACP-EU trade relations through mutually beneficial trading arrangements, including the finalization of outstanding negotiations and implementation of the existing EPAs.
  - 2. Calls** on all parties, to exercise true partnership in the EPA process, both in letter and spirit; therefore, **Appeals** to the European Union to show flexibility in responding to concerns expressed by the ACP States and regions, with a view to concluding full and inclusive Agreements, in accordance with the negotiating mandates, objectives and principles that strengthen the different regional integration processes, and which are intended to serve as a development instrument.
  - 3. Reiterates its call** on the EU to engage the various EPA regions to resolve issues that have hampered effective conclusion and implementation of existing EPAs.

4. **Requests** the European Union to honour its obligations by facilitating the CARIFORUM to derive benefits, including from trade in services and cultural cooperation, conclusion of mutual recognition agreements, setting up a monitoring system for the EPAs, mitigating the revenue implications, reviewing relevant clauses, and dedicated implementation of the development cooperation provisions, and furthermore to take steps to implement a special visa regime to support market access by CARIFORUM service providers;
5. **Calls** on the European Union to consider the position of the other countries in Central Africa region that substantial amendment to the Cameroon-EU interim EPA would be necessary as a condition for their accession.
6. **Calls** on the European Union to examine the situation in Burundi and lift sanctions on Burundi while intensifying the dialogue with the concerned country and the East African Community.
7. **Invites** the European Union to provide as a matter of urgency, requisite resources to countries that have committed to EPA accession, such as those in the Pacific; and to expedite overall support for implementation of existing EPAs in the various regions.
8. **Reiterates** the need for the strengthening the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee, to serve as Joint EPA implementation, follow-up and monitoring mechanism so that EPAs are satisfactorily concluded, and implemented in a manner that meets, not only trade but the development objectives of the ACP States and regions.
9. **Calls** on the European Union to engage in prior genuine consultations on its policy measures including commitments and concessions given to third parties in its FTA negotiations so as not to adversely affect the competitiveness of ACP exports to the European Union market.
10. **Welcomes** the convening of the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee on 20 October 2017 and **calls upon** its Members to exhaustively tackle concerns expressed in the EPA process and other related issues.
11. **Reiterates** the need for ACP States that have not done so to sign the Joint Undertaking on Customs Administrative Cooperation Agreement, with a view to harness its full benefits.

12. **Welcomes** the discourse between a representative of the Government of the United Kingdom and the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee on 7 December 2016 on how to safeguard current preferential trading arrangements by, at least, rolling them over upon the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union and ensuring that there is no period of uncertainty in respect of the said preferential arrangements; **Agrees** to remain engaged with the authorities of the United Kingdom at national, regional and all-ACP levels on how to secure and improve future cooperation in the area of trade and development.
13. **Underlines** the need for the European Union, including the United Kingdom to honour obligations under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and give due consideration to ACP's interests and concerns during BREXIT negotiations.
14. **Instructs** the President of Council to forward this resolution to the European Commission, the Government of the United Kingdom, Council of the European Union and the European Parliament as well as to African Union Commission and the ACP Regional Integration Organizations.

Brussels, 4 May 2017

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**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**SUPPORT FOR ACP MEMBER STATES ON THE UPCOMING**  
**UNWTO AND THE WHO ELECTIONS FOR THE POSTS OF**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL AND DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,
- A. HAVING REGARD** to the upcoming United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) elections for the post Secretary General scheduled to take place on 11-12 May 2017 in Madrid, Spain and also the candidature of **H.E Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Health of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the Post of Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) scheduled to take place on 22 to 31 May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland;
- B. HAVING REGARD** to the nomination of **Dr Walter MZEMBI** Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry of the Republic of Zimbabwe as a candidate for the post of Secretary General and the nomination of **H.E Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Health of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as the candidate for the post of Director General of the World Health Organisation;
- C. Having regard** to the decision by the Heads of State and Government of the Africa Union (AU) to endorse the candidatures of **Dr. Walter MZEMBI and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** as the official AU candidates;
- D. DESIROUS of** ensuring equal opportunities for all geographical regions to lead these international organisations;
- E. CONSIDERING** that these bodies have never been led by Nationals of ACP Member States;

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- F. EXPRESSING** its support and solidarity with the candidatures of **Dr Mzembi** and **Dr Ghebreyesus**;
- G. URGES** that ACP Group of States support these candidatures;
- H. MANDATES** the Secretary General to convey this resolution to the UNWTO and WHO Executive Members urging them to repose their confidence and support these candidatures.

**Brussels, 4 May 2017**

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**ENG**

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE  
AGAINST CUBA**

**The ACP Council of Ministers,**

- Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017,
- A. HAVING REGARD** to the Accra Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, in particular, Article 5 condemning the use of unilateral coercive measures such as illegal sanctions against certain developing countries with a view to preventing these countries from the exercise of their right to determine their own political, economic and social system, and reject the application of unilateral and extraterritorial laws and measures contrary to international Law, such as the Helms-Burton Act;
- B. HAVING CONSIDERED** the presentation of the delegation of the Republic of Cuba;
- C. NOTING** policies preventing financial institutions from being involved in transactions in certain designated countries without due notice;
- D. FURTHER NOTING** with concern the extraterritorial application of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which also prevents the country from fulfilling its financial obligation to the ACP Group of States;
- E. HEREBY REQUESTS:**
  1. The Secretary-General of ACP to do its best in order to facilitate that Cuba meets its financial commitment as member of the ACP Group of States;
  2. The Secretary-General of ACP to convey this information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, taking into account General Assembly Resolution 71/5.

**Brussels, 4 May 2017**

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**ENG**