

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Africa Caribbean Pacific - European Union



Adopted Resolutions 1993-2012

VOLUME IV



ARCHIVE AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (CARDOK)
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EN

ACP-UE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Africa Caribbean Pacific - European Union



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RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in West Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the countries of West Africa,
- A. whereas the holding of the 'National Reconciliation Forum' in Côte d'Ivoire has encouraged former President Henri Konan Bédié and former Prime Minister Alassane Dramane Ouattara to return to the country and has opened the way for the normalisation of political life in the country,
- B. having regard to the radicalisation of the political situation in Guinea Bissau, as illustrated by the Guinean President's decision to dismiss the president and three judges of the Supreme Court, his threat to suspend the parliament for ten years and the arrest of Fernando Gomes, leader of the 'Socialist Alliance' opposition political party, in dubious circumstances,
- C. having regard to the suspension of the implementation of a human rights programme financed by the European Union in Guinea Bissau, due to the criminal proceedings against human rights activists,
- D. whereas the Guinean authorities opposition to setting up an impartial election supervision body is contributing to the deterioration in the political situation in Guinea (Conakry),
- E. whereas, by organising a constitutional referendum marred by many irregularities on 11 November 2001, the President of Guinea (Conakry) deliberately manipulated the constitution to introduce a means of extending his rule indefinitely,
- F. having regard to the resumption of fighting in Liberia,
- G. whereas the 'Action for Change Party' in Mauritania has been banned and this ban is undermining the democratic process exemplified by the recent parliamentary elections,
- H. having regard to the incidents of ethnic violence in Nigeria,
- I. having regard to the Sharia law that has been introduced since 1999 in eight northern states of Nigeria and has serious consequences for civil liberties and human rights and for the peace between ethnic groups,
- J. whereas the explosion at the munitions and arms depot in Lagos caused the deaths of several hundred people in Nigeria,
- K. whereas only USD 150 million have been repaid out of the several billions of US dollars misappropriated by previous governments in Nigeria and deposited in many countries, including in the EU,
- L. whereas the fishery agreement between the European Union and Senegal has not been renewed,
- M. having regard to the process of pacifying Sierra Leone, involving the collection of arms, the demobilisation of combatants, the establishment of a special UN tribunal and the calling of elections,
- N. having regard to the death of former President Léopold Sédar Senghor, who led Senegal to independence and political pluralism,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- O. whereas, in the absence of the new Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), the Togolese authorities have, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code, decided to postpone the parliamentary elections,
- P. stressing that the Lomé Framework Agreement, signed on 29 July 1999 between the President's coalition of supporters and the opposition parties, is still the reference point for the inter-Togolese dialogue, and noting in this connection that on 20 February 2002 the Togolese President called on the leaders of political parties to resume the dialogue within the Joint Monitoring Committee (CPS),
- Q. having regard to the measures taken in Togo that may make it more difficult to stand in the elections,
- R. noting the numerous political, economic and development efforts and improvements made in this region of Africa with a view to the establishment of an internal market and an economic and social area,
- S. whereas regional cooperation should therefore be introduced rapidly between, on the one hand, the ECOWAS regional parliament and, on the other, a delegation from the European Parliament and members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
1. Pays respectful tribute to the memory of President Senghor and expresses its condolences to the people of Senegal;
 2. Calls for the resumption of negotiations between the European Union and Senegal, with due consideration for the country's fishery resources;
 3. Notes the postponement of the parliamentary elections and commends the Togolese authorities on this appeasement gesture; urges all the parties concerned to find solutions to the existing problems as soon as possible with a view to organising free and fair elections in consultation with all the country's political movements;
 4. Calls on all the political groupings which are signatories to the Lomé Framework Agreement to nominate their new representatives who could be appointed to the CENI;
 5. Calls on the parties concerned to promote appeasement measures;
 6. Welcomes the release of Mr Agboyibo;
 7. Strongly hopes that all the necessary conditions can be met for the normalisation of relations between the European Union and Togo, and considers that the EU should give its full support to the implementation of the electoral process;
 8. Welcomes the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone, expects the UN Special Tribunal to prosecute war crimes and expresses the wish for free and fair parliamentary elections; calls on the EU to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in creating the special fund for war victims in accordance with its prior commitments;
 9. Urges the democratic authorities in Nigeria to continue their efforts to promote and strengthen national harmony in order to avert further conflict;
 10. Welcomes the efforts made by the Federal Nigerian Government in order to save the life of Safiya Hussein, sentenced to death by stoning by a Sharia court, condemns all forms of religious intolerance and expresses its concern that implementation of the Sharia law, in some Nigerian regional states, may affect respect for basic human rights;
 11. Sympathises with the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as with the families of the victims of the fatal explosion in Lagos; lauds the efforts of the Nigerian authorities and of local and international charities, and countries that have offered support and assistance; calls on the European Commission to assess the situation and see what assistance can be offered;

12. Calls on banks in all countries, particularly those in the EU States, which received funds misappropriated by previous governments, to return them to Nigeria as soon as possible, and urges EU governments to apply their influence to facilitate this process;
 13. Calls for freedom to organise for political parties in Mauritania;
 14. Calls on the countries of the 'Mano River Union' strictly to apply their decision to act jointly against all groups involved in action to destabilise the region and to work together to police their common borders;
 15. Supports the efforts made by ECOWAS to contribute to a lasting and definitive settlement of the crisis between the States of the 'Mano River Union';
 16. Calls on the Commission to present a report to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP-EU on the outcome of the discussions opened with the authorities in Guinea (Conakry) under Article 8 of the Cotonou agreement;
 17. Expresses its full solidarity with the parliament of Guinea Bissau in the face of the threats uttered against it;
 18. Calls on the Guinean Government to find a fair solution to the problem of the detention of human rights activists in Guinea Bissau, in order to re-implement the human rights programme, which supports education, democratisation and the strengthening of the rule of law in African countries;
 19. Congratulates all members of the Ivorian political class, especially the leaders, for having brought about an easing of tension, a prerequisite for any development; encourages the Ivorian authorities to take vigorous measures with a view to a new economic resurgence;
 20. Welcomes the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the African Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of Niger to hold seminars in Niamey on concepts of international humanitarian law, in order to protect civilians in armed conflicts in Africa;
 21. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the Commission.
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RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in Central Africa and the African Great Lakes region**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Central Africa and the African Great Lakes region,
- A. whereas the signing of the 'national indicative programme' between the European Union and Burundi signals a decision to resume cooperation, which had been suspended in 1997,
- B. whereas the priority aims of this programme are to combat poverty and implement the Arusha agreement for peace and reconciliation in Burundi,
- C. whereas falling coffee prices are seriously hampering the country's economic recovery,
- D. whereas despite the setting-up of the Arusha agreement transitional institutions, armed groups are continuing to use violence against the innocent civilian population,
- E. whereas half a million Burundian refugees abroad and displaced persons within the country are still living in inhuman conditions,
- F. whereas the three-and-a-half year conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has dramatically increased the rates of malnutrition and mortality in the DRC and whereas up to 70 % of the people in the war-affected areas have no access to health care,
- G. whereas human rights abuses by all sides in the conflict continue in the east of the DRC and whereas dozens of people were killed in recent tribal clashes in the north-east of the country,
- H. whereas the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano has worsened the plight of an already suffering population in the eastern part of the DRC, destroying most of the town of Goma and causing hundreds of thousands of people to flee,
- I. whereas the second report submitted to the UN on the illegal exploitation of the DRC's resources largely confirms the first report,
- J. whereas these reports highlight the fact that the main causes of the conflict are associated with access to, control of and trade in the country's resources, and whereas the ending of this illegal exploitation will help to bring the fighting to an end,
- K. whereas, according to the joint military commission, set up under the Lusaka agreements, only Namibia has withdrawn its troops,
- L. having regard to the right of all countries to their territorial integrity and security,
- M. whereas the negative forces are a source of insecurity in the Great Lakes region,
- N. having regard to the resumption of the inter-Congolese dialogue on 25 February in Sun City (South Africa),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- O. having regard to the signing of the 'national indicative programme' between the European Union and the DRC,
- P. recognising the importance and value of the work done by the Belgian parliament's Lumumba Commission to investigate the role of the Belgian authorities in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the democratically elected Prime Minister of Congo, and his companions on 17 January 1961; having regard, also, to the Belgian Government's apologies for the Belgian authorities' involvement in these events,
- Q. whereas there were a large number of observers for the presidential elections in the Republic of Congo on 10 March 2002,
- R. having regard to the political tension in the Central African Republic following the coups on 28 May and 3 November 2001 and the arrest of those involved in these coups,
- S. having regard to the decision of the Community of Sahel and Saharan States (CEN-SAD), including the representative of the Central African Republic, to deploy an international peacekeeping and security force in the Central African Republic,
- T. having regard to the reconciliation agreement between the Government of Chad and the Tibesti armed rebellion,
1. Notes with satisfaction the decision to resume cooperation between the European Union and Burundi and calls for this to be rapid and effective with a view to rebuilding the country;
 2. Calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities and appeals for rapid negotiations with a view to signing a permanent comprehensive ceasefire agreement;
 3. Calls on all parties concerned to make the efforts needed for the repatriation of refugees and the rehabilitation of those displaced within the country;
 4. Calls for the setting up without delay of the commissions provided for under the Arusha Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Burundi (international judicial commission of inquiry into genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity and a national truth and reconciliation commission);
 5. Calls on all the parties in the conflict in the DRC to respect human rights, the freedom of expression and movement and the right to property;
 6. Calls for the disarmament and demobilisation of combatants and freedom of movement for persons and goods and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC;
 7. Calls for the MONUC to be equipped as soon as possible and mandated to locate and identify the armed groups operating in the DRC and to be given a strong mandate to organise all the necessary negotiations with a view to their disarmament and their repatriation and reintegration;
 8. Reaffirms its attachment to the sovereignty of the DRC, including sovereignty over its natural resources;
 9. Calls for the recommendations contained in the various United Nations reports on countries contributing to the plundering of the DRC's resources to be given due consideration;
 10. Calls on the United Nations to carry out permanent monitoring of the provision of arms and munitions supplies to the region;
 11. Welcomes the resumption of the inter-Congolese dialogue and hopes that this will enable the decisions taken at Gaborone to be implemented and that all the necessary pressure will be exerted on the warring parties and occupying forces to achieve a consensual transition; but regrets that some actors have refused to take part in the dialogue;

12. Hopes that the inter-Congolese dialogue can lead to a new political order guaranteed by new institutions;
13. Welcomes the resumption of cooperation between the European Union and the DRC and calls for the EDF programme to benefit the DRC territory as a whole;
14. Calls on the European Commission to give more support to the United Nations programme to disarm the negative forces in Kivu;
15. Calls on the forces controlling the town of Goma to allow food aid and humanitarian aid for the disaster-stricken people of this town to be delivered by the MONUC;
16. Welcomes the improved relationship between Uganda and Rwanda and the efforts of both presidents to defuse the tensions between their countries;
17. Urges Rwanda to continue efforts to integrate former rebels into civil society and the army, in addition to the 18 000 rebels who have already been reintegrated;
18. Calls for an international conference on the Great Lakes region to be convened under United Nations auspices to establish a unified approach to problems of military security and the political, humanitarian, social and economic problems that affect all the countries in the region, with the involvement of national governments, regional organisations and the European Union;
19. Welcomes the end of the civil war in the Republic of Congo, made possible by the fact that the elections on 10 March 2002 took place peacefully and without major irregularities, and considers that this has given President Denis Sassou Nguesso a very clear mandate, with a substantial majority over the seven other candidates;
20. Condemns any seizure of power by force of arms and calls on the Government of the Central African Republic to hold a fair trial for those charged and to promote national reconciliation;
21. Encourages the CEN-SAD to set up the international peacekeeping force as quickly as possible;
22. Welcomes the reconciliation agreement reached in Chad;
23. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the United Nations and the OAU.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in Southern Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the subject,

Situation in Angola

- A. whereas the death of Jonas Savimbi totally changes the face of the political situation in Angola, and may mean that Angola is going through a special phase of its history,
- B. having regard to the opening of discussions between both military leaderships aiming at a general and definitive ceasefire,
- C. having regard to the Angolan Government statement of 13 March and the intentions of President Dos Santos to fully organise the conditions for national reconciliation, based on an inclusive social and political dialogue, and to provide a total amnesty for all crimes committed within the scope of the armed conflict, in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol,
- D. having regard in particular to the commitment to involve civil society and the churches, namely those within COIEPA (Inter-Church Committee for Peace in Angola), in this national peace and reconciliation process, in order to associate all Angolans and not only the government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola),
- E. whereas UNITA's full integration in the national political scene as a non-armed political party freely reorganised is essential for the consolidation of the democratic process,
- F. whereas the situation is disastrous in humanitarian terms, as 4 million people have been displaced by war,
- G. having regard to the inhuman paradox of a potentially very rich country whose population lives in conditions of extreme poverty, which has been a feature of the suffering of the Angolan people for many years,

Economy

- H. having regard to the two successive crop failures due to flooding caused by torrential rains and the resulting famine which is claiming many lives and threatening lives of as many as 7 million people in Malawi; and having regard to the recent drought situation affecting Malawi and other countries in the region,
- I. whereas Zambia's main investor has decided to pull out of the copper mines, the country's main resource, which would result in more than 10 000 people without employment,
- J. whereas apartheid led the Republic of South Africa to develop a largely self-sufficient economy and whereas it must now face the challenges of globalisation,
- K. whereas the crisis in Zimbabwe is having severe economic repercussions on neighbouring countries, in particular by discouraging new investors,
- L. having regard to the high rate of immigration from neighbouring countries to the Republic of South Africa,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

Democracy

- M. whereas European observers to the elections in Zambia considered that the results of the elections did not reflect actual voting patterns,
- N. whereas the other international observers, including those from the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region, to the elections in Zambia considered that the results of the elections did reflect the actual voting patterns,
- O. whereas the constitution of Zambia provides remedies for persons or parties with complaints about the outcome of an election, and this avenue is already being pursued by the aggrieved parties,

Human Rights

- P. whereas an alarming and unacceptable high number of rapes in South Africa is reported, in particular among the younger age group, including an increasing number of children,
- Q. whereas these criminal practices are linked both to the violence of the society born of the apartheid regime and to mistaken beliefs relating to the transmission of the AIDS virus,
- R. whereas only a small number of those responsible for these sexual crimes are brought to trial and only a very limited number of those are convicted,
- S. whereas AIDS represents a major threat to the populations of Southern Africa,
- T. whereas many children who are now orphans as a result of AIDS are liable to be left to their own devices,
- U. having regard to the sentencing of certain policemen to the maximum penalties for training their dogs to attack black people,
- V. having regard to the aid provided by the European Union for the reform and modernisation of the South African police force,

Angola

1. Welcomes the constructive position, expressing tolerance and reconciliation, set out in the Angolan Government's statement of 13 March 2002, and the cessation of all military activity by the Angolan armed forces and UNITA military forces;
2. Calls on the Angolan Government and UNITA to make this ceasefire definitive and irreversible;
3. Calls on all Angolans, especially the UNITA leadership abroad, to join in the current peace and reconciliation efforts;
4. Encourages the Government to intensify its cooperation with civil society and the churches, namely those within COIEPA, in order to involve every Angolan citizen in this peace and reconciliation process;
5. Encourages the full integration of UNITA into the national political scene as a freely reorganised non-armed political party;

6. Asks the Angolan Government to fully use the assistance of the UN representatives within the framework of the Lusaka Protocol and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
7. Calls on the Government to use this opportunity of peace to give absolute priority to improving the humanitarian and health situation, without any discrimination;
8. Calls on the Government to organise the return of displaced populations to their regions of origin and their reintegration there;
9. Calls for the improvement of mechanisms of transparency, in accordance with the IMF recommendations, related to the exploitation of national resources, income from which must be dedicated to the financing of global, fair, and sustainable development;
10. Calls on the Commission and the ACP-EU Council to support programmes for demining, humanitarian aid, the social reintegration of displaced people, demobilised soldiers, disabled members of the armed forces and war orphans, and the organisation of an international conference of donors for reconstruction of a peaceful Angola;

Economy

11. Calls on the Commission to make urgent efforts to provide food and humanitarian aid for the population threatened by the famine in Malawi and other countries in the region, to limit the impact of future bad weather;
12. Calls on the EU and its cooperating partners to encourage foreign investors to practise good corporate governance, thus ensuring that foreign investors act in accordance with national laws and commercial and legal requirements and respect their social obligations in host countries in order to avoid the situation obtaining in Zambia, particularly the mining sector;

Democracy

13. Notes the ongoing discussions between the EU and Zambia within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and hopes that these discussions will result in a positive outcome;
14. Calls on the Commission to support Zambia and other countries in the region in developing institutions aimed at consolidating good governance;

Human Rights

15. Takes note of the fact that authorisation has finally been granted in the Republic of South Africa for an extension of the nevirapine treatment programme and demands that the South African Government make it generally available to combat mother-to-child transmission of AIDS;
16. Welcomes the fact that an extra EUR 2.5 million is to be allocated to the programme to combat mother-to-child HIV transmission and that funding for the AIDS prevention education programme has been quadrupled;
17. Demands that the South African Government take firm and immediate action to stop the rape of women and girls, and to bring those responsible to justice;
18. Calls on the South African democratic authorities to ensure that measures taken to combat crime do not violate human rights;
19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in Madagascar**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,

- A. whereas it is for the people of Madagascar to choose their President democratically through free and fair elections,
- B. whereas the particularly high turnout in the election of 16 December 2001 showed that the people of Madagascar are determined to contribute to this democratic choice,
- C. whereas the presence of international observers and a comparison of reports would have provided a means of obtaining indisputable voting results,
- D. having regard to the serious unrest which followed protests against the results proclaimed by the High Constitutional Court,
- E. whereas no common interpretation of the results has been possible,
- F. concerned at the fact that the outgoing President proclaimed a state of 'national necessity', and then a curfew,
- G. whereas the country's territorial and social cohesion is seriously threatened,
- H. whereas the confrontation, which until then had been peaceful, has now become brutal, and whereas clashes are likely to recur at any moment and to degenerate into widespread confrontation,
- I. whereas the armed forces have so far succeeded in avoiding the use of arms,
- J. whereas the members of the UN Security Council have expressed 'concern over the situation of unrest prevailing in Madagascar and the potential for undermining peace and stability in that country in particular and the region as a whole',
- K. having regard to the importance of freedom of movement for persons and goods inside the country, in particular between Antananarivo and Toamasina,
- L. whereas Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries and whereas the losses caused by the crisis are making the situation worse day by day,
- M. having regard to the OAU's mediation efforts, but noting that there has been no positive response to its latest proposals,
 - 1. Expresses its extreme concern about the risks inherent in the current situation in Madagascar and calls on all parties to refrain from violence;
 - 2. Commends the military authorities on not having resorted to violence, and calls on them to continue in this way and refrain from taking on the responsibilities of the civilian authorities;
 - 3. Congratulates the OAU on its mediation proposals, expresses its encouragement and support for it, and asks it to pursue its efforts assiduously;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

4. Calls on the people of Madagascar to engage in dialogue, including direct dialogue between the two main protagonists, which will make it possible to achieve a fair political settlement based on consensus, in accordance with the people's democratic aspirations, acceptable to both sides and capable of breaking the institutional deadlock;
5. Expresses the wish that the people of Madagascar will be allowed to express themselves democratically in order to ratify the institutional settlement which will have been agreed to within the framework of the constitution;
6. Calls for the sending of an ACP-EU joint facilitation mission, coordinated with the OAU;
7. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the OAU, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the political authorities of Madagascar.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in Zimbabwe**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to previous resolutions on Zimbabwe adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament,
 - having regard to the agreement reached in Abuja on 6 September 2001,
 - having regard to the decisions of the EU General Affairs Council meetings of 28 January 2002 (to close its Cotonou consultations with Zimbabwe), of 18 February 2002 (to introduce a package of targeted sanctions) and of 16 March 2002,
 - having regard to the outcome of the 9-11 March 2002 Presidential elections,
 - having regard to the decision by the Commonwealth to suspend Zimbabwe's membership on 19 March 2002, for a period of one year,
- A. whereas the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth for one year following the agreement of Commonwealth leaders including President Mbeki of South Africa, and the implementation of further 'smart' sanctions on and global reaction to Zimbabwe by additional nations including Switzerland, indicates the level of international concern at the outcome of the 9-11 March Presidential elections,
- B. deeply regretting all actions by President Mugabe before, during, and after the Zimbabwean presidential elections which have led to this concerted international reaction and the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth,
- C. whereas the political situation in Zimbabwe must be the subject of international and regional initiatives leading to free and fair elections as soon as possible monitored by, amongst others, the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the SADC (Southern African Development Community) and the European Union,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- D. whereas the international community recognises the humanitarian needs of the people of Zimbabwe,
1. Welcomes the decision of the Commonwealth Troika meeting on 19 March 2002, to suspend Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth for one year, believes that this judgement reflects the clear views expressed by the Commonwealth observer team and hopes that this will pave the way for reconciliation in Zimbabwe;
 2. Calls on President Mugabe to drop all charges of treason immediately against the legitimate leader of the opposition, Morgan Tsvangirai, and his colleagues and to rescind immediately all the draconian legislation proposed and adopted by the government, which has restricted the freedom of speech, freedom of the media, and democracy in Zimbabwe before, during and after the elections;
 3. Calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to work alongside the Commonwealth and other regional and international groupings so as to put in place confidence-building measures which create a genuine and transparent environment for national dialogue aimed at promoting national understanding and reconciliation in Zimbabwe;
 4. Calls upon the EU and the wider international community to provide large-scale assistance to Zimbabwe, including support for a legal land reform process, when it is evident that democracy, human rights and the rule of law have been re-established following free and fair elections;
 5. Calls for new elections to be held within the year under the auspices of the Commonwealth and the international community so as to allow all the people of Zimbabwe the freedom to elect the President of their choice;
 6. Pledges support for continued humanitarian aid and assistance for the people of Zimbabwe in this time of need, and urges the EU and the wider international community to respond with urgency to any genuine and clearly non-partisan appeal for food aid;
 7. Calls for an ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly mission to Zimbabwe, which should be at the highest level and at the earliest opportunity, but must only take place if there is clear support from all the major Zimbabwean political parties;
 8. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth, the SADC, the OAU and the United Nations, and the Presidents of the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in East Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on East Africa, in particular the Horn of Africa,
 - having regard to its resolution on the situation in Sudan (ACP-EU 3327/01/fin) adopted at its third session on 1 November 2001,
 - having regard to the results of the ninth Summit of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) held in Khartoum on 10 and 11 January 2002,
 - having regard to Resolution No 7 of the 74th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers on the normalisation of relations between the EU and Sudan,
 - having regard to the decision of the EU to normalise relations with Sudan,
- A. whereas progress in the implementation of the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea has been achieved over the past year, but some issues still need to be resolved in order to achieve full implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord,
- B. whereas the UN Security Council sent a 15-member mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea from 20 to 25 February 2002 in order to address the issues of the peace process between these two countries and discuss the further implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord signed in December 2000,
- C. recalling the EU's commitment to supporting the implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord, and the important contribution made by the EU Member States to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and to the OAU observer missions,
- D. noting the positive progress in the EU-Sudan dialogue and the recent improvement of relations with Sudan, particularly the results of the EU Troika mission to Sudan in December 2001, and the decision of the EU to normalise relations with Sudan,
- E. whereas a ceasefire agreement in the Nuba mountains was signed on 19 January 2002 by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Nuba, which could represent an important step towards achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Sudanese civil war,
- F. considering the resolution on Sudan adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in November 2001 in Brussels and having noted that improvement has been made in the areas currently covered by the political dialogue — notably human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance,
- G. considering the increased transparency shown by the Government of Sudan and its support for the fight against terrorism,
- H. deploring the recent bombing of the food distribution centre of the WFP in South Sudan, but welcoming the agreement signed by the Government of Sudan and SPLA/SPLM under the auspices of the USA to refrain from attacking civilians and civilian targets,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- I. whereas the Government of Sudan has stopped all supplies to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and has made yet another attempt to get the LRA to enter into a dialogue with the Government of Uganda, but Joseph Kony has refused,
 - J. whereas the LRA has been placed on the list of international terrorist groups,
 - K. whereas the LRA is now attacking villages in southern Sudan, looting food and killing civilians, causing thousands of people to flee,
 - L. whereas abductions, fighting and looting in northern Uganda by the LRA are continuing and up to 500 000 people in northern Uganda still live in protected villages, their return home being hindered by ongoing activities of the LRA,
 - M. whereas seven LRA commanders surrendered and returned to Uganda at the beginning of 2002 under the terms of the Amnesty Bill,
 - N. concerned about the continuous conflict in Somalia that has resulted in an exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries and has contributed to illicit trade and proliferation of small arms, leading to insecurity, despite the arms embargo against Somalia imposed by Resolutions 733, 751 and 1356 of the UN Security Council,
 - O. whereas the security situation in Somalia could have a disastrous impact on the precarious humanitarian situation in the country,
 - P. whereas Somalia requires the urgent attention and assistance of the international community, in particular of the EU, in order to consolidate the peace process and assist the transitional institutions in the restoration of the state and the preservation of national unity and territorial integrity,
 - Q. whereas 75 % of the voters in the Comoros were in favour of the new constitution, which guarantees a large measure of autonomy for each island and democratically-run institutions,
 - R. whereas, under the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation, Azali Assoumani has resigned as head of state and army chief of staff to stand as a candidate in the presidential elections,
1. Welcomes the steps being taken by the UN Security Council in pursuing measures to contribute to the completion of the Ethiopia/Eritrea peace process;
 2. Calls on both parties to expeditiously implement the decision of the Boundary Commission on the border delimitation;
 3. Reiterates its support for the efforts of the special representative of the UN Secretary-General and calls on Ethiopia and Eritrea to enhance fully their cooperation with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate, which was renewed on 15 March 2002;
 4. Welcomes the ceasefire agreement in the Nuba mountains signed on 19 January 2002 by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Nuba; calls on both signatory parties to this agreement to implement all its modalities, in particular Article VII thereof, establishing an international monitoring unit to contribute to a viable peace process; encourages positive efforts taken on the same lines in other parts of Sudan aimed at bringing the Sudanese civil conflict to an end;
 5. Calls on the international community, including the EU, to capitalise on the political will and window of opportunity prevailing in Sudan by creating a single, multilateral, high-level and sustained peace process building on all current peace initiatives;
 6. Calls on the Government of Sudan and the SPLA/SPLM to adhere to the agreement recently signed on the cessation of attacks against civilians and civilian targets;

7. Calls on both the Government of Sudan and the SPLA to allow relief organisations access to the affected areas, including the southern Blue Nile region, and to allow UN human rights observers to monitor the human rights situation in those areas;
8. Calls on the EU, its Member States and other donors or potential donors to actively support the aid, relief and rehabilitation projects in the Nuba Mountains region, with a view to consolidating the parties' stance and commitment to the peace process and with a view to inducing other groups to join the search for peace throughout the country;
9. Welcomes Sudan's and the EU's involvement in defining the priorities for programming of EDF support for all Sudan;
10. Welcomes the cessation of support for the LRA by the Government of Sudan;
11. Welcomes the improving relationship between the Government of Uganda and the Government of Sudan with a view to achieving peace in the region;
12. Welcomes the latest mediation attempts by the Government of Sudan, but regrets that these did not lead to a dialogue between the LRA and the Government of Uganda with a view to the dissolution of the LRA and the release of the abducted children;
13. Is gravely concerned about the ongoing abduction of children in northern Uganda and the continued mistreatment of the thousands of children abducted by the LRA, including rape, beatings, killings, denial of medical treatment, forced fighting and looting;
14. Is gravely concerned about the raids by the LRA on villages in southern Sudan, in which civilians are being killed and forced to flee;
15. Calls on the Governments of Uganda and Sudan to consider all necessary measures to dismantle the LRA camps and to ensure the release of the abducted children, provided that any military or security operation is conducted in accordance with the UN conventions and resolutions designed to protect children, women and civilian hostages;
16. Calls on the Government of Uganda to provide all possible support to the Government of Sudan, respecting international laws, and recommends the involvement of international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;
17. Calls on the Government of Uganda to continue to offer LRA Members every opportunity to surrender under the terms of the Amnesty Bill;
18. Calls on the EU to consider appointing a special representative to assist and monitor the efforts being made by the Governments of Uganda and Sudan to get the children released and repatriated to Uganda;
19. Welcomes the IGAD decision to set up a technical committee to prepare for a Somali reconciliation conference that would be an inclusive political framework, to include Somalia's Transitional National Government and other Somali parties;
20. Calls upon all Somali parties to put aside their differences and participate in the IGAD-facilitated dialogue without preconditions and with a genuine resolve to broaden and complete the national reconciliation process;
21. Calls on the EU to examine ways and means of supporting IGAD's efforts to assist the Somalis to achieve peace and national reconciliation and to put an end to a situation which is causing much distress and suffering among the civilian population;
22. Urges the EU to contribute to the enormous financial resources required to finance development projects and programmes in the region;
23. Welcomes the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros and the establishment of new decentralised democratic structures;
24. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, IGAD, the African Union and the Governments of the Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the Caribbean region**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- A. having regard to the impact of the attack on 11 September on tourism in the Caribbean and on the economy as a whole, including the loss of tax income,
- B. whereas progress has been made towards a Caricom common market, which should be in set up by 2005,
- C. having regard to the Conference of Caricom Heads of State and Government, held in Belize from 3 to 5 February 2002,
- D. having regard to the illegal trafficking in drugs and associated criminality and the meeting in Trinidad and Tobago from 4 to 6 December to organise action to address these ills,
- E. noting that the general elections of 10 December 2001 in Trinidad and Tobago ended in a tie (each of the two main political parties in the country won 18 seats in Parliament) and hoping that the situation will be resolved expeditiously,

The situation in Haiti

- F. having regard to its earlier resolution on the situation in Haiti, adopted on 21 March 2001 in Libreville, calling *inter alia* for the lifting of sanctions,
- G. concerned by the general deterioration of the situation in the country and the political impasse, especially since the controversy about the percentage calculation method used by the Provisional Electoral Council in the legislative and municipal elections on 21 May 2000,
- H. concerned by the explosion of violence and the attempted coup d'état against President Aristide in December 2001, which cost several people their lives,
- I. concerned at the attacks and threats against journalists and the independent media and the assassination in December 2001 of Mr Brignol Lindor, Director of Radio Echo 2000 and the assassination of Lavalas Marc André Dirogène, Member of Parliament, in February 2002,
- J. having regard to the assassination in April 2000 of Mr Jean Dominique, Director of Radio Haiti and the best-known political analyst in the country,
- K. having regard to the European Union's suspension of development aid to the end of 2002, in accordance with Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which is aggravating the situation in Haiti,
- L. whereas the European Union has stated its intention of reviewing this decision with a view to a gradual resumption of aid if the political situation improves as regards the holding of legislative elections and the creation of a Provisional Electoral Council and democratic institutions,
- M. whereas Haiti will only find the political stability that it needs for economic and social development by respecting the principles of democracy and human rights that form the essential bases for a solution to the current crisis,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- N. whereas the economic sanctions imposed on Haiti have a negative impact on the other Caribbean countries,
- O. having regard to the problems identified by the OAS mission concerning counting procedures, which led to the resignation of seven senators, and the reduction of the term of office of the members of parliament elected in May 2000,
- P. having regard to the Haitian Government's decision to hold elections scheduled for November 2002,
- Q. having regard to the agreement between the Haitian Government and the OAS, signed on 4 March 2002, on the OAS's request to send a long-term mission to Haiti,
- R. having regard to the formation of a new government, with a policy of openness, especially the appointment of a minister from the opposition with responsibility for relations with opposition dissidents,
1. Recognises the efforts of the Association of Dominican Free Zones and the government to establish industrial parks on the Dominican-Haitian boarder with the objective of creating jobs for nationals of both countries with equal working conditions;
 2. Highlights the beneficial cooperation between the Haitian and Dominican Governments to resolve the problems common to both peoples;
 3. Asks the Dominican people to participate massively in the upcoming 16 May 2002 municipal and congressional elections that will be guaranteed by the impartiality of the members of the Central Electoral Junta;
 4. Welcomes the general elections that were successfully held in Guyana (19 March 2001), St Vincent and the Grenadines (28 March 2001) and St Lucia (3 December 2001);
 5. Stresses the need to combat money laundering from illegal trafficking;
 6. Supports the Caricom presidency in its efforts to resolve the political crisis in Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti;
 7. Calls on the Commission to give particular attention to countries that are suffering from the crisis in tourism and associated economic sectors;
 8. Welcomes the fact that regional economic integration may lead to the formation of a regional common market;
 9. Welcomes the decision by international donors to support Jamaica in repairing the economic damage caused by acts of violence in the country, by the events of 11 September 2001 and by the disastrous rains which have particularly affected agriculture and tourism;
 10. Encourages the Government of the Dominican Republic to continue the implementation of the social programme of February 2001 to reduce poverty;

The situation in Haiti

11. Strongly condemns the assassinations of journalists and the assassination of Lavalas Marc André Dirogène, Member of Parliament, and calls on the Haitian Government to take the necessary action to bring those responsible for these crimes to justice;

12. Condemns the attempted coup d'état against President Aristide on 17 December 2001;
13. Calls on President Aristide to continue efforts to find a definitive solution to the Haitian crisis;
14. Calls on the opposition party leaders to find a negotiated solution to bring the country out of its political impasse and to allow the Haitians to concentrate on development problems;
15. Recommends the appointment of mediators, along the lines of the inter-Congolese dialogue, to encourage a lasting political agreement between the followers of President Aristide, the opposition leaders and representatives of civil society;
16. Considers that development aid can be granted only if human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law are respected in accordance with Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement;
17. Believes that the suspension of development aid will aggravate Haiti's already precarious socio-economic situation;
18. Calls on the EU to reconsider the Haiti case, taking account of the people's interests;
19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission and the Government of Haiti.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Cuba

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the Caribbean and, in particular, in Cuba,
 - having regard to the resolution which it adopted in Gabon (March 2001) on Cuba's accession to the new ACP-EU association agreement,
 - having regard to the various European Parliament initiatives relating to relations between the EU and Cuba,
 - having regard to the repeated statements by the EU Council Presidency to the effect that the Council would welcome an application from Cuba to accede to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to Articles 9 and 96 of the Cotonou Agreement on respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law,
- A. whereas it may be concluded from the EU Troika's visit to Havana in December 2001 that Cuba accepts the text of the Cotonou Agreement in every respect and is willing to abide fully by all provisions and articles, including those on human rights,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- B. whereas the General Affairs Council stated in December 2001 that there are certain positive signs in Cuba-EU relations,
- C. whereas Cuba has stated that it will reapply for accession to the Cotonou Agreement if it receives assurances to the effect that, on accession, it will have the same rights and the same obligations as the other members of the ACP-EU association,
- D. whereas most of the Council members are in favour of Cuba's accession to the Cotonou Agreement on the above terms and conditions,
- E. whereas Cuba's full accession to the ACP-EU Association Agreement provides an opportunity for promoting the necessary political and economic progress of the country,
- F. bearing in mind the impact of the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba and the numerous successive resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly on this topic,
- G. whereas the Commission (especially after the recent natural disasters which have struck the island) has stated that it appreciates the need for greater cooperation with Cuba in terms of humanitarian and development aid,
- H. having regard to the UN General Assembly's resolution A/56/9, which was adopted on 27 November 2001 by a resounding majority (including votes in favour from the 15 EU Member States) and which calls for an end to the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the USA,
- I. whereas the political dialogue between the EU Troika and Cuba, which resumed in December 2001, has been described by both parties as frank, open and without preconditions, respecting differences and oriented towards the future,
- J. whereas the European Union Member States have become the most important economic and trade partners of Cuba,
1. Welcomes the willingness demonstrated by the Cuban Government to open a political dialogue with the EU on all matters of common interest including human rights and to accept and abide by all the principles laid down in the Cotonou Agreement;
2. Encourages the Cuban people in their efforts to overcome the economic and humanitarian difficulties, which have been aggravated by the natural disasters that have occurred in recent months;
3. Calls on the Spanish Presidency to pursue the political dialogue relaunched by the Belgian Presidency;
4. Urges both Cuba and the European Union to pursue their relations and their renewed political dialogue on the basis agreed in the joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the political dialogue between Cuba and the EU Troika, held in Havana, on 2 December 2001, and to continue to exercise the constructive spirit thus shown by them;
5. Considers that, should Cuba reapply for accession to the Cotonou Agreement, it should receive a swift response, as called for on a number of occasions by both the ACP community and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
6. Calls on the Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers to ensure that an eventual accession application by Cuba be treated fairly, impartially and equitably, and under the same conditions that have been requested from the other signatories to the Agreement;

7. Considers that the EU and Cuban authorities must deepen the dialogue on all issues of common interest in a constructive and frank manner, including on a future cooperation framework;
8. Encourages the European Commission to strengthen its efforts for cooperation, including with civil and non-governmental organisations in Cuba;
9. Welcomes the Commission's decision to open a delegation in Havana and asks for a timetable for implementation of this decision;
10. Favours maintaining and pursuing the same spirit of openness and gradual rapprochement between the European and Cuban parties;
11. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Government and the Parliament of Cuba.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in the Pacific region**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the Pacific region and with specific reference to the situation in Fiji and the Solomon Islands,
- A. whereas the Pacific region has recently experienced ethnic tensions and political turmoil,
 - B. whereas organisations like the Pacific Regional Forum are moving towards establishing a free-trade area for the Pacific, which would encourage economic growth and sustainable development in the Fiji Islands and the ACP countries in the region,
 - C. whereas general elections took place in Fiji in August and September 2001,
 - D. whereas George Speight, who led a coup in Fiji two years ago, has received a life sentence after pleading guilty to treason,
 - E. whereas a court in Fiji has ruled that a provision of the constitution permits the formation of a multi-party Cabinet,
 - F. whereas voting has taken place peacefully in the Solomon Islands' first election since the violent coup in 2000,
 - G. noting the Solomon Islands' financial and social problems,
 - H. whereas geographic isolation coupled with under-resourced transport infrastructure often leads to a destabilisation of resident populations, which in turn has a negative effect on the socio-economic development of small countries and their economies, particularly in relation to private sector development, trade, health and tourism,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

Fiji

1. Stresses that recent voting results in Fiji reflected the will of the people after a free and fair election;
2. Notes that international observers made suggestions for improvements in the electoral system for future use and urges the relevant authorities to give consideration to these suggestions;
3. Calls on all elements of Fijian society to work together in a spirit of reconciliation to restore inclusive democratic rule in Fiji;
4. Welcomes the European Union's decision to lift all sanctions placed on Fiji after the 19 May 2000 coup and calls on the Commission to take all reasonable steps to facilitate the expeditious processing of development assistance projects that were held up because of the recent political situation in Fiji;
5. Considers that the decision of the European Union to lift all sanctions on Fiji has been made in the light of positive developments in the country since Fiji's return to constitutional governance;

Solomon Islands

6. Supports all efforts to create national unity and reconciliation in the Solomon Islands;
7. Recognising that the Solomon Islands cannot afford further ethnic unrest;
8. Urges the Commission to keep a close watch on moves towards democracy and reforms in the Solomon Islands, particularly in view of the crucial role played by EU funds, and where appropriate to assist the government in its rehabilitation process;

Investment

9. Calls on the Commission to provide assistance to countries in the Pacific Region to help them identify EU businesses willing to invest in the region, particularly in SMEs, and, where necessary, to provide assistance to those businesses who currently invest there;

Aviation and small island states

10. Recognises that many Pacific Islands, in particular small island states, are disadvantaged as a result of irregular and infrequent transport links, and this problem affects particularly the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru and Tuvalu;
11. Calls on the Commission to take note of the difficulties experienced by small island nations of the Pacific in relation to air transport links in the Pacific;
12. Asks the Commission, in deciding upon measures under Annex VI Articles 4 and 5 of the Cotonou Agreement, to assist small island ACP states, to consider issues relating to air transport and shipping, and, where possible to come up with quantifiable initiatives and programmes to assist individual ACP States and their citizens;
13. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Commonwealth, and the Governments of the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the economic partnership agreements (EPAs)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- having regard to Article 37(1) of the Cotonou Agreement concerning the negotiation of economic partnership agreements 'during the preparatory period which shall end by December 2007',
- A. whereas Article 1 of the Cotonou Agreement refers to the partnership that exists between the ACP countries and the EU and states that this partnership 'shall be centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy',
- B. whereas the aim of the ACP-EU partnership should be the economic, social and cultural development of the ACP States and should facilitate the transformation of the basis of integration of ACP economies into the world economy so as to lay the foundation for sustainable forms of poverty-focused development,
- C. whereas any future ACP-EU development, economic cooperation and trade arrangements should be structured in such a way as to reduce gender gaps in access to economic resources, opportunities and outcomes,
- D. whereas any future ACP-EU development, economic cooperation and trading arrangements should support and promote the structural transformation of ACP economies, so that their production structures shift away from goods with low demand growth and stagnant or declining price trends towards the production of goods and services with higher demand growth and favourable price trends,
- E. whereas any future ACP-EU development, economic cooperation and trading arrangements should support increased levels of local value added in the processing of products in ACP countries for the domestic, regional or international markets,
- F. noting that Article 37(6) of the Cotonou Agreement states that 'in 2004, the Community will assess the situation of the non-LDC which, after consultations with the Community, decide that they are not in a position to enter into economic partnership agreements and will examine all alternative possibilities',
- G. noting that Article 37(7) makes provision for the negotiations to 'take account of the level of development and the socio-economic impact of trade measures on ACP countries and their capacity to adapt and adjust their economies to the liberalisation process',
- H. recognising that no ACP country should be left worse off in terms of conditions of access to the EU market than under the current trading arrangements,
- I. noting that any future ACP-EU development arrangements should address the needs of small economies, including small island developing states and single-commodity-dependent economies, with the objective of ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage by the introduction of any WTO-compatible trading arrangements,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- J. acknowledging that it is essential to ensure that trade negotiations are conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner incorporating all concerned stakeholders, including national parliaments, into trade policy debates, in order to ensure that wider sustainable development objectives guide the conduct and outcome of the negotiations,
- K. noting that the forthcoming negotiations are of particular importance to ACP countries since the EU is the most important trading partner for many of them and that it is critical for broad discussion to be encouraged on the form of future ACP-EU partnership agreements,
- L. acknowledging that capacity constraints exist in ACP countries and that it is therefore important to ensure that trade arrangements established between ACP countries and the EU take account of this reality,
- M. acknowledging the EU's contribution of EUR 20 million for the development of trade negotiating capacity within ACP countries,
- N. whereas, at the last joint meeting of the Ministerial Trade Committee in Nairobi in October 2001, the EU indicated that the amount should be regarded as an initial allocation,
- O. recognising that, as a result of the delays in the preparation of the studies and the establishment of the Project Management Unit, the schedule for ACP preparations for the negotiations has been adversely affected with the result that it will be difficult for an ACP mandate to be prepared in time to commence substantive negotiations in September 2002,
- P. recognising the need to preserve effective market access opportunities for ACP exporters,
- Q. noting that regulatory measures, including health and safety issues, and rules of origin are amongst the principal barriers to ACP exports to the EU,
- R. considering that substantial supply-side constraints face the ACP countries in their efforts to bring their industries up to standards that will be acceptable to the EU,
- S. recognising that many ACP governments are concerned about the impact that the implementation of free-trade agreements with the EU could have on government revenues and hence on the availability of funds for programmes of assistance to various disadvantaged groups such as the poor, women and indigenous persons,
- T. acknowledging that the lack of progress in the current process of reform of the Common agricultural policy could have adverse implications for agriculture and agro-processing industries in ACP countries,
1. Calls on all parties to uphold the legal obligations and political commitments enshrined in Articles 35, 36, and 37 of the Cotonou Agreement for the negotiation of economic partnership agreements, in particular the safeguarding of the benefits which the ACP countries currently derive from the existing trade arrangements; affirms that this commitment goes to the very heart of the credibility of and the partners' trust in the EU-ACP relationship;
2. Calls for any future ACP-EU partnership agreements to be relevant to the priorities of ACP countries, taking into account the need for adequate differentiation for small economies, including small island developing and landlocked states, and to ensure that ACP States are able to benefit from real access to European markets;
3. Calls for the EPAs to be structured in such a way as to bring about sustainable development and poverty reduction in the ACP countries;

4. Highlights that it is necessary for EPAs to support the structural transformation of ACP economies and facilitate the reduction of gender gaps in access to economic and social resources and opportunities;
5. Calls for the negotiating process to be structured in such a way as to clearly and systematically address, within realistic time frames, the areas of major concern identified by ACP countries;
6. Calls for national and regional parliaments to establish appropriate mechanisms to enable all concerned stakeholders to be involved in the trade policy debates at national and regional levels, in order to ensure that wider sustainable development objectives guide the conduct and outcome of the negotiations;
7. Stresses that a commitment should be made by all parties to a negotiation process that is open and transparent;
8. Urges the EU to take into account the importance of removing residual tariff and market access restrictions which are currently imposed on ACP exports, especially in those areas where there is potential for benefits from increased production and exports;
9. Calls for the application of rules of origin, the establishment of regulatory measures and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary standards to be undertaken in ways that will encourage new investment in ACP countries and also minimise the economic costs for small ACP enterprises;
10. Calls for a review of existing institutional arrangements for the provision of assistance in addressing supply-side constraints, in order to determine their level of effectiveness;
11. Calls for the establishment and implementation of coordinated and integrated country-specific programmes of assistance to address supply-side constraints, which extend beyond current initiatives within existing ACP-EU cooperation arrangements;
12. Calls for the provision of assistance to address the possible negative fiscal adjustments which could occur as a consequence of the introduction of new trade arrangements, with particular emphasis on institutional reform and strengthening of government revenue collection agencies in ACP countries, identification of expenditures of greatest importance to, and the impact of new revenue measures on, disadvantaged groups, especially the poor, women and indigenous persons;
13. Stresses the importance of assessing the possible implications of the ongoing process of reform of the Common agricultural policy for the ACP countries and calls for mechanisms to be put in place to minimise the possible adverse effects of such reforms;
14. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on negotiations between the EU and the ACP States on trade, rules of origin and sanitary and phytosanitary measures**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- having regard to Decision No 5/LXXIV/01 of the 74th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels on 6 and 7 December 2001 calling for the problem of investigative missions into the origin of products to be placed on the agenda of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
- A. mindful that one of the Cotonou Agreement's principal objectives is to promote and expedite the economic, cultural and social development of the ACP States,
- B. whereas the two parties signatory to the Cotonou Agreement have undertaken, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Agreement, to refrain from any measures liable to jeopardise these objectives,
- C. aware of the importance of investment for the ACP countries' economic and social development,
- D. whereas access to the ACP markets by heavily subsidised European and North American products contributed to the weakening of these countries' economic and social fabric, malnutrition, famine and dependence on outside aid,
- E. having regard to the main purpose of rules of origin, which is to promote industrial development and create jobs in the ACP countries, avoiding deflections of trade that may reduce the effectiveness of the EU customs tariff,
- F. noting the complexity of the rules of origin for certain products, especially fishery products and textiles,
- G. whereas there is a need for the adoption or strengthening of legislation, where appropriate, and its enforcement to control the unsustainable hunting and commercial trade in bush meat,
- H. whereas a partial interpretation with no legal foundation of the provisions of Protocol 1 on rules of origin is likely to discourage industrialisation efforts in the ACP countries by significantly reducing investment in these countries,
- I. having regard to the provisions of Article 26 of Protocol 1 to the Fourth Lomé Convention and of Article 32 of Protocol 1 to Annex V to the Cotonou Agreement,
- J. concerned at the procedure followed in investigative missions on product origin, the methods by which the Commission department responsible for combating fraud (OLAF) conducts these missions in the ACP countries, and the measures that are taken against the countries concerned following these inquiries,
- K. having regard to the need to ensure rigorous respect for the provisions on administrative cooperation and the serious damage to the ACP countries that could ensue because of a breach of these provisions,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- L. aware of the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary measures for the protection of human, animal and plant health,
 - M. having regard to the provisions of Article 12 of the Cotonou Agreement that states that where the Community intends to take a measure which might affect the interests of the ACP States it shall inform the states concerned of its intentions in good time, with a view to consultations before the measures are adopted,
 - N. whereas the Commission tends to adopt sanitary and phytosanitary measures without informing the ACP States in good time and is thus in breach of the provisions of Article 48 of the Cotonou Agreement,
 - O. whereas these measures require the ACP countries to make adjustments that entail considerable costs and primarily affect the agricultural sector, which represents an important part of the ACP countries' export income,
 - P. having regard to the provisions of Articles 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10 and Annex B to the WTO Agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS),
 - Q. whereas sanitary inspections at the point of entry to the Community are more harmful to the ACP countries than those carried out before export,
1. Calls on the European Union to:
 - (a) consent to examine aspects of the rules of origin, which remain complex;
 - (b) ensure correct and standard implementation of Protocol 1 in conformity with the principal objective of the rules of origin in the Cotonou Agreement and in a way consistent with the EU's development policy;
 - (c) make the control mechanisms for OLAF activities more efficient to ensure that the authorities of EU Member States do not take measures that are prejudicial to the ACP countries solely on the basis of an isolated initiative by OLAF that has not been discussed by the Commission;
 - (d) take all necessary provisions to ensure scrupulous respect for the obligations laid down in the relevant provisions of the Cotonou Agreement and the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS);
 - (e) implement the provisions on special, differentiated treatment in the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS);
 - (f) create a mechanism for export controls rather than controls at the point of entry into the Community;
 - (g) give the ACP countries financial and technical assistance to help establish the necessary infrastructure and develop their capacity for improved monitoring and management of sanitary and phytosanitary issues;
 - (h) avoid using sanitary and phytosanitary measures as disguised trade restrictions;
 2. Considers that future trade negotiations between the ACP countries and the EU must be based on an assessment of the current trade liberalisation policy and its impact on the ACP countries' economies;
 3. Calls for future trade negotiations between the ACP countries and the EU to take sustainable development as their objective and to be oriented towards supporting ACP internal efforts to strengthen their own development strategy and their autonomy;

4. Considers that efforts to alleviate poverty must specifically tackle the structural causes of the ACP countries' impoverishment and calls for an end to export subsidies that disrupt local markets, cancellation of the debt that absorbs over 40 % of the Least Developed Countries' GNP, reform of the current WTO rules and their revision by fair rules that take account of the southern countries' concerns;
5. Considers that the private sector, which has social and environmental responsibilities, can contribute to sustainable development and points out that it is the ACP countries' responsibility to adopt appropriate rules to protect and develop their industries and selectively open their markets in the light of their economic situation without, however, jeopardising the local private sector;
6. Urges the taking of all necessary steps to restrict the illegal consumption of great ape bush meat and to inform people in all the ACP and EU countries of the high public health, conservation and trade risks of eating great ape bush meat;
7. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission and the World Trade Organisation.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa),
 - having regard to the New African Initiative adopted by the African Union in Lusaka (Zambia) in July 2001,
- A. whereas African leaders have developed a new initiative, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
 - B. whereas NEPAD has been endorsed by the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) and supported by a wide spectrum of world leaders and organisations, including the EU and the ACP,
 - C. whereas NEPAD is based on a firm and shared conviction by African leaders that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development while creating conditions for Africa to participate actively in the world economy and body politic,
 - D. whereas NEPAD envisages the elaboration and implementation of concrete plans and programmes to address, inter alia:
 - the promotion of peace, security, democracy and political governance,
 - the improvement of economic and corporate governance,
 - the bridging of infrastructure gaps, including the digital divide,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March in Cape Town (South Africa).

- the promotion of human resource development and the reversal of the brain drain from the continent,
 - the development of agriculture and industry, and the promotion of culture, science and technology,
 - the improvement of market access within Africa and between Africa and developed economies,
- E. whereas NEPAD is firmly based on the principle of African ownership, responsibility and leadership, including a recognition that African development will be a product of African people themselves,
- F. whereas NEPAD, nevertheless, recognises that its success depends on a positive response from international partners, including:
- finding ways to increase private capital flows to Africa, enhance debt relief and reform ODA programmes,
 - enlarging access to global markets for Africa's products,
 - developing a new partnership with industrialised countries and multilateral organisations on the basis of mutual commitments, obligations, interests, contributions and benefits,
- G. whereas NEPAD was formulated against a background of worrying signs of growing marginalisation of African economies and African peoples within the world economy, and as the digital divide in information and communication technologies (ICT) widens,
- H. whereas NEPAD is, nevertheless, based on a positive view that Africa has tremendous potential, and that it is in the interest of the entire world to ensure that it is developed,
- I. believing that NEPAD provides a coherent vision and programme for Africa's growth and development,
- J. noting that steps are being taken to give concrete effect to the various programmes elaborated under NEPAD, and that the EU must also take account of the particular disadvantages facing small and remote island states in the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Ocean regions,
1. Welcomes NEPAD and expresses its full support for this vital new initiative which should promote sustainable development and assist in reducing poverty;
 2. Recognises that there is considerable scope for the ACP-EU partnership to be effectively aligned with NEPAD;
 3. Believes that support for NEPAD from international organisations and partners has to reach beyond rhetoric, and that it raises a challenge to go beyond 'business as usual' and to identify new ways to cooperate in taking this project forward;
 4. Urges the Commission, therefore, to make a serious commitment to the detailed NEPAD programmes and projects, to identify ways in which, both directly and through the EU-ACP partnership, EU programmes can support NEPAD;
 5. Requests the Commission to table a report on this matter at the next session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
 6. Urges African parliamentarians to find ways of contributing to taking NEPAD forward;
 7. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the Organisation of African Unity/African Union, the European Investment Bank, the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on stagnation in the production sectors for bananas, rice and other products**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,

- A. whereas ACP countries will benefit for some years from preferential access to the EU market, notably for bananas, rice and other products, with a view to supporting the ACP countries' export revenue and further development,
 - B. whereas the Cotonou Agreement envisages that ACP countries are to be the beneficiaries of the preferential import arrangements for bananas,
 - C. whereas EU banana imports from the ACP are governed by import licensing arrangements which disproportionately penalise ACP suppliers, particularly the most vulnerable, and the concerns expressed to the Commission by the JPA and the ACP were not given due consideration, with the result that ACP interests have not been satisfactorily accommodated in the reform of the EU banana regime,
 - D. whereas for many ACP countries the cooperation relationship with regard to the banana protocol is not compatible with cooperation objectives as the ACP countries do not in fact benefit from the advantages due to them,
 - E. whereas a request for financing for a marketing study that would include rice was able to obtain approval and confirmation in writing only after seven years, in the second half of 2001,
 - F. whereas the EU representative rejected this, leaving Suriname to achieve its objectives through a regional study although this is totally different in character, and whereas the national rice survey has been pending for seven years and its implementation has been confirmed in writing but this is now dependent on circumstances, and whereas the contribution of local experts has been neglected because of the unnecessary involvement of foreign consultants,
 - G. emphasising that Declaration XXIV — Joint Declaration on Rice — of the Partnership Agreement recognises the importance of the rice sector for the economic and social development of the ACP rice-producing countries in terms of employment, foreign exchange and social and political stability,
 - H. recalling the EU's commitments, in the Declaration, to finance during the preparatory period, in consultation with the ACP sector concerned, an integrated sector-specific programme for the development of ACP exporters of rice through unallocated EDF resources,
1. Considers that the table-banana sector, which is now going through serious problems and is at risk of an unacceptable slump, must be saved;
 2. Considers that this also applies to the rice sector, which is struggling with similar problems;
 3. Considers that the EU bureaucracy's take-it-or-leave-it attitude should be abandoned and efforts should be made to establish a relationship on a rational, commercial and equal basis;
 4. Considers that the EU's policy of cutting staff and closing offices in the countries concerned should be reviewed and a greater contribution from qualified local personnel should be envisaged;
 5. Considers that EU promises committed to writing should be honoured;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March in Cape Town (South Africa).

