REPORT OF THE DELEGATION FROM PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA THE 66TH SESSION OF THE OACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND 43rd SESSION OF THE OACS-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (JPA) HELD FROM 19th TO 29TH JUNE 2023 IN BRUSSELS-BELGIUM

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The delegation from the Parliament of Uganda attended the 65th Session of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) from 19th to 29th June 2023 Brussels, Belgium.

The delegation was constituted as follows: Rt. Hon. Timothy Tayebwa - Leader of the delegation, Hon. Cecilia Ogwal. Hon Sekikubo Theodore, Hon Opio Samuel, Hon Kateshumba Dickson Hon Bashir Mbaziira and Hon. Kiwalya Henry. The delegation was joined by the officials from Uganda Embassy in Brussels led by the Ambassador Katungwe, the Deputy Head of the Mission.

2.0. SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OACP ASSEMBLY ON THE **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

This was a follow up on the previous OACP Assembly on the new Rules of Procedure in line with preparation for the ratifications o the new Cotonou Agreement. The Assembly went clause-by-clause incorporating the amendment from the floor.

Hon. Cecilia Ogwal participated actively in the proceedings for the meetings.

3.0. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3.1. Committee on Political Affairs (1)

This item Agenda is to hear from the Member States on the progress and or challenges of democratization processes and any other item of the interest.

The meeting considered the draft report of the Maritime security as proposed by the rapporteur. The voting position was agreed upon after the proposed amendments were considered.

The adopted report is summarized in the resolution attached for the Committee on the subject matter

MARINE AND

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The delegate submitted that the political crisis in the Eastern part of the country is not an internal matter but a looting spree by a neighboring country.

He submitted that the situation in the Eastern region especially M23 is orchestrated by the support of a neighboring county which he declined to name. The suffering of the people and the looting of the resources by the same country has created anxiety.

He informed the Assembly submitted that there would be elections in December 2023 as one of the democratic pillars in the country.

He asked the meeting to ask the foreign country to stop supporting the M23 to bring peace to the Country.

Sudan

The delegation informed the Assembly that the SRF was created as a support force to Sudan Army by the Bashir regime to help in fighting the rebel groups and grew economically through selling gold in the Darfur region where they were based. It also grew politically and militarily by sending some fighters to Syria hence strengthening their military abilities and forces.

During the peace negotiations, the RSF asked for 10 years to be incorporated in the Army, which was refused by the National Army. They were given two years that they also rejected resulting into the current war. They later launched an attack/mutiny attacking strategic points in the country.

Rwanda

The delegate submitted that the neighboring country is accusing them wrongly when they stand for peace and stability of the region. The FDRL continue to be help and attach Rwanda using the former genocide, which is supported by RDC. The delegate submitted that Rwanda should also be respected in all capacities.

CHAD

The Country has received more than 1 million refugees and they have not received help to handle the same people and call for urgent help. Chad has kept the borders open and needs international support

DJIBOUT

The country is ready to continue ensuing security in the region especially the fragile situation in The Sudan. The County calls



for humanitarian in assistance of the IGAD region to normalize the situation.

Ethiopia

Stands in solidarity with the Sudan people and calls for normalization of the situation. He called for the humanitarian assistance.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN ACP COUNTRIES Haiti

The situation in Haiti is not still conducive in the country but all efforts are being put in place to address the challenges. There are armed gangs who have taken over space and are robbing, raping and all atrocities everywhere. All cities are now in danger. They have displaced people creating refugees, schools are under attack etc. They called for support to restore peace and to hold free and a fair elections.

Ivory Coast

They are planning to hold elections in order to restore and maintain peace.

There are efforts by the Government to handle the refugee situation though they are calling for humanitarian assistance to handle the Burkina Faso who may be infiltrated by terrorists.

Zimbabwe

The Country will have elections during the course of the year and called for the observer mission's to start the process of accreditation. It was further submitted the Zimbabwe was ready to be a friend of all the countries

Kenya

The country is facing the challenges of the COVID pandemic, The Ukraine Crisis and debt challenges. These have affected that the operation of the country.

The Country is involved in the regional peace mission like DRC, Somalia and Sudan

Burkina Faso

The issue of terrorists has persisted with many refugees and schools closed. The Country needs humanitarian assistance on the matter

Benin

Also submitted on terrorist attacks on the eastern part of te Country. The issues of high number of refugees is till a big challenge.





Mali

The delegate reported on the transition arrangement for the people of Mali and in the process of making a new constitution for Mali to Bering the country back to normality by the transitional leaders now in place.

The delegate from Mali reported that the territory is bring recovered through military overruns with the jihadists.

Ethiopia

The delegate reported on the progress of the agreement reached with the Tigre region. It is being implemented that without any challenges.

There is now a dialogue Commission to harmonies all national political issues.

Liberia

The Country is going for elections this year for all high government positions. The delegate promised free and fair elections.

Uganda

Hon Ceclia Ogwal reported on the matter of the killings by the terrorist of the ADF at a secondary school in Mpondwe, in the western part of the country killing 42 students and called on all to condemn the attack.

She further submitted that Anti Homosexuality Act was passed to protect the vulnerable youth, disabled and poor people. She submitted that the promoters are suing all the invectives to join the vice

Lesotho

The delegate reported that the Kingdom is streamlining its administration to and improve on all the service delivery. She invited all the delegates to visit the Kingdom

Angola

The delegate called or peace across the continent. He deplored the crises of refugees across the countries and the deplorable situations we find ourselves in. There is need for peace to foster development. She deplored the conflict in DRC

Fiji

There is a new Government in Fiji after 16 years with three parties in coalition. They are geared to improve the livelihoods of Fiji people with expansion of trade and Investments.

Cameroon





Also reported on the atrocities by Boko Harm, refugees to mention a few. They are calling of tracking down on terrorists to bring peace to the region

Chad

They are in the process of constitution making and a draft is ready before Cabinet. It is awaiting adoption by Parliament and the process of governess starts

3.2. COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE (11)

The Committee considered the proposed amendments on the topic "EU list of non -cooperative jurisdiction for tax purposes and the list of third countries with regard to combating money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT)".

The Committee noted among others that dialogue between the EU and OACPS towards mutual understanding and the development of strategies to address their concerns, as it is in the mutual interests of both sides to preserve the integrity of their respective financial services sectors.

It was also noted that it is very important to have a fair and equitable tax and anti-money laundering/countering fto financial of terrorism standards agreed at international level is very crucial in the wake of increased terrorist attack the world over.

There is also urgent need to exchange critical information for effective tacking of passible colluded tax evasion other avoidance.

It was also noted the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism calls for collective prevention, investigation and prosecution of this harmful practice across boundaries to avoid any haven hideouts in the world.

Hon Kateshumba submitted that there is need for strengthening the call to governments to review the double taxation system to avoid its abuse and reduce on tax holidays.

The European Investment Bank

This institution is aimed at availing the capital for investment to promote growth in the OACPS countries. This is a source of long-term investment.

The future of EIB is important at this stage as the new Partnership Agreement is being considered; the Bank has is a

一种们

B

sources of funding with highly concessional loans and other favorable terms.

Hon Opio Samuel submitted on the new regulations like the 3cs as trade barrier for trade in coffee, Tea etc. He noted that that there is need for the EIB to put in place a financing mechanism for the smallholder famers to address their challenges. The regulatory compliance should also put into consideration such challenges.

Members wanted to know what is really involved in the due diligence by the bank in their programming. The issue is whether there are stringent constraints, which need to be addressed and be overcome putting into consideration the legislations' to the effect.

The meeting noted that the threshold is a bit high at Euro 50,000 for small-scale business covering the majority of the population in the OACPS.

Another concern is that the agreement is not yet in place which might affect the operationalization of the program in case it is not concluded.

The Assembly was informed that the imitative is only for export market and Uganda small holders are able to compete in coffee, cotton, tea etc. They therefore need to add value therefore for competitiveness.

CRITICAL REVIEW ISUUES ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAS)

The Assembly was informed that the agreements provide for a review every five (5) years and have nothing to do with the Cotonou Agreement. The review is to evaluate the performance and need for improvement and other action related to improvement in order to enable the parties realize the intended objectives.

NEIGHBORHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (NDICI)

This is a new financing arrangement with the EU, which replaced the EDF and all the other instruments since its inception in 2021. A total of Euro 79.9 billion is provided for under this instrument.

It ring fences the OACPS allocation as Euros 500million and 800millions for the Africa and Caribbean respectively.

外长



The instrument is flexible, coherent and simplified. This instrument cover all the previous concerns

There is however need for more training and seminars to explain the operations and applications of the said instrument before its full application.

The delegate from Mauritius noted that the new instrument lacks transparency, predictability, sustainability and doe away with the national authorizing officer. This was noted to affect the operations of the disbursement of funds if any.

4.0 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4.1. COMMITTEE 11, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) AND THE EDFI
Presentation by Kyritsis Christine, head of policy division
This is the Bank, which follows all the EU standards and procedures with expertise in all fields and is involved in all the OACPS countries.

Partnerships are key to the success of the projects. There is big portion for climate change.

There is Euro 56bn for lending with ACP 2.8bn region. Half of funds provided in here is 47% which will go to address the challenges environment.

European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI) Pere Joan Ribas

He informed the Committee that this is a group of 15 financing institutions in Europe ready to finance the development agenda. The presentation is on the roles in the post Cotonou. The focus of this funding is to promote and support the private sector.

Hon. Cecilia Ogwal submitted on the issue of whether supporting the small products is covered in the new provisions. She noted that some products like vanilla in Uganda should be addressed. She wondered whether they barked in the agreement for capacity building the capacity on the small products.

4.2. JOINT COMMITTEE III. COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Committee considered the proposed amendments for the motion for a JPA resolution on the topic "Strengthening Parliamentary Solidarity and Political Will for road Safety in Member Countries of the OACPS and the EU including the Infrastructure".

The meeting considered the proposed amendment and the agreed voting position for the group was also adopted. The adopted resolution is appended

The Committee noted that the road accident have increased exponentially especially in the ACP countries. This in turn has negative multiplier effect given the impairments and death caused by such.

Accidents cause about 1% for the gross domestic product in low income countries which is a big margin

Briefing on the ongoing OACPS Programs On Cultural promotion

Hon Cecilia Ogwal submitted that there is need for transparency and smooth accessibility for the funds, which totals to Euro 40 Millions allocated for the six regions of the ACP

It was further emphasized that priority areas be set up for the vulnerable groups among others There should be affirmative action for the youth to curb unemployment and vulnerabilities for the young and women.

Members wanted to know the funding opportunities, the criterion and conditions. This enables more competitive accessibility and development of multiple skills.

The issue of intellectual property was also raised to which the matter has to be protected and addressed in accordance within the laws.

It was agreed that promotion of capacity of the youth should be paramount as it raises many challenges through the cultural industry

4.3 JOINT COMMITTEE 1. COMMITTEE ON POLITICL AFFAIRS

The committee considered the proposed amendments for the motion for a JPA resolution on the topic "Enhancing Cooperation on Maritime Security and promoting the Rule of Law on the Oceans".

The agreed draft resolution is appended. It will be voted on during the June 2023 ACP-EU JPA.

Hon Cecilia Ogwal proposed an amendment to address the issues of the dumping in the waters and was advised to submit the amendment to the rapporteur.

一千八

Exchange of views on the next Topic, which is' **Hybrid Threats** in **ACP and EU Countries'.** This is a topic of exchange of views but no resolution will be made on it

Members noted with concern that this topic has not been well thought and may be used by their counterparts in the EU. However they were asked to remain united and continue wit the debate since it has no resolution

Political Situation in OACP

Burkina Faso reported on the political progress which they have attained amidst political challenges

Burundi is currently chairing the EAC Community and recently the EAC summit was held which considered the security in DRC. The summit devised all parties to hold peace talks. Burundi was elected as the representative of Eastern Africa on the bureau

Ivory Coast has restored peace in the Country with in which former President of Germany, Markel, was awarded a medal for allowing many refugees in her country as a gesture of humanity. The solders that were held for as mercenaries in Mali were released also.

Kingdom of Lesotho held peaceful elections and is now peaceful. They have the first Woman Prime Minister as a new development.

