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Brussels, 12 September 2013

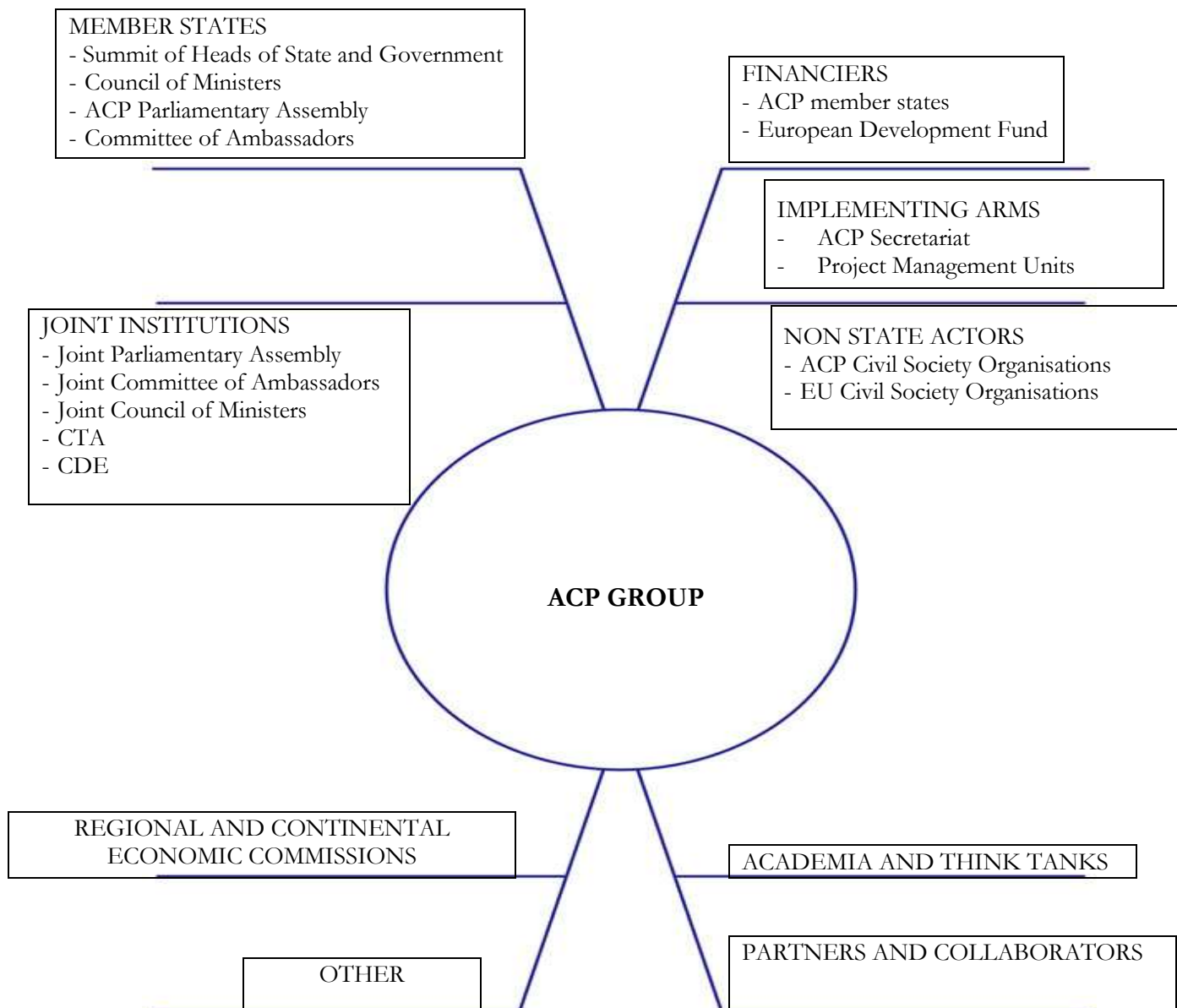
**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ACP EMINENT
PERSONS GROUP**

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
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	Former Executive Director, International Trade Centre, Geneva
Ambassador Nureldin Satti	Former Acting Special Representative for the UN Secretary General in Burundi
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.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of the EPG includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Critical assessment of the outcomes of reflections by the Ambassadorial Working Group on the future perspectives of the ACP Group (“the ACP”) and of any relevant studies, papers, submissions, interviews, and consultations on the future of the ACP.

2. Take stock of the ACP's 38 years of existence based on identified major achievements and shortcomings, and assess current ACP cooperation as well as propose improvements to, or strategies for, including, among others:
 - a. Vision of ACP up to, and beyond 2020;
 - b. Values, principles and objectives of ACP;
 - c. Sustained solidarity and cohesion amongst ACP member states;
 - d. ACP as a contemporary international organisation in the 21st century;
 - e. Future relations with the European Union and other partners;
 - f. Areas for enhanced intra-ACP cooperation and integration;
 - g. ACP administrative structure including governing organs, decision-making process, administrative modalities, sources of funds, working methods, conduct of meetings, documentation of meetings, roles of the Secretary-General and the ACP Secretariat.
 - h. Legal personality of ACP;
 - i. External relations and visibility.
3. Critical assessment of the relevance and importance of the ACP Group in view of organisations with overlapping membership and focus areas and exploration of cooperation in implementation of areas of commonality.
4. Policy formulation to address the issue of increasing unemployment in member states, particularly affecting the youth and women.
5. Undertaking any other tasks or considering any other areas which are deemed by the EPG to be relevant and conducive to the attainment of its objectives.

Amendment

These Terms of Reference can be amended by mutual agreement of the EPG Members through consultation and consensus.

VI. 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 4, 2013	Pacific Region – Seminars, Colloquium	Samoa 17-19 Oct 2013
Quarter 4, 2013	Caribbean Region – Seminars, Colloquium	Grenada 1-2 Nov 2013
December 2013	Interim Report to the ACP Council of Ministers	Brussels
Quarter 1, 2014	West African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 1, 2014	Southern African Region – Seminars, Colloquium	TBD
Quarter 2, 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

The work of the EPG will be funded under the ACP-EU Institutional Support Contribution Agreement. The members of the EPG will be providing their services gratis as their contribution in-kind to the process.