REFERENCE

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Brussels, 11 October 2011

Meeting of Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations and Chief Regional EPA Negotiators at Senior Officials Level

ACP House, Brussels
17 – 20 October 2011

Attached for the information of ACP Missions, are initial documents for the meeting of Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations and Chief Regional EPA Negotiators at Senior Officials Level.
Meeting of Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations

ACP House, Brussels
17 - 20 October 2011

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING

17 – 18 OCTOBER 2011

Draft Agenda

Opening sessions

Welcoming statement by the Secretary-General

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Statement from the Chair

3. Establishment of a coordination mechanism for ACP Regional Integration Organizations

   a. Consideration of the terms of reference and rules of procedures for the proposed ACP interregional Regional Organization Coordination Committee (ACP-i ROCC);
   b. Exchange of views on the role and responsibility of the RIOs as stipulated in the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement
4. **Cooperation between European Union and Regional Organizations**
   
a. Sharing of experiences on the state of play of regional cooperation and integration including support from EDF
b. Presentations of the preliminary/final outcomes of the mid-term reviews for the regional and intra-ACP strategy papers (regions and ACP Secretariat)
c. Exchange of views on lessons learned (good practices and challenges) of EU-ROs cooperation
d. Exchange of views and observations the proposed new financial perspectives for 2014 – 2020

5. **Synergies and collaboration between ACP Secretariat and the ROs**
   
a. Briefing on the 10th intra-ACP programmes, including on ACP cross-cutting issues
b. Information point on intra-ACP facilities and proposals on the possible relay role of the ROs, including implementation of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP envelop
c. EDF/ERDF cooperation

6. **Aid effectiveness**
   
a. Regional dimension
b. Developments in South-South cooperation perspectives in support to regional cooperation
c. Recommendations for Busan HLF IV

7. **Trade matters**
   
a. State of play of the WTO and EPA negotiations
b. Terms of reference for a study on the feasibility of establishment of an all-ACP FTA

8. **Future perspectives of the ACP Group:** Presentation by the Chairman of the ACP Ad Hoc Working Group

9. **Interaction with the European Union**
   
a. Lisbon Treaty - High representative/Vice President
b. Trade – Commissioner Karel de Gucht
c. Development – Commissioner Pielbags

10. **Conclusions and recommendations to the Heads of ACP ROs**

11. **Any other business**
Meeting of Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations
ACP House, Brussels, 17-20 October 2011

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING

17 – 18 October 2011

Draft Agenda and Annotations

The meeting is convened at the technical level to prepare for the session of the Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations. It will strive to come with conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of Heads at their meeting.

Opening session
Welcoming statement by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General will deliver a welcoming message to the delegates.

1. Adoption of the agenda
The meeting will consider and adopt the agenda.

2. Statement from the Chair
The Chair will deliver a statement which will recall the purpose of the meeting and the expected outcome.
3. Establishment of a coordination mechanism for ACP Regional Integration Organizations

a. Consideration of the terms of reference and rules of procedures for the proposed ACP inter Regional Organizations Coordination Committee (ACP-i ROCC);

At the meeting of the ACP NAO and RAO meeting held from 11 – 14 April 2011, ACP Regional Organizations agreed to establish an ACP inter-regional coordination body, as captured in the Decision contained in paragraph G of the meeting report. In this regard, the meeting will consider draft terms of reference on the basis of a submission made by IRCC, a grouping of 4 ACP regional organisations. The expected outcome is a recommendation on how to establish the ACP i ROCC, including considerations on the designation of a Chair(s) and the Bureau.

b. Exchange of views on the role and responsibility of the RIos as stipulated in the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement

The meeting’s discussions will focus on specific articles from the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) related to the role and responsibility of regional organisations (Art 8 on political dialogue – in particular synergy between regional parliaments and ROs, Art 21 on innovative funding, Art 13 of annexe 4 on ROs' access to intra-ACP funds).

In addition, an exchange of views will take place on the DFC’s processes and proposals made on the role of the ROs in these processes.