6. Considers that an inventory of complaints of this kind should be drawn up and proposals for necessary adjustments should be taken into consideration;
7. Considers that the setting up of an independent appeals body for issues of critical importance to the ACP countries should be envisaged;
8. Considers that, for the remaining period of preferential treatment of products such as table bananas, rice, etc., this support should still be given so that as regards quantity and quality these products are capable of facing up to competition on the international market;
9. Expresses concern that there has been undue delay by the European Commission in the process of preparing for the completion and submission of the required strategy documents and project proposals;
10. Urges the European Commission to expedite this preparatory process and to approve the financing proposals, as a matter of urgency, when they are submitted;
11. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on sugar

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to the resolution on sugar adopted at its third session in Brussels on 1 November 2001,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001 of 19 June 2001 on the common organisation of the market in the sugar sector, in particular the renewal of the EU sugar regime for a further period of five years,
 - having regard to the fact that the ACP Sugar Protocol is an integral part of the EU sugar regime and that the Protocol quantities are bound in the EU's WTO commitments, thereby providing legal security of access to ACP Protocol Sugar into the EU,
- A. stressing that the parties to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) recognised that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to, inter alia, ensuring full employment and sustainable development while seeking to protect and preserve the environment and recognising the need for positive efforts to ensure that developing countries secure a fair share in the growth of international trade,
 - B. welcoming the Development Work Programme adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, in particular the need to address concerns regarding, inter alia, special and differential treatment, non-trade concerns in Agriculture and the special situation of small economies,
 - C. further stressing that the Cotonou Agreement is centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty in accordance with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March in Cape Town (South Africa).

- D. noting that the ACP sugar-supplying states, which are either least-developed, developing, net-food importing, vulnerable, landlocked or island states and single-commodity exporters with specific economic and social difficulties, depend on predictable and stable earnings from sugar exports to the EU for their sustainable socio-economic development,
- E. recognising that inherent natural, physical and structural constraints and topography do not generally allow for horizontal diversification of the agriculture of most ACP sugar-supplying states and that these factors adversely affect the competitiveness of ACP sugar industries, though the guarantees enshrined in the Sugar Protocol and the Special Preferential Sugar Agreement (SPS) help to mitigate the adverse effect of these constraints,
- F. emphasising that the ACP sugar-supplying states have been judiciously using the vital foreign exchange earnings from exports to the EU in their rationalisation programmes to improve efficiency, increase productivity and enhance competitiveness,
- G. further emphasising that ACP sugar-supplying states have made optimal use of the earnings from sugar exports to the EU to promote the use of by-products including in the production of electricity in an environmentally-friendly manner, and to promote meaningful diversification in other sectors wherever possible,
- H. noting the ongoing agriculture negotiations in the WTO, which have to take into account, inter alia, non-trade concerns, special and preferential treatment of developing countries, maintenance of preferential arrangements and the specificities of SIDS,
- I. recognising the multifunctional role that the sugar industry plays in ACP supplying states as a major employer, and its contribution to environmental protection and rural development, as well as ensuring food security,
- J. noting the implementation by the EU since 2001 of the 'Everything But Arms' Initiative (EBA) and recalling the support of the ACP Ministers of Trade for the initiative, as contained in their declaration of 12 December 2000, while calling for the EU to respect existing agreements and take into consideration the special situation of vulnerable, small island and landlocked states,
- K. welcoming the successful conclusion between the EU and the ACP sugar-supplying states of a new Special Preferential Sugar Agreement (SPS) for the period 2001- 2006, which will contribute partially but on a diminishing scale towards alleviating the negative effects resulting from the EU's restrictive pricing policy since 1986 and enhancing investments in the respective countries,
- L. recalling the special status of the four ACP traditional sugar suppliers (Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, i.e. the G4) on the Portuguese market prior to the adoption of the EU Common agricultural policy by Portugal, as recognised in the Joint Declaration annexed to the new SPS Agreement,
- M. having regard to Article 38 of the Cotonou Agreement, wherein both parties have agreed to pay special attention to current multilateral trade negotiations, and to examine the impact of the EU's wider liberalisation initiatives on ACP-EC Trade and on the development of ACP economies, and to make necessary recommendations with a view to preserving the benefits of ACP-EU trading arrangements, as well as the terms of reference of the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee which was set up in May 2001 under Article 38 of the Cotonou Agreement,
- N. recalling also the Joint Declaration (Declaration XXIII) on market access of the Cotonou Agreement by which the parties agree to examine all measures in order to maintain the competitive positions of the ACP States on the Community market, and wherein the Council of the European Union emphasises its obligation to take into account the effect of any agreement or other measures to be taken by the EC on ACP-EC trade,

1. Calls on the European Union to:
 - (a) defend, maintain and honour the legal obligation and political commitment enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement, particularly the Sugar Protocol appended to it and the Special Preferential Sugar Agreement (SPS), so nothing is done or proposed in the context of ACP-EU negotiations scheduled to be launched in September 2002 to undermine these obligation and commitment;
 - (b) recognises the review referred to in Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement of the sugar protocol and that the provision in this article is to ensure the WTO-compatibility of the sugar protocol, bearing in mind the special legal status of that Protocol;
 - (c) ensure that such a review does not entail any further shifting of the burden of internal EU Common agricultural policy reforms and wider trade liberalisation initiatives on the small and vulnerable economies of the ACP sugar-supplying states;
 - (d) consider the significant and vital contribution that predictable and stable earnings derived from sugar exports have made to economic development and poverty alleviation and the fight against social exclusion resulting from globalisation in ACP supplying states, as well as the promotion and sustenance of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (e) acknowledge the multifunctional nature of sugar, particularly its role in environmental protection and rural development in ACP sugar-supplying states, as well in ensuring food security;
 - (f) honour its obligations, in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 and Joint Declaration XXIII of the Cotonou Agreement, and accordingly examine urgently measures to address the adverse effects of the implementation of the 'Everything But Arms' initiative on several non-LDC ACP sugar exporting countries, and urgently examine ways and means to share more equitably the burden arising from the implementation of the EBA initiative in the sugar sector;
 - (g) acknowledge also the contribution of ACP sugar industries to the EU refining industry and the mutual benefit they derive from the Sugar Protocol and the Special Preferential Sugar Agreement (SPS);
 - (h) open a dialogue with the ACP in line with the ACP sugar-supplying states' Georgetown Plan of Action to examine how the entitlements of the G4 can be preserved in the context of the SPS Agreement;
2. Calls on the Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to review, in accordance with Declaration XVIII of the Cotonou Agreement, the situation created by the EBA initiative and accordingly make recommendations to the next meeting of the ACP-EU JMTC and ACP-EU Council to remedy the situation;
3. Further calls on the Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to take necessary steps to help ACP States to evaluate projects and programmes that will improve the competitiveness of the sugar industries of the ACP sugar-producing states;
4. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission and the ACP General Secretariat.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on gender issues**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 18 December 1979,
 - having regard to the Programme of Action for the Mainstreaming of Gender Equality in Community Development Cooperation adopted by the Council on 8 November 2001,
 - having regard to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted on 15 September 1995 in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women on the topic of equality, development and peace,
- A. having regard to the indivisible and universal character of human rights, and in particular to the Treaty of Amsterdam, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,
- B. whereas equal access to education (including higher education) and training is a fundamental right and as such constitutes an essential precondition for women to be able to participate unhindered in the development process and whereas 900 million people in developing countries are illiterate, two thirds of them women, and whereas 130 million children have no access to basic education — of whom, again, almost two thirds are girls — and a further 150 million children — once again most of them girls — stop attending school before they have acquired basic numeracy and literacy skills,
- C. noting that over 80 % of women in developing countries work in agriculture and carry out about 70 % of informal sector work but are subject to institutionalised discrimination as regards access to land and property ownership, credit, training, education, etc.,
- D. whereas the poorest people in developing countries, particularly women and children, are the most affected by HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and whereas infection rates for adolescent girls and young women in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa are five times higher than those for boys and whereas, therefore, priority should be given to women and girls in access to primary and reproductive health care,
- E. whereas the specific crimes of which many women are the victims during armed conflict (rape, forced pregnancy, sexual exploitation, women trafficking, genital mutilation) require specific responses and international recognition and whereas women's and children's rights are an integral, inalienable and indivisible part of universal rights,
- F. whereas structural adjustment programmes, imposed by the World Bank, the IMF and others to restore major macroeconomic and financial alliances, contribute, if social conditions are not accepted, to increased marginalisation of women and have resulted in a rise in unemployment, loss of purchasing power, rural exodus, child prostitution, etc.,
- G. whereas women suffer in being doubly subordinate to those who take national and international economic decisions, as they are not involved in devising national development strategies and these are, in any case, dictated to national authorities by organisations such as external financial institutions,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- H. highlighting the need to promote gender equality and to integrate this objective into those policies which have a direct and indirect impact on the lives of both sexes in ACP and EU Member States,
- I. whereas 2 million more women than men are HIV-positive in Sub-Saharan Africa, some 2 million girls between 5 and 15 enter the sex industry every year, one in three women world-wide is subject to abuse and two-thirds of the 130 million illiterate children are girls,
- J. highlighting the Commission's key role in implementing the EU's global strategy for equality of treatment and opportunity for women and men, which covers all policies aimed at promoting such equality, either by adapting policies (proactive intervention/gender mainstreaming) and/or by implementing concrete actions aimed at improving women's position in society (reactive intervention/specific actions),
1. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to repeal discriminatory laws and replace them by legislation that guarantees women's rights as regards access to education, property, employment and equal pay for equal work including parents' education on women's rights;
 2. Notes the need to incorporate equality of opportunity between men and women, in accordance with the principle of gender mainstreaming enshrined in the Platform for Action of the 1995 United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, into all policies and measures in the field of development cooperation, and calls for greater efforts to promote women's participation in all decision-making processes and in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and to work towards a balanced relationship between the sexes;
 3. Welcomes the ratification by ACP Member State Mauritania and universal ratification by the Caribbean of the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
 4. Call for measures to combat violence against women including physical violence, genital mutilation and the rape of girls, and to ensure that other traditional practices which reveal a contempt for human dignity, such as forced and arranged marriages of under-age children, and 'crimes of honour', are fully prohibited by means of appropriate laws, measures and educational programmes; recalls once again the need to make available high-quality services in the field of information, reproductive health rights, health care for mothers and the prevention of transmissible diseases including HIV/AIDS, (especially for pregnant women and their young children) while preserving unrestricted self-determination in sexual and reproductive matters;
 5. Calls for appropriate participation of women in all decision-making processes;
 6. Urges the Commission to work alongside other international agencies, such as Unifem and the World Bank, to ensure that gender issues become part of mainstream development decision-making;
 7. Notes that the decline in allocated resources and in social development has continued, and the fall in levels of public aid to development is a major concern for developing countries;
 8. Warns that the gap between rich and poor continues to widen, as inequality grows in terms of income, employment, access to social services and participation in public and civil organisations;
 9. Notes that economic reforms such as the structural adjustment programme and commercial free trade without social market policies can lead to the impoverishment of the population in general and of women in particular, and considers that only sustainable development devised and implemented by the people concerned, in the light of their requirements and their social and economic situation, can pull the ACP countries out of crisis;
 10. Stresses that women have a crucial role to play, and represent an important resource, on the way towards sustainable development, and calls on the Commission to involve women at all stages of planning, implementation and assessment of development cooperation, and to take appropriate account of women's interests and gender-specific issues; call on the Commission to test all development cooperation measures and their associated political and social processes in each country for their possible beneficial influence on both sexes;

11. Calls upon ACP and EU States to provide training on the gender aspects of conflict resolution and peace-building to personnel engaged in policies concerning conflict;
 12. Calls for universal access to reproductive health care and reforms of the health sector, leading to unlimited access to health services for the poor and especially women and girls;
 13. Calls upon ACP and EU States to promote an amendment to Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Protocol to define rape as a grave war crime;
 14. Asks for the Commission, ACP governments and civil societies to conduct and forward to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau gender impact assessments of ACP Member States, so that future allocations of EU development aid can be targeted on helping women, given the key role women play in sustainable development and long-term environmental protection;
 15. Calls for a structure similar to that for human rights, which would be responsible for women and development issues within the new structure of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau, with a view to encouraging women's involvement in parliamentary dialogue;
 16. Calls on the European Parliament and the ACP parliaments to include women parliamentarians in their delegations, based as far as possible on the principle of parity;
 17. Urges that an extraordinary meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly consisting solely of women members be held in the next five years;
 18. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, Member States, the Commission and the General Secretary of the United Nations.
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RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on health issues, young people, the elderly and people living with disabilities**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to the 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen,
 - having regard to the 1995 UN Beijing Conference on Women and Beijing + 5,
 - having regard to the United Nations 1991 Principles on Older People and 1993 Standard Rules for the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,
 - having regard to the strategic objectives approved at the 1994 UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, and ICPD + 5,
 - having regard to Articles 25(c) and (d), and 31(b)(iii) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou in June 2000,
- A. whereas poverty and health are inextricably linked and poverty is one of the main causes of chronic disease throughout the world,
 - B. whereas the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a basic human right, as is equal access to health care for all,
 - C. whereas in developing countries elderly and disabled people, particularly women, are often discriminated against in the access to and allocation of essential health care and whereas a large proportion of the hospitals, clinics and services are totally inaccessible to disabled people, particularly in rural areas,
 - D. whereas all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so, in accordance with Principle 8 of the ICPD Programme of Action,
 - E. whereas pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death and disability for women in developing countries, and whereas about one third of all pregnancies are unwanted or unplanned, which may lead women to seek abortions in unsafe conditions, which in turn account for the deaths of 78 000 women each year and cause hundreds of thousands of disabilities,
 - F. whereas at the end of 2000 around 36.1 million people in the world were living with AIDS or HIV (1 % of the world's adult population) and in the same year three million people died from HIV/AIDS, 80 % of whom were Africans, and there are some ten million AIDS orphans,
 - G. whereas donors and NGOs have recognised that there is an international crisis in the availability of reproductive health supplies which will mean that, unless action is taken, individuals may not be able to gain access to basic reproductive health services,
 - H. whereas young people, especially young women, are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections: half of all new HIV infections in the world are in young people aged between 15 and 24, highlighting the need for adequate sex education,
 - I. whereas strong public services in the health, education and water distribution sectors are essential,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- J. whereas HIV/AIDS, with high rates of infection and death, is transforming the age profile of parts of the world, putting huge pressures on older survivors: having far-reaching social, economic and psychological effects and imposing new burdens on breadwinners and carers,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council to invest in the eradication of poverty and the development of fully accessible community-based health services and facilities;
 2. Emphasises that the agreement to earmark a minimum of 35 % of European cooperation assistance within the 2002 budget and from the European Development Fund for social infrastructure, is a crucial mechanism for ensuring improvements in health care in ACP countries, and calls for this figure to be consistently expanded in future years;
 3. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to develop and implement measures which identify and reduce discrimination against disabled and older people in the health sector and ensure health opportunities for young people;
 4. Calls in particular for measures to be taken to implement free health care for all children with disabilities, including access to free medical devices and rehabilitation services; calls for service delivery and communication to be made accessible to all persons with disabilities without exception;
 5. Calls for disability awareness training programmes to give health-care staff a better understanding of disabled people's particular needs and to combat discriminatory attitudes;
 6. Emphasises that high-quality reproductive health services must be easily accessible and affordable to all women and men throughout the reproductive health life cycle;
 7. Calls on the ACP countries and the European Community to increase their funding for reproductive health supplies and to improve donor coordination;
 8. Welcomes the move by some ACP countries to ban harmful traditions and practices, including female genital mutilation, and calls on all ACP countries where these practices are still followed to follow suit;
 9. Recognises that 2002 marks the year of the Second World Assembly on Ageing and calls on the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to adopt the International Strategy for Action on Ageing;
 10. Calls on the Council of the European Union and the Commission to include the specific issues of disabled and older people in development cooperation strategies to improve overall health status, giving older and disabled women's health needs special attention as they often forego treatment in favour of younger or able-bodied family members;
 11. Calls on the Council of the European Union and the Commission to ensure that the impacts of HIV/AIDS on older people and their role as carers and educators is acknowledged and supported through the provision of health information, training and access to medicines;
 12. Welcomes the adoption in November 2001 of the Doha Declaration, which gives health needs priority over trade rules in the developing countries and could mean easier access to treatment for these countries, and urges that these provisions should be put into effect as soon as possible;
 13. Calls on the European Union to work with ACP countries in working towards and resourcing affordable health care for the over-60s, detection of chronic diseases of age, and the prevention of such diseases;
 14. Calls for a sustained effort to eradicate childhood diseases and disorders through vaccination and to ensure the provision of clean water and safe food;

15. Calls on all ACP countries to respect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and take measures to prevent child soldiers, slavery and street children;
16. Calls on the European Union to include in its strategies a provision for children with special education needs;
17. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on the impact of communicable diseases on health, young people, the elderly and people living with disabilities

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 4 October 2001 ⁽²⁾ on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on accelerated action targeted at major communicable diseases within the context of poverty reduction and on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on a Programme for Action: accelerated action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in the context of poverty reduction ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the resolution adopted by the General Affairs Council of the European Union on 14 May 2001,
- A. having regard to the Global Health Fund, to which the European Union contributed EUR 60 m in 2001,
- B. whereas the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), clarified by the Doha Declaration, includes safeguard clauses on public health authorising compulsory licences for the manufacture of generic medicines and extends the transition period for implementation of the TRIPS agreements by the LDCs until 2016,
- C. whereas infectious diseases such as the Ebola virus are increasing, as are filariasis, trypanosomiasis, bilharzia, etc., especially in tropical and marshy areas because of the construction of dams and new irrigation techniques that lead to stagnation of water,
- D. whereas the health services in most ACP countries are generally insufficient to meet local needs and research shows that 75 % of all maternal health problems could be prevented through reproductive health care (health care during pregnancy, during delivery, and after birth, and post-partum family planning),
- E. whereas poor health is a result both of problems of access to health care (because of lack of infrastructure and health-care personnel and of public health-care systems) and problems of access to treatment,
- F. whereas strong public services in the health, education and water distribution sectors are essential,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 87 E, 11.4.2002, p. 244.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 585, COM(2001) 96.

- G. whereas the World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported links between outbreaks of Ebola in Gabon and the slaughter and consumption of bush meat, and alarmed that bush meat could also be a vector for other diseases such as hepatitis,
1. Considers that health is a major problem in the ACP countries and it should become one of the priorities of European cooperation with the ACP countries;
 2. Stresses that it is the responsibility of the democratically elected governments of ACP States to restore public services and health systems on their territories and that European aid must above all provide support for this process by means of emergency aid and a strengthening of human and institutional capacity and infrastructure;
 3. Stresses that access to drinking water and food are essential conditions for good public health; stresses therefore the transversal dimension of health and the fact that the improved living conditions help increase life expectancy;
 4. Regrets that the European Union's development policy, which gives economic development and the private sector more than their due to the detriment of social and human development, does not give health priority among its objectives;
 5. Mindful that the ACP countries' health services suffered substantially in the 1990s, particularly because of the stress on macro-economic reform, which led to drastic budget cuts in the social welfare sectors;
 6. Calls on the ACP countries and the European Union, given the current crisis in the security of reproductive health supplies, to increase their funding for reproductive health and to improve donor coordination;
 7. Calls for the adoption or strengthening of legislation, where appropriate, and its enforcement to control the unsustainable hunting and commercial trade in bush meat, and to take all necessary steps to stop the illegal consumption of great-ape bush meat and to inform the public in all the ACP and EU countries of the high public health and conservation risks;
 8. Recommends that the European Commission work with EU Member States with due diligence on the public health threat posed by bush meat, and in particular assist Central and West African states affected by Ebola to contain and prevent outbreaks and support those affected;
 9. Draws attention also to the fact that debt repayment and its servicing absorbs almost 40 % of the least developed countries' GDP every year, while education and health budgets remain derisory;
 10. Asks that the Global Health Fund's mission should comprise preventive action and aim to give developing countries access to medicines; calls on the European Union to contribute substantially to this fund and asks for specific resources to be introduced for this purpose and made subject to appropriate European legislation;
 11. Calls on the Commission to create incentives and to finance part of the research (through the Sixth Framework Research Programme) into neglected diseases and unprofitable treatment in the developing countries;
 12. Fears that the explicit reference to General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) in the Cotonou Agreement, which advocates liberalisation of supply of services at world level, presents a significant threat to health-service access in the ACP countries; mindful that liberalisation of water distribution has not led to a reduction in costs, better quality or greater equity in access to services;
 13. Recommends that the ACP countries' governments apply the health safeguard clauses in the TRIPS agreements, as clarified by the Doha Declaration, which authorise them to manufacture generic medicines at a lower cost with a view to protecting public health;

14. Asks that the Doha political declaration on access to medicines be given legal status in the TRIPS agreements and be given unconditional force of law before the Disputes Settlement Body;
15. Calls for a solution to be found within the framework of the TRIPS agreements so the ACP countries that do not have pharmaceutical production capacity can obtain parallel imports of generic medicines from third countries;
16. Calls for a moratorium on the entry into force of the Bangui agreements signed between the 16 member countries of the African Intellectual Property Organisation (AIPO), which go beyond the strict obligations arising from the TRIPS agreements: they thus reduce these countries' opportunities for access to the compulsory licences for production of essential medicines and automatically exclude parallel imports from third countries outside the AIPO region;
17. Fears the TRIPS agreement on the patenting of life-forms limits access by people in developing countries to traditional plant-based treatments and is damaging to biodiversity; calls for the TRIPS agreement to be revised to make a clear distinction between 'discovery' and 'invention' and to exclude any living organism from the field of patentability;
18. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on sustainable development and Rio + 10

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 March 2002,
 - having regard to the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa),
 - having regard to the UN Conference on the Financing of Development Aid in Monterrey (Mexico) between 18 and 22 March 2002,
 - having regard to the NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa Development,
- A. whereas progress so far in implementing the major decisions of the Rio Conference, notably the Conventions on Climate and Biodiversity as well as Agenda 21, is limited, and most important ecological indicators show negative trends,
 - B. whereas humanity faces increasing poverty, conflict, economic instability, the negative effects of globalisation, the degradation of environmental resources and emerging pandemics such HIV/AIDS,
 - C. whereas numerous scientific reports have underlined the fact that, as presently structured, the world economic system — notably its production and consumption systems — will destroy the life-supporting systems of the planet,
 - D. whereas the European Union — as the biggest donor of aid, a major shareholder in international financial institutions, and the most important trading partner for developing countries — confirmed in the Development Council Declaration of 8 November 2001 'the great importance' the EU attaches to both the Monterrey and Johannesburg Summits,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa).

- E. whereas the Göteborg European Council pledged to reach the UN target of official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7 % of GDP,
- F. whereas after the events of 11 September 2001, the UN Secretary-General, the Presidents of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and several Heads of State are demanding an enhanced effort for increased and improved development aid,
- G. whereas growing levels of poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, environmental destruction, population growth, disease and conflicts in the world's poorest nations are of concern to all the world's population — with 1.2 billion people living on less than USD 1 per day,
- H. whereas World Bank estimates suggest that if current trends continue, the number of absolute poor will more than double in the next thirty years, and unless more efforts are made to address problems such as poverty, marginalisation, environmental degradation, conflicts, epidemics and migration, the destabilising effects at both local and international level will be severe,
- I. whereas the Cotonou Agreement of 23 June 2000 requires that the principles of sustainable management of natural resources shall be applied and integrated at every level of the partnership and expressing alarm at reports by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that link outbreaks of Ebola in Gabon to the slaughter and consumption of bush meat, and concerned that bush meat could also be a vector for other diseases such as hepatitis, etc.,
- J. whereas since 1992 the 21 richest countries have cut their aid to the developing world by 24 % and public development aid from industrialised countries has fallen to an all-time low of 0.22 % of their GDP — far below the 0.7 % target set over twenty-five years ago,
- K. whereas crippling external debt, continuing unfair terms of trade for developing countries, speculation and unregulated financial liberalisation, etc. continue not only to be obstacles to the implementation of sustainable development but also contribute to the impoverishment of the majority of the population of the world,
- L. whereas the World Bank estimates that at least a doubling of resources is required if the Millennium Development Goals are to be met,
1. Emphasises the need for the developed world to recognise and underscore the important relationship between the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey and the World Summit for Sustainable Development in order to establish sustainable development objectives;
 2. Calls for new partnerships between the EU and ACP countries to address urgently, at national as well as regional levels, the problems of biodiversity loss, desertification, deforestation, water security and overfishing;
 3. Urges the European Union to establish sustainable developmental benchmarks against which to assess the conduct and outcome of the ACP-EU trade negotiations due to start in September within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement;
 4. Considers that structural adjustment measures which result in cuts in resources for social policy (health and education) and promote the unregulated market economy are incompatible with the aim of sustainable development;
 5. Wishes to see a re-balancing of the international agenda to reflect the priority which must be given to poverty alleviation and to equitable use of natural resources and to recognition of the urgent need for restructuring economic and trade policies so that they serve social and environmental objectives, and not the other way round;
 6. Calls for an end to export subsidies from industrialised countries which undermine developing countries' local food production, impoverish local farmers and their livelihoods;

7. Calls on the Commission to encourage ACP participation in debates on how future EU trade relations can best support sustainable forms of poverty reduction and development;
8. Supports the need for the open and transparent conduct of the new round of world trade negotiations successfully launched at Doha (Qatar) to reflect development concerns;
9. Calls for the recognition of food sovereignty as a fundamental human right which should not be considered like any other commodity and should be outside WTO Rules and other international trade agreements;
10. Calls on the EU and ACP governments to act within the international fora to ensure that it is clearly recognised that WTO rules on trade cannot prevail over international law on environment, which is essential for development and human well-being;
11. Urges the July G8 Summit in Canada, which will focus on Africa, to prepare the ground for the Johannesburg Summit and ensure that future development aid be both properly funded to at least 0.7 % of GNP and sustainable;
12. Calls on the industrialised countries to explore new and innovative ways to promote technology cooperation and technology transfer to bridge the digital divide and facilitate 'technological leapfrogging' in areas such as energy, transportation, waste and water management, trade, agriculture and sanitary standards;
13. Wishes to see a new impetus given to creating a legal framework for global environmental governance and corporate accountability and to international initiatives on such issues as food and water security, protection of public services, renewable sources of energy and sustainable patterns of consumption and production;
14. Reiterates its commitment to the UN Millennium Declaration to reduce poverty by half, to provide full coverage of basic education for all children and to reduce the infant mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015;
15. Requests that the ACP Council, the European Council and Commission submit to the next session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in autumn 2002 an initial analysis and report outlining the achievements of the Monterrey and Johannesburg meetings;
16. Calls on the Commission and Council to work with ACP partners in evaluating and seeking out alternative sources of development financing and for recommendations to be published ahead of the Johannesburg Summit — with particular attention to be paid to: the volume of official development aid, global public goods and innovative sources of financing;
17. Stresses the need to work on new international mechanisms to finance sustainable development, while at the same time moving towards ODA of 0.7 % of GDP by each developed country, accelerating debt reduction for social, sustainable development and supporting the IDA soft-loan window of the World Bank;
18. Urges ACP partners to underpin sustainable development policies and secure increased aid funding by implementing good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, strong democratic structures based on regular transparent elections, and a free media;
19. Urges ACP country governments to strengthen their efforts to develop and implement national sustainable development strategies, and EU Member States to increase cooperation and support for such efforts;
20. Notes that the political dialogue with partner countries should be used to establish a higher priority for conservation issues in the National Indicative Programmes and to use the financial means of the EDF for the survival of great apes and other protected species;

21. Warns that millions across the world want immediate action to prevent the extinction of great apes and other threatened species, and urges the Commission to continue and extend the Ecofac Programme, which is key to safeguarding important African ecosystems and biodiversity — including the survival of threatened species — for the next ten years;
22. Encourages all partners to recognise the role of public/private sector partnerships in raising sustainable capital, simplifying regulatory and legal procedures, plus promoting efficient management structures to combat corruption;
23. Reaffirms that development policy is an essential part of the EU's external action, alongside trade policy and the political dimension, and warns the Council and Commission not to ignore the key role played by the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement;
24. Calls on the EU to support approaches to debt relief which take into account each country's capacity to raise the finance needed to achieve the millennium development goals;
25. Calls for an increase in the budget lines providing funding for tropical forests and environment in the developing countries and the allocation of sufficient staff to manage these budget lines properly in developing nations;
26. Considers that EU policies, notably on trade liberalisation, agriculture, fisheries, environment and public health, should be re-examined taking into account their impact on poverty and sustainable development and their inter-relationship;
27. Recommends that the Commission and EU Member States evaluate the public health threat posed by the illegal consumption of bush meat and take measures to restrict it; calls on the EU to assist African states to contain and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases like Ebola whilst informing people in all 92 ACP and EU nations of the high public health and conservation risks of eating great-ape bush meat;
28. Considers that in 2002 a debate should be promoted around the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions in order to promote a new model of economic growth for LDCs and small island states based on securing sustainable livelihoods, including through investment in health and education and providing protection against unrestricted external competition;
29. Instructs the Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the Secretaries-General of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union and the United Nations and to the Presidents of the European Investment Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the European Parliament's previous resolutions on the ICC (19 November 1998, 18 January 2001 and 28 February, 26 September and 24 October 2002) and on the draft American Service members' Protection Act (ASPA) (4 July 2002),
 - having regard to the Rome Statute of the ICC, and in particular Articles 16, 86 and 98 thereof,
 - having regard to the declaration of 1 July 2002 on the ICC by the EU Council Presidency on behalf of the EU, and to the Council's conclusions on the ICC and its guiding principles adopted on 30 September 2002,
 - having regard to the first assembly of the States Parties to the ICC, held on 9 September 2002,
 - having regard to the swearing-in of the 18 ICC judges on 11 March 2003,
- A. whereas the Rome Statute makes a decisive contribution to the implementation of international law and justice and is a valuable instrument to combat impunity for the most serious international crimes,
- B. whereas the current world-wide political pressure being exerted by the Government of the USA to persuade States Parties and Signatory States of the Rome Statute, as well as non-signatory states, to enter into bilateral immunity agreements which seek, through misuse of Article 98, to prevent US government officials, employees, military personnel or nationals from being surrendered to the ICC, should not succeed with any country, in particular with the EU or ACP Member States,
- C. whereas the ICC entered into force on 1 July 2002 with the ratification of the Rome Statute by 60 States Parties, out of 124 Signatory States,
1. Is deeply committed to preserving the full integrity of the Rome Statute and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court;
 2. Stresses that no immunity agreement should ever afford the possibility of impunity for any individual accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide;
 3. Regrets the EU Council's conclusion which envisages the possibility for countries to enter into such agreements with the USA, even if subject to certain conditions;
 4. Recognises that the agreements proposed by the USA are contrary to the Rome Statute and to the Treaty commitments of the EU Member States;
 5. Urges the EU Council to make all efforts to start a frank dialogue with the US Government and Congress in order to stop the pressure and the threat of sanctions on the countries which have ratified the Rome Statute and to engage the US administration in a cooperative attitude with the ICC;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

6. Firmly believes that the ICC States Parties and Signatory States are obliged under international law not to defeat the object and purpose of the Rome Statute, under which, according to its Preamble, 'the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished' and that States Parties are obliged to cooperate fully with the Court, in accordance with Article 86 of the Rome Statute, thus preventing them from entering into immunity agreements which remove certain citizens from the States' or the ICC's jurisdictions, undermining the full effectiveness of the ICC and jeopardising its role as a complementary jurisdiction to State jurisdictions and a building block in collective global security;
7. Stresses that the Rome Statute was ratified by all EU Member States and by many ACP countries and is an essential component of the democratic model and values the international community should share;
8. Expects the EU and ACP governments and parliaments to refrain from adopting any agreement which undermines the effective implementation of the Rome Statute; considers therefore that ratifying such an agreement is incompatible with membership of or association with the EU or the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
9. Encourages the parliaments of those governments that have signed agreements with the United States under Article 98 of the Rome Statute not to ratify these agreements;
10. Invites all Signatory States to ratify the Statute;
11. Invites the EU and ACP to commit fully to the ICC and to enable it to succeed in preserving its independence, impartiality and integrity;
12. Invites the governments and national parliaments of countries associated with the EU or the ACP under various agreements to sign and ratify the ICC Treaty immediately;
13. Urges ACP countries and EU Member States, candidate countries and all other countries associated with the EU under various agreements to undertake an analysis of the legal implications of UN Security Council Resolution 1422, and calls for strong action against the renewal of the resolution in July 2003;
14. Reminds Member States of their obligations regarding the prohibition of the death penalty, and calls for an in-depth analysis of the legal implications of Article 98 in this area; asks ACP countries to proceed in the same way;
15. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agreed in Abuja in October 2001,
 - having regard to the African Civil Society declaration on NEPAD of July 2002,
 - having regard to the Declaration of Development Challenges adopted in Accra at a joint conference organised by the Council for Development and Social Science Research in Africa and Third World Network-Africa (April 2002),
 - having regard to the African Social Forum declaration of January 2002,
- A. welcoming the principle that the governments of Africa are defining their own development paths,
- B. recalling Africa's previous development strategy efforts — such as the Lagos Plan of Action (1980), the Abuja Treaty (1991), the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (1989) and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development (1990) — towards addressing the continent's development challenges,
- C. whereas NEPAD is centred around initiatives relating to: peace, security and political governance; economic governance; subregional and regional approaches to development; measures to bridge the infrastructural gap; the effective utilisation of human resources and questions relating to natural, environmental and cultural resources as well as science, technology and, finally, capital,
- D. whereas NEPAD is an initiative developed by Africans for Africa, with an overall vision for the continent's development to bring it into a new age of peace, security, stability, economic growth and prosperity, acknowledging that Africa bears the primary responsibility for its own development,
- E. whereas NEPAD is criticised by various African civil society actors and intellectuals,
- F. whereas Africa's underlying problem is debt, which should be seen in the wider context of a growing global debt affecting both rich and poor nations; whereas the NEPAD initiative is not working well enough, with many African countries still facing unsustainable debt,
- G. whereas, in order to realise these objectives, African leaders will have to jointly take on a number of responsibilities, in accordance with the NEPAD action programme adopted in Abuja in October 2001, and in particular:
- i) to consolidate the mechanisms of conflict prevention, management and resolution at the regional and continental level, and to promote the use of these mechanisms in order to restore and maintain peace,
 - ii) to promote and respect democracy and human rights in their own countries and regions by establishing clear norms of responsibility, transparency, good governance and direct democracy at the local and national level,
- H. whereas the removal of a number of structural constraints affecting the agricultural sector must not entail the dumping of subsidised products on the African market,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- I. whereas civil society actors, organised business sectors and national parliaments were not duly consulted during the formulation and definition of Africa's development strategy,
 - J. whereas the importance of civil society participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of development strategies and programmes is recognised in the Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement,
 - K. whereas the NEPAD Forum of African Parliamentarians held in Cotonou on 8 and 9 November 2002, in accordance with resolution ACP-EU 3395/02 adopted by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly at its 4th session in Cape Town, provides information for Members and is responsible for discussion and concertation regarding current efforts to achieve NEPAD objectives,
1. Strongly believes that the international community needs to commit to concrete actions that will support lasting peace and development in Africa and that steps must be taken immediately to tackle conflict through concerted diplomatic action;
 2. Notes that critics of NEPAD question the soundness of economic policy, the development vision and the means to achieve its objectives;
 3. Calls on the European Union to support efforts by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly in general, and African parliamentarians in particular, to ensure democratic control of NEPAD programmes;
 4. Calls on NEPAD and African Union bodies to take the necessary measures to avoid any duplication regarding use of resources in implementing NEPAD and African Union objectives;
 5. Believes that NEPAD's legitimacy should be based on it being approved by the African people, and calls therefore for an open and democratic debate on NEPAD's development strategy, including citizens' democratic rights to participate in decision-making;
 6. Supports in this respect the various African civil society requests to reformulate NEPAD so that it addresses the population's basic needs;
 7. Supports the African civil society organisations' call for a sustainable, just and viable development strategy which paves the way for the achievement of the right to food, health, education, gender balance, housing and other needs for all the people of Africa;
 8. Attaches the highest importance to the implementation and democratic parliamentary control of the African peer review (APR) mechanism as a means of realising the fundamental principles and objectives of NEPAD by providing a framework for monitoring and fostering better policies, standards, and practices; urges African countries' parliaments to guarantee that the peer review process is conducted in a democratic way;
 9. Also urges countries to act on the results of the peer reviews, which are envisioned to start in early 2003, with resources to come predominantly from Africa;
 10. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the President of the African Union and the NEPAD Secretariat.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the Johannesburg Summit**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and, in particular, the Plan of Implementation adopted,
 - having regard to the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement concerning the development of partner countries in general and of the least developed, land-locked and island states in particular,
- A. whereas the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit, while relatively limited in scope, must now be carefully monitored and implemented; whereas new and more far-reaching agreements must be sought in other fora,
 - B. whereas the WSSD was meant to give fresh impetus at world level to tackling sustainable development challenges facing both developed and developing countries, notably by reaffirming old objectives and establishing new ones, setting new targets and timetables, promoting new partnership arrangements and establishing appropriate monitoring and implementation mechanisms,
 - C. whereas the biggest obstacle to developing a common approach to sustainable development for the European Union and developing nations was the issue of agricultural subsidies, perceived by many G-77 countries as a threat to the growth of their agricultural industry,
 - D. whereas the 1992 Rio Earth Summit set ambitious new objectives for sustainable development and created a new international legal framework in fields such as climate change and biodiversity,
 - E. whereas the Rio objectives have been inadequately implemented and developing countries' problems have become more serious over the last ten years, with crippling external debt, and continuing unfair terms of trade, which continue not only to be obstacles to the implementation of sustainable development but also contribute to the impoverishment of the majority of the population in the developing countries,
 - F. whereas collective responsibility is needed in order to strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development — economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection — at local, national, regional and global levels,
 - G. whereas there should be greater parliamentary input into such negotiations in future, and whereas new agreements should be subject to greater parliamentary accountability,
1. Notes that the WSSD concluded with the adoption of a Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, together with an accompanying Plan of Implementation, and that, in addition, a large number of partnership agreements were also announced;
 2. Welcomes the broad principles set down in the Johannesburg Declaration but considers that the WSSD outcome needs to be judged, in particular, by the content of the accompanying Plan of Implementation; undertakes to contribute to putting into practice the plan for implementation of the results of the Johannesburg Summit, in particular item VIII entitled 'Sustainable development for Africa' and item VIIIA entitled 'Other regional initiatives' regarding the Caribbean and the Pacific;
 3. Is of the opinion that, in less-developed countries in particular, there will be no sustainable development without economic development and social cohesion; underlines therefore in this context that the fight against poverty, a change in consumption and production patterns, and the protection and management of natural resources are mutually reinforcing sustainable development objectives which require balanced implementation so as to achieve global prosperity, security and stability;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

4. Calls on the European Commission to reform its agricultural, fisheries and trade policies in the light of the Johannesburg Summit and believes that the EU must agree on a phase-out of agricultural export subsidies; rejects the undermining of local food production and the impoverishment of farmers in developing countries;
5. Regrets that no real efforts were made to agree on a plan to assist developing countries in their efforts to support technology leapfrogging, notably in relation to energy production, transportation, agriculture, waste management and chemicals, which would make it possible to bypass the more pollutant phases of the modernisation process;
6. Regrets that the Kyoto Protocol had not yet been ratified by enough States to come into force in time for the WSSD, but welcomes the Conference's reaffirmation of the importance of the Protocol;
7. Expresses its particular disappointment at the lack of any specific targets for renewable energy, along the lines of either those proposed by the EU or the even more ambitious target mooted by Brazil;
8. Expresses its concerns that, although the challenges facing the world have been described, the necessary determination to achieve common action does not include express recognition of the contribution of science and technology to sustainable development and, more particularly, does not promote better understanding of the relationship between the environment and technological development;
9. Regrets the insufficiently strong commitment to tackle the loss of world biodiversity and the weak formula that was agreed, namely the 'achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss'; regrets that no further statement was made regarding the need to curb habitat destruction and the loss of biodiversity;
10. Supports in particular the effort to provide world-wide assistance to increase employment opportunities, taking into account the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
11. Insists on the need to ensure corporate responsibility of transnational corporations in the field of environment and social rights;
12. Emphasises that sustainable development requires broad-based and democratic participation in policy formulation, decision-making, implementation and monitoring at all levels involving all major groups, especially social partners;
13. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP countries to take the necessary measures to meet undertakings made within the Monterrey consensus and at the Johannesburg Summit;
14. Calls urgently for a reform of international bodies dealing with sustainable development issues, starting with the UN Commission for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the 'Bretton Woods' institutions, the general perspective being to achieve a multilateral and internationally binding system of good governance with a view to achieving sustainable development objectives and policies;
15. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to the strategic health objectives approved at the 1995 UN Beijing Conference on Women and Beijing+5, as well as to those approved at the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 and ICPD+5,
- having regard to Articles 25(c) and (d) and 31(b)(iii) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou in June 2000,
- A. whereas the WSSD Plan of Implementation explicitly makes the connection between the eradication of poverty, environmental protection and health, with particular emphasis on women and children,
- B. whereas the chapter on health (Chapter VI) calls for action to strengthen countries' capacities to deliver basic services for all and to promote health, including reproductive and sexual health, with a view to reducing maternal, infant and child mortality; whereas it calls for equal access for women to health-care services, giving particular attention to maternal and obstetric care,
- C. whereas, in Johannesburg, women's rights to safe motherhood, including contraception, reproductive health services and safe abortion were saved during the final hour of intense negotiations, despite opposition from the US, the Vatican and some Islamic nations,
- D. whereas the Plan of Implementation is consistent with national laws and cultural or religious values, with assurances of basic human rights for all; whereas the reference to human rights was fiercely opposed by the aforementioned delegations,
- E. whereas the plan reaffirms the targets for reversing the AIDS pandemic set at last year's General Assembly special session, in particular a 25 % reduction of HIV prevalence in young men and women aged 15-24 in the most affected countries by 2005, and globally by 2010; whereas half of all new HIV infections in the world affect young people aged between 15 and 24,
- F. whereas it urges implementation of national prevention and treatment strategies and increased international cooperation against AIDS, and calls on countries to meet agreed commitments to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, while promoting access to the Fund by the neediest countries,
- 1. Welcomes the world's leaders' reaffirmation of goals linking sustainable development, poverty eradication and environmental protection to women's sexual and reproductive health and women's rights;
- 2. Welcomes the Plan of Implementation as a reaffirmation of international consensus agreements, notably the ICPD's endorsement of the right to reproductive and sexual health, encompassing access to family planning information and services, safe motherhood, prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS, and elimination of sexual coercion and violence; emphasises that high quality reproductive health services must be easily accessible and affordable to all women and men throughout the reproductive health life cycle;
- 3. Calls on the EU and ACP governments to honour their undertakings as regards ICPD, ICPD+5, Beijing, Beijing+5 and the Millennium Development Goals and to demonstrate their commitment to the goals that have been agreed, despite the negative global climate surrounding sexual and reproductive health and individual rights in this connection, led by US Administration policies;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

4. Calls on the EU and ACP governments to meet their agreed commitments to funding the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
5. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on research and sustainable development**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the outcome of the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa),
 - having regard to the ACP Ministerial Forum and the ACP-EU Technical Meeting on Research for Sustainable Development, held in Cape Town (South Africa) on 28 July 2002 and 29-30 July 2002 respectively,
- A. whereas the poverty which plagues most ACP States is not just about the relative lack of material resources but is also due to inadequate and poor access to economic, technical and socio-political knowledge, thereby impeding sustainable development,
 - B. whereas cooperation with development partners, as well as intra-ACP cooperation, has made a positive contribution to the advances made in ACP States,
 - C. having regard to the people-centred approach promoted in the ACP Vision for Sustainable Development,
 - D. aware that increased appropriation of knowledge is a key element in re-establishing a fair balance in the global market economy,
 - E. having regard to the European Commission's communication 'Towards a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' (COM(2002) 82 fin), which emphasises the need for global partnerships,
 - F. aware that the widening gap between poor and rich countries is partly due to the inequalities in the way knowledge is produced and used,
 - G. noting the international cooperation component of the EC's Sixth Framework Programme for Research (FP6), which relates specifically to problems of third (including developing) countries,
 - H. acknowledging the commitment made by the ACP countries through their Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development of 28 July 2002,
 - I. mindful of the critical importance of new technologies such as information and communication technologies (ICTs) for increasing productivity and contributing to the Millennium Development Goals,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

1. Stresses the need for ACP countries, through their partnership with the EU, to turn their commitments as indicated in the Country Strategy Papers into progress guided by concerted political will, financial support and genuine development partnerships that link knowledge to innovation systems and skills development;
 2. Calls on ACP countries to ensure that the results of sound research are transformed into effective development policies by adopting long-term integrative perspectives of the development process;
 3. Calls on the EU to support the efforts of ACP countries in embracing new technologies through research collaboration and capacity-building as a means of exploiting the economic and social opportunities in the global market;
 4. Urges ACP countries to implement the provisions of JPA Resolution ACP-EU 3228/A/01 on means of access to global communication for ACP countries adopted in Brussels on 1 November 2001, and urges the EU to provide the necessary support;
 5. Calls on the European Commission to encourage institutions in ACP countries to participate in the new instruments of FP6, particularly the networks of excellence and the integrated projects, and to take advantage of the increased opportunities for the mobility and training of scientists;
 6. Calls for increased research partnerships between the EU Member States and ACP partners in understanding the processes of environmental change and developing sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water resources, agricultural production, energy and transport;
 7. Calls on the EU Member States to facilitate the attainment of the targets set out by ACP countries in their Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development of 28 July 2002, through the cooperation programmes;
 8. Stresses the need for research collaboration between ACP countries and EU Member States to reinforce continuity of research efforts targeting universal access to quality health care in ACP countries;
 9. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.
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RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the World Trade Organisation Doha Round negotiations**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- A. whereas the multilateral and multisectoral trade negotiations mandated by the fourth World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Doha in November 2001 are under way,
- B. whereas the WTO negotiations and those provided for under the Cotonou Agreement will be complementary and have a considerable impact on ACP countries,
- C. whereas the Doha Ministerial Declaration acknowledges that 'the majority of WTO members are developing countries' and makes a commitment 'to place their needs and interests at the heart of the Work Programme adopted in [the Doha] Declaration' and to 'make positive efforts [...] to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed among them, secure a share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development',
- D. whereas the Doha Declaration includes a number of commitments to address specific issues long identified as major obstacles to developing countries securing a fairer share of global trade, including:
 - (a) 'negotiations [on agriculture] aimed at: substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support',
 - (b) negotiations enabling developing countries to purchase at affordable prices or to produce themselves the medicines required to ensure the health of their populations,
 - (c) negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products 'which shall aim, by modalities to be agreed, to reduce or as appropriate eliminate tariffs, including the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks, high tariffs, and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries',
 - (d) a review of WTO rules to take account of particular needs of developing countries,
 - (e) the establishment of a Working Group on Trade and Debt,
 - (f) the reaffirmation of the principles of special and differential treatment for developing and particularly least-developed countries,
- E. whereas the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in August/September 2002 reaffirmed the importance of giving real content to such commitments as an essential element of promoting sustainable development,
- F. whereas many of the specific commitments in the Doha Declaration of relevance to developing countries are qualified or couched in ambiguous language, and will have to compete for attention in the Work Programme with other issues,
- G. whereas there is therefore a need to guard against the very real danger that the developmental principles alluded to in the Doha Declaration may become swamped by or subordinated to issues of relevance to powerful forces in rich countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- H. whereas certain developments since the adoption of the Doha Declaration point to the need for particular vigilance in this regard, including:
- (a) the passage of the US Farm Bill,
 - (b) evident attempts to backslide from Doha commitments in the process of negotiating the WSSD Declaration,
 - (c) a lack of any evident developmental perspective in the leaked draft EU request document for presentation to the Trade in Services negotiations,
1. Believes that it is of the utmost importance to ensure that agreements resulting from the present round of WTO negotiations make a meaningful and significant contribution to addressing imbalances and inequities in the global trading system, and that the developmental concerns of developing countries in general, and least-developed countries in particular, are prioritised in practice in both the conduct and outcome of negotiations;
2. Supports the European Commission's efforts to reach a compromise in the WTO TRIPS Council on access to affordable medicines for developing countries and deplores the lack of results so far; considers that, in this respect, the possible solution is to be found in Amendment 196 to the European medicine directive;
3. Stresses that the EU occupies a strategic position in the negotiating process and within the international financial institutions and must therefore ensure that, in parallel with the trade negotiations, the policies of financial institutions are reviewed, structural adjustment plans of various types, coming under different names, are cancelled and the unpayable external debt of developing countries is significantly reduced or cancelled so as to enable these countries to revitalise public investment and production;
4. Acknowledges that the ACP is one of the most important groupings of developing countries;
5. Notes the major disparity between the industrialised countries on the one hand and the developing countries on the other regarding their capacity to supply services; therefore calls for the matter to be considered with the greatest care, taking into account the needs of the ACP countries to establish and maintain public services;
6. Considers that private investment may, together with the necessary public investment, be a driving force behind development but that the countries concerned must retain full sovereignty to administer such investment;
7. Takes the view that all negotiations must consider the question of monitoring by multinational companies and foreign investors of respect for human rights, the right of minorities, and the environment, and monitoring by the ACP countries of good governance (absence of corruption) on the part of multinational companies;
8. Considers that foreign debt is for many ACP countries an insurmountable obstacle to their development which is essential for real integration into the world economy; considers that the EU should enter into specific undertakings to reduce and, if possible, cancel bilateral and multilateral ACP debt;
9. Believes that parliamentary monitoring of both the ongoing negotiating process and the final outcome will be of critical importance in the struggle to ensure that Doha becomes a 'developmental round';
10. States that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has a particular character among interparliamentary bodies in that it groups together in regular meetings parliamentarians from the EU and 77 ACP countries, thereby enabling it to play a meaningful ongoing monitoring and supervisory role;
11. Supports all ongoing efforts to promote parliamentary monitoring of the WTO process, including the initiative by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament at the conference in Geneva in February 2003;
12. Requests the Bureau to ensure that there is enough time in all future sessions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to receive and debate reports on the ongoing WTO negotiations;

13. Urges the European Commission to table a written report at each session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the positions being adopted in each of the ongoing sectoral or thematic negotiations, and how it sees the position it is taking contributing to a 'developmental' outcome; asks for these reports, if possible, to be circulated to all delegates before the JPA session;
14. Proposes that the ACP Secretariat and Council be invited to table at each session of the JPA a report or statement on how they view the ongoing WTO processes;
15. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the WTO.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on WTO negotiations on health issues

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the Doha WTO Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health adopted on 14 November 2001, and in particular paragraph 6 thereof,
- A. whereas the agreement on the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health was a significant achievement and was seen as a key indicator of the seriousness with which developed countries take the concerns of developing and least developed countries on public health issues, access to essential medicines for all and the need to put people before patents,
 - B. whereas the Declaration, in paragraph 4, states that '... the TRIPS agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health', and the same paragraph states that: ' the [TRIPS] Agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all',
 - C. whereas paragraph 5(b) of the Doha Declaration reaffirms the right for countries to grant compulsory licenses and the freedom to determine grounds upon which such licenses are granted and paragraph 5(c) reaffirms that each member has the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency in which case a fast track procedure can be used,
 - D. whereas WTO members which have sufficient domestic manufacturing capacities are not limited in any way on the use of the compulsory license and do not need to refer to the WTO to use their rights under TRIPS, but, as recognised by paragraph 6, members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face difficulties in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement since Article 31(f) of the TRIPS agreement limits compulsory licensing predominantly to supplying the domestic market,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- E. whereas the WTO TRIPS Council was therefore mandated to find an expeditious solution to this problem — in ensuring that production for export to a country that has issued a compulsory license or that has no patent, but does not have manufacturing capacity, can take place from a country that provides pharmaceutical patents — and to report to the General Council before the end of 2002,
- F. whereas this mandate clearly intended that those countries which lack such capacity should not be put at a disadvantage by discriminatory restrictions and that the solution sought should be workable, automatic and economically viable; in this perspective the December 2002 proposal is not satisfactory and does not respect the spirit of the Doha Declaration,
- G. whereas the deadline was not met, primarily due to the insistence by some pharmaceutical companies and by the United States Government that there needed to be further restrictive definitions of public health crises together with a specified list of diseases to which the provisions applied,
- H. whereas the European Commission has now proposed that the advice of the World Health Organisation could be sought in the event of a dispute but that such advice would be non-binding,
1. Strongly regrets the position taken by the United States, motivated by the interest of some pharmaceutical companies, in blocking the adoption by the TRIPS WTO Council of an expeditious solution to the problem of access to medicine for developing countries, before the end of 2002 as agreed in Doha;
 2. Reaffirms that access to health care is part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which should be respected;
 3. Asks the European Commission and the EU Member States to assume a strong position in the TRIPS WTO negotiations, in order to ensure that priority is always given to public health and not primarily to commercial considerations, patents and the profits of pharmaceutical companies;
 4. Considers that the language of the Doha Declaration is clear and unambiguous and the question of what does or does not constitute grounds for the issue of compulsory licences does not require further interpretation, either by means of an 'approved list', or any external approval mechanism; and that any allegations of abuse of the provisions of TRIPS should be dealt with through the relevant disputes procedure;
 5. Believes that the ongoing negotiations should not result in discrimination between WTO members with differing capacities to respond to public health problems and asks the European Commission to find an equitable solution to the problem stated in paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration;
 6. Insists that the European Commission must therefore respect the clarifications provided in the Doha Declaration and reject any position that would result in limitations regarding the scope of diseases or the countries that could make use of an effective solution to the problem defined in paragraph 6;
 7. Believes that the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on a solution to paragraph 6 of the Doha declaration should aim at placing the WTO members without sufficient manufacturing capacities in the same position as the WTO members who do have manufacturing capacities;
 8. Considers that the most effective solution is a limited exception under Article 30 of the TRIPS Agreement whereby WTO members may permit third parties to make, sell, and export patented medicines and other health technologies to address public health needs; considers that this would allow production for export activities to be defined under national law as exceptions to the rights of patent holders;
 9. Calls for Article 31, which defines the compulsory licence system, to be retained;
 10. Insists that neither the countries with insufficient manufacturing capacities nor the countries that will utilise the mechanism to produce for export should be subject to any conditions, notification procedures or any other procedural mechanism more onerous than the ones already provided for under WTO rules;

