This first edition of the ACP newsletter “Horizons” is both an inauguration and a rebirth. The title recalls the ACP Secretariat’s previous circular – a pamphlet of news and contributions by staff that was distributed internally for a brief period in the mid-2000’s. Reclaiming the name for the current publication was a natural step, given the specific circumstances in which the ACP Group finds itself today as an organisation.

Standing at a crossroads, “Horizons” is both a symbol of hope and a vision. It is where earth meets the sky, where the sun rises and sets, where new beginnings emerge and old practices fade into the night. As you will read in the coming pages, the ACP Group is reviewing its past successes and failures with a view to transforming itself into a more dynamic and relevant player on the global stage. As we undertake this revealing, instructive and challenging exercise, we ask: what is there for ACP Group beyond the horizon? What lies ahead in terms of relations amongst ourselves, with Europe, and the world at large?

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have come into a new consciousness of what potential they possess and what future they envision for themselves. Africa especially is experiencing tremendous growth, with an average combined GDP rising 5–6% each year since at least 2004. When viewed in light of centuries of historic suffering, and finally what the iconic Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah termed “neo-colonialism” in the 20th century, the significance of Africa’s achievements is nothing short of glorious. While average growth rates are slower in the Caribbean and Pacific, new technologies and ways of doing business as well as untapped human and natural resources yet hold promise for the islands.

Far from the end of the journey, changes in the world signal that ACP countries’ star will continue to rise. What is essential for the ACP Group is that with progress, its relations with traditional partners become truly equal – or at least equally beneficial. In other words, ACP countries desire a position beyond being a well-spring of raw materials and a dumping ground for cheap goods of more powerful countries. They are ready to move beyond the “donor-recipient” paradigm, to strategies that will truly accelerate their transformation into viable and powerful economies.

There are always challenges, of course. As GDP figures climb, poverty gaps are, sadly, widening. Climate change, terrorism, health epidemics, and unpredictable natural disasters mean an uphill battle to reach the Millennium Development Goals, even as we plan the post-2015 development framework. But as civilizations of human beings, we bank on the belief that in the resilience of solidarity across cultures and distances – a proven quality of the ACP Group – we can address issues together and make a difference. This is the stance the ACP takes, duly reflected in the pages of this newsletter, as we look towards new horizons.

Happy reading,

Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni
Secretary General
Symbols of solidarity: ACP flag and anthem

The ACP Group is flying a new banner and resounding a new song proclaiming the solidarity and shared vision of its 79 member states.

The ACP Council of Ministers’ approval of a new flag and anthem as official symbols is expected to revitalize the ACP’s identity as a group and enhance its visibility as an international organisation. After their adoption by acclamation in June 2013, the Council finally directed the Committee of Ambassadors in December to set formal rules and procedures for using them.

“The cultural symbols of a Flag and Anthem will portray a sense of identity as a Group, in still pride, a sense of belonging and commitment to what the ACP Group stands for and on whose behalf it engages to improve livelihoods of millions in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific. These sentiments deserve to be expressed “in colour, music and language,” stated the Ambassador of Guyana, H.E Dr Patrick I Gomes, Chair of the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group, which led the initiative.

The road towards a common flag and anthem was lengthy and intensive. The first sample of the ACP flag was presented to the Council of Ministers in Vanuatu as far back as June 2012 but was not passed.

Back to drawing board, the ACP Secretariat engaged a professional graphics artist to produce a large number of samples featuring the ACP logo upon a range of coloured backgrounds. These were reviewed and debated by the Working Group, and a final selection was presented eventually to the Council of Ministers.

“Our flag consists of three diagonal bands of colour green, gold and blue. Green represents fertility and natural beauty and resources of our countries, gold symbolises the sun and the warmth of our people and blue symbolises the bodies of water that surround many of our nations, as well as the peace we all strive for,” the Secretary General H.E Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni at the first public showing of the emblems.

Anthem Competition

Meanwhile, efforts to finalise a common anthem that captured the shared identity of such a diverse group of countries were equally demanding.

The Working Group took the task to the public in March 2012, calling for an ACP-wide competition for musicians and composers to submit possible anthems, with a prize of 5000 Euros offered for the winning selection.

Sixty groups and artists took to time to create original music and lyrics according to a simple list of criteria provided. Top quality expositions were received from composers in the Pacific, Caribbean and across African member states.

A short-listing process determined which entries met the basic requirements outlined by the competition, before a group of expert judges representing the three ACP regions were convened to evaluate the pieces. They included critically acclaimed contemporary singer and performer Ms Khadja Nin, originally from Burundi, who is also a goodwill ambassador for the ACP Observatory on Migration; award-winning guitarist and musicologist Mr Amos Coulanges from Haiti; and the London-based “Voice of the Pacific”, Samoan opera singer and composer Mr Sani Muliaumaseali’i, also known as Sani Malo.

After examining the compositions melody, lyrical quality, and inspirational value, the judges whittled down 50 entries (from 60) to a final three. They presented their findings, along with their top recommendation, to the Working Group in Brussels in November 2012.

“It was selected because of its upbeat rhythm, which expressed joy, positivity, as well as a cultural aspect and authenticity that set it apart from other anthems rooted in the conventional Western style and tradition. The lyrics communicated a clear ACP message... the musical score was a complete production, with detailed scores for a full band,” stated the judging panel.

After several rounds of debates and discussions amongst the Working Group, as well as the Committee of Ambassadors, the composition by Mr. Manuel Jimenez of the Dominican Republic was confirmed as the final selection to be approved by Council.

“For me the anthem is very important because we are many countries, very far apart in terms of space, and this one song can unite our people in fellowship. The song is about our history and our future. We have common cultural elements and common histories, and we share goals on development,” said Mr. Jimenez.

The Secretary General added that the anthem “conveyed both the spirit and vision of the ACP family of nations.”

