



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental,
governmental and other organizations**

Information on intergovernmental organizations

Note by the Director-General

The present note provides information on an intergovernmental organization (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) that has expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of the guidelines issued by the General Conference in its decision GC.1/Dec.41 regarding relationship agreements, the present document provides in an annex, information on the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group), which has expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO.

Action required of the Board

2. The Board may wish to authorize the Director-General, in accordance with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, paragraph 9, to conclude an appropriate relationship agreement with the ACP Group based on the information contained in the annex to the present document.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

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Annex

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)

Historical background

The ACP Group was established by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signatories to the Georgetown Agreement between the ACP and the European Union (EU), officially called the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement or the Cotonou Agreement. The Group was originally created with the aim of coordinating the cooperation between its members and the European Union. Its main objective was to negotiate and implement cooperation agreements with the European Community.

The Group has since extended its range of activities, as cooperation between its members has gone beyond development cooperation with the EU and now covers a variety of fields such as trade, economics, politics and culture, in diverse international forums, in particular the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Purpose

The ACP Group's main objectives are:

- (a) Sustainable development of its Member States and their gradual integration into the global economy, making poverty reduction a priority and establishing a more equitable world order;
- (b) Coordination of the activities of the Group in the framework of the implementation of ACP-EU partnership agreements;
- (c) Promotion of regional, interregional, and effective intra-ACP cooperation among ACP States, generally among developing countries, and strengthening the regional organizations of which they are members.

Membership

The ACP Group consists of 79 member states, all of them, except Cuba, signatories to the Cotonou Agreement which binds them to the European Union: 48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific.

Organizational structure

The ACP Group's main bodies are the Summit of Heads of State, the Council of Ministers, the Committee of Ambassadors and a Secretariat headed by a Secretary-General. The Secretariat is responsible for the administrative management of the Group and assists the Group's decision-making and advisory bodies. The Council of Ministers determines the Group's financial regulations and approves its budget.

Financing

The regular annual budget of the ACP Group is funded by contributions from its members and from the EU through financing agreements from the European Development Fund (EDF).

Cooperation with UNIDO

In their common purpose to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the effective implementation by industry of international agreements, in particular multilateral environmental agreements, UNIDO could be a key partner to the ACP Group in developing programmes relating to:

(a) Agro-industry, with a view to developing policies, institutions and capacities to help eradicate poverty;

(b) Strengthening competitive industries and the private sector in ACP countries, in order to increase their participation in global trade and develop production and trade-related capacities;

(c) Developing environmentally friendly industries for promoting sustainable industrial development in ACP countries.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

The ACP Group has observer status with the General Assembly of the United Nations and has concluded a partnership agreement with the European Union.

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