Ethiopia reported on the peace deal through the AU initiative which resulted in the cessations of conflicts in the North and reported that it was a had and trying times. She reported on the various peace processes in then UN Peace Mission across Africa. They have also made deliberate moves to move to green the country

Djibouti had elections recently also and the Government is yet to be formed that is why there is no MP. The elections were peaceful and well observed

Kenya submitted on the continued peaceful co-existence in the country and innovations of having better democracy. There were repotted cases of the sporadic insecurity in the Northern parts of the country which is being addressed by deployment of security teams.

Mali submitted on the recent release of the 49 Soldiers who were in their prisons under the negotiations of the President of





Togo. There is a transitional Government in Mali which is restoring peace. They are organizing elections scheduled for March 2024 and therefore believe there will be no need for continued sanctions against the Country.

Situation on DRC

The expert on the security situation briefed the Committee and informed the committee the situation is a bigger internal matter, which was refuted by the DRC delegate. He demanded that the invading country should be name and be compelled to pullout of the country. The EU delegate informed the committee that the name Rwanda should be brought out clearly. He insisted that there should not be hiding anything

Kenya submitted that they have put a lot of efforts in the country but the situation remained the same. They have committee 9,000 troops to the effect. He called for greater support fro disarmament process and the EU to support more.

The meeting was informed of the UN report of the direct intervention in Rwanda and the continued repression of people.

There are about 23,000 troops for M23 and Rwanda enforces them to exploit the minerals. Kigali should be held responsible for Rwanda aggression.

Members called for a political solution to the challenges in DRC, which is causing a lot of havoc, and AU should spearhead this process.

The Rwanda delegate welcomed the report as presented. She called for the implementation of the Nairobi peace accord. DRC has effused to integrate the M23 into the army there are a number of proliferations of the groups in the region.

The delegate submitted that the hatred calls will not help but Rwanda is willing to help in bringing peace, which should not be, but not at their own cost of security. The called on DRC to stop the genocidere attacks on Rwanda. DRC should address its own challenges and stop scapegoats.

The EU should also come in to help in addition to the AU to bring the situation to normality.

Conflict in Sudan

The delegate from IGAD Secretariat briefed the Committee on the situation on Sudan and submitted that all the efforts are being frustrated by SRA. IGADD has tried all efforts to ensure

411

B

that there is peace in Sudan but still all efforts are being futile. They are hoping for inclusive efforts to stop this war.

There is need for corrective efforts and IGAD calls on all members to help in the process concerning the war in the region and further destabilization to neighbor.

The EU wants a cessation of hostilities and protection of civilians. The EU supports all the efforts for the stopping of the carnage in the Sudan. There is need to secure peace and revamping the route to civilian rule.

The EU calls of the creation of the humanitarian aid corridors and the sustainability of such,

There are huge human rights violations in the Sudan on the escalating violation.

There is need to address the issues of refugees stressing the already bad situation in neighboring countries like Chad

Hon Cecilia Ogwal submitted that all conflicts in the region affect Uganda, which has been very involved in the support of peace in the region. She called for peace to stop the influx of refugees that have come to Uganda. She called for the support of the refugees so far in Uganda.

In Response, the Sudan delegate submitted that the war is not between two Generals but a mutineer by some militias against the mainstream army. This was part of the National army. He submitted that Kenya is taking part in the struggle and therefore cannot be accepted to mediate.

4.3 Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade

The Committee considered the proposed amendments for the motion for a JPA resolution on the topic 'EU list of non cooperative tax jurisdictions and the list of third countries regarding anti-non money maundering (ATM) and counter-terrorism financing(CTF)'

5.0 THE 63rd SESSION OF THE OACPS ASSEMBLY

5.1 ADDRESS BY THE CO-PRESIDENT

She welcomed the delegates and especially the new delegates. She thanked the members for the amendments of the new Rules procedure and the embracing of the paperless meetings. She welcomed the idea.

一种儿

1

5.2 ADDRESSES BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In his absence the deputy SG read his message. He noted and appreciated the role of the OACPS in her role in international affairs and enhancing the collaboration with the EU and other international Organizations.

He noted that there are either international players which have been engaged and need to widen the cooperation in order to utilizes and mobilize the benefits associated with such. The social relations with the EU should be strengthened the followed further and the internal challenges in the signing of the new agreement be addressed urgently

He submitted that they have opened dialogue with other players to foster wider development like the UAE. The OACPS is preparing a proposal to the GCC for financing strategies

The organization is building its capacity and visibility on the international scene.

He gave the financials position of the ACP Secretariat and the position of Contributions by Members States. He noted that the contribution still remains less than anticipated which is at 27% levels. Ten Countries have not contributed at all which hamper the functioning of the Assembly. It was noted that there is need for financial independence of the Assembly.

There are a number of countries in arrears while other are under sanctions (9)) for non-payment.

5.2 Address by the UN Under Secretary General

She addressed the Assembly on policy matter which impact on gender equality as enshrined in the UNFPA policy and promotion of equality of all races. She called on areas of partnering like mortality, gender, demography resilience and youth empowerment.

There is also need to look at the aging population as a policy matter.

The organization monitors the quality of the world population, which is now at 8bn. There is need for issues of quality life for the population.

The average age is 50 years now. The issue is the ability to provide for sustainable living in the world.

TH

(Tex)

There is need to live and cooperates among all population with the sharing of life saving experiences. There is need for SGS to manage the growing population. The young population should be used for managing the new challenges like climate change, artificial intelligence, conflicts etc.

She called on the Assembly for the support of in the promotion of the core values of the organization in betterment of the world population.

Hon Tayebwa Timothy submitted that Uganda is committed to supporting the efforts of the Assembly. He noted that the mortality rate is still high in Uganda though being managed.

The productivity of the young population is on a worrying trend, having the youngest population in the world. This comes with unemployment and young parenthood which goes with such age brackets. The population may be a liability because they may be parasites instead. Skilling is therefore very crucial for sustainability of the young and active population.

The conflicts are all over with associated problems of refugees and the other challenges associated to this should be looked into.

5.3 Reports form the Standing Committee.

The Assembly received the reports of the Standing Committees and agreed position on the voting positions

5.3 Communication from the Bureau of the OACP

The OACPS Bureau discussed the following key areas for the improvement of that the Assembly operations and sustainability

- Visibility- This is aimed at linking the Assembly to international bodies and institutions for furthering the Assembly activities
- Strengthening of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly both in staff and outreach
- Engaging with key Strategic Partners to diversify the Assembly into a multiplier player

In conclusion of the Assembly meeting, the following countries gave their situation:

Mozambique

The delegate informed the Assembly on the efforts to address the issue of political/military instability in the Country





Tanzania

The delegate informed the Assembly of the offering of the Speaker of the Tanzania Parliament of the President of the IPU. He called on members to support their candidate

Mali

The delegate called on all countries to respect the sovereignty of Mali by supporting the transitional government.

Uganda

Hon Ogwal submitted that the matter of LGBT should not be a pre-condition for the agreements for trade, which brings very old memories of slavery.

She further committed to supporting Tanzania in the race for the IPU Presidency

The Assembly was informed of the celebrations for the OACPS anniversary and that the dress code is the national outfits where necessary.

6.0 INTERSESSIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All the three Committee met at the EU Parliament and voted on the proposed Amendments to the proposed motions for resolution resulting for the Committee reports.

7.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF 43rd OACP -EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

THE EU PARLIAMENT VICE PRESIDENT Carlos Zorrinho, EU ACP JPA Co- President

He talked of the Ukraine war that has devastated the economies of most countries in the world especially on the supply of food and energy.

He noted that the invasion of a sovereign country is deplorable and Russia should be pressed to put an end to the war. International law should be put into play. He submitted that peace, dialogue and cooperation are becoming global challenges.

The Assembly should address the concerns of the Climate change, the DRC crisis and the war in the Sudan.

There is also need to address the issue of the UN system to be all-inclusive and beneficial to the current requirements of the global security.

FF. 1

45

The Paris Climate Summit echoed the need for investment in sustainable energy development with long tem financing for climate concerns

He informed the Assembly that the Cotonou agreement will have to be extended for another four months to allow Hungary and Poland to address their internal concern which are causing the delays in their appendage of the signature.

THE ACP-EU JPA CO- PRESIDENT, Rita Ann Sithole

She informed the Assembly that there is need to deliver a core resilient and sustainable global economy to avert the catastrophes of hunger and other natural disasters.

Peace and security should be paramount in the global endeavors.

She noted that the delays in signing of the Revised Cotonou agreement will affect the many people of the group and called on the EU to address the challenges delaying the signing. She noted that there are current humanitarian crisis in most countries calling for effective leadership in place.

She called on the efforts to stop the Ukraine war and the crisis in Sudan as a matter of urgency

She also noted that there is need to address the challenges of the Security Council.

She informed the Assembly that the RENAMO movement was disarmed and now the country is in process of rehabilitating and reconciliation hence establishing the rule of law.

The Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, EU Presidency He noted that strong Parliaments are very important institutions in democracy.

He also noted that there has been a lot of suffering and destruction caused by the Russian invasion to Ukraine.

THE BUREAU MEETING COMMUNICATION

The Co-President informed the Assembly of the following decisions arrived at during the bureau meeting:

- To issue a statement on the continued delay of signing the Cotonou Agreement by four months
- Implement the Maputo Charter on the Women forum
- The next regional meeting to be held in the Pacific.
- Next JPA will be held in Niger in December 23, only if the Post Cotonou agreement is signe.

西大利

• Young delegates should be given priority when constituting the delegates

HYBRID THREATS

The Assembly discussed the above topic without a resolution, which was tabled by the bureau.

The hybrid threats tend to undermine the established democratic governments and processes capitalizing on where governments are incapable to provide.

They can be conventional or non conventional in method. This can be military, technological or otherwise and they tend to be difficult to detect.

It was noted that ICT threats are the classic example of such kind and need a concerted effort to be regulate by UN Charter.

These are so challenging for developing countries, which are more vulnerable technologically

There should be established regionally cyber security technologies and all countries should embrace the move as a matter of priority.

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICES (EEAS)

There is no legally binding definition but generally it is a cyber, infrastructure and information crime in nature.

These are involved in undermining and constraining democratic decision-making. They can also be used for military purposes

All countries should build resilience institutions to counter this new threat. This however calls for cooperation and coordination in the fight.

To overcome this, there can be cooperation, diplomacy, preparations and intelligence sharing.

The UN is developing the International code of conduct which should be supported especially the trend of the artificial intelligence.

These include use of socials media of all types, which influence the public and can be easily misused.

Hon Opio Samuel submitted that hybrid threats are intended to undermine societies by communication influences. They are a

5 Jest 7 1

form of war. Undermining the sovereignty of the affected countries.

He noted that the resolution by the EU Parliament to sanction Uganda for the Anti Homosexual Act is a form of war and threat to the sovereignty of the Ugandan State, cultures and dignity.

He called on the EU to review such threats that are unconventional wars against the independence of other countries in their sovereign capacities.

It was noted that information sharing by states will enable the tools to combat such attacks and coordination would eventually stop undermining the international peace and security.

REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

This is the only UN body, which is legally allowed to make binding decisions. It has five permanent Members with other 10 non-permanent ones to make it 15. There have been calls to review the membership of this body for better representation by a number of countries.

The presentation by the Ambassador from Austria on the UN Security council was based on previous submissions on the calls for reforms. The UN wants to represent the momentum to enhance transparency.

The General Assembly will recommend on of the way forward on the matter.

EEAS

The EU welcomes the efforts of the UN Secretary General to restructure the UN system. The EU is for transparent and democratic institutions and upholding international law. The Security Council might hit a deadlock and there will be no solution immediately. They also call for Vetoed restraint against genocide and war criminals or mass criminals

Members called on the UN to heed the call for reforms to accommodate the current developments and not insist on the colonial arrangements. The UN has grown in number and the issue are now complex.

There should be equitable representation on the council of the UN for all regions and the Veto authority should be abolished.

What is happening in Ukraine is not an invasion by Russia but international egoism. A permanent Member is violating the International law and will veto the process if it remains with the

E SEN!

5

five Members only. All members should have equal rights at the voting

Africa should have permanent Members with the right to veto and other equal number for non-permanent Members in accordance with new confederation.

The Security Council does not reflect the demography and geography of the world hence need for reforms. It should be more democratic

Rt. Hon. Tayebwa noted that the debate without a resolution was not good for such item. This is an item where all Members are in agreement. He noted that he was happy with the submissions and noted that the Security Council was constituted when Africa was not still under colonial rule and had no say at all.