The rules and procedures for the use of the flag and anthem will be finalised by the Committee of Ambassadors in coming months. The anthem, lyrics, and musical score can be downloaded from the ACP website at: http://www.acp.int/content/ACP-anthem-hymne-acp
A joint ACP-EU Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda is expected by this June. An Ad-hoc Working Group led by Ambassador Ousmane Sylla of Guinea is spearheading the process of outlining issues of concern to ACP members, using the ACP Declaration on the Post-2015 framework approved in December by the Council of Ministers in December 2013 as a basis for engagement with the EU.

Priority areas for action highlighted so far by the Working Group include climate change, sustainable management of natural resources and environment, private sector development, social and human development and sustainable economic growth. Important aspects raised by members include the industrialization of ACP countries to ensure added value to raw materials, alleviation of debt burden in ACP countries, and ensuring basic living standards by addressing infrastructure, health and energy issues.

Programming of the 11th round of development financial assistance from the European Union to ACP countries (European Development Fund) for 2014–2020, is underway. The 11th EDF, worth €31.5 billion, is disbursed through grants (via national and regional programmes, intra-ACP and inter-regional cooperation, and the Investment Facility), as well as loans (European Investment Bank).

Programming of the intra-ACP component – a total of €3.5 billion – is a joint exercise between ACP and EU partners, to be ultimately approved by the ACP-EU Joint Committee of Ambassadors. The Sub-Committee on Development Finance, chaired by Ambassador Margaret Allison King-Rousseau of Trinidad and Tobago is working with the ACP Secretariat on determining how to allot the funds and to which focal areas. Sectors of intervention proposed from the EU side has been narrowed from six during the 10th EDF to three, including human and social development, private sector development and climate change and disaster resilience, in addition to the African Peace Facility and institutional expenditures.

The 2nd ACP Symposium on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Brussels was held 25 March 2014, where experts and delegates discussed the potential role of the ACP Group in advancing the innovative approach to development assistance. South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to the exchange resources, knowledge, technology and experience between or amongst developing countries, with the aim of fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development. In Triangular Cooperation (TrC), a third party – usually a developed country – also enters the partnership by sharing its own resources and expertise.

A consultant commissioned by the ACP Secretariat, Dr Carine Nsoudou presented a working paper on the practical possibilities for the ACP Group to engage in SSC and TrC. She proposed building the capacity of ACP to be a “global hub” for SSC and TrC, acting as a knowledge repository and a “facilitator” providing strategic advice on the issue. However, challenges of financial and human resources, installing an efficient framework, converging multiple and parallel initiatives, and identifying the right areas of intervention, need to be addressed.

A new partnership between the ACP Secretariat and UN Women was signed on 1 April, 2014 by ACP Secretary-General Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. The ACP Secretariat and UN Women join forces via this new Memorandum of Understanding to
support gender equality and women’s empowerment through policy dialogue, advocacy and joint-programming to effectively advance women’s rights in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Cooperation will primarily focus on prevention and response to violence against women, on enhancing leadership and political participation of women, and the participation of women in peace and security, as well as supporting women’s economic empowerment. The partnership will contribute to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Post-2015 agenda.

Partnership between ACP and ITC

The International Trade Centre (ITC) reaffirmed its partnership with the ACP Group in light of increasing demands from member countries to further engage the private sector in trade development. ITC Executive Director Arancha González met the ACP Secretary-General Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni in Brussels on 20 March 2014, to discuss ways in which the organizations can work more closely together on poverty eradication and the integration of developing countries and least developed countries into the global economy. A new partnership agreement is in close view.

Ms. González noted that ACP countries constitute a large majority of ITC beneficiaries, representing 60% of ITC’s trade-related technical assistance budget expenditure. She said the aim is to strengthen the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises which make up the economic backbone of ACP countries.

Declaration on Rwanda

The ACP Group made a declaration on 7th April, standing in solidarity with the Government and people of Rwanda on the 20th anniversary of the tragic massacres that horrifically claimed more than a million lives in 1994. The declaration pays tribute to the efforts in Rwanda to definitively close this chapter in the nation’s history, and to resolutely continue in their efforts to build a peaceful, fair, prosperous and democratic society. The declaration regrets the persistent phenomenon of denial and revisionism, and its potential danger of sparking a recurrence of the atrocities, and reiterates its appeal to all ACP States and the international community to adopt legal instruments to prohibit this phenomenon. The ACP Group commended the contribution of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and fully supports the United Nations Security Council mechanism to carry out ICTR functions after its closure. The declaration undertakes to combat the root causes of violence and the genocide, in particular hatred, intolerance, racism, fundamentalism and tyranny. Read the full declaration at www.acp.int

ACP Parliamentary Assembly on Nigeria and Uganda

Parliamentarians of the ACP Group made a compelling stance at the joint ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg in March 2014, regarding sanctions proposed by the European Parliament against Nigeria and Uganda over recent adoption of national laws dealing with sexual orientation. Consultations were held by the European Parliament urging their suspension from the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

After meeting on 14 and 19 March 2014, the ACP Parliamentary Assembly released a hard hitting declaration regretting the “deliberate application of double standards in addressing democracy and human rights issues”, insisting that the laws reflect the will of the Nigerian and Ugandan people expressed through the proper democratic and legislative procedures. The declaration decried the “forceful imposition of unilateral points of view by one country over another sovereign country,” while also maintaining ACP countries’ right to uphold their own moral and cultural norms. The statement called upon the EU to desist from tying sexual orientation and homosexuality to development aid and cooperation. Read the full declaration at www.acp.int.
SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors
H.E Diodorus Kamala

The United Republic of Tanzania holds ACP Presidency for the period 1 February – 1 August 2014. During this period, H.E Dr Diodorus Kamala chairs the Committee of Ambassadors, a decision-making organ of the ACP Group that reports to the Council of Ministers. The former Tanzanian Minister for East African Cooperation shares his views on current challenges facing the ACP Group and his outlooks on the future.

ACP Press: What are some of the key issues which the ACP Group, in particular the Committee of Ambassadors, is looking at this year?

H.E Dr Diodorus Kamala: There are several issues. One of the key ones is the Economic Partnership Agreements, which first entered into negotiations in 2002. We need to take stock now of these negotiations and their implementation, for those who have signed. If countries enter EPAs, they should make sure the terms follow the provisions in the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement – that the EPAs are development-oriented, that they support regional integration, and that they promote integration into the global economy.

