

## **Regional Meeting Africa**

**Gaborone, Botswana**

**Monday, 8 October 2018**

### **Title of sessions**

- 8. Feedback from the morning sessions and introduction of post-Cotonou discussion**
- 9. Panel on the post-2020 EU-ACP and EU-Africa relations**

### **Objective(s)**

The two sessions will focus on the new EU-ACP partnership agreement post-2020, whose negotiating mandates for both sides have been adopted and made public in the past months.

The sessions will focus on lessons learnt, on preparatory phases on the African side in view of the upcoming negotiations, and the involvement of various African constituencies in the negotiation and implementation of the future partnership.

### **Expected Results**

- Exchange on lessons learnt from the current ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement
- Representatives from the EU and ACP have shared their insights on the future EU-Africa partnership within the context of the post-2020 EU-ACP agreement
- Feedback from earlier session (session 7 on recommendations for the new EU-Africa partnership in the Post-Cotonou context) is presented

### **Background**

On 29 February 2020 the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and 79 ACP countries will come to an end. It is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU, addressing development cooperation, political cooperation, and economic and trade cooperation. Under the Cotonou Agreement, civil society and local and regional governments are listed as key actors of the ACP-EU cooperation: it expires in 2020, thus represents an opportunity to review the partnership and strengthen the involvement of civil society and relevant local and regional stakeholders.

The EU Council adopted in June 2018 the negotiating directives<sup>1</sup> for the EU for the future agreement between the EU and the ACP countries. The 107<sup>th</sup> session of the ACP Council of Ministers in Lomé adopted the ACP negotiating mandate<sup>2</sup> on 30 May 2018. In line with Article 95 of the Cotonou Agreement, which requests the Parties to enter negotiations eighteen months before its expiration, the

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<sup>1</sup> EN: [Negotiating directives](#) - FR: [Directives de négociation](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ACP Negotiating Mandate for a Post-Cotonou Partnership with the European Union](#)

negotiations have been formally opened through an exchange of letters and mandates between the two parties. The start of political and technical rounds is foreseen in the upcoming weeks.

Past PFD discussions have raised key aspects of the EU-ACP Partnership, namely the importance of i) treating Africa as a single continent, ii) ensuring that all stakeholders have equal and timely access to information for engaging in dialogue and cooperation, iii) encouraging the role of EU delegations in providing a space for dialogue, and iv) the need to facilitate the creation of local coalitions and multi-stakeholder fora whose input could feed into the negotiations of the post-2020 agreement.

The discussions will look at the evolution in the EU – Africa development cooperation and dialogue. The panel will also discuss the involvement of African civil society, local authorities, and regional organisations, in view of the upcoming negotiations and against the background of the EU-Africa partnership within the architecture of the post-2020 ACP-EU agreement.

### Methodology

- **Session 8** will convene working group rapporteurs from session 7 on "Roundtables: Issue-focused review of the AU-EU Summit – key outcomes, implications and recommendations". They will share their reflections on what elements should be included in the new EU-ACP partnership agreement, with a view to foster involvement of civil society and relevant stakeholders in the EU-Africa partnership.
- **Session 9** will have the format of an interactive dialogue, chaired by a moderator who will engage the panellists and the audience on key topics and questions. Outputs from Session 8, in the form of targeted recommendations and suggested best practices, will also be shared with panellists and attendees.