11. Recognises that the WTO is not the most appropriate body to arbitrate or make rules on questions of public health or access to essential medicines and that, in this regard, the TRIPS Agreement has to be subservient to other values and authorities, as is implicit in the Doha Declaration;
12. Agrees with the European Commission that the World Health Organisation (WHO) could play an important role, but warns that the autonomy and authority of the WHO should not be compromised; in this context encourages the European Commission to consider the WHO's proposal for a solution to paragraph 6 which was presented to the TRIPS Council on 17 September 2002;
13. Considers therefore that the European Commission's proposal to draw up a list of concerned diseases is not exhaustive since, if it were, it would represent a further restriction on developing countries' use of compulsory licensing or Article 30 mechanisms, while developed countries are not subject to any such limitations;
14. Considers that when conflicts arise, as is evident in this case, between intellectual property rights and public policy questions, they should always be resolved first in favour of people and not only patents; underlines, further, that there is a timetable laid down in the TRIPS Agreement for overall review of its workings which has not been met and notes that this process also is stalled in Geneva;
15. Asks the European Commission and the EU Member States to support a broader discussion under the auspices of the WHO on how the TRIPS agreement affects the availability of affordable generic medicines;
16. Asks the European Commission also to investigate alternative strategies to address the issue of the lack of product development for neglected diseases and to support the WHO in including this issue in its agenda;
17. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the WTO, the WHO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the crisis in the international coffee market

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to its previous resolutions and reaffirming those on international trade, development, debt and poverty reduction,
- A. whereas coffee prices have fallen over 50 % over the last three years, the incomes of small farmers in coffee producing ACP States have slumped and large numbers are being affected by famine, while at the same time world markets show an annual surplus of 540 million kg, i.e. almost 8 % compared with consumption figures,
- B. whereas, while small coffee producers are obliged to sell below production costs, international companies such as Nestlé, Kraft, Sara Lee and Procter & Gamble, which purchase around half the world's production, are making billions of dollars from brand coffee sales,
- C. whereas some of these ACP countries are among the ten major coffee producers,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- D. whereas coffee accounts for almost 60 % of Ethiopia's exports and, with the current market crisis, income has fallen from USD 110 million to USD 58 million in a year during which the country is seeking to make savings through debt-reduction measures,
- E. whereas this situation has partly arisen from the dismantling of the International Coffee Organisation which regulated the coffee market by various means, including a quota system,
- F. whereas the current crisis is the result of the policies being implemented by international bodies (World Bank, IMF, WTO) seeking to encourage developing countries to further liberalise trade and pursue an economic strategy directed towards the external market,
- G. whereas the EU also has a share of responsibility in so far as it is encouraging competition between the poorer countries through its policy of trade liberalisation,
- H. deeply concerned by the crisis facing the coffee market in many of the producing countries in general and the countries of the East African region, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi, in particular,
- I. observing that there has not been any significant reduction in the price that consumers in the rich countries pay, while on the other hand poor coffee growers in countries like Ethiopia only get about 1 % of the money that the final consumer pays,
- J. whereas, today more than ever, there is a compelling need to establish a practical and urgent partnership with coffee producing and exporting countries of the region so that all international partners can work together to overcome the crisis,
- K. noting that Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee and one of the largest exporters in Africa, has been hardest hit by the slump, where small-holding organic producer farmers are paid less than USD 0.10 per kg for coffee which is sold in western countries for around USD 26,
- L. deeply concerned by the severe effect that the coffee crisis has on the livelihoods of average coffee growers, most of whom are being forced to uproot the coffee trees and replace them with plants having negative implications on health, the environment and sustainable development, and because of this the world's most popular organic coffee bean (Ethiopian arabica) is under threat of extinction,
- M. deeply concerned by the fact that many ACP coffee producers have lost twice as much revenue from the coffee market as they have received through debt relief, the consequence of these losses are seriously undermining their Governments' efforts to move their countries out of poverty,
- N. deeply concerned by the massive hurdle this crisis is placing in the way of many ACP countries' poverty reduction strategies whose central pillar is agriculture-led development, that includes coffee production,
- O. whereas urgent action is needed from the European Commission to address the collapse of world coffee prices and alleviate the suffering of millions of coffee-producing farmers and the communities depending on the sector,
- P. whereas the guidelines for shortfalls in export earnings issued on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement have shortcomings in addressing such issues,
- Q. whereas the ultimate solution lies in reforming international trade governance in order to make trade work for the poor at all levels,
1. Takes the view that the slump in coffee prices calls for immediate action to assist small producers in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya who have been severely affected by the crisis;

2. Considers it inadmissible for small producers to receive on average USD 0.24 per pound of coffee while in affluent countries consumers pay around USD 3.60 per pound;
3. Calls on the European Commission and ACP countries to propose, in the course of EU-ACP trade negotiations, an ambitious set of trade regulation arrangements seeking to achieve major sustainable development objectives including the eradication of poverty;
4. Calls for a review of the free trade arrangements currently in force and their replacement with equitable arrangements, taking account of the concerns of the countries of the South so as to avoid any future slump in commodity prices;
5. Takes the view that international financial institutions, together with the European Union, have a share of responsibility in this crisis having made the provision of aid conditional on trade liberalisation and prompted the countries concerned to follow an external market-oriented economic policy;
6. Strongly urges the major coffee-roasting companies to pay coffee growers a decent price which is sufficiently above their cost of production and purchase beans that meet the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) quality standards, and to increase the amount of coffee they buy under fair trade conditions;
7. Calls on the European Commission to provide the necessary financial and material support for the rescue plan for coffee introduced by Oxfam and adopted by the major coffee producing and exporting countries;
8. Calls on the European Commission to redeploy former STABEX funds or to urgently allocate additional funds to address the crisis faced by the coffee-producing communities and take the necessary measures to enable the countries to benefit, without any condition, from the 'B' envelope of the 9th EDF;
9. Calls on the world's major roaster companies to dedicate sufficient amounts of funds to address the plight of farmers and local communities and collaborate with development organisations, as the huge drop in price and the dislocation of farmers from the sector is not in the long-term interest of the companies and coffee-drinking consumers in the industrialised world;
10. Calls on all governments of the developed world and international partner organisations to step in and enforce stricter international coffee standards, including protection of quality and organic coffee imports, and devote more financial assistance to help farmers diversify into sustainable alternative crops;
11. Calls on the European Commission to prepare a communication on commodities before the ICO-World Bank International Conference on Coffee, scheduled to take place in May 2003;
12. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on rice**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to the trade and sustainable development and poverty alleviation objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000,
- A. recalling the Partnership Agreement's recognition of the importance of commodities to ACP countries and its recognition that the process of liberalisation could lead to a deterioration in the relative competitive position of ACP States, which could threaten their development efforts,
- B. noting the EU's commitments in the Partnership Agreement to support the integration of ACP economies into the world economy and to promote regional integration,
- C. emphasising that Declaration XXIV — Joint Declaration on Rice — of the Partnership Agreement recognises the importance of the rice sector for the economic and social development of the ACP rice-exporting countries in terms of employment, foreign exchange and social and political stability,
- D. recalling the EU's commitments in the Declaration to finance during the preparatory period, in consultation with the ACP sector concerned, an integrated sector-specific programme for the development of ACP exporters of rice through unallocated EDF resources,
- E. recognising that EU rice consultants have completed the action plans and financial proposal for a support package for the Caribbean rice industry to enhance competitiveness and regional trade integration,
- F. deeply concerned that the 10 July 2002 proposals by the European Commission to cut intervention prices for rice by 50 % and to grant direct aid and decoupled payments in order to compensate European rice farmers could drastically affect ACP rice exports and could result in economic, political and social instability in ACP rice-producing countries,
- G. bearing in mind the commitment made by the European Union to preserve the benefits to ACP countries of the ACP-EU trading arrangements during the preparatory period,
- H. noting that the management of the present rice quota is lacking transparency and the ACP countries do not benefit as expected,
- 1. Calls on the EU Council to take full account of the adverse effects on the ACP rice industry when considering the European Commission's proposals for changes to the common organisation of the market in rice and to consider remedial and compensatory measures to alleviate the negative impact on ACP rice exporters;
- 2. Requests the EU Council to approve as a matter of urgency the financing proposal for the support package to enhance the competitiveness of the Caribbean rice industry;
- 3. Requests the European Commission to make available adequate funding during the second tranche, based on the technical findings of the EU consultants in the action plans;
- 4. Calls on the European Commission to implement the necessary adjustments to the currently applied management of the quota system as articulated in the memorandum submitted by the ACP in January 2003;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

5. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on sugar

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the resolution on sugar adopted by the 76th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels from 9 to 11 December 2002,
 - having regard to the resolution on sugar which it adopted at its fourth session (Cape Town, 18-21 March 2002),
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001 of 19 June 2001 on the common organisation of the market in the sugar sector, in particular its renewal of the EU sugar regime for a further period of five years,
- A. reaffirming that the ACP Sugar Protocol is an integral part of the EU sugar regime and the Protocol quantities are laid down in the EU's WTO commitments,
 - B. stressing that the parties to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation recognised that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to, inter alia, ensuring full employment and sustainable development while seeking to protect and preserve the environment and recognising the need for positive efforts to ensure that developing countries secure a fair share in the growth of international trade,
 - C. welcoming the Doha Development Agenda adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001,
 - D. whereas the ongoing agriculture negotiations in the WTO have to take into account, inter alia, non-trade concerns, special and differential treatment of developing countries, maintenance of preferential arrangements and the specificities of Small Island Developing States,
 - E. stressing that the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou in June 2000 is centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty, which is consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy,
 - F. noting also that the small and vulnerable ACP sugar-supplying States, which are either least-developed, developing, net-food importing, vulnerable, landlocked or island states and single-commodity producers/exporters with specific economic and social difficulties, continue to depend on predictable and stable earnings from sugar exports, under preferential access arrangements, to the EU for their sustainable socio-economic development,
 - G. recognising that the inherent natural, physical and structural constraints of most ACP sugar-supplying States and their topography do not generally allow for horizontal diversification of agriculture and that these factors adversely affect the competitiveness of the ACP sugar industries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- H. emphasising that the ACP sugar-supplying States have been and still are judiciously using the vital foreign exchange earnings from exports to the EU in their rationalisation and modernisation programmes to improve efficiency, increase productivity and competitiveness, to promote the use of by-products including the production of electricity in an environmentally-friendly manner, as well as to encourage meaningful diversification in other sectors, wherever possible,
- I. recognising the multifunctional role that the sugar industry, as a major employer, plays in ACP supplying States through its contribution to environmental protection, rural development and food security as well as the preservation and protection of the traditional way of life,
- J. noting that Australia and Brazil recently made requests for consultations on certain aspects of the EC sugar regime which they consider to be in breach of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and the 1994 GATT,
- K. whereas both Australia and Brazil are major multi-commodity exporters which are among the primary beneficiaries of the Uruguay Round liberalisation in agricultural trade, and whereas Brazil, in particular, is the world's largest exporter, with some 13 million tonnes in 2002, of sugar as compared to the mere 1.6 million tonnes which 17 ACP countries supply to the EC market, which has remained stable,
- L. noting with concern that the increasing quantities of sugar exports from Brazil are having a depressing effect on world sugar prices,
- M. whereas it is a source of deep concern that Australia and Brazil have taken actions which could ultimately threaten the livelihood of thousands of poor farmers and workers belonging to the vulnerable group of the populations of the ACP States concerned,
- N. whereas the ongoing WTO negotiations on agriculture offer an appropriate forum where all WTO members could try to find together a balanced and equitable outcome that takes into account the interest of all members,
- O. noting the implementation by the EU since 2001 of the 'Everything But Arms' Initiative (EBA); recalling the support shown by the ACP States for this initiative,
- P. whereas it is necessary to recall the launch on 27 September 2002 of the EPA negotiations and in this context to underline Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which reaffirms the importance of the commodity Protocols, and the need to review them in the context of the new trading arrangements with a view to safeguarding the benefits derived therefrom, bearing in mind the special legal status of the Sugar Protocol,
- Q. whereas it is also necessary to recall the Joint Declaration (Annex XXIII) on market access of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement by which the parties agree to examine all measures in order to maintain the competitive positions of the ACP states on the Community market, and wherein the Council of the European Union underlines its obligation to take into account the effect of any agreement or other measures to be taken by the EC on ACP-EC trade,
1. Calls on the European Union to:
- defend, maintain and honour the legal obligation and political commitment enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement, particularly the Sugar Protocol,
 - reaffirm the provisions of Article 36 (4) of the Cotonou Agreement particularly to ensure the WTO-compatibility of the Sugar Protocol and to safeguard the benefits derived therefrom,
 - ensure that internal EU CAP reforms and the EU's wider trade liberalisation do not adversely impact on the small and vulnerable economies of the ACP sugar-supplying States,

- recognise the significant and vital contribution that predictable and stable earnings derived from sugar exports have made to economic development, poverty alleviation and the promotion and maintenance of social and political stability,
 - acknowledge the multifunctional nature of the sugar industry, particularly its role in environmental protection and rural development in ACP sugar-supplying States as well as in ensuring food security,
 - factor in the above when engaging in the WTO negotiations on agriculture and work with the ACP so that the preferential arrangements remain meaningful and are provided with legal security in an appropriate manner;
2. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to take, in conjunction with the ACP Group of States, all necessary measures to defend the sugar regime and the terms and conditions of ACP preferential access against the challenge of Australia and Brazil;
 3. Calls further upon the European Commission and the EU Member States to honour their commitments under the Sugar Protocol, irrespective of the outcome of the challenge;
 4. Requests the European Commission to consult the ACP sugar-supplying States on the findings of the studies on the mid-term review of the EC sugar regime before proposals are made with a view to ensuring that the impact of any review on the ACP States concerned is taken into account; requests the European Commission in this connection to provide for the necessary mechanism to guarantee at least the same level of earnings to the ACP sugar-supplying States as the EU sugar producers;
 5. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on tuna

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- A. mindful that one of the Cotonou Agreement's principal objectives is to promote and expedite the economic and social development of the ACP States,
 - B. whereas the parties signatory to the Cotonou Agreement have undertaken, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Agreement, to refrain from any measures liable to jeopardise these objectives,
 - C. noting with concern the current mediation within the WTO regarding a possible reduction in customs duties for canned tuna from Thailand and the Philippines,
 - D. whereas tuna export companies in Thailand and the Philippines are highly competitive,
 - E. aware of the considerable importance of tuna production and trade for the development and economic and social stability of many ACP countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- F. having regard to the development levels of ACP countries and the huge investment which these countries have made in the fisheries sector in general, and the tuna sector in particular,
- G. having regard to the fisheries agreements concluded between a large number of ACP countries and the European Union,
- H. whereas Thailand and the Philippines, unlike the ACP countries, form part of one of the regions of the world which attracts the most investment,
- I. noting the complexity of rules of origin in respect of fishery products,
- J. having regard to the development level of Thailand and the Philippines and their extremely large fishing capacity which can enable them to comply with rules of origin more easily, should they be granted preferential arrangements,
- K. whereas a change in conditions of access for Thailand and the Philippines would lead to disruption and the disappearance of the ACP tuna industries,
- L. fearing that the collapse of the tuna sector in the ACP States may lead to far-reaching and economic and social upheavals and undermine the progress made in combating poverty, which is one of the fundamental objectives of the Cotonou Agreement,
- M. having regard to the mediation within the WTO regarding a reduction in customs duties for canned tuna exported by Thailand and the Philippines and the mediators' proposal which has been forwarded to the European Commission,
1. Calls on the European Union to:
 - recognise that there is a major difference between the ACP countries, most of which are LDCs, and Thailand and the Philippines;
 - ensure that no decision that would be harmful to the ACP countries is taken by the authorities of the EU Member States;
 - ensure that access to the European Union market is maintained for ACP products in general and tuna products in particular;
 - ensure that offers made by the EU within the Doha agenda do not hamper the development efforts in the ACP countries;
 - refrain from adopting the mediators' proposal which, in any case, is not binding;
 2. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the promotion of the private sector in the context of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, namely in Part 4: Development Finance Cooperation, Title II Financial Cooperation, Chapter 7: Investment and private sector development support, as well as the Development Compendium⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the Declarations of the ACP Heads of State and Government meeting in Libreville, Santo Domingo and Nadi,
 - having regard to the European Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on 'A Community strategy for private sector development in ACP countries'⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the European Commission communication concerning Corporate Social Responsibility (A business contribution to sustainable development)⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the resolution on development finance cooperation adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 76th Session meeting in Brussels on 10-11 December 2002⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the Operational Guidelines for the Investment Facility,
- A. having regard to the provisions of Articles 74-78 of the Cotonou Agreement, which recognise the need to support the policies and strategies for investment and private sector development as well as the role of investment promotion in any process of economic development, must be borne in mind,
 - B. whereas the private sector is the main source of employment in ACP countries, though by targeting this important economic sector the ACP Group and the European Union seek to fight poverty by improving income distribution and reducing social exclusion while promoting sustainable development in the ACP States,
 - C. whereas small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) are essential to development for they contribute substantially to two fundamentals of poverty reduction: job creation and economic growth, and stand as a foundation of civil society,
 - D. whereas globalisation has affected the way people live and do business around the world, and thus competition has become more fierce, putting a supplementary strain on the competitiveness of private enterprises in ACP countries,
 - E. whereas trade liberalisation by itself will not lead to the development of the ACP States and if such a process is not carried out taking into consideration the specific needs and limitations of the ACP productive sector it could lead to greater social exclusion and distress,
 - F. emphasising the need to effectively coordinate the various ACP-EU private sector support instruments with a view to preventing duplication of efforts and enhancing the impact of the funds consecrated,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

⁽²⁾ Compendium of Cooperation Strategies, Agreement between the Members of the Group of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States.

⁽³⁾ COM(98) 667 final.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2002) 347 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Resolution No 2.

- G. acknowledging the importance of corporate social responsibility with a view to safeguarding the environment and guaranteeing humane working conditions,
- H. noting the winding down of the European Business Advisory Service (EBAS) and the finalisation of the DIAGNOSE programmes,
- 1. Reaffirms the role of the private sector in speeding up growth and development in ACP countries, and the need for ACP countries to create a favourable environment for investment;
- 2. Reaffirms its will to continue its efforts to promote the overall competitiveness of the ACP private sector as a way of reducing poverty and facilitating the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy;
- 3. Calls on the ACP States and the European Union to devote sufficient resources to enable the active participation of the ACP private sector in the global trading system;
- 4. Invites the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Committee on Development Finance Cooperation to pay special attention to the promotion and development of the ACP private sector;

Participation of the private sector in the negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)

- 5. Calls on the ACP countries and the European Union to encourage the participation of the private sector in the ongoing EPA negotiations;
- 6. Highlights the leading role to be played by regional and professional organisations in enabling the private sector to contribute to the formulation of the ACP and EU negotiating strategies;

Participation of ACP businesses, suppliers and consultants in contracts financed by the EDF

- 7. Notes with interest the provisions of Annex IV, (Implementation and Management Procedures), to the Cotonou Agreement aimed at encouraging as much participation as possible from physical and legal entities in ACP States in the implementation of contracts financed by the EDF;
- 8. Welcomes the review of the general rules relating to services, supplies and works contracts financed by the EDF to ensure the inclusion of specificities of the ACP-EC Partnership;
- 9. Urges the European Commission, as well as the national and regional authorising officers, to ensure that the application of these provisions in the selection and award of contracts offers optimum possibilities to ACP enterprises, suppliers and consultants;

Coordination of aid

- 10. Calls upon the ACP countries and the European Union to put in place a coordination mechanism with a view to preventing duplication amongst the various EDF-funded all- ACP, regional and national private sector support programmes and institutions;

Investment facility

- 11. Regrets that the Operational Guidelines of the Investment Facility (IF) were solely developed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and were approved by the European Commission without the participation of the ACP Group;

12. Calls on the EIB to undertake appropriate actions, in consultation with the Commission and the ACP Secretariat, to explain the operations of the Investment Facility and ensure the widest possible dissemination of information relating to access to its resources by the private sector and commercial, partially state-owned businesses;

13. Calls upon the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to closely follow the implementation of the Investment Facility with a view to guaranteeing that it fulfils its objective as a development tool;

14. Requests the EIB to examine the possibility of creating regional representations, in an appropriate form, in ACP countries;

New private-sector support initiatives

15. Urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to enhance the current private-sector support instruments and create new ones with a view to upgrading the overall competitiveness of the ACP private sector with special attention to product development, market access, distribution systems and transportation networks (PMDT);

16. Commends the initiatives taken by the European Parliament and the European Commission with a view to promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a way of promoting the welfare of workers and consumers and urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to closely follow the evolution of this dossier;

17. Calls on the European Commission to put in place a programme, based on the EBAS experience, with a view to promoting business development services in the ACP countries;

18. Supports the installation of a successor to the DIAGNOSE programme with a view to determining the opportunities and challenges faced by private-sector operators in specific ACP countries and regions and facilitating the design and implementation of other private sector support instruments;

19. Calls on the ACP Group and the European Union to collaborate with renowned NGO and private-sector organisations with a view to promoting 'fair trade initiatives' in favour of ACP producers;

20. Calls on the ACP Group and the European Union to support the promotion of micro-finance institutions with a view to fostering the development of SMEs in ACP States;

21. Calls on the ACP States and the European Union to secure support for ACP capacity-building initiatives with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of the ACP private sector;

22. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to resolutions previously adopted by the organs and joint bodies of the ACP Group and European Union,
 - having regard to the principles and objectives of the Georgetown Agreement as amended, and the Libreville, Santo Domingo and Nadi Declarations of the ACP Heads of State and Government at their Summits in 1997, 1999 and 2002,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin, on 23 June 2000,
 - having regard to Article 29 of the EU Treaty, and new Articles 6 and 13 of the EC Treaty, as incorporated into those treaties by the Treaty of Amsterdam, referring to respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and fundamental rights, and the fight against racism and xenophobia and against many forms of discrimination as a European Union objective,
 - having regard to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Conclusions of the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights, the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the other instruments of international humanitarian law, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 New York Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination held in Geneva in 1978 and 1983 respectively, and the Declaration and Programme of Action of the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001,
- A. whereas the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance made an important contribution to the cause of the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance and that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action have to be fully implemented without delay through effective action,
 - B. conscious of its own responsibilities in the follow-up to the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and the need to strengthen the capacity of ACP States to undertake these responsibilities,
 - C. whereas it is a matter of great concern that, despite continued efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and acts of violence persist and even grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,
 - D. recognising the efforts of ACP States, in particular the commitment and determination of the African leaders, to effectively address the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, social exclusion, economic disparities, instability and insecurity, through initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
 - E. acknowledging the potential of the new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to establish educational and awareness-raising networks against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote universal respect for human rights and the value of cultural diversity,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- F. appreciating that Non-State Actors (NSA), in particular civil society, at national, regional and international levels actively participate in the continuing fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,
- G. noting a number of recent developments in Europe that give serious cause for concern, including:
- incidents of racially motivated violence and assaults on minorities in the European Union;
 - prominence of extreme and/or far-right political parties with racist and xenophobic agendas and programmes on the political landscape of the European Union; and
 - continuing racist indignities that travellers from ACP countries experience when they travel to the EU, which reflect a growing mood of hostility towards foreigners in the EU,
- H. whereas xenophobic and racist attitudes in EU Member States towards citizens of ACP States seriously impede the development and expansion of ACP-EU cooperation and relations, by, inter alia,
- making the creation and establishment of business and commerce contacts more difficult, thereby impeding the development of mutually beneficial commercial relations between the ACP and EU;
 - fuelling an attitude in the EU of pessimism and indifference to the problems of the developing world; and
 - undermining the spirit that ought to bring about the building of an effective partnership between the ACP and the EU,
1. Expresses its willingness to cooperate fully with all relevant institutions of the United Nations system, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in following up the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
 2. Urges States to promote and protect the human rights of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance who are infected, or thought to be infected, with pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS and to take appropriate action to eliminate any negative consequences arising from these pandemics;
 3. Further urges all politicians to refrain from any form of exploitation or encouragement of racist and xenophobic sentiments, to condemn all forms of intolerance and racist remarks, and to combat any racist and xenophobic tendencies or groups within their own ranks;
 4. Calls on the EU Member States to ensure that the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is fully implemented and that immigration legislation and policies do not lead to discrimination based on ethnic origin or nationality and do not encourage xenophobic attitudes or discriminatory and hostile behaviour towards ethnic minorities;
 5. Condemns all mass expulsions and protests against the resumption of mass return policies which are implemented in humiliating conditions; calls for an immediate end to these mass expulsions;
 6. Insists that ACP citizens legally resident in the European Union receive equal treatment in terms of economic, social, civil, cultural and political rights in accordance with the relevant UN human rights conventions;
 7. Welcomes the stand taken by EU leaders and citizens against certain manifestations of racism and xenophobia in Europe;
 8. Urges greater cooperation between the ACP Group and the European Union to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
 9. Expresses its willingness jointly to seek ways and means to ensure that manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance do not impede the future of the ACP-EU Partnership;

10. Calls on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to consider the issuing of a joint EU-ACP Resolution on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at their next respective meetings in 2003;
11. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the situation in West Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1464 (2003) of 4 February 2003 on Côte d'Ivoire,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency Declaration of 19 February 2003 on Côte d'Ivoire,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency Declaration of 12 February 2003 on Togo,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the West African region,
- A. whereas several failed peace accords and peacekeeping efforts, collapsed economies and the human rights atrocities perpetrated in recent years constitute a serious threat to the stability of the whole subregion,
 - B. noting the numerous political, economic and development efforts and improvements made in this region of Africa with a view to the establishment of an internal market and an economic and social area, but having regard to the drought and the threat of serious food shortages affecting the region, in particular Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and part of Burkina Faso,
 - C. having regard to the official launch of the African Union in July 2002 in Durban,
 - D. mindful that ethnic, religious and political diversity constitute a valuable asset provided that equality and fraternity are prevalent,
 - E. deploring the heavy loss of life, including civilian fatalities, and the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire,
 - F. reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire, and having regard to the conclusion of the Marcoussis agreements, which reaffirm the importance of respect for the country's territorial integrity and institutions and provides for the establishment of a government of national reconciliation and the disarmament of rebel groups,
 - G. deploring in particular the recent reports of atrocities and lawlessness in the western area of Côte d'Ivoire along the border with Liberia, which have already driven several hundred thousand people from their homes and threaten to develop into a major humanitarian crisis,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- H. having regard to continued fighting in Liberia particularly in Lofa province, and the appearance of a new war zone on the frontier with Côte d'Ivoire, preventing the stabilisation of the political situation in the Mano River countries — Guinea Conakry, Liberia and Sierra Leone — and improvement of the humanitarian situation in these countries,
- I. whereas the renewed fighting in Liberia, with the rebels gaining control over large areas of western Liberia, has driven a further 30 000 people from their homes in an attempt to reach the capital, Monrovia, and whereas according to the UNHCR thousands more may attempt to reach neighbouring Sierra Leone, which is itself just recovering from a decade-long war,
- J. whereas Sharia law has been introduced in twelve of Nigeria's northern states since 1999,
- K. expressing grave concern at the recent sentencing to death by stoning for adultery of women and men in these states,
- L. noting the efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria in conformity with its Constitution to protect the fundamental human rights of its citizens in accordance with its obligations under international human rights instruments including the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- M. noting the recommendation by the co-rapporteurs on human rights that a letter of support and encouragement be addressed to President Olusegun Obasanjo by the Co-Presidents of the JPA, urging him to have such sentences quashed and for an end to the death penalty for having children outside wedlock,
- N. deploring the fact that the parliamentary elections held in Togo on 27 October 2002 appeared to violate the Lomé Framework Agreement,
1. Reiterates its support for ECOWAS initiatives seeking to achieve a peaceful and durable solution in the region and urges the authorities to cooperate unreservedly in achieving this objective through more intensive political dialogue and by establishing good neighbourly relations;
 2. Reiterates its conviction that respect for human rights and democratic principles is the cornerstone for the stabilisation and peace process in the region;
 3. Welcomes the launching of NEPAD and the African Union with all its instruments, which is an important step towards the political integration of the African continent;
 4. Welcomes the fact that the African Union Constituent Act recognises the importance of respect for human rights and unambiguously rejects impunity; calls on the African Union to confirm this by finalising a protocol on women's rights to the African Charter and ratifying the protocol setting up an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
 5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Government of Ghana, through its Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, to improve the situation of women farmers by offering them credit loans and machinery to expand their enterprises;
 6. Calls on the Council and Commission to act on the basis of the principle of African integration to safeguard and promote the common interests of the European Union and its African partners, particularly in international trade talks;
 7. Draws attention to the fact that the cause of this instability is the sharp decline in resources due to both the slump in world agricultural and raw materials prices and the cost of servicing the debt, and calls on the European Union and the Member States accordingly to step up their cooperation with the worst affected countries;

8. Recalls that religious freedom (implying freedom of faith and worship without discrimination or preference), as established in numerous international legal instruments, must be preserved;
9. Calls for the de jure and de facto abolition of the death penalty in all countries of the region where it still exists;
10. Condemns all the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that have taken place in Côte d'Ivoire since 19 September 2002, stresses the need to bring to justice those responsible for these violations, and urges all parties, including the government, to take all necessary steps to prevent further violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular against civilians, regardless of their origin;
11. Notes the provisions in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement for the formation of a government of national reconciliation and calls on all Ivorian political forces to work with the President of the Republic and the newly appointed Prime minister towards the establishment of a balanced and stable government;
12. Calls on all the parties concerned to work jointly with the 'monitoring committee' chaired by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Albert Tevodjéré, in order to secure a lasting political solution to the crisis, in the spirit of national reconciliation which was established in October 2001, with due respect for the democratic institutions and unity of the national territory of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
13. Points out that the aim of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement is to guarantee territorial integrity and respect for the country's institutions and stresses that their implementation must not serve as a basis for de facto partitioning of the country;
14. Considers that the achievement of lasting peace in the country requires the disbandment of the paramilitary groups and the disarmament of the rebel forces;
15. Calls upon all states neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire to support the peace process by preventing any action that might undermine the security and territorial integrity of Côte d'Ivoire, particularly the movement of armed groups and mercenaries across their borders and illicit trafficking and proliferation of arms in the region, including small arms and light weapons;
16. Firmly condemns the continued and renewed violent conflict in Liberia between the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy;
17. Condemns the continued hostilities in Liberia prolonging the suffering of the civilian population in this region;
18. Urges both sides to halt the fighting immediately and to attend the peace talks scheduled in Bamako, under the auspices of ECOWAS;
19. Welcomes the improved security situation in Sierra Leone following the May 2002 re-election of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, but warns against the potential instability deriving from the inflow of thousands of Liberian refugees;
20. Calls on the international community, and the EU in particular, to fund the appeals of the UN agencies to cope with the ever-increasing flights of refugees and internally-displaced persons along the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border and in Sierra Leone;
21. Urges all three Mano River Union leaders to muster the political will to build up confidence between themselves, in order to resolve the present crisis through dialogue and reconciliation that will ensure secure borders and peaceful relations between their countries;
22. Welcomes President Olusegun Obasanjo's firm and impartial leadership which led to the quashing of the death sentence by stoning of Safiya Hussaini for adultery;
23. Calls on the Government of Nigeria to take all necessary measures to secure respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights and freedoms in Nigeria;

24. Mandates its Co-Presidents to address a letter of support and encouragement to President Olusegun Obasanjo in which it is also suggested that he use his powers within the constitution to have such sentences quashed for an end to the death penalty for sexual relations between consenting adults in Nigeria;
25. Urges the Togolese authorities to continue and step up the national reconciliation process and hold democratic, transparent (equal access to the media, presence of foreign observers) and pluralist (participation of political parties in the electoral process, including their presence in polling stations) elections;
26. Regrets that the new constitutional provisions do not allow all those wishing to do so to stand in the presidential election;
27. Calls on the Togolese political class as a whole to cooperate fully in order to create conditions conducive to national reconciliation and the country's economic and social recovery;
28. Urges the European Union, subject to these conditions, to normalise its relations with Togo with a view to putting an end to the harmful effects of sanctions on the people of Togo and strengthening the democratic process through sustainable development and efficient governance, in keeping with the national reconciliation process provided for in the Lomé Framework Agreement;
29. Welcomes the agreement between the President and opposition party leaders in Guinea-Bissau to postpone the legislative elections scheduled for 20 April 2003, and calls for strict respect for human rights and the holding of free and fair elections on 6 July 2003;
30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Commission of the African Union and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Central Africa

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to its previous resolutions,
- having regard to the declarations by the African Union and the EU Presidency condemning the coup which took place on 15 March 2003 in the Central African Republic (CAR),
- having regard to the peace agreement signed on 30 July 2002 in Pretoria between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda and the various agreements regarding the withdrawal of foreign troops,
- having regard to the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities agreements signed on 29 December 1999 between the Congolese Government and the National Resistance Council (CNR),
- having regard to the peace agreement signed on 17 March 2003 between the Congolese Government and Pastor Ntoumi's armed movement,
- having regard to the Arusha Agreement on peace and reconciliation in Burundi and the cease-fire agreements signed between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the various armed movements — Pierre Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD, Jean-Bosco Ndayikengurukiye's CNDD-FDD and Alain Mugabarabona's PALIPEHUTU/FNL,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- having regard to the interim report submitted on 21 October 2002 to the UN Security Council on the pillaging of DRC resources,
- having regard to Rwandan Organic Law No 40/2000 of 26 January 2001 establishing 'Gacaca courts',
- having regard to the communiqués from the forces for the defence of democracy (CNDD-FDD) suspending their participation in the negotiations with the Transitional Government of Burundi,
- having regard to its Bureau's decision to send a mission to Equatorial Guinea,
- A. whereas there is no military solution to the conflicts which have caused the death or displacement of millions of people in Central Africa,
- B. whereas the various conflicts are characterised by a 'war within a war' against women who are victims of acts of violence and rape, mostly concealed afterwards by a wall of silence,
- C. having regard to the determined and effective action by women's organisations in assisting and supporting women who have suffered acts of violence,
- D. whereas to create jobs and attract investment it is necessary to ensure political and economic stability and respect for the principle of good governance and the rule of law,
- E. whereas, without genuine peace, the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the Congolese Government cannot be sustained,
- F. concerned at the loss of life caused by the coup d'état among civilians and members of the CAEMC peacekeeping forces in the CAR, and the humanitarian plight of many refugees at the border between Chad and the CAR,
- G. whereas the Lusaka and Pretoria Agreements make detailed provision for the resolution of the crisis in the DRC,
- H. whereas, although agreements have been signed for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC, the process of withdrawal has not been fully completed,
- I. having regard to the continued serious unrest in the district of Ituri (eastern province of the DRC),
- J. having regard to the serious damage being done to the ecosystem, in particular the illegal exploitation of the equatorial forest in the DRC,
- K. whereas most of the national parks suffering from poaching activities, deforestation and illegal mining of gold and coltan are situated in the east of the DRC,
- L. whereas regional union between neighbouring countries is a tried and tested solution to avoid conflict and war through peaceful collaboration and joint development,
- M. having regard to the dimensions assumed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in conflict-torn areas because of the vulnerability of the population, increasing the number of orphans,
- N. having regard to the positive action taken by Uganda, which has succeeded in slowing down the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus,

- O. whereas the transition period in Rwanda is scheduled to end with the holding of elections in July 2003,
- P. concerned at the continuing violence which is harming the civilian population despite the cease-fire agreements signed between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the armed rebel movements, and alarmed by the abuses currently perpetrated by the military forces of all the parties involved in the conflict,
- Q. whereas, after ten years' war, Burundi is the third poorest country in the developing country rankings, the percentage of children in school has fallen from 70 % to 20 % and the infant mortality rate stands at the same level as in the 1960s,
- R. having regard to the agreement recently signed between the Government of Equatorial Guinea and the European Commission with a view to improving the human rights situation,
- S. whereas some members of the opposition in Equatorial Guinea are held in prison,
1. Condemns the coup d'état of 15 March 2003, which enabled General Bozize to seize power in the CAR;
 2. Calls for a speedy return to constitutional order and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the civilian population to be respected and protected in the CAR;
 3. Calls on the financial institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank, to provide the necessary funds to pay civil servants once constitutional order is respected in the CAR;
 4. Supports the CAEMC's decision to maintain the peacekeeping forces in the CAR;
 5. Deplores the pillaging, abuses and attacks on the civilian population perpetrated by the warring forces;
 6. Condemns the pillaging of the World Food Programme offices and calls on aid organisations to provide the necessary resources to meet the population's needs;
 7. Calls for free presidential elections to be held as soon as possible within an EU organisational framework and under UN supervision;
 8. Welcomes the Pretoria Agreements and calls on all the parties to respect the commitments they entered into in Lusaka and Pretoria with regard to demilitarisation, disarmament and the introduction of all mechanisms necessary for the intercongolese dialogue so as to resolve in a consistent manner the problems of security and the political, humanitarian, social and economic issues concerning all countries of the region;
 9. Welcomes the continuation of the dialogue organised by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, and the efforts of the African Union to resolve the crisis in the DRC;
 10. Calls for the withdrawal of the foreign and paramilitary troops still present in the DRC and expresses the hope that it may become total and definitive without compromising the safety of anyone in the DRC;
 11. Supports requests to the UN Security Council for the deployment of additional armed forces;
 12. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider the possibility of extending and specifying MONUC's mandate on peacekeeping activities and the monitoring of the agreements;
 13. Calls on all parties concerned to make the necessary efforts for the safe repatriation of refugees and those displaced internally;
 14. Encourages the holding of open and pluralist elections in Rwanda;

15. Calls for Rwanda and the DRC to be given assistance by the international community, in particular the European Union, to organise these elections in the presence of international observers;
16. Calls on the national parliaments of the countries in this region to play a greater part in ensuring close monitoring of their governments, particularly regarding implementation of the Cotonou Agreement;
17. Welcomes the introduction of the 'Gacaca courts' and hopes that they will help to achieve national reconciliation in Rwanda;
18. Considers it essential to break down the wall of silence set up following acts of violence against women during the conflicts;
19. Welcomes the vital humanitarian contribution made by ECHO, particularly in Goma, following the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano;
20. Calls on the Commission to concentrate on strengthening resources, including health and plant health resources, so as to ensure that access to the European market under the 'everything but arms' initiative exists not only in theory but also in practice;
21. Urges that, in accordance with the spirit of 'good governance', those implicated in the systematic pillaging of DRC resources be dismissed from their posts and responsibilities during the period of transition towards democracy;
22. Congratulates the Government of the Republic of the Congo and armed movements on signing the various agreements to restore peace;
23. Calls on all the parties to continue their efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation;
24. Encourages the Government of the Republic of the Congo in its efforts to secure the return of many displaced persons to their places of residence;
25. Calls on the UN Security Council to impose penalties (restrictions on their movements and bank accounts) on individuals and corporations found guilty of participating in pillaging the DRC;
26. Calls for priority to be given to primary education and training and welcomes the notable increase in school attendance in Uganda;
27. Fears that increases in military outlay will be at the expense of education and health;
28. Calls for the resumption as soon as possible of normal river traffic on the Congo, which is a vital artery for the region;
29. Urges the Transitional Government of Burundi and Pierre Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD to comply with the terms of the cease-fire agreements of 3 December 2002 and 27 January 2003;
30. Condemns the rape of women by the forces involved in the Burundian conflict;
31. Calls on the National Liberation Forces (Agathon Rwasa's FNL-PALIPEHUTU) to engage unreservedly in the cease-fire negotiations in Burundi;
32. Condemns firmly the massacres of civilians perpetrated by the various warring parties, such as that of Itaba, in the province of Gitega (Burundi), on 9 September 2002; calls for those responsible for the various massacres which have taken place around the country (including the Itaba massacre) to be tried for violation of human rights;
33. Calls on the government and the rebels to guarantee the safety of the observers sent by the African Union to monitor implementation of the cease-fire in Burundi;
34. Calls on international aid donors, with particular reference to the Commission and the European Union Member States, to set up aid programmes aimed at alleviating poverty in Burundi and supporting the peace process;

35. Calls on the various military forces to facilitate the population's access to aid, in accordance with international humanitarian law;
36. Calls on the Government of Equatorial Guinea to release all political prisoners and implement a genuine and verifiable process of democratisation;
37. Welcomes the agreement recently concluded between the Government of Equatorial Guinea and the European Commission with a view to improving the human rights situation, and hopes that the agreement will bring about a genuine improvement in the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea;
38. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Commission of the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank and the governments of the region of Central Africa.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Southern Africa

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the UN Secretary-General's report of 26 July 2002 and to Security Council Resolutions 1432(2002), 1433(2002) and 1439(2002) on Angola,
 - having regard to the UN Secretary-General's reports of 12 December 2002 and 7 February 2003,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Southern Africa,
 - having regard to the Africa Hunger Alert campaign launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) on 16 December 2002,
- A. whereas many countries in Africa, Asia and Central America are currently facing catastrophic conditions caused primarily by shifting weather patterns, political instability, failed economic policies, and HIV/AIDS,
- B. whereas nearly 15 million are threatened by starvation in six countries in Southern Africa — Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique — as a result of drought, the convergence of poor harvests and HIV/AIDS,
- C. whereas the scope and depth of the crisis is unprecedented and requires an urgent response, failing which the humanitarian community will not be able to counter these looming disasters,
- D. whereas in the particular case of Southern Africa the traditional pattern of humanitarian assistance is simply not a viable option at this time, as the capacities of governments across the region to deal with the impact of the current humanitarian crisis have been weakened by the current and future implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which is threatening an entire generation of working-age adults and leaving in its wake millions of orphans,
- E. whereas food aid in itself is not an appropriate instrument to create long-term food security but remains essential to deal with humanitarian crises of an unprecedented and unpredictable nature,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

- F. noting the moral and sovereign rights of affected Southern African states to accept or reject GMOs coming as food aid and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, requiring advanced informed agreement on the use of GM food,
- G. having regard to corruption charges against European companies during the construction in Lesotho of the one of the world's largest hydrological engineering projects, which would provide drinking water to 7 million South Africans, and taking into account the heavy financial burden of the judicial process involved in the prosecution of the case,
- H. whereas on 17 September 2002 the High Court of Lesotho convicted Acres International, a Canadian engineering consultancy firm, of paying bribes to win contracts on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP),
- I. whereas the court cases have been extremely costly and it is feared that Lesotho, one of Africa's poorest countries, will not have the financial resources to complete the prosecutions,
- J. having regard to the fight against corruption in Zambia carried out by President Mwanawasa, at the risk of losing his post,

South Africa

- 1. Believes that South Africa has a central role to play in fostering development and stability throughout the region and calls on and encourages it to make a still more determined and direct commitment to combating poverty and social inequalities;
- 2. Calls on the South African Government to do everything in its power to combat HIV/AIDS;
- 3. Calls on the relevant authorities to step up their efforts to combat crime, particularly crime which affects the most vulnerable members of society (women and children) and some foreign communities, without undermining respect for human rights;
- 4. Calls on the Member States, the Commission, the European Investment Bank, the ACP countries and the international community to provide assistance to South Africa under their respective programmes for the country;

Angola

- 5. Congratulates the Angolan Government and UNITA for the strong political will shown in achieving the goal of peace and national reconciliation and invites all parties to continue to work together closely to build on this achievement; is concerned about any pockets of conflict that remain in the country and welcomes all initiatives to resolve them that may lead to a democratic dialogue;
- 6. Expresses its satisfaction with the finalisation of the work of the Joint Commission which marks the completion of the main tasks of the Angola peace process and notes with satisfaction some steps towards normality like the appointment of a new Prime Minister — an office which has been vacant for three years — and the ongoing discussion between parties in parliament on a new constitution for Angola;
- 7. Welcomes the Angolan Government's declaration of 19 November 2002 underlining its commitment to the social reintegration of all Angolans and recognising UNITA's full engagement in the peace process;

8. Stresses in this regard a number of medium and long-term challenges such as the reintegration into society of former government and UNITA soldiers and their families and the resettlement of civilians displaced by the war and reconstruction, which have to be met by Angola; notes that these tasks will now have to be handled within the framework of the national reconciliation process agreed by both parties;
9. Notes the reunification of UNITA as a freely reorganised unarmed political party;
10. Believes that the consolidation of peace in Angola also depends on the re-establishment of the electoral process and full normalisation of democratic, free and pluralist institutions, guaranteed respect for human rights, respect for the law, the independence of the courts, the neutrality and impartiality of the public administrative authorities, a properly functioning state apparatus and social justice;
11. Welcomes in this context the commitments by the President of the Republic and the government to ensure the democratic legitimacy of national institutions by holding free and pluralist local and national elections as soon as possible; asks the Commission to help provide the necessary international assistance for this purpose;
12. Considers also that peace, reconciliation and democracy in Angola require the commitment of all Angolans to engage in a comprehensive dialogue encompassing and actively involving all political parties on a representational basis, together with civil society, and traditional and religious authorities;
13. Calls on the European Commission to include in its aid programmes for Angola provision for the participation of civil society and churches in the process of national reconciliation and civic training programmes, in a move to strengthen democracy;
14. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP-EU Council to support programmes of mine clearance, humanitarian assistance and the social reintegration of displaced persons, demobilised personnel, the disabled and orphans, together with the organisation of an international conference of humanitarian aid donors and the reconstruction of Angola following the restoration of peace;
15. Urges the European Commission and the international community to provide further funding for the restoration of infrastructures destroyed during the war and for relaunching economic activity, particularly in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, so as to make the population less dependent on food aid;
16. Welcomes the commitments by the President of the Republic and the measures urged by the leader of the parliamentary majority to combat corruption; calls on the authorities to act with determination so as to bring this campaign to a successful conclusion;
17. Calls on the Angolan Government and its industrial and trading partners to establish suitable mechanisms for the transparent and responsible management of Angola's natural resources in accordance with IMF recommendations;
18. Endorses the United Nations proposals to continue, following the expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA), closely to monitor the humanitarian situation and respect for human rights throughout the country;

Lesotho

19. Welcomes the stand taken by the government of Lesotho against bribery and corruption; hopes that this will be an example to other countries in Southern Africa;
20. Asks the European Commission to provide the necessary financial support to the Lesotho Government to enable it to pursue the court process to its conclusion;

Good governance

21. Fully supports all those who fight corruption, particularly President Mwanawasa of Zambia;
22. Calls on the European Commission and the governments of the EU Member States to honour their commitments in support of good governance and to provide financial and technical assistance and cooperation to those developing nations which are willing to deter, prevent and punish corrupt practices in the award of contracts for public works;

Food crisis

23. Expresses its grave concern at the looming humanitarian disasters in Southern Africa and calls on the EU and other donors to promptly and substantially respond to the Africa Hunger Alert campaign launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) and to step up food aid and humanitarian aid to the region, as well as support for longer-term efforts to achieve food security;
24. Supports the position of the Zambian Government which has rejected GM food aid on the basis of the precautionary principle in order to protect Zambian farmers, the country's agricultural production and prospects for exports;
25. Considers that the Cartagena Protocol on bio-safety enshrines the sovereign right of countries to be informed and to take precautionary decisions on imports of GMOs;
26. Reaffirms that the right to food is a fundamental human right and that accepting or rejecting GM food aid is a sovereign right of beneficiary countries;
27. Warns that the global cost of not eradicating hunger — in terms of conflict, recurrent emergencies, international crime, the drugs trade, economic stagnation, clandestine migration and premature death — is enormous;
28. Calls on the EU and other donors to address urgently the dire socio-economic impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Southern Africa region, and to speed up the slow disbursement of earmarked monies from the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS;
29. Expresses its continuing grave concern at the magnitude of the food crisis facing some countries in Southern Africa;
30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union, SADC and the governments of Angola and South Africa.
-

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in East Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on East Africa, in particular the Horn of Africa,
- A. having regard to the drought in East Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa, which continues to degrade the environment and devastate communities, resulting in extremely serious food shortages for 14 million people,
- B. whereas significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the peace accords between Eritrea and Ethiopia, including the Boundary Commission's delimitation decision; whereas there is still need for the expeditious demarcation of the delimited boundary in order to secure full implementation of the Algiers Peace Accords and the definitive settlement of the Eritro-Ethiopian dispute,
- C. whereas the UN Security Council has renewed the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) until 15 September 2003 and continues to be seized of the peace process with a view to its full implementation,
- D. recalling the significant contribution of the EU and its Member States to UNMEE and OLMEE and the EU's commitment to supporting the full implementation of the Algiers Peace Accords,
- E. noting the concerted efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and its partners to bring about a comprehensive and durable peace settlement in Sudan and the progress achieved to date in the Machakos peace process,
- F. concerned about the ongoing human rights abuses and the continuing crisis in Somalia and its disastrous impact on the precarious security and humanitarian situation in the country and in neighbouring countries,
- G. whereas Somalia needs the support of the international community, in particular the EU, in order to ensure the success of the ongoing National Reconciliation Conference, make and build peace, help restore the state and preserve national unity and territorial integrity,
- H. whereas the newly-elected President in Kenya, Mr Kibaki, has said he would make the fight against corruption a priority and also promised to tackle Kenya's economic decline,
- I. whereas the efforts aimed at development and poverty eradication in the Horn of Africa are being hampered by the lack of peace, security and stability engendered by conflict, both inter-state and intra-state,
- J. whereas the World Food Programme has been forced to suspend its operations in the north of Uganda because of murderous attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army at a time when 800 000 people are dependent on food aid,
- K. having regard to the agreement concluded between Sudan and Uganda no longer to provide base camp facilities for each other's armed opposition forces,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

1. Commends the efforts of the UN and the African Union (AU) to ensure the completion of the Eritro-Ethiopian peace process;
2. Calls for the expeditious demarcation of the Eritro-Ethiopian boundary in strict adherence to the 13 April 2002 delimitation decision of the Boundary Commission;
3. Reaffirms its support for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and calls on the parties to cooperate fully with UNMEE in the fulfilment of its mandate;
4. Welcomes the establishment of political pluralism in Djibouti;
5. Expresses concern about the humanitarian situation in Sudan and calls on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to continue to work for the success of the Machakos process and to continue to cooperate fully with the efforts of IGAD and its partners to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace;
6. Calls on the international community, in particular the EU, to actively support the Sudan peace process;
7. Welcomes the normalisation of relations between the Government of Uganda and the Government of Sudan with a view to achieving peace in the region;
8. Calls on all the Somali parties to work for the success of the ongoing IGAD-facilitated National Reconciliation Conference so as to realise full national reconciliation and the effective reinstitution of state authority in Somalia;
9. Urges the EU to strengthen its support for the process of national reconciliation and the restoration of the state in Somalia as well as its financial, material and humanitarian assistance to the Somali people;
10. Welcomes the overall conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Kenya in December 2002, which represents a major advance for African democracy, and urges other countries in the region and beyond to continue to promote democracy;
11. Calls on the AU and the European Commission to help the Comoros authorities to find compromise solutions in interpreting the Constitution regarding power-sharing arrangements so as to avoid a further political crisis;
12. Stands ready to assist Madagascar substantially in its effort to improve the economic and social situation in the country;
13. Urges the EU to increase its emergency famine-relief assistance to the drought-stricken countries of East Africa and to devise instruments of long-term financial intervention aimed at alleviating the recurrent problem through water resource management, development and agricultural modernisation;
14. Calls on the EU to initiate and reinforce peace-making and peace-building measures among the countries of the Horn in order to promote regional security, stability and cooperation, which are indispensable to sustainable economic development;
15. Expresses concern about the low coffee prices which have affected many farmers in the region;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, IGAD, the African Union and the Governments of the Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Somalia, and Sudan.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in the Caribbean region**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to the appropriate measures under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement with regard to the Republic of Haiti adopted by the EU Council on 29 January 2001, modified on 21 January 2002 and again on 10 January 2003,
- having regard to the findings of the fact-finding mission sent by its Bureau to Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia from 3 to 9 February 2003,
- having regard to its resolution on Haiti adopted in Libreville (Gabon) in March 2001,

Haiti

- A. having regard to the accession of Haiti in July 2002 to the Caribbean Community (Caricom) regional economic and political bloc,
- B. having regard to the efforts made by its government to contain illiteracy and AIDS,
- C. having regard to the livestock epidemics which have worsened the food shortages affecting the population,
- D. concerned by the political instability that prevails in Haiti, where there has been a wave of anti-government unrest in recent months,
- E. whereas Haiti will only find the political stability and good governance that it needs for economic and social development by respecting the principles of democracy and human rights that form the essential bases for a solution to the current crisis,
- F. whereas the EU Council has decided to extend until 31 December 2003 the Decision of 29 January 2001 suspending cooperation aid to Haiti,
- G. whereas many traditional donor countries suspended aid to Haiti following what were widely regarded as controversial parliamentary elections held in May 2002,
- H. whereas the European Union has made the gradual resumption of cooperation instruments affected by measures taken in application of Article 96 dependent on the favourable development of the electoral process and the renewal of cooperation with the international financial institutions,
- I. believing that EU aid to Haiti must seek to develop a culture of democracy, to foster an inclusive political climate and to build human and institutional capacity,
- J. recognising the persistent efforts of Caricom and the Organisation of American States (OAS) to help Haiti establish an effective electoral process,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

K. whereas the rule of law in Haiti is threatened by a climate of violence generated by the polarisation of politics in the country; whereas this situation is further exacerbated by the corruption and partisan nature of some judicial authorities and some police operations,

L. whereas a significant proportion of the aid still provided does not reach the intended beneficiaries,

Jamaica

M. having regard to the efforts of the Jamaican Government to combat drugs trafficking,

N. having regard to the adverse weather conditions which have seriously affected Jamaica,

O. whereas two-thirds of Jamaica's budget is absorbed by debt servicing,

P. having regard to the desire expressed by the political parties to put an end to violence during elections,

Saint Lucia

Q. whereas Saint Lucia's relatively high level of human development is threatened because its narrow economic base — tourism, bananas and some manufacturing — is being subjected to severe external shocks and adjustments in pricing and marketing arrangements,

Saint Kitts and Nevis

R. having regard to the efforts made by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to prevent money laundering,

Commonwealth of Dominica

S. whereas the Commonwealth of Dominica has suffered great losses in export earnings as a direct result of the decline of prices in the EU banana market,

T. whereas, as a result of the financial crisis, the IMF is now directly involved in the supervision of the financial affairs of Dominica with onerous conditions,