The second challenge has to do with the ACP-EU Joint Private Sector Development Strategy, which is aimed at ensuring that the private sector in ACP countries keeps growing at a healthy rate. Funds will be allocated from the 11th EDF for this purpose and we are anticipating a common strategy to be finalised by June, and approved by the Joint Committee of Ambassadors. We also have to develop a common ACP-EU position on the post-2015 development agenda by June.

Finally, we are closely looking at the future of the ACP Group. As you know, the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement is coming to an end in 2020. Now the question is, what next after 2020? The Committee of Ambassadors set up the Working Group on Future Perspectives to deliberate on this issue and an Eminent Persons Group was also created which is doing its own independent report which will be submitted to the Heads of State Summit in Suriname late this year.

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ACP Press: So the EPA negotiations are finally on the way to being concluded this year?

DK: In negotiations we must always hope for the better. I am optimistic that we will be able to agree, or agree to disagree – meaning there should be good options for regions that are not able to agree on an EPA. As you know there is a “deadline”, so to speak, of October 1, 2014 for ACP countries negotiating trade agreements with the EU. If they don’t take steps to ratify a deal by this date, they will lose their current trade privileges, and have to enter into a different scheme of preferences [i.e Everything But Arms, GSP, or GSP +] or they have to pay full duties to bring goods into the EU.

However, when you look at the magnitude of the agreements being negotiated, there are more elements agreed than those disagreed. There are three main issues we still disagree on, which are the taxes on exports, the Most Favoured Nation clause, and Rules of Origin. The other one is also the development aspect. Although in the past, the EU side was not very interested in providing support for our supply side constraints, now it seems it might be possible for them to work with ACP on that issue. Of course, there’s a question of budget – where will the additional resources come from – as the 2014–2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework has already been decided. But you never know. You only need political and commitment. And it’s important to have mutual trust in the relationship.

ACP Press: Does the ACP and EU trust each other in this regard?

DK: I think so, yes. We’ve been together for a long time – for decades. At the same time, every relationship can have their trust tested, and I believe this is one of them. At the end of the day we will still have to be WTO-compatible in our trade activities, whether it’s with EU or any other trade partner. The question is how you negotiate – whether you can negotiate a good or bad EPA. As I said before, EPAs need to be development oriented, support regional integration, and promote integration into the global economy. In other words, they need to be WTO-compatible and Cotonou-compatible.

ACP Press: What are some lessons you can share from your previous experience as Minister for East Africa Cooperation in your country, which can be helpful for the ACP Group?

DK: When you decide you want to cooperate with each other, you have to put in place tools to achieve this. We started in Eastern Africa wanting to promote trade amongst ourselves. Well if you talk about trade, you need a customs union to achieve that. So around five years after the creation of the East African Community (EAC) in 1999, the EAC started operations as a Customs Union (2005). The next stage was the creation of a Common Market in 2010. The next will be a monetary union, then finally political integration. However with the Georgetown Agreement [which founded the ACP Group], there are various objectives, including improving trade relations – but it does not talk about how to achieve these things. The Agreement should reflect the importance of putting in place a Customs Union and Common Market, for instance.

Also, I must stress the importance of having a monitoring and evaluation system. At the end of the day you have to be able to assess what you have done as well as the structures you are using, in order to judge if you are moving in the right direction. This was a key issue at EAC, where after five years, there was no monitoring or evaluation in place, so that you had to assess the work by
looking at certain cases or trends and draw conclusions from that. For the ACP Group, because of the lack of an effective monitoring and evaluation system, it is finding it difficult now to establish and quantify after 50-odd years what has been accomplished by the Group or the ACP-EU Partnership.

We also need a good strategic plan, with objectives, activities, and benchmarks. It would be ideal to have one for 2014 – 2020, with a SWOT analysis and an analysis of interests of different stakeholders. It’s something we should have had right from the very beginning, but we did not. Instead, the work of the ACP Group was guided by the partnership agreements with Europe – the Yaoundé Conventions, then the Lomé Conventions and the Cotonou Agreement.

The current process of transformation of the ACP Group also needs a strategic plan, otherwise there will be too many streams of activities, which creates confusion, and many extra institutions established.

ACP: Why do you think this has been the approach of the ACP Group, for so long?

DK: I think at the beginning, the roots of the ACP stemmed from a relationship between former colonies and colonial masters, focused on their assistance. In other words, the European Development Fund (EDF) carries the relationship – it’s donor-driven. The first EDF round was established after the Rome Treaty in 1959, when territories of France were brought into association status with the European Economic Community. Then in 1964 we had the 2nd EDF, and by then some countries had gained their independence. Then the UK entered the EEC in 1973, bringing in its own former colonies. The ACP Group was created as an autonomous entity in 1975, made up of the signatories to the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention, who benefited from the 4th EDF cycle. Then in 2000, the main focus grew from technical and financial assistance, to include trade and political dialogue dimensions. It meant that development assistance was now conditional on “good governance” and other demands. Political dialogue was usually about meeting the necessary conditions to access development assistance funds. Basically I think the Georgetown Agreement was largely established as a framework to consolidate members and negotiate with the EU. The elements of the ACP Headquarters Agreement are not by default, but by design. Even the budget depends on the EU.

Today however, we need to assess the interests of stakeholders after all these years. In fact, we need to revise our strategies every five years, because interests can change. When the ACP Group was founded in 1975, there were nine European members and 46 ACP members, then it grew to 15 EU and 77 ACP by 2000, and today there are 28 to 78. We must adapt our approach to be complimentary with these developments.

ACP: What are your personal outlooks on the future of the ACP Group as an international organisation?

DK: I think there should be an ACP Partnership Fund. Actually, this is feasible for the ACP now, it isn’t a matter for the future. There are so many stakeholders who are willing to work with the ACP. Superpowers that were formerly uninterested in Africa, are now interested. We just need to re-organise ourselves. We have to show that we are ready to work with new partners, including all stakeholders whose objectives do not conflict with our objectives or those of our major partner.