He welcomed the convergence of ideas on the matter. He noted that the Security Council does not wake up when Africa is under attack like it happened in Libya. When on one of them was attacked like in Ukraine/Russia war they have waken up. He submitted that the veto power should be abolished. UN decisions should be taken to the General Assembly. One Country should not be allowed to decide the fate of others.

The 1963 Charter, which created the Security Council, can be changed though it needs ratification by all security Members. This should be changed. The process is taking too long after two years set by the Secretary General on the matter. This report was ambitious on the reform of the Security Council.

The Humanitarian and Security Situation in Haiti

The Assembly was informed that about 2.5 million people need assistance and rescue from the gang operations currently holding the country at a ransom. This country has been highly fragile for a long period with a terrible insecurity situation. Gangs control about 80% of the ties which in unprecedented.

It was reported that epidemics are on the increase due to the gang operations with scarce water resources.

STATEMENT BY JUTTA URPILAINEN, EU COMMISSION

The Commissioner submitted that this OACPS –EU partnership is the oldest EU partnership wit over 60 years. The Assembly was informed that the EU is fully committed to sign the new Cotonou Partnership agreeemnt.

-77

The Assembly was also informed that there are transition measures in place to allow the conclusion of the processes. This is to strengthen the Parliament dimension and the civil society in the decision making process. The Cooperation should continue even at the multilateral stage. The recent crisis shows that there is more need for cooperation if we are to manage the global challenges. Partnerships are more necessary than ever and together this accounts for more than half sit at the UN.

The current extension is only for four months and all is being done to sign it in unanimity.

Statement by John Forssell, Minister for International Cooperation President in office of the EU Council, Sweden

Russian aggression requires cooperation to address and challenge EU is committed to addressing th process of irregular migration and committing to return and rehabilitation of the affected people Multilateralism I should be a weapon for al to benefit Climate change should be a focus for all and the relationship should e be geared towards that.

The trade relations are still very health and should be promoted further

Statement by Alan Ganoo, Minister for land and Transport President in office of the OACPS Council, Mauritius.

This JPA has occurred with unprecedented challenges with multilateral problems. Business as usual is not an option. There is nee to innovate and survive.

There is need for mutual respect and promotion of rule of law, territorial integrity etc.

There is need to overhaul some multilateral institutions and address the current issues appropriately.

There is also need to continue addressing the political instability to promote rule of law.

There should be be concerted efforts to fight terrorism and money laundering.

Tax regimes should be handled properly to make it a better tool to develop international cooperation

He deplored the delayed signing of the Cotonou agreement, which will evimpact on major instruments supposed to be under the agreement

Hon Kateshumba submitted on the issue of trade barriers by the EU to the EU Council of Ministers

There are barriers on trade like many specified requirements. There should be shared prosperity as they insist on human rights these should cover trade and business right also.

TH

There is need to share prosperity for the good of all the partners. There should be promotion of human rights in the shard prosperity. The barriers should be addressed. The partnership will be meaningful if the shared prosperity is discussed.

CRITICAL RAW MATERIAL, ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ACP-EU COOPERATION

It was noted hat energy systems remain woefully under resourced. This is because investment in the are is not flowing in Africa. It was at %% of the portion that attracted global energy investment. The cost of capital is very high especially for power which is almost three times higher in Africa. Solar is the cheapest source in Africa today due to the cost of Africa. There is more solar in Netherlands than in the whole of Africa.

Africa is responsible for only 3% of the green gas emissions. It is also noted the Africa has the biggest reserves of the Gas naturally.

The new technologies need new resources like the rare minerals, which are in Africa. As the world moves from fossil fuels, the demand for these substitutes will rise sharply

To dates China dominates the market fo these minerals. There is therefore needs for sustainability which calls for diversification. Africa is a critical partner in this move.

These critical mineral are mostly in Africa yet there is huge disparities in investments

The EU should therefore engage the OACPS should be engaged in the transition efforts given its huge reserves of the critical raw materials.

This should help in increasing access to renewable energy. The industrialization process in Africa should therefore be monitored for green energy transition to the green economy.

There were calls for industrialization free of fossil fuels. EU exploited a lot of such fuels and continues to do so importing such oils form Africa and have done enough harm to the world. There is therefore urgent need to use carbon neutral fuels to save the Planet.

EU does not want to rely o China anymore but to the ACP Members for this transition in energy.

Hon Kibalya submitted on the efforts by Uganda to promote green like commission the green biggest solar energy in East Africa. Uganda is currently producing electric vehicles to reduce on the carbon emissions. sr vehicle and promoting more of the renewable energies.

1-4-

Uganda therefore emphasize the need for or is inclusive cooperation energy in both agriculture and other efforts.

There is need for continued partnership on a win win strategy to achieve stable renewable energy application.

VOTING ON THE MOTIONS

Th Assembly passed three motions for resolution for the three Standing Committees as follows:

Committee 1

Enhancing cooperation on Maritime security and promoting the rule of law on the Oceans. *Appendix 1*

Committee 11

The EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and the list of third countries regarding anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism (AML/CTF/ECON). *Appendix 11*

Committee 111

Strengthening parliamentary solidarity and political will for road safety in Member countries of the OACPS and the EU, including safe infrastructure. **Appendix 111**

Motions For Urgent Resolution

The Humanitarian and security situation in Haiti. *Appendix 1V*The Humanitarian situation in OACPS countries affected by terrorism. *Appendix V*

The Assembly also voted on Rues of Procedure of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and of the regional groups namely:

- The Africa Region
- The Caribbean Region
- The Pacific Region

The Assembly also provides for side events, which were attended by the Members of the delegation. Attached are the resolutions as per the side events:

- Workshop I on
- Workshop 2 on
- Youth Forum
- Women Forum

7.0 CONCLUSION

The OACPS Parliamentary Assembly was conducted is a constructive manner with the delegation from Uganda actively participating in both the Assembly and the three Committee meetings.

| 任任:

AD"

The delegation would like to thank and appreciate to the Head of delegation for proper guidance, the Parliamentary Commission for facilitation and the Uganda Embassy in Brussels for proper coordination.

I beg to submit

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

Rt. Hon Tayebwa Timothy	Head of Delegation	
Hon. Cecilia Ogwal	Member	
Hon. Sekikubo Theodore	Member	7
Hon. Opio Samuel	Member	
Hon. Bashir Mbaziira	Member	
Hon. Kateshumba Dickson	Member	
Har. Kibalya H. Maurice	Member	To.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/103.379/23/final

RESOLUTION¹

Resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the humanitarian situation in countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States affected by terrorism

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels (Belgium) from 24 to 28 June 2023,
- having regard to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- having regard to the partnership agreement between the members of the African,
 Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community
 and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000² (Cotonou Agreement),
- having regard to the African Union (AU) extraordinary humanitarian summit and pledging conference of 27 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea,
- having regard to the call from the 33rd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly for immediate solutions to tackle the risks of terrorism, violent extremism and severe humanitarian crises³,
- having regard to the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General of 28 March
 2023 about criminal activities that encourage the rise of terrorism⁴,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
- having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
- having regard to the Nairobi 'Nguvu Ya Pamoja' Declaration of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which condemns terrorism in all its forms and its increasingly close links with transnational organised crime and trafficking in human beings,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 23 June 2022 on the

AP103.379/final

EN EN

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2023 in Brussels (Belgium).

² OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170619IPR77712/acp-eu-high-time-to-tackle-the-common-causes-of-terrorism-impunity-and-famine

⁴ https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15245.doc.htm

- implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵.
- having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 11
 March 2021 on democracy and the respect for constitutions in EU and ACP countries,
- having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 21
 November 2019 on the impact of social media on governance, development, democracy and stability,
- having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 18
 November 2020 on the role parliaments can play in strengthening international security,
- having regard to the final declaration of the sixth European Union-African Union
 Summit of 17-18 February 2022, entitled 'A Joint Vision for 2030',
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 5 May 2022 on threats to stability, security and democracy in Western and Sahelian Africa⁶
- having regard to the Council of the EU's conclusions of 16 April 2021 on the European Union's integrated strategy in the Sahel,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) share a commitment to promoting peace, stability, and development in OACPS countries;
- B. whereas since 2007 sub-Saharan Africa has seen a sharp increase in terrorist attacks and violent extremism;
- whereas the humanitarian situation in OACPS countries affected by terrorism continues to deteriorate, with millions of civilians affected by armed conflicts, violence and displacement;
- D. whereas the impact of terrorism and violent extremism in OACPS countries exacerbates existing humanitarian crises, including food insecurity, malnutrition, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education and clean water;
- E. whereas the Sub-Saharan countries most impacted by terrorism (Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Nigeria) are among the countries facing the worst ecological threats, highlighting the interconnection between ecological degradation and conflict;
- F. whereas the spread of terrorism in OACPS countries poses a threat to regional and global security, contributing to instability and extremism, and undermining the social fabric and governance systems of affected countries;
- G. whereas the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted at the 29th inter-sessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (Haiti, 2018), expresses strong concern about the increasing links between organised crime groups, violent gangs and terrorism, a phenomenon highlighted by the

⁵ OJ C 32, 27.1.2023, p. 28.

⁶ OJ C 465, 6.12.2022, p. 137.

- financing of the illegal activities of global terrorist groups via the proceeds of illicit trafficking;
- H. whereas violence in the Pacific region is often related to cross-border organised crime activities connected in particular to drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, environmental crimes and small arms trafficking;
- I. whereas in 2019 the European Parliament and the Council adopted new rules to limit the availability of explosive precursors to the general public and ensure the appropriate reporting of suspicious transactions throughout the supply chain;
- J. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the humanitarian situation in OACPS countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism, limiting access to humanitarian aid and healthcare, disrupting supply chains, and worsening poverty and vulnerability;
- K. whereas women, children and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by terrorism and armed conflicts in OACPS countries and are often subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, forced recruitment, and other severe human rights abuses;
- L. whereas children face increased risks in areas affected by terrorism and violent extremism, including exploitation, kidnapping and recruitment as child soldiers; whereas the risk of malnourishment and lack of educational opportunities can have a lasting effect on child development, economic opportunities in adulthood and the risk of radicalisation;
- M. whereas between 2015 and 2022, more than 8 500 terrorist attacks were recorded in sub-Saharan Africa; whereas, according to the 2023 Global Terrorism Index, the Sahel is the most affected region, accounting for 43% of deaths from global terrorism, an increase of 7% compared to the previous year;
- N. whereas the escalating threat of jihadist terrorism in West African countries has severe implications for regional peace, security and stability;
- O. whereas the terrorist organisations operating in West Africa include the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and Boko Haram;
- P. whereas the security crisis in the Sahel is worsening and spreading to countries in the Gulf of Guinea, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin and Ghana, resulting in an increasing influx of refugees into these countries and thereby extending the humanitarian crisis to them; whereas the Accra Initiative was created in 2017 in response to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in West Africa (Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo);
- Q. whereas the Somali terrorist organisation al-Shabaab remains at the centre of the jihadist movement in the Horn of Africa region, conducting lethal operations especially in Somalia, including explosive attacks, suicide attacks, complex attacks on government and civilian facilities, targeted assassinations, ambushes along supply routes and indiscriminate gunfire; whereas al-Shabaab's activities have increased in the countries neighbouring Somalia, particularly in Kenya;
- R. whereas the government of Mozambique continues, with international support, to fight