Cuba

U. having regard to its previous resolutions adopted in Abuja (Nigeria) in March 2000, Libreville (Gabon) in March 2001 and Cape Town (South Africa) in March 2002, calling on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the European Commission to give favourable consideration to the accession of Cuba to the Agreement,

V. having regard to the ACP Council of Ministers decision of 14 December 2000 to admit Cuba as the 78th member of the ACP Group,

W. having regard to the resolution concerning the accession of Cuba to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 74th session held in Brussels on 6 and 7 December 2001, which noted the official resumption of political dialogue between the European Union and Cuba,

- X. recalling also the resolution adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 75th session in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on 26 and 27 June 2002, which inter alia:
- called on the European Union and Cuba to strengthen political dialogue in the constructive spirit prevailing at the end of 2001,
 - called on the European Union to review substantially its common position seeking to ensure fair and impartial treatment for Cuba facilitating its accession to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement without imposing any special or unfair conditions,
- Y. having regard to the firm support for Cuban accession to the Cotonou Agreement shown at the third ACP summit held in Fiji on 18 and 19 July 2002,
- Z. having regard to the interest shown by the Cuban Government in attending negotiations for the new ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements as an observer,
- AA. expressing its concern at the disastrous economic and social impact of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba, as shown by the report of its Working Group on the impact of sanctions, particularly on the people of countries on which such measures are imposed, and the resolution adopted in Brussels (Belgium) in October-November 2001,
- AB. having regard to the numerous resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and in particular Resolution A/56/9 of 27 November 2001, which received the support of the overwhelming majority of EU Member States,
- AC. whereas in January 2003 the Government of the Republic of Cuba applied to accede to the Cotonou Agreement, in line with the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
- AD. whereas Cuban accession should not be made subject to any specific conditions,

Haiti

1. Notes that disagreements between the government and the main opposition force in Haiti, the 'Convergence Démocratique', have hindered progress towards fresh elections, with the latter insisting that pro-government militias and gangs accused of terrorising the population in certain areas be disarmed before the appointment of a Provisional Electoral Council (CEP);
2. Welcomes President Aristide's decision to go ahead with appointing the members of the CEP, which reflects his desire to make rapid progress towards the holding of early parliamentary and local elections, and calls on the opposition parties to nominate their CEP representatives; points out, however, that election organisation measures must go hand in hand with effective steps to establish a secure environment;
3. Encourages President Aristide to continue with the disarmament process and action to combat impunity; welcomes the fact that efforts are being made to implement OAS Resolution 822, with particular reference to settling the issue of the damages to be paid to any opposition groups whose members have been attacked or have had their property damaged, and the latest measures taken in connection with the police reform;
4. Calls on the European Commission to resume agricultural cooperation with Haiti, including in the livestock sector, so as to ensure food security, as well as cooperation on health and education;
5. Calls on the Commission to develop political dialogue with Haiti, embracing not only the government and political opposition but also representatives of civil society, taking care that these include representatives of the least-advantaged groups, and to coordinate its approach with Caricom and the OAS as well as with, in the relevant areas, other donor countries and institutions;

6. Notes with interest OAS plans to improve the quality of Haiti's police and security services, including the provision of senior police officers from its member states to regional offices in Haiti, the cost being roughly estimated to be of the order of USD 5 million per six-month period, and calls on the EU to provide financial support for this enterprise;

7. Acknowledges the need for EU cooperation with Haiti to be resumed; approves the emphasis in the EU's aid programme on strengthening civil society and the private sector and support for the democratisation process, the rule of law and the electoral process;

8. Calls on the EU to continue spending money from the European Development Fund on agriculture, infrastructure, health and education but considers that, in the light of its limited impact, improved resources should be allocated to these sectors and to water and sanitation programmes in line with the EU's priority development aim of poverty reduction;

9. Considers that the EU should ensure that no steps are taken now which could reduce funds that would be available for Haiti under the 9th European Development Fund once the measures applied under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement are lifted;

Jamaica

10. Welcomes the government's efforts to combat drug trafficking and other forms of organised crime and anticipates that these efforts, with EU cooperation, will have a positive impact on related issues such as the downturn in the tourist trade, rising unemployment and related economic issues;

11. Considers that the EU should help Jamaica strengthen its police and judicial system which, along with efforts to promote economic growth and sustainable development, would have positive effects on the high level of criminality;

12. Calls on the Government of Jamaica to improve its trial system, particularly for crimes where the passing of the death sentence is permitted, by making the witness protection system more effective and by making DNA testing a routine procedure for all those accused of serious crimes;

13. Welcomes the evidence of successful implementation by NGOs in Jamaica of community-based projects in urban renewal, job training, alternative dispute resolution and drug rehabilitation;

Saint Lucia

14. Notes with approval Saint Lucia's efforts in crop diversification and improvements in banana production through, inter alia, tissue culture planting, irrigation schemes and quality control on farms and at banana reception centres, efforts which will only be successful if export prices remain viable and adequate financial support is available;

15. Calls for continued EU support for these efforts, as well as for further economic diversification into areas such as eco-tourism and light manufacturing; points out that successful diversification, both in food and manufactured products, will be beneficial for exports as well as for import substitution;

16. Notes that Saint Lucia's ability to export fish to the EU would be facilitated by providing a laboratory to carry out the necessary health and quality checks and asks the European Commission to consider support for the establishment of such a laboratory which could also test fish caught by neighbouring states;

Saint Kitts and Nevis

17. Welcomes the fact that Saint Kitts and Nevis has been taken off the FATF Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) blacklist;

Commonwealth of Dominica

18. Calls for intensified EU support for Dominica's efforts to meet the challenges of coping with its present financial crisis and for its recovery programme;

Cuba

19. Welcomes the opening of the Commission office in Cuba with full delegation status as a significant step in relations between the EU and Cuba, an office which will be essential in preparing Cuban accession to the Cotonou Agreement;

20. Reiterates its support for the accession of Cuba to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and the establishment of normal political relations and cooperation between the EU and Cuba within this framework;

21. Stresses the importance of accession to the Agreement for the economic and social development of Cuba and the importance of the contribution which Cuba could make as a party to the Agreement;

22. Considers that the future signature by Cuba of the Cotonou Agreement constitutes a logical step forward from previous resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and once more expresses its support for Cuba's application to become a signatory to the Agreement, facilitating participation by Cuban MPs as full members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;

23. Calls on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to guarantee fair and impartial consideration for Cuba's request for accession, without imposing any special or unfair conditions;

24. Condemns however the recent arrests of independent journalists and opponents by the Cuban authorities and calls for the immediate liberation of these persons, who are prisoners of conscience;

General

25. Considers that moves to develop intra-Caribbean cooperation, through Cariforum and other regional organisations, to be promoted by the EU through the partnership established by the Cotonou Agreement, are likely to bear fruit in all the areas of concern referred to in this resolution;

26. Insists that good account be taken in international trade negotiations, particularly on the Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU and in the WTO, of the special circumstances of small and vulnerable economies, and that special and differential treatment be considered as essential elements of these negotiations, including, where appropriate, the need for gradual phasing-in periods for any market adjustment measures;

27. Regards the simplification of European Development Fund procedures as vital and expects that the completion of the process of deconcentration will ensure the promised improvement in procedures and administration of the funds;

28. Requests European Commission assistance for the regional programme of action against drug trafficking;

29. Urges the governments in the region to combat drug trafficking and the consequent money laundering;
30. Calls on the European Commission to provide specific aid for electoral processes in the region;
31. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and Caricom.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the situation in the Pacific region***The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly*

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - recalling its previous resolutions on the Pacific region,
- A. whereas the Bureau of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly held a meeting in the Cook Islands from 9 to 11 September 2002,
 - B. whereas Bureau members had the opportunity to discuss issues of specific importance to the Pacific region, including tourism and transportation infrastructures, fisheries, immigration and information and communication technologies,
 - C. whereas Bureau members also attended a meeting of Pacific parliamentarians in the Fiji Islands, at which MPs from Pacific ACP countries were also present,
 - D. whereas the Government of Fiji hosted the third summit of ACP Heads of State and of Government from 16 to 19 July 2002 on behalf of the Pacific region,
 - E. whereas the Pacific region is preparing for EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) trade negotiations with the EU to start after September 2003,
 - F. whereas these negotiations offer the Pacific region the opportunity to build upon existing trading relationships with the EU, thus helping to achieve their object of sustainable trade-related growth and development,
 - G. whereas organisations like the Pacific Regional Forum are moving towards establishing a Pacific free trade area, which would encourage economic growth and sustainable development in ACP countries in the region,

On the situation in the Pacific region

1. Acknowledges the massive effort by the region and Fiji in particular in hosting the third summit of ACP Heads of State and of Government;
2. Notes that the hosting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau meeting by the Cook Islands provided an excellent opportunity for Members of the European Parliament and their counterparts from the ACP countries to visit the region and understand at first hand the vulnerability of these island economies, the major problems regarding economies of scale and the very difficult agro-climatic conditions under which they are expected to survive in a globalised world;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

3. Notes that tourism plays an important role in the development and sustainability of the majority of Pacific island economies;
4. Notes that Pacific islands are particularly vulnerable to changes in international tourism trends, and in particular the downturn in world tourism following a number of acts of international terrorism;
5. Believes that the Pacific ACP countries offer some of the safest destinations for tourism in the world today;
6. Believes that the development of ICT and the adoption of measures to strengthen the private sector, including fisheries and tourism, offer the best chance of long-term sustainability for Pacific countries;
7. Notes the importance of EPA negotiations to the ACP as a whole and believes that the successful conclusion of these negotiations offers the EU an opportunity to assist Pacific countries with their long-term development objectives;

On the situation in the Fiji Islands

8. Notes that the Prime Minister of Fiji has undertaken to abide by the court decision on the multi-party cabinet composition of the government in Fiji; it is expected that the case will be heard during 2003;
9. Notes that political and economic development in Fiji has improved significantly since the holding of general elections in August 2001, that the country's role in the hosting of several international meetings in Fiji has improved its image in the international community and that many of the participants in these conferences have given positive reports of developments in Fiji since the disturbances of May 2000;

Conclusions

10. Recommends that the JPA hold future Bureau meetings in ACP countries, giving priority to smaller ACP States that lack the capacity to host full JPA meetings;
11. Calls on the Commission to work closely with regional organisations, including the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, to promote the Pacific as a clean and friendly tourist destination which remains relatively free from the threat of terrorism;
12. Calls on the Commission to note the importance of ICT, tourism, fisheries and the private sector to the Pacific, and to support Pacific governments in the development of these sectors;
13. Calls on the Commission to ensure that, in the context of the current EPA negotiations, the countries in this region are not forced into an arrangement that will place them in a more precarious position in terms of sustainable economic development than is now the case;
14. Calls on the Commission to assist the Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific to develop a capacity-building training programme available to all senior trade and economic advisers to the ACP countries of the region;
15. Expresses its expectation that East Timor will accede to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement at the earliest possible date;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the Pacific Island Forum leaders.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in the European Union**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- A. noting that violent floods in Germany, Austria and central parts of Europe have caused the tragic loss of human lives and the destruction of houses, farms and transport, communication and energy infrastructure,
- B. whereas large amounts of hazardous chemicals have been found in the flooded rivers due to flooding of chemical sites in the Czech Republic and in Germany, and risk contaminating agricultural land and the environment in general,
- C. whereas this year large parts of the world and millions of people have suffered from either extreme floods or drought: floods in Central Europe, China, eastern China, Bangladesh and Nepal; drought in the north-west of the United States of America, the south-west of Canada, Southern Africa, Australia and western India,
- D. whereas, owing to current human-induced climate change, there is a risk of further natural disasters on a similar or even larger scale unless strong action is taken to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- E. whereas certain sensitive areas along rivers and valleys have lost a part of their water-absorption capacity due to intensive agriculture and large infrastructure constructions along these valleys and rivers, and the ongoing straightening and deepening of rivers for navigation purposes have increased the risk of floods,
- 1. Expresses its sympathy in connection with the distress and damage caused to the flood victims in all the affected countries;
- 2. Warmly welcomes the swift response of the Commission to the flooding in Austria, Germany and several applicant countries;
- 3. Underlines the need for more action, particularly in the transport and energy sectors, to reduce CO₂ emissions by promoting energy saving and renewable sources;
- 4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to rapidly agree on EU and national measures to implement the targets agreed within the Kyoto Protocol, as a first step towards reducing greenhouse gases;
- 5. Calls on the United States of America to join hands with the international community in fighting climate change and to ratify the Kyoto Protocol at the earliest opportunity;
- 6. Calls on the Member States to adapt their policy and legislation towards reduced and sustainable land use, to maintain existing flood plains in their natural state or reconstruct former ones, to finance and promote restructuring measures in favour of eco-systems in rivers and valleys, to respect landscape and forests and to protect eco-systems in flood-sensitive areas of rivers and their valleys;
- 7. Calls on the Member States to clean up their chemical sites and to ensure that they are protected against flooding, so as to avoid contamination of the environment;
- 8. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on children's rights and child soldiers in particular**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Rome (Italy) from 11 to 15 October 2003,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted in 1989 and entered into force 1990, and has been ratified by all the ACP States and EU Member States and by the candidates for membership of the European Union,
- having regard to the entry into force on 18 January 2002 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,
- having regard to the entry into force on 12 February 2002 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict,
- having regard to the new international standards and instruments aimed at increasing the protection of children, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its protocols, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Ottawa Treaty on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, the Statutes of the International Criminal Court, ILO Conventions 182 and 138, the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Organised Transnational Crime aimed at preventing, repressing and punishing trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the four Geneva Conventions (12 August 1949) and the additional protocols thereto (8 June 1977), the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons,
- having regard to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child, which entered into force in 1999,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, which was signed in Cotonou and entered into force on 1 April 2003,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 15 October 2003 in Rome (Italy).

- having regard to its previous resolutions and those of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 10 December 2002, endorsing the Council Working Group on Human Rights (COHOM) report on the implementation of a common strategy for child soldiers,
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolutions 1261, 1314, 1379 and 1460 and the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict Report to the General Assembly on the protection of children affected by armed conflicts,
 - having regard to the Council Framework Decision on combating trafficking in human beings of 19 July 2002 and to the Brussels Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings adopted by the Council in November 2002,
 - having regard to the Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly and its outcome document, 'A World Fit for Children' (10 May 2002),
 - having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Millennium Development Goals, adopted at the Millennium Summit and pledged to by all UN Member States,
 - having regard to the World Education Forum in Dakar and its final document, Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments (2000),
 - having regard to the Libreville Declaration on the harmonisation of national laws to combat trafficking in children in West and Central Africa, adopted in Libreville in 2002 by 7 African countries, and to the resolutions pertaining to it, which were adopted by 21 African countries in 2002,
 - having regard to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women, approved at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 (second ordinary session of the Conference of the African Union), and the Cairo Declaration on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, adopted on 23 June 2003 by representatives of 28 African and Arab countries taking part in the Afro-Arab Expert Consultation,
 - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 5 (prohibition of slavery and forced labour), 6 (right to freedom and security), 7 (respect for private and family life), 14 (right to education), 18 (right of asylum), 24 (children's rights) and 32 (prohibition of child labour and protection of young people at work),
 - having regard to its report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU 3587/03),
- A. whereas all the ACP States and all the EU Member States and the candidates for EU membership have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are bound by this in consequence,
- B. whereas 'children' are to be defined as all young persons under the age of 18,
- C. having regard to the situation of children described in the explanatory statement of this report, and to the fact that 40 % of the world's population is now under twenty, that virtually all of that population (98 %) lives in the southern part of the globe and that any genuinely human and sustainable development process or strategy must therefore be based on greater consideration for the needs of the world's children,

⁽¹⁾ The resolutions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, particularly those on child soldiers of 1 April 1999 and 23 March 2000, the resolution on the rights of disabled people in ACP countries of 1 November 2001, and the resolution on health issues of 21 March 2002, as well as the ACP-EU JPA 'Children's Rights' workshop, Brussels, November 2001, and the European Parliament resolutions of July 2003 on trafficking in children and child soldiers, of 6 September 2001 and 11 April 2002 on the EU position in the Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly, of 17 May 2001 on child trafficking in Africa, of 6 July 2000 on child soldiers in Uganda, of 22 November 1999 on the tenth anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, of 28 January 1999 on the protection of families and children and of 17 December 1998 on child soldiers.

- D. whereas the UN is working towards an undertaking by all the world's States to make 18 the minimum age for conscription and voluntary military service; whereas, however, this has not yet been ratified by all the EU Member States,
- E. whereas in 2001 the European Commission disbursed only 4,1 % of the general budget of the European Union on education, in obvious contrast with its formal commitments,
- F. whereas impunity is an enormous problem in regard to human rights violations against children, since they have few instruments for reporting violence, and whereas the best way to avoid violations would be through prevention,
- G. whereas children in all regions of the world are victims of unscrupulous violence, physical abandonment, ill-treatment, torture and sexual abuse which is often carried out by the very individuals who are their carers and responsible for their well-being,
- H. whereas there is a need for a specific legislative instrument providing for penalties for all forms of violence against or harm caused to children, through for example social marginalisation, physical violence, mutilation and attacks on physical well-being, including female genital mutilation, sexual abuse and exploitation of children including child prostitution, child sex tourism, child pornography on the internet, child trafficking, trafficking in human organs, neglect within the family or by the legal guardians of the child, restriction of the right to be reunited with their kin,
- I. whereas a reorganisation of social and economic life must be envisaged in order to guarantee that children have the benefit of a protective family and living environment and that the ethical, cultural and social values of the society to which they belong do not prejudice the right of the child to a loving family,
- J. whereas special measures should be developed at EU level and within the framework of the ACP-EU partnership to ensure that the rights of children are respected within refugee camps across the ACP countries and throughout the asylum process in the EU,
- K. whereas access to health care in the European Union Member States and in other host countries is all too often limited by cultural and geographical barriers; whereas ethnic minorities are among the most excluded groups and, owing inter alia to historical discrimination, access to education for children belonging to ethnic minorities is often difficult,
- L. whereas disabled children constitute a particularly vulnerable group, and are amongst the most disadvantaged, and for many disabled girls and boys discrimination, abuse and lack of access to education are facts of life,

Children's rights in EU Development Cooperation

1. Calls on all the ACP States, EU Member States and the accession countries to sign, ratify and implement immediately the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its protocols, particularly the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and to sign, ratify and implement other international standards and instruments guaranteeing the protection of children including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Ottawa Treaty on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, the Statutes of the International Criminal Court, ILO Conventions 182 and 138, the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Organised Transnational Crime aimed at preventing, repressing and punishing trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the four Geneva Conventions (12 August 1949) and the additional protocols thereto (8 June 1977), the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;
2. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to work to secure the universal ratification of these instruments in the context of their political dialogue with ACP countries;
3. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP -EU Council to develop programmes aimed at supporting countries in their efforts to ensure that the international legal instruments relating to children's rights are implemented, inter alia by reinforcing their national committees to assess implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Calls for the creation of a system of early warning indicators relevant especially to the situation of children and respect of their fundamental rights;
5. Calls on the Intergovernmental Conference on the Future of Europe to include a legal basis in the Treaty to promote and protect children's rights as set out in international law and to promote and protect the best interests of the child in all EU policy, programmes and legislation;
6. Calls on the European Commission to ensure that all EU legislation and policy are fully compatible with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that all proposed EU directives, policies and programmes be subject to child impact analysis in order to assess their potential implications for children; calls on the governments of the ACP countries to adopt the same course;
7. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to implement its commitment to integrate a children's rights perspective in the development co-operation instruments by adopting a double-track approach of both mainstreaming and actions that specifically target children's rights; to issue strategic implementation guidelines without delay; and to inform the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the progress made in this domain;
8. Stresses that promotion of the rights of the child, including the fight against child slave labour and the use of child soldiers, must be a political priority for the European Union and the ACP countries, to be implemented by means of appropriate allocations when budgets are negotiated, as well as in the EDF, particularly its regional funding programmes;
9. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to create a high-level post for children's rights in the European Commission and Council of the European Union in order to ensure overall coordination, monitoring of results, specific focus on children's rights and to create a stronger child dimension to all EU policy areas; suggests to the ACP governments that they also create such an office, in order to ensure overall coordination and to incorporate a stronger dimension into relevant policies;
10. Calls on the European Commission to present and implement a strategy for the follow up on the Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly of May 2002, and to regularly inform the ACP-EU Joint Assembly on its progress; calls on the ACP and EU Member States to honour the commitments entered into at this Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly and calls on the JPA to establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of its recommendations;
11. Calls on the European Commission and Council of the European Union to conduct a campaign to encourage the EU Member States to endeavour to achieve as soon as possible, as laid down at international level, the objective of earmarking 0,7 % of their gross national product as a contribution to official development aid (ODA), and that of using between 0,15 % and 0,20 % of their GNP as ODA for the least developed countries, in view of the urgency and gravity of the particular needs of children;
12. Calls on the European Commission, the ACP States and the EU Member States to promote awareness-raising amongst children in their assistance programmes in order to ensure that children know and understand their human rights and to promote the participation of children in influencing the policy and practice of the ACP States, the EU Member States, the EU accession countries and the EU institutions;
13. Stresses that an integrated, comprehensive, balanced campaign to attack poverty at its very roots must remain the European Union's permanent long-term objective; in this connection, highlights the need for closer economic cooperation and an expansion of trade, development aid and conflict prevention as ways of promoting good governance, social protection, education and sustainable economic development in the countries concerned;
14. Urges the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to play a leading role in ensuring a coordinated response by national and international donors on the issue of children's rights;
15. Call for supporting and strengthening capacity of local actors, particularly civil society networks, for advocacy, protection and monitoring - this is the best means of ensuring local ownership and sustainability for these endeavours; Calls on the European Commission to consider the scope for simplifying the procedures by means of which local NGOs involved in development and the protection of children's rights can apply for European subsidies in a transparent and accountable manner;

16. Calls on the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets and the European Commission to continue their examination of possible ways of simplifying procedures for accessing European subsidies for local development and children's rights protection NGOs in a framework of transparency and responsibility;

17. Asks the European Commission's delegations, as part of the deconcentration process, to take account of issues relating to the rights of children, particularly indigenous and disabled children, in their Country Strategy Papers including the National Indicative Programmes;

18. Urges that consideration should be given to establishing free population registers in all the countries concerned with a view to protecting children against the risk of being sold, trafficked or recruited by force on to the labour market or into the armed forces, facilitating their access to medical care, welfare services and schooling;

Health and nutrition

19. Calls on the European Commission to act upon the findings of its 'Update on the EC Programme for Action — Accelerated action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in the context of poverty reduction' (26 February 2003) which states that challenges remain great and mobilisation remains important and calls upon the budgetary authority to ensure that increased funding is made available for The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for the campaign 'Vision 2020' to eliminate preventable blindness, and its own HAP (Health AIDS and Population) policies;

20. Considers that governments should encourage their citizens to make use of condoms, as the correct and consistent use of condoms reduces by 90 % the risk of HIV infection;

21. Calls on the Commission and Member States to prioritise children and young people in all health policies and to support them as key players in defeating the major health risks and the burden of disease throughout the world;

Education

22. Calls on the Council of the European Union and the ACP-EU Member States to increase European Development Fund aid for free basic education for children in the ACP countries and support for the Fast Track Initiative and the Education for All programme; calls on the ACP-EU countries to pay closer attention to the issue of the education and schooling of children, the most effective means of combating trafficking in children and their enrolment in armed forces, and, with that aim in view, urges that greater attention should be paid to educational and training opportunities for the most vulnerable groups, i.e. young girls and orphans or children affected by Aids;

23. Calls on the European Commission to devote adequate resources to children's education, in compliance with the provisions on social and human development (articles 25-27 of the Cotonou agreement); calls on the European Commission and the Member States to direct their development aid towards free, high-quality education accessible to all children;

24. Urges the European Commission to highlight the central role of education in its programming documents, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Country Strategy Papers, including National Indicative Programmes, and in particular to guarantee access for indigenous children to education in a language which they understand, as well as the teaching of a national language to these children, and access to education for disabled children as stressed in the UNESCO's Flagship on Education for All and the Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities;

25. Calls on the European Commission to establish standards and mechanisms in collaboration with recipient countries to monitor the effectiveness of EU education aid and the inclusion of girls and women in the process;

Children and armed conflict

26. Calls on the parties in conflict ⁽¹⁾ in Northern Uganda, Liberia, the DRC, Burundi, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan to put an immediate stop to the recruiting and use of child soldiers;

27. Asks the Council of the European Union and the Member States to consider taking targeted measures against parties where substantial progress is not found to have been made to stop the recruitment and use of child soldiers; Such measures should include:

- (a) the imposition of travel restrictions on leaders, and their exclusion from any governmental structures and amnesty provisions, a ban on the export or supply of arms, and a freeze on the flow of financial resources to the parties concerned;
- (b) applying pressure to warring parties which violate children's rights by cutting off or limiting their sources of support; this can be done by imposing sanctions on the trading of natural resources which come from conflict areas, cutting off economic support from diaspora communities, restricting the travel or foreign financial holdings of violators and denying recognition to individuals and groups which have committed crimes against children if they subsequently rise to power;
- (c) ensuring that those responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other crimes perpetrated against children are prosecuted for these crimes and excluded from any amnesty provisions contemplated during peace negotiations;
- (d) a renewed call to the Member States to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit dealing in small arms and light weapons, traceability of which should be made compulsory, with a legal obligation to register and the possibility – even after many years have elapsed – of tracing the country of manufacture and origin;
- (e) training with regard to the rights of the child and child protection aimed at creating expertise within the EU and ACP Institutions, as well as for all military, police, humanitarian and civilian personnel involved in EU-led peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building operations, including them in all crisis management operations;

28. Condemns all abductions of children used as soldiers and sex slaves, such as the mass kidnapping of children by the LRA in northern Uganda, and calls for an immediate UN investigation into allegations of renewed arms and ammunition supplies to the LRA by Sudan;

29. Urges Member States to take concrete steps to investigate, prosecute and sanction individuals and corporate enterprises involved in the illegal trafficking of currency, arms, natural resources or other elements which exacerbate armed conflict and the abuse and brutalisation of children, to hold corporations within their jurisdiction accountable for their direct activities in conflict-affected countries, as well as for their indirect support to countries which violate the rights of children in conflict situations;

30. Emphasises that it is in situations of conflict and post-conflict that the proliferation and worsening of phenomena such as trafficking, sexual exploitation, lack of education, lack of health assistance, etc. is particularly severe and that children are affected the most;

31. Calls on the Council of the European Union to start without delay to draw up a common strategy on children and armed conflict, as it decided on 10 December 2002, and to keep the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly regularly informed; recalls that, in the elaboration of this common strategy on children and armed conflict, it is essential for the EU to build on what has already been developed, trying to avoid previous mistakes and building on positive experiences ⁽²⁾ by the United Nations, in particular the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict;

⁽¹⁾ As mentioned in the third report of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council and its annex.

⁽²⁾ Child protection advisors, the set of guidance material drafted by the Working Group on the incorporation of child protection in UN peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building processes; the training materials produced by the Working Group on child protection training for peacekeeping personnel; the Six Core Principles on the prevention of sexual exploitation adopted by the IASC Task Force; the framework built by the four Security Council Resolutions; the work done with regard to monitoring and reporting, as well as small arms and the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

32. Recommends the appointment of an EU Special Envoy on Children Affected by Armed Conflict, to provide leadership within the EU and its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and community structures, to continue to focus world attention on the situation of children affected by armed conflict externally and to brief the European Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on implementation of the EU Common Strategy on a regular basis;

33. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to explore the EU's role as a regional organisation to ensure procedures and mechanisms to protect children in the context of armed conflict as set out in Security Council Resolution 1379 article 13(a) and (b);

34. Calls on the Council of the European Union, as part of its own capacity building effort (ESDP), to ensure the establishment of children's rights training procedures and requirements for all armed forces, police, judicial and detention officials, and other relevant actors;

35. Calls on the Council of the European Union to adopt the same minimum age standards for EU civilian police and military as announced for UN personnel by the UN Secretary General on 29 October 1998, including the requirement that the minimum age for civilian police and military observers be 25 years and for peacekeeping troops 21 years preferably and in no case less than 18;

36. Calls on the Council of the European Union, in the context of its crisis management efforts, to develop and publicise a comprehensive list of early warning indicators relevant also to children, incorporating the list into the EU's monitoring activities, and ensuring that the results of this monitoring are made fully available to EU decision-making bodies at every level;

37. Calls on the EU Member States and the Council of the European Union to ensure that children affected by armed conflict are included in disarmament, demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration processes (DDRR), taking into account the specific needs and capacities of girls; these processes must be sufficiently sustained to ensure a successful transition to normal life, with a particular emphasis on education; schools should be involved in the monitoring of children demobilised in order to prevent re-recruitment; calls on the European Commission to continue to support specific projects of this type; strongly condemns governments and armed opposition forces which continue to recruit children or which provide weapons and military aid to rebel movements that recruit child soldiers; calls on the ACP-EU Council to consider the recruitment and use of child soldiers as serious violations of the essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement;

38. Calls on the EU Member States, ACP governments and the Council of the European Union to ensure that special measures are taken to promote and protect the rights and meet the special needs of girls affected by armed conflict, who are often targeted for rape, abduction and trafficking, both during conflict and also in refugee camps when girls can be vulnerable to sexual and other exploitation; such programmes should therefore be developed to address problems in refugee camps and during post-conflict reconstruction when such programmes are often overlooked;

39. Calls on the European Commission to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of its policies and programmes in support of peace education, non-formal and formal education, vocational training, psychosocial support and rehabilitation measures in favour of former child soldiers, as well as other children and their families in the host community, in order to avoid potential segregation and unintended social tensions; mental health should be an issue to focus on, and psychosocial rehabilitation of children provided, especially in areas where the local population has been affected by conflict;

40. Calls on the Council of the European Union and the ACP- EU Council to allocate more financial resources to the prevention of children's involvement in conflict, and to the long-term reintegration of former child soldiers into society;

41. Encourages the European Commission and the ACP countries to maintain as a cross-cutting priority the issue of child soldiers, notably girl soldiers, who are particularly vulnerable and the main victims of egregious violations, sexual exploitation and abuse of every kind;

42. Asks all parties to ensure stronger mechanisms for compliance and monitoring and to build an effective system that will include the following components:

- immediate investigation of reported violations which threaten the survival of, or inflict permanent damage on, children during armed conflict, with channels for reporting to the Security Council members, as well as other bodies who could take action;
- deployment of child rights monitors and child protection advisors before, during and after conflicts, and improved mechanisms to ensure that their reports are followed up;
- early formation of inter-agency taskforces on specific situations, including NGOs, children and youth, to implement child-focused analyses, identify possible areas of influence, and develop coordinated child protection strategies;
- avenues for children and youth, NGOs, and local communities to present information to the Security Council so that it is well informed by various sources about specific situations;

43. Decides to establish a mechanism to assess the situation of children in armed conflicts, involving the United Nations, and in particular the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, so that concerted pressure and targeted measures against violators can be recommended by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;

44. Asks all ACP States and EU Member States to include the concerns of children in all peace negotiations and peace agreements;

Violence and abuse

45. Calls on the ACP, the EU and accession countries to amend or, where necessary, adopt legislation prohibiting all forms of violence against children and particularly the sex trade in children, and to enforce such legislation by ensuring that those responsible for such abuses are brought to justice;

46. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to make financial and other contributions to the UN Study on Violence against Children;

47. Calls on the EU Member States and the ACP countries to enforce legislation as outlined in Paragraph 45, through thorough and prompt investigation of instances of violence against children, ensuring that those responsible for abuse are brought to justice;

48. Urges the ACP States signatory to the additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women to ratify it without delay, and the Cotonou Agreement institutions to promote information and awareness campaigns on the subject;

Child trafficking

49. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to implement a wide-ranging partnership with international and regional organisations, including the African Union, with a view to combating effectively trafficking in children, child slavery and the enrolment of children in fighting units; a principal aim of such a partnership should be to tackle the root causes of child trafficking;

50. Urges that, on the basis of this partnership, consideration should be given to establishing free population registers in all the countries concerned with a view to protecting children against the risk of being sold, trafficked or recruited by force into the labour market or into the armed forces, facilitating their access to medical care, welfare services and schooling and fostering transparency and democracy, in particular when elections are called;

51. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to fund the institution of training programmes in children's rights for teachers, police, staff of correctional and non-penal institutions and others who work with children;

52. Welcomes the move made by the countries of West and Central Africa to step up and coordinate their efforts under the 'Libreville Declaration' and urges them, in keeping with the spirit of that declaration, to implement close regional cooperation with a view to drawing up a regional agreement against trafficking which must incorporate a regional protocol providing for the return, repatriation and reintegration into society of children who have been victims of trafficking, on the basis of cooperation with the countries of 'origin', 'destination' and 'transit', local NGOs and multilateral organisations, such as UNICEF and the ILO; the provisions of such a protocol should be implemented on the condition that it is in 'the best interests of the child'; also stresses the need to adopt national laws aimed at defining, preventing and prosecuting the phenomenon of child slavery and at developing harmonisation mechanisms based on the principles set out in the declaration;

53. Stresses the need for upholding the human rights perspective in the management of migration flows and calls for a child rights impact assessment of all the decisions taken to combat illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings;

54. Insists that EU Member States should not in any way criminalise victims of trafficking, especially children, but should instead provide them with adequate assistance and protection, in the form, inter alia, of temporary residence visas, irrespective of whether they are able to cooperate in the prosecution of traffickers;

55. Calls on the EU Member States to ensure that the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees is fully implemented and that immigration legislation and policy do not open the door to discrimination against foreign children;

56. Calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to draw up a common European policy on child slavery based on a legal framework and legislative provisions including preventive measures, the application of criminal law, penalties against perpetrators and the provision of assistance and protection for victims;

57. Urges the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to implement fully the Brussels Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings approved by the Council of the European Union on 8 May 2003 as part of its efforts to develop a comprehensive European policy against trafficking in human beings, and welcomes the setting up by the European Commission of a group of EU experts to gather information on child trafficking;

58. Reiterates its call for international arrest warrants to be issued against the organisers and members of child slavery networks;

Children and Society

59. Declares that institutional, civil, social and economic policy must give priority to all children whether they live in a family environment or not, in order to redress the obvious imbalances in society, as in Europe there is a tendency to emphasise economic aspects to the detriment of social protection, and in the ACP countries to protect the dominant class to the detriment of poor, marginalised and disadvantaged sectors of the population; calls also for the support of programmes to assist displaced children and facilitate family re-unification, as children displaced or separated from their families are at higher risk of exploitation and forcible recruitment by armed forces or groups;

60. Calls for all the ACP States to restructure their national budgets with a view to operating an effective revenue policy and, above all, diverting funds from arms to support for all children whether they live in a family environment or not and to social measures, with the aim of limiting arms expenditure amounts to no more than 2 % of GDP by 2010;

61. Calls for policies to provide funding for health care, housing, support to income-generating activities through micro-credits, education, literacy and mine-risk education programmes; in addition, calls for programmes to guarantee water and energy supplies;

62. Calls on the EU Member States and the ACP States to issue an annual progress report on the implementation of children's rights protection legislation;

63. Calls for this report, which should bear the title 'ACP-EU Declaration on the Protection of Children's Rights', to be adopted by the European Parliament and the ACP States' parliaments;
64. Decides to draw up an annual progress report on the implementation of, and compliance with, this Declaration;
65. Notes that, should blatant violations of children's rights occur, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly may apply to the International Criminal Court to prosecute crimes against children which are crimes against humanity;
66. Recommends the inclusion of a specific reference to respect for children's rights in the political dimensions of the Cotonou Agreement;
67. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the accession countries and the relevant United Nations bodies.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾

on sustainable management and conservation of natural resources in ACP countries in the context of the 9th EDF programming

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Rome (Italy) from 11 to 15 October 2003,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Articles 177, 178, 179, 180, 181 and 181a of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro on 14 June 1992,
- having regard to the Agenda 21, adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and especially to its Chapter 8 (Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-Making),
- having regard to the Doha Declaration, adopted by the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference on 14 November 2001,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals adopted on 8 September 2000 in New York⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the outcome of the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and, in particular, the Plan of Implementation adopted,
- having regard to its resolutions of 3 April 2003 on the Johannesburg Summit, on the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit, and on research and sustainable development⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Commission Communication on the European Community's Development Policy of 26 April 2000,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 15 October 2003 in Rome (Italy).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ A/55/L2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 231, 26.9.2003, p. 19.

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- having regard to the Council and Commission Joint Declaration of 10 November 2000 on the European Community's Development Policy ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 1 March 2001 on the Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the European Community's Development Policy ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the European Commission's communication 'Towards a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the European Commission's communication 'Integrating Environment and Sustainable Development into Economic and Development Cooperation Policy' (October 1999),
 - having regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative launched in Abuja in October 2001,
 - having regard to its resolution of 3 April 2003 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU 3590/03),
- A. whereas the Rio Declaration recognises that 'the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet development and environmental needs of present and future generations', and that 'in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it',
- B. whereas Agenda 21, approved in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and reconfirmed in Johannesburg in 2002 as the international agenda for achieving sustainable development, states in its chapter 8 that one of its overall objectives is to integrate environmental concerns in decision-making,
- C. whereas Agenda 21 calls for a significant improvement or restructuring of the decision-making process so that the consideration of socio-economic and environment issues is fully integrated, together with a broader range of public participation; whereas it also gives concrete recommendations on how to implement those principles,
- D. whereas the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000 their support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,
- E. whereas one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) calls for ensuring environmental sustainability, through integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and through the reversion of loss of environmental resources, and by setting targets to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 and to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,
- F. whereas the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development reflects the commitment of representatives of the peoples of the world to strengthen and improve governance at all levels for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD,
- G. whereas the outcome of the Johannesburg WSSD, while relatively limited in scope, must now be carefully monitored and implemented; whereas new and more far-reaching agreements must be sought in other foras,

⁽¹⁾ Doc. 13458/02 DEVGEN 140.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 277, 1.10.2001, p. 20.

⁽³⁾ COM(2002) 82.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 231, 26.9.2003, p. 22.

- H. whereas the General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions of 30 September 2002 ⁽¹⁾ reaffirms the commitment of the EU in its internal and external policies to fulfil the targets agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,
- I. whereas the ACP-EU partnership agreement signed in Cotonou declares in its preamble the commitment to achieve sustainable development and to pay particular attention to the pledges made at Rio de Janeiro,
- J. whereas Article 32 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement clearly defines how environmental protection and sustainable use and management of natural resources should be taken into account as an area of support in development strategies,
- K. whereas Article 20 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement clearly stipulates that environmental issues shall be mainstreamed into all areas of cooperation and is eligible for EU support,
- L. whereas 70 % of the world's poor live in rural areas and have an immediate survival dependence on natural resources from which they derive food, water, energy, housing, medicines and clothing on an uninterrupted basis; whereas to guarantee these resources, stable and productive ecological systems must be secured, which will effectively constitute net revenue for the poor,
- M. having regard to the vulnerability of ACP countries to desertification, climate change, degradation of coastal and maritime resources, particularly in small island developing states, as well as loss of biodiversity, which are a major concern for the sustainable development in these countries,
- N. whereas the effects of terrestrial cycles and the consequences of the greenhouse effect, including desertification (with the shrinking of cultivable areas) and the disappearance of ice (with rising water levels which threaten islands), to which the developing countries are most dangerously exposed, are problems which the scientific community has been warning us of for many years, which have never been sufficiently taken into account by the institutions of the Cotonou Agreement, and which require the governments of the countries concerned to plan programmes for the prevention of long-term effects in consultation with neighbouring governments, partner countries, multilateral bodies, industry and civil society,
- O. whereas natural resource policy and management are the subject of major regional programmes, such as that of the CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel),
- P. whereas the ACP States and EU Member States have concluded agreements on fisheries and the exploitation of fish stocks and the seabed,
- Q. whereas the populations of ACP countries are faced with a number of serious problems and shortcomings which constantly jeopardise their quality of life in relation to the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, namely:
- poor management of forests, parks and wild animals,
 - soil erosion and desertification,
 - poor management of water and sanitation,
 - poor management of fisheries, often as a consequence of badly designed fisheries agreements between the ACP and the EU and of illegal fishing,
 - poorly managed mining activities,
 - poor management of waste, including plastic waste,
 - inadequate efforts to harness the huge potential for efficient use of biomass and direct solar energy existing in most ACP countries,

⁽¹⁾ 12067/02.

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- R. whereas in ACP countries an increasingly complex mix of trade and export incentives and subsidies have contributed to the degradation in quantity and quality of natural resources to the degradation of ecological systems threatening their capacity for self regeneration (fisheries), significantly disrupting entire (forest) regions, and creating trans-boundary problems (water),
- S. whereas 'Sustainable Impact Assessments' could be an instrument in trade negotiations for assessing more accurately the effects of trade liberalisation on sustainable development,
- T. whereas the multi-dimensional concept of sustainable development has not been fully integrated in EC programmes and programming documents, in particular the dimension of sustainable management and conservation of natural resources in countries heavily dependent on those resources for their economic survival,
- U. concerned at the environmental impact of economic decline, more specifically the loss of market access and the fall in prices of important ACP commodities such as sugar, rice and bananas,
- V. expressing concern that the environmental country profiles, which are an indispensable component in the EDF programming process, are lacking for many ACP countries,
- W. alarmed by the generally wide gap between the objectives expressed in EU development policy papers, notably as regards the need for sound management of the natural resources base, and the manner in which these policy objectives are implemented,
- X. mindful of the fact that a very large proportion of logging concessions in many ACP countries are in the hands of private companies and that the local communities affected by the logging most often get no part of the proceeds,
1. Calls on the European Commission, the United Nations, the World Bank and the other development agencies, as well as the governments of the EU Member States, the EU applicant countries, the ACP countries and the other developing countries to fully implement, with actions and not only with words, the principles laid down in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration, as well as the conclusions of the Johannesburg WSSD;
 2. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP countries to implement without delay the Johannesburg WSSD Implementation Plan and, notably the provisions included in the chapters dedicated to Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and International Organisations;
 3. Calls on the European Commission to implement fully its communication of October 1999 on 'Integrating environment and sustainable development into economic and cooperation policy', and specifically Chapter 6.2 'country and regional strategy and programming';
 4. Calls on the Commission to improve the level of understanding and competence among its staff regarding natural resources management, in particular in the context of poverty reduction strategies;
 5. Calls on the European Commission and ACP National Authorising Officers (NAOs) to take Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement fully into consideration when undertaking the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) mid-term reviews foreseen in Articles 5 and 11 of Annex IV;
 6. Calls on the European Commission and the governments of the ACP countries to ensure that, in conformity with Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 19 of the Cotonou Agreement, the mid-term review will involve community organisations as well as non-profit non-governmental organisations in the evaluation of national development strategies and programmes, in the framework of a transparent and participatory consultation process;
 7. Calls on the European Commission and the NAOs of the ACP countries to ensure that the timetable foreseen for the mid-term review of the existing CSPs and the preparation of the new CSPs makes possible the transparent and participatory consultation approach described above;

8. Calls on the European Commission and the beneficiary countries to take full advantage of the possibilities offered by the mid-term review exercise by placing sustainable management of natural resources at the very heart of development strategy in those countries heavily dependent on exploiting a limited number of natural resources;
9. Reiterates its request to the European Commission and ACP country governments to make sustainable energy a priority in the programming process, giving special attention to providing access to modern energy services for the poor while benefiting as much as possible from renewable energy sources in such endeavours;
10. Asks them also to support a shift away from the extensive and widespread use of unprocessed solid fuels, particularly biomass, for cooking and heating indoors to less polluting sources of energy, including solar power, so as to reduce damage to human health from indoor exposure to pollutants and achieve wider environmental benefits;
11. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP countries to continuously report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on progress made by the European Water Fund as well as on steps taken in the context of the EU Energy Initiative and the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition;
12. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Members States to make full use of the possibilities of EDF funds for financing studies, assessments and audits, as provided for in Article 9 of the Internal Agreement on EDF spending, and to use part of these funds to undertake an exhaustive mapping of the situation of all ACP countries in terms of environmental situation (environmental country profiles);
13. Urges the European Commission and the ACP countries to make sure that environmental country profiles are properly prepared within each ACP country as an important part of the programming process;
14. Proposes that the environmental profiles mentioned above cover at least the following aspects:
 - the level of dependence on the exploitation of a limited number of natural resources,
 - control and ownership of natural resources,
 - land tenure systems,
 - state of conservation and degradation of natural resources,
 - analysis of governmental sectoral policies (diversification, negative and positive incentives, land tenure regimes);
15. Calls on the European Commission and the beneficiary countries to fully integrate the results of such country environmental profiles into the conceptual processes leading to the CSPs or their mid-term review, addressing each and every problem identified;
16. Calls on the ACP States, in conformity with Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement, to ensure that the principles of good governance are applied to the exploitation of natural resources, and specifically with regard to uncontrolled and illegal exploitation of natural resources, such as illegal logging and illegal fishing, hunting and trade in endangered species, along with transparent decision-making for equitable access to natural resources while respecting the primacy of law;
17. Calls on the European Commission and ACP countries to start negotiations within the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) for a ban on the import of non-certified (bushmeat unfriendly) timber, given the strong link between commercial logging in Central Africa and an increasing commercial bushmeat trade which encourages overhunting and causes deforestation and the depletion and extinction of animal species, notably the endangering of monkeys and great apes;
18. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States for assistance to develop alternative, sustainable economies in foodstuffs in areas traditionally reliant on bushmeat, including where appropriate the limited hunting of animals such as cane rats and antelope so as to ensure their preservation, and support for enforcement of laws, education and ecotourism as means of protecting endangered species;

19. Calls on the European Commission to provide support in the CSPs and RSPs for capacity building of public and private actors to promote the good governance of natural resources management, and to support legislative reform in ACP states to be addressed at national and regional levels;

20. Calls upon the institutions established by the Cotonou Agreement, in view of the many studies and research projects carried out on environmental issues, to put in place effective measures for control, prevention and action on the ground, both in terms of the exploitation of non-renewable resources and with regard to specific measures concerning infrastructure;

21. Welcomes the efforts in the area of trade to use 'Sustainable Impact Assessments' to make a prior evaluation of the possible effects of trade liberalisation on sustainable development; calls on the European Commission to focus further attention on that area and to undertake to follow up this matter;

22. Is concerned that populations are finding it increasingly difficult to secure access to natural resources such as water, which constitutes a fundamental human right;

23. Asks the European Commission to withdraw its calls for the distribution of water to be liberalised in the developing countries under the GATS agreements within the WTO and to abstain from calling for such measures in the context of the EPAs;

24. Calls for full application of the General Affairs and External Relations Council's conclusions (2463) of 18 November 2002 recalling Indigenous Peoples' rights regarding their own development pattern and impact analysis of CSPs/RSPs;

25. Calls on the EU and in particular, the European Commission to take steps to defend the relevant protocols and agreements so as to prevent further loss of earnings and employment to ACP countries producing sugar, rice and bananas;

26. Calls on the ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee foreseen in Article 83 of the Cotonou Agreement (the Article 83 Committee) to ensure that the CSPs and RSPs will address problems caused by over-exploitation of natural resources, and the effects of such over-exploitation on local communities;

27. Urges the European Commission and the ACP governments to make sure that part of the income from forestry projects in ACP countries is allocated for assistance to the local populations affected by such projects;

28. Calls on the Article 83 Committee to ensure that adequate financial resources are provided for natural and regional programmes and projects to address poverty resulting from environmental degradation;

29. Urges the European Commission to earmark a substantive part of development appropriations outstanding ('RAL' or 'Reste-à-liquider') to strengthen capacity building in ACP countries in the field of the sustainable management and use of natural resources;

30. Calls on the European Commission, the EU Member States and the governments of the ACP countries to ensure complementarity between Country and Regional Strategy Papers in order to address regional environmental challenges and threats;

31. Commits itself to set up an effective system of on-the-spot parliamentary scrutiny of the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement in general and the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources in ACP countries in the framework of the 9th EDF in particular;

32. Suggests that the members of the ACP-EU JPA initially select seven areas in order to undertake effective parliamentary scrutiny on the basis of the implementation of national indicative programmes and regional indicative programmes, namely:

- poor management of forests, parks and wild animals,
- soil erosion and desertification,

- poor management of water and sanitation,
- poor management of fisheries, often as a consequence of badly designed fisheries agreements with the EU,
- poorly managed mining activities,
- poor management of waste including plastic waste,
- inadequate efforts to harness the huge potential for efficient use of biomass and direct solar energy existing in most ACP countries;

33. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP-EU Council to examine the ways and means which will make it possible materially and financially for Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to perform this important task;

34. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union and the Caribbean Community.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the use of the European Development Fund

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Rome (Italy) from 11 to 15 October 2003,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Annex IV thereof,
 - having regard to the resolutions on the management of the European Development Fund adopted at Libreville (Gabon) in 2001 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the work of the European Convention on the Future of Europe,
 - having regard to the European Commission's Communication on the budgetisation of the EDF (COM(2003) 590) ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/3602/03),
- A. whereas the EDF has since 1957 been the main financial instrument for cooperation between the European Union and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific,
- B. whereas the EDF should continue to be an example of dialogue and solidarity,
- C. whereas no one suffers from the development of others, in fact quite the contrary,
- D. whereas since the Cotonou Agreement aid has been targeted not only at the ACP States but also at joint institutional bodies, the private sector and financial investors as well as civil society and NGOs in recognition of their essential role in the achievement of the goals of the ACP-EU partnership,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 15 October 2003 in Rome (Italy).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 265, 20.9.2001.

⁽⁴⁾ Not yet published in OJ.

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- E. whereas since the first EDF the volume of resources has increased constantly owing to the successive enlargements of the Union,
- F. whereas Non State Actors, in line with their recognition as bona fide actors of the ACP-EU partnership, are to be granted access to the EDF for the first time in its history, through its 9th instalment,
- G. whereas the EDF is essentially intergovernmental in nature,
- H. whereas the EDF is rigidly separated from the European Union budget, which excludes the European Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly from any decision concerning the EDF,
- I. whereas no parliamentary control is exercised, in global terms, over the use made by the ACP States of monies paid out by the European taxpayer; whereas, furthermore, there are no effective instruments for monitoring the implementation of the appropriations allocated by Union bodies, and whereas the Cotonou Agreement makes no provision for any such instruments,
- J. whereas the absence of budgetary annuality of the EDF results in a time lag between the theoretical and actual dates of entry into force,
- K. whereas an EDF remains operative for as long as the appropriations made have not been utilised,
- L. whereas unused EDF resources would appear to total nearly 11 billion euro, a quarter of which have not yet been committed,
- M. whereas respect for and promotion of human rights inspire and constitute the basis of relations between the European Union and its Member States and the ACP States, as set out in Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement; having regard to the importance of political dialogue between the parties and the obligation to take measures to ensure respect for the principles referred to above and guarantee the mechanisms to be used to sanction serious breaches thereof (Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement; EP resolution A5-0296/2000 concerning cooperation with ACP States involved in armed conflicts),
- N. whereas the accumulation of remaining balances is inadmissible in view of the urgent needs of the ACP States,
- O. whereas it is the duty of the European Commission and the Member States to do all they can to ensure the appropriations available are actually used and as soon as possible,
- P. whereas importance should be attached to the specific characteristics of each country,
- Q. whereas the European Commission is pursuing a policy of deconcentration,
- R. whereas the national authorising officers are the leading players in the management of the resources provided to countries and regions,
- S. whereas with regard to the creation of a global fund of world-wide scope to address problems such as pandemics, education, water and debts, etc., ACP States should be properly consulted during the decision making process to establish and allocate such funds and it is unacceptable that ACP States should risk losing out as a result of the transfer of part of the EDF to these funds,
- T. whereas funds from the EDF are increasingly being channelled through global funds, which are not subject to the same levels of consultation with ACP States and civil society, and review processes as funds channelled through National Indicative Programmes,

- U. whereas in the spirit of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) it is our common responsibility to ensure not only the survival of the EDF, which is a lever for progress, but also undiminished financial support for the ACP,
1. Attaches particular importance to the continuation of a specific policy for European Union development aid to ACP States and is keeping a watchful eye on whether this specific policy receives targeted, perennial and guaranteed financing;
 2. Wishes to contribute to the debate on improving the workings of the EDF;
 3. Welcomes the increase in the transferral of decision-making powers to the EU delegations and the granting of direct access to the European Commission's accounting systems as long as this is to be accompanied by the provision of adequate staff and enhanced training in the new responsibilities of the Delegations, including liaising with Non-State Actors;
 4. Hopes that additional resources will be provided to national and regional authorising officers, in order to strengthen the capacity of their offices, and that procedures can be reformed in order to facilitate their work;
 5. Hopes for the introduction of objective, simple and clear criteria, together with appropriate budgetary procedures, that would facilitate both the mid-term review and potential reallocations of resources, as well as future EDF management;
 6. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to draw up, in time for the next JPA session, a joint report on the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating the EDF into the EU budget (budgetisation);
 7. Calls for the mid-term review process to be designed in a manner that allows it to be conducted jointly and based on precise and objective criteria that conform to the criteria and parameters set out in Article 3(1) of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement;
 8. Emphasises the importance of pinpointing indicators in a transparent manner reflecting the specific characteristics of each country for the purpose of defining needs and performance;
 9. Insists that performance criteria adopted should be understandable and transparent with a view to ensuring that the reasons for any changes in resource allocations to ACP States are clear and unambiguous;
 10. Insists that the performance criteria should be approved by both parties;
 11. Insists that the mid-term reviews should not be a punitive exercise but one of reorientation where needs be;
 12. Calls on the Council of the European Union to ensure that no decision is taken before the completion of the review exercise, to divert to global funds monies set aside for possible increments of allocations to the National Indicative Programmes following the reviews;
 13. Calls on both the European Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to prepare for the members of the JPA a quarterly report on disbursement, with specific reference to the extent of the reduction in the remaining balances and to the resources used by each party to achieve this;
 14. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to bring forward proposals for the rapid absorption of the current remaining balances and for speeding up the implementation of the projects for which appropriations have been committed;
 15. Calls on the European Commission and ACP General Secretariat to spell out clearly procedures on how aid to countries undergoing conflicts, or for which aid has partially been suspended, will be reviewed in the absence of a mid-term review;
 16. Calls on the European Commission to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the mid-term review exercise at its close, evaluating inter alia the quality of the participation of Non-State Actors, the focus on poverty of the Programmes and the adequacy of the level of resources allocated as a result of the reviews;

17. Calls for a special effort to be made in favour of countries that are undergoing reconstruction or have experienced serious conflicts; calls on the European Commission to produce a report on the effects of the sanctions imposed on certain countries, their relevance, whether they need to be maintained, and the true impact they have had on the people and the attitudes of their leaders, and calls on it to present forward-looking proposals in this regard;
18. Calls for the financing of the African Union intervention and peace-keeping forces in the areas of conflict on (flash points) on the African continent;
19. Calls on the European Commission, with regard to global funds, to associate the ACP States in the decision-making process and to consult Non-State Actors, not forgetting the importance of regular review procedures;
20. Calls for part of the EDF funds to be allocated to recognised and reputable international and national organisations which are active in the campaign to reduce infant mortality by 2015, in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals;
21. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP General Secretariat to submit a report on the benefits of allocating EDF funding to the global funds (pandemics, water, education, debt, etc.) and on the positive or negative effects that the ACP States could expect from this;
22. Calls on the ACP States to state at the JPA their position on the use of uncommitted EDF appropriations;
23. Hopes that uncommitted appropriations can be added to the budget for 'intra-ACP' projects involving multiple ACP States to contribute to large infrastructure programmes of regional relevance;
24. Requests from both the European Commission and the Council of the European Union a joint report on the beneficial effects that the ACP States could expect from this in terms of furthering their interests;
25. Reiterates its concern that the ACP States' share of EDF contracts is only 25 %, while European enterprises are awarded the lion's share of the contracts, and calls on the European Commission and the ACP States to rectify this imbalance;
26. Invites the ACP States, as the beneficiaries of development aid, to inform the JPA of the difficulties they encounter in trying to gain access to EDF funds and implement projects;
27. Calls for the implementation and presentation of projects responding to the elementary needs of the vast majority of ACP populations: access to drinking water, healthcare, education and food safety, etc;
28. Emphasises the need for parliamentary control and looks forward to the European Commission presenting proposals in this respect;
29. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the Commission of the African Union.