I also believe that united we remain strong, divided we fall. Our numbers count, as well as the fact the we’ve been together as a group for a long time. You would never command the same respect if it is just A alone or C alone or P alone – as you would with A-C-P together. Even if a country could not trade with Europe, it could still have access to special privileges because it is associated with another country that does. The ACP can negotiate together on key issues and get a good deal.

Not only that, we have cultural relations, similar economies, and even common genes. If we can’t work well together, who else has that same level of linkages? We are the most closely related to each other and this alone can make ACP one of the strongest institutions ever. We just need to express the political will and commitment. Our original mistake of course with the EPAs was breaking up and negotiating in regions. But we cannot correct that mistake by making another one, that is, by Africa continuing on its own, or the Caribbean on its own or the Pacific on its own.

ACP: But do you believe an ACP-Free Trade Area (FTA) possible with the infrastructural limitations the regions face, such as high transportation costs?

DK: An FTA is really where we should be heading. If you look at the fishing industry in places like Mauritius and also in the Pacific for instance, or in the Caribbean where you have the service industry – every part of the ACP has its own comparative advantage. Every region of ACP has its own uniqueness of which it can still take advantage...

As for transportation, in Economics we always say that in international trade, the cost of trade is always assumed to be zero. You can use water transport for trade between some regions, for example. There are clearly challenges on the continent, but when I look at Africa, there are many projects going on that will connect East to West and North to South, financed through resources raised in Africa. The moment we get that solved, it will be easy to connect and trade with each other. What matters most is comparative advantage. The real cost we need to eliminate is taxes and non-tariff barriers of doing trade.
Eminent Persons step up work on ACP future

A year shy of its 40th anniversary, having spent decades working to lift its people out of poverty, the 79-member African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) – the largest intergovernmental association of developing countries in existence – is undergoing a period of profound self-review.

An Eminent Persons Group (EPG), comprising of 12 distinguished personalities led by the former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, has been charged with gathering views from stakeholders across the six geographical regions of the ACP, as well as reviewing past successes and failures of the organisation.

They will submit proposals of how to reorient the ACP Group directly to Heads of State and Government by the end of the year.

“We have to project forward to look at what do we think is the future of the ACP and what will its character look like. Will it be different from what we currently have? There have been a lot of changes of the world since the construct was created – do we have the right construct today?” says Ms Patricia Francis, former head of the International Trade Centre in Geneva and chair of the Drafting Committee of the EPG.

The three-member drafting panel, which also includes former IMF Executive Director Mr Peter Gakunu of Kenya, and former Financial Secretary for Samoa Mr Kolone Vaii, met in Brussels this week to begin analysing information gained so far.

As of April 2014, the Eminent Persons have held comprehensive consultations in the Pacific, the Caribbean, West Africa, and Eastern Africa, with Southern and Central Africa to be organised by June. Meetings with EU officials, ACP Ambassadors and the staff of the ACP secretariat, were also held.

"Once there is clarity on the organisation’s vision, mission and objectives beyond 2020, the institutional framework for implementation should be considered as a matter of priority. Political commitment will be essential in terms of resources to fund the ACP Secretariat and its financial sustainability," adds Mr Vaii.

"Amendments to the [ACP founding document] Georgetown Agreement to effect these reforms may be required."

South South Cooperation, Trade

In general, the views shared at the EPG regional consultations to date have been optimistic. There is a great belief that the ACP Group should remain – the question is, in what form, and in which focus areas.

South-South cooperation has been a popular proposal. SSC – especially in terms of intra-ACP cooperation – involves the exchange resources, knowledge, technology and experience between or amongst developing countries, with the aim of fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development.

“There were views that the Caribbean and the Pacific had concrete experience in services and tourism industry that could really benefit the African countries,” explains Ms Francis, who hails from Jamaica.

“Some Caribbean countries also had extractive industries with perhaps had a better history of benefitting from these industries, out of which they can share best practices. Cultural and creative industries also jumped out as areas for potential trade and cooperation – West Africa has a big film and music industry for example.”

Mr Gakunu also underlined ACP Group’s achievements as a unit in global trade relations, based on his own first-hand experience. The Group was central in the discussions at Punta del Este, Marrakech, before the creation of the World Trade Organisation, as well as Doha, pushing for a better deal for developing countries.

But in contrast, he adds: "On the political side it’s been very difficult. One of the issues raised was the way the Group has never come together to deal with sensitive political issues, like the International Criminal Court cases."

The question also remains of how to get enough political will as well as resources to see through an autonomous, self-sufficient organisation.

Mr Gakunu said the answer may lie in refocusing away from the Brussels centre, where the ACP Secretariat is currently located, and from which the ACP Committee of Ambassadors operates: “We have to acknowledge is that if we continue dealing through the institutions we have had for 40 years, nothing will happen. It’s very difficult to reform from within. So my challenge is how do I convince each Head of State of the ACP to take the organisation seriously and move the agenda from Brussels?”

Changing global context

Indeed, the international arena has changed dramatically since the organisation’s 1975 launch in the midst of the Cold War, following a wave of decolonisation throughout the global South.

Now well into the 21st century, the world faces a plethora of challenges for the new age, with security, fuel, food, climate change and financial crises demanding a revamped approach to global collaboration.

Meanwhile, the EU has displayed a telling change in attitude towards the traditional ACP-EU relationship, with a shift towards multilateral development cooperation policy, and a tendency to deal African, Caribbean and Pacific regions separately rather than as a whole.
But while the renewal of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement after 2020 is uncertain, there are those who are banking on the potential of the ACP Group beyond the EU.

“The collective strength of the ACP Group derives from decades of inter-regional solidarity, international trade negotiations, development finance cooperation, political dialogue and relations with other international organisations,” insists ACP Secretary General and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Ghana, H.E Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni.

“There is potential to build on this numeric strength to promote the collective cause of some of the poorest countries in the world, with opportunity to establish crucial alliances not only with Europe but with some of the emerging global players in the world economy.”

