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*PAHD Dept.*

**Khartoum, 8 December 2006**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUMMIT  
OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**KHARTOUM, SUDAN**

**7 and 8 December 2006**

**KHARTOUM DECLARATION**

## **KHARTOUM DECLARATION**

### **I. PREAMBLE**

**We, Heads of State and Government of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, meeting in our 5<sup>th</sup> Summit in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, on 7 and 8 December 2006:**

**Reaffirming** our commitments made in the Libreville Declaration, Santo Domingo Declaration and Plan of Action, Nadi Declaration and the Maputo Declaration;

**Reaffirming** also that the strength of our countries lies in their common history, unity and solidarity, diverse rich cultures and shared vision of the future;

**Committing** to maintain and further strengthen the unity and cohesion of the ACP Group through, inter alia, increased intra-ACP political dialogue;

**Reiterating** that our countries, with more than 11% of global population, should play a more prominent role in international affairs;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the objectives and principles enshrined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;

**Reiterating** the need to ensure that Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are tools for sustainable development within the framework of ACP-EU Partnership;

**Recalling** the commitments and undertakings made at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, the Barbados Plan of Action on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the Brussels Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

**Recalling** the outcome of the UN Summit in September 2005 on measures to achieve the MDGs within the remaining ten years of the agreed time-line of 2015;

**Reaffirming** our determination to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and emphasizing the importance of availability of additional financial resources and trading opportunities to the achievement of these goals;

**Recalling** the outcomes of the G-8 Summits at Kananaskis (2002) and Gleneagles (2005) on the Plan of Action for Africa, doubling of the development aid budget, and cancellation of the outstanding external debts of countries eligible to the Initiative for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and other highly indebted countries;

**Welcoming** the EU's MDG package of 2005 on five key areas, namely: (a) accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals, (b) financing for development, (c) trade and development, (d) policy coherence for development, and (e) focus on Africa;

**Emphasising** that Globalisation presents not only opportunities, but important challenges for the ACP Group, which must seek to ensure that no member of the Group is marginalised in the process;

**Committing** ourselves to reducing the digital divide in order to end the marginalisation of the ACP States in the Information Society and the management of world affairs;

**Noting** the dramatic and protracted rise in the price of oil, and its long-term consequences on the economies of the ACP States;

**Committing** ourselves to global peace, security and stability in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations (UN);

**Recognizing** that global climate change is rapidly emerging as one of the greatest threat to humankind and in particular the survival of Small Island Development States (SIDS);

**Recognizing** that multilateralism and multilateral cooperation play an important role in supporting efforts to promote good governance and democracy, and facilitate dialogue and cooperation on the regional, economic, social, and cultural arena;

**Reiterating** that democratic governance requires the responsible participation of all social actors in building the necessary consensus to strengthen our democracies;

**Reiterating** our deep concern over tensions in regional and international political and economic spheres that have potential adverse consequences for peace, security, stability and sustainable development of our societies;

**Reiterating** the value of dialogue among cultures as a fundamental principle for promoting understanding among peoples, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and as a cornerstone for equitable and sustainable development; and

**Committing** ourselves to take all measures, including participatory development approach and especially within the Group, consistent with the theme of our Summit, ***“United for Peace, Solidarity and Sustainable Development”***, to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, peace and stability for all our communities.

**Hereby declare as follows:**

**II. PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY**

1. Emphasize that in order to progress towards achieving peace and international security, sustainable development and equitable social progress, it is important to effectively strengthen the multilateral system, with the United Nations organisation as the core.
2. Reaffirm our deep commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of Human Rights. We undertake to contribute to the promotion of international peace and justice in the framework of the relevant international conventions.
3. Renew our resolve to continue to strengthen our regional mechanisms for the consolidation of peace, and conflict resolution as well as the ACP early warning mechanism and Facility in support of peace in Africa, which must be developed into an "All ACP" Peace Support Facility;
4. Reaffirm the importance of peace, security and stability for the sustainable development of our countries, and we undertake to reinforce and deepen intra-ACP political dialogue.
5. Reiterate our full support to the efforts of the Government of National Unity and the people of the Sudan to achieve comprehensive peace and stability in all parts of that country and express full support to the positive role played by the African Union to that end. We encourage the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations to pursue negotiations with a view to stabilizing the Darfur region.
6. Condemn all and any attempts to seize power by unconstitutional means and agree not to recognize regimes that result from such situations.
7. Reiterate our firm condemnation of all acts of terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations, wherever they are committed and by whomever they are committed, and we pledge to continue strengthening cooperation among States and Regions so as to effectively prevent, suppress and eliminate this scourge.