RESOLUTION⁽¹⁾**on the situation in West Africa**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Rome (Italy) from 11 to 15 October 2003,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in West Africa,
- A. whereas 14 years of violence and misrule in Liberia have resulted in immense human suffering, particularly among civilians, as well as gross human rights violations, massive displacement of populations, and a breakdown of social and economic structures, with 85 % of the population living below the poverty line,
- B. whereas the conflict in Liberia has also contributed to severe destabilisation in the whole West Africa subregion, creating a humanitarian crisis of tragic proportions,
- C. whereas the peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August 2003 under the aegis of ECOWAS constitutes a fundamental step towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia and, indeed, the whole West Africa subregion,
- D. whereas the speedy and complete deployment of the UN stabilisation force, which began operations on 1 October 2003 in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1497 (2003), becomes all the more urgent to safeguard the implementation of the peace agreement,
- E. whereas the implementation of the reforms envisaged by the various agreements concluded by the political and military forces must lead a unified and cohesive Côte d'Ivoire to credible, transparent and open elections in 2005,
- F. whereas, as a matter of urgency, the opposing armed forces must be confined, disarmament must take place and the administration must be re-established throughout national territory,
- G. whereas a military coup d'état occurred in Guinea-Bissau on 14 September 2003,
- H. whereas Presidential elections took place in Togo on 1 June 2003,
- I. having regard to the European Union's statement of 12 February 2003, urging the Togolese authorities to ensure that the elections were held in a free and transparent manner that promoted the democratic process in Togo,
- J. having regard to the abortive attempt to launch a military coup d'état in Mauritania on 8 and 9 June 2003,
- K. whereas developing countries have been coerced into signing bilateral agreements with the US to grant US citizens immunity from prosecution before the International Criminal Court; and whereas refusal to sign these agreements would have resulted in the US cutting off military assistance funding to these countries,
1. Welcomes the comprehensive Liberia peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August 2003 and calls upon all the parties to the agreement to implement it in good faith and to establish on 14 October a transitional government that will lead the country to free and fair elections in October 2005;
2. Commends ECOWAS for its untiring efforts that have led to this successful outcome, and commends Nigeria in particular, which played a key role in the peace process, for swiftly contributing troops to the Multinational Force which was deployed as a vanguard force of the UN stabilisation force;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 15 October 2003 in Rome (Italy).

3. Calls for the speedy and complete deployment of the UN stabilisation force in order to establish and maintain security throughout the country and to secure the delivery of humanitarian assistance;
4. Welcomes in this context the EU allocation of EUR 50 million to support the peace process under way in Liberia, but urges the EU, and ECHO in particular, to increase their response to the grave humanitarian situation;
5. Recalls that there can be neither amnesty nor impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;
6. Demands that all states in the region refrain from any action that might contribute to instability in Liberia or on the borders between Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire;
7. Condemns any attempt to make direct or indirect use of violence in the political process in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as any threats to law and order and stability in the country;
8. Reaffirms its full confidence in, and support for, the national reconciliation process, based on the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements;
9. Welcomes the fact that the government of national reconciliation is now complete and encourages that government, the President of the Republic and all other parties to continue down the path to the reunification of Côte d'Ivoire without delay, as well as national reconciliation and the strengthening of democracy, with a view to the organisation of the elections in 2005;
10. Condemns unreservedly the military coup in Guinea-Bissau, calls for a return to constitutional order, and praises the role played by ECOWAS in promoting the formation of a transitional government;
11. Reiterates its attachment to democratic principles and to free and fair elections, which are the only means of achieving a change of government;
12. Stresses that a quick restoration of constitutional legality, democratic principles, especially the organisation of early and credible elections, and national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau remain the basis for the continued EU – Guinea-Bissau partnership;
13. Notes the presidential election in Togo; regrets the confrontations in Tsévié without forming a prejudgement as to who was really responsible; hopes that in the next elections total transparency will be guaranteed with regard to electoral rolls and the issuing of voting cards;
14. Calls on the Togolese authorities to implement a genuine policy of openness towards the whole opposition, to take account of the criteria of good governance required by the European Union;
15. Recalls and welcomes the undertaking that Mr Sama, Prime Minister of Togo, gave to the European Parliament's Committee on Development in Brussels in October 2003 to hold municipal and senatorial elections before 31 December 2003 to speed up the normalisation of political activity in Togo and to develop political pluralism;
16. Calls on the Togolese political class to accept all initiatives aimed at creating conditions for:
 - increasingly democratic management of power,
 - national reconciliation,
 - economic and social recovery of the country;
17. Calls on the European Union to step up all its humanitarian aid programmes with a view to alleviating the sufferings of the people of Togo and its aid programmes to strengthen the current democratic process, pending negotiations, in the framework of the political dialogue provided for in Article 96 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which could lead to a resumption of cooperation with Togo;
18. Unreservedly condemns the attempted military coup in Mauritania, which has cost the lives of several innocent people;

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19. Welcomes the African Union's decision to set up a permanent peacekeeping force and the European Community's offer to contribute to funding this force;
20. Asks that ACP countries that are suffering financially because of their refusal to submit to pressure concerning the International Criminal Court receive compensation through extension of their cooperation programmes;
21. Calls on the governments of countries in the region where elections are due to be held to invite the Joint Parliamentary Assembly to observe them;
22. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS, and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo.
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ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA): problems and prospects**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 19 February 2004,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Article 37(1) of the Cotonou Agreement concerning the negotiation of economic partnership agreements during the preparatory period which shall end by 31 December 2007,
 - having regard to its 'Cape Town Declaration' on future ACP-EU negotiations of new trading arrangements, which was adopted on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa) ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard its resolution on the use of European Development Funds, adopted in Rome on 15 October 2003 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 September 2002 on the European Parliament's recommendations to the Commission concerning the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP countries and regions ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic development, finance and trade (ACP-EU 3643/04),
- A. whereas the Cotonou Agreement provides that 'economic partnership agreements shall be negotiated during the preparatory period which shall end by 31 December 2007 at the latest', and that EPAs must contribute to the 'smooth and gradual integration of the ACP States into the world economy, with due regard for their political choices and development priorities, thereby promoting their sustainable development and contributing to poverty eradication in the ACP countries' and are not an end in themselves,
- B. whereas the negotiations conducted so far have revealed serious divergences between the ACP and the EU on key elements of the content and scope of the negotiations and the opening of the second phase of EPA negotiations at the regional level,
- C. whereas both parties agreed in October 2003 that EPAs must be compatible with the WTO rules then prevailing and will need to take account of the evolutionary nature of relevant WTO rules,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 231, 27.9.2002, p. 9

⁽³⁾ OJ C 26, 29.1.2004, p. 7

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 273E, 14.11.2003, p. 202

- D. whereas Article 37(6) of the Cotonou Agreement provides that, in 2004, the EU will assess the situation of the non-LDCs which, after consultation with the EU, decide that they are not in a position to enter into EPAs, and will examine all alternative possibilities in order to provide these countries with a new framework for trade which is equivalent to their existing situation,
- E. whereas the Cotonou Agreement calls for the progressive removal of barriers to trade between the two parties,
- F. whereas Article 37(3) of the Cotonou Agreement states inter alia that 'the preparatory period shall also be used for capacity building in the public and private sectors of ACP countries',
- G. whereas the objectives of poverty eradication, sustainable development, equal and effective participation of women and involvement of non-state actors, reaffirmed in the Cotonou Agreement, must underpin the EPA negotiations,
- H. whereas the JPA consistently attaches importance to the accountability and legitimacy of parliamentarians, and the need for consultation, information and scrutiny in respect of the EPA negotiations,
- I. whereas impact assessments of EPAs show that ACP countries will lose a significant amount of public revenue by removing tariffs on EU exports,
- J. whereas Article 25 of the Cotonou Agreement calls for special attention to be paid to ensuring adequate levels of public spending in the social sectors,
- K. whereas ACP exports to the EU are hindered by a range of non-tariff measures including Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS), standards and rules of origin,
- L. whereas the failure of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancún has underlined the gap between the aspirations of the developing countries and the approach of the industrialised countries with regard to multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda,
- M. whereas the failure of Cancún creates uncertainty for multilateralism and the Doha Development Agenda that could lead to the proliferation of bilateral agreements that are certainly less favourable to developing countries,
- N. whereas the ACP and the EU recognise the importance of a more balanced and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO underpinned by an explicit link between trade and development, by real special and differential treatment for developing countries - and in particular LDCs and vulnerable small, landlocked and island countries - and also by transparency and inclusiveness in the decision-making process,
- O. whereas the EU made a commitment in the Cotonou Agreement that, at the end of the EPA negotiations, no ACP country should, in its trade relations with the EU, find itself in a more unfavourable situation after 2007 than under the current ACP-EU trade arrangements,
- P. whereas the first phase of the EPA negotiations has not resulted in the conclusion of a legally binding framework agreement as proposed by the ACP,
- Q. whereas, for many ACP countries, external debt constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to economic and social development,
1. Calls for the socio-economic viability, sustainability and legitimacy of the EPAs to constitute the guiding principles, and asks the European Commission to take into account the following aspects in the course of the negotiations on EPAs:
- managing the benefits and costs of the fiscal, economic and balance of payments adjustments of EPAs,
 - managing the social and political effects of EPAs,

- being commensurate with the institutional and human capacities of ACP countries to master the EPA process,
 - the ability of ACP countries to implement the EPAs,
 - contributing to the economic transformation of the ACP States while building on the 'acquis', in particular as regards Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement, in order to achieve inter alia the integration of ACP States into the world economy,
 - the importance of the principles of special and differential treatment when dealing with ACP countries;
2. Calls upon the ACP States and regions to urgently undertake appropriate impact and sustainability studies with a view to providing information for the EPA negotiation process and calls upon the Commission and EU States to provide appropriate and adequate financial support for studies that:
- involve research on the impact of trade arrangements on women in the different ACP countries, which should involve the collection of statistics disaggregated by gender for ACP countries and the development of gender-specific indicators, which allow the accurate measurement of the impact of different aspects of trade arrangements on men and women in the different ACP countries,
 - involve research on non-tariff measures and their impact on poverty;
3. Stresses that assessments of the probable impact, from an environmental and social point of view, of the introduction of trade liberalisation between the EU and ACP countries under the EPAs, have been called for by the European Parliament, and that they must be formulated and forwarded to the ACP and EU members to allow further steps towards liberalisation to be taken;
4. Calls for the ACP and the EU to work together in the WTO to obtain flexible trade arrangements that best address poverty, acknowledging the evolutionary nature of relevant WTO rules;
5. Reminds the negotiating parties of their responsibilities pursuant to the Cotonou Agreement with regard to the participation of non-state actors (including women's organisations, trade unions, employers, and economic and social actors) in the determining and implementation of, inter alia, their development and trade strategies;
6. Urges that there should be capacity building to ensure that proper scrutiny of the EPA negotiations can take place in national parliaments in ACP countries, and confirms that European parliamentarians will similarly need to have adequate information and consultation in order that proper scrutiny of the EPA negotiations can take place;
7. Calls upon the European Commission to support, in a transitional period, the principle of commercial non-reciprocity which must govern relations between the industrialised and developing countries, and to develop flexibility towards ACP countries during the EPA negotiations in view of their level of development, of the relatively small size of their economies, and of their financial, development and trade needs, and to ensure that, in reality, EPAs become instruments for sustainable development in the ACP countries; calls on the Commission, in this connection, with a view to promoting sustained economic growth in ACP countries and regions, to improve ACP export opportunities to the EU market, inter alia through:
- widening the scope of products, both semi-finished and finished, of interest to them under the EPAs,
 - addressing both tariff and non-tariff measures and
 - wherever possible, improving and injecting flexibility into the Cotonou rules of origin, including the acceptance of asymmetric rules of origin to take into account the differences in the level of industrial development between the EU and ACP countries;

8. Calls for ACP-EU trade arrangements to focus, inter alia, on addressing the problem of non-tariff barriers (as opposed to tariff barriers) that have been shown to be detrimental to poverty reduction in the ACP countries, as this would still be in line with Article 36(1) of the Cotonou Agreement;
9. Emphasises the need to take account of and compensate for the likely negative impact of reciprocity on ACP countries and to allow non-reciprocity where this is reasonable and necessary to permit growth of ACP industries, protection of vulnerable farmers and structural development, and to support the sustainable development and poverty reduction targets of ACP governments;
10. Reiterates that EPAs should include effective safeguard measures that protect ACP producers from the influx of EU imports;
11. Welcomes the adoption of a joint report which contains joint agreement on a number of important issues that will guide the second phase negotiations with regional configurations, but calls for this to be consolidated by effective implementation of the 'all-ACP-EU' mechanism during the second phase of the EPA negotiations to facilitate appropriate consideration of issues of common interest to all ACP States;
12. Reaffirms the commitment in the Cotonou Agreement to taking account of the situation of women and gender issues in all areas, including trade;
13. Underlines the need to preserve and improve the Cotonou 'acquis' and, in particular, the need to improve market access for agricultural and industrial products from ACP countries, and stresses that it is essential to ensure that ACP countries preserve the right to protect sensitive products in their own markets from exports from the industrialised countries as well as to apply appropriate safeguard measures; stresses the importance of the impact of the EU's export subsidies and domestic support on the economies of ACP States in these areas, with a view to facilitating diversification, the preservation of family and cooperative agricultural structures and food sovereignty and increasing the added value of agricultural and industrial exports from the ACP countries;
14. Reaffirms the crucial importance of agriculture in pursuing the objectives laid down in the Cotonou Agreement, and, in this regard, calls upon the EU to appropriately address the issues of trade liberalisation and of sequencing financial support for agriculture and fisheries during EPA negotiations in these areas, so as to facilitate diversification and addition of value to agricultural exports of the ACP countries through the provision of direct technical assistance and adequate financial resources, and through initiatives aimed at promoting the processing, marketing, distribution and transportation (PMDT) of ACP products;
15. Considers that efforts to secure guaranteed and stable commodity prices, essential for the development of the ACP countries, continue to be of fundamental and vital importance and that, following Stabex and Sysmin, new systems along these lines must be proposed and furthered by the Commission and the EU as a whole at bilateral and international level;
16. Reiterates that the review of the commodity protocols in the context of EPA negotiations under Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement should lead to safeguarding the benefits derived therefrom, bearing in mind the special legal status of the Sugar Protocol, and recognising that the process of CAP reform will significantly erode the value of existing agricultural trade preferences;
17. Underlines the need to increase current quotas under the protocols on commodities in order to take due account of new members in the spirit of maintaining and improving the Cotonou 'acquis';

18. Reaffirms the need for the EU and the Member States to make firm commitments to provide ACP countries with adequate financial resources and technical assistance during the preparatory period and transitional phase of the EPAs, including a better use of available funds to make improvements in the following areas in order to maximise the benefits deriving from EPAs:

- improvements in their capacity to produce and export,
- transport infrastructure (roads, railways and ports), and the need to plan and undertake transport improvements at regional level,
- access to energy (electricity and renewable energy),
- access to water, for drinking and other uses, such as manufacturing and agricultural production,
- improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure and measures to bridge the 'digital divide' (in accordance with the ACP-EU Joint Position on the Information Society, signed at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, Switzerland, December 2003),
- labour productivity (linked to education standards, health system, housing conditions, etc.),
- institutional and macroeconomic management (including balance of payments support, exchange rate stabilisation, etc.),
- development of competitive and diversified supply capacities;

19. Stresses that major investment must be made before the economies of these countries enter into competition with EU undertakings; observes that this financial effort must be better evaluated and calls on the EU to explore appropriate measures to address the funding requirements in this regard;

20. Asks the Commission to submit an estimate of the costs of adjustment and loss of earnings for ACP countries resulting from foregone tax revenue;

21. Underlines the importance of trade-based taxes as a significant source of government revenue for the majority of ACP countries, and, in this regard, calls upon the Commission to make adequate provision to face the eventual loss of customs revenues resulting from the implementation of the EPAs in ACP countries with a view to sustaining the respective governments' capacity to finance:

- social capital investments as referred to in Article 25 of the Cotonou Agreement, in line with the commitments related to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
- poverty reduction programmes (as contained in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers – PRSPs – and overall development programmes), and
- measures to attract and retain national investment and foreign direct investment (FDI), by promoting good governance and upgrading the countries' locational assets, which means also investing in health, education, water supply, sanitation, power, transport and telecommunications, and effective marketing and promotional actions;

22. Calls on the Commission to promote the development of ACP agro-industry involving technology promotion and skill building in the agricultural, manufacturing and services sector as well as an improvement in the financing of small agricultural producers and small businesses in rural areas;

23. Calls on the EU to allow the external effects of CAP reform to be taken up and addressed in the negotiations, with a view to maintaining and enhancing as far as possible the value of existing ACP agricultural preferences and ensuring effective protection of ACP markets from unfair competition from EU agricultural and food product exports;

24. Welcomes the principle of regional integration processes in which ACP governments are allowed to develop and pursue their own processes of integration as spelled out in Article 35(2) of the Cotonou Agreement; calls for the best processes of sequencing for different sets of negotiations in line with the goals they have set to generate sustainable development;

25. Reaffirms the importance of a vibrant service sector for the development of the economies of ACP countries and regions; reaffirms also the need to strengthen this sector in these countries and regions, and, in this regard, calls upon the Commission and EU States to provide adequate finance to support the development of this sector in ACP countries and to scrupulously adhere to the provisions of Article 41 of the Cotonou Agreement during the Second Phase of EPA negotiations;

26. Calls upon the EU and the ACP to mutually accept the right to regulate the supply of public services within their territories in order to meet national policy objectives;

27. Calls upon those ACP states and regions which choose to negotiate EPAs to negotiate them taking full account of their development policies, and also calls upon the EU to negotiate EPAs taking full account of the Community's development co-operation policies;

28. Calls on the Commission to establish an inventory of all non-tariff barriers, especially sanitary and phytosanitary measures that inhibit the export of ACP products into the EU, and to establish an exchange of information with the ACP on the design and implementation of SPS measures, so that the promotion of food safety in Europe does not become a barrier to trade from small and least developed ACP countries; notes that this should include arrangements for financing the costs associated with SPS compliance and verification;

29. Calls, in this regard, upon the EU, in partnership with the ACP countries, to intervene at the WTO with a view to:

- securing full recognition within all international trade regulatory bodies of the legitimacy of long-term regional trade agreements seeking to improve the situation of developing countries,
- injecting the development dimension into WTO rules in line with United Nations development objectives and the Doha mandate,
- demonstrably and effectively implementing provisions on special and differential treatment for the ACP countries, and LDCs and vulnerable small countries and island states in particular, and applying all the necessary flexibility,

- promoting the introduction of a fair and democratic international trade regulation system by fundamentally reforming WTO functioning and objectives with a view to creating a fair trading system and facilitating equal participation of all members;
- 30. Considers that the issue of resolving the external debt problem of the ACP countries must not be evaded but, on the contrary, be considered by the European Union under the new Economic Partnership Agreements and that solutions must be found on a bilateral basis and/or by bringing pressure to bear on international financial institutions and other parties concerned;
- 31. Calls on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, at the meeting to be held in Botswana in May 2004, to consider adopting a decision in order to postpone until 2006 the review of the situation of non-LDC ACP States required under Article 37(6) of Cotonou;
- 32. Calls for the ACP and the EU to promote and support a greater involvement of civil society in EPA discussions and negotiations;
- 33. Calls for an effective involvement in the EPA negotiation process of parliamentarians from the European Parliament, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and all ACP and EU countries, and in particular for effective parliamentary monitoring in all ACP and EU countries throughout the negotiations;
- 34. Calls for the ACP and the EU to support greater involvement of civil society groups including producers' organisations, women's groups and consumer associations in EPA discussions and negotiations;
- 35. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission and the WTO Director General.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on conflict prevention and resolution and the establishment of a lasting peace

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 19 February 2004,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement, especially Article 11 dealing with peace-building policies, conflict prevention and resolution ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé (Togo),
- having regard to the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was signed on 17 July 1998 and entered into force on 1 July 2002,
- having regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the framework document of which was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, in October 2001,
- having regard to the declarations of the Conference of Heads of State and of Government and the decisions and declarations of the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Maputo (Mozambique) from 10 to 12 July 2003,
- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular its resolution on children's rights and child-soldiers in particular, adopted in Rome on 15 October 2003 ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2003, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 26, 29.1.2004, p. 17.

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2001 on the Commission communication on conflict prevention ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 November 2001 on the trade in small arms ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 October 2000 on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on cooperation with ACP countries involved in armed conflicts ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to EU Council Decision 2003/432/CFSP of 12 June 2003 on the launching of the European Union military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the EU Council's common position of 29 October 2001 on combating the illicit traffic in conflict diamonds, as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts (2001/758/CFSP) ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the European Union's Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, approved by the European Council at its meeting in Göteborg in June 2001,
 - having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1467 (2003) of 18 March 2003 on 'Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threats to peace and security in West Africa',
 - having regard to the United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,
 - having regard to the G8 Africa Action Plan adopted at the G8 Summit held in Kananaskis, Canada, on 26-27 June 2002 and to the relevant declarations made at the G8 Summit held in Evian, France, on 1-3 June 2003,
 - having regard to the pioneering role played by the EU in the establishment and implementation of the Kimberley Process with respect to blood diamonds and the Ottawa Convention on Landmines,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU 3601/04),
- A. having regard to the numerous conflicts raging or threatening to break out in Africa, and taking into consideration the tensions which could undermine the stability of the Pacific and Caribbean regions,
- B. whereas the causes of these conflicts are generally a failure to respect human rights, the absence of democracy and the rule of law, ethnic and religious tensions, terrorism linked to nationalism and fundamentalism, inefficient administration, organised crime and drug and arms trafficking, as well as poverty, unemployment, and social, economic and political injustices and inequalities, rapid population growth and poor management and/or exploitation of natural resources, the behaviour of certain undertakings with a view to controlling the market in raw materials and natural resources,
- C. whereas the uncontrolled and illegal proliferation of light and small-calibre weapons encourages the use of child soldiers and whereas the illegal trade in arms and drugs, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the use of child soldiers and mercenaries are contributing to an escalation in conflicts,
- D. convinced that peace is vital as a first step towards political, economic and social development, and that sustainable and equitable economic development is an essential precondition for a lasting peace,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 177E, 25.7.2002, p. 291.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 140E, 13.6.2002, p. 587.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 197, 12.7.2001, p. 390

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 147, 14.6.2003, p. 42

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 286, 30.10.2001, p. 2

- E. whereas there is an urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building, peacekeeping operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction and to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component,
- F. whereas conflicts in ACP States, especially in Africa, are increasingly taking on a regional or international dimension, with the involvement of neighbouring countries and third countries, and whereas they are frequently fuelled by transnational economic interests,

Conflict prevention

- G. whereas it is preferable to prevent the outbreak of conflict by addressing its deep-rooted causes, rather than to intervene once it has broken out,
- H. whereas, on the basis of Article 11 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the EU has a specific responsibility to help the ACP States in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflicts involving them, while respecting their national identity,
- I. having regard to the recent establishment of the African Union and the role that it might in the future play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts,
- J. whereas, on 11 December 2003, the ACP-EC Council of Ministers decided to allocate EUR 250 million from the European Development Fund to a Peace Facility for Africa,
- K. whereas NEPAD should make a telling contribution to peacemaking by attempting to improve living conditions for the poor,
- L. having regard, further, to the role which the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) might play in accordance with the Petersberg tasks and to the humanitarian assistance and mediation that the European Union can offer the ACP States, but whereas a strengthening of cooperation policy and the establishment of fairer trading conditions continue to constitute the two essential instruments for a lasting peace,

Conflict resolution

- M. whereas a peace agreement can only be negotiated in an atmosphere of calm, after the signing of a ceasefire, and only if all the parties to the conflict are observing that ceasefire,
- N. whereas a peacekeeping force should be present at that stage,
- O. emphasising the need for mediation and the role that can usefully be played, to this end, by the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union, but mindful that a conflict can only be resolved by means of an agreement between the parties and that no outside organisation or state should presume to impose the terms of the agreement unilaterally,
- P. whereas the Artemis operation in Bunia is the first European military stabilisation operation to be launched under a UN mandate and to take place outside the continent of Europe,
- Q. emphasising the African Union's involvement alongside France in the settlement of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, and the encouraging conclusions of the meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Member States of the African Union, held in Ethiopia in May 2003, which envisage the possibility of setting up an African peacekeeping force within the next two years,
- R. stressing the involvement of the African Union and the EU in the consolidation of the peace process in Burundi,
- S. having regard to the importance and the role of regional African organisations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts,

Establishment of a lasting peace

- T. whereas there can be no stable peace without national reconciliation, without equitable justice and without the support of the whole of civil society for the peace process, and whereas the establishment of the International Criminal Court and of Truth Commissions, could guarantee that the crimes committed by belligerent parties do not simply go unpunished and do not damage the victims' sense of justice, thus promoting national reconciliation,
- U. whereas, once the conflict has been resolved, the economic and social reintegration of former combatants, among whom child soldiers require particular attention, is a vital part of the process of maintaining and consolidating peace,
- V. emphasising the duty of the international community, in particular the European Union but also the neighbouring states, to support the peace process, and mindful of the crucial role of reconstruction aid and the efforts made by the European Union and its Member States in this connection,
- W. stressing the importance of humanitarian aid and taking the view that this should preferably be supplied solely via civilian and diplomatic channels,
- X. whereas well-informed and independent social players (NGOs, professional associations, independent media, research institutes, etc.) can play a crucial role in breaking the spiral of violence by encouraging an open debate and demanding a government that meets its responsibilities more fully,

Women and conflict

- Y. whereas rape as a weapon of war has been widely documented and has been declared a war crime by the UN,
 - Z. whereas in many conflicts armed factions have captured young girls and women and forced them into sexual slavery,
 - AA. whereas the full participation of women in decision-making, conflict prevention and resolution and all peace initiatives is vital; whereas, in the past, their participation in peacekeeping missions has not been numerically significant, but whereas the increased presence of women in the civilian, military and police components of peacekeeping operations has resulted in improved relations with local communities, something which is essential for the establishment of a lasting peace,
 - AB. emphasising that, in many ways, a lasting peace is contingent on community involvement in and ownership of the peace process - a process which can be legitimate only if women are equally involved - and that the role of the international community in supporting civil society networks that link local, national and international initiatives is crucial to the peace process,
1. Calls for conflict prevention and structural stability to constitute key objectives of EU development policy and takes the view that the EU's conflict prevention policy must address the structural causes of conflicts connected with poverty, including the unequal distribution of wealth, social injustice, human rights violations, the oppression of minorities and religious discrimination;
 2. Is convinced of the essential role of both international (AU, EU, UN) and regional cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution and peacekeeping and expresses its concern at the continuous reduction in the EU's development cooperation budget;

3. Stresses the need to keep up a frank and fruitful dialogue between the European Union, its Member States and the ACP States and emphasises that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly is the ideal forum in which to discuss potential, ongoing and past conflicts and explore how those conflicts may be resolved and peace maintained;

Conflict prevention

4. Believes that, in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, it is essential first to identify the underlying causes and remedy them by:

- respecting the principles of good governance,
- guaranteeing the rights of minorities, and drawing attention to their duties which must be respected,
- increasing the number of agreements between neighbouring countries in order to allay any fears that may exist and create the conditions for unions from which everyone may benefit;

5. Takes the view that the EU must strengthen the instruments which allow for greater consistency so as to ensure convergence between its own policies, the policies pursued and the positions taken by the Member States, particularly in the international financial institutions, and the dealings of private undertakings active in the ACP States, in order to achieve progress towards the attainment of the priority objectives of peace and development;

6. Takes the view that the European Union can play a significant role if it pursues a consistent policy which seeks to encourage the emergence of genuine political pluralism in Africa that goes beyond free and transparent elections;

7. Takes the view that the EU must adopt a consistent trade and development policy so as to help the African economies to develop and to protect themselves against destabilising competition;

8. Notes with particular interest the preventive intervention instruments enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement; is determined to ensure that the signatories honour their commitments, especially the key clause concerning the establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights and democracy;

9. Welcomes the establishment of the African Union and is convinced that it will play a central role in fostering the stability of the African continent; in that connection, applauds its mediating role in the resolution of the recent conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and in Burundi;

10. Takes the view that the rehabilitation of the democratic and legitimate state in Africa is an essential condition for a lasting peace and, with that in mind, calls on the leaders of the African Union to devise a durable, independent, proactive and democratic development policy in order to meet the basic requirements of the peoples of Africa;

11. Deems it unacceptable that, each year, debt repayment and servicing absorbs almost 40 % of the GDP of the least developed countries, while the health and education budgets remain at a pitiful level; demands, therefore, that a global solution be found to the debt problems faced by those countries;

12. Takes the view that the issue of the resolution of the problem of external debt and the revision of the criteria applied by the international financial institutions constitute priorities which will enable the ACP States to pursue development policies which is the only way that a lasting peace can be secured;

13. Calls on the European Commission and on the Member States to create a budget for peace and conflict prevention in Africa which must not be charged to the European Development Fund; takes the view that this budget could be managed in conjunction with the African Union and regional organisations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and that its scope should include peacekeeping operations;

14. Calls on the ACP States to ensure greater transparency when presenting their defence and security budgets and to ensure that their military expenditure is proportionate to their real security needs and their available budget for the fight against poverty;

15. Calls on the Council and Commission to give preference to the introduction of 'smart' sanctions (such as refusals to issue visas, freezing of assets, restrictions on military cooperation, including arms exports, or on trade relations) so that they may be more effective and adversely affect the political elite rather than the average person;

16. Takes the view that a certification system, such as the Kimberley Process used for the international trade in diamonds, contributes to conflict prevention and calls for the establishment of a similar system for other raw materials;

17. Recommends to the Member States that they actively support the efforts being made by intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations at international, regional and national level with a view to putting a stop to illegal logging;

Conflict resolution

18. Takes the view that national and international undertakings also have responsibility for the resolution of local and regional conflicts; calls, therefore, for the drafting of an international Code of Conduct for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) along the lines of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

19. Calls on all countries to regulate all aspects of the arms trade and for the international community to invoke appropriate sanctions to ensure that the business of arms supply to crisis zones, which is largely responsible for fuelling existing conflicts and increasing the risk of new ones breaking out, does not go unpunished;

20. Welcomes as an encouraging step forward the resolution adopted by the chiefs of staff of the Member States of the African Union proposing the establishment of an African peacekeeping force within the next two years;

21. Welcomes the decision taken by the Council of the European Union approving the deployment in Bunia of a European peacekeeping force operating under a UN mandate, and the manner in which that force was relieved by MONUC on 1 September 2003;

22. Calls for the mandate of the forces deployed in this way in the future to be spelt out in terms which allocate to them the resources that they require to carry out their tasks and the right and duty to implement them whenever the performance of their tasks so requires;

23. Strongly condemns the use of child soldiers and calls on all the ACP States and on current and future EU Member States to ratify the Protocol prohibiting the use of child soldiers and to ensure that it is implemented;

24. Repeats its request to the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to appoint a High Representative with responsibility for children's rights in order to ensure general coordination, follow-up and higher visibility for children's rights, as well as greater prominence for matters relating to children in all European Union policies;

25. Proposes to the governments of the ACP countries that they also create this type of position in order to ensure general coordination and give greater prominence to matters relating to children in all relevant policies;

Establishment of a lasting peace

26. Takes the view that operations to ensure the end of a crisis, a return to normal life and reconstruction in the countries concerned are of crucial importance for the establishment of a lasting peace;

27. Emphasises that, to that end, a transitional government and administration, enjoying support from the international community, should prepare the ground for a return to constitutional order at the earliest possible opportunity;

28. Hopes that a genuine culture of peace and democracy may be developed through the institutions supported by the EU and the ACP States;

29. Calls on the EU and countries close to a conflict to reward the achievement of peace and efforts to establish democracy through the normalisation of relations with the country in question and, in the case of the EU Member States, by offering debt relief and significant reconstruction aid;

30. Deems it essential that the traumatised victims of violent conflicts should receive suitable psychological and medical treatment, such treatment being of very special importance for the victims of rape and those seriously injured by landmines;

31. Regards NEPAD as an initiative which, through its objectives and mechanisms, may contribute to conflict avoidance and conflict resolution and bring about political stability;

32. Calls on the Commission, when implementing cooperation and development programmes to assist countries emerging from conflict, to ensure that priority is given to:

- humanitarian aid,
- the economic and social reintegration of former combatants, by offering them vocational training and by offering child soldiers access to education,
- the development of civil society,
- aid for reconstruction, in particular of institutions and public authorities,
- support for programmes seeking the more equitable distribution of wealth,
- increased representation of women in reconciliation and decision-making processes;

33. Urges a more prominent role for the European Parliament in decision-making processes relating to the suspension of aid (in close cooperation with the relevant EC delegations), sanctions and other measures, and would like the European Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to receive more frequent reports on the situation concerning EU cooperation with ACP States involved in armed conflicts;

34. Takes the view that Truth Commissions can play a pivotal role between, on the one hand, a past in respect of which clarification must be achieved and, on the other, a future with a different political regime; strongly recommends, in this connection, that the EU, its Member States and the ACP States give their full support to this means of reconciliation;

35. Believes that, once armed conflicts have ceased, support measures may be needed for returning troops in order to prevent and/or restrict any adverse impact on the local people, environment and infrastructure;

36. Takes the view that the demobilisation of former combatants requires long-term funding and that the demobilisation programmes must form part of programmes for the economic and social development of the country concerned and of a programme for the reform of public security institutions, including the police, the armed forces and the judiciary;

37. Calls on the Council and Commission to support social players in the ACP States as laid down in the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in order to provide an opportunity for the dialogue and structures referred to in that Agreement and to help the parliaments concerned secure the expertise they require in order to strengthen their position within the state apparatus;

38. Recommends that countries in regions of conflict work together on regional disarmament programmes, including measures to ensure that the flow of arms supplies, especially light weapons, from all government and non-government sources is stopped;

Women and conflict

39. Condemns the rape and sexual violence that have been highly prevalent in refugee camps and the use of rape as a weapon of war, which has been documented throughout history;

40. Calls on the EU Member State and ACP governments to take gender-proactive peace- and security-related initiatives and, to that end, to:

- provide training - at headquarters and in field offices - on the gender aspects of conflict resolution and peace-building for staff engaged in policies concerning conflict,
- provide gender-based training at an early stage in the training of military personnel so that respect for women becomes a matter of course and a female-friendly atmosphere prevails in the army,
- ensure that, in their peacekeeping operations, the African regional organisations can benefit from the Peace Facility established by the European Community;

41. Calls on the relevant authorities to protect refugees and internally displaced women and children from sexual abuse through the gender-sensitive placing of latrines and lighting, the establishment of safe routes for the collection of supplies, water and firewood and the appropriate location of accommodation for single women;

42. Calls on the EU Member State and ACP governments and negotiating organisations to include women in diplomatic conflict resolution and reconstruction initiatives at all levels and, in particular, to require international diplomatic peace teams to hold systematic consultations with women's community-based peace groups and organisations, ensuring that the problems and priorities of those groups and organisations are reflected in the official peace process;

43. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on poverty-related diseases and reproductive health in ACP States, in the context of the 9th EDF

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 19 February 2004,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Articles 152(3) and 177 to 181 of the EC Treaty,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

- having regard to Articles 25(1)(c) and (d) and 31(b)(iii) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou in June 2000 ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 March 2001 on the European Community's Development Policy ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 20 September 2001 on female genital mutilation ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 1 November 2001 on HIV/AIDS ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 21 March 2002 on the impact of communicable diseases on health, young people, the elderly and people living with disabilities ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 21 March 2002 on health issues, young people, the elderly and people living with disabilities ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 3 April 2003 on WTO negotiations on health issues ⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 4 September 2003 on the Commission communication on Health and Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries ⁽⁸⁾,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1567/2003 on aid for policies and actions on reproductive health and rights in developing countries ⁽⁹⁾,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1568/2003 on aid for poverty diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis) in developing countries ⁽¹⁰⁾,
- having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989,
- having regard to the Programme of Action adopted by 179 countries at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 5-13 September 1994,
- having regard to the strategic health objectives approved at the 1995 UN Beijing Conference on Women and for Beijing +5,
- having regard to the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, adopted by the twenty-first special session of the UN General Assembly in New York, 30 June-2 July 1999 (ICPD +5),
- having regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, 6-8 September 2000,
- having regard to the report of the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of 20 December 2001,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of the UN Financing for Development Conference, 22 March 2002,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 16.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 277, 1.10.2001, p. 130.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 78, 2.4.2002, p. 66.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 77E, 28.3.2003, p. 22.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 231, 27.9.2002, p. 57.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 231, 27.9.2002, p. 55.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 231, 26.9.2003, p. 31.

⁽⁸⁾ Not yet published in OJ (COM(2002) 129).

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 224, 6.9.2003, p. 1.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 224, 6.9.2003, p. 7.

- having regard to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, 4 September 2002,
 - having regard to the worldwide initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year of 2020, known as Vision 2020, and the World Health Organisation's Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness,
 - having regard to the Doha 2001 Declaration on relations between the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health,
 - having regard to the 2002 report of the UNPFA on the state of world population,
 - having regard to the debate on the current status of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases (ORID) in Africa at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Maputo, Mozambique, 10-12 July 2003,
 - having regard to the report by the Council of Europe on the impact of the Mexico City Policy ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU 3640/03),
- A. whereas health is a basic human right recognised in Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - B. whereas poverty diseases and reproductive health must continue to be tackled through joint efforts from the international community,
 - C. whereas millions of people continue to die of infectious diseases in the developing countries every year although medical science is able to prevent and cure most of these diseases,

Poverty and Health

- D. whereas besides HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, there are many other poverty related diseases that merit attention, such as vesico-vaginal fistula, diarrhoea, debilitating and water-borne diseases, skin diseases, mental and physical disorders, and other environment-related diseases,
- E. whereas the report of the UNPFA on the state of the world population 2002 highlights that to reduce poverty in developing countries, urgent action is needed to combat poor reproductive health, help women avoid unwanted pregnancies, and eliminate illiteracy and general discrimination,
- F. whereas the 2001 report of the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health notes that the population health of developing countries in recent decades contains some good news, but mostly bad and disastrous news,
- G. whereas poor health diminishes personal capacity, lowers productivity and reduces earnings, hence contributing to increase poverty,
- H. whereas the assessment of poverty should take account not only of per capita income, life expectancy, literacy and school attendance, but also of other indicators such as access to social services,
- I. whereas investment in basic health services in developing countries is only a fraction of what is needed,

Poverty-related diseases and their combat

- J. whereas poverty-related diseases (PRDs) are the major cause as well as the consequence of considerable poverty in developing countries such as ACP States, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa,

⁽¹⁾ CoE document 9901, 11.9.2003

- K. whereas the burden of PRDs, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, vesico-vaginal fistula, and infectious, diarrhoea and skin diseases, and more specifically diseases that can be prevented by vaccination, is mostly borne by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
- L. whereas life expectancy has fallen significantly in some African countries as a result of HIV/AIDS,
- M. whereas the fight against these diseases is one of the key strategies to eradicate poverty and promote economic growth in developing countries, particularly through the achievement of the millennium development objectives,
- N. whereas information, prevention and treatment in relation to malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS call for different approaches for which appropriate strategies should be developed,
- O. whereas HIV/AIDS is also contributing to the slowing of economic growth and activity and the decline in agricultural production in the worst affected countries, as productive human resources are falling prey to the infection,
- P. whereas the strategies needed to combat the epidemic effectively involve a combination of treatment, education and prevention, and must be implemented in such a way as to reach local communities through committed political and religious leadership,
- Q. whereas infant mortality resulting from infectious diseases which are entirely preventable by vaccination places an unnecessary psychological, economic and physical burden on a population which already has many problems to face,
- R. whereas the African Union Heads of State and Government meeting in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, recognised all the above by noting that these diseases are the major causes of morbidity and mortality and constrain the socio-economic development of the Africa region, accentuating poverty, disrupting family and social fabric and driving millions of African people to despair,
- S. whereas young girls in particular break off their schooling to take care of their sick parents; and whereas there are now millions of orphans worldwide living without the support of parents,
- T. whereas initiatives to combat PRDs in ACP States need therefore to be well integrated into the countries' National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) and Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) and into the social sector of intra-ACP Cooperation under the 9th EDF,
- U. whereas these initiatives should be designed in such a way that they target disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as women, young people and children,
- V. whereas recent developments at UN and international levels have revealed new ways of accessing treatment and care for people living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS, mainly through access to antiretroviral medicines,

- W. whereas, in this context, the development of the new EDCTP programme represents an important step forward,
- X. whereas at the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference increased affordability of pharmaceutical products and the interpretation of intellectual property rights were discussed, and a declaration on relations between TRIPs Agreement and Public Health was adopted,
- Y. whereas an agreement was adopted by the members of the WTO on 30 August 2003 providing a solution to the problem faced by those countries which do not have sufficient manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector,
- Z. whereas pharmaceuticals sold at tiered prices in developing countries should not be diverted to the EU market,
- AA. whereas 90 % of the world's health R&D is devoted to conditions that affect 10 % of the world's population and whereas insufficient research is currently being carried out into the most neglected diseases only affecting developing countries (e.g. sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease and leishmaniasis) and, in the case of other diseases, into products specifically adapted to conditions of use in developing countries,
- AB. whereas prevention and treatment of communicable diseases must be regarded as indispensable for the international community, and thus considered a 'global public good',

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

- AC. whereas the ICPD (September 1994), for the first time, focused on individuals' reproductive needs and rights, rather than on achieving demographic targets,
- AD. whereas at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 179 States adopted the Programme of Action (PoA),
- AE. whereas the consensus reached at the Cairo Conference was reaffirmed at the five-year review of the ICPD in 1999 and also recently at the regional meetings on ICPD +10 of the Asian, Pacific and the Caribbean states,
- AF. whereas 2004, marks the 10th anniversary of the ICPD and will see the mid-term review of its PoA,
- AG. whereas reproductive health includes family planning services and information, safe motherhood services, safe abortion, the prevention, detection and treatment of reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS,
- AH. whereas all couples and individuals should have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so,
- AI. whereas according to the ICPD, 'reproductive health services should be safe and accessible, through the primary health care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages, as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015',

Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- AJ. whereas there are established links between poverty eradication and sexual and reproductive health,
- AK. whereas the implementation of the ICPD PoA is essential to achieving the MDGs,
- AL. whereas the three MDGs directly related to reproductive health (i.e. reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating and preventing HIV/AIDS) are the ones least likely to be achieved by the target year 2015,

Main challenges (including vulnerable groups and HIV/AIDS)

- AM. whereas complications in pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death and disability among women in developing countries, claiming the lives of 500,000 women each year,
- AN. whereas a particular problem concerns women, very often of a young age and without easy access to reproductive health services, who develop fistula because of unrelieved obstructed labour, the consequences of which - if not treated - lead to miserable health conditions and social stigmatisation,
- AO. whereas about one third of all pregnancies are unwanted or unplanned, which may lead women to seek abortions in unsafe conditions,
- AP. whereas one billion adolescents are about to enter their reproductive years,
- AQ. whereas diseases of the reproductive organs, and in particular vesico-vaginal fistula, are a public health problem in a great many ACP States,
- AR. whereas half of all new HIV infections are among young people, with girls being at particular risk,
- AS. whereas the WHO suggests that improved management of STIs could reduce the incidence of HIV in the general population by about 40 %,
- AT. whereas prevention of, and services for STIs and HIV/AIDS are an integral component of reproductive and sexual health programmes,
- AU. whereas 80 % of the world's current refugee population are women and children; whereas, in refugee settings, maternal mortality rates are often higher due to poor nutrition and frequent closely-spaced pregnancies, and there is often increased unsafe sexual activity and sexual violence, including rape, which results in an increase in HIV/AIDS and STIs,
- AV. whereas the ACP-EU JPA is pleased that a number of countries have introduced a ban on harmful traditions and practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM),

Funding shortfall and EDF support

- AW. whereas in 2000 donor countries contributed only 45 % and the developing countries 76 % of the shares stipulated in the ICPD,
- AX. whereas in 2000 total spending for reproductive health, including loans and funding under the UN system, only represented 45,6 % of the ICPD target for that year,

- AY. whereas donors and NGOs have recognised that there is an international crisis in the availability of reproductive health supplies, and therefore unless action is taken individuals will not be able to exercise their right to access basic reproductive health services and supplies,
- AZ. whereas there is an uneven political commitment among donor countries and a general decline in development aid,
- BA. whereas on his first day in office, US President Bush reinstated the so-called Mexico City Policy or 'Global Gag Rule' which withholds US assistance from any foreign organisation, which, even with its own funding, performs, refers, counsels on, or lobbies for abortion, regardless of whether abortion is legal in that country,
- BB. whereas the Mexico City Policy has now been extended to organisations running HIV/AIDS programmes and even programmes for refugees and internally displaced persons,
- BC. whereas there is a massive shortfall in funding for sexual and reproductive health, although the EU has played a key role in this area through legislation and by providing ad hoc funding,
- BD. whereas there is, however, a clear case for investing in sexual and reproductive health in terms of cost-efficiency in combating poverty,
- BE. whereas at the 2002 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, held in Ottawa, parliamentarians committed themselves to try to attain 5 to 10 % of national development budgets for population and reproductive health programmes,
- BF. whereas in general terms, reproductive health has not been identified as a priority area in the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) of ACP States, and also there is still a significant shortfall in the financial support that would allow all children to be given access to life-saving vaccinations,
- BG. whereas out of a total of 77 CSPs, only 13 have selected health as a priority area and whereas only about 4 % of the EDF is spent on health,

Role of civil society

- BH. whereas the ACP-EU JPA recognises the important and complementary role that civil society can play at national, regional and international levels with regard to achieving the ICPD PoA,

Poverty and Health

1. Emphasises that besides HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis there are many other poverty related diseases, such as vesico-vaginal fistula, that must be addressed by the international community;
2. Takes the view that the lack of access to health results both from a problem of access to care (arising from a lack of health structures and personnel, and the absence of public healthcare systems) and from a problem of access to treatment;
3. Requests that when addressing poverty-related diseases in developing countries one should also recognise their link to food safety and security, education, environment and social and economic questions;

4. Stresses that poor health diminishes personal capacity and lowers productivity and income levels, hence contributing to an increase in poverty;
5. Stresses that access to safe drinking water and a balanced diet are a sine qua non for good public health; stresses therefore that the horizontal dimension of health and improvements in living conditions help to raise life expectancy and to combat poverty;
6. Recognises that special attention must be given to women, children and elderly people when addressing poverty related diseases, and calls attention to the fact that each day more productive human resources become affected by the diseases, thus increasing national economic problems;
7. Calls on the developing countries to restore public services and basic health-care systems, and takes the view that European aid must first and foremost serve to support internal efforts by the developing countries to strengthen their human, institutional and infrastructure capacities;
8. Recalls also that repaying and servicing debt every year absorbs almost 40 % of the GDP of the least developed countries, while their education and health budgets remain derisory; takes the view also that serious debt payment problems call for a comprehensive solution based on international and national action;

Poverty-related diseases and their combat

9. Recognises that the Least Developed Countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, are the most affected by poverty-related diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, diseases of the reproductive organs and infectious and skin diseases;
10. Calls on the European Commission to include the most neglected diseases, such as sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease and leishmaniasis, among its priorities and to ensure that effective, appropriate, easy-to-use medicines are developed and placed on the market in the developing countries at an affordable price;
11. Emphasises its concern at the threat of avian influenza and SARS, which are global threats and potentially devastating for low-income countries; hopes therefore that the EU and the ACP States can work closely and speedily with the WHO to enable ACP States to prevent and, if necessary, manage cases of these and similar diseases;
12. Stresses that in order to eradicate poverty and promote economic growth in developing countries it is imperative to combat poverty-related diseases;
13. Stresses that the strategies needed to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic effectively should involve a combination of treatment, education and prevention, and must be implemented so as to reach local communities through a committed political and religious leadership;
14. Notes that at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in July 2003 in Maputo, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union recognised that these diseases are the major causes of morbidity and mortality and constrain the socio-economic development of the Africa region, accentuating poverty, disrupting family and social fabric and driving millions of African people into despair;

15. Emphasises the essential role of the public services in meeting major health challenges and calls on the European Commission and the Member States to promote a strengthening and widening of their cover by: pursuing cooperation policies with this aim and organising experience exchanges between public-service undertakings in the North and the South; exerting pressure to ensure that the IFIs' structural adjustment policies are reviewed; and refraining from calling for liberalisation of the health, education and water distribution sectors in the developing countries in the framework of bilateral and regional trade relations and of the GCAs at the WTO;

16. Emphasises that initiatives to combat PRDs in ACP States need to be well integrated into the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs), Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) and the social sector of intra-ACP Cooperation under the 9th EDF;

17. Stresses that those initiatives should be designed in such a way that they target disadvantaged and vulnerable groups through:

- information, education and communication programmes taking into account the social, health, economic and cultural characteristics of the population;
- development of services that will improve access to primary care;
- policy formulation and identification of priorities giving political patronage in combating PRDs;
- enhancing collaboration with development partners and international organisations dedicated to fight PRDs, in order to facilitate access to affordable necessary drugs and health products as well as to good drinking water; and
- support to research and development addressing the relevant issues of PRDs in ACP States;

18. Emphasises the recent developments at UN and international levels, in promoting new ways to access treatment and care for people living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS, mainly through the access to antiretroviral medicines and vaccines, in particular supports the WHO initiative '3x5' launched on 1 December 2003;

19. Stresses that the WTO Doha Declaration on relations between TRIPS and Public Health should form the basis of all bilateral or regional trade agreements concerning intellectual property and public health;

20. Calls upon ACP States to implement the Doha Declaration and make use of the TRIPS flexibilities in order to facilitate the access to the most affordable medical products needed for the prevention and treatment of their population affected by poverty diseases;

21. Calls upon the European Commission and Member States to respect, promote and support the implementation of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health; this declaration should form the basis of all bilateral or regional trade agreements concerning intellectual property and public health;

22. Calls upon countries in the Americas to exclude Intellectual Property provisions affecting access to medical tools necessary for the prevention and treatment of poverty-related diseases from the FTAA agreement, in order to protect public health;
23. Stresses that appropriate mechanisms should be put in place so that pharmaceuticals sold at tiered prices in developing countries should be used in those countries and not be diverted to the EU market;
24. Calls on the countries with manufacturing capacities to implement the agreement quickly without any further restrictions and fully respecting the Doha declaration on access to medicines, and calls for close monitoring of the results to enable an informed discussion during the foreseen review of the TRIPS Agreement;
25. Emphasises that research and development addressing the relevant issues of poverty-related diseases in ACP States is still insufficient and that there is a need to focus on therapeutic and preventive technology, such as microbicides and vaccines, that meets the health needs of developing countries;
26. Emphasises the need for co-operation with the WHO in the fight against poverty-related diseases. Specifically requests Member States encourage a broader discussion on the effects of the TRIPS agreement on the availability of affordable generic medicines and actively support the work ongoing presently at the WHO on analysing Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health;
27. Calls on the countries with R&D capacities to include the most neglected diseases, such as sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis and buruli ulcer among its priorities and to ensure that effective, appropriate, easy-to-use medicines are developed and marketed in the developing countries at an affordable price;
28. Calls for the recognition by the international community of the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases as a 'global public good';
29. Calls for the definition of a needs-driven international R&D priority agenda which will gear investments towards obtaining medical products that will correspond to the needs of the developing countries, will be efficient, adapted and affordable;
30. Supports the concept of an international convention or treaty on R&D which would commit all countries to contribute to R&D for health. This convention would outline an agreement and clear rationale for sharing the burden of the cost of this R&D and define appropriate funding and incentive mechanisms for governments to fulfil their commitments to public sector involvement in R&D;

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

31. Emphasises that high-quality reproductive health services must be safe, easily accessible and affordable to all women and men worldwide throughout their reproductive health life cycle;
32. In the context of ICPD +10, calls on the EU and the ACP States to honour the undertaking they entered into with regard to funding the ICPD PoA with regard to equal access to basic education, training and basic health services;
33. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP States to promote the ICPD PoA in their dealings with third countries and in all international fora;
34. Calls on the EU and ACP States to fully implement the ICPD PoA;

Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

35. Calls on the EU and the ACP States to fully integrate sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of infectious diseases in children into their development policies;

36. Recognises that lack of data precludes early assessments of the progress towards the attainment of MDG 6 (to halve the number of new infections by 2015) and emphasises the need for investments in monitoring and evaluation, including monitoring of national budget allocations and health outcomes as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process;

Main challenges (including vulnerable groups and HIV/AIDS)

37. Calls on the EU and the ACP States to recognise maternal and child mortality and morbidity as a public health priority and a reproductive right concern in their development cooperation programmes;

38. Calls on ACP States as well as the EU to pay special attention to the plight of the very large number of predominantly young women in rural areas in developing countries (an estimated 0.3 % of all pregnancies) who suffer from fistula, and to make serious efforts with regard to the prevention as well as the treatment of this grave illness;

39. Emphasises the importance for adolescents and young men and women to have access to the education, services and supplies necessary to develop the life skills required to lead a satisfying and healthy sexual life;

40. Calls on the EU and the ACP States to finance and implement prevention campaigns to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which should use integrated and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programs;

41. Calls on those countries which have not yet introduced a ban on harmful practices and traditions, such as FGM, to take action and to support information campaigns to this end, combined with measures to improve family planning and reproductive health;

Funding shortfall and EDF support

42. Calls on the EU and its Member States to attain a GDP percentage contributions level of 0.7 % of development assistance, as agreed in the 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen and reaffirmed at the Barcelona Council of 14 March 2002 as the EU's contribution to the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, March 2002);

43. Calls on the EU and the ACP States to cooperate effectively in sharing expertise and increasing funding for sexual and reproductive health programmes and for the prevention of vitamin deficiencies and infectious diseases in children in order to meet the international commitments they made at the ICPD, especially since other political forces, such as the US, are backtracking in their ICPD commitment;

44. Given the shortfall in the security of reproductive health supplies and in combating infectious disease, calls on the EU and the ACP States to increase their funding for reproductive health and to improve donor co-ordination;

45. Calls on the European Union and the ACP States, in combating vesico-vaginal fistula, to:
- support national and local public awareness, information and education initiatives, and initiatives to establish reception facilities for women suffering from this handicap;
 - support already-existing reception facilities by providing them with the appropriate human, material and financial resources;
 - supplement programmes for the reintegration of and care for women with fistula, who are sometimes handicapped for life;
46. Calls on ACP States to devote more funding to healthcare;
47. Intends to follow the example of the parliamentarians present at the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in Ottawa;

Role of Civil Society

48. Calls on the European Commission and the governments of the ACP States to cooperate more closely with civil society when establishing and implementing its development policy, specifically regarding the Country Strategy Papers;
49. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on cotton and other commodities: problems encountered by ACP States

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 19 February 2004,
 - having regard to its 'Cape Town Declaration' (South Africa) on future ACP-EU negotiations on new trading arrangements which was adopted on 21 March 2002 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 in the area of trade and poverty alleviation, and having regard to the forthcoming mid-term review of the financing of the Cotonou Agreement in 2004,
 - having regard to the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the agreement to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Work Programme,
 - having regard to the ongoing EPA negotiations and the forthcoming UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to be held in Brazil in June 2004,
 - having regard to the European Commission's Action Plan on Commodities and its announcement on the Plan of 12 February 2004 ⁽³⁾,
- A. whereas the collapse of commodity prices is one of the important causes of world poverty today, and whereas trade in commodities in Africa accounts for 75 % of all export income,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

⁽²⁾ OJ C231 of 27.9.2002, p. 63.

