

Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020

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Common global interests in a multi-polar world

1. To which degree has the partnership been effective in tackling global challenges?

Global challenges have been on the common agenda and dialogue. Success on poverty reduction, protection of environment and promotion of human rights is directly tackling global challenges.

2. What would be needed to strengthen results in this respect and on which global challenges could the partnership add most value in the future, in the context of the new SDGs framework and in relevant international fora?

Engagement with fragile countries.

Human rights, democracy and rule of law, as well as good governance

3. Have the mechanisms provided for in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) (i.e. political dialogue, financial support, appropriate measures, suspension of the agreement) achieved meaningful improvements on human rights, democracy, rule of law and good governance, including the fight against corruption? Should the future partnership do more in this regard, and in what way?

Sanctions have not worked, but are important as a principle that can prevent violations of human rights and democratic values. If implemented a carefully planned exit strategy is needed taking into consideration a situation where expected outcome is not realized. Flexibility is needed in order to prevent the situation to become worse due to sanctions. Assistance to elections including monitoring of elections has been effective. More coordination is needed in particular in the fight against corruption and illegal financial flows. There the activities of EU citizens, companies and authorities need to be tackled.

4. Has the involvement of local authorities and non-state actors (i.e. civil society organisations, the media), national parliaments, courts and national human rights institutions in the partnership been adequate and useful to promote human rights, democracy and rule of law as well as good governance? Could they contribute more and in what way?

The involvement of the other actors has been enhanced but is too often ad hoc or superficially institutionalised. Most useful, sustainable and economic, is to utilize wider, existing networks and organizations like labor union, universities and their international connections.

Peace and security, fight against terrorism and organised crime

5. Are the provisions on peace and security in the CPA appropriate and useful and has the balance between regional and ACP involvement been effective?

Positive is the empowerment of local (AU) actors and cooperation with the UN. Taking into consideration the security challenges in the wide Sahel-North Africa-Middle East-Afganistan -belt/zone, more efforts and coordination is needed.

6. Should the future partnership provide for more effective joint action on conflict prevention, including early warning and mediation, peace-building and state-building activities, as well as on tackling transnational security challenges? Should this be done in the EU-ACP context?

EU-ACP context is important (for Sahel for instance) but not sufficient. ACP is not isolated from the wider conflict zone (reaching from Mali to Afganistan). For the EU it is important to bring US, Russia, China and India to the same dialogue and create a joint approach.

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, investment and trade

7. How effective has the partnership been in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development?

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8. Taking into account the new SDGs framework, should the future partnership do more in this respect, and what?

There are mutual objectives and win-win opportunities. Therefore EU private sector, institutional, education and research co-operation needs to be involved even more.

9. How effective has the partnership been in supporting macroeconomic and financial stability? In which areas would there be added value in ACP-EU cooperation on macroeconomic and financial stability?

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10. How effective has the partnership been in improving domestic revenue mobilisation, in promoting fair and efficient tax systems and in combatting illicit financial flows? Would there be added value and more efficiency in stronger ACP-EU cooperation on these matters?

The role and responsibility of actors in the EU as well as other industrialised countries and BRICS and MINT needs to be emphasized in EU external relations.

11. Has the partnership been able to contribute substantially to mobilising the private sector and attracting foreign direct investment?

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12. How could the potential of the EU and ACP private sector be better harnessed? What should be the main focus of EU and ACP private sector cooperation in a post-Cotonou framework, and what might be the role of ODA in this?

The focus should be in clean technology, environmental sustainability, research, education, also non-material (i.e.) cultural business.

13. In this setting, what opportunities do you see for the new, digital economy?

Huge potential, requiring cooperation in research and education.

14. To what extent has the partnership been able to contribute to increase agricultural development and trade?

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15. What has been the contribution of the partnership trade preferences to the integration of ACP countries in the world economy and to its development goals?

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16. Is there still a need for specific provisions on trade cooperation in the post-Cotonou framework, also taking into account the ACP countries which have not signed an EPA? If so, what could/should they cover?

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Human and social development

17. Has the partnership delivered on its human development objective in an effective and efficient way, in particular on poverty eradication, and also concerning gender equality and empowerment of women? How could it be improved?

There has been progress, but of course there is still a lot to do.

18. Taking into account the new SDGs framework, what are the main challenges related to human development that the future partnership should focus on?

Promotion of peaceful societies.

Migration and mobility

19. Has the partnership been a useful vehicle for discussing migration issues and has it positively contributed? Has Article 13 CPA been fully applied?

It is good that migration is seen from comprehensive perspective. It has been far too difficult to have decisive effect.

20. Should a future partnership do more in this regard, and on which particular aspects should it focus (legal migration and mobility, addressing root causes of migration, return and readmission, tackling human trafficking and smuggling, international protection)?

