

ACP/07/005/13 Rev.2

Brussels, 7 May 2013

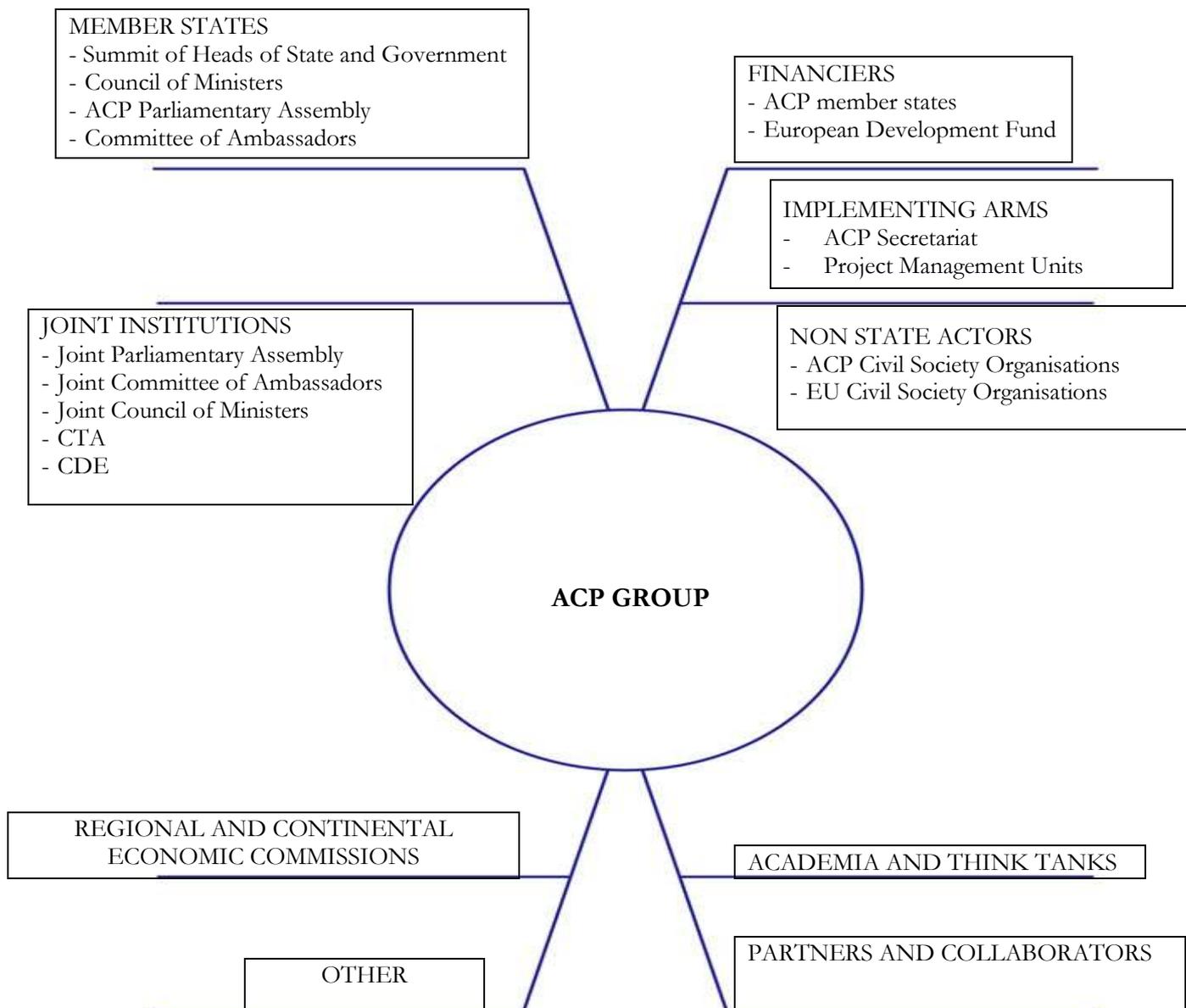
**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ACP
EMINENT PERSONS GROUP**

I. BACKGROUND

Decision No. 2/XCVI/12 of the ACP Council of Ministers, taken in Malabo in December 2012 endorsed the Secretary-General's initiative to form an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to widen and deepen reflections on the future of the ACP Group in its regions and the South; to envision the future of the ACP Group in a changing and challenging global environment; to examine options for reform to shape the ACP Group as a contemporary organisation that is responsive to the aspirations and expectations of the citizens of its member states; and to hone its decision-making bodies and its Secretariat into a stronger more effective framework of cooperation and partnership. The EPG will report to the Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government at the end of its mandate in 2014.

II. ACP GROUP STAKEHOLDERS

The pictorial below shows stakeholders of the ACP Group who may contribute to the deliberations regarding the future of the Group.



III. MEMBERS OF THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

Membership of the EPG comprises of internationally renowned visionary leaders in business and politics from each region of the ACP Group. Members are independent of their member states, regions or any other third party and work in the overall collective interest of the ACP. The Secretary General of the ACP and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group are ex-officio members of the EPG and will be the linkage between the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group, the ACP Secretariat and the EPG. The luminaries who have been approached to form part of the EPG are:

Name	Brief Resume
Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	Former President of Nigeria
Dr. Leonel A. Fernandez Reyna	Former President of the Dominican Republic
Honourable Bharrat Jagdeo	Former President of Guyana
Ms. Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza	Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization
Mr. Kaliopate Tavola	Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fiji
Dr. Libertine Amathila	Former Deputy Prime Minister, Namibia
Professor Sebastiao Izata	Special Representative and Head of African Union Liaison Office in Guinea Bissau
Professor Ibrahima Fall	Former United Nations Assistant Secretary General
Ms. Patricia R. Francis	Executive Director, International Trade Centre
Ambassador Nureldin Satti	Former Acting Special Representative for the UN Secretary General in Burundi
Mr. Sylvain Maliko	Former Minister of Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation, Central African Republic
Dr. Daoussa Bichara Cherif	Former Minister of Public Works, Transport, Housing and Urbanization, Chad.
Mr Kolone Vaai	Former Financial Secretary for the Government of Samoa
Mr Peter Gakunu	Former Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

IV. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE ACP EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

The ACP Secretariat will provide support services to the EPG. These will encompass coordination of activities with and collation of submissions received from stakeholders nationally, regionally and at the international level, the ACP Ambassadorial Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group and the Committee of Ambassadors; preparation of working documentation for consideration by the EPG; as well as technical and administrative services to the EPG, including preparation of minutes of meetings of the EPG and drafting of interim reports to the Council of Ministers and the final report of the EPG to the Heads of State and Government.

Information sources will include studies, research, written submissions, oral presentations from stakeholders, consultancies, meetings and seminars.

The following areas of reflection will guide the deliberations of the EPG:

1. Review and evaluation of the role, functioning, achievements and challenges facing the ACP Group of States as an intergovernmental organisation and appraisal of its key legal Instruments and the principal Organs and their role and functioning.

2. Detailed historical analysis of the evolution and key milestones of ACP-EU cooperation and the institutional framework of cooperation between Europe and the ACP, including joint institutions such as Council, Parliamentary Assembly and Committee of Ambassadors, Centre for Development of Enterprise (CDE) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).
3. Critical assessment of the objectives and pillars and the relevance of the ACP Group in view of organisations with overlapping membership, and exploration of how to reposition the organisation so as to better fulfil its mandate while serving the needs of the peoples of the ACP.
4. Analysis and review of the Georgetown Agreement and appraisal of its relevance to current times and evolving international circumstances.
5. Assessment of the governing structure and decision-making processes of the ACP Group.
6. Analysis of the evolving ACP-EU development partnerships, including its achievements, strengths and weaknesses.
7. Review of the impact of preferential trade with the European Union relative to the opportunity costs to member states and appraisal of the opportunities and challenges of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.
8. Exploration of ways of ensuring sustained solidarity and cohesiveness amongst ACP member states while enhancing its external relations and visibility as an effective player in the international arena.
9. Examination of the financial position and proposal on new funding sources and how to broaden the revenue base of the ACP Secretariat while proposing a framework for the rebirth and/reinvention of the ACP in terms of mandate, role, functioning and institutional set-up.
10. Explore ways and means of deepening ACP solidarity while taking advantage of opportunities opened up by the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America, including the BRICS countries.
11. Recommend a strategy for rejuvenating ACP-EU cooperation post-2020 while exploring the framework for a post-Cotonou multilateral cooperation regime while exploring modalities for optimizing the benefits of ACP-EU development finance cooperation.
12. Propose any other measures as would help to deepen ACP solidarity and enhance its institutional effectiveness while making it a veritable tool for promoting South-South solidarity, accelerated social and economic development, the dialogue of civilisations and for the emergence of a more equitable international economic order.

V. FORMAL SESSIONS AND REPORTING

An inaugural meeting of the EPG will be held in Brussels on Monday 25th March 2013. Aside from the main launch activities, the EPG shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman; deliberate on the draft Terms and Reference; agree a programme of activities; and participate in a press conference. The EPG shall determine the regularity, agenda and venue of meetings. The agenda and electronic copies of meeting documents will be circulated to all members at least two weeks before any meeting.

The following is a proposed programme of activities for the EPG:

Date	Activity	Venue
25 th March, 2013	Inaugural meeting of the EPG	Brussels
Quarter 2, 2013	Pacific Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 3, 2013	Southern African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 3, 2013	West African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 4, 2013	Caribbean Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
December 2013	Interim Report to the ACP Council of Ministers	Brussels
Quarter 1, 2014	Central African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 2, 2014	East African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 2, 2014 April/May 2014	Presentation of draft interim report to the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group and the Committee of Ambassadors by the dedicated ACP Secretariat resource person.	Brussels
May/June 2014 Council of Ministers	Interim Report to the Council of Ministers	TBD
Quarter 3, 2014	Dialogue with key stakeholders in Brussels, including the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group and the Committee of Ambassadors; and finalisation of report by the Coordinator/dedicated ACP Secretariat resource person.	TBD
December 2014	Final Report to the ACP Council of Ministers	TBD
December 2014	Final Report to the ACP Heads of State Summit	TBD

1. Interim reports shall be made to the ACP Council of Ministers by a designated member of the EPG
2. A draft final report of the EPG will be presented to the May/June 2014 Council of Ministers.
3. The Chairman of the EPG shall send a Final Report to each leader of the ACP Member States at least one month before the 8th ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government earmarked to take place in 2014. This report will guide the Member States on the best possible options for the group from 2015 to 2020 and for 2020 and beyond. Activities will be prioritised under each scenario and the associated organizational and funding requirements will be clearly stated.
4. The EPG shall attend the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government whereat they will make a presentation of their report.

After each session involving the EPG, the ACP Secretariat shall prepare a report of the proceedings and send it to the Eminent Persons Group members. A copy of this report will be provided to the Ambassadorial Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group and the Committee of Ambassadors.

VI. FUNDING

Financial resources approximating €800,000 under the Institutional Support Contribution Agreement are earmarked to fund the acquisition of research, studies and the funding of participation by eligible stakeholders in EPG sessions. The members of the EPG will be providing their services gratis as their contribution in-kind to the process.