8. Reaffirm the need to ensure that those who commit acts of terrorism do not go unpunished and we urge all States, in accordance with the obligations imposed by international law, to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism. Those who support or facilitate the financing, planning, preparation or the commission of acts of terrorism or the provision of safe haven to terrorists or who participate or attempt to participate in terrorist acts, should be identified, arrested, denied safe haven, and brought to justice on the basis of the principle of prosecution and extradition.
9. Renew our conviction of the need for cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect between people and cultures as pillars for building a peaceful and tolerant world.
10. Reiterate our condemnation of genocide, revisionism and denial of genocide, ethnic cleansing and all crimes against humanity, and demand that perpetrators of these crimes be punished in accordance with international law. We further call for the avoidance of double standards in the international community's response to these crimes and stress that the shared responsibility to protect vulnerable populations must be governed by the relevant provisions of the UN Charter.
11. Reiterate our full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference, as well as the right of every people for self determination, for their own political system, in peace, stability and justice,
12. Reiterate our full commitment of ensuring good governance through popular participation based on the respect for human rights and dignity, free and fair elections, as well as respect for the principles of freedom of the press, speech, association and conscience.
13. Support the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and to ensure that all States establish common standards for specific mechanisms to control the illicit trade in firearms.

### **III. MULTILATERALISM**

14. Undertake to fully promote democracy, social rights and equal economic rights for people as the mainstay for peace and stability in the ACP States.
15. Reaffirm the necessity of working together towards the establishment of a system of international relations characterized by the principle of justice, equality, solidarity, development, an absence of war and all forms of intolerance, and based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the equal rights of peoples to self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and in accordance with International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.
16. Reiterate our commitment to promote intra-ACP cooperation, and scientific, technical and cultural exchanges among our States; and to promote, in our education systems, a culture of peace, and integral human development as a means of consolidating a healthy, secure and peaceful life.
17. Strongly reject the application of unilateral and extraterritorial laws and measures contrary to International Law, freedom of markets, shipping and world trade. We voice our profound concern on additional measures which reinforce and expand the scope of these legislations, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and we therefore urge the government of the United States of America to bring its application to an end. We condemn the use of unilateral coercive measures such as illegal sanctions against certain developing countries with a view to preventing these countries from the exercise of their right to determine their own political, economic and social system, since they put at risk the sovereignty of States, violate the principles and aims of the United Nations, the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States and represent a grave threat to multilateralism.
18. Renew our calls for a world economic order that will promote economic growth with equity, trade liberalisation for products from our States and regions, and an increasing flow of investments into our States and Regions.

19. Affirm the need to promote initiatives to achieve the realisation of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through enhancing the Group's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a priority, which should take into account the need for the developing and developed countries, and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their resources to effectively address development imbalances between developed and developing countries.

#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

20. Re-emphasise that the global community must address the issues of poverty and underdevelopment for the achievement of sustained and lasting peace and stability.
21. Emphasise that the eradication of poverty is an indispensable prerequisite for development and a vital step that will create conditions for individuals and peoples to live in dignified and sustainable environment. Effective strategies for the eradication of poverty must respond to social and economic priorities in respective countries, and in this regard, we call upon the international community to categorically reject the imposition of any conditionalities by governments or international financial institutions in the provision of assistance for the eradication of poverty.
22. Further emphasise that poverty is incompatible with democracy and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; it is the duty of the international community to assist national efforts aimed at its eradication.
23. Reaffirm our commitment to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that our sustainable development efforts lead to the achievement of the MDGs. We therefore call on development partners to provide support and fulfil their international commitments to developing countries with special consideration to Small Island Development States (SIDS) pursuant to the UN sponsored Barbados and Mauritius Declarations, and post-conflict countries to enable peace and security issues be elevated and consolidated.
24. Remain seized of the primary responsibility of developing countries for their development and the crucial importance of national ownership for development, and further reaffirm that national development efforts need to be complemented and supported by an enabling international economic environment, which ensures that developing countries have the required policy space to formulate and pursue their national development strategies.
25. Stress the crucial role of efficient, reliable and cost-effective transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in supporting continued growth in order to meet the challenges of globalization.

