

No. 20345

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Georgetown Agreement on the organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).  
Concluded at Georgetown on 6 June 1975**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 12 August 1981.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Accord de Georgetown relatif à l'organisation du Groupe des États d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique (ACP). Conclu à Georgetown le 6 juin 1975**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et français.*

*Enregistré par le Groupe des États d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique, agissant au nom des Parties, le 12 août 1981.*

## THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES

The Governments of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, hereinafter called the "ACP Group",

Having contributed, through united and concerted endeavours to the acceleration of the process of solidarity of developing countries,

Having regard to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé,<sup>2</sup>

Taking into account the objectives of the international and regional organisations to which the ACP States belong,

Desirous of consolidating and strengthening the existing solidarity of the ACP Group,

Resolved to promote and develop greater and closer trade and economic relations between the ACP States,

Determined to promote effective regional and inter-regional co-operation among the ACP States,

Determined to ensure that the Convention of Lomé contributes fully to the realisation of the common aspirations of countries of the developing world,

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 12 February 1976 in respect of all the member States of the ACP Group who are parties to the Lomé Convention, i. e., two months after definitive signature by at least two thirds of the member States of the ACP Group, in accordance with article 26. The signatures were affixed as follows:

| State                 | Date of definitive signature | State                                    | Date of definitive signature |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Benin . . . . .       | 3 October 1975               | Mauritania . . . . .                     | 13 November 1975             |
| Botswana . . . . .    | 29 September 1975            | Mauritius . . . . .                      | 14 October 1975              |
| Burundi . . . . .     | 1 December 1975              | Nigeria . . . . .                        | 29 September 1975            |
| Congo . . . . .       | 1 December 1975              | Rwanda . . . . .                         | 2 December 1975              |
| Fiji . . . . .        | 30 October 1975              | Samoa . . . . .                          | 27 November 1975             |
| Gambia . . . . .      | 11 December 1975             | Senegal . . . . .                        | 24 July 1975                 |
| Ghana . . . . .       | 1 December 1975              | Sierra Leone . . . . .                   | 22 October 1975              |
| Guinea . . . . .      | 30 June 1975                 | Somalia . . . . .                        | 17 July 1975                 |
| Guyana . . . . .      | 13 November 1975             | Sudan . . . . .                          | 11 December 1975             |
| Ivory Coast . . . . . | 11 December 1975             | Swaziland . . . . .                      | 3 October 1975               |
| Jamaica . . . . .     | 21 November 1975             | Togo . . . . .                           | 1 December 1975              |
| Kenya . . . . .       | 13 November 1975             | Trinidad and Tobago . . . . .            | 30 October 1975              |
| Lesotho . . . . .     | 4 November 1975              | United Republic of<br>Tanzania . . . . . | 11 December 1975             |
| Liberia . . . . .     | 13 November 1975             | Upper Volta . . . . .                    | 3 October 1975               |
| Madagascar . . . . .  | 11 December 1975             | Zaire . . . . .                          | 13 November 1975             |
| Malawi . . . . .      | 30 October 1975              | Zambia . . . . .                         | 12 December 1975             |
| Mali . . . . .        | 26 November 1975             |  |                              |

Subsequently, definitive signatures were affixed on behalf of the following States:

| State                                 | Date of definitive signature | State              | Date of definitive signature |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Barbados . . . . .                    | 14 January 1976              | Ethiopia . . . . . | 25 March 1977                |
| Central African Republic . . . . .    | 3 February 1976              | Niger . . . . .    | 5 April 1977                 |
| Uganda . . . . .                      | 16 February 1976             | Tonga . . . . .    | 12 April 1977                |
| United Republic of Cameroon . . . . . | 4 April 1976                 | Gabon . . . . .    | 12 November 1977             |
| Grenada . . . . .                     | 25 February 1977             | Bahamas . . . . .  | 23 May 1979                  |
|                                       |                              | Chad . . . . .     | 18 October 1979              |

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1277, p. 3.

Resolved to establish the Group of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States to achieve the above objectives as a process towards the realisation of the new international economic order,

Have agreed as follows:

## CHAPTER I. THE ORGANISATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACP GROUP

*Article 1. THE GROUP.* There is hereby formally established the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States which shall be known as the "ACP Group".