Mobility an circular migration also the role of diaspora (including remittances) should be facilitated and been seen as an asset in development and mutual benefit.

A stronger political relationship

21. How effective has the political dialogue been and at which level is it the most effective: national, regional and through the joint EU-ACP institutions? Should the scope of political dialogue be widened or narrowed?

This should be strengthened. Regional level is the most logical one for the EU. ACP is an artificial group.

22. Would a stronger involvement of EU Member States, associating their bilateral policies and instruments to the political dialogue at national level, enhance the dialogue's effectiveness and efficiency?

Yes. The member states should pool their relations together.

23. Has the fact that the agreement is legally binding been instrumental to its implementation as compared to other regional partnerships based on political declarations?

Yes - legal aspect is important for partnership and equality in it.

Coherence of geographical scope

24. Could a future framework be usefully opened up to other countries than the current members of the ACP Group of States? Which countries would that be?

Other least developed countries should be treated in the same way

25. What kind of framework should govern EU and ACP relations? How could an ACP-EU successor framework relate to the more recent EU regional partnerships with Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States? Could a future ACP-EU framework include distinct partnerships with regional partners?

Regional architecture would be most sustainable and useful for global governance, too.

26. Is there scope for building in more structured relationships with Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa?

Yes. Here the EU must co-operate with other global powers and regional powers.

Cooperation tailored more towards groups of countries with similar development level

27. Is the current system of allocation of development resources, based on need and capacities as well as performance, sufficient for channelling funds towards those countries where the highest impact can be obtained? Should allocation of resources continue to prioritise countries most in need, including fragile states?

fragile states is a special groups that needs to be prioritised particularly due to the fact that the impact of assistance is not always apparent. there are risks and uncertainties.

28. What kind of cooperation could help to cover the specific needs of more developed ACP countries with a view to attaining more equitable and sustainable growth?

Institutional cooperation, business relations, cooperation in higher education and research.

Strengthen the relationship with key actors

29. Has the current model of stakeholder engagement been conducive to attaining the objectives of the partnership in an efficient way? Which actors could play a more significant role in the implementation of the partnership? How could this be addressed?

Institutes of higher education needs more support to develop long standing partnership in education and research.

30. What could be done to promote effective and efficient involvement of both international and domestic private sector, civil society, social partners and local authorities in the partnership?

Build on existing networks and forums of business, NGOs, media, labor union etc.

31. Should the partnership be open to new actors as referred above?

Yes

32. In this regard, should the possibility of opening up the partnership to 'associated members' or 'observers' be considered?

Yes

33. How could a new framework promote triangular and South-South cooperation, including the increased involvement of ACP States as development actors in support of other ACP countries?

With intense dialogue and cooperation with BRICS and MINT and other emerging economies.

Streamline the institutional set-up and functioning of the partnership

34. Has the joint institutional set-up (with the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, and the Joint Parliamentary Assembly) been effective in debating and promoting common views and interests and in providing political guidance and momentum to the EU-ACP partnership and the implementation of the CPA?

the structure is complicated, not familiar for ordinary people and therefore not accountable, featuring in media etc.

35. What is the added value of the joint ACP-EU institutions as compared to more recent regional and regional economic community frameworks for dialogue and cooperation?

It follows the EDF-structure.

36. What institutional arrangements would most effectively help address common challenges and promote joint interests?

coherence with regional organizations and UN.

37. Should a higher degree of self-financing of this functioning (ACP-EU Joint institutions and ACP secretariat) by the ACP States be required?

Yes

Better adapted and more flexible development cooperation tools and methods

38. Is there added value in having a dedicated financing instrument in support of the ACP-EU partnership? If so, what are the reasons and how would it differ from other external financing instruments funded by the general budget of the Union? Is this instrument flexible enough, especially to address crisis situations? Can this instrument be deployed differently?

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39. What is the added value of the EDF's co-management system involving national authorities in the programming and management of aid programmes, as compared to other EU cooperation instruments in non-ACP countries?

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40. Does the current set-up of the programming process and implementation of activities lead to real ownership by the beneficiaries? What could be improved? How can the EU and Member States maximise the impact of joint programming?

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41. Does the variety of existing tools adequately support the EU and ACP common principles and interests and are there gaps that should be addressed? How do you assess the effectiveness and efficiency of various implementation modalities?

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42. Should a higher degree of self-financing from the ACP States be required for activities to ensure ownership? Would this apply to all countries? On which principles should this be based?

Yes

43. How can the expertise of the EU and its Member States be better mobilised, particularly in the middle-income countries?

Education, research, institutional, professional cooperation should be facilitated and encouraged. Also the role of diaspora is important and underutilised.

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