4. Cooperation between European Union and Regional Organizations

a. Sharing of experiences on the state of progress on regional cooperation and integration including support from EDF

Each RO will be invited to present a brief update of its regional cooperation and integration processes, as well as the resources affected, especially those from the EDF.

b. Presentations of the preliminary/final outcomes of the mid-term reviews for the regional and intra-ACP strategy papers (regions and ACP Secretariat)

Each RO will be invited to update the meeting on the status of the mid-term review exercise and present the preliminary / final findings and proposed way ahead.
c. Exchange of views on lessons learned (good practices and challenges) of EU-ROs cooperation

On the basis of the previous presentations, the ROs could exchange on the good practices they have identified; the challenges they have faced while implementing their regional cooperation and integration programmes, and in particular, in the context of the EDF, so that they can make concrete proposals to support the Mid-Term Review conclusions as well as provide reflections on future support to regional cooperation under the 11th EDF and/or other DCIs.

d. Exchange of views and observations the proposed new financial perspectives for 2014 – 2020

The EC issued a Communication on “a budget for Europe 2020” COM(2011) 500 final dated 26 July 2011, which announces the new financial perspectives proposed by the European Commission for the period 2014-2020, including the 11th EDF. It has been observed that there is no explicit mention of regional organisations in spite of comments presented to the EU in the context of public consultations on its Green Paper. Does this constitute a major change in the EC approach? ACP ROs will consider this issue and propose the appropriate way forward, including possible engagement with the EU, through the mandated ACP bodies.

5. Synergies and collaboration between ACP Secretariat and the ROs

a. Briefing on the 10th intra-ACP programmes, including on ACP cross-cutting issues

The meeting will be updated on the implementation of the intra-ACP programmes covering cross-cutting issues such as climate change, migration, and mineral resources.

b. Information point on intra-ACP facilities and proposals on the possible relay role of the ROs, including implementation of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP envelop

Under this sub-item, the meeting will be informed about the modalities, calendars and implication for ROs in this exercise. The possible synergies between the ACP Secretariat and the ROs will be explored.

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c. EDF/ERDF cooperation

The meeting will consider this issue in view of the ACP-EU-Outermost region meeting that will be held on 3-4 November 2011 in La Martinique.

6. Aid effectiveness

a. Regional dimension

As per the decisions of the 9th ACP NAO/RAO meeting of 11-14 April 2011 (Point F. recommendations iii. and iv.), the IRCC together with CARICOM and Pacific Forum, has initiated a process of contribution to OECD working group on Aid Effectiveness, which seeks to advocate for the inclusion of regional dimensions of Aid Effectiveness in the final outcome of Busan 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan HLF IV). The ROs will provide information on what has been achieved so far.

b. Developments in South-South Cooperation

ROs will further share information on their respective endeavours with respect to mobilisation of other sources of funding or avenues of collaboration. Emphasis will be on consultations which may be held in the forthcoming Busan HLF IV.

c. Recommendations for Bhusan HLF IV

Under this agenda item, it is proposed that the meeting will have detailed exchanges in order for ROs and ACP Secretariat to agree on a common position and participation to Busan HLF IV (29 November-1st December 2011). This will implement the Decisions in iii and iv of point F of April ACP Ministerial meeting's report.

7. Trade matters

a. State of play of the WTO and EPA negotiations

The meeting will take stock of developments in the EPA and WTO negotiations and make recommendations on the way forward.

b. Participation of ACP States in international trade

The participants will be invited to consider a report on the participation of ACP States in international trade. They will exchange views and reflect on the regional dimension of trade in the report.
c. Terms of reference for a study on feasibility of establishment of an all-ACP FTA

Following on the consideration of the report, the meeting will examine and approve the draft terms of reference for a study on the feasibility of establishing an ACP FTA.

8. Future perspectives of the ACP Group

The Chairman of the ACP Ad Hoc Working Group on future perspectives of the ACP Group will present a brief update on the issue.

9. Interaction with the European Union

   a. Lisbon Treaty - High representative/Vice President
   b. Trade – Commissioner Karel de Gucht
   c. Development – Commissioner Andris Piebalgs

Under this agenda item, the meeting will come up with proposals on possible issues that the ACP Heads of Regional Integration Organizations can raise and discuss with the three high ranking EU personalities.

10. Conclusions and recommendations to the Heads of ACP RIOs.

The meeting will consider a set of conclusions and recommendations that it will present to the meeting of the Heads of RIOs.

