

NEW 20-Year BINDING ACP-EU Partnership Agreement

Highly promising regarding aid and trade

But....

**includes deceptive provisions bringing in LGBTI
issues, abortion, CSE and other violations to
national sovereignty that need revision**

Presented by:

Christian Council International

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Outline



1. What is the ACP-EU Agreement?
2. What are the concerning provisions inside the new ACP-EU Agreement?
3. What has been done to raise awareness about the concerning provisions?
4. What could you do before signing / ratifying this Agreement at national level?
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What is the ACP-EU Agreement?

- It is a revised extension of the 20-year Cotonou Partnership Agreement that was signed in 2000 focused on aid and trade relations between the EU and **48 Sub-Saharan African countries, 16 Caribbean countries, and 15 Pacific countries (ACP).**

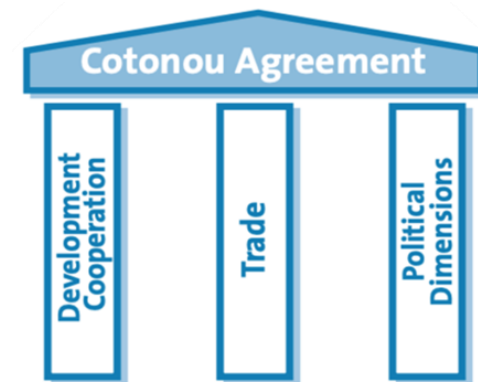
- It is a binding treaty.



- Includes over 100 countries; which together **represent more than half of all UN member countries and over 1.5 billion people.**

Continued...

- The Cotonou Agreement (2000 - 2020) only focused on aid + trade + politics.
- The new agreement not only focuses on aid and trade, but includes “Human Rights, Democracy and Governance in People-Centred and Rights-based Societies” and “**Human and Social Development**”.
- After negotiations that started in 2018, the text of the new Agreement has been finalized in April 2021.
- The agreement has a common foundation complemented by three separate regional protocols (Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific).
- The multi-level negotiations, COVID-19, and disagreements on sensitive issues such as migration and SRHR, resulted in **the new agreement not being signed as of yet.**



I. Concerning Agreement Provisions - SRHR -



- ✓ The new Agreement **includes issues of sole national competence such as Health and Education**, intending to forcefully align social and cultural values of the ACP countries to the values of the EU; thereby **undermining national sovereignty**.
- ✓ The Agreement implies that States should:
 - Ensure full access to Abortion (art. 32. par. 2)
 - Embrace so-called “Sexual Rights”, which includes LGBT rights
 - Adopt Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), which undermines parental rights.
- ✓ This Agreement implies that all States should implement all of the controversial review conference outcome documents of ICPD and Beijing (ICPD Nairobi Summit, Beijing Generation Equality Forums, etc.).
- ✓ The Agreement **implies the need for all States to agree on the EU position** on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in international fora.

2. Concerning Agreement Provisions

- Regional Integration -

- Because this Agreement supersedes all other international agreements, this Agreement seems to:
 - jeopardize regional integration efforts such as the African Union's decision to create an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
 - undermine the decision-making power of African regional economic powers such as of the AU regional economic communities (RECs) on the funding and spending of AU countries
- One of the AU RECs, SADC, has already shared these concerns through a joint communique with the EU

What has been done to raise awareness about the concerning provisions?

- **At EU Level:** Six Pro-Life Members of the European Parliament asked Parliamentary Questions to the EU Commission about those concerning provisions inside the Agreement. □
- **At EU level:** Hungary and Poland refused to sign the Agreement over SRHR and migration concerns which hindered EU adoption.
- **At AU level:** One of the AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs), SADC, issued a Joint Communique to the European Commission. □
- **At African level:** The African Bar Association has called upon African Heads of State to review the Agreement's SRHR provisions. □
- **Worldwide:** Various CSOs, religious leaders, and individual government officials in the EU and ACP countries and beyond have come out to raise awareness about the many undefined SRHR terms in the Post-Cotonou Agreement text which are also issues of national competence.

What could you do before signing / ratifying this Agreement at national level?

1. Request the EC to **provide written assurances** that no provisions in this binding Agreement will be interpreted to promote abortion, CSE or LGBT rights, which have not achieved consensus at the UN.
2. Clarify with the European Commission whether and **to what extent the Agreement trumps national and regional laws of the ACP countries** (e.g. bilateral agreements, AU regional policies, etc.)
3. Clarify with the European Commission whether or not this Agreement will make developmental or trade agreements between EU Members and OACPS States **conditional** upon adherence of these States to provisions on “sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)”?
4. Clarify what type of mechanism is in place whereby States can make **reservations / declarations** exempting their countries from (controversial) provisions that conflict with their national laws.

Ultimate Goal

To ensure that this BINDING Agreement is truly going to be equally beneficial for the EU and ACP citizens for the coming 20 years;

thereby respecting the ACP countries' cultural and religious values and national sovereignty.



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Discussion Session



and



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Which countries are to be part of the new ACP-EU Agreement?

48 African Countries	16 Caribbean Countries	15 Pacific Countries
<p>Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Sudan, Seychelles, Somalia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa.</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p>Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu</p>