- against aggression in the north of the country led by militants linked to the 'Islamic State' that have displaced nearly a million people in the past five years;
- S. whereas 40 people, mainly students, were killed on 17 June 2023 at a school in western Uganda by rebels of the ISIL-linked Allied Democratic Forces, one of the deadliest attacks in the country in more than a decade;
- T. whereas terrorism and violent extremism in OACPS countries undermine the core principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, thereby posing a significant risk to social cohesion, economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- U whereas promoting good governance, strengthening institutions and addressing socioeconomic disparities are essential elements in preventing and countering the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in OACPS countries:
- V. whereas violence and terrorist control of territory constitute significant obstacles to state actors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance; whereas these raise difficulties including in access to remote or dangerous regions, unstable communication methods and unreliable access to energy;
- W. whereas counter-terrorism measures can have serious consequences for NGOs providing humanitarian assistance, notably in conflict areas and disputed territories; whereas NGO staff have been arrested, detained and convicted for alleged criminal activity as a result of having conducted operations in terrorist-controlled areas or established contact with terrorist organisations to facilitate humanitarian access and operations;
- 1. Deeply regrets the devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of terrorism; condemns in the strongest possible terms all acts of terrorism and violent extremism, and expresses sympathy and solidarity with their victims worldwide;
- 2. Points out that the humanitarian situation in countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism has multiple fronts and that humanitarian needs are continuing to increase due to the combined effects of increasingly violent conflicts, deep poverty, climate change and unprecedented food insecurity and malnutrition;
- 3. Calls on OACPS countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism to maintain their efforts to protect civilian populations and to provide for swift and effective measures to ensure humanitarian support for persons in need, including by ensuring the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education and clean water, and by establishing secure zones and humanitarian corridors to facilitate unhindered access for aid delivery:
- 4. Recalls the need for deepened cooperation between the EU and the OACPS in the face of an international climate of instability, uncertainty and insecurity and the global challenges previously stated during the 45th meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers;
- 5. Urges the European Union and its Member States to significantly increase their humanitarian assistance to OACPS countries impacted by terrorism and violent extremism, with a particular focus on the provision of vital services such as healthcare, education and clean water, as well as the safeguarding of vulnerable groups including women, children and vulnerable communities:

- 6. Encourages the European Union and its Member States to enhance their financial and technical support to OACPS countries with a view to addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism, including poverty, inequality and marginalisation, while promoting inclusive governance and sustainable development as crucial elements of prevention;
- 7. Calls for the establishment of a robust and coordinated response mechanism that engages all relevant stakeholders, including OACPS countries, regional organisations and the international community, to effectively address the urgent humanitarian needs of populations affected by terrorism and violent extremism in OACPS countries;
- 8. Urges all parties to conflicts to ensure and facilitate unhindered humanitarian access to affected populations while prioritising the safety and security of humanitarian workers operating in volatile environments;
- 9. Advocates for the active promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding efforts, while emphasising the importance of their meaningful involvement in decision-making processes and addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls affected by terrorism and violent extremism;
- 10. Stresses, furthermore, the gendered consequences of terrorism and violent extremism, notably in terms of restrictions on women's ability to safely earn an income, restrictions on access to healthcare including sexual and reproductive healthcare, and the increased risk of sexual violence and exploitation; urges parties to undertake gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of measures to tackle terrorism and violent extremism;
- 11. Encourages OACPS countries to strengthen regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the cross-border dimensions of terrorism and violent extremism, including through the exchange of information, the sharing of best practices, and support for regional security initiatives, such as the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture; calls on the countries affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel to consider a regional approach to the humanitarian response to the crisis, by establishing joint risk management projects for vulnerable cross-border populations;
- 12. Calls for immediate and decisive action to address the severe humanitarian consequences resulting from the presence of private military and security companies in the Sahel region; recognises the potential destabilising impact posed by the involvement of foreign actors and unequivocally emphasises the urgent need for heightened regional and international cooperation, complemented by robust diplomatic initiatives, to effectively counter and mitigate the activities of private military and security companies; underscores the utmost importance of safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability of the Sahel countries, while placing significant emphasis on strengthening good governance and advancing sustainable development as fundamental pillars in effectively addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by external actors;
- 13. Stresses that a military approach alone will not suffice to counter terrorist attacks, as peace and security will only be achieved through a multi-dimensional approach that addresses people's legitimate grievances, past and current human rights violations and the root causes of conflicts;
- 14. Calls on the OACPS Member States and the EU to recognise the importance of

strengthening communities' resilience in order to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, including by promoting tolerance, respect for diversity and civic engagement, as well as support for young people; recalls the importance of providing opportunities for young people to strengthen their resistance to radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism, by stressing the importance of education, vocational training, job creation and inclusion;

- 15. Recalls that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism requires the establishment of strong and reliable democratic institutions and well-established basic services, including internal security capacities and an independent justice system;
- 16. Considers countering disinformation an important part of strengthening democratic states, and draws particular attention to the experience and state-of-the-art knowledge in many of the (targeted) EU Member States; calls for cooperation between OACPS and EU states on fighting disinformation, both bilateral and multilateral, including through the creation and funding of special bodies with this aim, such as the European Parliament's Special Committee ING2, in order to defend and enhance democracy; calls on the OACPS and EU countries to tackle cybercrime and artificial intelligence used for terrorist purposes in the fight against terrorist propaganda;
- 17. Recommends the further strengthening of parliamentary capacities in the region in order to better enable parliamentarians to exercise their statutory control function within the political system of their respective countries, especially with regard to challenges in the context of threats from terrorism and often related organised crime;
- 18. Stresses the importance of redefining a comprehensive strategy in compliance with international standards for combatting terrorism and violent extremism across the regions concerned; underlines that such a strategy needs to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism, focusing on a preventive approach that aims to eradicate the appeal of terrorist ideology, curb opportunities for recruitment and radicalisation and cut off financial support to terrorist groups, including ransom payments; calls for such strategy to systematically include support and funding of community-focused programmes of civil society organisations to fight against and prevent terrorism and violent extremism; calls for this strategic orientation to be periodically reassessed;
- 19. Expresses alarm at the humanitarian impact of terrorism and violent extremism on children in particular; urges all parties to allow unhindered access to education, and for child protection to be a priority consideration in strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism; highlights the paramount importance of prioritising the protection of children impacted by terrorism and violent extremism, including by providing education and psychosocial support tailored to their specific needs; recalls that women and children and other vulnerable populations suffer most the effects of conflict, terrorism and violence; deplores the fact that children are increasingly being recruited by terrorist groups and used as child soldiers or suicide bombers; insists that the counter-terrorism response, as well as the judiciary and law-enforcement framework, should be tailored to protect the rights of the most vulnerable populations;
- 20. Expresses serious concern at the impact of climate change on factors which exacerbate both humanitarian crises and the ability of terrorist organisations to exploit such tensions, notably food and water scarcity; insists that tackling climate change and food insecurity should be a core element of peace-building and security strategies; stresses

the need to establish regular frameworks for consultation between the respective governments, the local population, civil society and humanitarian actors, integrating the urgent need to create and transform local food systems and encouraging the use of community-based adaptation strategies, including by using traditional knowledge of agricultural practices, agroecology, agroforestry and fisheries;

- 21. Urges OACPS countries to take concrete measures to address the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees impacted by terrorism and violent extremism, including by ensuring access to basic services, upholding their rights, and facilitating their voluntary and safe return to their homes when conditions allow;
- 22. Urges the international community to provide comprehensive support to OACPS countries through sustainable development cooperation and inclusive governance based on the principles of equality, human rights and rule of law, while promoting the implementation of the SDGs;
- 23. Calls on the OACPS to strengthen its collaboration with regional organisations such as the African Union and the Caribbean Community, in addressing the pressing humanitarian situation in OACPS countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism, while promoting deeper regional integration and cooperation to enhance stability and resilience;
- 24 Expresses concern at the impact of some counter-terrorism measures on the work of NGOs providing humanitarian assistance; recalls that counter-terrorism legislation and measures must fully comply with international humanitarian law and ensure accountability;
- 25. Reiterates its firm demand for democratic and judicial oversight and accountability mechanisms as regards policies to combat terrorism and violent extremism, stressing that measures which, with hindsight, were not necessary, effective and proportionate for combatting terrorism and violent extremism need to be repealed; stresses also that violations of fundamental rights need to be investigated and redress offered;
- 26. Suggests that the EU support information and intelligence sharing structures and processes within regional organisations such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Accra Initiative and the G5 Sahel, as well as between the different affected Western African nations;
- 27. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Union, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Presidency of the G5 Sahel, and the Coalition for the Sahel and the Sahel Alliance.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/103.283/23/final

RESOLUTION¹

on strengthening parliamentary solidarity and political will for road safety in member countries of the OACPS and the EU, including safe infrastructure

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels from 24 to 28 June 2023,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African,
 Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement), and to the subsequent revisions to the agreement adopted in 2005 and 2010²,
- having regard to Article 91 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that recognizes a right to life, yet millions of lives are lost every year to preventable injuries suffered from road crashes,
- having regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 3.6: by 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, and SDG 11.2: by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly persons,
- having regard to the United Nations Resolution on Improving Global Road Safety No. A/RES/74/299 passed on 31 August 2020,
- having regard to the African Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2020, endorsed by the African Union (AU) Heads of States in Addis Ababa in January 2012,
- having regard to the African Road Safety Charter, adopted during the 26th ordinary session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2016,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2017 on saving

AP103.283/final

EN EN

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2023 in Brussels (Belgium)

²OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

lives: boosting car safety in the EU³,

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 6 October 2021 on the EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 – Recommendations on next steps towards 'Vision Zero'⁴,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 8 June 2017 entitled 'road safety endorsing the Valletta Declaration of March 2017',
- having regard to the 12 UN Global Road Safety Performance Targets of 22 November 2017,
- having regard to the Commission staff working document of 19 June 2019 entitled 'EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 Next steps towards "Vision Zero" (SWD(2019)0283),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 9 December 2020 entitled 'Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future' (COM(2020)0789),
- having regard to the UN Road Safety Conventions, managed by the United Nations
 Economic Commission for Europe UNECE and covering such things as road traffic
 rules, driving permits, road signs and signals, vehicle regulations and inspections, and
 the transport of dangerous goods⁵,
- having regard to the Global Status Report on Road Safety,
- having regard to the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that include the transport sectors (air, sea and road) as major contributors to climate change,
- having regard to the UN General Assembly resolution 74/299 of 31 August 2020 on improving global road safety, proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030,
- having regard to the Stockholm Declaration of 19 and 20 February 2020 adopted during the Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety,
- having regard to the Global Plan entitled 'Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030', developed by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Regional Commissions as a guiding document to support the implementation of the Decade of Action 2021-2030 and its objectives,
- having regard to the AU-EU Transport Taskforce's report of 20 February 2020 entitled 'Towards an enhanced Africa-EU cooperation on transport and connectivity' and in particular to Chapter 3 on 'Road Safety',

³ OJ C 356, 4.10.2018, p. 2.

⁴ OJ C 132, 24.3.2022, p. 45.

⁵ https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/road_Safety/Documents/UN_RS_Conventions_combined.pdf

- having regard to the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Improving Global Road Safety 'The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery', adopted at the UN General Assembly held on 30 June and 1 July 2022,
- having regard to the OACPS Luanda declaration adopted during the 10th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government held on 9 December 2022,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/103.283),
- A. whereas road safety is a crucial aspect of the universal right to health;
- B. whereas casualties affect mostly economically active persons and have a ripple effect on their dependents, causing suffering and poverty; whereas according to the World Bank, road crashes absorb massive financial resources, equal to about 1% of gross national product in developing countries;
- C. whereas the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development strives to combat inequalities within and among countries; whereas the divide between rich and poor countries is evident in relation to road safety as low- and middle-income countries overwhelmingly bear the burden of global road trauma;
- D. whereas roads account for 97 % of all transport fatalities worldwide and are the eighth leading cause of death globally; whereas road accidents account for 1.35 million deaths and 50 million injuries per year and are forecast to cause around 13 million more deaths and 500 million more injuries over the next decade; whereas road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death in children and young adults aged 5-29 years; whereas more than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists;
- E. whereas 93 % of fatal crashes occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though they have approximately 60 % of the world's vehicles; whereas African road traffic death rates are the highest globally, and whereas with just 2 % of the world's cars, Africa accounts for 16 % of global road deaths and 44 % of global pedestrian and cyclist fatalities; whereas the burden of road traffic injuries in the Pacific is considered significant but remains poorly quantified; whereas every year around 22 700 people still lose their lives on EU roads and around 120 000 are seriously injured;
- F. whereas uncontrolled urbanisation and the lack of quality public infrastructure, notably public lighting, contribute to urban congestion and road accidents, particularly fatal crashes, in Africa; whereas Africa continues, in particular, to have insufficient public transport as it accounts for just 5% of daily journeys, compared to 10% to 20% in Latin America for example, and whereas the cost of the public transport available is too often prohibitive for a significant number of users in sub-Saharan Africa; whereas improving road safety in Africa means addressing the causes of the continent's rapid urbanisation and rural exodus, and promoting new, affordable urban transport;