The Members of the ACP Group shall be the African, Caribbean and Pacific States which are signatory to the Convention of Lomé and to this Agreement.

Any other State which accedes to the Convention of Lomé may become a member of the ACP Group in accordance with Article 22 of this Agreement.

The ACP Group shall have legal personality. It shall have the capacity to contract, acquire, and dispose of movable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings.

*Article 2. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACP GROUP.* The objectives of the ACP Group shall be as follows:

- (a) To ensure the realisation of the objectives of the Convention of Lomé,
- (b) To co-ordinate the activities of the ACP States in the application of the Convention of Lomé,
- (c) To determine joint positions of the ACP Group vis-à-vis the EEC on matters covered by the Convention of Lomé,
- (d) To promote and strengthen the existing solidarity of the ACP Group,
- (e) To contribute to the development of greater and closer trade, economic and cultural relations amongst the ACP States and amongst developing countries in general, and to this end to develop the exchange of information amongst the ACP States in the fields of trade, technology, industry and human resources,
- (f) To contribute to the promotion of effective regional and inter-regional co-operation amongst the ACP States and amongst developing countries in general, and to strengthen the links between the respective regional organisations to which they belong,
- (g) To promote the establishment of a new world economic order.

## CHAPTER II. ORGANS OF THE GROUP

*Article 3.* The organs of the ACP Group shall be the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Ambassadors.

The Council of Ministers shall take steps to ensure a liaison with the members of the ACP States in the Consultative Assembly set up by the Lomé Convention.

The Organs shall be assisted by a General Secretariat of the ACP Group.

## THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

*Article 4.* The Council of Ministers shall consist of a member of the Government of each of the ACP States or of a representative designated by the latter.

*Article 5.* The Council of Ministers shall define the broad outlines of the work to be undertaken for the attainment of the objectives specified in Article 2 of this Agreement.

It shall periodically review the attainment of the objectives set out in Article 2.

*Article 6.* The Council of Ministers may delegate to the Committee of Ambassadors any of its powers.

*Article 7.* The Council of Ministers shall elect its Bureau at the end of each ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

The Bureau shall be composed of six members designated as follows:

- Four from Africa,
- One from the Caribbean,
- One from the Pacific.

The Council shall elect its President from among the members of the Bureau on a rotation basis between Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Groups.

*Article 8.* The Council of Ministers shall meet in ordinary session once in each six months.

In addition the Council may meet in special session whenever necessary on the decision of the President after consultation with all the members of the Bureau.

*Article 9.* The acts of the Council of Ministers may take the form of a decision, resolution or recommendation.

*Article 10.* Decisions made by the Council of Ministers shall be arrived at on the basis of a consensus of the members.

However, under special circumstances and after consultation, decisions may be arrived at by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Council.

*Article 11.* The Council of Ministers shall adopt its rules of procedure.

## THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS

*Article 12.* The Committee of Ambassadors shall consist of an Ambassador or other representative of each of the ACP States.

*Article 13.* The Committee of Ambassadors shall assist the Council of Ministers in the performance of its functions and shall carry out any mandate entrusted to it by the Council of Ministers.

In particular the Committee of Ambassadors shall ensure the implementation of the Lomé Convention.

The Committee of Ambassadors shall present to each meeting of the Council of Ministers a report of its activities.

*Article 14.* There shall be a Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors which shall co-ordinate the work of the Committee of Ambassadors.

The Bureau of the Committee of Ambassadors shall be composed of a Chairman and five Vice-Chairmen who shall hold office for a period of six months.

*Article 15.* The acts of the Committee of Ambassadors shall take the form of a decision, resolution or recommendation.

*Article 16.* Decisions made by the Committee of Ambassadors shall be arrived at on the basis of a consensus of the members.

*Article 17.* The Committee of Ambassadors shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

### CHAPTER III. THE ACP GENERAL SECRETARIAT

*Article 18.* The ACP General Secretariat for servicing the organs of the ACP Group shall be located in Brussels, Belgium.

*Article 19.* The ACP General Secretariat, under the authority of the organs of the ACP Group shall:

- Monitor the implementation of the Lomé Convention,
- Service the organs of the ACP Group and the joint institutions established under the Lomé Convention, and
- Carry out such tasks as may be assigned to it by the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Ambassadors.