26. Recognise the urgent need to deepen the regional processes of cooperation and economic integration, in order to promote more just, supportive and equitable societies, in which the full realization of human potentials and the comprehensive response to human needs constitute the motivation and the leading principle of our efforts.
27. Assert that only through a process of integration based on cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility and benefits, we will overcome current obstacles and meet the needs and expectations of the African, Caribbean and Pacific peoples to foster recognition and respect for their identity, heritage and independence and to jointly advance towards higher levels of progress and well being for all.

A. ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

(i) Finance for Development

28. Reaffirm our commitment to implementing the development consensus based on mutual responsibility and accountability as agreed in Monterrey at the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002).
29. Welcome the renewed global commitment to fulfil the Monterrey commitments on substantial increase in development aid budgets by developed countries, and welcome the decision of the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles to double development aid for Africa amounting to US\$ 50 billion per year by 2010.
30. Welcome equally the commitments made by the European Union and its Member States to scale-up its development aid budgets, and to attain a new collective EU target of 0.56% gross national income (GNI) for ODA by 2010, as well as the internationally agreed ODA target of 0,7% ODA/GNI by 2015, and that as from this date, they undertake to reach the 1% target by 2020 at the latest.
31. Note the financial commitments of the European Union in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF resources.

32. Welcome the EU's initiative to establish and implement cooperation strategies for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific Regions of the ACP Group and South Africa, which build on the premises of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.
33. Welcome the Decisions of the EC and EU Member States to use general budget support as one of the modalities for disbursing Community Aid to cost effectively finance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development priorities including the adjustment costs of EPAs. Further, call upon these development partners to de-link political conditionalities from general budget support and thereby make this modality a predictable instrument.
34. Call on our European partners to consider the important role played by the EIB in supporting the private sector and the economic sector for national development by taking account of the major challenges posed by the EPAs; further, call on our European partners and the management of the EIB to simplify the financial procedures for the resources destined for the ACP countries to facilitate wider accessibility to these resources.
35. Reaffirm our commitment to pursue and promote the achievement of true social equality within the ACP States, particularly as regards transparency in the management of state affairs and the promotion of sustainable development.
36. Commend the developed countries that have already achieved the goal of 0.7% ODA/GNI and have committed to maintain their ODA at least at that level and those that have established firm timetables to achieve this target by 2015.
37. Call upon the G-8 and other developed countries that have not made firm commitments and time-tables for achieving the 0.7% GNI/ODA by 2015 to do so in the spirit of meeting their commitments made in Monterrey.
38. Call upon the leaders of the G-8 Leaders at their next Summits to make progress on their commitments for Africa, and on scaling-up development aid budgets.

39. Reiterate that increased ODA by developed countries should be accompanied by harmonisation and simplification of access procedures and processes, and the increasing utilization of procurement systems of developing countries that would ensure quick accessibility and timely disbursement of resources for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.
40. Urge that additional aid flows should support strengthening infra-structure and internal investment climates in ACP States to enable these countries to reduce poverty through strong economic growth.
41. Call upon the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Regional Development Banks to assist ACP States to rapidly develop and improve their procurement and financial systems in order to facilitate greater absorption and harmonisation.
42. Welcome the decision of the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles (2005) to cancel the outstanding external debts of the HIPCs and other highly indebted countries, and urge the international community, particularly the major creditor countries, to cancel the debts of ACP States, noting the negative impact of the debt burden, both domestic and external, on our efforts to achieve the MDGs. The cancellation of these debts will release much needed resources to finance our efforts to achieve the MDGs to which we are all committed.
43. Commend the decision of the shareholders of the IMF, World Bank and the African Development Bank for implementing the decision of the G-8 Summit (Gleneagles) by providing immediate debt relief to the HIPCs and other highly indebted poor countries through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).
44. Attach great importance to addressing the problem of debt, faced by a number of countries and which requires continued engagement of the international community, in order to find durable and equitable solutions, emphasising that creditors and debtors must share responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations in a timely and efficient manner.