These initiatives have been further buoyed by the declaration of the 2012 Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, which envisioned a “transformed ACP Group to become a major global player in supporting multilateralism that ensures peace, security, and democratic governance”. Internally, an ambassadorial Working Group on the Future Perspectives of the ACP, chaired by Ambassador Patrick I Gomes of Guyana has also been trying to enhance members’ solidarity with a view towards the future.

The ACP Group includes as members 40 of the world’s 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 36 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and 15 Landlocked LDC’s. The road ahead will be influenced strongly by the report of the Eminent Persons Group, and will require full ownership by the Member States and solid leadership to transform hopes into strategic action and results.

— Olusegun Obasanjo
Former President of Nigeria (CHAIR)

— Leonel Fernandez Reyna
Former President of the Dominican Republic (CO-VICE CHAIR)

— Bharrat Jagdeo
Former President of Guyana (CO-VICE CHAIR)

— Patricia R. Francis
Former Executive Director, International Trade Centre

— Kaliopate Tavola
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fiji

— Sebastiao Isata
Special Representative and Head of African Union Liaison Office in Guinea Bissau

— Nureldin Satti
Former Acting Special Representative for the UN Secretary General in Burundi

— Kolone Va’ai
Former Financial Secretary, Samoa

— Peter Gakunu
Former Executive Director, International Monetary Fund

— Ibrahima Fall
Former United Nations Assistant Secretary General

— Daoussa Bichara Cherif
Former Minister of Public Works, Transport, Housing and Urbanisation, Chad

— Valentine Rugwabiza
Deputy Director General, World Trade Organisation
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

ACP Sugar Research Programme seeks funding for new projects

Organisations from both ACP and EU countries involved in research and development of sugarcane have been invited to submit concept notes for projects aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the sugar cane sector in ACP countries.

After a successful first round of projects funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), new funding is now sought for a second phase of the programme. While waiting for this process to be settled, a call for submissions has been launched by the ACP Sugar Research Programme (ACP-SRP) in preparation.

The goal of the ACP-SRP is to provide solutions to the sugar industry in ACP countries addressing clearly identified technological challenges that hold back the sector’s performance, and introducing innovations and new products in the commodity chain.

Projects previously financed through the programme cover knowledge creation, infrastructure and capacity building, and development. Examples of ongoing projects include the development of cheaper and more environment-friendly pesticides to fight white grub – a destructive insect that lives in sugar cane areas such as South Africa, Madagascar, Malawi and Mauritius; development of cutting edge equipment that cuts the time it takes to analyse plant species by tenfold; and the formation of an Irrigation Management Information System (IMIS) to improve water efficiency in large sugar estates of sugar-producing countries.

The most recent call for projects (closed April 30) is for concept notes that will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee, before submission of the full proposals.

For more information visit: www.acp-srp.eu

ACP Cultures+ backs 37 projects in cultural industry

The ACP-EU Support Programme for the ACP Cultural Sector, ACPCultures+, announced the outcomes of its second Call for Proposals, which includes 37 new projects for a total of more than €15 million.

Of these, 23 are concerned with cinema and the audiovisual industry and 14 represent other cultural industries. The projects will be implemented in more than 60 ACP countries by 158 organisations (117 ACP and 41 European), working in partnership. These cover a range of initiatives, from the promotion of cultural goods and services through festivals and online digital platforms, to training programmes, cinematic productions, and strengthening legal frameworks.

Implemented by the ACP Group of States and funded by the European Union (10th EDF), the ACPCultures+ programme has the overall objective of contributing to the fight against poverty by consolidating viable cultural industries in ACP countries. Specific objectives include:

- Strengthening the creation and production of cultural goods and services within ACP States through an approach integrated with distribution networks;
- Supporting better access to local, regional, intra-ACP, European and international markets for ACP cultural goods and services;
- Capacity-building for professionals in the cultural sector;
- Improving the regulatory environment of the cultural sectors in ACP countries.

With two Calls for Proposals launched in 18 months, the ACPCultures+ programme now counts 57 projects in total that are being funded under the intra-ACP line of the 10th European Development Fund, for a combined amount in excess of €23 million.

For more information, visit: www.acpculturesplus.eu
Searching for dreams in the DRC

Faustin Linyekula, a prominent choreographer from the Democratic Republic of Congo and co-director of the Pamoja project supported by the ACP Cultures+ programme, performed his moving piece called “Drums & Digging” at the Brussels City Theatre on March 27–29.

The act is based on his experience in 2011 of returning to his childhood village of Obilo in DRC, and revisiting the effects of Mobutu’s reign. Linyekula and his team also take a trip to the lavish dream city of Gbadolite built by Mobutu, now abandoned. The group relives the past and present of the DRC with a quest to maintain their dreams in a hopeless situation.

“Drums & Digging” was created under the Pamoja project, which aims to promote the work of African artists and performers, especially showcasing them around the African continent itself. The project involves three artists-led organisations – Linyekula’s Studios Kabako, the 1er Temps Association headed by Andreya Ouamba of Senegal and Culturarte, led by Panaira Canda from Mozambique. Pamoja offers creative residencies for young artists, established artists and companies, as well as research residencies for artists to reflect on and develop projects with no immediate obligation of results.

These In-Residence programmes are shared with local communities in Kisangani, Maputo and Dakar through workshops, encounters and training sessions for artists and production managers.

“Drums & Digging” toured Belgium and France, with showings at the Brussels City Theatre (KVS) and the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris from 28 April to 2 May.

Higher education, science & tech projects in ACP countries showcased in Brussels

More than 60 exemplary joint projects supported through ACP-EU cooperation in higher education, science and technology and research were showcased at the ACP House on 1–2 April 2014, highlighting the importance of creating sustainable and equitable knowledge-based societies in ACP regions.

The ACP Secretariat and EU Commission co-hosted a joint stakeholders conference for three key ACP-EU Programmes financed under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) cycle – EDULINK II, ACP Science & Technology II, and the ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development. Up to 300 participants heard presentations of various projects, followed by discussions and interactive information sessions.

