

Resolution on ACP-EU

The IDC-CDI agrees:

Whereas the Cotonou Partnership Agreement has been the main pillar anchoring the political and economic relations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, usually called the ACP Group;

Noting that the Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires on 29 February 2020 and that pursuant to article 95, new negotiations were launched in October 2018, in order to not only unravel the basis for a new relationship in the post-2020, but also define the legitimate interlocutors;

Taking note that in addition to the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development and gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy with an underlying purpose of strengthening peace, security and democracy, the new agreement will contain other important drives, such as climate change, food security, regional integration, institutional fragility and the effective management of official development assistance;

Recognizing that global and regional contexts have substantively changed and similarly challenges and opportunities have evolved, thus compelling all actors to rethink the prevailing logic of donor-recipient relationship and reset priorities within the framework of a more solid partnership of equals and rooted primarily in common interests;

Acknowledging that nowadays, political, economic and security concerns call for an invigorated partnership that outweighs the mere pursuit of development and brings together new priorities in key areas, in line with the imperative for new responses adapted to current challenges;

Urges, both, Europe and Africa, through their legitimate representative institutions, to establish a new strategic alliance for the 21st century, based on a robust partnership, not only grounded on their shared respect for democratic principles, but also capable of contributing to the strengthening of peace, the promotion and defense of human rights and economic growth, as appropriate pathways for achieving social, cultural and economic development of their respective countries and the happiness of the European and African peoples.

Encourages the negotiators of this new alliance to do the utmost towards facilitating a healthy, frank and open dialogue between the parties in order to create a favorable political framework to such negotiations, since these are essential for the future of relations between Europe and the Africa;

Recommends a particular attention to the fight against climate change, in line with the Paris agreement, in order to increase the resilience capacity of the most vulnerable countries and regions, notably the Small Developing Island States (SIDS), thus legating to generations to come a better planet to live;

Commends the democratic reforms undertaken in the Republic of Cape Verde since the beginning of the 90's;

Applauds the fact that Cape Verde remains a good example of consolidated democracy, with stability and social peace, surmounting some European countries in the world assessment indices while bearing the potential to inspire the rest of the continent to pursue reforms in the same direction;

Recognizes that despite the progress achieved, Cape Verde shows structural weaknesses that are tied to a weak base of natural resources, insularity and climatic inconstancies that menace to reverse the expressive successes so far achieved;

Discerns that these weaknesses represent a real challenge for Cape Verdean citizens and have a potential to shake their confidence in the future by threatening their political, economic and social achievements;

Praises the Prime Minister, José Ulisses Correia e Silva for the enlightened conduct of IDC-Africa and the sensible leadership of ongoing reforms in Cape Verde;

Calls, in the context of post-Cotonou relations, for particular attention to the Republic of Cape Verde, with a view of its empowerment for the purpose of pursuing reforms and enduring as a positive and inspiring example for the rest of the African continent.

Sal, Cape Verde, 26th November 2018