⁽³⁾ Not yet published in OJ (COM (2004) 87).

- B. affirming the significance of commodities, in particular cotton, sugar, rice, bananas, coffee, cocoa and tea for the economies of ACP States; recognising the need to address urgently the serious problem of commodity dependence and sharp downward fluctuations in the prices of commodities of export interest to ACP States,
- C. whereas the EU and the ACP Group, which make up a substantial proportion of the members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), may have an important role to play in changing the rules of the WTO to make them fairer and ensure that they respect more fully the ACP States' right to development,
- D. whereas the negotiations on EPAs should be an opportunity to establish a general framework for transforming the economic structures of the ACP States, and whereas the new trade agreements' impact on the development of the ACP States should be central to these negotiations,
- E. having regard to the differences of opinion between the industrialised countries and the majority of the ACP States at the Cancún trade negotiations, and in particular the lack of a solution in respect of the West African cotton-producing countries' calls for fair prices,
- F. whereas Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement provides for the review of the Commodity Protocols with a view to safeguarding the benefits which the ACP States derive therefrom,
- G. whereas the Doha Development round must be pushed forward after the collapse of the WTO ministerial meeting in Cancún,
- H. whereas developing countries should be helped to break away from over-reliance on the export of raw agricultural commodities, with current low world prices, which holds back development in many developing countries, particularly affecting the incomes of the rural poor,
- I. whereas the cotton industry occupies a very important strategic position in the efforts to combat poverty,
- J. whereas cotton makes a significant contribution to the pursuit of food security since the financing generated by cotton has turned cotton-producing areas into the leading production areas for dry cereals,
- K. whereas the cotton sector is strategically important for combating poverty in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Chad, and whereas the subsidy amounts paid to cotton producers for the 2001/2002 harvest year totalled:
- USD 800 million for Europe
 - USD 4.1 billion for the United States, the world's leading cotton producer and exporter
 - USD 1.2 billion for China,
- L. whereas the exorbitant subsidies, including export subsidies, which the US, China and the EU grant to their cotton farmers have encouraged overproduction and led to depreciation of world market prices for cotton, with disastrous consequences including substantial loss of income for the cotton-producers in the least developed countries,
- M. whereas the collapse in coffee prices resulted in a widespread crisis for 25 million coffee farmers in over 50 developing countries where coffee is a crucial source of rural employment and foreign exchange earnings,

- N. whereas the collapse in commodity prices has caused a general worsening in working and living conditions, especially for women who make up the majority of coffee and tea pickers, and who are involved in the production of all commodities; and whereas there are reports of the use of child labour and exploitative labour conditions in coffee plantations,
- O. whereas the reduction of the intervention price for rice by 50 % and the increasing of direct aid to European rice farmers could drastically affect ACP rice exports, resulting in economic, political and social instability in the rice-supplying ACP States,
- P. whereas EU banana imports from the ACP are governed by import licensing arrangements which disproportionately penalise ACP suppliers, and whereas ACP interests have not been satisfactorily accommodated in the reform of the EU banana regime,
- Q. whereas the EU is bound by the Cotonou Agreement, especially Protocol V Article 1 thereto, to take measures to ensure the viability of the ACP banana exporting enterprises as well as the maintenance of outlets for ACP bananas on the Community market,
- R. whereas the Common Organisation for Sugar (CMO Sugar), which incorporates specific provisions granting some ACP States preferential access to the European market and improving the LDCs' export potential to the EU, thereby facilitating development of important LDC industries, is due for review; and whereas, in respect of the CMO Sugar, the Commission has proposed three options while leaving aside the fourth option on the 'Fixed Quota System' preferred by the ACP, the LDCs and a number of European stakeholders,
- S. considering that the ACP sugar-supplying States, which are either least-developed, developing, net-food importing, vulnerable, landlocked or small island states and single-commodity producers/exporters with specific economic and social difficulties, depend on predictable and stable earnings from sugar exports and preferential access to the EU,
- T. whereas the kava-producing ACP States are faced with specific economic and social difficulties and needs, and rely, inter alia, on kava export earnings for their sustainable socio-economic development,

On trade in commodities

1. Emphasises that the ACP Group constitutes one of the major poles of developing countries and consequently merits the support of the EU, which occupies a strategic position in the negotiating process in that it can encourage the developed countries to accede to the legitimate demands of the developing countries;
2. Welcomes the Commission's announcement of 12 February 2004 that it has taken a number of initiatives to help developing countries enhance their export performance and reduce their vulnerability to price fluctuation of major international commodities, particularly cotton and coffee;
3. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to expand and simplify the use of the FLEX instrument to compensate for export earning losses, and notes that had the proposed criteria for the instrument been applied to 51 cases from 2000-2002, ACP States would have received EUR 255 million through the FLEX system, a six-fold increase in the use of the system;

4. Regrets that most developing countries have not benefited from added value either through processing basic commodities or from diversification to high-value cash crops; calls on the Commission to promote the development of agro-industry in these countries and to encourage economic diversification and product processing of cotton, sugar and other commodities;
5. Urges that the WTO agriculture negotiations be resumed urgently and that they address export subsidies and domestic support issues in accordance with the Doha WTO Ministerial Declaration, while preserving existing preferential arrangements;
6. Calls for the WTO's rules to be reviewed to consider the concerns of the ACP States and their desire to avoid a collapse of the commodities sector;
7. Calls on the Commission to stand by the principles enunciated in its initial draft recommendation to the Council and to recommend granting duty-free access to its markets for all agricultural products from ACP States in the EPA negotiations;
8. Calls on the European Commission and the ACP States to propose, in the context of the ACP-EU trade negotiations, an appropriate regulation for trade to further the objectives of sustainable development, eradicate poverty and enable ACP States to forego external aid;
9. Calls on the EPA negotiations to back regional initiatives in support of commodity development such as regional networks of farmers' organisations, quality enhancing services, investment promotion and commodity branch organisations;

On cotton

10. Calls for a lasting solution to the problems experienced by West, East and Central African countries and other cotton-producing members of the ACP Group, and seeks to obtain the elimination of all forms of export subsidies in this sector, as well as the elimination of other trade-distorting domestic subsidies, concomitantly with fair and equitable compensation for the LDC cotton producers commensurate with their loss of resources, on the basis of a precise timetable;
11. Reaffirms the strategic nature of cotton for development and for combating poverty in many countries and above all in the LDCs;
12. Highlights that ACP States can be extremely effective when working together on commodities issues, exemplified by the launching by four West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad) of the 'cotton initiative' ahead of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún (10-14 September 2003), in which they call for the phasing-out of domestic support for cotton production and for 'transitional measures in the form of financial compensation for cotton-producing LDCs to offset their loss of revenue', and the so-called 'Non-Paper' initiative by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania presented to the WTO 5th Ministerial Conference;

On coffee

13. Calls for development partners and ACP governments to invest in value-addition processing of commodities such as coffee to help the recovery from the sector's declining profitability, and welcomes the strategy of the Kenyan government launched on 4 February 2004 aimed at doing this;

On rice

14. Calls on the EC to implement fully all the necessary adjustments to the currently applied management of the quota system and to consider remedial and compensatory measures to the ACP rice sector and the removal of quotas and tariffs to alleviate the negative impacts on ACP rice exporters;

On bananas

15. Calls on the European Commission to consult in advance with the ACP States on proposals for changes to the autonomous quota consequent on EU enlargement, and to ensure that any measures taken do not undermine the stability of the EU market or further threaten the viability of ACP banana exports;
16. Calls on the EU to introduce immediate measures to halt and reverse the continued deterioration of prices and to preserve access to the European market for ACP bananas at a remunerative price, while ensuring that any increase in the quota for bananas resulting from EU enlargement does not cause disturbance on the EU market for bananas that would further threaten the viability of ACP banana producers;
17. Stresses that the tariff for bananas as from 2006 must be at a level which will ensure the continued viability of the ACP banana industry;

On sugar

18. Acknowledges that countries benefiting from the Sugar Protocol under the Cotonou Agreement, the special preferential sugar arrangement and the 'Everything But Arms' initiative could suffer from important income losses caused by price reductions, and calls on the Commission to help attain adequate prices for imports from developing countries, in particular from the LDCs;
19. Calls on the European Commission to guarantee adequate earnings for ACP sugar exporters when formulating the policy options of the EU sugar regime;
20. Calls on the European Commission, in conjunction with the ACP Group of States, to take all the necessary measures to defend ACP sugar imports into the EU and the terms and conditions of ACP preferential access against challenges brought by Australia, Brazil and Thailand;
21. Calls on the concerned EU Member States urgently to review, on the basis of scientific evidence, the ban and restriction on, and market recalls of, kava and kava-based products in the EU Member States;

On social responsibility

22. Calls on the Commission and ACP States to provide programmes for the workers that have suffered as a result of the global collapse in commodity prices, through retraining and financial support, taking into account the particular needs of women who make up such a high proportion of the workforce in many commodities production processes;
23. Welcomes the pledge in the Commission's Action Plan to engage international commodities companies in the promotion of corporate social responsibility and sustainable codes of conduct, and calls on the EU and its Member States to make the promotion of fair trade products a priority;
24. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution for implementation and appropriate follow-up to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union and the WTO.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the damage caused by cyclones in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and the need for a rapid response to natural disasters**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 19 February 2004,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean regions,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,
- A. whereas tropical cyclone Heta recently ravaged the South Pacific islands of the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tonga, and cyclone Elita ravaged the west coast of Madagascar resulting in fatalities, leaving several people injured and hundreds homeless, and causing extensive damage to housing, infrastructure and agricultural crops, on which the local population heavily depends for its subsistence,
- B. recalling the 1994 Declaration of Barbados and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), and mindful of the convening in Mauritius in September 2004 of the UN Barbados +10 Conference on SIDSs,
- C. taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002, and in particular the international strategy defined to address the particular vulnerability of Small Island Developing States,
- D. having regard to the growing number of natural hazards and disasters and the increase in the devastating violence thereof, the origin of which may be found in climate change, demographic pressure and the impact human beings have on nature throughout the world,
- E. whereas the impact of global warming caused by excessive fossil fuel burning, atmospheric pollution and deforestation is the main cause of global climate change,
- F. whereas despite a firm commitment to reverse the consequences of climate change, undertaken at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, no substantial progress has been made so far, particularly in reducing atmospheric pollution by carbon dioxide,
- G. whereas disasters not only result in a significant number of victims and high socio-economic costs but also hinder development processes,
- H. whereas the principles and objectives of Article 72 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement provide that humanitarian and emergency assistance shall be accorded to the population in the ACP States faced with serious economic and social difficulties of an exceptional nature resulting from natural disasters and man-made crisis,
- I. firmly believing that devoting greater attention to the prevention of natural risks in the drawing-up and implementation of development strategies would make a major contribution to achieving the priority objective of sustainable development,
- J. noting also that such assistance shall aim to safeguard human lives in crisis and immediate post-crisis situations brought about by natural disasters, conflict or war and that it shall be maintained as long as necessary to deal with the emergency needs resulting from these situations,
- K. regretting that the Kyoto Protocol has not yet been ratified by enough states to come into force,
1. Expresses its sympathy and understanding of the grave predicament facing the governments and peoples of the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tonga, in the aftermath of cyclone Heta, and the government and people of Madagascar, in the aftermath of cyclone Elita;
2. Calls on the EU to urgently address the humanitarian and reconstruction needs of the South Pacific islands of the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tonga, and of Madagascar, which were ravaged by cyclones Heta and Elita, in order to alleviate the suffering of the affected populations and to prevent any shortfall in medical and food supplies, as well as to help restoring essential infrastructure such as water and energy;

3. Draws the attention of the Commission, the Council and the Member States to the topic of disaster prevention and preparedness, with a view to securing greater protection of human lives, preventing suffering and limiting the economic consequences of disasters;
4. Urges the Commission to pay special attention to the critical role of measures such as soil conservation, reforestation and sound water management schemes in the context of disaster prevention;
5. Encourages the governments of the ACP and EU States to adopt a fast-track approach and to render the required assistance to facilitate the quickest possible recovery for these Pacific islands and Madagascar, while firmly supporting the work done by the EU in South-East Asia, Bangladesh, Central America and the Caribbean by means of a global approach involving ECHO and the EDF;
6. Calls on all countries to honour their commitment by ratifying and bringing into force the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and considers that an effective global response to the problem of climate change is required, stressing that industrialised countries should take the lead in combating the effects of greenhouse gases;
7. Calls on the EU to make resources readily available from the EDF, where necessary in addition to National Indicative Programme and Regional Indicative Programme allocations, in order to provide urgent humanitarian assistance, and to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the physical and social infrastructure of the affected countries;
8. Urges the governments of the ACP and EU States to consider establishing a general fund to enable the implementation of an all-ACP disaster-preparedness programme, as well as the post-crisis management of natural disasters;
9. States once again its firm belief that disaster prevention should be systematically taken into account in EU development cooperation policy, particularly in the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the ACP States and the European Union;
10. Insists that the various aspects of disaster prevention and preparedness (prevention itself, preparing for disasters and mitigating the consequences of disasters) should be regarded as a fully-fledged component of development and development cooperation policies as regards both general programmes and specific projects within those programmes, and calls in particular for any humanitarian operation financed by the EU to include a prevention aspect;
11. Calls for greater account to be taken of the high socio-economic costs of disasters and the benefits of disaster prevention in the environmental assessments of the development policies, strategies, programmes and projects conducted by the European Union;
12. Acknowledges that sea level rise is a potential threat to the survival of small island countries because it leads to more severe tropical storms, disruption of limited fresh water supplies and decreasing biodiversity in marine resources;
13. Calls on the ACP and EU States to fix a specific target for the use of renewable energy and considers that renewable energy should be put at the heart of ACP-EU development cooperation programmes under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
14. Looks forward to the International SIDS meeting, scheduled to take place in Mauritius during August and September 2004 to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and requests that the JPA be represented at that conference in order to give its position on the consequences of natural disasters on ACP States and the measures to be adopted in favour of SIDS;

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15. Commends the efforts of the Pacific Islands Forum in assisting the affected countries, in particular through its Regional Disaster Relief Fund;
 16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Cariforum.
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ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in The Hague from 22 to 25 November 2004,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, which entered into force on 1 April 2003, and in particular Article 8 (political dialogue) of Title II (The political dimension),
 - having regard to the Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8) as adopted by the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its 28th session in Brussels in May 2003,
 - having regard to the Framework and General Principles for intra-ACP Political Dialogue, adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 76th session in Brussels in December 2002,
 - having regard to the definition of non-state actors, as laid down in Article 6 of the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the selection criteria for non-state actors set out in Annex VI of the *Handbook on the Involvement of Non-state Actors*, clarifying the criteria referred to in Article 6 of the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the review of the Cotonou Agreement and efforts on both sides to improve and further clarify the modalities and mechanisms for political dialogue,
 - having regard to the objectives and principles set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000,
 - having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the use of the European Development Fund, adopted in Rome on 15 October 2003 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/3689),
- A. acknowledging the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement, and in particular the provisions governing political dialogue,
- B. emphasising that improving the mechanisms and modalities for political dialogue must be a major focus of the review of the Cotonou Agreement,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 25 November 2004 in The Hague (Netherlands).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 26, 29.1.2004, p.32.

- C. convinced that substantive, transparent and regular dialogue would help further enhance the ACP-EU partnership,
- D. emphasising the need to increase and expand the opportunities for and the scope of political dialogue amongst the parties at national, regional, ACP and global level,
- E. underlining the necessity of taking into account the specific historical perspectives and the special and particular circumstances of each of the ACP states in the establishment of agreed priorities and shared agendas between the parties within the framework of political dialogue,
- F. stressing the need to explore fully and implement the Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8), adopted by the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers,
- G. emphasising the need for the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as an actor in political dialogue, to become more involved in ACP-EU political dialogue at all levels,
- H. having regard to the great importance of political dialogue in the promotion of good governance in ACP countries; emphasising, in this context, that there is no uniform solution and that good governance has to be analysed specifically for each country,

Guidelines for political dialogue

- I. acknowledging that the Cotonou Agreement provides the basic and broad guidelines for comprehensive, balanced and in-depth political dialogue leading to commitments on both sides,
- J. whereas the adoption and implementation of the Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8) can be seen as a proactive, concrete and positive means of enhancing ACP-EU political dialogue, which needs to be further enhanced and institutionalised at all levels so this key tool for managing the partnership can be fully exploited,
- K. whereas dialogue can be organised on a wide range of issues and can take place formally or informally and at different levels (national, regional, ACP and global),
- L. emphasising the need for Members of national, supranational and regional parliaments and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to be involved in formal and informal discussions as part of political dialogue because, as elected representatives, they have an important role to play in implementing the outcome of that dialogue,
- M. confirming the need for the participation of non-state actors in ACP-EU political dialogue with a view to ensuring an all-inclusive approach,

Mechanisms and modalities

- N. noting that mechanisms need to be devised to ensure a regular and comprehensive flow of information between all bodies involved in political dialogue in Europe and in the ACP countries, and that the European Commission delegations could act as centres for communication in both directions,
- O. stressing the need to utilise all possibilities that Article 8 offers for dialogue on the essential elements and fundamental principles of the Cotonou Agreement,
- P. whereas it is important that political dialogue should always cover a broad range of issues going beyond the essential elements and fundamental principles of the Cotonou Agreement,
- Q. stressing that, although political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and consultations under Articles 96 and 97 cover different topics, political dialogue can also include matters for which consultations may be required,

- R. pointing out the crucial importance of regional, subregional and non-state actors, which are more closely defined in the Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8) adopted by the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its 28th session in Brussels in May 2003,
- S. whereas good communication between ACP capitals and Brussels-based stakeholders is particularly important when dialogue under Article 8 covers essential elements and fundamental principles ⁽¹⁾,
- T. emphasising the necessity of joint decisions and conclusions in the spirit of the partnership and the longstanding ACP-EU relationship,

Capacities and resources

- U. whereas dialogue should be a two-way process between equal and trusted partners,
- V. stressing the need to explore funding possibilities at different levels to be used to build and reinforce capacities for managing dialogue under Article 8 as an inclusive process – at national, regional, ACP and global levels (including international fora, when relevant elements are discussed that have a direct impact on ACP-EU cooperation),
- W. emphasising that an uninterrupted flow of information, which is the fundamental pre-condition for implementing the outcomes of dialogue, cannot take place unless the parliaments concerned are involved in the discussions, and the competent Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly therefore have to ensure that they keep their respective parliaments fully briefed,
- X. emphasising the need for the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to be closely involved in evaluating political dialogue,
- Y. whereas the involvement of the various institutions and actors listed in the ACP-EU Council of Ministers Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8) of May 2003 is crucial to a differentiated approach and a successful outcome of the dialogue,
- Z. stressing the need for coordination and cooperation at all levels between the parties, including sharing of information on country-based activities with the Brussels-based actors,

Specific political issues of mutual concern

- AA. whereas political dialogue, pursuant to Article 8(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, should focus, inter alia, on issues such as the arms trade (including the proliferation of small arms and small calibre weapons), excessive military expenditure, drugs and organised crime, and ethnic, religious or racial discrimination, and should also encompass a regular assessment of the developments concerning respect for human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance,
- AB. whereas the impact of corruption and illegal financial practices on the economies and societies of developing countries is enormous and constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to development and to breaking the poverty trap: according to estimates, about USD 50 billion in aid flows to developing and transitional economies from richer nations each year,
- AC. whereas, according to estimates, about USD 500 billion is illegally transferred from developing and emerging countries to other countries as 'dirty money' and is therefore not available to meet the most pressing human needs in poor countries, such as universal childhood vaccination, better education, access to clean water and basic health services for millions of people,

Guidelines for political dialogue

- 1. Reaffirms the factual involvement and participation of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly as an actor in the political dialogue under Article 8;

⁽¹⁾ Within the meaning of the *Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8)*.

2. Points out that political dialogue under Article 8 is a mutual commitment, which should deepen the partnership established by the Lomé and subsequently Cotonou Agreements;
3. Advocates a differentiated, multi-actor approach to political dialogue, including non-state actors defined on the basis of agreed criteria in line with the Guidelines for ACP-EU Political Dialogue (Article 8), adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in May 2003;
4. Urges all parties to refrain from any unilateral action that might be seen as detrimental to the partnership;
5. Believes it is important that political dialogue should not be seen merely as a prelude to consultations under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement, but should primarily be used to build up long-term, sustainable and deeper relations between all participants;
6. Insists that respect for human rights, combating poverty, efforts to achieve sustainable development and gender equality must have a central place in political dialogue;
7. Calls on all those involved to discuss a broad range of issues over and above Article 8, such as the spread of small arms; corruption; public debt; global, national, regional and sectoral development policies; the rights of children and child soldiers; and healthcare, particularly the fight against HIV/AIDS;
8. Emphasises the preventive nature of political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, which will foster mutual trust before a crisis breaks out and consultations are required under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement;
9. Underlines the important role of regional organisations, in particular the African Union, in the dialogue between conflicting parties in crises in Africa, and looks to the governments of the African states for a commitment to contribute to conflict resolution;
10. Underlines the importance of national parliaments in political dialogue between the actors involved and especially welcomes the successful seminars for Members of national parliaments on the application of the Cotonou Agreement;
11. Appeals to all the actors involved to organise political dialogue as a continuous process and not to delay it until relations have reached a critical stage;
12. Believes that strengthening political dialogue should confirm the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's position as a main actor and highlights the importance of the informal dialogue conducted within the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, which should develop into a genuine 'parliamentary diplomacy';

Mechanisms and modalities

13. Supports the ACP proposal in the review of the Cotonou Agreement to compile an Annex to the Agreement specifying the modalities and mechanisms for political dialogue; calls on the Commission to present proposals to this effect;
14. Calls on those involved to establish as soon as possible an ACP early-warning mechanism as described in the Framework and General Principles for intra-ACP Political Dialogue, adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers, so as to support ACP countries in their efforts to take conflict prevention measures and avoid the need for consultations under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement;
15. Calls on the ACP side to inform the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of significant results of the African early-warning mechanism, so as to identify at the earliest possible stage any new or re-emerging crises or conflicts and help find solutions through political dialogue;

16. Calls on those involved to set up a Brussels-based Peer Group, in line with the ACP Council of Ministers' recommendation of December 2002, in a way that is consistent with and underpins similar mechanisms already established by the African Union, and to ensure that similar peer groups are established in problem regions; stresses that it is of great importance also to involve Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and non-state actors, as well as representatives of non-affected ACP regions, in order to provide effective support for political dialogue at all stages;
17. Calls on the Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to conduct political dialogue at all levels and in individual talks and to report back to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Political Affairs;
18. Calls on the joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers to report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly after ministerial meetings and urges both institutions to foster political dialogue between them, both formally and informally;
19. Calls on the ACP-EU co-secretariat to compile a list of all Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly with names, functions, addresses and photographs, as a means of identifying and contacting potential partners for political dialogue;
20. Urges the European Commission to make available the necessary funding to allow for the development and institutionalisation of arrangements under which ACP countries may, whenever appropriate, invite representatives of neighbouring countries ('friends of the country', including national ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly representatives) to attend deliberations on certain aspects of their political dialogue;
21. Charges the European Commission as the author of the EU's preliminary draft budget, and the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers of the European Union in their capacity as the budgetary authority, to explore the possibility, if the European Development Fund (EDF) is incorporated into the Community budget, of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly being closely associated with the EU budgetary procedures, with a view to providing valuable input for the EU budgetary authority on budget matters relating to ACP countries, so as to strengthen political dialogue in all aspects of development aid;
22. Calls on all involved to ensure full protection for all participants in political dialogue during and after their intervention;
23. Calls for measures to ensure the participation of women on both the ACP and the EU side in all forms and at all stages of political dialogue and the consultation procedure;
24. Promotes the setting-up of regular hearings in national parliaments on the ongoing substance of political dialogue by the National Authorising Officer (NAO) and the EU delegations, including civil society;
25. Considers it essential that the positions expressed in joint decisions and conclusions reached in political dialogue should be vigorously supported in international fora, such as the United Nations and the WTO;
26. Points out that political dialogue, as a reciprocal process between equal partners based on mutual trust, entitles the ACP countries to call in particular for the coherence of European Union policies and their impact on the ACP countries to be examined;
27. Requests the systematic inclusion of updates on the political dialogue under Article 8 (content, procedures, organisation and results) as a regular item on the agenda of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
28. Points out that the current trend towards regionalisation provides an opportunity to strengthen political dialogue at regional level and recommends holding regional meetings within the framework of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly;

Capacities and resources

29. Advocates the proactive and transparent designation at various levels (national, regional, ACP and global), and taking account of local realities, of the people responsible for organising the dialogue and, most importantly, the actors involved;
30. Considers that it should be clarified which organisations and individuals come under the category of non-state actors and emphasises the need for a clear definition with precisely specified criteria;
31. Calls upon the parties to consider using independent/neutral facilitators if and when necessary, particularly for subjects that are even slightly sensitive, and also to involve the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly if appropriate;
32. Requests the European Commission to set up mechanisms, including the possibility of funding, to ensure regular dialogue sessions at field level, and the subsequent feedback to Brussels-based institutions;
33. Calls upon ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Members to participate actively in the relevant political dialogue processes at all levels;
34. Urges Members of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to attend and participate actively in joint ministerial sessions;
35. Emphasises the need to promote the Article 8 political dialogue at the level of national parliaments and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;

Specific political issues of mutual concern

36. Is convinced that humanitarian aid and dialogue with civil society must also be pursued in cases of persistent breaches of human rights, even when these are committed by the State, so that the people do not have to go on bearing the brunt of such abuses of government authority;
 37. Urges ACP-EU political dialogue to urgently address the problem of corruption and illegal financial practices in developing countries, which often involve 'partners' in the EU and other donor countries, with a view to getting a firm grasp on the amount of dirty money flowing out of developing and transitional economies, its effect on these countries and its effect on development aid programmes;
 38. Calls on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the European Commission to show leadership in exposing one of the most damaging economic phenomena affecting the poor, and to tackle the dirty-money problem in close cooperation with the World Bank, the IMF and other multilateral donors and institutions;
 39. Firmly believes that by tackling together the problem of corruption and illegal financial practices in developing countries, the ACP and EU countries stand to make a major contribution to the fight against poverty, crime and terrorism, and at the same time to generate political stability and promote social and economic development;
 40. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission and the ACP regional integration organisations.
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on food aid and food security

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in The Hague (The Netherlands) from 22 to 25 November 2004,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the 1974 Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 3348 (XXIX),
 - having regard to the UN System Network for Rural Development and Food Security, as well as General Assembly Resolutions A/57/226 and A/56/155,
 - having regard to commitments made by ACP and EU member countries under the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, and especially to the provisions which compel or urge them to alleviate problems related to food security and food aid (Articles 23(d), 72 and 73),
 - having regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations from 6 to 8 September 2000,
 - having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of the UN Financing for Development Conference, 22 March 2002,
 - having regard to the Declaration adopted at the World Food Summit: Five Years Later –International Alliance Against Hunger, held in Rome, Italy, from 10 to 13 June 2002,
 - having regard to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002,
 - having regard to the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Barbados Plan of Action, held in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, particularly the provisions relating to the vulnerability, peculiarities and specificities of food security in Small Island Developing States,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU 3692/04),
- A. whereas the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is the first of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,
- B. whereas it is a right of everyone to have access to healthy, safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,
- C. whereas more than 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs,
- D. whereas global food supplies have increased substantially; however, many constraints on access to food and continuing inadequacy of household and national incomes to purchase food, instability of supply and demand, as well as natural and man-made disasters, prevent the food needs of populations from being fulfilled,
- E. whereas food safety should also play an important role, alongside food security, in guaranteeing a better supply of safe and healthier food to people in ACP countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 25 November 2004 in The Hague (The Netherlands).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 166, 5.7.1996, p. 11.

Food Policy

- F. whereas the Declaration of the 'World Food Summit: Five Years Later' reiterates the political will and commitment to achieving food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people by half no later than 2015,
- G. whereas it is also underscored that the right to adequate food is a basic human right, and that therefore food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure and whereas the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in the effort to eradicate hunger should be stressed,
- H. whereas it is vital that national policy frameworks in ACP countries should be put in place or strengthened to ensure improved food supply, strengthened safety nets which enable poor people to acquire the food that already exists, and anti-poverty programmes, while taking into consideration the economic and social dynamics of the respective countries,
- I. whereas in many ACP developing countries most of the poor and vulnerable groups live in rural areas, and, as a consequence, rural development policies are essential in order to tackle poverty and hunger effectively,
- J. whereas national frameworks for adhering to rules on food safety should be put in place in ACP countries to allow the population access to safe food and to open up the possibility of exporting safe food to EU markets, thereby also playing an important part in fighting poverty,

Food Security

- K. whereas food security is understood to be when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy and active life,
- L. whereas the World Food Summit of 1996 (Rome) articulated three essential elements to food security: (i) availability and stability of food supply, (ii) accessibility and affordability of food, and (iii) quality and safety of food,
- M. whereas the 'World Food Summit: Five Years Later' noted that food insecurity prevents the poor from taking advantage of development opportunities and emphasised the need for attention to nutritional issues as an integral part of addressing food security,
- N. whereas many more people are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies than from hunger in the narrower sense,
- O. whereas food security for most countries, particularly developing countries, is achieved through increasing agricultural production, improving rural incomes, and ensuring access to fair trade, often depending on poor farmers who do not benefit from any of the government subsidies and credits or trade networks available to large-scale farmers and transnational agribusiness,
- P. whereas national and global food security policies are important for fostering food security, and are often influenced by other non-food policies such as marketing, trade regimes and transport,
- Q. whereas food policies devoid of real concerns with food security have provided poor answers to urgent and critical food needs,

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- R. whereas the reform of the EU common agricultural policy and the WTO Doha Round should not affect but should instead support the production of agricultural crops, including food crops, both for domestic consumption and export, necessary to generate adequate export earnings to finance the import by net food-importing developing ACP States of their foodstuff requirements, including through the provisions of Article 54 of the Cotonou Agreement in order to ensure their food security,
- S. whereas in order to translate food self-sufficiency into food security, it is vital to have a proper agricultural infrastructure, credit and extension schemes, effective safety net systems for rural as well as urban areas, and early-warning and emergency response institutions in place,
- T. whereas food security crises mostly arise from accelerated population growth and successive disasters, such as conflict, drought and floods, that progressively erode the asset base of already poor households, leading to the deprivation of entire communities, which exacerbates political and social instability,
- U. whereas the maintenance of peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation in food and agriculture are important for improved economic conditions and enhanced food security,
- V. whereas it is acknowledged that food security is further weakened by the spread of HIV/AIDS in the ACP countries concerned,

Food Governance and Accountability

- W. whereas the governance of food involves many stakeholders encompassing both government and civil society,
- X. whereas it is recognised at local, national and international levels that good governance practices are critical to the success of food security initiatives,
- Y. whereas achieving food security will largely depend upon the full engagement between the government and civil society and empowerment of all the relevant stakeholders, particularly of poor and hungry people,
- Z. whereas it is vital that international support be sustained for the efforts of ACP countries towards the medium- and long-term development of their food and agricultural sectors,
- AA. whereas there is a critical need for the international community to enhance its development efforts aimed at the elimination of, inter alia, poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and infant mortality,
- AB. whereas food aid operations should be carefully targeted actions aimed at solving emergency crises and should by no means undermine the long-term objective of ensuring acceptable levels of food security in the countries concerned,

Food Aid

- AC. whereas food aid is basically aimed at the provision of food for human consumption, in the form of targeted aid to reach specific people and support their direct access to appropriate food during crises, or in the form of untargeted aid to governments to support food availability, including grants for the purchase of food,

- AD. whereas sustained efforts should be made to enhance the capacity of the international community to respond to food emergency situations and to improve world food security through the assurance of food aid irrespective of world food prices and supply fluctuations,
- AE. whereas there is a need to ensure that food aid is aimed particularly at the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition of the most vulnerable groups and is consistent with the agricultural development strategies in the ACP countries concerned,
- AF. whereas appropriate funding should be made available to ensure timely responses to food needs, without detracting from crucial resources needed for longer-term development addressing the causes of food insecurity,
- AG. whereas food aid is seen as a bridging tool to normalise food security following disasters or emergencies, hence the need to ensure the maximising of the impact, effectiveness and quality of food aid, as well as the need to minimise its potentially detrimental effects such as dependency and distortion of local markets,
- AH. whereas the enrichment and supplementing of food with trace elements are important techniques for compensating for deficiencies, but should be considered separately from the issue of food aid, because food aid is delivered in the form of cereals, while enrichment with dietary supplements requires industrial processing,
- AI. whereas food aid – when it is granted over longer periods of time, is badly managed or is granted regardless of whether or not acute food shortage really presents an urgent problem in the area in question – can have a negative impact on local markets, reduce the incentives for local production and investment and have the unwelcome effect of directing preferences away from local staple products and towards those imported from the USA or Europe,
- AJ. whereas it is important to distinguish between interventions by governments or NGOs that involve (a) providing food directly to poor people, as is also done through multilateral agencies, (b) subsidising food purchases, and (c) monetising food aid in order to implement projects with non-food aid transfers,

Emergency and relief assistance (ERA)

- AK. whereas emergency food aid has alleviated human catastrophes in ACP countries that depend on it, or those having undergone natural disasters,
- AL. whereas it is acknowledged that Lesotho is currently faced with a serious situation of famine which has been caused by absence of adequate rains for three consecutive years since 2001 and further compounded by an increasing HIV/AIDS pandemic with a 31 % prevalence,
- AM. whereas it is vital to strengthen the coordination and efficiency of international emergency assistance to ensure a rapid, coordinated and appropriate response, particularly by improving communications amongst the international community,
- AN. whereas there is a need to improve and/or develop efficient and effective emergency response mechanisms at international, regional, national and local levels,

Food Policy

1. Stresses the need to enhance efforts aimed at ensuring that all populations in ACP countries have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy and active life;

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2. Urges the international community to pledge itself once again to the objectives of the 2002 World Food Summit, and to intensify concerted efforts for the fulfilment of its commitment to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, particularly in developing countries;
3. Emphasises the importance of international cooperation and solidarity to ensure that food is not used as an instrument for political and economic pressure;
4. Stresses that measures should be taken at national and regional level to establish appropriate policy frameworks that promote food and agricultural production;
5. Calls on developing countries and the European institutions to work towards the creation of (legislative and technical) frameworks in ACP countries for adhering to rules on food safety in order to allow access to safe food and to provide ACP countries with the possibility of exporting safe products to the EU as an important means of fighting poverty;
6. Calls for more policy attention to the role of women in relation to food systems, and stresses the need to involve women in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of national food strategies, plans and projects;
7. Emphasises the implementation of policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilisation;
8. Calls on developing countries to promote the allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development;
9. Emphasises that developing countries should pursue food security and self-sufficiency as their most important objective rather than relying on food aid, and that the causes of food insecurity should be analysed and addressed;
10. Calls on the Commission and the ACP countries to comply with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosecurity and reaffirms the need to respect the principle of food sovereignty, whereby each country is entitled freely to choose the method of food supplies it wants, in line with national or regional collective interests, without disrupting other countries' markets;
11. Reiterates its position that patents for seeds and genetic resources intended for foodstuffs and agriculture pose a threat to sustainable farming practices and increase corporate monopolies over technology, seeds, genes, and medicines; supports the proposal put forward by the developing countries, at the instigation of Africa, seeking to amend the TRIPS Agreement;
12. Calls on international donors and national governments to focus development efforts on rural and poor areas, incorporating rural poverty reduction and sustainable natural resources management within the existing framework of nationally owned policies, strategies and programmes, and the wide range of public, private and civil society organisations operating in the rural space;
13. Calls on international donors, particularly the EU, and ACP national governments to incorporate the following elements into rural development strategies for ACP countries: access to the means of production (land, equipment and agricultural inputs), access to finance and information, improvement of skills and participation in decision-making of local communities;

Food Security

14. Calls on developing countries to ensure an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all;
15. Stresses the importance of ensuring that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system;
16. Acknowledges that the situation of food security in Small Island Developing States is highly vulnerable and calls upon the international community, especially the Bretton Woods institutions, to implement the various commitments in the Barbados Plan of Action with particular regard to those aspects affecting food security;
17. Calls on the European Commission to pursue policies to reform the common agricultural policy so that agricultural protectionism does not constitute a block on the importation of produce from developing countries and to support developing countries in meeting European food standards so that developing countries can compete;
18. Calls on the EU and the European Commission to ensure that the proposals for the reform of the EC sugar regime continue to guarantee the ACP States concerned an adequate level of earnings from the export of sugar to the EU necessary, inter alia, to finance the import of their basic foodstuffs requirement, which is vital for their food security;
19. Emphasises that a lack of infrastructure is an important barrier to food security and stresses the need for basic roads, transport vehicles, adequate and secure storage and oversight of distribution; calls on the European Commission and other international donors to include support for infrastructure in their food security strategies;
20. Recognises the efforts of the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which aims to help those living in developing countries, in particular the low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs), to improve their food security through rapid increases in food production;
21. Recognises that the foundations for food security lie in long-term investments in agricultural productivity and rural development initiatives, while addressing the vulnerability of food-insecure rural households, hence the importance for countries to have a proper agricultural infrastructure, credit and extension schemes, effective safety net systems with specific budget support for rural as well as urban areas, and early-warning and emergency response institutions in place;
22. Calls on the European Commission, within the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement, to support measures in ACP countries aimed at steering agricultural production from unsustainable to sustainable natural-resource management practices in order to avoid resource degradation;
23. Notes with concern that, despite negative trends, only four ACP countries have made agricultural development a priority of their Country Strategy Papers under the ninth EDF;
24. Calls on the European Commission and ACP governments to revise the Country Strategy Papers, where necessary, in order to enhance support to agricultural production strategies, national and regional food security policies and sustainable development of water resources and fisheries, in application of Article 23 of the Cotonou Agreement; and to work to maximise the opportunities of the 10th EDF as well as the results of the Doha Round;

25. Calls on developing countries, in collaboration with international assistance, to strengthen national food and agricultural research including biotechnologies, to provide improved varieties and to enhance productivity and nutrition;
26. Recognises that many more people are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies than from hunger in the narrower sense and stresses that compensation for deficiencies by enriching and supplementing food with trace elements and dietary supplements should be considered separately from the issue of food aid, because food aid is generally delivered in the form of cereals, while enrichment with dietary supplements requires industrial processing;
27. Recognises that, as food security knows no national boundaries, enhanced regional cooperation to avert hunger should be promoted;
28. Calls on the European Commission and other donors to fund a major expansion of public biotechnology research into tropical and sub-tropical staple foods, suitable for the needs of small-scale farmers, together with education about the use of biotechnologies;
29. Calls on developing countries to develop within available resources well-targeted social welfare and nutrition safety nets to meet the needs of the food insecure, particularly needy people, children, expectant and nursing mothers and people living with disability or frailty;
30. Recognises the potential of the fisheries sector to contribute towards the global and the ACP-EU-wide effort to ensure food security and calls on the Commission to revise the existing fisheries agreements, in the mutual interests of the Union and the developing countries, so as to ensure that stocks are preserved and sustainably exploited and that the share of production intended for local consumption increases;
31. Calls on developing countries with fisheries industries, in collaboration with international assistance, to strengthen food and fisheries research and extension systems, and advances in technology for fish or other marine-species farming, to enhance productivity and food utilisation;
32. Recognises that the improvement of both water hygiene and supply is critical in obtaining food security, as clean and plentiful water is essential for human health and irrigation for agriculture;

Food Governance

33. Stresses that governments are responsible for creating an enabling environment for private and group initiatives to devote their skills, efforts and resources, and in particular investment, towards the common goal of food for all;
34. Recognises that poverty, hunger and malnutrition are some of the principal causes of accelerated migration from rural to urban areas in developing countries; stresses the need to target the populations which, under these circumstances, suffer most from hunger and malnutrition and to identify causes and take remedial action to improve the situation;
35. Emphasises the need to establish legal and other mechanisms, as appropriate, that advance land reform, recognise and protect property, water, and user rights, in order to enhance access for the poor and women to resources;
36. Calls on governments in developing countries, in partnership with all actors of civil society, to monitor the availability and nutritional adequacy of food supplies and reserve stocks, giving particular attention to areas at high risk of food insecurity, to nutritionally vulnerable groups, and to areas where seasonal variations have important nutritional implications;

37. Calls on governments in developing countries to ensure humanitarian access to people in crisis and in conflict-affected areas so that their food and other basic needs are met;

Food Aid

38. Emphasises the need to improve world food security through, amongst other instruments, the assurance of timely supplies of food aid to those in need irrespective of world food prices and supply fluctuations;
39. Calls on international donors, particularly the EU, and beneficiary countries to carefully design food aid operations, including an accurate needs assessment, an implementation plan and an exit strategy, in order to avoid detrimental effects, such as dependency on food aid or distortion of local markets;
40. Recognises that food aid is an important means of preventing or relieving hunger in serious crisis situations, but concedes that food aid – when it is granted over longer periods of time, is badly managed or is granted regardless of whether or not acute food shortage really presents an urgent problem in the area in question – can have a negative impact on local markets, reduce the incentives for local production and investment and have the unwelcome effect of directing preferences away from local staple products and towards those imported from the USA or Europe;
41. Notes that relief food aid plays a clear and crucial role in saving lives and limiting nutritional stress in acute crises caused by conflict or natural disaster; emphasises the need to assess such food aid in the context of the recovery of local economies affected by conflicts and natural disasters;
42. Recognises that development food aid can be an instrument for combating poverty, promoting universal primary education, and improving the nutritional and health status of vulnerable people in developing countries, but stresses that it has to be coupled with a clear strategy for a medium-term transition to other forms of aid, aimed at strengthening food security and decreasing dependency on food aid;
43. Recognises the role that food can play in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in particular the contribution of the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, FAO and other organisations to food security and the fight against HIV/AIDS through food aid programmes in the ACP countries concerned;
44. Calls on national governments and international donors, in particular the EU, to consider the role that food supplies can play in enhancing the effectiveness of educational and health programmes, and therefore to consider the possibility of including food supplies in their educational and health programmes, making them independent from unstable foreign food aid supplies;
45. Recognises that financial aid tends to be a more efficient way for providing balance-of-payments or budgetary support for development or food security;
46. Recognises that purchases made in local or regional markets tend to be more efficient; stresses that food aid operations should be implemented avoiding distortion of local markets;
47. Calls on international donors, in particular the EU, to provide untied food aid, as the only way to ensure maximum efficiency of purchases and deliveries, in order to increase the benefit to the recipients;
48. Stresses that food aid needs to be planned and managed in the wider context of food assistance in order to mitigate hunger through a comprehensive package of food assistance measures, devised and implemented nationally and with international support;

49. Insists that food aid distribution be carried out with care, striking a balance between the need for immediate relief and the risk of creating dependency and market destabilisation and of undermining local and national producers, local market traders and local economies;
50. Calls for provision of food aid to conform with operationally effective disciplines to prevent commercial displacement and limit surplus disposal of agricultural produce of donor countries, in accordance with the objectives agreed in the 'July package' of the WTO General Council's decision on the Doha Agenda work programme;
51. Calls for the European Commission and other donors to purchase food aid from developing countries, preferably from as close to the region affected as possible, not least to support developing countries' economies and reduce transport and environmental costs, but also to monitor local prices;
52. Calls upon recipient countries to remove and prevent political and physical barriers to ensuring that food aid is distributed to all parts of the country in need;

Emergency and relief assistance (ERA)

53. Calls on the European Commission to assist and support ACP governments in their efforts to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies;
54. Calls on the European Commission and other international donors to provide additional emergency assistance to Lesotho and other drought and HIV/AIDS ravaged countries of Southern Africa such as Swaziland, in order to mitigate the worsening situation faced by the vulnerable populations of these countries;
55. Requests ACP countries and the European Commission to examine the potential benefit of strategically placed permanent crisis response teams;
56. Calls on governments, in partnership with civil society actors, to seek, in an appropriate way, to ensure adequate supervision of emergency operations and involve communities, local authorities and institutions, and grass-roots relief initiatives and structures in implementing emergency operations;
57. Emphasises the need to protect the lives of civil populations, including humanitarian aid workers, in times of conflict, and to ensure that access to food, with particular attention to women-headed households, is protected during emergency situations; calls for special attention to be given to the difficult food situation of refugees and internally displaced persons during and immediately following times of conflict;
58. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on the situation in Darfur

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in The Hague (Netherlands) from 22 to 25 November 2004,
 - having regard to the Joint Communiqué of 3 July 2004 issued by the Government of Sudan and the UN,
 - having regard to the Darfur Plan of Action agreed between the UN and the Government of the Sudan on 5 August 2004,
 - having regard to the African Union Peace and Security Council decision regarding the enlargement of the AU Mission in Sudan of 21 October 2004,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of November 2004 and UN resolutions 1564 of 18 September 2004 and 1574 of 19 November 2004,
 - having regard to the resumption of peace talks under the IGAD Peace Process on 7 October 2004, and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A in Nairobi, Kenya on 19 November 2004 committing the two parties to conclude the final peace agreement before the end of 2004,
 - having regard to the agreement signed by the Government of Sudan and the International Organisation for Migration on the voluntary return of the internally displaced persons in Khartoum on 21 August 2004,
- A. whereas the region of Darfur and other regions of Sudan, have suffered underdevelopment and economic and political marginalisation,
- B. whereas in February 2003 a rebellion, led by the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), began in Darfur,
- C. expressing its serious concern at the growing insecurity and violence in Darfur, the dire humanitarian situation, continued violations of human rights and repeated breaches of the cease-fire, and reiterating, in this regard, the obligations of all parties to implement the commitments contained in previous Security Council resolutions,
- D. whereas, despite the cease-fire agreement signed on 8 April 2004, there has been continued reporting of the killing of civilians by militias and rebels and the use of sexual abuse and violence against women and children,
- E. calling on all parties to fulfil their obligations to end all acts of violence, condemning violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law, and emphasising the need for perpetrators of all such crimes to be brought to justice without delay,
- F. reiterating the need for all parties, including the Government of Sudan, to fulfil the entirety of their commitments under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1556 (2004) and 1564 (2004) and taking into account the need to foster and restore the confidence of vulnerable populations and to improve radically the overall security environment in Darfur,
- G. recalling in this regard that all parties must respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and also recalling the primary responsibility of the Sudanese Government to protect its population within its territory and to maintain law and order, while respecting human rights,
- H. emphasising that the ultimate resolution of the crisis in Darfur must include the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their original homes, and noting in that regard the 21 August 2004 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Sudan and the International Organisation for Migration,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 25 November 2004 in The Hague (Netherlands).

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- I. whereas the African Union has continued its positive involvement in the search for final settlement of the Darfur problem and has deployed peace monitors in the region of Darfur,
 - J. whereas the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that many thousands of people, predominantly women and children, are dying each month through malnutrition,
 - K. welcoming that the Government of Sudan has taken a number of steps to lift administrative obstructions to the delivery of humanitarian relief, which has resulted in access for an increased number of humanitarian personnel in Darfur as well as international human rights non-governmental institutions; pointing out, however, that more needs to be done by all parties to ensure unimpeded access to humanitarian aid for the entire population of Darfur, including those outside the camps,
 - L. urging the Government of Sudan and the rebel groups to facilitate humanitarian relief by allowing unfettered access for humanitarian supplies and workers, including across Sudan's borders with Chad and Libya by land and by air, as may be required,
 - M. whereas there are human rights violations in Darfur including the bombing of civilians and the ongoing demolition of IDP camps,
 - N. recalling that the UN Security Council has expressed concerns that the situation in Sudan has implications for international peace and security, as well as stability in the region,
1. Welcomes the memorandum of understanding promising to reach a comprehensive peace agreement before the end of the year signed in Nairobi on 19 November 2004 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army as an important step towards bringing peace to Southern Sudan and as a development that can also contribute to bringing peace to Darfur;
 2. Supports the demand of the UN Security Council that Government and rebel forces and all other armed groups immediately cease all violence and attacks, including abduction, refrain from forcible relocation of civilians, cooperate with international humanitarian relief and monitoring efforts, ensure that their members comply with international humanitarian law, facilitate the safety and security of humanitarian staff, and reinforce throughout their ranks their agreements to allow unhindered access and passage by humanitarian agencies and those in their employ, in accordance with its resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003 on the access of humanitarian workers to populations in need and with the Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004;
 3. Calls on all Sudanese parties to take the necessary steps to ensure that violations reported by the Cease-Fire Commission are addressed immediately and that those responsible for such violations are held accountable;
 4. Supports the UN Security Council's call on the Government of Sudan to end the climate of impunity in Darfur by identifying and bringing to justice all those responsible, including members of popular defence forces and Janjaweed militias, for the widespread human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and insists that the Government of Sudan take all appropriate steps to stop all violence and atrocities;
 5. Supports the UN Security Council's demand that the Government of Sudan submit documentation to the African Union Mission for verification, particularly the names of disarmed Janjaweed militiamen and the names of those arrested for human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, with regard to its performance relative to resolution 1556 and the 8 April 2004 N'djamena cease-fire agreement;

6. Welcomes the establishment of the international commission of inquiry by the UN Secretary-General to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur by all parties and 'to determine also whether or not acts of genocide have occurred, and to identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable'; calls on all parties to cooperate fully with the commission, and further requests the UN Secretary-General, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take appropriate steps to increase the number of human rights monitors deployed to Darfur;
7. Urges the Government of Sudan to make every effort to ensure the safe and voluntary return of all refugees and IDPs, as agreed between the Government of Sudan and the International Organisation for Migration;
8. Underlines the importance of progress in peace talks in Abuja between the Government of Sudan and the SLA and the JEM towards resolving the crisis in Darfur, insists that all parties to the Abuja peace talks negotiate in good faith to reach agreement speedily, welcomes the signature of the Humanitarian and Security Protocols on 9 November 2004, urges the parties to implement these rapidly, and looks forward to the early signature of a Declaration of Principles with a view to a political settlement;
9. Calls on all countries in the region to do their utmost to support actively the full and timely implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement;
10. Emphasises that a comprehensive peace agreement will contribute towards sustainable peace and stability throughout Sudan and to the efforts to address the crisis in Darfur, and underlines the need for a national and inclusive approach, including the role of women, towards reconciliation and peace-building;
11. Strongly supports the decisions of the African Union to increase its mission in Darfur to 3320 personnel and to enhance its mandate to include the tasks listed in paragraph 6 of the African Union Peace and Security Council's communiqué of 20 October 2004, urges EU and ACP States to provide the required equipment, logistical, financial, material, and other necessary resources, and urges the Government of Sudan and all rebel groups in Darfur to cooperate fully with the African Union;
12. Asks the UN and the African Union to improve coordination of their plans in order to avoid breaches of the cease-fire agreement including the movement of troops;
13. Declares its commitment, upon conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement, to assist the people of Sudan in their efforts to establish a peaceful, united and prosperous nation, on the understanding that the parties are fulfilling all their commitments, including those agreed in Abuja, Nigeria and N'djamena, Chad;
14. Urges the Joint Assessment Mission of the United Nations, the World Bank and the parties, in association with other bilateral and multilateral donors, to continue their efforts to prepare for the rapid delivery of an assistance package for the reconstruction and economic development of Sudan, including official development assistance, possible debt relief and trade access, to be implemented once a comprehensive peace agreement has been signed and its implementation begins;
15. Stresses the need for the rapid disbursement of the EU funding for the humanitarian assistance operation and for the African Union;
16. Calls on EU Member States to provide urgent and generous contributions to the humanitarian efforts under way in Sudan and Chad;

17. Notes the UN Security Council's decision to consider taking additional measures as contemplated in Article 41 of the UN Charter, 'The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations', provided that these measures do not add to the suffering of the population of Sudan;
 18. Calls on all parties and the international community to take immediate steps to stop the proliferation of arms into the conflict zone of Darfur;
 19. Decides to send a fact-finding mission to assess the situation in Sudan and present a report to the Bureau;
 20. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Government of Sudan, the African Union, IGAD, the governments of the United States of America, Libya, Egypt and China, and the UN Secretary-General.
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on the hurricane damage in the Caribbean region

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in the Hague (Netherlands) from 22 to 25 November 2004,
- having regard to the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados between 25 April and 6 May 1994 and the Barbados Plan of Action,
- having regard to its resolution on the damage caused by cyclones in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and the need for a rapid response to natural disasters adopted in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2004 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin on 23 June 2000,
- A. saddened by the tremendous loss of human life and the catastrophic effects on the socio-economic infrastructures caused by the series of hurricanes which swept through the Caribbean countries with exceptional force, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago,
- B. noting with particular concern the plight of Grenada, where 90 % of the infrastructure was destroyed and the agriculture sector obliterated, and Haiti, where close to 3000 lives have been lost as a result of extensive damage,
- C. whereas these disasters tragically demonstrated the validity of the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Addis Ababa stressing the increasingly destructive consequences of natural disasters,
- D. whereas the ACP vulnerable islands and neighbouring countries are suffering the consequences of climatic change owing to global warming, while violent storms and rising sea levels are threatening the safety of the populations and their property and the very existence of some small islands,
- E. mindful that the small island states have to face the negative consequences of climate change: for example, violent storms and rising sea levels, which could threaten the very existence of some small islands,
- F. whereas rising sea levels are having an adverse impact on fresh water availability and quality, agriculture and human settlement,
- G. whereas the damage caused by hurricane Ivan and tropical storm Jeanne clearly show that, while the origin of disasters is natural, the extent of the damage is not, in so far as building techniques are outdated and early-warning and evacuation procedures are inadequate,
- H. firmly believing that devoting greater attention to the prevention of natural risks in the drawing up and implementation of development strategies would make a major contribution to achieving the priority objective of sustainable development,
- I. whereas several billion euros are necessary for reconstruction purposes,
- J. whereas the United Nations has launched an emergency international appeal for USD 30 million,
- K. having regard to the appeal for reconstruction assistance by the Caricom Heads of State and Government,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 25 November 2004 in The Hague (Netherlands).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004.