From the 10th EDF (2008 – 2013), 47 projects have been co-financed by the EDULINK II programme, 21 by ACP S&T II, and 10 under the ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development, for a total sum of more than EUR 40 million.

These include initiatives such as training for researchers in Kenya and Malawi in modern technologies and innovation to boost coffee productivity, and collaborations of universities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and Denmark to help enhance competitiveness of agribusiness in East and West Africa. Another example involves capacity building for tertiary institutions in Fiji, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea to provide high level skills training for the energy labour market, linking up with the Hamburg University in Germany.

Guyana, Suriname to develop Master’s programme in renewable energy technology thanks to EDULINK II

The University of Guyana has teamed up with the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium to be part of €613,640 (US $840,686) programme geared at capacity building in applied renewable energy technologies. Seventy-five percent of the funding is made possible through a grant under the ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Education (EDULINK II), with the remainder coming from the two universities.

The overall objective is to improve the capacity of the Universities of Guyana and Suriname to deliver programmes and courses with the different technologies associated with applied renewable energy. A major aspect of the project is a joint Masters programme in renewable energy technology which will be offered in both Guyana and Suriname. Training of staff from UG and AdeKUS, procurement of laboratory equipment, and a number of workshops and symposiums are also planned for both institutions.

Guyana’s Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Robert Persaud commended the partnership and underlined the importance of renewable energy in mitigating/reducing the effects climate change and global warming, as well as having the necessary human capital to drive this area of development.

Guyana Government Information Agency.
The Last Frontier: Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific

In 2013 British Prime Minister David Cameron announced his aim to put the UK at the vanguard of the international seabed mining industry, targeting a potential £10bn yield over 30 years. Rich deposits of valuable metals as well as minerals needed to create everyday technology such as mobile phones have made the ocean floor the “last frontier” on Earth to be exploited. With promising sites identified in the Pacific, the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has been carrying out the EU-funded Deep Sea Minerals Project in the region to support informed and careful governance of any deep sea mining activities in accordance with international law. Division Head Professor Mike Petterson shares the basics on the region’s treasure troves.

ACP Press: Deep sea mining has the potential to become a key revenue generator for Pacific countries in the future, although there are fears of unknown environmental and socio-economic impacts. What exactly is down there to be mined from the ocean floor, as far as Pacific countries?

**Prof. Mike Petterson:** There are three mineral deposit types that can potentially be exploited in the deeper part of the seabed within national jurisdiction of Pacific Island Countries and Territories. They are Seafloor Massive Sulphides (SMS), Manganese Nodules, and Cobalt-rich Crusts (CRC). All these three mineral deposit types are polymetallic in nature, meaning that each deposit type is composed of a combination of different metals.

For SMS, the main metals that will be extracted and processed are copper, gold, silver and zinc. For manganese nodules, the target metals are manganese, copper, nickel and cobalt. For CRC, the metals of interest are manganese, copper nickel and platinum. In addition, manganese nodules and CRC deposits have reasonably high concentration of rare earth elements that will contribute to the viability of mining these two deposit types.

What attracts investors and operators to deep sea mining is the very high concentration of metals as well as the numerous metals of interest that contained in each mineral deposit. For instance, the average copper grades that are currently mined onland are 0.5 – 1.0 % while the average copper grades for SMS deposits revolve around 5 – 10%. Therefore, the copper concentration in SMS is tenfold higher than onland mineral deposits.

Based on previous prospecting and exploration activities, SMS deposits occur within the national jurisdiction of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. Cook Islands and Kiribati have significant potential for Manganese nodules while the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia have excellent potential for CRC deposits. We have to be mindful of the fact that most Pacific Island Countries and Territories have not been reasonably explored, and ongoing exploratory works may uncover additional deep sea mineral deposits within their national jurisdictions.

**ACP: Which firms are mining in Pacific waters?**

**MP:** Currently there is yet to be any deep sea mining in the Pacific Islands region or anywhere in the world but there are significant interests for deep sea minerals in the region. Companies such as Nautilus Minerals, Neptune Minerals and KIOST (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology) have been granted seabed mineral exploration licenses within a number of countries’ national jurisdiction. Nautilus Minerals are in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga while KIOST have exploration tenements in Fiji and Tonga. Neptune Minerals have exploration licenses in PNG, Solomon Island, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga.

Additionally, there is increasing interest in the manganese nodules potential of the Cook Islands and I believe the Cook Islands had advertised its manganese nodules potential through international tender for bidders to submit their expression of interest.

Some Pacific countries are also currently participating in deep sea mineral activities in the international seabed area (common known as “the Area”) either by sponsoring foreign exploration companies to explore in “the Area” or through the establishment of its own national company who in turn will contract a foreign company to conduct exploration activities within its licensed area.

**ACP: What kind of income/benefits can Pacific countries expect from these ventures?**

**MP:** Deep sea mining, in many ways, is similar to any other resource extraction industry whereby the government and the people will benefit from taxes and royalty that will be paid by the developer. Other benefits including employment, revenue that can be used to support other economic sectors, and indirect economic activities emanating from deep sea mining operations.

However, there are some specific issues that need to be considered in the development of any fiscal regime for deep sea mining. The major issues are (i) mining within the maritime boundary of two countries, (ii) shifting of mining equipments from one jurisdiction to another, (iii) potential loss of production due to adverse weather conditions, (iv) depreciation of mining assets, (v) government equity in the mining operation, and (vi) loss of downstream revenue due to bulk export of the ore.

As far as I am aware, there hasn’t been any attempt to develop a deep sea mining-specific fiscal regime, so it would be hard at this stage to give a ball park figure of the revenue that will be generated by any deep sea mining operation.
ACPP: Are mining companies required to minimize the effects of their work on the environment?

MP: I think we have to commend the foresightedness of the UN in developing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that governs all ocean resources. Countries are required to put in place national laws that are consistent with UNCLOS for the governance and administration of ocean resources within national jurisdiction. Therefore Pacific Islands have to first develop and enforce relevant national legal instruments for the governance of their respective deep sea mineral resources. All legal aspects of deep sea mineral activities are supposed to be covered in any deep sea mining policy, legislation and regulations.