11. Any other business

The meeting will consider any pertinent issues that may be raised by participants.
Meeting of the Heads of ACP Regional Integration Organizations

ACP House
Brussels, 19-20 October 2011

Draft Agenda

Opening sessions

Meeting is called to order (Chair – ACP Secretary-General)
Welcoming statement by the Secretary-General
Opening statement by the Chair of the Committee of Ambassadors

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Statement from the Chair

3. Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations from the Technical Preparatory Meeting

a. Establishment of a coordination mechanism for ACP Regional Integration Organizations

i. Adoption of the terms of reference and rules of procedures for the ACP interregional Regional Organization Coordination Committee (ACP-i ROCC);
ii. Role and responsibility of the RIOs as stipulated in the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement

b. Cooperation between European Union and Regional Organizations

i. State of play of regional cooperation and integration including support from EDF
ii. Preliminary/final outcomes of the Mid-terms reviews for the regional and intra-ACP strategy papers
iii. Proposals on lessons learned (good practices and challenges) of EU-ROs cooperation
iv. Exchange of views and observations the proposed new financial perspectives for 2014 – 2020

c. Areas of further synergies and collaboration between ACP Secretariat and the ROs

i. Update on the 10th intra-ACP programmes, including on ACP cross-cutting issues
ii. Information point on intra-ACP facilities and proposals on the possible relay role of the ROs, including implementation of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP envelop
iii. EDF/ERDF cooperation

d. Aid effectiveness

i. Regional dimension
ii. Developments in South-South cooperation perspectives in support to regional cooperation
iii. Recommendations for Busan HLF IV

e. Trade matters

i. State of play of the WTO and EPA negotiations
ii. Participation of ACP States in international trade
iii. Proposals for Terms of reference on feasibility of establishment of an all-ACP FTA

4. Future perspectives of the ACP Group: Presentation by the Chairman of the ACP Ad Hoc Working Group

5. Interaction with the European Union

a. Lisbon Treaty - High representative/Vice President – represented by Mr. David O’Sullivan - Chief Operating Officer of EEAS
b. Trade – Commissioner Karel de Gucht
c. Development – Commissioner Pielbags

6. Consideration of a draft report

7. Any other business
ACP Regional Organisations Coordination Committee (ACP-ROCC)

Terms of References and Rules of Procedure

zero draft (11th May 2011)
1. Background

At the occasion of the ACP meetings of NAO and RAO held in Brussels during mid April 2011, the regional organisations of the ESA-IO region, grouped under the umbrella of the IRCC, initiated a meeting of all the ACP regional organisations participating in the 10th EDF regional envelope (… list…) to define positions of common interest with regard to the NAO-RAO meeting’s agenda. The IRCC initiative and the resulting contributions to the NAO-RAO meeting were highly appreciated by the regional organisations (RO), as well as by their Member States and the ACP Secretariat.

As a result, the meeting of NAO and RAO Senior Officials (Brussels, 11th and 12th April) recommended, and the ministerial meeting of 14th April 2011 subsequently agreed, that a mechanism of consultation among the ACP RO should be formalised.

The Secretary General of the ACP has been mandated to take the necessary steps to implement this decision; the present ToR aim at encouraging further debate on the role and the functioning of the ACP Regional Organisations Coordination Committee (ACP – iROCC).

2. ACP Regional Organisations Coordination Committee

2.1 Role of the ACP – iROCC

The core role of the ACP – iROCC is to provide a forum for dialogue for the regional organisations of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific in support for a timely, effective, efficient and coordinated programming and implementation of their EDF-funded regional and intra ACP programmes.

However, the members of the ACP – iROCC also recognise that the programming and implementation of EDF-funded programmes should not be seen as the end result, nor as stand alone, isolated ‘events’: On the contrary, EDF regional programmes and projects must be considered primarily in the context of the regional integration and cooperation agenda’s they are supporting. A further consideration is that the RO – and their Member States – must diversify their bases and sources resources in support of their regional integration agenda. This will include enhanced domestic funding as well diversification of development partners, and ‘bringing in’ new emerging Partners.