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- L. emphasising, once again, the extreme vulnerability of the economies of island developing states, which can be destroyed at any moment by natural disasters, which are occurring with increasing frequency,
1. Expresses its condolences and deepest sympathy to the peoples and governments of these countries, as well as to the families of the victims;
 2. Draws the attention of the European Union and the international community to the special situation of Grenada, whose economy and activities as a country have been brought to a complete halt and where financial, material and human support is needed as a matter of great urgency for the long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country;
 3. Commends the Caribbean and Pacific regions, the European Union and other development partners and organisations for the efforts already undertaken in these countries;
 4. Calls on the European Union to ensure that the necessary financial resources are quickly mobilised for reconstruction in countries which have been devastated, in particular Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
 5. Calls on the European Union and the international community to set up, as a matter of urgency, effective rapid-response systems so that, in addition to humanitarian emergency aid, appropriate measures may be put in place to anticipate and mitigate the effects of natural disasters and, in particular, to expedite the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures;
 6. Supports the creation of an ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and calls on the European Union, in the context of the ongoing review of the Cotonou Agreement, to extend the provisions of Article 2(7)(a) of its Annex II relating to the Investment Facility to the land-locked and island ACP States to finance vital investment both for post-natural disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation of the productive sectors of their economy and also their sustainable development, having regard to their inherent development constraints and specific trade and development needs;
 7. Calls upon the international community, especially the Bretton Woods Institutions and the European Union, to recognise that the classic method of assessing Small Island Developing States based solely on GDP per capita, needs to be reviewed in order to take into account their high vulnerability in the provision of development assistance, debt relief and trade preferences, in particular the consideration of special and differential treatment in the World Trade Organisation;
 8. Calls on the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the EU Member States, and the ACP States to undertake, in collaboration with their other development partners, all the necessary actions to ensure that development plans and programmes adequately respond to the vulnerability of island developing states;
 9. Urges the international community, especially the donor institutions and donor countries, to take note of the forthcoming United Nations International Meeting on 'Barbados Plus Ten' to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;
 10. Calls on all countries to honour their commitment by ratifying and bringing into force the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, and urges the European Union and the international community as a whole to support capacity-building programmes aimed at addressing the adverse effects of climate change on ACP countries and regions;
 11. Considers that rising sea levels are a potential threat to the survival of small island countries because they lead to increased tropical storms, disruption of limited fresh water supplies and decreasing biodiversity in marine resources;
 12. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation.

ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATION ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the progress made in achieving universal primary education and gender equality in the ACP countries in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bamako (Mali) from 18 to 21 April 2005,
- having regard to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to Article 25(1) of the Cotonou Agreement,
- having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly,
- having regard to ILO Convention 138 (1973) on the minimum age for employment,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by its General Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989,
- having regard to the 1990 Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the African Child,
- having regard to the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Barbados Plan of Action of May 1994,
- having regard to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 and to the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCM) held in Beijing in 1995,
- having regard to the World Summit on Children held in Jomtien in 1990, the UN Social Summit of 1995, and the World Education Forum held in Dakar (Senegal) in 2000,
- having regard to the Millennium Declaration adopted by the world's leaders at the Millennium Summit of 2000 ⁽²⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali)

⁽²⁾ General Assembly Resolution 55/2

- having regard to the joint Commission and Council Declaration on Development Policy of 10 November 2000,
- having regard to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in New York in 2001,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on primary education in the developing countries adopted on 6 September 2001 in the context of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in September 2001 ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the International Conference on Development Funding held in Monterrey in March 2002,
- having regard to the EP report on basic education in developing countries in the context of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in May 2002 (A5-0278/2001),
- having regard to the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September 2002,
- having regard to the Commission communication on education and training in the context of poverty reduction in developing countries (COM(2002) 116 — C5-0333/2002 ⁽²⁾),
- having regard to the Council Resolution of 30 May 2002 on aid to education,
- having regard to the EP report on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on education and training in the context of poverty reduction in developing countries (A5-0126/2003),
- having regard to the UNDP report of 2003 'The Millennium Development Goals: Progress, Reversal and Challenges' and to its Human Development Reports 2003 and 2004,
- having regard to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolution on children's rights and child soldiers in particular (ACP-EU 3587/03/fin),
- having regard to the 2004 annual report on development policy and EC external aid of October 2004,
- having regard to the Global Monitoring Report 2004 — Policies and Actions for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Related Outcomes (March 2004),
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 806/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on promoting gender equality in development cooperation ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 27 August 2004 on UN implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration,
- having regard to the Commission's report of November 2004 on the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2004,
- having regard to the UNICEF reports on the state of the world's children (2004 and 2005),
- having regard to the three UNFPA Reports: State of the World Population 2004 — the Cairo Consensus at Ten: Population, Reproductive Health and the Global Effort to End Poverty; International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994; and Investing in People — International Conference on Population and Development — 1994/2004 (ICPD at 10),
- having regard to the Mauritius Declaration of January 2005, particularly the provisions relating to the vulnerability and specificity of Small Island Developing States,
- having regard to Rule 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-UE 3752/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 72 E, 21.3.2002, p. 244.

⁽²⁾ Not published in the OJ.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 143, 30.04.2004.

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- A. whereas Article 26 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and Principle 7 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child consider education to be a fundamental human right and whereas, as such, it is a universal and indivisible right which leaves no room for any form of discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, ethnic or racial origin, religion or culture,
- B. having regard to the Millennium Declaration adopted by the world's leaders at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, which establishes a set of clear and measurable development objectives with specific deadlines,
- C. whereas the Millennium Development Goals resulting from the Millennium Declaration include as Goal No 2 the achievement of universal primary education, and set as an objective to ensure by 2015 that each child can complete a full primary education cycle,
- D. whereas the Millennium Development Goals attached to the Millennium Declaration include (goal No 3) the promotion of gender equality and the autonomy of women, and set the objective of eliminating gender inequality in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education by the end of 2015,
- E. whereas Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says that signatory States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure that they have equal rights with men in the field of education,
- F. whereas the 1990 Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child committed all States to the full realisation of the right to education, with a particular focus on free and compulsory basic education,
- G. whereas the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) states the need to promote sustainable development on a people-centred basis, including sustainable economic development by means of the following measures focussing on the interests of girls and women: basic education, education for life, literacy and training, and family healthcare;
- H. whereas the European Parliament and the Council, in their Regulation 806/2004 (21 April 2004), asked to finance specific measures related to women's access to resources and services, especially in the areas of education and training, health, economic and social activities, employment and infrastructure, and participation in all political decision-making processes;
- I. whereas the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo (5-13 September 1994) adopted a declaration stating that education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary for participating in the development process;
- J. whereas questions relating to access to education, health, food, drinking water and employment are closely linked, and whereas action needs to be taken on these multiple aspects of human development in order to achieve the Millennium Goals in the field of universal primary education,
- K. whereas ILO Convention 138 (1973) on the minimum age for employment, which stipulates that the permissible age of entry into employment 'shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years',
- L. whereas the development of global education is one of the most effective strategies available for breaking out of the poverty cycle; whereas it is a key element of sustainable human development and of the efforts to meet the human development objectives agreed for 2015 in the international arena;

- M. whereas the joint Commission and Council Declaration of November 2000 endorses the need for a world-wide commitment to universal primary education, and classifies education as a development priority,
- N. whereas 121 million children have never been to school, 65 million of whom are girls, and girls have a higher dropout rate,
- O. whereas many disabilities are not visible, such as speech and learning difficulties and physical, genetic (from birth), sensory, and emotional disorders; whereas children also suffer from HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases,
- P. whereas most heavily indebted developing countries which are subject to structural adjustment programmes lack the requisite budgetary room for manoeuvre to enable them to increase their social spending,
- Q. whereas education and training for girls and women are of vital importance in the fight against poverty and disease; supporting, therefore, the political commitment of the international community to increased funding for education and training in its development cooperation actions,
- R. whereas the efforts made in the area of education are being seriously undermined by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is predicted to kill an estimated 10 % of primary school female and male teachers in the countries most affected in the next five years; whereas it is predicted that more than 20 % of children of school age will be AIDS orphans,
- S. whereas 40 million of the world's out-of-school children have some form of disability and, in developing countries less than 5 % of disabled children attend school and only 5 % amongst them conclude basic education; whereas disabled girls and women are even more discriminated against than boys and men in the school when they try to find a job,
- T. whereas sexual and reproductive health education and information and access to reproductive health services are the best guarantees for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases,
- U. whereas the cultural traditions of many developing countries are deeply rooted in patriarchy and therefore place women in a subordinate role in the social order,
- V. whereas women are a key force for economic and social development; whereas investment in education for girls and women must be an integral part of development plans and of strategies for fighting poverty in the developing countries,
- W. whereas global economic inequality and the debt burden have left many governments without the necessary resources for providing all children with education, and whereas structural adjustment programmes have obliged governments to cut spending in the public sector, with particularly adverse consequences for girls,
- X. whereas it is important to set realistic timetables for drawing up national education participation plans, in view of developing countries' limited capacities,
- Y. whereas child labour keeps many children out of school,
- Z. whereas primary education, as a fundamental right of the human individual, must be free and compulsory, and consequently education costs must be borne by the State,

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- AA. whereas violence against girls in school or on the journey to and from school contributes in a significant way to lower rates of girls' enrolment and completion in schools,
- AB. whereas the Education For All Fast Track Initiative and the Commission's declaration of supports for it are welcomed,
- AC. whereas the achievements of Small Island Developing States in the ACP both in universal primary education and gender equality, notwithstanding their vulnerabilities, peculiarities and specificities, have been considerable;
- AD. whereas the failure to achieve a modicum of progress since the Dakar conference, and the lack of interest in coordinating the international efforts to tackle the education crisis are highly regrettable,
- AE. whereas in 2003 the Commission's allocation to education in general in the countries covered by the DAC amounted to 6.24 % of the total budget for funds earmarked for development aid (general EC budget and European Development Fund), and the allocation to basic education stood at only 2.4 %,
- AF. whereas the Commission's budget for primary education suffers from lack of coordination with national measures of ACP countries, a situation which needs to be reassessed,
- AG. whereas education for girls has not to date been included as a central issue in connection with the funding of eligible proposals under the regulation on promoting gender equality in development cooperation,
- AH. whereas the political undertakings by the international community to increase funding for education and training in its development cooperation actions have not brought about substantial funding increases for education programmes,
- AI. whereas the leaders of the most developed countries, meeting in Davos, and the leaders of developing countries, meeting in Porto Alegre, called once more for partial or total cancellation of external debt, especially for Least Developed Countries,
1. Recalls that the Millennium Goals, as accepted by the international community, set the achievement of universal primary education and the promotion of gender equality and women's autonomy as universal objectives for 2015;
 2. Deeply regrets that the target of achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005 will not be reached by the vast majority of developing countries;
 3. Believes that the ability of the authorities in the developing countries to fund basic social services depends, in part, on the cancelling of the debt and the cutting of their military budgets so as to achieve the Millennium Goals;
 4. Notes with concern that the goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015 will be extremely difficult to meet, given that at the moment 121 million girls and boys do not have access to any schooling at all;
 5. Expresses its firm conviction that achieving the Millennium Goals, in particular Goals 2 and 3, rests in the hands of national governments and international donors, and issues a strong appeal for them to join forces to this end;
 6. Recalls that 65 million girls are still not attending school, and stresses the vital need for governments, aid organisations and international institutions to take practical steps to change their situation;

7. Calls for a full-scale assessment of the impact of current trade liberalisation policies on poverty in general in the ACP countries and on education in particular and asks that the results of this assessment be used to draw up clear guidelines for development cooperation in particular in the context of EPA negotiations;
8. Asks for special attention to be paid to primary education for girls by adopting a multisectoral policy towards girls' education, since girls face more obstacles and barriers than boys (cultural factors such as early marriage, discrimination, role in society and the family, etc.) to go to, stay at and finish school;
9. Considers, moreover, that investing in girls' education is the most effective development strategy since educated girls generate smaller and healthier families, leading to increased productivity and poverty reduction;
10. Stresses the importance of the education of girls and women for improving health, including such aspects as sexual and reproductive health, and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS, and diseases related to the water supply and hygienic conditions such as tuberculosis, malaria, cholera and diarrhoea;
11. Considers that information on the existing education and training programmes is a key factor for their successful implementation, and calls on the Commission to make all efforts to ensure that women and girls are properly informed, since education can help them protect themselves against exploitation of whatever kind;
12. Calls for national education policies to be adequately funded in order to enable all children, and especially girls, to stay at school and finish their compulsory education, ensuring that they stay at school until they have reached the minimum age for entering the job market as laid down in ILO Convention 138, and include solutions to the problem of dropout children;
13. Calls on the Commission to include in Country Strategy Papers for the ACP countries, specific reference to MDG 2 and 3 and the necessity of getting girls into primary education;
14. Calls on ACP countries which are not yet benefiting from the Fast Track Initiative to initiate 'Education for All' plans;
15. Calls for schools to be 'girl-friendly' and closer to girls' habitats, with an adequate budget in order to solve the practical difficulties which can prevent girls in particular from attending school, such as poor roads, lack of transport and lack of sanitation in school buildings, with community help and participation, flexible timetables and, preferably, female teachers, as well as curricula adapted to girls' lives and environment;
16. Stresses the need for all educational institutions to impart democratic values with a view to encouraging tolerance, active citizenship, social responsibility and respect for differences of gender, ethnic group and religion, and to encourage the participation of the pupils in the planning of the education and the way of working in the schools;
17. Highlights the need to provide appropriate training for female and male teachers to actively combat any discrimination based on sex, ethnic group or religion;
18. Calls for ACP countries to incorporate in their national education strategies initiatives for actively recruiting female teachers in larger numbers; highlights the positive effect female teachers and female staff can have in preventing violence against girl pupils at school;

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19. Appeals to all the world's governments to ratify and apply, without any reservation, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol;
20. Calls on ACP governments to recognise publicly that violence against girls in schools is a serious obstacle to improving their attendance levels and academic achievements;
21. Highlights the need to establish complaints systems in schools and to recruit women to deal with complaints arising;
22. Notes that very large class sizes and a harsh teaching regime can act as a deterrent to girls attending school;
23. Calls on ACP governments to enact and/or implement domestic legislation to prohibit violence and discrimination against girls in schools and out of them, systematically monitoring compliance, with appropriate international assistance where necessary;
24. Stresses once again the need for the European Union to give preferential support to countries undertaking education strategies that include free and universal primary education, gender equality, broad access, high quality, decentralisation of reform and special assistance for the most vulnerable, including the poorest, the disabled and orphans;
25. Firmly underlines that primary education, as a fundamental right of the individual, must be free, compulsory and guaranteed by the State, and that consequently all related costs (registration, canteens, transport, uniforms and materials) must be met by the State;
26. Calls upon the international community, especially the Bretton Woods institutions and the European Union, to recognise that the classic method of assessing Small Island Developing States, based solely on GDP per capita, needs to be reviewed in order to take into account their high vulnerability in the provision of development assistance, debt relief and trade preferences, in particular the need for special and differential treatment in the World Trade Organisation;
27. Calls on the Commission and Member States to prioritise budget support for free universal primary education in those countries where education costs cannot currently be borne by the State;
28. Highlights the role that school meals can play in improving children's health and learning abilities; calls on ACP governments to support programmes designed to achieve this;
29. Calls on ACP governments to distribute the resources available for education fairly and transparently, so as to ensure a balance between rural and urban areas, private and public, confessional and secular, and to draw up special programmes to educate AIDS orphans and those orphaned in violent conflicts, combining basic education with training adopted to their specific needs;
30. Calls on the Governments of the ACP countries to implement their commitments in respect of 'Education for All' under the Dakar Framework for Action giving disabled persons and their families equal access to education;
31. Calls on the Governments of the EU Member States and the EU institutions to support the ACP countries in promoting inclusive education for the disabled;
32. Calls on the EU institutions and the Governments of the ACP countries to implement the recommendations of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in its resolution on the rights of the disabled people and older people in ACP countries (ACP-EU 3313/01/fin.);

33. Calls on the national authorities in ACP countries to include in their government programmes sensitisation actions aimed at enabling parents and society in general to understand the importance of education for girls and boys;
34. Underlines, in this context, the importance of a quality education, with quality teaching and learning materials, a safe and healthy environment with basic health services and sanitation, free from corporal punishment, harassment and discrimination and thereby a positive experience that can attract children and their parents;
35. Emphasises that universal full-time education requires the effective outlawing of child labour and an education system that includes strategies for the incorporation into full-time education of children who are in work or are not attending school for other reasons; calls on the European Union to ensure that all education programmes financed by it contain wide-ranging strategies including social motivation and recovery courses for older children;
36. Calls on the Commission, the ACP Member States and other developing countries and the private sector to create a system for counteracting and eliminating child labour, which might, in specific circumstances, include part-time schooling;
37. Stresses the importance of bridge courses for older children, preferably within the mainstream of education, so that children who are currently not in school can be integrated,
38. Calls on the EU Member States to use their votes on the board of the IMF to ensure that the conditions set by the IMF to approve its loans do not prevent ACP countries from investing in social services, including the education sector;
39. Stresses that many girls and boys who are affected by wars, armed conflicts, displacement, drought, hunger, natural disasters, or AIDS or the girls and boys which have been used in human trafficking must receive special psychological care, where possible within the education system, and welcomes the appeals made in this context by international organisations such as UNICEF;
40. Stresses the key role that schools can have in post-conflict situations, highly dependent on their capacity to provide children not only with a quality education but also with physical protection, psychological assistance and basic services such as health care, water and sanitation;
41. Recalls that in the 2001 and 2002 budget negotiations the European Parliament stressed, jointly with the European Council, the need to increase the European Union's level of educational aid and noted that the budget headings in the regional field had included concrete objectives for education expenditure, whose implementation is vitally important to the ACP countries;
42. Regrets that in 2003 the European Commission allocated only 2.4 % of the total budget for funds earmarked for development aid to basic education in the countries covered by the DAC, which is far below the amount called for by the European Parliament and does not correspond to the priorities expressed by the European Union in the field of human development;
43. Calls on the Member States, the Council and the Commission to coordinate their various cooperation measures on education policy, and asks that the EDF be budgetised and given adequate resources to ensure that it can meet its goals in the field of development;
44. Calls on the Member States, the Council and the Commission to coordinate their various cooperation measures, and asks that in the next financial framework the ACP be given adequate resources on a predictable basis to ensure that it can meet its goals in the field of development in particular to meet the MDGs;

45. Recalls that the European Parliament introduced in the 2005 budget a benchmark of 20 % of total annual commitments for external assistance to be allocated to activities in the sector of basic health and basic education, including sectoral budget support to health and education ministries where it is to serve basic health and basic education;
46. Calls on the Commission to include education for girls and public awareness of the importance thereof as a central issue in the next round of funding proposals under the regulation on promoting gender equality in development cooperation,
47. Appeals to all the industrialised countries, particularly those in the European Union, to earmark at least 10 % of official development aid for basic education and to fulfil their pledges to allocate at least 0.7 % of GDP to development aid, with 0.15 % going to the least developed countries; stresses the need to extend the Fast Track Initiative to more countries and ensure the rapid financing of its requirements;
48. Calls on the EU to take firm measures to combat poverty, seeking to ensure consistency in its policies in the areas of trade, development cooperation, agriculture and fisheries, so that they do not have any direct or indirect adverse effects on the economies of the developing countries, with a view to ensuring a decent income for ACP populations;
49. Calls on the Commission to establish a benchmark for monitoring European Union and bilateral educational aid, in the light of the Dakar undertakings and the Member States' commitment to increasing their volume of aid for education;
50. Appeals to the Commission, in the context of its current revision of development policy priorities, to ensure that children's rights are directly addressed, that a prominent place is given to basic education, and that gender equality is definitively established as a horizontal priority across all sectors;
51. Believes that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of guaranteeing equality of men and women and universal education by 2015 is seriously undermined by the lack of any real wish on the part of world leaders to tackle the structural causes of poverty;
52. Requests the governments of the most developed countries to give serious study to the proposals for the partial or total cancellation of debt, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and in particular where this is done in exchange for improvements in national education systems;
53. Welcomes the Commission's proposal for making aid from the budget strictly conditional on the recipient country having a general Education For All plan; calls on the Commission to provide legal guarantees to back up budget aid based on revisions of public spending always respecting the 'property principle' and the 'principle of sincere cooperation';
54. Takes a positive view of the function carried out by civil society and NGOs dedicated to promoting education and combating discrimination against girls, and calls on the Commission, the Member States and the ACP countries to support them in their work;
55. Welcomes the links being developed between local authorities in EU and ACP countries, and calls on ACP local authorities to support education for girls as a priority,
56. Stresses, with respect to the need to measure progress towards the Millennium Goals, the importance of reliable statistics and information on education in general and on training of girls and women in particular and supports the efforts made by the UN, World Bank and certain NGOs in this direction;
57. Calls on the Commission to supply the Joint Parliamentary Assembly with a progress report, one year on from the adoption of this resolution;
58. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the UN Secretary-General and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on post-conflict rehabilitation in ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bamako from 18 to 21 April 2005,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou, Benin on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, which entered into force on 1 April 2003, and in particular Article 11, Title II, on peace-building policies, conflict prevention and resolution,
- having regard to the review of the Cotonou Agreement, and efforts on both sides to improve and further clarify the modalities and mechanisms for post-conflict rehabilitation,
- having regard to its resolution on conflict prevention and resolution and the establishing of a lasting peace, adopted in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2004,
- having regard to its resolution on children's rights and child soldiers in particular, adopted in Rome on 15 October 2003,
- having regard to its resolution on the rights of the disabled people and older people in ACP countries, adopted on 1 November 2001,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 26 October 2000 on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on cooperation with ACP countries involved in armed conflicts,
- having regard to the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 11 April 2002 and 4 July 2002 (Angola) and on 15 January 2004 (Burundi), especially in relation to the respective donors' conferences,
- having regard to the report of the European Parliament on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on linking relief, rehabilitation and development — an assessment of December 2001(A5-0464/2001),
- having regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the framework document of which was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, in October 2001,
- having regard to the pioneering role played by the EU in the establishment and implementation of the Kimberly Process with respect to blood diamonds and the Ottawa Convention on Landmines,
- having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (ACP-EU/3754/A/fin.),
- A. whereas at least 26 of the 79 ACP countries are in a post-war situation or still suffering the effects of recent armed conflicts, representing the majority of the population of these states, and consequently due account has to be taken of the importance of this issue for the ACP group,
- B. whereas emergency aid and rehabilitation are a current and vital issues on the political agenda of these states, and accordingly of ACP-EU cooperation as well,
- C. recognising the important role of the ACP-EU JPA in this field, as it is a forum and political environment where member countries have the framework to conduct diplomatic negotiations, contributing to the confidence building between them and to reaching a peaceful solution for any conflict among them, or to gain experience from each other regarding internal conflicts,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali)

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

- D. defining a post-conflict state as one where parties have already signed the peace accord, starting the process of moving from demilitarisation and peace-keeping to peace-building, from cease-fire to deep reconciliation, full democratisation and implementation of the rule of law, from emergency aid and relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development,
- E. stressing that each transition from violence to peace is unique, depending on such factors as the nature, scale and degree of violence, the intensity of division in society and the previous and post-transition balance of power,
- F. whereas there is an urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building, peacekeeping operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction and to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations take into account the problems specific to both men and women,
- G. whereas conflicts in ACP states, especially in Africa, are increasingly taking on a regional or international dimension, with the involvement of neighbouring countries and third countries, and whereas they are frequently fuelled by transnational economic or political interests,
- H. whereas the illegal and illicit exploitation of the natural resources and other assets of certain ACP countries is, to an increasing extent, one of the fundamental causes for the outbreak and prolongation of conflicts in these countries in general and Africa in particular; whereas such practices should therefore be ended as swiftly as possible by every means available in order to consolidate peace and ensure good governance,
- I. stressing that successful post-conflict rehabilitation, including effective poverty-reduction strategies and measures in the framework of the global fight against poverty, contributes to the global fight against terrorism; that such measures, ensuring at the same time effective state control, reduce the chance for terrorist planning and activities in the territory of the state concerned,
- J. considering the current focus of global public opinion, when increased world-wide public attention and importance are given to the problems of developing countries, resulting from the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean; deploring the fact that ongoing conflict or post-conflict situations in some affected areas made it even more difficult to assist the suffering populations,
- K. underlining that, although the post-conflict situation requires a special individual approach, there are many similar problems and solutions in these cases, and that therefore experience and best practices of ACP members can be used as examples for other affected member countries,
- L. recognising that successful post-conflict rehabilitation of the affected countries is a condition for achieving effective development results, as there is no development without peace, no peace without reconciliation, no reconciliation without democracy and no democracy without justice,
- M. whereas experience has shown that many peace agreements often fail when they are not linked to the establishment of effective mechanisms for the control and implementation of peace and democratisation programmes, and of instances of regular, open and serious political dialogue, which, besides ensuring the real effectiveness of written texts, help also to build mutual trust, to consolidate mutual respect and to encourage reconciliation,

Emergency aid and the link between relief, rehabilitation and development

- N. stressing that the parallel inclusion of the concepts of providing short-term relief and at the same time long-term rehabilitation in a post-conflict situation is vital to avoid unanticipated side-effects of emergency aid, such as the disappearance of local production systems and over-dependence on imports,
- O. whereas the need to bridge the gap between various phases of international assistance in ACP countries is becoming more apparent as post-conflict situations are increasingly complex in terms of participant groups and territorial dimensions, as well as having greater volatility, where there are fluctuations in the intensity of violence both temporally and regionally, and there is a fine line between stability and renewed upheaval,
- P. whereas the international community must not frustrate the expectations raised by the announced promotion of donors' conferences to fund relief, rehabilitation and development projects following the end of long-lasting and destructive armed conflicts,
- Q. whereas the link between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) needs to be further addressed by donors, beneficiaries and implementing partners,
- R. whereas conducting efficient post-crisis rehabilitation entails higher political and technical risks for donors as beneficiary partners may be unstable or absent,
- S. whereas rehabilitation interacts with reconciliation and reconstruction, is crucial to rebuilding government legitimacy, and cannot be seen as simply restoring the pre-war situation,
- T. whereas post-conflict rebuilding of a state should at the same time incorporate efforts to prevent future conflicts,
- U. underlining the importance of providing the decision-makers of affected countries with adequate background information on the experience and best practices of the international community, civil organisations and the European Union,
- V. underlining that when, following a natural disaster of large proportions (earthquake, flooding, tsunami, hurricane, storm, etc.), the post-disaster situation facilitates reaching a peace agreement between parties in conflict, such peace agreements pressured by shared tragedy and humanitarian emergency need to be embedded and further consolidated, to prevent their disruption as soon as the crisis fades away,
- W. stressing the importance of humanitarian aid and the fact that it should preferably be supplied solely via civilian and diplomatic channels; underlining, however, that military personnel can be involved in humanitarian operations to facilitate the work of civilian humanitarian aid workers, for instance by securing airports and roads, repairing bridges, clearing mines and evacuating victims,

Social and professional reintegration

- X. considering that restoring a healthy society is one of the major challenges after an armed conflict, as most of the social structures are destroyed, — such as families, local and religious communities — many people are declared missing, and there are often massive numbers of short and long-term IDP (internally displaced persons) and refugees,
- Y. whereas failure to address mental health and psychological disorders in populations that have experienced mass violence and trauma caused by conflict will impede efforts to enhance social capital, promote human development and reduce poverty,

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- Z. whereas the reintegration of ex-combatants from all armed forces, whether men or women, represents a crucial social problem and is an absolute key factor for stabilisation, preventing the renewed outbreak of conflicts or the emergence of banditry, violence and anarchy,
- AA. whereas the rapid disarmament of civilians and of any kind of formal or informal militias is paramount for order, security, freedom and stability,
- AB. underlining that special care and attention are needed for children and youth groups in and after armed conflicts, as many of them became child soldiers, or were victims of violence or sexual abuse,
- AC. whereas many civilians become disabled and victims, many others are at risk of being injured or killed by anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as a result of the armed conflicts,
- AD. whereas conflict situations increase the vulnerability of existing disabled people and their families and a discriminatory response between war disabled people and pre-war disabled people needs to be avoided by adopting a comprehensive rights-based approach,

Reconciliation

- AE. underlining that armed conflicts cause deep personal traumas to the civilian population and former combatants, a fact which has to be taken into consideration when planning the rehabilitation process,
- AF. whereas the setting up of a special committee or independent body in a post- conflict process could play an important role in investigating the violations that took place during the conflict and providing support and compensation for victims and their families,
- AG. whereas full and objective recording of the effects of the conflict on civilians and military staff in independent truth and reconciliation commissions may be one of the most important steps in the reconciliation process,
- AH. highlighting the role that churches and religious communities or organisations, traditional community leaders and civil society, in the form of national NGOs and fora, could play in promoting peace or providing mediation by creating opportunities to debate and settle differences,
- AI. stressing the important role of the International Criminal Court in the struggle against impunity,

Transition towards a democratic society, including preparations for elections

- AJ. whereas the deplorable state of political and administrative systems in many ACP countries constitutes a major obstacle to sustainable development,
- AK. whereas democratic and transparent institutions are key elements for enhancing efficient development strategies,
- AL. considering it vital to apply the participatory ownership principle, as underlined in the 'New Partnership for Africa's Development' (NEPAD), so that beneficiary countries themselves have to be responsible for and actively participate in managing their own development process,
- AM. whereas the EU must regard the African Union as a partner,
- AN. stressing that stable and durable post-conflict peace is only possible through national reconciliation, effective justice, freedom, pluralism and democracy, and with the active involvement of civil society in the full peace process,

- AO. whereas democratic elections, as a platform to express the different personal political opinion of voters, represent a very important step for countries under reconstruction, which are eager to become democratic societies,
- AP. recognising the responsibility of the state in restoring security, through the process of transition towards democracy; stresses the need to ensure the necessary security conditions for the holding of elections in a post-conflict country, namely freedom of assembly and the free expression of opinion by competing parties, together with the personal safety of voters,
- AQ. considering that equality between men and women and women's participation in the decision-making process, either at legislative or in executive level, are essential elements of good governance,
- AR. recognising that the participation of non-state actors and civil society is vital in the transition towards democracy,
- AS. considering that the freedom of the media is one of the essential elements of democratic elections, as citizens should have the right to be informed about different political views, and whereas there should be no restrictions on media access,
- AT. recognising the progress made in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Cotonou Agreement and, in particular, those concerning political dialogue and peace-building policies (Title II, Articles 8 and 11.),
1. Reaffirms the involvement and participation of the ACP-EU JPA as an actor that contributes to conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions;
 2. Calls on the members of the ACP group to use ACP-EU cooperation as a means for confidence-building and to cooperate with member countries that are in conflict in order to arrive at a peaceful solution, and work together to further reconciliation and democratisation, as well as rehabilitation and development;
 3. Calls on the EU and ACP institutions and decision-makers to seek close cooperation with regional organisations such as the African Union (AU) or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to provide these organisations with adequate resources, both material and non-material, to enable them to make a contribution of their own to conflict resolution;
 4. Requests those ACP members which have successfully conducted the rehabilitation process to share their best practices with other members;
 5. Stresses the need to draw up security strategies which are appropriate to the situation and can effectively counter resurgences of violence and protect the civilian population against abuses; notes that in this context security checks by combined patrols by former parties to conflicts can promote confidence among the population provided that those concerned have been adequately trained for these duties, for which purpose sufficient resources must be made available;
 6. Notes how vital it is to identify the causes of a conflict with care and to incorporate the findings into security strategies, for example by facilitating access to political responsibility for disadvantaged groups or striking a better balance among conflicting interests in resources such as land or water;
 7. Supports the setting-up of hearings in national parliaments as well as in the European Parliament on the progress of conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation activities by the National Authorising Officer and the EC Delegation concerned;

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8. Calls on the European Commission, the EU Member States and the EDF Committee to cooperate closely on rehabilitation programming with the representatives of ACP countries, so that decision-making can involve leaders from the regions affected, and to attempt to ensure a coherent response at EU level to the post-conflict situation in ACP countries;
9. Requests the European Commission to improve coordination between its services, between itself and the Member States and between donors, to draw up strategy documents which facilitate analyses and coherence between different EU policies, as well as coordination and complementarity between different donors;
10. Calls upon donors to conduct an appropriate analysis of the structural causes of conflicts and to establish of global frameworks defining priority sectors and measures, to advocate a balance between actions aimed at political, economic, legal, social, environmental and military stabilisation and to achieve convergence between the objectives of peace and development;
11. Believes that reconstruction work should take account of the local environment, whether urban or rural, and that the aftermath of reconstruction must not result in damage to the environment;
12. Supports the efforts of regional bodies to reinforce peace processes and post-conflict rehabilitation;
13. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to take action internally and in close cooperation with the ACP countries concerned in order to combat the illegal and illicit exploitation of their natural resources and other assets;

Emergency aid and the link between relief, rehabilitation and development

14. Calls on the European Commission and other donors to integrate the concept of rehabilitation and development from the starting phase of a post-conflict situation, since the different phases of the rehabilitation process overlap; stresses that frequently, even during the armed conflict, it is possible to make the first steps towards relief and rehabilitation and that, therefore, these programmes should be started as early as possible; strongly recommends that churches and religious communities or organisations, traditional community leaders, politically independent NGOs and civil society at large be associated and involved in these programmes from a very early stage, and that women should participate in them on an equal footing;
15. Calls on the EU and other donors, in close coordination with local authorities, to finance programmes of physical, political, social and economic reconstruction that take a comprehensive approach, incorporating rehabilitation, peace-building, promotion of human rights and personal freedoms, stimulating private initiative, and economic growth and long-term development;
16. Asks the European Commission and the EU Member States to give the strongest possible support to the effective and successful promotion of donors' conferences for Angola, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as soon as the post-conflict situation has proven to have been stabilised, encouraging and supporting substantial steps towards democratic consolidation in these countries;
17. Urges the European Commission to adapt its financial instruments and procedures in order to make them more flexible and effective — as is stressed in the Cotonou Agreement — so that adequate financial and human resources can be made available in a short period of time in post-conflict situations;
18. Requests the post-conflict ACP states concerned to provide all possible means during the phase of humanitarian relief operations and to make efforts — if necessary involving police or military forces, whenever such support is requested by NGOs in the area — to guarantee free access to humanitarian aid, facilitate the work of humanitarian aid workers, and guarantee their personal safety and working conditions;

19. Requests that a participatory approach be included in a multi-dimensional strategic rehabilitation framework, so that humanitarian relief is directed through local actors, via an inclusive partnership which could attempt to bring together different local actors on an equal basis;
20. Expects women to be involved, on an equal footing, in all planning and decision-making processes relating to conflict resolution strategies, with genuine responsibilities will be entrusted to them;
21. Underlines the need for a local level presence on the part of donors and non-governmental organisations; therefore, welcomes the recent external reform of the European Commission to decentralise decision-making processes giving more autonomy and to increase the capacities of its Delegations in ACP countries;
22. Emphasises that there should be no single model for relief, rehabilitation and development, and that the major guidelines have to be adapted to the special needs of a given conflict, based on a pre-assessment of the circumstances; however, the programmes must always be designed with a view to equity so that all sections of the population may benefit from them;
23. Underlines the need for continuous dialogue and cooperation between peace-keeping and peace-building personnel in ACP countries — as their roles and mandates often overlap and conventional peacekeeping operations have extended into the areas of reconstruction and rehabilitation — especially on civil-military coordination, given the need to reduce confusion, clarify distribution of tasks and avoid duplications;
24. Calls on the European Commission other donors and the beneficiaries not to see the post-conflict process as a linear one, starting from emergency aid, followed by relief and rehabilitation and ending with development, but to take into account that phases overlap and integrate relief and development elements into the rehabilitation process, which will help lessen disruptions in planning and funding during crises;
25. Stresses the importance of including in post-conflict rehabilitation strategies, the objective of preventing future conflicts in all phases of a post-conflict rehabilitation;
26. Stresses the importance of associating both national and, where they exist, regional parliaments in post-conflict management and of directly involving their elected members in these tasks;
27. Calls for the integration of sub-national (local) rehabilitation plans in a given conflict, as in many cases a country is divided into areas where the level of required assistance may differ and zones with violent conflicts may border on regions where rehabilitation is already required; considers it important that they have some level of direct cooperation with the state, regional and local authorities;
28. Calls for a regional and multilateral dimension to be integrated into rehabilitation strategies, as conflicts tend to spill over borders, and equally the causes of conflicts frequently have multi-country regional aspects; notes that regional neighbours can contribute a good deal to conflict resolution but should not intervene in conflicts improperly and should respect the territorial sovereignty of neighbouring States;
29. Underlines the importance of adopting a comprehensive rights-based approach to rehabilitation strategies, including disabled people;
30. Encourages donor participation and engagement as an important sign to the post-conflict state, as well as raising the awareness of other possible donors and supporting their participation in the mediation process to reach a peaceful solution; however, at the same time, they need to adopt an impartial approach throughout the whole process, as the political environment is fragile;

31. Urges donors and policy-makers at different levels to cooperate in their strategy, planning and activities in the field, and in setting up a lead agency for rehabilitation among themselves, in cooperation notably with the United Nations and other international organisations, and to share information and experience in a flexible and responsive manner; urges beneficiaries to collaborate with donors at national and local level;

Social and professional reintegration

32. Calls for both victims of and combatants in violent conflicts to be reintegrated into civil society in all its aspects, in particular its economic, social, educational, cultural and political aspects;
33. Believes that restoring the good physical and mental health of the population must be a priority in post-conflict situations, but that there will be many people physically and mentally damaged permanently or for long periods and special care must be taken to ensure that their condition is treated and cared for and that they are enabled to play as full a part in society as their condition permits;
34. Calls on the EU, other donors and the ACP states to address mental health disorders and psychological problems arising from conflicts as part of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts;
35. Urges its post-conflict member states to engage at government and local level in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes for social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants;
36. Recommends that DDR strategies be rethought in order to, possibly even during the pre-demobilisation stage, involve and employ directly former combatants in basic infrastructure rehabilitation works, in the framework of programmes that, as a whole, can serve as a powerful reconciliation tool, as an effective professional training and social reintegration mechanism, as a means of preventing large-scale unemployment, poverty and social unrest, as a practical means of ensuring in a shorter period and with a lower cost the creation of minimum conditions for populations to resettle and for normal economic and social life to resume;
37. Stresses that direct participation in public infrastructural reconstruction programmes may be of value during the process of disarmament and rehabilitation of ex-soldiers, while their participation in professional training courses will increase the possibility of them fulfilling a useful role in society;
38. Recommends that all internationally funded DDR programmes involve in their respective management not only the ruling power, but all former fighting parties or factions, in order to ensure fairness, to build mutual trust and to guarantee efficiency at the grass-roots level;
39. Calls on the European Commission and the international donor community to invest in the economic revitalisation of post-conflict ACP countries, for example by supporting financial reconstruction of small and medium-sized enterprises and family farms in order to accelerate job creation, and to set up vocational training centres, with a view to securing the revenue needed for the re-development of social services; recommends that special attention be given in this field to the possibility of deploying and supporting small business programmes and microcredit;
40. Notes that in any post-conflict situation disabled people are likely to feel the negative impact of the crisis more keenly than other citizens; their ability to cope and survive may be completely dependent on others and the capacity of any family to support its disabled members is keenly tested;
41. Calls on the international community and governments to seize the opportunity to rebuild the infrastructure according to universal design and accessibility standards when major reconstruction efforts are undertaken;

42. Stresses the need to place a special focus on female ex-soldiers' problems as well as women who have been victims of physical violence, rape or sexual abuse;
43. As to children affected by armed conflicts, urges that special attention and close care be devoted to child soldiers' education and reintegration and to the specific dramatic problems and urgent needs of orphans, of those physically, sexually or psychologically abused, and of IDP or refugee children who have been abruptly cut off from their schools, friends and natural environment;
44. Stresses that rehabilitation can only be successful if the problem of refugees and internally displaced people is solved by helping their voluntary and safe return to their homes and providing help with the reconstruction process, and through the deployment of peace-keeping forces, if appropriate;
45. Urges donors and beneficiaries to set up special projects for the most vulnerable members of society, i.e. children and youth groups, which should focus on education and vocational training to facilitate the reintegration of ex child soldiers and those girls and boys who were affected by wars, armed conflicts, displacement, drought, hunger, natural disasters, HIV/AIDS, those who had been used in human trafficking, all of them therefore deprived of education, as well as setting up recreation and sport facilities for them and provide special psychological care, where possible within the education system, to help them to cope with their war trauma; welcomes the appeals made in this context by international organisations such as UNICEF;
46. Stresses the key role that schools can have in post-conflict situations, as children are highly dependent on their capacity to provide not only quality education but also physical protection, psychological assistance and basic services such as health care, water and sanitation;
47. Calls on its post-conflict member states to facilitate and contribute to the work of donors and non-governmental organisations in the demobilisation of child soldiers, advising them and securing their release from the armed forces and groups, to facilitate their disarmament and re-integration into the family where appropriate and society, and protect them from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination;
48. Calls on the international community and beneficiaries to set up special projects that provide extensive care for women and girls who became victims of armed conflicts and guarantee respect for their human rights; as rape is widely practised as a weapon of war, forced pregnancy and war trauma affect many of the female civilian population; protection must also be given to children born of rape, and all these issues need to be addressed and solved in a successful social rehabilitation process;
49. Requests those states whose territories are contaminated with landmines to set up special programmes for the social re-integration of disabled landmine victims and survivors, in the field of medical care and financial support, whilst ensuring that these programmes target the whole of the disabled population, as well as organising effective mine risk education for the population, in particular for children, actively conducting mine-clearance and refraining from using, stockpiling or trading anti-personnel landmines;
50. Is aware that the damage caused to the natural and marine environment by spent and unspent munitions needs particular attention for both health and safety and environmental reconstruction reasons;
51. Calls on those member states of the ACP-EU JPA which have not signed or ratified the Ottawa Convention (Mine-Ban Treaty) or the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to do so without delay;
52. Calls on those ACP and EU states that joined the Ottawa Convention to implement its provisions, in particular its anti-personnel landmine clearance obligation by the date set by themselves, in accordance with the Nairobi Action Plan for 2005–2009;

Reconciliation

53. Underlines the importance of investigating human rights abuses and rape, torture, arrests and killings in an impartial and objective manner;
54. Believes that truth commissions have the potential to generate many benefits for societies in transition, although they may not always be appropriate in every context; stresses the importance of active involvement from many different sectors of society in such commissions; emphasises that after completion of an objective final report — including, in view of its particular relevance, a section devoted to children, drawn up with the involvement of children and young people — all actors should do their utmost to implement the commission's recommendations;
55. Acknowledges the importance of the experiences of the truth and reconciliation commission in South Africa, but stresses the importance of adapting the methodology to local circumstances;
56. Points out that amnesties may be a reconciliation instrument, provided that they are prepared and decided in a wise, fair and balanced manner and are not unfairly exploited as an instrument to block justice, to cover up hideous crimes and to escape huge responsibilities;
57. Believes that justice is the main domain where the international community can be directly involved in processes that have a reconciliation potential, as shown by the ad hoc tribunals in The Hague and Arusha, the International Criminal Court (ICC), the UN-initiated tribunals in Cambodia and Sierra Leone, and the implementation of the principle of universal jurisdiction;
58. Considers it necessary to ensure, through the International Criminal Court, ad hoc tribunals or national independent courts, according to the different kind of situations, that acts of genocide and other hideous crimes do not remain unpunished, that justice is done, that the truth is established and that reparation is made to the victims;
59. Stresses that the International Criminal Court can play a paramount role in breaking the vicious circle of impunity, by bringing to justice the main instigators and perpetrators of severe human rights violations; is convinced that this can create an atmosphere in which amnesty for and reintegration of all ex-soldiers is possible;
60. Believes the international community could assist in negotiating reconciliation programmes into peace agreements, drafting suitable domestic legislation and protecting those who will be locally responsible for the implementation of such programmes and legislation; stresses that official agencies have an important role to play in drafting international guidelines that can strengthen local political and civil society leaders, such as the UN guidelines on the fight against impunity; stresses the importance of international reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
61. Deplores the pressure exerted by the United States on third countries to conclude Bilateral Immunity Agreements, purportedly based on Article 98 of the Rome Statute, excluding its citizens and military personnel from the jurisdiction of the ICC, as well as the reprisals taken — including reduction of aid — against countries which have signed the Rome Statute; therefore asks the States supporting the ICC and the European Commission to maintain their efforts to persuade the United States to reverse its policy and in the interim to seek to help these countries following any cuts in US aid;
62. Urges that action be taken to ensure the personal safety of victims appearing before the truth committee and, if needed, giving special attention to women by setting up special hearings for women and children as the most vulnerable groups in society; stresses that women should not only be heard as victims but also actively involved in the reconciliation process;

63. Recommends that religious and traditional leaders be involved as prominent actors in the reconciliation process and suggests that the wisdom of the elders be considered, used and respected;
64. Stresses that the restoration of the state and its authority is essential to safeguard the electoral process and stabilise on a lasting basis the institutions in those countries facing post-conflict situations; calls on the European Union and its Member States to devote particular attention to this under the ACP-EU partnership arrangements;
65. Deems essential the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance through the development of mutual solidarity among citizens, and calls upon all politicians and political and social leaders, religious organizations and civil society to convey to the population signals and messages of peace, reconciliation and national unity;
66. Calls on post-conflict states to pursue an economic and social policy that ensures the harmonious and balanced development of the people and the nation, as well as a policy of peaceful resolution of social problems and reconciliation;
67. Urges former conflicting parties to engage in a regular, open, serious, in-depth and extensive political dialogue immediately once peace agreements have been reached;

Transition towards a democratic society, including preparations for elections

68. Reaffirms, as stated in the Cotonou Agreement, that democratic principles are universally recognised and underpin the organisation of the state, ensuring the legitimacy of its authority and legality of its actions reflected in its constitutional, legislative and regulatory system;
69. Reaffirms its commitment to a democratic system of government, inspired by the realities of its respective countries, which guarantees security, freedom and justice for all, within the framework of the rule of law, and is founded on the values of unity without exclusion;
70. Supports compliance with the principle of good governance — a fundamental element of the ACP-EU Partnership — including separation of powers, the rule of law, transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs and of natural and financial resources, for the purpose of equitable and sustainable development;
71. Stresses that it is important to increase institutional capacities — of both central and local institutions — to fight corruption; also stresses the importance of restructuring the public administration and empowering civil servants to perform their duties, so as to serve all users of public services with efficiency, courtesy, honesty, impartiality and equity;
72. Emphasises the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; encourages reference should be made to the rule of law, when determining the structure of the state and the competencies of the various powers;
73. Deems it essential to ensure an environment of general respect for fundamental human rights and recommends that, from a very early stage following the end of an armed conflict, human rights education programmes be put in place;
74. Recognises the importance, when armed conflicts end, of restoring the authority of the state, reinstating public administration in the entire territory of a given country and reorganising the national army and police forces, according to democratic principles and the model of plural and free societies; points out that, in some situations, with international specialised assistance, where needed and asked for, the incorporation of former combatants from different sides in a common new national army or police force has proven to be a good and helpful solution;

75. Recalls that transitional multiparty governments, serving as governments of national unity, are an adequate means of guaranteeing stabilisation, peace and shared responsibility from the moment peace agreements are concluded and prior to any elections; also draws attention to the fact that experience has shown that often such power-sharing schemes have proven to be wise even after elections have taken place, as a long-term stability platform until a full democratic culture is firmly rooted and alternation of power is possible without major risks;
76. Welcomes the fact that the EU and the international community often play a substantial role in convincing conflicting parties to reach a peace agreement and hold democratic elections; regrets, however, that more than once they have failed to offer the necessary assistance to the post-conflict parties to fully implement the peace agreements; urges them to step up their financial, administrative and logistical support to post-conflict countries to ensure a proper implementation of peace accords;
77. Recommends that, following the definitive cease-fire or the existence of a minimum safety situation, democratic elections should be prepared and conducted in accordance with a realistic timetable that takes account of, inter alia, local capabilities and external inputs of human, material and financial resources; recommends that, unless exceptional circumstances prevail, those first elections following the end of armed conflict should, in principle, take place within two to three years at most; draws attention to the need not only for general presidential and parliamentary elections, but also to regional and local elections; stresses that elections are by no means the end point of a democratisation process, which should be an ongoing effort;
78. Calls on the persons responsible for the preparation of the elections, to name an ad hoc, independent electoral committee which should have as its tasks, in particular, to draw up the electoral roll, fix the number and the location of constituencies and of other necessary infrastructures, engage and train staff, check the transparency of candidates' expenditure, lay down regulations governing the vote and duly inform the population;
79. Encourages the participation of women during the electoral process and in government, in which connection the Platform for Action of the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing stated that a minimum participation of 30 % represented a 'critical mass' on the road to the attainment of completely equal rights;
80. Considers that important, relevant and independent non-state actors could play an important role in the electoral process by encouraging an open and general debate and making sure that candidates assume their responsibilities;
81. Calls on the United Nations and other relevant international bodies to convene as observers and to assist the setting up of an independent electoral commission; the European Union, the European Parliament, the United Nations and other international organisations have to play an essential role as regards assistance and monitoring of the electoral processes, with a view to contributing to the democratisation of ACP countries; encourages long-term observers to come to the country a long time before election day in order to follow the electoral process from the beginning; expects, however, that short-term election observers, such as those from the European Parliament, should come to the country a few days before the election and should stay at least until the first count of votes has ended;
82. Calls for the deployment, if necessary and at the request of the host country, of an international multilateral force, possibly with the support of local troops, in order to guarantee safety; a high number of polling stations would also make it possible to increase the sense of security;
83. Requests that close attention be paid to freedom of expression and assembly, in order to allow political parties involved to express their opinions freely, respecting opponents and the common democratic rules, and to allow the presence of independent media; requests that journalists be guaranteed the freedom of movement they need for their work and that the plurality of information be respected; calls for clear and effective rules that guarantee the freedom of establishment of private media and equal access of all parties to media, in particular the state controlled media; underlines the special importance of these aspects for radio broadcasting stations in ACP countries;

84. Calls on the European Commission, the various donors and appropriate non-governmental organisations to carry out programmes to train media workers, with the aim of facilitating independent, high-quality reporting, and to guarantee the provision of adequate technical and material resources, for example cassettes, film material and paper;
 85. Calls on the elected members of the national assembly to adopt a democratic constitution or to revise it as soon as possible, before or immediately after the first post-conflict general elections and possibly subject to a referendum, unless such urgent need is not felt by former conflicting parties and society at large; the same applies to the most significant political, organic and structural laws, which govern essential areas of a democratic state;
 86. Underlines the importance of conducting permanent political dialogue with beneficiary countries on the political situation, as anticipated in Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular on fields such as arms trade, excessive military expenditure, drugs and organised crime, or ethnic, religious or racial discrimination; this dialogue should also include a regular evaluation of the developments relating to respect for human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law and to good governance;
 87. Considers that sharing experience on an equal footing, between the representatives of the donor countries and those of the beneficiary countries is one way of enhancing this capacity for dialogue;
 88. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, ACP regional integration organisations, and any parties in conflict in the ACP and EU countries.
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on budgetisation of the European Development Fund (EDF)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bamako (Mali) from 18 to 21 April 2005,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, which entered into force on 1 April 2003, and in particular the Financial Protocol laid down in Annex I and the Implementation and Management Procedures set out in Annex IV thereto,
- having regard to the Communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, 'Towards the full integration of co-operation with ACP countries in the EU budget' (COM(2003)590),
- having regard to the report of the European Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation on budgetisation of the European Development Fund (A5-0143/2004) ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade on the use of the European Development Fund (ACP-EU/3602/03/fin.) ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade on budgetisation of the European Development Fund (ACP-EU/3686/05/fin.),
- A. whereas, since its creation in 1957, the European Development Fund (EDF) has remained the main financial instrument of cooperation between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), operating on the basis of voluntary contributions from the EU Member States,
- B. whereas the leaders of the European Union Member States committed themselves to financial targets regarding the EC's contribution to official development aid (ODA) at the Barcelona Council summit and the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002,
- C. reaffirming the important role of the financial assistance provided by the European Union in the development of ACP countries, at the national and regional levels, and the consequent need to strengthen development finance cooperation within the framework of the EDF,
- D. welcoming the unprecedented progress achieved in commitments and disbursements in 2003 in implementing ACP-EC financial cooperation,
- E. having regard to the new role conferred on national and regional authorising officers under the Cotonou Agreement and the capacity necessary in order to ensure that all of the tasks and responsibilities identified are carried out, in particular improvement of the management of aid financed by the EDF,
- F. noting that the issue of budgetising the EDF has come at a time of fundamental changes to the ACP-EU partnership as manifested in the negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which also is an opportunity to further improve upon the objectives and principles of financing development cooperation,
- G. reaffirming the importance of the role and responsibilities of national and regional authorising officers in the management and implementation of projects and programmes,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali)

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ Minutes of 1.4.04.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 26, 29.1.2004, p.7.