Once the legal instruments are in place, mining companies are expected to abide by them including the environmental management aspect of deep sea mining. The greatest challenge to most Pacific Islands is how to effectively enforce the law and monitor deep sea mineral activities. They are therefore encouraged to collaborate with partners such as the SPC and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and corporate among themselves in order to address the environmental management aspects of deep sea minerals as well as other common deep sea mineral issues.

ACPP: What challenges do Pacific Island Countries face in managing deep sea mining?

MP: Generally, Pacific nations and territories do not have the human capacity and resources to effectively manage their respective deep sea mineral resources. There is a huge knowledge gap that needs to be filled in all Pacific countries and this, in my opinion, is a longer and ongoing process that needs to be address. This is where the Deep Sea Minerals Project comes in to assist Pacific ACP States to improve the governance and management of their deep-sea minerals resources.

However, having said that, the SPC-EU Deep Sea Mining Project is only part of the answer and the region needs a much bigger regional programme that ensures the longer-term sustainability of any capacity building/institutional strengthening initiative.

H: What kinds of steps has the SPC-EU Deep Sea Mining (DSM) Project taken to deal with these challenges?

MP: The SPC has devised a training programme to help Pacific ACP States to better understand issues and make informed decisions. This training programme covers national, regional and international training workshops, shipboard training, short-term attachments, legal internship, sponsoring candidates to attend regional and international deep sea minerals related trainings and conferences.

The SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project has made significant progress in helping Pacific ACP States through (i) the development of a regional framework for the exploration and exploitation of deep sea minerals, (ii) development of national DSM policy, legislation and regulations to govern national deep sea mineral interest in both national jurisdiction and in "the Area", (iii) organising and supporting various capacity building initiatives, (iv) developing DSM activities environmental guidelines, (v) supporting in-country awareness and information sharing initiatives, (vi) collating DSM data and information to populate the regional marine minerals database, (vii) collaborating with implementing partners in the implementation of project activities.

In Feb 2014, after a long dispute, PNG pulled out of a deal with Nautilus Minerals whilst on the verge of launching the first deep sea mining project in the world in its territorial waters. The company is looking for new investors.

Deep sea mining may bring a new source of wealth but many countries are wary of the unknown environmental and social consequences. Photo by Nautilus Minerals.

The SPC-EU Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project is a €4.4 million 4-year project (2011–2014) funded by the European Union and managed by SOPAC, the Applied Geoscience & Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, on behalf of 15 Pacific ACP States.
Nigeria – Africa’s New Economic Giant

By Dr. Obadijah Mailafia

The release of the much-awaited GDP figures following the rebasing of Nigeria’s macroeconomic statistics on 6th April 2014 has put to rest months of speculation on the exercise. It is the end product of painstaking efforts by a combined team led by the IMF, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) stretching over a year. The report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) puts Nigeria’s GDP at US $510 billion – a whopping 94 percent jump from the former figure of $262 billion, thanks to new sectors and marked progress in structural diversification since the 1990’s.

I have been intrigued by the various reactions to this announcement. A Congolese friend congratulated me the other day, half-expecting I should now be strutting the world stage with a newly acquired swagger. He was rather taken aback by my sober mood. As expected, authorities in Abuja made some celebratory noises, but also cautioned that we are not yet there. One of the leading figures of the political opposition, Governor Rotimi Amaechi said it amounted to “an insult” to the millions of Nigerians who remain in conditions of desperate poverty. One noted economics commentator dismissed the entire exercise as “vanity”.

Writing from South Africa, Patrick Bond discounted it as a “scam”. He notes, rightfully, that the exercise may have been postponed during President Obasanjo’s years because Nigeria was negotiating its exit from the Paris Club of creditors and did not want to show figures that would have made its debt sustainability better than it had pretended. That may well be so. But to move from there to rubbing off the whole exercise is both misguided and unfair. I used to work at AfDB’s Department of Development Research & Statistics and I can testify to the ability and integrity of my former colleagues. They collaborated with NBS, IMF and World Bank staff to bring out figures that are unassailable.

Much has been made of the fact that Nigeria has overtaken South Africa as the largest economy on the continent, with a GDP of $510 billion contrasted with South Africa’s $370.3 billion. The fixation with South Africa is regrettable. I do not believe Nigeria and South Africa are titanic rivals competing for primacy on the continent of Africa. On the contrary, I believe the two are condemned to be partners of destiny in the same manner as France and Germany constitute the heart and locomotive of the New Europe.

Recent trends in the Asia-Pacific could also provide lessons for Africa. Some years ago, China overtook Japan as the second leading economy in the world. Today, China has a GDP of $8.4 trillion, compared to Japan’s $6 trillion. But when you look closely at the two social systems, you see that the Japanese have no reason to envy the Chinese. Japan is a mature, advanced industrial-technological state. Poverty has been virtually eliminated. On the island of Okinawa, average life-expectancy is 100 years. Japan is a prosperous democracy. China, for all the hype, remains largely a developing country, with millions of poverty-stricken people. The Chinese themselves are the first to tell you that they remain anxious about the fragility of their entire economy and social system. The issue of envy over higher GDP terms therefore does not arise. In this day and age, ballpark GDP figures do not tell the entire story.

Nigeria may have earned some “bragging rights” from the recent figures, but the reality on ground is that South Africa is a stable country; a mature economy with world-class infrastructures. Its public institutions are robust. South Africa boasts some of the world’s best scientists. The Universities of Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Witwatersrand score highly amongst world universities. Nigeria trails far behind in all those areas. Even with the improved GDP figures, Nigeria’s per capita income stands at a mere $2,600 compared to South Africa’s $8,000. In spite of its internal challenges, the South Africa bequeathed by Nelson Mandela is viewed across the world as a serious country that speaks with authority in the councils of the families of nations.