45. Reiterate the importance of addressing internal debt, and acknowledge its negative impact on sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty in our States.
46. Endorse the Brussels Declaration on “Leveraging Development Financing Cooperation and Opportunities” issued by the ACP Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs at their 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held from 27 to 28 April 2006 in Brussels, Belgium.
47. Express concern that the difficulties faced by middle-income countries in sustaining and financing their further development is not receiving the attention it merits from the international community.
48. Urge the international community to fully take into consideration the related recommendations contained in the Brussels Declaration on “Leveraging Development Financing Cooperation and Opportunities”, and request it to adopt the necessary measures to bring their external aid and development financing policies, including the criteria used to determine ODA beneficiary countries, in line with the recommendations in order to allow middle-income countries to also benefit.
49. Emphasise the urgent need for the international community to address the impending high economic costs created by the external shocks due to the protracted rise in oil prices, high frequency of natural disasters including those being provoked by climate change, fluctuation in commodity prices in international markets, erosion of preferences in the context of trade liberalisation, avian flu, and other diseases and other phenomena, and many others, in order to promote the growth prospects of the developing countries.
50. Reaffirm the Monterrey commitments on the reform of the international financial architecture in the framework of the ongoing restructuring of the UN.
51. Reiterate the importance of securing reforms of the international financial architecture for an effective voice and participation of developing countries in the decision-making processes of the World Bank and the IMF, and the full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus with the view to creating stability, reducing the risk of economic and financial crisis, and enhancing the capacity of developing countries to respond to such crises.

52. Reaffirm our commitment to fully participate in the review of the progress in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, and mandate the ACP Council of Ministers to make the appropriate preparations for a collective approach to that review.

(ii) Private Sector Development

53. Commit to creating suitable conditions for the enhancement of the private sector, which are essential for economic growth and sustainable development.

54. Reaffirm our commitment to ensure an enabling environment in our States and Regions to encourage increased levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including intra-ACP direct investments.

(iii) Trade and Development

55. Underscore the pivotal role that international trade can play in the economic growth and development of our countries. We recognize that due to the special problems that our countries face because of being least developed, islands, small, landlocked and vulnerable to the vagaries of weather, we need to redouble our own efforts to avoid the risk of further marginalization in international trade. We underline the vital role that trade can play in facilitating achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by our countries.

56. Acknowledge the importance of South–South collaboration, and in particular intra–ACP cooperation as an avenue for enhancing trade, social and economic development of our countries, and recommit ourselves to continue to promote business and investment programmes among and between ACP States and Regions.

57. Underscore the need to promote greater policy coherence between the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO for the objective of promoting; without additional conditionalities, consistent and mutually supportive policies that will lead to improved coordination, technical and financial assistance, and reduction of the debt burden, including indulging debt cancellation.

58. Emphasize the significance of a well-functioning multilateral trading system based on fair, equitable, transparent, flexible and predictable rules. Therefore, we view with grave concern the stalemate and suspense of the Doha Round Negotiations within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and note the significant bearing that this suspension will have on EPA negotiations. We urge all WTO members to recommit themselves to the successful conclusion of the WTO negotiations in line with the development mandate of the Doha Round.
59. Reiterate the importance of enhancing special, differential and more favourable treatment, and securing development policy space as part of a stable multilateral trading system. We further reiterate that trade liberalization in our countries within the framework of the WTO and under EPAs should be properly sequenced and progressive, and needs to be accompanied by adequate supportive measures that address supply-side constraints, improve competitiveness, and strengthen the capacity to trade.
60. Express our grave concern over the continuing erosion of the traditional preferences which under the ACP-EU Commodity Protocols have sustained ACP exports of bananas and sugar to the EU markets. We urge the EU to declare these as sensitive products, baring in mind the significance of this historical trade in ACP-EU relations, as well as its critical role in the socio-economic development in ACP countries. We also urge the EU to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of adequate resources to boost the competitiveness of ACP banana and sugar trade and to support their diversification programmes.
61. Urge ACP negotiators to ensure coherence and consistency in addressing issues of interest and concern to the ACP States. In this regard, we urge our negotiators to ensure that there is continued and adequate coordination in both the WTO and EPA processes.