- G. whereas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where urban sprawl is more pronounced than in other emerging regions it is important to promote the development of safe and affordable urban transport for the poorest population groups, in particular to reduce urban congestion and to boost employment, and whereas certain urban public transport projects may also contribute in part to tackling the current environmental and energy challenges;
- H. whereas the cost of road accidents amounts to about 1 % of gross national product in low-income countries, 1.5 % in middle-income countries and 2 % in high-income countries:
- I. whereas the transport sector is responsible for about 24 % of global carbon-dioxide emissions, with 74 % attributed to road transport; whereas developing synergies between safety and sustainability measures could lead to lower CO₂ emissions;
- J. whereas transport is fundamental to supporting economic growth, creating jobs and connecting people to essential services such as healthcare or education, as well as connecting goods and services to markets; whereas transport is also a key driver of growth in African countries where 90% of people and goods are moved by road:
- K. whereas the efficiency, accessibility, availability, affordability, sustainability and safety of transport systems play an important role in reducing poverty and inequities and contribute to the achievement of many SDGs;
- L. whereas the UN has declared a second Decade of Action for Road Safety for 2021-2030 with the target of reducing road deaths and injuries by at least 50 % during that period; whereas to achieve these targets, a holistic and harmonised Safe System approach needs to be developed and implemented in every country; whereas the Safe System approach encompasses safe road infrastructure, safe vehicles, safe road use, adequate post-crash response and accidents reporting, proper data collection and high risk diagnosis, preventive measures and multimodal transport, all of which are underpinned by a robust legal framework;
- M. whereas the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018 indicates that 53 % of the road users killed in Africa are vulnerable road users, 40 % of whom are pedestrians, 4 % are cyclists, and 9 % are people using two- or three-wheelers; whereas gender, age and social inequalities are at play in mobility and road safety in ACP and EU countries;
- N. whereas lack of equitable access to safe and secure mobility for women and girls continues to be a global issue, denying them access to services, economic, political and social opportunities, education and culture and creates major barriers for equal participation between genders;
- O. whereas African road traffic death rates are the highest globally and more than four times higher than the European average; whereas without focused and effective action, deaths in road traffic crashes are forecast to rise further and faster over the next decade exacerbating the existing humanitarian crisis and its costly, needless blight on sustainable development;
- P. whereas despite the specificities at national level, members of the OACPS face common

road safety challenges, such as the importation of unsafe, poorly maintained and variable-use second-hand vehicles, lax enforcement of traffic rules, insufficient training and inappropriate behaviour of road users, recklessness (such as speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, being distracted or fatigued while driving and the lack of or failure to use seat belts and motorcyclists not using helmets), lack of sustainable funding, underreporting of accidents and insufficient data collection;

- Q. whereas long-term, sustainable investment is required for the development of safe road infrastructure, including in urban areas and school zones, improvement of vehicle safety, more effective post-crash care, better enforcement of traffic rules, better education of, and awareness-raising among road users, but funding is desperately lacking in ACP countries; whereas the establishment of the UN Road Safety Fund in 2018 strongly supported by the EU underscores the importance accorded to financing road safety;
- R. whereas mobility and transport are constantly evolving, and improving safety is not a one-time event but an ongoing process and one which supports progress on other sustainable development priorities such as clean air, lower carbon emissions, safe access to education, sustainable cities, increased productivity, business activity and employment; whereas this process may be sped-up by better data collection, cooperation, as well as exchange of established good practices; whereas technological progress means that conditions in the field of mobility change very quickly, which creates challenges at both the legislative and the technical level;
- S. whereas the OACPS is committed to promoting road safety in its member states through targeted actions as part of the implementation of the Global Plan 'Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030', on the basis of the Georgetown Agreement (as revised in 2019) and the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement;
- T. whereas ensuring more secure infrastructure and better conditions for micromobility and pedestrians is the best incentive for people to stop using individual car transport; whereas the increase in the number of vulnerable road users at the expense of cars will contribute to reducing air pollution, diminish the problem of congestion in cities and have a positive impact on the health of residents and the development of pro-health attitudes among road users;
- 1. Urges the members of the OACPS to adopt and implement the UN road safety legal instruments; notes that so far only 14 African countries have signed and nine have ratified the African Road Safety Charter, and urges all African countries to adopt it and put in place the appropriate enforcement measures;
- 2. Calls on the European Commission to increase EU investment in road safety in all the relevant EU financing programmes, including projects under the Global Gateway; urges EU Member States to come through with their own contributions to the UN Road Safety Fund; underlines the importance of promoting public-private partnerships with a view to securing the necessary resources to upgrade road infrastructure in ACP countries;
- 3. Calls on the EU countries and its Western partners to provide more support to the International Monetary Fund to help OACPS countries manage their borrowing and to the World Bank to provide more infrastructure financing in order to increase transparent

AP103.283/final

and sustainable financing options for infrastructure projects;

- 4. Calls on the EU and all international partners to include road safety capacity building with dedicated financial allocations as an integral part of all funding decisions related to infrastructure development in the member countries of the OACPS; calls for strengthening the capacities of the members of the OACPS, particularly in designing road safety policies, investing in risk-proofing roads, retro-fitting existing transport infrastructure, establishing adequate quality requirements for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and constructing durable infrastructure that takes account of the changing climate conditions;
- 5. Urges all relevant stakeholders in ACP and EU countries to engage in visibility and advocacy initiatives, including nationwide road safety campaigns, to promote the UN Decade of Action and highlight the high levels of road traffic deaths and injuries as a major societal problem and international development assistance priority; also encourages them to provide regular reports on the implementation status of the Decade of Action, including the extent to which road safety improvements have supported advancement in other development priority areas;
- 6. Supports road safety observatories being brought into operation in ACP and EU countries to collect, process and maintain national road safety databases; notes that reliable data are useful for traffic engineers, police forces, roads administration and policy makers; underlines the importance of data collection systems for identifying hazardous locations, diagnosing safety problems, understanding the types of crashes that are prevalent, developing road safety strategies, assessing the effectiveness of interventions, monitoring country level trends, tailoring and prioritizing prevention efforts and assessing progress; commends the work of the African Road Safety Observatory, launched in 2018 under the auspices of the AU; calls on EU and international donors to support the setting up or strengthening the existing lead road safety agencies in ACP countries;
- 7. Calls on the members of the OACPS and the EU to ensure appropriate road-user insurance schemes and enhance support for all victims of road traffic accidents and their families, as well as to strengthen post-crash response, pre-hospital and hospital care of crash victims; notes that effective and comprehensive action after an accident should include an in-depth investigation to identify the causes of the accident and, where appropriate, criminal and civil proceedings;
- 8. Calls on regional organisations to take the lead in developing guidelines based on best international practices for both licencing road users and training professional drivers, with a strong focus on road safety and the safe maintenance of vehicles;
- 9. Calls on ACP and EU governments to involve relevant stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, nongovernmental organizations, academia, traffic engineers, as well as the managing authorities of ports likely to be the entry or exit ports of vehicles, police forces, law enforcement authorities and health sector, in sharing good practices and setting up national road safety strategies; calls on ACP and EU governments to ensure that individuals and national authorities responsible for road safety can be held accountable in case of negligence;

- 10. Calls on ACP and EU governments to invest in educating young people on road safety and to actively engage them as change-makers for road safety, by supporting their participation in all key action areas of the Global Plan of Action for Road Safety; calls on ACP and EU governments to increase the capacity of road safety agencies and provide training to road safety and transport professionals, as well as police officers and customs authorities as regards detecting cases of fraud as well as imports or exports of stolen vehicles; points out that vehicle safety can also be improved by means of increased consumer awareness;
- 11. Calls on ACP and EU governments to implement gender-responsive and transformative planning of their mobility systems and to develop policy frameworks that consider the specific needs of women and girls and provide an enabling environment for both men and women to share safe, secure, reliable, accessible and above all, affordable participation in transport;
- 12. Stresses, in this regard, that in the context of promoting affordable urban transport as a solution to urban congestion particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where urban transport still accounts for a negligible share of daily transportation the specific needs of girls and women should be taken into account, particularly as regards security, since personal safety considerations may lead this group to favour individual transport methods (e.g. motorcycle taxis);
- 13. Calls on ACP and EU governments to ensure that policies cater for road users who might be in vulnerable situations, in particular children, young people, elderly people and people with disabilities, and to draw up coherent and harmonious planning strategies to reduce urban congestion;
- 14. Recalls that air pollution is a climate and health emergency; in particular, recalls that air pollution is one of the greatest environmental threats to human health and is responsible for about 7 million deaths each year globally; calls on ACP and EU countries to further increase investment in sustainable mobility, through cleaner vehicles and safe and affordable public transport, and non-motorised transport, notably safe cycling and walking, as well as intermodal connectivity, in order to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of large and growing urban populations;
- 15. Calls for support to be given to knowledge-sharing and the development and deployment of vehicle automation and new technologies in traffic management using both smart transport systems and cooperative smart transport systems, in line with national requirements;
- 16. Calls on the ACP countries and the Member States to ensure optimum harmonisation and optimal cooperation in police and criminal matters, and, if required, exchanges of information and best practices, in particular with regard to organised crime linked to car theft;
- 17. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen cooperation in police and criminal matters and the exchange of information and best practices to dismantle international criminal networks involved in the trafficking of stolen vehicles and that current motives, methods and loopholes related to this type of trafficking which may contribute, inter alia, to financing terrorism should also be explored and encourages Member States to

AP103.283/final

- improve the training of police forces, law enforcement authorities and customs authorities;
- 18. Calls on ACP and EU countries to exchange best practices to address the insufficient level of safety of active road users;
- 19. Supports the call by the leaders of the OACPS during the 10th Summit to establish a platform of knowledge sharing and calls on the European Commission through the NDICI to put in place trans-regional programmes that will address road safety challenges in Members of the OACPS.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/103.282/23/final

RESOLUTION¹

on the EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and the list of third countries regarding anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels from 24 to 28 June 2023,
- having regard to Article 18 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement between the members of the African,
 Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Union and its
 Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (Cotonou Agreement),
- having regard to the Georgetown Agreement as revised by Decision No 1/CX/19 of 7
 December 2019,
- having regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa
 Action Plan for Financing for Development,
- having regard to the FATF recommendations on Combating AML/CFT and Proliferation,
- having regard to the work of the OECD and the Global Forum and other regional and national initiatives on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes,
- having regard to the Recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel on Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity of 25 February 2021 for reforming, redesigning and revitalising the global architecture to foster financial integrity for sustainable development,
- having regard to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) of 13 February 2019
 supplementing Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council by identifying high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies (C(2019)1326),
- having regard to the Commission's Anti-Money Laundering Package as adopted on 24
 July 2019, consisting of a political communication entitled 'Towards better
 implementation of the EU's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of

AP103.282/final

EN EN

Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2023 in Brussels (Belgium).

terrorism framework' (COM(2019)0360), the report on the assessment of recent alleged money laundering cases involving EU credit institutions ('post-mortem') (COM(2019)0373), the report on the assessment of the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing affecting the internal market and relating to cross-border activities (the Supranational Risk Assessment Report (SNRA)) (COM(2019)0370) and the accompanying staff working document (SWD(2019)0650), and the report on the interconnection of national centralised automated mechanisms (central registries or central electronic data retrieval systems) of the Member States on bank accounts (COM(2019)0372),

- having regard to the Commission Communication of 7 May 2020 on an Action Plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing (C(2020)2800),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2019 on the urgency for an EU blacklist of third countries in line with the Anti-Money Laundering Directive (2019/2612(RSP)),
- having regard to European Parliament resolution of 10 July 2020 on a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing – the Commission's Action Plan and other recent developments (2020/2686(RSP))²,
- having regard to European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on reforming the EU list of tax havens (2020/2863(RSP))³,
- having regard to the CARICOM Heads of Government Communique at its 42nd
 Regular Meeting held on 5-6th July, 2021,
- having regard to the decision 3/CXI/20 of the extraordinary session of the OACPS
 Council of Ministers of 28 July 2020 setting up the Ad Hoc OACPS Ministerial Contact
 Group on the EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and on the list of third
 countries on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism,
- having regard to the common OACPS strategy and recommendations regarding the lists
 of the EU non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and that of high-risk third countries with
 deficiencies in their AML/CFT Régimes of 7 July 2021 (ACP/81/071/21 Rev.1).
- having regard to the OACPS Resolutions n°4/CXII/21 of the 112th session of Council
 of Ministers of 8 July 2021 and n°3/CXIII/2 of the 113th session of Council of
 Ministers of 3 December 2021 on the EU list on non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and
 that on AML/CFT,
- having regard to the report of the OACPS workshop on tax good governance and AML/CFT, held in Balaclava (Mauritius) from 26 to 30 January 2023,
- having regard to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol; the Southern African Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Action Plan of 2015; and other regional counter terrorism initiatives.



² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0204

³ Texts adopted, P9 TA(2021)0022

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/103.282),
- A. calls for more dialogue between the EU and the OACPS towards mutual understanding and the development of strategies to address their concerns, as it is in the mutual interest of both sides to preserve the integrity of their respective financial services sectors;
- B. whereas money laundering is a gigantic problem on a global scale and according to a joint report by Deloitte and IIF of August 2020, up to 5% of global GDP is subject to this procedure every year: it concerns the amount from 715 to 1870 billion;
- C. whereas paragraph 3 of Article 88 of the initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement provides for the setting up by the OACPS-EU Council of Ministers Committees and Working Groups to address specific issues more effectively and efficiently, such as trade and development finance;
- D. whereas the importance of fair and equitable tax and anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism standards and recommendations agreed at international level is crucial in this regard;
- E. whereas the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) have adopted a list of recommendations on international standards which may be considered by both EU and OACP countries in establishing relevant policies;
- F. whereas AML/CFT and tax good governance are a global challenge that can only be overcome by joining efforts through partnership and dialogue, in particular through exchange of information, intelligence and human and institutional capacity building to fight those criminal activities;
- G. considering the political commitments at the highest level and the ongoing political, legislative, legal and technical efforts of many affected OACPS countries to reform their AML/CFT arrangements and tax policies in order to comply with tax good governance and AML/CFT internationally accepted Standards and Recommendations;
- H. whereas both the EU and OACPS recognise efforts taken by each side in fighting against money laundering and the financing of terrorism including on prevention, investigation and prosecution of harmful practices;
- I. considering that the OACPS and the EU maintain a long-standing and solid partnership, which should serve as a platform for dialogue and cooperation for political consultations both bilaterally and at 'all-ACP' to address the challenges, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 (1) of the recently initialled new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, according to which 'the Parties shall conduct, in all areas of this Agreement, a regular, balanced, comprehensive and comprehensive dialogue leading to commitments and, where appropriate, actions on both sides with a view to the effective implementation of this Agreement';
- J. whereas global tax competition usually has resulted in a shift of the tax burden to workers and low-income households; has impinged upon the possibility of developing countries to enhance domestic resource mobilisation and has forced damaging cutbacks



- in public services;
- K. whereas parties to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development committed to enhance revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, more efficient tax collection, as well as to scale up international tax cooperation;
- L. whereas automatic exchange of information is an effective tool to tackle tax evasion and other IFFs;
- M. whereas in February 2021, the High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (the FACTI Panel) included the proposal for a UN Tax Convention as a key recommendation in its final report;
- N. whereas in October 2021, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (IF) agreed a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy;
- O. considering also that in paragraphs 4 and 6 of Article 12 of the initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement, the OACPS and EU have agreed to cooperate in the fight against money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and to engage in timely partnership dialogue at bilateral and international levels on tax good governance matters;
- P. whereas paragraph 4 of Article 83 of the initialled OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement provides that the "parties shall enhance and cooperate to strengthen good financial and tax governance, transparency and computability. They are committed to scale up international tax cooperation in an inclusive, fair and transparent manner and, in this regard, agree to cooperate on international tax matters;
- Q. whereas the EU lists, the defensive measures and the due diligence measures have negative impact on the OACPS countries concerned, whereas banks in some EU countries have closed the bank accounts of OACPS diplomatic missions in implementing the EU anti-money laundering directive;
- 1. emphasises that illicit financial flows, tax avoidance, money laundering and terrorist financing are common concerns for the EU and the OACPS and a matter of global governance; and urges the EU and OACPS to show strong political will and determination to making the fight against tax avoidance, money laundering and the financing of terrorism a priority; underlines that the goals of this effort should include concrete measures, such as the protection of the integrity and stability of the international financial system, removing the resources available to terrorists, and making it more difficult for those engaged in crime to profit from their criminal activities;
- 2. notes that the EU-OACPS cooperation shall contribute to the international community's objectives of ensuring the integrity and stability of international financial systems, blocking the financial resources available to terrorists, and adopting necessary measures to prevent criminals from profiting from their illegal activities;



- 3. calls on the EU Member States and OACPS members to combat, effectively and in a coordinated manner, all criminal activities associated with tax evasion and avoidance and money laundering and terrorist financing in order to reduce crime, strengthen the authority of the state, build economic and political stability, ensure the stability of the financial system, the integrity of national and international tax and financial systems and tax governance systems; recalls that transparency of ownership and control of companies, trusts and other legal entities is critical to combat illegal financial flows; calls on the EU and the OACPS to strive for full international transparency on the real owners of letterbox companies and real estate;
- 4. reminds that globalisation has affected the ability of countries to generate domestic government revenues and to choose their taxation structure; recalls equally that tax avoidance by wealthy individuals and corporations shifts the tax burden from larger businesses to smaller and medium-sized businesses that do not have the resources to access similar sophisticated tax planning arrangements. It also shifts the tax burden onto consumption through personal income tax and value-added tax, which is particularly problematic in LDCs where small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) and informal traders make up the bulk of economic activity and are more vulnerable to significantly reduced income and insecurity;
- 5. welcomes the continued commitment, at the highest political level of the OACPS and EU on efforts to combat all criminal activities associated with tax avoidance, money laundering and terrorist financing and to work constructively through a dialogue with the EU institutions and its Member States, as well as with other relevant bodies and development partners to address tax governance and AML/CFT issues;
- 6. recalls that domestic resources mobilisation through taxation is one of the most important source of revenue for financing sustainable development; stresses that the fight against cross-border tax evasion is crucial as a means to expand the tax base; increase tax revenue and to protect the integrity and fairness of tax systems; stresses that multinational corporations should pay taxes in the countries where economic activity occurs and value is created; in addition, stresses that multinational companies should report tax information in each country where they operate:
- 7. asserts that existing international tax rules are largely outdated and unable to address the increasing digitalisation of the economy and effectively curb tax evasion and avoidance; recalls the two-pillar solution of October 2021, agreed by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS 2.0) to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy, and the critics expressed by developing countries, including the African Tax Administration Forum, for side-lining their interests and for not sufficiently addressing the specific loopholes that limit the taxation rights of African countries; against this background, highlights the urgent need for the reform of the rules including through the implementation of the OECD/G20 global tax deal, to ensure that the international, EU and national tax systems are fit for the new economic, social and technological challenges of the 21st century; stress the importance of analysing the impact and building the capacities of OACPS Countries in order to be able to take full advantages of this reform;
- 8. welcomes the ongoing discussions at the United Nations on the adoption of a UN Tax Convention and calls on the OACPS and the EU to adopt, as appropriate, a coordinated

- approach and position in this regard;
- 9. stresses that dialogue is essential to foster mutual understanding, and therefore calls on the OACPS and the EU to engage in structured dialogue and appropriate consultations on tax and AML/CFT issues;
- 10. takes note of the European Commission package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) policy that would include establishing three AML/CFT lists, one grey and one black based on FATF lists as well as an autonomous EU listing process in order to identify specific mitigation measures and to take into account the measures already in place;
- 11. calls on the European Commission to consider listing third countries as a last resort if those countries did not address their strategic deficiencies within a given timeframe or if there is a specific threat to the EU financial system;
- 12. calls on the European Parliament in its capacity as co-legislator in the area of AML- to ensure a transparent process with clear and concrete benchmarks for countries committing to undergo reforms to avoid being listed; And, in this respect, calls for the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in its new Rules & Procedures to set up a Joint Working Group/Sub-Committee on Tax-Governance and AML/CFT with a view to the regular monitoring of the situation; Urges the European Commission to set up an "Early Alert System" in an effort to warn any member of potential risk of money laundering;
- 13. welcomes the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/229 of 7 January 2022 removing Bahamas, Ghana, Botswana and Mauritius from its list of so-called high-risk third countries concerning AML/CFT and calls the Commission to expeditiously work with the remaining countries in the said list so that that they can be removed;
- 14. calls for EU continued financial support and technical assistance to capacity building for OACPS Members, with a view to strengthening the financial governance systems in OACP countries, taking into account national specificities and contexts and encourages OACPS members and EU Member States to exchange best practices including through a dedicated virtual platform;
- 15. stresses the importance of enhanced cooperation between the OACPS and the EU in the formulation and implementation of international initiatives to avoid tax avoidance, money laundering and terrorism financing;
- 16. reiterates its call to cooperate in the fight against money-laundering and terrorism financing and commits to implement the principle of good governance in tax matters. In this respect, they agree to engage in timely, structured dialogue in a joint OACP-EU Mechanism to be set up;
- 17. supports the application of the OACPS for an observer status in the FATF;
- 18. instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the regional and national parliaments of the ACP countries and of the EU Member States,



and the regional organisations of ACP countries.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/103.281/23/final

RESOLUTION¹

on enhancing cooperation on maritime security and promoting the rule of law on the oceans

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels from 24 to 28 June 2023,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982²
- having regard to the International Maritime Organization Conventions, and their respective protocols, for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) of 1973, for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) of 1974, on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) of 1978 and for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA) of 1988,
- having regard to the UN Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships of 1986, the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) of 2000,
- having regard to the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, established in 2010, which is a
 multilateral security partnership between the United States and countries of the
 Caribbean region,
- having regard to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular sustainable development goal (SDG) 14 on life below water, and the Political Declaration of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon entitled 'Our ocean, our future, our responsibility'3,
- having regard to the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) o\f 2016,
- having regard to Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AU AIM 2050).
- having regard to its resolution on mining for oil and minerals on the seabed in the

AP103.281/final

EN

Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2023 in Brussels (Belgium)

² https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention agreements/texts/unclos/unclos e.pdf

³ https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/political-declaration

context of development of 19 March 20144,

- having regard to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, adopted in 1989,
- having regard to its resolution on the Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for ACP States of 20 December 2017⁵,
- having regard to its resolution on the challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies of 20 December 20176,
- having regard to its resolution on issues at stake and challenges linked to the rule of law in Europe and the ACP countries of 20 March 2019⁷,
- having regard to its resolution on the role parliaments can play in strengthening international security of 29 September 2021⁸,
- having regard to Articles 2, 3(1), 3(3), 3(5), 4(3), 6 and 13 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2018 on international ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs⁹,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 3 May 2022 on 'A sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors',
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 6 October 2022 on 'Momentum for the ocean: strengthening ocean governance and biodiversity',
- having regard to the joint staff report of 23 October 2020 on the implementation of the revised EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan, published by the European Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (SWD(2020)0252).
- having regard to the negotiated agreement text for a new Partnership Agreement to replace the Cotonou Partnership Agreement of 2020, as initialled by the EU and Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) chief negotiators on 15 April 2021¹⁰,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions on maritime security, adopted on 22 June 2021¹¹,

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/acp/dv/ap101546/ap101546en.pdf

⁵ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/237632/1142949en.pdf

⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/237634/1142738_en.pdf

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/237586/102754 en.pdf

⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/245827/POL 1240590-1 EN.pdf

OJ C 458, 19.12.2018, p. 9.