Nigeria by contrast, suffers from a reputational burden as a country where corruption is rife and terrorism rampant. The newly released figures, if truth be told, do make Nigerians feel good about their country. And I do not believe they will have a mere placebo effect. Accuracy in national statistics is vital to macroeconomic management. These figures will not only improve the country’s sovereign risk profiles, they will boost inward investments and make it easier for Nigerian firms to access international capital markets. Ruchir Sharma, in his new book The Breakout Nations believes Nigeria is on course to becoming one of the leading nations of the 21st century. British economist Jim O’Neill has recently coined the acronym MINT to refer to the emerging economies of Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey, which have the strongest prospects of joining the ranks of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

But Nigeria still has many serious structural obstacles to overcome. An estimated 100 million Nigerians live in conditions of absolute poverty. Youth unemployment stands at 60 percent with no social safety nets of any kind. Income inequalities are deepening; public institutions remain weak. The “Boko Haram” movement has launched a violent Jihad against the Nigerian people and caused divisions deeper than ever before.

Nigeria’s potentials are incalculable. But it is evident that the current structure of government and the 1999 constitution inherited from the smoke-filled chambers of a military barracks must be replaced by a new constitutional settlement that conforms more to the spirit of true federalism and the deepest aspirations of the Nigerian people. If there is political will and leadership vision, the country could become a $1 trillion economy within a decade. The question is whether Nigeria’s current leaders have what it takes. The real task of rebuilding this great country is only beginning.

Dr. Mailafia is Chef de Cabinet at the ACP Secretariat. He is a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and an Adviser to the President. This article reflects his personal views only and not those of the ACP Secretariat or Organs.
Honoured guests, colleagues & friends of ACP

President of Equatorial Guinea H.E Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo who is also President in Office of the ACP Heads of State Summit, visited ACP House in Brussels for the first time. He donated €200,000 to the Secretariat as well as generous contributions towards the work of the Eminent Persons Group.

Visit by the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire and ministerial delegation to ACP House on 2 April 2014.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo Mr. Enver Hoxhaj with ACP Secretary General.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark met with ACP management to discuss joint programme implementation.

ACP Secretary General Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni and Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire Daniel Kablan Duncan – both former Foreign Affairs Ministers.

Assistant Director-General for UNESCO’s Africa Department Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka of Mali visits ACP.

Parliamentary delegation from Kenya led by Speaker of the Senate Hon. Ekwee Ethuro met with the ACP Secretary General and staff.

Seventy five students from the University of Strathmore Nairobi were invited by Ambassador Johnson Weru of Kenya to the ACP House for discussions on international relations and ACP EU issues.

Visit by the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire and ministerial delegation to ACP House on 2 April 2014.

The ACP Committee of Ambassadors welcomed two recently appointed peers in the first quarter of 2014.

Ambassador of Belize to the European Union the Kingdom of Belgium and the World Trade Organisation H.E Dr Dylan Vernon.

Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the European Union and Kingdom of Belgium H.E Dr Len Ishmael.
LAST WORD

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Farewell Alan, 25+ years of service

For more than two decades, Alan Pena (65) was the first point of contact for many seeking to connect with the ACP secretariat. In March 2014, the staff bid farewell to the “Voice of ACP”, who executed his job as telephone operator each day with a smile and a spring in his step, until his retirement.

Alan’s ACP career began in the 1980’s when there were no faxes or direct lines and all calls, business and personal, came through to a switchboard which he operated manually with a dial. Luckily his prior training as a telephone operator at the British Post Office – and later experience as a salesman on Oxford Street and disc jockey all over Europe – helped him to become an especially charming and cooperative liaison.

In fact, when his original contract at ACP Secretariat ended after two years, he was recalled in 1990 because, as the HR manager at the time put it, “Alan is the only person who can answer the phones properly.”

In the course of his work, the British native with roots in Trinidad and Tobago was in touch daily with everyone from ambassadors and officials of national parliaments and ministries of ACP countries, to partners at the European Commission, to students and service providers, to members of the public responding to calls for tenders.

“If I did not know the answer to a question I would find the relevant Expert and ask them. Experts are very good at explaining what they do and I was never refused,” he laughs.

“My best experience has to be the 7th of March 2014 when the Staff association invited me to lunch and offered me an inscribed silver salver – a most unexpected but privileged moment in my life. A strong united Staff Association working for better conditions for its members can only be a good thing.”

The staff and management of the ACP Secretariat wish him fulfilling golden years to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Vacancy: Chief Legal Counsel
Level: P5
Reporting line: Secretary General
Deadline for applications: 13 June 2014
Full job description available on www.acp.int

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Vacancy: Chief of Conference Services
Level: P5
Reporting line: Assistant Secretary General – Administration, Finance and Human Resources
Deadline for applications: 21 May 2014
Full job description available on www.acp.int

Applications for these posts should be sent to: ACP Secretariat, 451 Avenue Georges Henri, 1200 Brussels - Belgium, or e-mail to: hr@acp.int. Applications must be accompanied by updated curriculum vitae, copies of degrees, diplomas, certificates and any other document testifying to the competence and professional experience of the candidates. Candidates for these posts must be nationals of Member States of the ACP Group. It is to be noted that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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6 June:
ACP Day – Anniversary of the Georgetown Agreement

16–20 June
ACP Council of Ministers & ACP-EU Joint Council of Ministers, Nairobi, Kenya

24–26 September:
ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau and Committee meetings, Brussels, Belgium

October TBC:
ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee, Brussels, Belgium

3–7 November:
8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, Paramaribo, Suriname. Preparatory meetings and plenary sessions

29 November – 3 December
ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Women’s long service awards

Three active members of staff were given special awards on International Women’s Day (March 8th) in recognition of their long years of dedicated service to the ACP Secretariat. These include Ms. Patricia Zebron Goodwyll, Secretary to the Assistant SG in charge of Administration, Finance and Human Resources who has been a staff member since 1983 (31 years), Ms. Faith Murphy Sem, Secretary at the Department of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade, working for 30 years since 1984, and Ms. Josephine Byalugaba, Secretary to the Assistant SG in charge of Political Affairs and Human Development, who entered ACP in 1985 (29 years). The awards were sponsored by the ASG PAHD, Mme. Michèle Dominique Raymond