62. Note with concern that despite an undertaking in the Cotonou Agreement to identify alternative trade arrangements equivalent to existing situation for non LDC ACP States not in a position to enter into an EPA, the European Commission has so far not presented any option to the ACP Group besides EPAs. In this regard, call on the European Commission to implement of the provisions of Article 37.6 of the Cotonou Agreement, and propose alternatives to EPAs so that, in accordance with Article 34 of Cotonou, the ACP concerned have the options to make a political choice on these development models.
63. Request the European Union to keep the 24% MFN tariff on its imports of canned tuna and to negotiate a 'curve out' for canned tuna sector from the application of the Swiss formula, to take fully into account the effect of preference erosion, as well as ensuring that in any negotiations with non-ACP countries including the ASEAN countries, canned tuna must be excluded from the scope of a possible Free Trade Agreement.
64. Urge that EPAs must grant an appropriate degree, timing and pacing of market opening for the ACP States. This is necessary to attenuate the costs of liberalization that would otherwise be substantial, given the level of current tariffs, importance of the EU as a major trading partner, and the significance of tariffs as a source of government revenue and instrument for industrial development, for many of the ACP States.
65. Assert that reciprocity in market opening should be asymmetrical and introduced in such a manner that it does not have an adverse impact on domestic industries, employment, Government revenue, and finance for development and poverty alleviation in ACP States.
66. Remain committed to appropriate and relevant transparency and accountability in the economic governance of our States. However, we remain convinced that the introduction of the "new generation" of trade-related issues, including competition policy, government procurement and investment, in the EPA context should be guided by the understanding reached on these subjects at the multilateral level. We therefore agree that ACP Regions should only negotiate these issues when they are ready to do so, guided by the existence of uniform policies, regional framework on these issues, effective institutions and requisite human resource capacity at national and regional levels.

67. Reiterate that development should constitute the cornerstones of EPAs and therefore call for enhanced development cooperation, including increased and fast disbursement of requisite resources to enable ACP States to benefit effectively from EPAs. We further call for additional finance and appropriate financial instruments that are necessary for assisting in addressing adjustment costs and building human, institutional and industrial capacities and infrastructure for trade as spelt out in the report of the WTO Task Force on Aid-for-Trade adopted by the WTO Council in October 2006. We agree that additional resources will be used to reduce commodity dependency, improve supply capacities, increase value-addition, access appropriate technology and for the overall diversification and development of globally competitive economies of ACP States. We also commit ourselves to support the EPA process from our own resources.
68. Call on additional support from other bilateral, regional and multilateral donors for our trade and development activities to enable our countries to improve their capacity to participate in the multilateral trading system.
69. Endorse the outcome of the Special Session of the African Union Summit held in Gambia during 2006, which inter alia, speaks to the harmonization of Africa's Regional Economic Communities. The Summit conclusions provides the way forward on the issue of overlapping membership and the incongruence between the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiating configurations and the regional integration groupings.
70. Call on the Council of Ministers to organize a joint ACP-EU high-level meeting, as quickly as possible, so as to take stock of the EPA negotiations between the EU and the ACP regions;

(iv) Agriculture and Development

71. Reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the development of agriculture and related value added activities as an effective means of reducing poverty, accelerating economic growth, promoting rural development and enhancing food security at national and regional levels. In this regard, we urge partners and international institutions to assist ACP States in putting in place policies and measures to overcome the structural and systemic problems of food security.