*Article 20.* The Council of Ministers, on the proposal of the Committee of Ambassadors, shall determine the organisational structure of the ACP General Secretariat, and define its staff regulations.

*Article 21.* The Council of Ministers shall establish the financial regulations and the Budget of the ACP General Secretariat.

Each ACP State shall contribute to the Budget in accordance with provisions established by the Council of Ministers.

### CHAPTER IV. FINAL AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Article 22.* A State which accedes to the Lomé Convention may accede to this Agreement, with the approval of the Council of Ministers. The new State shall assume all the rights and the obligations arising from this Agreement.

*Article 23.* Regional bodies of the ACP States shall be entitled to participate as observers in the meetings of the organs of the ACP Group.

*Article 24.* The provisions of this Agreement may be amended by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

*Article 25.* The working languages of the ACP Group shall be English and French. A delegation may oppose the examination of any text if it has not been drawn up in both languages.

*Article 26.* This Agreement is open for signature at the ACP General Secretariat from the sixth day of June, 1975, being the date on which the approved text, in the English and French languages, was initialled in Georgetown, Guyana.

This Agreement shall come into force two months after signature thereof by at least two-thirds of the Member States of the ACP Group.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective ACP States through their duly authorized representatives have signed this Agreement in the English and French, both texts being equally authentic, on the dates specified in relation to the signatures.

For the Head of State of the Bahamas:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat des Bahamas:]

[ARTHUR D. HANNA]<sup>1</sup>  
23 May 1979

For the Head of State of Barbados:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat de la Barbade:]

[BRANDFORD TAITT]  
14 January 1976

For the President of the Republic of Botswana:  
[Pour le Président de la République de Botswana:]

[SERARA T. KETLOGETSWE]  
29 September 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Burundi:  
[For the President of the Republic of Burundi:]

[LAURENT NZEYIMANA]  
1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République-Unie du Cameroun:  
[For the President of the United Republic of Cameroon:]

[EKO ETOUNGU]  
4 avril 1976

Pour le Président de la République Centrafricaine:  
[For the President of the Central African Republic:]

[NESTOR KOMBOT-NAGUENON]  
3 février 1976

Pour le Président de la République Populaire du Congo:  
[For the President of the People's Republic of the Congo:]

[ALFRED RAOUL]  
1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1975

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<sup>1</sup> Names of signatories appearing between brackets were not legible and have been supplied by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States — Les noms des signataires donnés entre crochets étaient illisibles et ont été fournis par le Groupe des Etats d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique.

Pour le Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire :  
[For the President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast:]

[SIAKA COULIBALY]

11 décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Dahomey :  
[For the President of the Republic of Dahomey:]

[FRÉDÉRIC DE MEDEIROS]

3 octobre 1975

For the Chairman of the Provisional Administrative Military Council  
and Council of Ministers of Ethiopia:  
[Pour le Président du Conseil militaire administratif provisoire  
et du Conseil des ministres de l'Ethiopie:]

[ALTO TEFERRA WELDE SEMAYAT]

25 March 1977

Her Majesty the Queen of Fiji  
[Sa Majesté la Reine de Fidji]

[JOSUA RASILAU RABUKAWAGA]

30 October 1975

Pour le Président de la République Gabonaise :  
[For the President of the Gabonese Republic:]

[DENIS DANGUE]

12 November 1977

For the President of the Republic of Gambia:  
[Pour le Président de la République de Gambie:]

[E. M. TAAL]

11 December 1975

For the President of the National Redemption Council  
of the Republic of Ghana:  
[Pour le Président du Conseil national de rédemption  
de la République du Ghana:]

[K. B. ASANTE]

1 December 1975



For the Head of State of Grenada:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat de la Grenade:]

[DEREK KNIGHT]

25 February 1977

Pour le Président de la République de Guinée:  
[For the President of the Republic of Guinea:]

[*Signé*—*Signed*]

S. E. Mr. FILY CISSOKO

Ministre des Affaires Extérieures

[Minister for Foreign Affairs]

30 juin 1975

Pour le Président du Conseil d'Etat de la Guinée-Bissau:  
[For the President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau:]