¹⁰ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-04/negotiated-agreement-text-initialled-by-eu-oacps-chief-negotiators-20210415 en.pdf

¹¹ https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9946-2021-INIT/en/pdf

- having regard to the Conference on Oceans Law & Policy: Peaceful Maritime Engagement in East Asia and the Pacific Region, held from 10 to 12 May 2021,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 25 January 2021 launching the pilot case of the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept in the Gulf of Guinea¹² and the Council conclusions of 21 February 2022 extending and enhancing the implementation of the Coordinated Maritime Presences Concept in the Gulf of Guinea¹³,
- having regard to the joint communication of 10 March 2023 on the update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan "An enhanced EU Maritime Strategy for evolving maritime threats" (JOIN(2023) 8 final),
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of 21 February 2022 on the implementation of the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept in the north-western Indian Ocean¹⁴,
- having regard to the joint communication of 16 September 2021 on the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (JOIN(2021)0024),
- having regard to the Outcome Declaration of the Meeting of OACPS Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture held in Accra, Ghana, from 5 to 8 April 2022¹⁵,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 7 June 2022 on the EU and the security challenges in the Indo-Pacific¹⁶,
- having regard to the joint communication of 24 June 2022 on the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda entitled 'Setting the course for a sustainable blue planet' (JOIN(2022)0028),
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/103.281),
- A. whereas 70 % of the world's surface is covered by oceans and about two thirds of the world's ocean waters are beyond national jurisdiction, also known as high seas; whereas economic growth and wealth depend on the preservation of the oceans and seas and maritime security; whereas maritime security extends far beyond the maritime sphere and is interconnected with other sectors like the blue economy, supply chains, tourism, access to and preservation of marine natural resources and crucial infrastructures like offshore and underwater infrastructures;
- B. whereas piracy, geopolitical rivalry, overfishing, organised crime, illicit marine operations like smuggling, and maritime pollution are all threats to maritime security, necessitating multiple forms of cooperation to deliver effective solutions; whereas the development, respect and enforcement of the law of the sea plays a fundamental role for human livelihood, food security, international trade, regional integration, the blue

3/9

¹² https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5387-2021-INIT/en/pdf

¹³ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54436/st06256-en22.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54437/st06255-en22.pdf

¹⁵ http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/user_files/user_15/Declaration %207thMMFA EN.pdf

¹⁶ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0224).

economy, safety and security and the protection of human rights at sea and in ports, and the preservation of biodiversity and the natural environment; whereas robust law has to provide for highest standards to protect citizens and economies from the consequences of unlawful intentional acts:

- C. whereas good ocean governance ensures, among others, that all fishers are operating under equitable conditions, guaranteeing a sustainable management of fishery resources for the benefit of all;
- D. whereas the EU disposes of a robust legal framework of rules and objectives for fisheries management and its external fisheries relations, including Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and a sophisticated regulation on combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- E. whereas the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes important legal principles; whereas other international legal instruments including on human rights and labour law need to be taken into account as well; whereas the respect for international law on the oceans depends to a large extent on the capacity and willingness of port and flag states to enforce it; whereas the EU and all its Member States and nearly all OACPS Member States have ratified UNCLOS, but only very few have ratified the UN Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships of 1986;
- F. whereas UNCLOS does not define maritime security and does not address a number of challenges which did not exist when the Convention was negotiated and signed, such as underwater drones or submarine communication cables, or were less apparent, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, overfishing and piracy, most notably through vessel hijacking for ransom or the technological advances that have led to competition to exploit marine genetic resources; whereas this highlights the need to reflect on how to complement or amend UNCLOS; whereas the Convention includes provisions on amendment;
- G. whereas the post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement, as initialled on 15 April 2021, commits the parties to strengthen maritime security, promote freedom of navigation, ocean governance and the rule of law at sea (Article 21 and 56 of the Partnership Agreement); whereas it also commits them to increase efforts in maritime law enforcement, the fight against piracy, maritime pollution and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to effectively address the increasing environmental pressures on the oceans;
- H. whereas the EU's updated maritime security strategy, presented in March 2023, will take into account an increased presence of unauthorised unmanned vehicles, as well as recurrent hybrid and cyber-attacks against maritime infrastructure, and envisages the identification of new maritime areas of interest with Coordinated Maritime Presences of the EU;
- I. whereas there is a strong connection between IUU fishing, poverty in coastal communities and transnational organised criminal activities such as drug, human, small arms and wildlife trafficking, smuggling of migrants, illegal oil bunkering, trade in contraband goods, piracy and armed robbery at sea, document fraud and money laundering; whereas IUU destroys fish stocks, distorts competition and weakens coastal

communities, particularly in developing countries;

- J. whereas according to UNEP and Interpol, IUU fishing accounted for between USD 11 billion and USD 24 billion in losses for the countries concerned in 2016;
- K. whereas tax evasion and corruption facilitate IUU fishing, which often goes hand in hand with human rights abuses, especially human trafficking and modern slavery;
- L. whereas human trafficking and forced labour in the fisheries sector are serious problems that warrant attention and commitments on the part of governments;
- M. whereas human rights are universal and apply at sea as on land as enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the EU Charter for Human Rights, the African Charter of Human and Peoples' rights and the Caricom Charter of Civil Society; whereas it is estimated that more than 30 million people are at sea at any given time¹⁷, including fishing, cargo and cruise shipping crews, tourists, migrants and offshore platform workers; whereas poor working conditions, forced labour, child labour and other severe human rights abuses and crimes often remain invisible and unaddressed due to the flag state principle, 'flags of convenience' and the flag states' incapacity or unwillingness to act on them; whereas port states are becoming less able to intervene due to the practice of refuelling at sea; whereas forced labour and human trafficking at sea is frequently linked to other forms of transnational organised crime; whereas maritime security threats differ between countries and regions;
- N. whereas according to the World Shipping Council (WSC), an average of 779 containers were lost each year between 2017 and 2019¹⁸; whereas this loss represents a danger to maritime safety, a source of environmental pollution and a considerable financial cost;
- O. whereas the consequences of the pollution and safety problems in terms of navigation caused by the loss of a single container can be disastrous from an environmental point of view;
- P. whereas technological advancements and modern cybercrime tools have changed the character of maritime threats including from now on cyber-attacks against vessels and port systems and the use of automated systems such as drones and maritime autonomous vessels by criminal groups for illegal activities;
- Q. whereas maritime crimes are becoming more and more innovative and are executed in an increasingly sophisticated manner using the latest technologies;
- 1. Calls on the EU and OACPS countries to bring together, before the end of 2023, various stakeholders with a view to developing further actions in order to operationalise the new maritime security and ocean governance dimension of the OACPS-EU Partnership and to sharing practices and developing capacity jointly with OACPS Member States across

ΕN

^{17 &#}x27;https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9005/documents/159002/default/

¹⁸ https://www.iims.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/World-Shipping-Council-containers-lost-at-sea-2020.pdf

the regions;

- 2. Encourages the EU to pursue efforts in its external fisheries relations, through its action in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, and in its fight against IUU fishing, to build the necessary conditions and capacity of its partner countries to guarantee good oceans' governance, operationalisation of an Electronic Reporting System on catches and positions of fishing vessels in any fishing zone and a level-playing field for all operators:
- 3. Underlines the importance of freedom of navigation, maritime security, protection of undersea infrastructures, and the rule of law for regional and continental integration and connectivity, trade and development in African, Caribbean and Pacific and EU countries in particular with respect to national and international laws;
- 4. Stresses the necessity to fight piracy by addressing its root causes on land, in particular by developing relevant domestic legislations, regional cooperation and capacity building, especially for states lacking adequate resources to address the root causes of piracy;
- 5. Points out that around 24 000 people die in the global fisheries sector each year as a result of accidents and events at sea; stresses the importance of standardising international standards for the training of fishing vessel crews and seafarers;
- 6. Calls for the EU Member States and like-minded non-EU countries to scale-up cooperation and develop comprehensive support, including as security providers, to small island developing states, in view of their maritime security needs and the need for the law of the sea to be respected by all states and non-state actors with maritime presence; underlines that permanent UN Security Council members must be expected to comply with the law of the sea to the same extent as all other UN member states;
- 7. Reminds the EU and ACP countries of the need to ratify the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) in order to enhance the qualifications of seafarers and to improve maritime safety and protection of the marine environment; notes that, to date, it has been ratified by just 26 countries, including eight EU Member States;
- 8. Encourages EU and OACPS Member States to scale-up efforts to address maritime security challenges resulting from a lack of enforcement of obligations stemming from 'flags of convenience'; stresses the need to limit flags of convenience and reflagging, and to tackle transhipment at sea, which are important tools for closing IUU loopholes; calls on the Commission to provide support for OACPS states in this regard and to strengthen the implementation of the 'genuine link' requirement provided for in UNCLOS; urges all parties to the future Partnership Agreement to ratify the UN Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships;
- 9. Points out that IUU fishing poses a threat to food security and the livelihoods of people in coastal countries, while creating fertile ground for piracy; emphasises that a strong sanction system and a multidimensional approach are thus needed to combat IUU fishing and other related crimes;

- 10. Recalls the importance of building upon existing synergies and of promoting complementarity as well as coherence when devising national, regional and international strategies; underlines the importance to ensure that the shared and common vision of combatting maritime crime is not inadvertently diluted by variations in national legal systems; strongly encourages a close regional coordination and urges the EU and OACPS Member States to respect the rule of law in order to fight against corruption;
- 11. Urges the EU and the ACP countries to develop a human rights-based approach to ocean governance and the blue economy, supporting the food sovereignty of local fishing communities and the safety and well-being of sea workers;
- 12. Urges the Council, the Commission and the OACPS and EU countries to integrate measures into the wider maritime policy frameworks which actively contribute to upholding human rights at sea and addressing human rights abuses, including modern slavery, sexual abuse, child labour and to address human rights violations of mercenaries at sea; whereas these measures should include, but not be limited to, improvements in port state controls and flag states' capacity-building and cooperation, as well as sanctions in cases of severe negligence by ship owners, and failure of timely reporting of catches and involvement in IUU fishing;
- 13. Stresses the need to support and defend the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, whose rights to occupy, access and use ocean resources should be protected, as provided for in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- 14. Invites the Commission, the EEAS and EU and OACPS Member States to address gaps in internal maritime law stemming from technological advances such as refuelling at sea ('bunkering'), the advent of maritime autonomous vehicles and the impossibility of ensuring compliance and enforcement under current rules; calls for a dramatic increase in capacity-building activities and technology transfer from partner countries to implement and strengthen an integrated regional Maritime Domain Awareness programme as a response strategy and a "precondition" for improved ocean governance that delivers on the local needs;
- 15. Calls on EU and OACPS Member States to scale-up efforts to effectively prevent and combat human and labour rights abuses at sea through enhanced regulation and enforcement of health, safety and labour standards, coordination of port state control, monitoring of private recruitment agencies, transparency across the value chain and access to information and support services; urges all parties to the future OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement to ratify and to effectively implement International Labour Organization conventions ensuring the health, safety and decent working conditions of seafarers and fishers, prohibiting access to our ports for ships whose working and safety conditions violate those conventions and to work towards a common understanding of human rights standards in maritime practices and affairs;
- 16. Calls on the EU to strengthen the social conditions of employment in maritime transport by implementing the provisions of the International Labour Organization's 2006 Maritime Labour Convention, which are not yet covered by EU legislation (recruitment,

- wages, social security and coverage of accidents at work as well as the pension system);
- 17. Underlines the importance of correct, relevant and verifiable data on all maritime activities and the need to avoid statistical discrepancies;
- 18. Reminds the EU and ACP countries of the importance of ratifying the 2013 Maritime Labour Convention, which establishes a minimum wage and provides that the basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service for an able seafarer should be no less than the amount periodically set by the Joint Maritime Commission or another body authorised by the Governing Body of the ILO;
- 19. Calls on states to provide for and ensure the correct and relevant training of staff and maritime workers in the field of human rights and labour rights, in an effort to align their activities with international standards on justice and the law of the sea;
- 20. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to strengthen controls on on-board working conditions by prioritising hours of work and rest, as well as the assessment of well-being at work and the health of crews;
- 21. Calls on the governments of the EU and ACP countries to ratify and fully implement the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No 188);
- 22. Calls on the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to revise certain environmental and safety guidelines, such as the guidelines on marine accident investigations;
- 23. Welcomes the continued contribution of European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Atalanta to maritime security in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa waters and its contribution to fighting piracy and other forms of maritime crime; welcomes the extension of EUNAVFOR Atalanta's activities until 31 December 2024; urges the EU however to consider, jointly with the countries concerned, extending the area of operations to include the Mozambique Channel; welcomes also the EU's Coordinated Maritime Presences tool, launched in 2021, in the Gulf of Guinea;
- 24. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to strengthen anti-corruption capacities by encouraging national interinstitutional cooperation and stepping-up international cooperation, improving fishing agent controls, and supporting regional monitoring, control and surveillance centres and working groups;
- 25. Draws attention to the gradual and just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources; calls on states to ensure the protection of offshore windfarms and the transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas and oil in order to guarantee continuous energy supply;
- 26. Calls on the EU and OACPS states to comply with existing sea law, national, regional and human rights law and to guarantee the operational space for civil and national activities to secure lives at sea;
- 27. Calls for the EU to closely coordinate its positions in maritime policy forums with the OACPS and to seek common positions;
- 28. Welcomes the landmark agreement reached on 4 March, 2023 on a new legally binding

international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and calls for its swift ratification and implementation, given the crucial role of the high seas ecosystems in food security and the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss;

- 29. Calls on the EU to make public aid for European ship owners conditional on compliance with social and environmental criteria;
- 30. Emphasises the link between maritime security and ocean resilience, particularly the fact that maritime crime poses a major threat to ocean sustainability and that coastal communities are most affected due to their dependent nature on the ocean; urges for the need to complement integrated ocean management with a criminal justice approach with a view to addressing crime and illegality; highlights the urgency for strengthened partnerships and inter-agency collaboration to control illegal trade in plastic waste, as well as the need to accelerate efforts by state parties to implement obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions;
- 31. Supports the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy, which was established as a tool to address Africa's maritime challenges for sustainable development and competitiveness and seeks to foster more wealth creation from Africa's oceans, seas, and inland waterways by developing a thriving maritime economy and maximising the potential of sea-based activities in a way that is environmentally sustainable;
- 32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU 103.050/23/final

RESOLUTION¹

on the humanitarian and security situation in Haiti

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels (Belgium) from 24 to 28 June 2023,
- having regard to the Partnership agreement of 23 June 2000 between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part (the Cotonou Agreement)²,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 6 October 2022 on the situation of human rights in Haiti in particular related to gang violence³,
- having regard to the latest statements by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the situation in Haiti,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy made during the 3199th Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 19 November 2012.
- having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High
 Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell of
 20 May 2021 at the European Parliament plenary on the humanitarian situation in Haiti,
- having regard to the 2020-2024 EU action plan on human rights and democracy.
- having regard to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948.
- having regard to the statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
 Volker Türk of 3 November 2022 entitled 'Haiti: International community must act now to avert tragedy',

1/5 AP103.050/final **EN**

EN

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2023 in Brussels (Belgium).

² OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

³ OJ C 132, 14.4.2023, p. 74.

- having regard to the conclusions of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,
 Volker Türk, following his visit to Haiti on 10 February 2023, and to his latest quarterly report of 9 May 2023,
- having regard to the statement by the UN Economic and Social Council of
 November 2022 calling on the international community to urgently support Haiti's humanitarian efforts,
- having regard to UN Security Council resolutions 2645 (2022) and 2653 (2022) of
 15 July 2022 and 21 October 2022, respectively
- having regard to the latest quarterly report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) on the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) of 14 April 2023,
- having regard to the statement by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti Helen La Lime of 21 December 2022 at the 9233rd meeting of the Security Council on the question concerning Haiti,
- having regard to the report of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian
 Affairs of 30 April 2023 on the humanitarian crisis in Haiti,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Haiti is currently facing one of the most severe humanitarian, security, political and economic crises in its history;
- B. whereas Haiti is ranked 163 out of 191 countries on the Human Development Index and remains the poorest country in the Americas and among the poorest nations in the world;
- C. whereas almost half of the Haitian population is in need of humanitarian assistance; whereas the food security monitoring report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization/World Food Programme of April 2023 states that by June 2023, 4.9 million people could be affected by acute food insecurity;
- D. whereas in January 2023, the Haitian government reported 25 803 suspected cases of cholera, after a period of three years where no cases had been detected; whereas this situation has been aggravated by the appearance of a new cholera strain resulting in the death of 2 000 Haitians;
- E. whereas the violence in Haiti is strongly linked to armed gangs, some of which are supported and funded by the local oligarchy; whereas these armed gangs have paralysed the country by taking over large swathes and isolating neighbourhoods, obstructing the freedom of movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid, fuelling the resurgence of cholera, increasing food insecurity, displacing 155 000 people and disrupting the education of thousands of children; whereas there are also alarming

2/5 AP103.050/final

EN EN

- levels of sexual and gender-based violence and targeted kidnappings, which are being used as weapons to inflict severe pain and to instil fear among the population;
- F. whereas natural and humanitarian disasters, security and political crises, among others, have pushed many to flee leading to increasing internal and external displacements of people, further deepening the migration crisis currently affecting the region; whereas this situation is affecting particularly neighbouring developing countries which are seeing their capacities to deal with illegal migration surpassed:
- G. whereas insecurity has also been fuelled by protests held against the rampant inflation, allegations of systematic government corruption and food insecurity; whereas these protests have also claimed lives, mainly owing to the disproportionate use of force by the police; whereas political violence has also been documented with the killing of prominent political leaders and journalists;
- H. whereas the situation of extreme poverty makes Haiti highly vulnerable to natural disasters, notably earthquakes and hurricanes; whereas in 2021, an earthquake killed 2 000 people and wrought new devastation on a part of the country that had been hit just five years previously by a Category 5 hurricane;
- I. whereas the root cause of Haiti's protracted crises is a governance deficit, notably the lack of any democratically elected officials; whereas the ongoing political crisis is linked to and commensurate with the deterioration of all social, economic, security and human rights indicators;
- J. whereas the security context heavily affects the objectives of EU engagement with Haiti, including the roll out of a development agenda focusing on sustainable and transformative results on issues such as education and food security; whereas it also affects the efforts of the European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid operations;
- K. whereas it is the responsibility of the members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the EU Member States, in accordance with their obligations under various conventions, to promote and protect human rights as well as working to strengthen the rule of law where it is deficient;
- 1. Strongly condemns the acts of violence and destruction carried out by gangs in Haiti; deplores the looting of food and humanitarian aid supplies and the attacks against civilians and humanitarian aid workers;
- 2. Reiterates its concern over the deteriorating humanitarian, political and security situation and the repeated allegations of the complicity of public authorities in this violence and the negative impact this has on the daily lives of Haitians; calls for urgent and sustained action to tackle the root causes of the overlapping crises afflicting Haiti;
- 3. Regrets the fact that efforts to engage in dialogue have failed to create consensus on a way forward; underlines that, in order to prevent further instability and suffering, all parties involved must abstain from violence; calls for a frank, open and inclusive inter-Haitian dialogue in order to provide lasting solutions to the current political, economic and humanitarian crises;

3/5 AP103.050/final

EN EN

- 4. Calls on all stakeholders in Haiti to establish a durable, time-bound and commonly accepted solution to the current political impasse in order to allow for inclusive and transparent legislative and presidential elections, in line with recognised international standards; underlines that this solution must be Haitian-led, with the full and equal participation of women, young people, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, in order to restore democratic institutions and to address the social and economic challenges;
- 5. Calls on the international community to provide humanitarian food assistance and to help tackle food insecurity, particularly in view of the blockade of the food-producing areas by gangs; insists, in view of the serious food crisis, that specific attention be paid to emergency food aid, while giving priority to the purchase of local food so as not to undermine the country's small-scale farmers and sustainable local farming methods;
- 6. Stresses further the importance of harmonised and strengthened international efforts and solidarity in this regard, notably the development of EU public diplomacy in the field of human rights in Haiti, in line with the principles of the post-Cotonou agreement and the 2020-2024 EU action plan on human rights and democracy;
- 7. Condemns the repression of peaceful protests and the alleged use of deadly force against protesters; urges the Haitian authorities to conduct effective and thorough investigations into these crimes and to respect fundamental rights, freedom of expression and freedom of association; underlines the need for coordinated and targeted international action to assist Haiti in addressing its current humanitarian challenges; supports the appointment of an independent human rights expert on Haiti as called for in the UN Human Rights Council resolution of 4 April 2023; notes that this expert will focus on the situation of children and of human trafficking and provide advice and technical assistance to the Haitian Government, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations to help promote and protect human rights;
- 8. Underlines the importance of reconstructing Haiti in the framework of the partnership established in the post-Cotonou agreement and in the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy that was developed at the EU-Cariforum summit in Madrid;
- 9. Reiterates the EU's commitment to help the country through humanitarian aid and development cooperation; calls on EU and OACPS member states to support the restoration of peace in Haiti and to participate in the process in order to ensure an effective political dialogue, to find political solutions, to contribute to Haiti's long-term development and to reinforce the rule of law;
- 10. Welcomes UN Security Council resolution 2653 (2022) of 21 October 2022 establishing a sanctions regime that targets individuals and entities engaging in or supporting criminal activity and violence; notes that this is a critical tool in combating corruption and impunity and an important step in restoring democratically elected institutions; calls for the EU and its Member States to take appropriate measures, including asset freezes and travel bans, through the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, against those engaged in or supporting gang violence, criminal activities or human rights abuses, including corruption;
- 11. Invites the Haitian Government to firmly commit to strengthening the judicial system

EN AP103.050/final EN

and other accountability mechanisms, including by establishing specialised judicial divisions to address gang-related crimes; calls on EU and OACPS member states to provide accompanying measures in the form of technical support to Haiti to address the need for a comprehensive approach, including by investing in the national police, reforming the criminal justice system and combating corruption;

- 12. Expresses its grave concern about the situation of Haitian migrants; calls on the international community to enhance cooperation in order to ensure the safety and protection of migrants fleeing Haiti in line with international law and norms;
- 13. Calls on the the international community to provide effective assistance to the Haitian border patrol agents and coast guard in order to stem the flow of drugs and firearms into the region and to dismantle transnational crime, thereby countering the influence of armed gangs in the country;
- 14. Strongly welcomes efforts by the Haitian government, with support from international actors and local civil society, to address the humanitarian needs of the population; calls for more solidarity with the Haitian people and increased support for the humanitarian and cholera response in Haiti; highlights the importance of the main civil society actors, including faith based organisations, trade unions, human rights organisations and non-governmental organisations; calls on the authorities to restore the power and legitimacy of public institutions, to regain the population's confidence and to put an end to impunity;
- 15. Supports the request set out in the European Parliament resolution of 20 May 2021 and not yet carried out, for an audit and report by the European Court of Auditors on the use of EU funds in Haiti; demands an inquiry into the transparency and effectiveness of the European Commission's strategy in Haiti;
- 16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, its Council of Ministers, the institutions of the CARIFORUM, and the Government and Parliament of Haiti.

5/5 AP103.050/final

WOMENS FORUM 28TH JUNE 2023 BRUSSELS

1. The Women's Forum of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly was held on 28th June 2023 in the European Parliament building room SPAAKSB1.

It was Co-Chaired by Max Orville for EU and Cecilia Atim Ogwal for OACPS.

On the panel to make presentations on the Theme: How building a feminist Foreign Policy can help ACP-EU to achieve the SDGS were:

- Ms Elizabeth Moremo, former Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity
- Ms Jannet Kem, UN Women Country Representative in Rwanda
- Ms Radka Maxova, Vice Chair of the European Parliamentary Committee on women's rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)
- 2. The meeting recalled the long journey the Women's Forum walked from the informal discussions culminating into the Maputo Charter in October 2022, when the Forum was formally mainstreamed and institutionalised. The forum celebrates one of its greatest achievements to have the first Female President of the OACPS Group and Co-President of the OACPS EU –JPA, Rt Hon Ana Rita Sithole.
- 3. With the Feminist lenses, the Women's Forum, after a long discussion resolved Action Plans anchored upon 10 pillars summarised as (5E's) and (5I's)

10 PILLARS OF ACTION PLANS BY 2025

5 E'S:

- Eliminate gender bias at all levels of the society.
- Eliminate gender inspired violence.
- Eliminate child marriages.
- Eliminate mother and child mortality.
- Eliminate Genital Mutilation.

<u>51'S</u>

- Increase Resource Allocation towards Girl Child Education.
- Increase Efforts towards Economic Empowerment Of Women.
- Increase Access to capital including land.

• Increase Participation of Women in conflict management and conflict resolution.

Conclusion

Now that the Women's Forum is formally mainstreamed all member states are urged to formulate policies to address Gender parity.

The leadership of OACPS – EU - JPA was urged to formulate a work plan with budget estimates to address these TEN PILLARS with an inbuilt monitoring mechanism.

The 10 pillars are drivers towards the achievement of SDG 5. The Women's Forum is mindful of the fact that Women in the Caribbean, Pacific and African regions still face peculiar challenges that require immediate attention by all strata of Leadership and innovative solutions.

All member states are urged to develop feminist policies that can holistically implement the 10 Pillars and create enabling environment conducive to empowering women by eliminating challenging traditional and societal prejudices, allowing human norms and transforming power dynamics for the overall development of our societies.

ATIM OGWAL CECILIA BARBARA CO CHAIR WOMENS FORUM

OACPS - EU -JPA

JULY 2023