72. Recognise fully the position of agriculture as an engine of economic growth and development, and commit ourselves to strengthening productivity and incomes of the hungry and the poor, targeting the rural areas where the vast majority live. We therefore call on the EU to enhance its collaboration with the ACP States in addressing the effect of the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on agriculture and development in ACP States.
73. Reiterate the fact that to reach the MDGs, it is absolutely necessary to turn hunger reduction into the driving force for progress and hope, as improved nutrition contributes better health, increases school attendance, reduces child and maternal mortality, empowers women, lowers the incidence and mortality rates of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. We emphasise that efforts aimed at poverty eradication should address the relationship between poverty and land degradation, depletion of water resources, destruction of forests and loss of biological diversity
74. Call for the reform of international trade rules to substantially reduce the level of agricultural support in the developed world with the eventual phasing out of agricultural subsidies and domestic support that distort production and trade and lead to agricultural produce dumping in developing countries.
75. Call on all the WTO Member States to speed up the search for an urgent solution to the cotton dossier in the framework of the ongoing negotiations. We also appeal to the development partners to provide the cotton sector with the resources necessary to its survival and development, in accordance with the commitments they have made;
76. Express concern in the face of the mixed outcome of the Paris Forum on the EU-Africa Cotton Partnership and we urge the European Commission to assess the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Forum. We also express our disappointment following the decision by the European Court of Justice to annul the measure for the 65% decoupling of internal support for European cotton producers which runs contrary to the principle of stability of the commitments made during the negotiations,

## **B. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

77. Remain committed to policies that focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable sections of our communities, and to that end we call for increased international support of programmes designed to assist them.

### **(i) Education**

78. Endorse the Brussels Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development [ACP/28/012/06 Final] and its Framework for Action [ACP/28/011/06 Final] issued by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ACP Ministers of Education on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006. We therefore commit ourselves to mobilise adequate resources and put in place appropriate policies in support of this Declaration.

79. Reaffirm our commitment to enhance our efforts in eradicating illiteracy through exchange of experiences and know-how in basic education, as well as to address the inequities in the access to learning opportunities as an essential principle in pursuit of achieving the MDGs.

### **(ii) Health**

80. Reaffirm our will to ensure access to our health systems to all ACP peoples and, especially, to ensure the prevention of malaria in the framework of the promotion of holistic health for all.

81. Reiterate the fact that child mortality rates in ACP States continue to be higher than in other parts of the world. In this regard, we urge partner countries and other international institutions, particularly those in finance and trade, to enhance their assistance to us in this field.

82. Reaffirm our commitment to promote maternal health by reducing maternal mortality through sharing best practices and information, and we therefore call upon the international community to reinforce their efforts and mobilisation of resources for health systems in our countries.

83. Reiterate our concern over the effects of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and other poverty related diseases as well as non-communicable diseases on the lives and development of our peoples. We therefore reaffirm our support to the initiatives and activities of the Global Fund, and other cooperating partners.
84. Urge pharmaceutical companies and the donor community to provide the needed pharmaceutical products for the prevention and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases at affordable prices and favourable conditions.

(iii) Water and Sanitation, Energy

85. Reiterate our resolve to increased access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water supply, irrigation, as well as increased and improved affordable sanitation services. In this regard, we reaffirm our support to the activities of the ACP-EU Water Facility and call for the funding of the Facility to be extended to the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.
86. Also reiterate our determination to pay particular attention to the management of river basins. In that regard, the situation of the Niger River and others, which are losing substantial volumes of water, require urgent action through the financing of actions to protect and enhance the management of wetlands and water sources.
87. Welcome and fully support the establishment of the ACP-EU Energy Facility, and stress our commitment to its objective of increased access to sustainable energy services by the poor. We therefore call for additional funds to be allocated to this Facility under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.
88. Acknowledge that the current energy model based on hydrocarbons is no longer sustainable, for the proven and probable oil reserves are growing less than consumption and oil is unavoidably running out.
89. Undertake to ensure better access to electricity in ACP States and to supply electricity to the rural areas, thereby recognizing the close link between access to energy and the reduction of poverty, and we urge our development partners to provide assistance in this area.