Pour le Président de la République de Guinée Equatoriale:  
[For the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea:]

For the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana:  
[Pour le Président de la République coopérative de Guyane:]

[HARRY DYETT]

13 November 1975

Pour le Président de la République de Haute-Volta:  
[For the President of the Republic of the Upper Volta:]

[P. ILBOUDO]

3 octobre 1975

For the Head of State of Jamaica:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat de la Jamaïque:]

[E. F. FRANCIS]

21 November 1975

For the President of the Republic of Kenya:  
[Pour le Président de la République du Kenya:]

[JOSEPH MULIRO]

13 November 1975

For the King of the Kingdom of Lesotho:  
[Pour le Roi du Royaume du Lesotho:]

[J. R. L. KOTSOKOANE]

4 November 1975

For the President of the Republic of Liberia:  
[Pour le Président de la République du Libéria:]

[S. OTHELLO COLEMAN]

13 November 1975

For the President of the Republic of Malawi:  
[Pour le Président de la République du Malawi:]

[T. S. MANGWAZU]

30 October 1975

Pour le Chef d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la République Malgache:  
[For the Head of State and Government of the Malagasy Republic:]

[JULES A. RAZAFIMBAHINY]

11 décembre 1975

Pour le Président du Comité Militaire de Libération Nationale du Mali,  
Chef de l'Etat, Président du Gouvernement:  
[For the President of the Military Committee for the National Liberation  
of Mali, Head of State, President of the Government:]

[SAMBALLA DIALLO]

26 novembre 1975

Pour Sa Majesté la Reine de l'Ile Maurice :  
[For Her Majesty the Queen of the Island of Mauritius:]

[SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM]

14 octobre 1975

Pour le Président de la République Islamique de Mauritanie :  
[For the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:]

[ELY OULD ALLAF]

13 novembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Niger :  
[For the President of the Republic of the Niger:]

[ALFIDJA ABDERRAHMANE]

5 avril 1977

For the Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria:  
[Pour le Chef du Gouvernement militaire fédéral du Nigéria:]

[OLU SANU]

29 September 1975

Pour le Président de la République Rwandaise :  
[For the President of the Rwandese Republic:]

[*Illisible — Illegible*]

2 décembre 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Sénégal :  
[For the President of the Republic of Senegal:]

[SEYDINA OUMAR SY]

24 juillet 1975

For the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone:  
[Pour le Président de la République de Sierra Leone:]

[Dr. SHEKA HASSAN KANU]

22 October 1975

For the President of the Somali Democratic Republic,  
President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council:  
[Pour le Président de la République démocratique somalie,  
Président du Conseil révolutionnaire suprême :]

[M. O. GIAMA]

17 July 1975

For the President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan:  
[Pour le Président de la République démocratique du Soudan :]

[SAYED IZZEDDIN HAMID]

11 December 1975

For the King of the Kingdom of Swaziland:  
[Pour le Roi du Royaume du Swaziland :]

[T. M. J. ZWANE]

3 October 1975

For the President of the United Republic of Tanzania:  
[Pour le Président de la République-Unie de Tanzanie :]

[ALPHONSE M. RULEGURA]

11 December 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Tchad :  
[For the President of the Republic of Chad:]

[RAMAT ISSAKA]

18 octobre 1979

Pour le Président de la République Togolaise :  
[For the President of the Togolese Republic:]

[KODJOVI DAGADU]

1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1975

For the Head of State of Tonga:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat des Tonga :]

[*Illegible — Illisible*]

12 April 1977

For the Head of State of Trinidad and Tobago:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat de la Trinité-et-Tobago:]

[Dr. JAMES O'NEIL LEWIS]

30 October 1975

For the President of the Republic of Uganda:  
[Pour le Président de la République de l'Ouganda:]

[ELIPHAZ A. ODEKE]

16 February 1976

For the Head of State of Western Samoa:  
[Pour le Chef d'Etat du Samoa-Occidental:]

[V. R. PHILLIPS]

27 November 1975

Pour le Président de la République du Zaïre:  
[For the President of the Republic of Zaire:]

[*Illisible — Illegible*]

13 novembre 1975

For the President of the Republic of Zambia:  
[Pour le Président de la République de Zambie:]

[Dr. H. MATIPA]

12 December 1975

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