

URGENT BRIEFING: Serious Overlooked Problems with ACP-EU Agreement!

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement is a binding 20-year treaty that intrudes into almost every area of public and private life of EU and ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) countries. From dictating abortion, to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), to parental discipline, and social, sexual, gender and cultural norms and more, this treaty goes far beyond the Cotonou Agreement it is to replace, violating national sovereignty in the following ways:

- **Divides OACP member states into three separate protocols** (African, Caribbean, Pacific) and appoints the EU as a cochair of each thus weakening the OACPS' collective bargaining power while strengthening the EU's power.
- **Bypasses national parliaments and cedes lawmaking powers to a Council of over 100 foreign government Ministers** with authority to make binding decisions on parties.
- **Deceptively requires the legalization of abortion, prostitution, same-sex marriage, the LGBT agenda, and child sexualization** through its requirements to implement multiple innocuous-sounding documents and "sexual and reproductive health and rights."
- **Transforms multiple non-binding documents into legally binding treaties with the EU** (i.e., ICPD, Beijing, and their controversial conference review outcome documents--past, present and future-- as well as regional agreements such as the contested Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action, and the radical Montevideo Consensus).
- **Requires cooperation with the UN's human rights mechanisms** such as treaty bodies and UN experts, which now also mandate abortion, CSE, special LGBT "rights" and more.
- **Supersedes all other treaties with a supremacy clause and cleverly establishes "human rights" (which conveniently are not defined) as an "essential element" of the treaty,** making it impossible for countries to reserve on the treaty's controversial provisions, many of which are positioned as "human rights."

CALL TO ACTION

1. **Recognize that the treaty's current text dividing ACP countries into three separate protocols is unacceptable.**
2. **Insist on continuing with the Cotonou Agreement instead which keeps the OACPS united.** Updates could be negotiated in consultation with national parliaments, the rightful law-making bodies for sensitive sexual, social, family and domestic issues.
3. **Support a motion by Malawi calling to delay Head of State signing until national parliaments have time to scrutinize** the treaty and address the areas that conflict with national laws. (The motion was denied a hearing in Maputo at the ACP-EU JPA).

**Don't accept the argument "it is too late to make changes as the text was already agreed."
It is NEVER too late to protect your nation's children, parental rights, family and cultural values, and especially national sovereignty!**

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