90. Reaffirm that the utilization of renewable sources and promising new technologies is, undoubtedly, a solution to this problem. However, its generalization will take time. We acknowledge, from now, that it is essential to promote sustainable production and consumption methods by our partners, who we urge to provide support in this area, a condition essential to the sustainable development of our States.

(iv) Migration

91. Reiterate our call for open dialogue with all partners in particular the European Union the aim of establishing responsible and fair mechanisms to manage migration, combat racism and xenophobia, and foster the development of the migrant's full potential particularly the institutionalisation of the positive contributions of the Diaspora to development in our countries.

92. Acknowledge the need to build capacities in migration management for the sustainable development of the ACP countries, particularly with the aim of taking account of the important role that migration and mobility play in strengthening peace, security and stability in ACP States.

93. Express concern over the continuous inhuman treatment meted out by Authorities of host countries, in spite of international criticism, to alleged illegal immigrants during the period of repatriation to their countries of origin.

94. Remain committed to considering the fate of populations displaced by conflicts or natural disasters, and to working to find solutions to facilitate the return of the refugees and re-integration into their countries of origin.

95. Endorse the ACP Brussels Declaration on Asylum, Migration and Mobility **[ACP/28/025/06 Final]** and its Plan of Action **[ACP/28/026/06 Final]**, issued by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ACP Ministers of Asylum, Migration and Mobility on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006, and commit ourselves to introducing policies in accordance with the Declaration. We take note of the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development adopted in Tripoli on 23 November 2006.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

96. Reaffirm our commitment to political initiatives at national, sub-regional and regional levels that result in the adoption of policies for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment that place environmental issues at the forefront of social, economic and cultural development.
97. Reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol with a view of the global community establishing an equitable and effective future climate change regime that enables the stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases while at the same time allows economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.
98. Urge the International Community to mainstream environmental governance and to work towards a strong Kyoto II Protocol to which all countries will adhere so as to save our planet earth, ecosystem and climate.
99. Welcome the Decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6 to 17 November 2006. We particularly welcome the launching by the UN of the Nairobi Framework, which aims to help developing countries participate in the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
100. Reiterate our solidarity with the Governments and peoples of countries recently affected by the tragic consequences of natural disasters, and further urge the continued support of the international community for their reconstruction.
101. Emphasize the need for the effective and speedy implementation of the Decision of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers, held on 24 and 25 June 2005 in Luxembourg, to establish the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility (NDF), bearing in mind the continuing concern to address disaster mitigation and reduce the devastating impact of natural disasters on sustainable development.

102. Call upon the European Commission to collaborate with the ACP Group to secure the successful completion of the first phase of the NDF under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, and to agree on adequate resources for the implementation of a second phase under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, with a view to consolidating comprehensive risk management systems and supporting long term post-disaster reconstruction in ACP States and Regions.
103. Reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones in ACP Regions and call for the cessations of practices that could encourage the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).
104. Condemn the transport and dumping of toxic waste and other harmful products in ACP States, which we consider to be a direct threat to the sustainable management of natural resources, environmental protection, and the health and well-being of their populations. We appeal to the International Community and to the European Union to cooperate more closely in building the capacities of ACP countries and in exchanging information on the prevention of, and fight against the transport and dumping of toxic waste and other hazardous material in ACP States.
105. Appeal to the International Community and the European Union, in particular, for better collaboration in the exchange of information to assist in preventing and fighting against the dumping, in ACP States, of toxic waste and other hazardous products.

D. CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

106. Call upon the international community to enhance their assistance in the maintenance of our cultural goods and artefacts.
107. Reiterate the provisions of the Dakar Declaration and Plan of Action for the promotion of ACP cultures and cultural industries, and reaffirm our commitment to further develop our cultural industries and to adopt measures for creating employment in the cultural sector.