The Role of the ACP – iROCC is therefore elaborated under the following 3 main headings:

1. Contribution to Regional and Intra ACP programming, monitoring and evaluation of EDF resources;
2. Contribution to the achievement of the regional integration and cooperation agenda’s;
3. Contribution to effective resource mobilisation for regional integration and cooperation, including by supporting the Aid Effectiveness Agenda.
These ToR are meant to reflect the dynamic and flexible nature of the ACP – i ROCC that is pro-active to adapt to the changing environment in which the RO operate with their Member States as well as with their strategic partners, including donors.

The following should therefore be viewed as the ACP – i ROCC immediate and medium term priorities, to be updated on a regular basis.

2.1.1 ACP – i ROCC Contributions to regional EDF resources

- Provide regular guidance to the ACP/EU consultative and decision-making organs on matters of common interest for the regional organisations;

- Accompany the 10th EDF RSP/RIP and Intra ACP mid-term review and monitor implications;

- Provide guidance to RO on implementation of Art. 8 of CPA (political dialogue at regional level);

- Provide guidance on implementation of Art. 13 of CPA (access to intra ACP envelopes);

- Provide guidance on implementation of Art. 21 of CPA (introduction of innovative instruments and delivery mechanisms to facilitate leveraging/blending for grants and loans in support of regional agenda’s);

- Accompany work on Post EDF 10 environment for support to regional integration and cooperation: draft “EDF 11” programming guidelines; EDF 11 financial regulations etc.

2.1.2 ACP – i ROCC Contributions to RI agenda’s

- Provide forum for RO to review methodologies to support transposition issue (defined as the process whereby a RO member state gives force to a regional integration/cooperation commitment that it has made by passing appropriate implementation measures)

- Provide forum for RO to exchange views on EPA implementation;

- Provide forum for RO to review methodologies on monitoring of regional integration progress.
2.1.3 ACP – i ROCC Contributions to resource mobilisation and Aid Effectiveness

- **Domestic resource mobilisation** for regional integration and cooperation --- to be a mechanism for consultation and dialogue with specialised agencies such as AfDB, AUC, UNECA in Africa, IADB and CDB in Caribbean and ADB in Pacific as well as with the OECD Development Centre, existing EU and or ACP think tanks;

- **Diversification of Partners**: prepare RO for dialogue with emerging partners building on the work of ACP and other researchers and think tanks (e.g. in Africa – ref. ECDPM March 2011 discussion paper 107);

- **Aid Effectiveness**: provide inputs for HLF IV, Busan Outcome Document on regional dimension of aid effectiveness; constitute forum for exchange of expertise on implementation and monitoring of BOD recommendations; definition of common approaches viz. Partners, e.g. with EU on regional dimension of aid effectiveness such as progressing towards RO specific Contribution Agreement formats.

2.2 Structure and functioning of the ACP – i ROCC

ACP – i ROCC will comprise of the Secretary General of the ACP and the Chief Executive Officers of the ACP regional organisations, or his/her respective designate, accompanied by (maximum) 2 staff members of each organisation (and/or representatives of the organisation’s member states).

ACP – i ROCC will meet twice annually, or more often as necessary, preferably in the margins (and in preparation of) of ACP Group events and/or other international meetings where they are present.

At each of its meetings, ACP – i ROCC will agree on a work plan for the next semester or annual period, and each meeting will start with a progress report. The work plan will clearly identify timelines and allocations of responsibilities including financing modalities.

To achieve the objectives of its agenda, ACP – i ROCC may invite third parties as observer or as experts to its meetings. This applies notably to regional/continental institutions such as AfDB, AUC/NPCA, UNECA for Africa, IADB and CDB in the Caribbean and ADB for the Pacific Region. It also applies to inter-continental expertise from such organizations as the OECD, think tanks and research institutions.

ACP – i ROCC may as and when required call upon expertise to assist in the preparation of its positions papers.

The Secretary-General of the ACP Group will be the permanent chair of the ACP – i ROCC and the ACP Secretariat will act as its Secretariat. A co-chair drawn from ACP Regions on a rotating basis will be designated.
2.3 Funding of the ACP – i ROCC

In principle each RO will finance its participation in ACP – i ROCC from its own resources. However, additional support may if justified be drawn from resources available at the ACP Secretariat, such as the Intra ACP TCF. External expertise will be funded primarily through the Intra ACP TCF although a RO may offer to take up the financing from its own resources.