108. Take note of the Santo Domingo Resolution [**ACP/83/046/06 Final**] issued by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture, and welcome the staging of the 1<sup>st</sup> ACP Festival in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. We re-iterate our firm belief that culture can promote sustainable development in our countries. We call on the ACP States to ratify, as quickly as possible, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the diversity in Cultural Expressions and to actively support the activities of the ACP Cultural Observatory.
109. Reaffirm the mutual respect between civilizations and the different religions and beliefs and urge the ACP States to promote culture and intra-ACP cultural exchanges with a view to strengthening the bonds of solidarity and the identity of ACP States.

E. *INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT*

110. Reiterate our concern of the widening digital divide between ACP States and leading emerging markets, as well as the developed world. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to establishing appropriate national and regional policies, which can help to bridge this divide, and further urge the developed world to support these efforts.
111. Welcome and support the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). We therefore support the implementation of the all-ACP ICT Programme in response to the outcomes of the WSIS.
112. Call upon nations, in the spirit of the Geneva Declaration of January 2004 and United Nations Resolution 60/188 of 22 December 2005, for the “1% Digital Solidarity” principle to be implemented in order to ensure a significant reduction of the digital divide.
113. Urge developed countries, particularly EU Member States, to contribute to a more equitable information society governed by principles of solidarity, by also implementing the “1% Digital Solidarity” principle.

## **V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

114. Reiterate our commitment to maintain and strengthen our relations with traditional and new partners, and in particular with the European Union. We further reaffirm the core objectives as enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement as the basis of ACP-EU relations, and we therefore commit ourselves to working with our partners to achieve the full potential of this Partnership.
115. Call on all partners to the Cotonou Agreement to expedite the ratification the revised Agreement, which was signed at the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers on 24 and 25 June 2005 in Luxembourg.

### **A. EUROPEAN UNION**

116. Reiterate that EPAs must be instruments for development and poverty eradication in ACP countries. In this regard, negotiations of EPAs must address the development dimension in the content of the EPAs and take into consideration the financing of adjustment costs, as well as the link between EPAs and regional integration.
117. Urge the six EPA regional negotiating Groups to urgently convene an All-ACP Forum with a view to collectively addressing the common difficulties encountered in the negotiations and adopt a consolidated position for negotiation with the European Commission.
118. Urge and expect the EU to honour its legal and political obligations enshrined in Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular the safeguarding of the benefits derived from Commodity Protocols bearing in mind the special legal status of the Sugar Protocol.
119. Call on the EU and the European Commission to provide up-front and on predictable basis through a quick disbursing mechanism at least €250 million annually to the ACP States concerned, to finance the accompanying measures necessary for their vital sugar cane industries to successfully adapt to the situation created by a drastic cut of 36% in the price of sugar.

### **B. OTHER PARTNERS**

120. Reiterate our determination to strengthen mutually advantageous partnerships with countries, regions and international organisations in our quest to develop a global partnership for the development of our countries.

## **VI. FUTURE OF THE ACP GROUP**

121. Convinced that the ACP Group should reinforce itself within the new evolving global economic and political order. In this regard, we reaffirm the enhancement of our intra-ACP cooperation as a pillar of ACP Unity and Solidarity. In this respect, we urge the replication of best practices of sustainable development efforts from ACP Regional Initiatives within our Group.
122. Instruct the Council of Ministers to continue its efforts towards ensuring that effective institutional and financial means are made available to the ACP Group to meet its challenges and to better position itself on the international level.
123. Instruct the Council of Ministers to identify optimum roles for the ACP Group in order to better engage, with a visible advantage, in International Relations in comparison to other similar Inter-Governmental Organisations to which our countries are also members.
124. Instruct the Council of Ministers to further reflect on the opportunities for, and implications to the ACP Group with respect to the institutional changes within the European Union (EU), and the EU Development Strategies for ACP Regions and South Africa.
125. Mandate the Council of Ministers to instruct the Committee of Ambassadors to include, in the framework of the reflection on the future of the ACP Group, the organisation of an ACP-EU Summit.
126. Reiterate our firm commitment to collaborate among ourselves in the advancement of our Summit theme “***United for Peace, Solidarity and Sustainable Development***”.

**Done at Khartoum, 8 December 2006  
For the Summit  
The President**

**H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Ahmed EI-Bashir  
President of the Republic of Sudan**