- H. expressing concern about the prospects of budgetisation and its potential impact on the principles and key elements of development finance cooperation, in particular co-management, resource predictability and flexibility in the use of resources,
- I. pointing out that the enlargement of the Union to 25 Member States will lead to a new cost-sharing formula being established for financial aid, based on voluntary contributions from States, if the current system of a five-year financial protocol is maintained,
- J. whereas the 25 Member States have not yet reached agreement on this new cost-sharing formula and any delay in this matter will block sources of funding,
- K. recalling that the main advantage of budgetisation of the EDF, i.e. integrating it into the general budget, is that the cost-sharing formula with which the 25 Member States are already familiar will automatically be applied without the need for lengthy and possibly unsuccessful discussions on a new ad hoc cost-sharing formula for the 10th EDF,
- L. whereas failure to reach agreement on such a new ad hoc cost-sharing formula would prevent or greatly delay the introduction of a 10th EDF, or only after a long delay, which would naturally jeopardise achievement of the objectives of the Partnership Agreement when it is essential to ensure the continued funding of the EDF,
- M. stressing that budgetisation of the EDF is not a panacea which will solve all the problems, nor is it an obstacle to the ACP-EU partnership operating effectively,
- N. whereas the Commission communication of 8 October 2003 (COM (2003) 590) provided a partial response (requiring more detailed amplification) to many of the questions posed by the ACP side, in particular regarding the guillotine effects of the principle of budget annuality and the capacity to arrange multiannual funding, the agreement of the JPA being conditional upon these guarantees being met,
- O. noting that the European Union's Financial Regulation provides practical ways of organising and guaranteeing the operation of a dedicated fund,
- P. reiterating that the high level of ACP participation in the decision-making process in respect of programming and the implementation of the EDF leads to a closer partnership between donors and beneficiaries and to greater ownership of programmes on the part of ACP countries,
- Q. reaffirming also the need to maintain and strengthen the Partnership acquis, in particular the principles of ownership and participation as enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement, which are key elements of a strategy designed to eradicate poverty,
- R. reaffirming that guaranteed resources, ownership of development programmes by the ACP countries and a continuing spirit of partnership are political issues which budgetisation neither resolves nor calls into question,
- S. recognising that the political authorities must answer the legitimate questions posed by ACP countries, including co-management of aid, the effects of performance measurement already evident in the 9th EDF and resource predictability and sustainability,
- T. stressing that it is not unreasonable to raise the issue of EDF reform, 40 years after it was set up, and that the present system has not managed to resolve the problems relating to the speed of disbursement and the build-up of unutilised appropriations (€11 billion),
- 1. Declares that it attaches particular importance to the EU's pursuit of a specific identifiable and recipient-driven development aid policy for ACP countries, which must have permanent, guaranteed funding;

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2. Insists that the ACP-EU partnership must retain its specificity and spirit of partnership, thus contributing to the mutual objectives of poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
3. Urges the European Commission and the authorities of the ACP States to redouble their efforts to sustain and improve over the long term the results obtained in 2003 in implementing ACP-EC financial cooperation, benefiting from the implementation of the new approach to programming and devolution of powers and decision-making;
4. Reiterates the concern that whilst the EU is the ACP's most important partner in development, the administrative and procedural delays and hurdles arising on both sides and which make the flow of EDF resources slow and cumbersome to access must be resolved or improved irrespective of the budgetisation proposal;
5. Confirms that the financial amount available to the ACP Group should be sufficient to meet the objectives of the Cotonou Agreement, whether financed via a tenth EDF or the Community budget;
6. Urges the EU Council and Commission to consider introducing exemptions to the financial regulations for the Community budget, in order to accommodate the concerns of the ACP Group, and reinforce the partnership, ownership and predictability of development funds;
7. Recommends in the same spirit that a suitable proportion of the appropriations of the EDF should be used for the political education and training of parliamentarians and of political, economic and social leaders, in the interest of a lasting reinforcement of good governance, the rule of law, democratic structures, and the interaction between government and opposition in pluralistic democracies based on free elections; notes that these funds should be used for the establishment of public administration colleges and the political education of members of parliament, local administrators and people in positions of responsibility in political parties and associations;
8. Points out that any decision relating to the budgetisation of the EDF must be consistent with the EU's commitments to increase its ODA level to an average of 0.39 % by 2006 from its 2002 average of 0.33 %, which were given at the Barcelona Council summit and at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002;
9. Urges the EU Member States and the European Commission to refrain from taking decisions that would have effects contrary to the objectives of the Cotonou Agreement;
10. Emphasises the need to address the concerns expressed by the 'less well-performing' ACP countries that budgetisation of the EDF could entail a reduction in the funds allocated to them, and calls on the Commission to explain how it intends to guarantee that the interests of these countries are not affected;
11. Recommends that — a measure welcomed by Commissioner MICHEL at the meeting of the Committee on Development of the European Parliament of 15 March 2005 — use be made of non-committed EDF funds (unexpended balance) for major infrastructure projects or other projects of regional and transnational interest submitted by ACP institutional partners (e.g. Caricom, African Union, Nepad, West African Economic and Monetary Union, etc.) or by a significant number of ACP countries which have agreed on a given project;
12. Notes the concerns expressed by the ACP countries about the possible effects of the annuality principle applied to the Community budget, even though the Commission has made it quite clear that this does not preclude multi-annual programming;

13. Calls on the ACP-EU Secretariat to draft a joint note as soon as possible setting out the positions of the ACP Council, the EU Council and the European Commission reviewing the implications of budgetisation and the principle of budget annuality on the basis of the impact on key elements of development cooperation funding, and in particular:
 - co-management of aid;
 - resource predictability and sustainability;
 - the level of resources to be budgetised;
 - flexibility in the use of resources;
 - allocation of resources;
 - the role and responsibilities of national and regional authorising officers;
 - the role and responsibilities of the ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee;
 - swift disbursement of resources;
 - effects of performance measurement;
14. Emphasises the need to provide guaranteed long-term development finance for ACP countries, and stresses that no country should find itself in a less favourable position following any changes made to the system of financing;
15. Reiterates the importance of the resource predictability offered by the current EDF, which facilitates long-term programming in ACP countries and which the JPA keenly supports;
16. Calls on the European Commission, the EU Council, the European Parliament and the ACP States to put in place an appropriate framework for conducting in-depth consultations, in order to evaluate the advantages and drawbacks of each of the two systems (budgetised and non-budgetised EDF);
17. Reaffirms the need, in any codecision procedure relating to a future EDF regulation, to safeguard the principles of 'partnership' and 'ownership' of development programmes by ACP countries and their involvement in all decisions regarding the use of funds;
18. Considers it necessary in the same spirit that, if the EDF is indeed budgetised, the JPA should be closely associated in the EU budgetary procedure with a view to providing valuable input to the EU budgetary authority on budget matters relating to ACP countries;
19. Advocates that, alongside discussions on budgetisation of the EDF, a 10th EDF should be prepared and made available to the ACP countries, in order to enable them to pursue the objectives of the Partnership Agreement funded on the basis of a cost-sharing formula identical to that applying to the general budget; Welcomes the pursuit of discussions on finance, both as part of the EU General Budget or a possible 10th EDF and, in this context, notes the recent Commission proposal to communicate to the ACP Group a multi-annual financial framework for cooperation for the years 2008-2013;
20. Emphasises the need to maintain specific regional and national allocations, and stresses that the transfer of EDF resources to other global objectives should take place only in consultation with the ACP partners;
21. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on the situation in the Sudan

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bamako (Mali) from 18 to 21 April 2005,
- having regard to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of the Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 9 January 2005 in Nairobi (Kenya),
- having regard to the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur to the United Nations Secretary-General Council Resolution 1564 (2004),
- having regard to the ceasefire agreement signed between GoS, the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in N'djamena (Chad) on 8 April 2004 and the reports of the Ceasefire Commission,
- having regard to its previous resolutions regarding the Sudan and the International Criminal Court (ICC),
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Bureau decided, pursuant Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure, 'to send a delegation to the Sudan, if possible to Darfur, the South and the East, in order to prepare the urgency debate and the resolution for the 9th session',
- B. whereas a delegation was sent to the Sudan from 23 to 27 March 2005 and visited Khartoum, Northern Darfur State, Southern Darfur State and Juba (Bahr El Gabel State),
- C. whereas the CPA provides for separate armed forces, with the withdrawal of 91 000 government troops from the South within two and a half years, and of the SPLA from the North within 8 months, an equal division of oil wealth and elections after 3 years,
- D. whereas the conflict in Darfur has not completely ended and has generated many thousands of deaths, about 1.65 million IDPs, and 200 000 refugees in Chad, and the overall number of people affected by the conflict reaches approximately 2.5 million ⁽²⁾,
- E. whereas the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur established that GoS forces and militias conducted 'indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement, throughout Darfur' and that 'these acts were conducted on a widespread and systematic basis, and therefore may amount to crimes against humanity',
- F. whereas the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur made an assessment of individuals suspected of perpetrating 'serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including against humanity, or war crimes in Darfur' and concluded that 'those identified as possibly responsible for [these] violations consist of individual perpetrators, including officials from the GoS, members of militia forces, members of rebel groups, and certain foreign army officers acting in their personal capacity',
- G. whereas since its last resolution adopted in the Hague on 25 November 2004, there still have been attacks against civilians, death, widespread rape and looting in Darfur villages, as reported by the African Union Ceasefire Commission (AUCFC) and this is complicated by the reported increase in banditry,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali).

⁽²⁾ Source : Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur

- H. whereas the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur concluded 'the Sudanese justice system is unable and unwilling to address the situation in Darfur. This system has been significantly weakened during the last decade. Restrictive laws that grant broad powers to the executive have undermined the effectiveness of the judiciary, and many laws in force in Sudan today contravene basic human rights standards'.
1. Warmly welcomes the signature of the historic CPA in Nairobi on 9 January 2005 between the GoS and the SPLM which marked the end of a 21 year civil war as an important step towards bringing peace to Southern Sudan and as a development that can also contribute to bringing peace to Darfur;
 2. Urges all parties to implement the CPA and its set of Protocols covering, inter alia, power and wealth sharing agreements without further delay;
 3. Notes with satisfaction the new spirit of peace and enthusiasm created by the CPA as demonstrated by the return of some 100 000 persons and their livestock to the South, and stresses the importance for the population to receive a peace dividend rapidly;
 4. Welcomes the UN Security Council decision to create UNMIS, composed of 10 000 persons, with responsibility for disarming the combatants, reconciliation, observance of the rule of law and human rights, demining and supervision of elections, in addition to involvement in the rehabilitation and development process in the country, and pays tribute to the countries participating in UNMIS;
 5. Underlines the gravity of the landmines problem in Southern Sudan and asks the international community, GoS, SPLM, UN and other actors to carry out demining without delay in order to clear the roads and to allow IDPs and refugees to return to their homes;
 6. Takes the view that the end of war will allow for economic development in Southern Sudan;
 7. Recognises the important role of education in the development process and the need to rehabilitate educational facilities;
 8. Asks GoS and SPLM to use the oil revenues they will receive under the resource sharing of the CPA for development purposes, so that the people of the Sudan see the benefit of peace; asks GoS and SPLM to reduce military expenses and increase spending on health and education;
 9. Expresses great concern about the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Southern Sudan and Uganda;
 10. Welcomes the good cooperation between the Governments of Sudan and Uganda in pursuing the LRA and urges the extension of the existing cross-border arrangements;
 11. Takes note of the declaration of the Sudanese army that they will not pursue LRA child soldiers and stresses the fact that the child soldiers fighting for the LRA are victims of forced recruitment and should be treated in compliance with the relevant international conventions;
 12. Asks all oil companies to comply fully with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and international voluntary security principles; calls on the Commission to monitor this in relation to its policies on corporate social responsibility;
 13. Regrets that the governance of the Sudan has, for decades, led to the economic and political marginalisation of certain communities and regions and that this situation has compounded the conflict in Darfur;

14. Notes the improvement of awareness among most of the parties for a political, rather than military, solution for Darfur and calls therefore for increased positive action by the parties on the ground as the only way to put an end to the conflict;
15. Calls also on the GoS, the SLM/A and the JEM to engage more actively in the Abuja (Nigeria) peace process and calls for all parties involved in Darfur to respect strictly the CPA;
16. Calls on Government and rebel forces to adhere to the demands of the AU by returning to the military positions of December 2004, carrying out the disarmament of the government militia, the 'people's defence forces'; informing the AUCFC of rebel positions, and stopping attacks on humanitarian aid personnel, enabling them instead to work freely throughout the territory;
17. Supports the proposal to increase the AU presence in Darfur to around 6 000 military personnel;
18. Welcomes the fact that the GoS has grounded its military planes in Darfur and asks it to do the same for helicopter gunships, in compliance with the CPA;
19. Calls on the GoS to ensure that women who have been raped are able to receive treatment before or upon reporting the incident and that every effort is made to further train police in sexual and gender-based violence issues and, in this regard, welcomes the change in procedures for reporting rape (completion of Form 8 and granting equivalency to medical NGOs to recognise them as treatment centres) as disclosed to the delegation by the Minister of Justice;
20. Welcomes the decision by the UN Security Council on 31 March 2005 to refer the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court pursuant to article 13(b) of the ICC Statute, and asks the GoS to cooperate fully with the prosecutor;
21. Calls on all parties involved in the conflicts in the Sudan to refrain from the recruitment and use of child soldiers under the age of 18, and calls on the Sudanese authorities to protect displaced children, especially unaccompanied minors, as laid down in the relevant conventions;
22. Calls on the GoS and the Governments of Chad, Libya and the Central African Republic to impose stricter controls on the trade in small arms in the region;
23. Pays tribute to the work of humanitarian aid workers, including UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent family, ECHO, INGOs and NGOs for their commitment, and asks all parties in Darfur to refrain from harassing them or hindering their activities; humanitarian workers must be free to provide assistance and carry out their activities in keeping with their mandate, role and responsibilities;
24. Strongly condemns the reported attacks on INGOs and humanitarian workers on 22 March 2005 on the road between Nyala and Kass, of which the ultimate victims are the people these organisations were helping;
25. Welcomes the plans for mass vaccination campaigns against hepatitis and meningitis, planned to take place in Darfur in the coming weeks;
26. Asks the authorities of Khartoum State to limit the demolition of IDPs' houses and better coordinate planning for the resettlement of IDPs' from Shikan to El Fateh, including the provision of support for community development, in order to minimise the adverse effects of displacement from squatted areas;
27. Calls on the international community to continue its humanitarian and development assistance to the Sudanese refugee populations and their Chadian hosts and to empower further civil society in the Sudan and Chad as partners in peace;
28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Government of the Sudan, the African Union, IGAD, the Governments of the United States of America, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Norway, Russia and Uganda, and to the UN Secretary-General.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on the situation in the African Great Lakes region

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bamako (Mali) from 18 to 21 April 2005,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes region continue to be hindered by a multitude of challenges,
- B. whereas the persistent illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to foment the conflict and to be a source of insecurity throughout the region,
- C. whereas the countries of this region are linked by a history of inter-related conflicts and by frequent cross-border refugee flows and share similar post-conflict needs for justice and the protection of human rights,
- D. concerned by the increasing human poverty in the Great Lakes region, and the critical humanitarian situation, characterised by numerous displaced persons and refugees,
- E. whereas the consequences of conflicts have to be addressed, in particular through demilitarisation, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants, repatriation of refugees, resettlement of internally displaced persons and viable economic development programmes,
- F. shocked by the fact that sexual violence and rape are used as weapons of war,
- G. whereas Rwanda is moving towards trials of hundreds of thousands of persons accused of genocide and Burundi and the DRC are rebuilding their national judicial systems and putting truth and reconciliation commissions into operation,
- H. whereas the International Criminal Court in The Hague has held in March 2005 its first hearing on the inquiry into war crimes allegedly committed in the DRC,
- I. whereas strategies have been mapped out to implement a regional pact on security, stability and development, signed in Dar Es Salaam in November 2004,
- J. whereas the Great Lakes region with its dire humanitarian and socio-economic problems merits promotion of a comprehensive development package,
- K. whereas the DRC is in an extremely delicate transitional phase, with the difficult task of setting up viable institutions following democratic elections,
- L. whereas delays in the 2005 elections in DRC are unnerving people who long for stability, as stated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan,
- M. whereas the district of Ituri and the provinces of North and South Kivu are still not at peace; whereas the United Nations forces have stepped up their operations in Ituri,
- N. whereas the question of the Interahamwé and the ex-FAR is a real problem in the relationship between Rwanda and the DRC and makes good relations difficult between the two countries,
- O. noting the FDLR undertaking to disarm and to cooperate in the peace process in Rwanda and urges it to make every effort to fulfil this undertaking,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali).

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- P. whereas it is more vital than ever to disarm the armed groups which are within the territory of the DRC, as provided for in the Lusaka Agreement of 1999 and the Pretoria Agreement of 2002,
- Q. whereas, without genuine peace in the region, the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the Congolese Government, cannot produce the expected results,
- R. whereas Burundi is the third poorest country in the developing country rankings and its ethnic balance remains a potentially destabilising issue as the country attempts to complete its political transition,
- S. whereas over 90 % of the population voted in favour of a new constitution,
- T. whereas the constitution provides that the representation of Burundian women in public institutions shall be around 30 %, a measure unprecedented in the history of the country,
- U. whereas the adoption of the new constitution is an initial stage preceding a series of elections envisaged to ratify the division of power at every level,
- V. concerned by the ongoing atrocities by the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda;
- W. whereas the African Union's 'Peace and Security Council' is seeking 'bold action by the African Union' in the form of more active participation in measures to secure the surrender of weapons by illegal Rwandan armed groups; whereas the European Union has expressed its willingness to assist in this operation conducted by the African Union;
- X. whereas the International Criminal Court in The Hague may soon issue arrest warrants for senior Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commanders in Uganda,
1. Calls on the heads of state and government of the Great Lakes region to promote an effective implementation of existing regional peace and development instruments in order to ensure and consolidate the foundations for regional peace and security;
 2. Stresses that the resources following the Asian tsunami and the signing of a peace accord ending Sudan's 20-year civil war should not take the focus off this conflict-riven region;
 3. Calls for the end of impunity from prosecution of human rights violators that has characterised the region and stresses that the Commission should urge donor nations as well as UN agencies to support mechanisms for accountability, including reformed national judicial systems;
 4. Calls on the countries of the Great Lakes Region to make rejection of impunity the cornerstone of moves to strengthen the rule of law, this being the only guarantee for sustainable peace, and the right of victims to effective redress before an impartial court;
 5. Calls for the International Criminal Court to extend the scope of its investigation to the entire region and initiate proceedings rapidly against the presumed perpetrators of the most serious crimes, whatever positions of responsibility they may now occupy;
 6. Calls on the governments of the region and the European States to cooperate fully with the ICC;
 7. Calls on the states of the region which have not yet done so to ratify the ICC Statute, adopt internal legislation on the adaptation of the Statute's provisions and ratify the additional protocol to the African Charter creating an African Court of Human and People's Rights through a declaration made under the sixth paragraph of Article 34 thereof, making possible individual redress before the Court;
 8. Strongly condemns the numerous instances of sexual violence, in particular the rape of women and girls, committed in the Great Lakes region;

9. Welcomes the fact that some countries of the Great Lakes region have adhered to the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism in order to promote good governance and economic growth and urges those who have not yet done so to adhere to this instrument;
10. Calls on all parties and on the international community to combat all human rights abuses and violations and to take all measures to put to trial the perpetrators of such crimes in the relevant international tribunals;
11. Calls for the respect of the territorial integrity of the countries of the Great Lakes region and in particular the DRC and on all parties to the conflict to respect and comply with the 2003 Peace Agreements and the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
12. Urges Rwanda to continue efforts to integrate former rebels into civil society and the army;
13. Expresses its concern about the continued serious unrest in the district of Ituri and the provinces of North and South Kivu, and requests the immediate withdrawal of all foreign armed groups;
14. Calls for compliance with the arms embargo and effective implementation of the mechanisms adopted;
15. Calls on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions (restriction of movement, freezing of assets) on individuals (nationals and foreigners) found guilty of pillaging ACP countries in a conflict and post-conflict situation;
16. Considers that the implementation of the Dar es Salam Declaration constitutes a solid basis for the establishment of peace between the countries of the Great Lakes region, while respecting the territorial integrity of all the countries concerned;
17. Calls on the European Commission and Council to support by funding and every other means the implementation of the Dar es Salam Declaration;
18. Stresses the vital importance of the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and calls on the international community and the EU and its Member States to send troops to form the backbone of a strengthened MONUC peace force;
19. Calls on the European Union to provide the necessary funding and logistic support to enable the African Union, in cooperation with the MONUC and the Congolese unified army and under UN mandate (Chapter VII of the Charter), to secure the surrender of weapons by the armed groups loyal to the former Rwandan leadership and present on DRC territory;
20. Calls on the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS) to give active support to consolidation of the peace process in the Great Lakes region and measures to achieve stability and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
21. Notes with concern the lack of payment and training of national soldiers and policemen which in itself constitutes an important security risk; calls on the EU and the international community to assist in the funding, training and equipping of the national DRC army to allow it to play a role in disarming foreign armed groups and in providing security for elections;
22. Urges the Council to consider as a matter of urgency, a new European Union mission to the DRC, along the same lines as the ARTEMIS operation, to increase security in the east of the country, particularly along the border between Rwanda and the DRC;
23. Calls for the elections to be held within the constitutionally required period so that the people of the DRC can freely and democratically choose their leaders and urges the international community to do its utmost to support the ongoing democratic process;

24. Condemns the grave violations of international humanitarian law, including acts of sexual violence against the civilian population, committed by armed groups in Burundi; supports the negotiations under way between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL and urges the latter to implement its declaration and cease hostilities with a view to securing a definitive peace in Burundi;
 25. Expresses its support for the recommendation by the UN special mission on Burundi for the setting up of a truth and reconciliation commission and a prosecuting special chamber within Burundi's court system to deal with perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;
 26. Highlights the successful referendum for the adoption of a new constitution organised in Burundi in February 2005, as well as the high turnout;
 27. Calls on all parties in Burundi to move swiftly to implement the peace agreements and to refrain from taking any action that might jeopardise the peace process and the organisation of elections;
 28. Stresses that the new Burundian constitution is a crucial step on the road to peace and stability in that country and throughout the Great Lakes region;
 29. Expresses its concern as the food shortage worsens in Burundi and its economy is seriously debilitated;
 30. Calls on the international community, and in particular the European Union to assist areas threatened by famine, especially in Burundi, the eastern DRC and northern Uganda;
 31. Calls on the international community for more attention to be focussed on the conflict in northern Uganda;
 32. Calls on all parties, in particular the international community, to take immediate steps to stop the proliferation of arms into the conflict zones of the Great Lakes region;
 33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the UN and AU Secretaries-General.
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ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement**

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾ and modified in Luxembourg on 24 June 2005, in particular Articles 6 (The actors of the partnership), 8 (Political dialogue), 9 (Essential elements and fundamental element) and 58 (Eligibility for financing) thereof,
 - having regard to its ACP-EU political dialogue guidelines (Article 8) adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its 28th meeting in May 2003 in Brussels,
 - having regard to its resolution on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted on 25 November 2004 in The Hague ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the creation at the ninth JPA session in Bamako of the ACP Consultative Assembly,
 - having regard to paragraph 171 of the 2005 United Nations World Summit outcome document — 'Cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments',
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/3760/05),
- A. whereas the ACP countries' and EU Member States' parliaments are not at present sufficiently involved in the strategic dialogue as envisaged in the ACP-EU cooperation objectives,
 - B. whereas ACP countries are not sufficiently involved in the monitoring of implementation of ACP-EU cooperation,
 - C. whereas greater involvement of the ACP countries' parliaments does not necessarily require or imply any constitutional changes on their part, but rather changes in the procedures of the governments and Commission Delegations in these countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 17.

- D. whereas the ACP countries' parliaments have legislative and scrutiny responsibilities (with a direct linkage with the creation of a favourable environment for the implementation of the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs),
- E. whereas the parliaments of the EU Member States have no formal powers of scrutiny over ACP cooperation, although they share responsibility for its political functioning, and whereas, prior to their accession, the ten new EU Member States had no opportunity to take part in ACP cooperation and gather relevant experience,
- F. whereas, in general, members of parliament have a better knowledge than the executive arm of government of the reality on the ground, thanks to their regular contacts in their constituencies and with local people,
- G. whereas the involvement of national parliaments and, wherever possible, civil society in the discussion and definition of priorities for the use of foreign aid would contribute significantly to the strengthening of democracy, good governance, and respect for human rights in ACP countries,
- H. whereas ACP parliaments believe that the separation of powers between the executive and legislative arms of government should be observed,
- I. whereas parliaments are the pillars upholding the exercise of democracy and good governance, whose increasing importance is acknowledged to be a *sine qua non* for stability and development,
- J. having regard to the need in the ACP countries for parliamentary control and scrutiny of the use of budgetary aid,
- K. whereas the parliaments should be partners in the Strategic and Political Dialogue, as was stressed in its resolution on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted in The Hague on 25 November 2004,
- L. whereas strengthening the powers of the ACP countries' parliaments in respect of control and monitoring of the implementation of the national budget can improve transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, and thereby help to fight corrupt practices,
- M. whereas the European Development Fund (EDF) does not fall within the budgetary prerogative of the European Parliament, and whereas it would be appropriate to correct this democratic deficit as soon as possible, albeit in a manner that ensures that ACP countries are not worse off under budgetisation,
- N. having regard to the discharge given by the European Parliament to the European Commission in respect of the implementation of the EDF despite the fact that the EDF remains outside of the budget,
- O. whereas the parliaments, in both ACP and EU countries, should be a place for public debate and a forum for dialogue, playing a facilitating role in the multi-player dialogue among civil society and non-State actors, the executive and the donors,
- P. whereas periodic elections are one of the means of ensuring the democratic expression of political pluralism and should be organised in compliance with internationally recognised standards, with a view to constituting democratic and representative parliaments,
- Q. whereas the African Union established the Pan-African Parliament to further strengthen the parliamentary dialogue within Africa, as well as between Africa and other regions of the world,
- R. having regard to the importance of the democratic control exercised by the national parliaments of the EU States over their respective governments with regard to the activities of the ACP-EU Council,
- S. whereas the decisions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and those of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly should be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,

- T. whereas it is essential that the Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Members of the Committee of Ambassadors should act in conformity with the spirit of the separate roles and responsibilities of the three institutions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,
- U. whereas, at sessions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the political families organise meetings and working sessions between European and ACP parliamentarians, and whereas such meetings make a major contribution to the establishment of a genuine political assembly and the emergence of parliamentary diplomacy by helping the Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to transcend national and regional allegiances and by fostering transnational political alliances,
- V. having regard to the need for ACP parliamentarians and parliaments to exchange views at national, regional and all-ACP levels on the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and for the EU parliaments to discuss regularly the issues central to ACP cooperation,
- W. having regard to the resulting additional role of EU national parliaments in the dissemination of information and in capacity building in ACP countries,
- X. having regard to the need to deepen and widen the Belgian initiative of helping ACP parliaments to improve capacity in human and institutional fields through training and seminars, especially against the background of limited human resources and institutional capacities in many ACP countries,
- Y. having regard to the need to support the regional initiative of the United Nations, with the European Parliament, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Pan-African Parliament and the South African Parliament, which strengthens parliaments' capacity in information exchange and management, including also through information and communication technologies (ICTs),
1. Regrets that, to date, ACP-EU cooperation and the political decision-making process in the negotiation and implementation of the EDF is largely between the executive arm of government of ACP States and the European Commission;
 2. Calls for close cooperation between the European Parliament and the parliaments of the EU Member States in connection with the implementation of the ACP-EU partnership;
 3. Believes that it is essential that the parliaments on both sides have greater access to information, and calls on the Commission, through its Delegations in ACP countries, and National Authorising Officers to exchange information on a regular basis with the parliaments of the countries concerned, including reporting on progress on the implementation of their National Indicative Programmes, and to make this information available to the EU Member State parliaments as well;
 4. Urges ACP countries to hold specific parliamentary debates on foreign aid before the annual debate on and adoption of their national budgets, thus promoting transparency, good governance and the strengthening of their democratic institutions;
 5. Believes that the parliaments of the ACP countries should be systematically involved in the programming, monitoring and assessment of the impact of cooperation and that such involvement is the best way of guaranteeing the success of the poverty reduction objective;
 6. Asks that the National Authorising Officers consult with their parliaments within the framework of a general policy debate before drawing up the Country Strategic Paper (CSP) and National Indicative Programme (NIP);
 7. Regards it as exceptionally important that members of the parliaments in both ACP and EU countries should systematically be made aware of the spirit of and the practical opportunities offered by the Cotonou Agreement, and calls, with a view to making the work of the parliaments more professional, for comprehensive sets of data to be compiled as the basis for assessing and shaping ACP cooperation;

8. Welcomes in this connection the awareness-raising and training initiatives, which have taken place in various African countries and the Pacific region, and calls on the various players involved to systematise these types of initiative;
9. Looks to the ACP governments to incorporate such initiatives to strengthen development policy capacities in the CSPs and NIPs; calls on the Commission to respond to these requests, in accordance with the commitments given in principle at the eighth session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, held in The Hague (Netherlands) from 22 to 25 November 2004, and further calls on the ACP Secretariat to alert the national authorising officers on this issue;
10. Calls on the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, the Pan-African Parliament, and the other regional and sub-regional parliaments in the ACP to promote and immediately institute exchanges of information and exemplary practice on cooperation strategies/initiatives with a view to strengthening the role of the parliaments, and calls on the Commission to facilitate such exchanges in cooperation with EU national parliaments, the European Parliament and the United Nations system;
11. Believes further that regional meetings, which should be set up within the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Cotonou Agreement, could provide an appropriate framework for developing the exchange of information on best practices with a view to strengthening the role of the parliaments;
12. Calls for a strengthening of links between national and regional parliaments, and between national parliaments and the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, and of their capacity for exchanges and dialogue, particularly with regard to seeking common positions on the issues and subjects placed on the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's agenda;
13. Believes that there is a need to envisage, wherever possible, a transition to direct budgetary aid as the way in which the EDF could best deliver assistance, as this can have a leveraging effect on the economy of the country as a whole and, in particular, make the institutions of the country concerned more responsible;
14. Calls also on the national authorising officers to be more transparent with regard to the identification of the final beneficiaries of the EDF and the interest groups that are consulted when drawing up the CSPs and NIPs;
15. Calls on the ACP national parliaments to organise public hearings on the development cooperation policy choices within the ACP-EU partnership and on the implementation of aid, and thus act as a two-way channel between the institutions and non-State actors as a whole;
16. Calls on the ACP national parliaments to ensure that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's resolutions are appropriately disseminated amongst their members, and that the results of the work of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly are properly reported to their houses in plenary sitting, and that the necessary provisions be taken to guarantee the keeping of an institutional record thereof;
17. Calls on the EU national parliaments regularly to consider all aspects of current ACP cooperation in their competent bodies and also to make that cooperation the subject of a targeted publicity campaign, with a view to ensuring that people in their countries are aware of the need for problem-oriented development cooperation;
18. Calls on the European Commission regularly to provide the national parliaments in the EU with the information required to make them grasp the fact that the European Union is the world's largest development aid donor and that, through the Cotonou Agreement, it has established the world's only model for cooperation based on the principle of partnership and shared values;
19. Calls on national parliaments in the ACP and EU to create more space for discussion and debate on issues in the EU such as racism, xenophobia and immigration policies, that could impact ACP-EU partnership;

20. Commits itself to ensure that resolutions adopted on situations in individual EU and ACP countries be sent to those countries' parliaments, which should be invited to send a response that could be debated at the next JPA session;
21. Calls on all the institutions concerned, in particular the European Commission, to strengthen the JPA and facilitate the smooth take-off and operations of the newly created ACP Parliamentary Assembly with a view to ensuring their full participation in the ACP-EU partnership;
22. Emphasises the importance of the political balance between joint ACP-EU institutions and ACP institutions; points out that the ACP ambassadors can intervene through the Committee of Ambassadors and urges them to respect the role played by their parliamentarians in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly by acting as their advisors;
23. Calls for close cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments of EU Member States on the implementation of ACP-EU partnership;
24. Welcomes the meetings and working sessions organised by the political families; supports the proposal that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly should gradually move over to a political group system as a means of overcoming regional allegiances and of ensuring that the division into two separate houses gives way to efforts to promote shared ideas and standpoints;
25. Calls on every ACP parliament to ensure the creation of a specialised committee or group responsible for the monitoring of ACP-EU cooperation;
26. Calls on the ACP-EU Council to take part in the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, not only in the shape of declarations and at question time in plenary sitting, but also at the level of the work of the standing committees;
27. Instructs its Political Affairs Committee to follow up the issue of strengthening the parliaments with regard to implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
28. Regards it as important that the parliaments on both sides, or their specialist bodies, should be involved in political dialogue, pursuant to Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, when such dialogue is seen as being necessary;
29. Considers it important, in order for parliaments to be regarded as democratic, that elections be organised in compliance with internationally recognised standards, namely respect for political and civil rights, respect for freedom of expression and information, equal access to the mass media and respect for political pluralism, giving voters a real choice;
30. Calls on the EU national parliaments to monitor closely the activities of their governments within the ACP-EU Council;
31. Urges the committees responsible for development policy in the EU national parliaments and the European Parliament to keep each other informed and coordinate their policies, for example by means of seminars such as that organised by the Irish Parliament in May 2004;
32. Calls on the Members of the EU national parliaments, when they travel to ACP countries, to depart from what is, unfortunately, standard practice and visit not just bilateral projects, but also measures funded from the EDF, and to take the opportunity to seek information from the Commission Delegations about the practical state of ACP cooperation;
33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Commission, the ACP-EU Council, the parliaments of the ACP States, the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on causes and consequences of natural disasters**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 30 (Regional Cooperation) and 32 (Environment and natural resources) thereof,
 - having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted on 9 May 1992 and which entered into force on 21 March 1994,
 - having regard to its resolution on climate change and small island developing states in the context of the ACP-EU cooperation framework, adopted on 1 April 1999 in Strasbourg ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to resolution 57/256 of 20 December 2002 of the UN General Assembly on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action for a safer world, guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and the UN 'Barbados plus 10' International Meeting on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Mauritius in January 2005,
 - having regard to the September 2004 position of the United Nations International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) on hurricane risk management in developing countries,
 - having regard to its resolution on the hurricane damage in the Caribbean region, adopted in The Hague on 25 November 2004 ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on the damage caused by cyclones in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and the need for a rapid response to natural disasters, adopted in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2004 ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions on climate change in the context of development cooperation (15164/04),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (APP/3802/05),
- A. whereas Article 20 and Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement set the base for an ACP-EU sustainable development policy,
 - B. acknowledging that disaster risk reduction is primarily a national responsibility, but for member countries to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of disaster risk reduction at the national, regional and international levels,
 - C. whereas disaster preparedness and prevention is not systematically enshrined in all EC external relations aid programmes and related legal documents,
 - D. having regard to the different types of natural disasters, which include *inter alia* earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, sea encroachment, landslides, floods, hurricanes, other violent storms, droughts, epidemics and crop plagues, and whereas disaster preparedness and prevention is therefore important in all countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 271, 24.9.1999, p. 30.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 36.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 44.

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- E. taking note of the United Nations' recognition of Cuba as a model for disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and post-disaster management, particularly with respect to the development of the relevant human resources and the involvement of the communities therein;
- F. having regard to the need for full participation of local communities in sustainable development policies and programmes, into which disaster preparedness and prevention activities should be fully integrated,
- G. whereas poverty eradication and disaster prevention are fundamental aspects of any development policy,
- H. whereas indigenous knowledge should be used to protect populations, habitat, subsistence means and cultural heritage against natural risks,
- I. having regard to the special vulnerability of small island states to climate change,
- J. whereas many ACP countries are heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, which have recently suffered substantial price increases,
- K. having regard to the drought and deforestation problems faced by the least developed African inland countries,
- L. whereas all environmental ACP country profiles need to be constantly updated,
- M. whereas environmental problems need to be tackled at regional level,
- N. whereas EU countries must be opposed to all forms of relocation to developing countries of their polluting industries,
- O. whereas a post-2012 agreement on the intensification in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions must be reached,
- P. whereas the Clean Development Mechanism, set in the Kyoto Protocol, has the potential to generate substantial resources for the funding of mitigation and adaptation projects in ACP countries,
- Q. having regard to the continuous process of deforestation, illegal logging and increasing fires affecting earth's forests,
- R. whereas methane is 21 times more damaging than carbon dioxide, and whereas emissions can be limited through recovery and use in waste management,
- S. whereas special attention should be given to the management of river basins,
- T. having regard to the need for special information campaigns concerning risk awareness, particularly for housing construction in risk zones,
- U. recognising that good governance within each country is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and that, at the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, gender equality, youth integration and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for disaster risk reduction,
- V. recognising that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade,
- W. recognising that ACP Member States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to taking initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in disaster risk reduction, and the continuing need for maintenance of low-tech communication solutions, such as high-frequency radio for rural and remote locations,

1. Notes that hundreds of millions of poor people are extremely vulnerable to hazards like earthquakes, tropical storms, flooding, tsunamis or severe droughts, and that major disasters put development at risk; underlines that the MDGs will be hard to attain in most low-income countries including small and vulnerable island developing states, unless disaster risk reduction are well integrated into development and poverty reduction strategies;
2. Confirms its support for all resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on natural disasters and climate change;
3. Recognises that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, not least if they have a narrow economic base with only a small range of industries;
4. Calls for adaptation to climate change to be made a priority of EU development policy and for climate change considerations to be integrated into wider development policy;
5. Concludes that, in order to complement national and regional development efforts for Member States, there is an urgent need to enhance coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, which would facilitate the participation of Member States in international financial decision-making processes and institutions and in the process of setting international rules, codes, norms and standards for disaster reduction;
6. Asks all parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change to reach an agreement on the opening of negotiations on post-2012 greenhouse gas emissions reduction and to commit to any measures necessary to keep ghg concentration under 500 ppm CO₂ eqv. and the rise in global temperature to less than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels;
7. Calls for the development of a methane reduction policy, to include information and economic incentives for rice farmers;
8. Asks the Commission to enlarge the scope of the Community exchange of quotas system and to promote innovation so as to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions;
9. Confirms the need for a truly global carbon market, including emissions trading, joint implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism;
10. Supports the creation of a concrete action plan that promotes technology and research, makes use of all the Kyoto's protocol flexible mechanisms, promotes renewable energies and energy efficiency, and adapts policies and technology transfer to developing countries;
11. Calls for appropriate technology transfer of European renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes and funding to support this; notes that more use of renewables and better energy efficiency would lessen ACP country dependence on imported oil and its derivatives;
12. Asks the EU to increase, as a matter of urgency, the promotion and financing of renewable technologies in the developing states, such as solar and wind energy and the co-generation of electricity and production of environment friendly green energy by using biomass like sugar cane by-products and thus contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions as well as of the dependency of ACP States on the importation of oil to meet their energy needs;
13. Draws attention to the problem of natural disaster-driven population migrations and asks for special attention to be given to this issue in all development-related policies;
14. Asks the Commission to condemn publicly all exports to developing countries of dangerous products that are prohibited in industrialised countries on grounds of public health, protection of ecosystems or safety, whenever such exports come to its attention;

15. Stresses the importance of climate observation; welcomes the European capacity for Global Monitoring of Environment and Safety (GMES); welcomes the creation of the EU Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory for Africa, using satellite technology, to be used by ECHO in the assistance provided in case of natural disasters or emergency situations; calls for full dissemination of early warning information from the EU Joint Research Centre and the development of methodologies for hazard and risk mapping;
16. Asks the Member States and the Commission to address the issue of deforestation and illegal logging in all bilateral agreements with forested countries, introducing plans for the promotion of sustainable forest management practices, afforestation and reforestation and a certification scheme to combat illegal logging;
17. Calls upon ACP Countries to agree regionally on the management of river basins, taking co-ordinated measures for the misuse of water, construction of dams, overfishing, pollution, fertiliser use and control of algae growth or invasive species;
18. Calls for the promotion of public education, information and risk awareness campaigns, namely on land use planning, construction on risk zones, safe building construction and on protection of critical facilities;
19. Calls upon ACP governments to incorporate disaster risk reduction into curricula at all levels of education;
20. Stresses the need to increase funding for the development of the relevant human resources (including medical personnel and evacuation, search and rescue teams) for disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and post-disaster management, as well as for strengthening South-South cooperation in these areas;
21. Calls for the design and implementation of regional adapted early warning systems on natural disasters, within the framework of Article 28 and Article 30 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement;
22. Calls on the Commission to continue its work initiated with the Communication on 'Fighting rural poverty — European Community policy and approach to rural development and sustainable natural resources management in developing countries' (COM/2002/0429 final), especially concerning the provision of safety nets and further international actions;
23. Calls for the creation by ACP countries of social safety nets to protect lives during times of crisis, and asks international funding organisations to develop financial risk sharing mechanisms that focus on vulnerable populations and communities, namely national and regional insurance funds in a partnership between them and national governments;
24. Recalls that only through capacity building and involvement of local populations and their communities in national, regional and sub-regional programmes can problems such as poverty, health and nutrition, lack of food security, migration, displacement of persons and demographic dynamics be tackled;
25. Reiterates its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and emphasises the importance of MDG7 on ensuring environmental sustainability;
26. Calls on Member States to focus on the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to provide an overarching framework for global disaster risk reduction and to look for measures to address their vulnerabilities and to build resilience;
27. Whilst appreciating the creation of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility, which it had requested during its last meeting in Bamako in April 2005, regrets the very low level of resources allocated to the Facility despite the reality of the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and calls on the EU to allocate adequate additional financial resources to the Facility under the 10th EDF and other EU budget lines;

28. Calls upon the Commission to enshrine disaster preparedness and prevention systematically in all EC external relations aid programmes, in Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes, and in other legal documents; furthermore suggests that a significant share of disaster relief funds should be allocated in support of disaster prevention and preparedness programmes;
29. Confirms that a complementarity must exist between CSPs and RSPs in order to address regional and environmental challenges and threats;
30. Calls on ACP governments to design pre-crisis emergency and contingency plans that should include evacuation strategies, emergency safety zones, insurance schemes and financing of humanitarian resources for rapid distribution;
31. Stresses the need to address environment-related issues in the current UN reform, through an ACP-EU Member States common position on restructuring of existing organisations and creation of effective fast track initiatives aimed at giving a rapid response to natural disasters;
32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on the situation in West Africa

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the West African region,
- A. noting the numerous political, economic and development efforts and improvements made in major parts of this region of Africa,
 - B. having regard to the situation and threat of famine and malnutrition prevalent in the Sahel and in Niger in particular, and to the recurrent invasions of locust swarms, which represent a permanent threat to the countries of the Sahel, and whereas several ACP states are forced to contend with a permanent lack of food security,
 - C. deploring the heavy loss of life and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire,
 - D. concerned that the persisting internal conflict situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to peace, security and regional stability,
 - E. whereas, as a matter of urgency, the armed forces must be confined, disarmament must take place and the administration must be re-established throughout the national territory of Côte d'Ivoire,
 - F. having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) held in Addis Ababa on Wednesday, 6 October 2005,
 - G. whereas presidential elections were held in Togo on 24 April 2005 under ECOWAS supervision and with the financial support of the European Union; whereas, however, the presidential election process and results were challenged,
 - H. deploring the violence that followed the provisional declaration of the results of the Togolese election on 26 April 2005, which led to deaths, injuries, destruction of property and population movements,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

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- I. having regard to the report of the fact-finding mission, mandated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, responsible for investigating the acts of violence and allegations of human rights violations which took place before, during and after the presidential election of 24 April 2005, published on 29 August 2005,
- J. whereas the UN report directly criticises the entire Togolese political class, and in particular the security and enforcement apparatus of the State,
- K. whereas 40 000 Togolese nationals are still living as refugees in Ghana and Benin,
- L. whereas the Togolese President has announced that he intends to hold parliamentary elections 'as early as possible',
- M. having regard to the beginning of a resumption of dialogue between the government and opposition, as illustrated by the official launching of the inter-Togolese dialogue by the President on 18 November 2005,
- N. noting the stated will of the President of the Republic of Togo to implement all his country's commitments with the EU, with a view to consolidating democracy and the rule of law,
- O. whereas full cooperation between the EU and Togo is still subject to the fulfilment of the undertakings given,
- P. whereas a military council in Mauritania toppled President Maaouya Ould Taya, in power for 21 years, in a bloodless coup in August 2005,
- Q. whereas this change took place without bloodshed, and a national consensus has welcomed the transitional programme of the Military Council for Justice and Democracy (MCJD) and all the action it has taken since its establishment,
- R. having regard to the holding of national consultation days in Mauritania, which led to a broad national consensus, the five-month reduction in the transition period initially set at 24 months, and all the positive developments which have taken place,
- S. deeply concerned about the situation of some 500 migrants, many from Mali, abandoned in the Sahara desert without food or water,
- T. whereas the economic situation in West Africa, which is due, among other things, to the unequal distribution of the world's wealth, is the main cause of the mass exodus towards the European Union and other industrialised countries,
- U. whereas the peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August 2003 under the aegis of ECOWAS constitutes a fundamental step towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia and, indeed, the whole West Africa subregion,
- V. whereas the presidential election of October 2005 represents an important part of the application of this agreement and whereas the successful conduct of these elections contributes towards peace and stability in Liberia; regretting, however, that the 400 000 refugees outside the country's borders were prevented from taking part in the vote,
- W. having regard to the holding in Guinea Bissau of presidential elections deemed by observers to be credible and transparent,
- X. having regard to the progress made towards the consolidation of peace in Guinea Bissau; having regard, however, to the volatile situation caused by unemployed ex-combatants and others,
- Y. emphasising the need for the international community to support the new democratic governments in the region and the challenges they will be facing,
- Z. having regard to the holding of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2005 in Hong Kong (People's Republic of China),

1. Welcomes major democratic improvements in some West African countries, for instance the massive participation in recent elections in Liberia, after 14 years of civil war, and also welcomes the fact that the presidential elections in Guinea Bissau were conducted in a fair manner that respected international principles;
2. Reiterates its conviction that respect for human rights and democratic principles is the cornerstone for stabilisation and peace in the region, and hopes that the former dictator Hissène Habré, arrested by the Senegalese judicial authorities, will not continue to enjoy impunity in respect of the human rights crimes of which he is accused;
3. Urges the international community urgently to adopt a plan for tackling the problem of illegal migration, especially following the dramatic events which occurred recently on the border with Morocco;

Liberia

4. Welcomes the peaceful and orderly manner in which the 11 October elections were held in the presence of observers from ECOWAS and from the European Union, for the first time since 1997, and congratulates the people of Liberia for turning out in large numbers to demonstrate a clear commitment to peace and democracy, and a desire to move on from the period of the conflict that had beset their nation;
5. Hails the successful conduct of the presidential campaign and the climate of peace and calm that prevailed;
6. Welcomes the work of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of Nigeria, in his capacity as mediator of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to ensure that the elections would take place in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the electoral timetable;
7. Acknowledges that these elections are the result of the Accra peace agreement signed in 2003, which ended more than two decades of political instability and 14 years of brutal armed conflict;
8. Welcomes the fact that all candidates have recognised the results of these elections in the wider interest of Liberia;
9. Calls upon all political leaders to continue to demonstrate the responsibility they have shown throughout the process so far, and calls on the European Union to increase its support to Liberia in its progress towards a stable, democratic future;
10. Notes the ongoing discussions regarding a Liberia Economic Governance Action Plan, designed to ensure prompt implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
11. Encourages the new authorities resulting from this election to work without delay, with the support of the international community, towards meeting the major challenges facing the country, namely good governance, the establishment of basic social services and public services, continued disarmament and the issue of refugees and displaced persons;
12. Welcomes the fact that, for the first time in the history of the continent of Africa, a woman has been elected President of the Republic;

Sierra Leone

13. Calls for close monitoring by the international community of the security, political, humanitarian and human rights situation in Sierra Leone;
14. Urges the international community, in particular the EU, to increase its funding for the International Criminal Tribunal, so as to enable it to accomplish its mandate relating to the crimes committed in Sierra Leone;
15. Calls on the international community, in particular the EU, to increase its economic and financial assistance to Sierra Leone so as to enable it to consolidate the peace and stabilisation process,

Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal

16. Expresses its concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis and food availability in Niger and the Sahel countries;

17. Urges the international community not to turn its back on the continued suffering in Niger and other Sahel countries and to increase humanitarian aid to the region, ranging from food, drinking water and drugs to vaccines for children with a view to preventing epidemics, given that, while food distribution continues across the worst affected parts of the country, financial support for emergency operations shows worrying signs of tailing off;
18. Calls for priority to be given to prevention, by reducing dependence on rainfall owing to its irregularity, developing irrigation-based agriculture, increasing food productivity and boosting the capacity of local cereal reserves;
19. Calls on the international donors to coordinate their aid strategies for Niger and other Sahel countries with each other as well as with the African Union, ECOWAS, and other regional and local actors, and stresses the importance of making the aid long-term; calls for close monitoring of aid;
20. Calls on the Commission and the Council to improve the early warning system to monitor sensitive regions where famine may arise, in order to allow earlier action and to prevent disasters;
21. Calls on the EU to step up financial support for the countries of the Sahel (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Senegal and Mauritania) in order to allow them to strengthen their means of combating invasions by locust swarms, which is a recurrent danger in that part of Africa;

Côte d'Ivoire

22. Calls on the EU Council to envisage, as a matter of urgency, a European Union peace-keeping mission, along the lines of the ARTEMIS operation conducted in the DRC, with a clear mandate to support the 'Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration' programme throughout Côte d'Ivoire and to protect the civilian population, in accordance with Security Council resolutions;
23. Recommends that the UN adopt measures to be implemented over the next twelve months, to try and ensure compliance with the peace accords and adherence to a disarmament process that has been postponed for more than a year;
24. Calls on the Ivorian parties to accept the principle of holding democratic, free and transparent presidential elections as soon as possible, rather than any other means of resolving the crisis and restoring peace;
25. Calls on the UN and the EU to provide the necessary financial support to allow the swift restoration of peace in Côte d'Ivoire;
26. Calls on the international community to take all the necessary measures, including, where appropriate, the sanctions provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 1572 of November 2004, to ensure that all the Ivorian parties concerned apply the AU Peace and Security Council decision fully and without delay;

Togo

27. Notes that the presidential election process and results were challenged; calls on the Togolese authorities to implement swiftly and in good faith the 22 undertakings given in connection with the consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular as regards the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
28. Hopes to see a positive outcome to the inter-Togolese dialogue launched by the President on 18 November 2005;
29. Notes the new Togolese authorities' will to implement a genuine policy of openness to the opposition and civil society as a whole, in order to meet the good governance and democracy criteria;
30. Calls on the Togolese political class to accept any initiative aimed at creating the conditions for concerted management of the institutions, for national reconciliation and for economic and social recovery in the country;

31. Endorses the main recommendations of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressing in particular the need for national reconciliation based on the principles of truth and justice; supports, therefore, her call for the main perpetrators of human rights violations to be identified and brought to justice;
32. Considers that the victims of repression have a right to justice, truth and reparation to guarantee a democratic transition for Togolese society;
33. Calls for free, transparent and democratic parliamentary elections to be organised as soon as possible, whenever the necessary conditions of transparency and pluralism are met, in particular through a consensual revision of the electoral code;

Mauritania

34. Welcomes the national consensus and notes the junta's commitment to return to elected civilian government, with presidential elections within nineteen months, and underlines that it is essential that the transition timetable be adhered to;
35. Appeals to the international community to provide support for the implementation of a democratic process and for its proper management;
36. Calls on the EU in particular to support the developments under way in Mauritania by continuing to cooperate and by providing appropriate support for the holding of a free, credible and transparent general election;
37. Calls on Mauritania to maintain its diplomatic ties and international commitments and to continue its engagement against terrorism;

Guinea Bissau

38. Welcomes the holding of presidential elections in Guinea Bissau and calls on all the candidates to recognise the results of those elections;
39. Appeals to the EU and to ECOWAS to provide support for the new authorities in order to allow them to establish the rule of law;

WTO

40. Calls on the EU to continue its efforts to eradicate all forms of subsidisation for exports of agricultural products, particularly cotton, in order to assist the economic emergence of the countries of West Africa;
41. Hopes that the Hong Kong Conference will provide an opportunity to resolve, once and for all, agricultural and international trade problems through the application of WTO rules with a view to restoring an economic balance between developing and developed countries;
42. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, the Chairman of ECOWAS and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals (REACH)**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
- having regard to Council Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC),
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 68 thereof, that recognises the key role that commodities play in the economic stability of ACP States,
- having regard to the efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals in pursuance of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which followed the United Nations Summit of 6-8 September 2000 and was further reconfirmed during the 2005 World Summit,
- having regard to the European Commission's White Paper on the Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy ⁽³⁾ adopted on 13 July 2001, which suggests that, through REACH, the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry and the protection of human health and the environment from the risk of chemicals will be improved,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of the UN Financing for Development Conference, of 22 March 2002,
- having regard to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, that calls for measures to reduce the adverse effects of the production and use of chemicals by 2020,
- having regard to the European Commission's proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals ⁽⁴⁾ and the European Parliament's first reading, of 29 October 2003 and 17 November 2005 respectively,
- having regard to the first Meeting of ACP Ministers responsible for the Environment, held in Brussels on 10 December 2004, and the Brussels Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development in ACP States,
- having regard to the resolution of the 81st Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Brussels on 21-22 June 2005, regarding the position of the ACP Group on the draft European Union Legislation concerning REACH,
- having regard to the outcome of the G8 Summit held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, on 6-8 July 2005, which reaffirmed the G8 leaders' commitment to Africa's development,
- having regard to the European Commission's proposal for a Joint Declaration by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the European Union Development Policy ⁽⁵⁾, presented on 13 July 2005,
- having regard to the international obligations of ACP States under the provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO),
- having regard to its resolution of 24 November 2005 on agricultural and mining commodities,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ COM(2001)0088

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2003)0644

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2005)0311

- A. whereas almost two-thirds of the member states of the ACP Group are mining countries and/or have mining potential, which if exploited rationally could contribute to their economic and social development,
- B. whereas commodities and raw materials, and specifically minerals, ores and concentrates, are important in the poverty alleviation strategies and sustainable development objectives of those member states of the ACP Group that depend on these materials,
- C. whereas maintaining a competitive and innovative chemicals industry in Europe is a major goal for the European Union,
- D. whereas the avoidance of chemical contamination of air, water, soil and buildings, as well as preventing damage to biodiversity, are also major goals for the European Union,
- E. whereas there is a need for further consultations on the REACH legislation with developing countries,
- F. whereas there is a need for sufficient impact analysis of the REACH legislation on developing countries, in particular with regard to the economic, social and environmental impact thereof,
- G. whereas developing countries also have problems regarding chemical management,
- H. whereas, owing to the urgent need also to address other environmental issues, developing countries may find it difficult to comply with the more stringent requirements under the REACH legislation,
- I. whereas there is a possibility that manufacturers in developing countries will switch to EU suppliers in order to export to the EU, thereby having an impact on suppliers in developing countries,
- J. whereas the REACH legislation would represent a significant departure from the existing chemicals legislation in the EU, as it would apply to all chemical substances regardless of where they were first produced or imported into the EU, and because it would require producers and/or importers of chemical substances to provide analysis of their chemicals as part of the registration process,
- K. whereas many ores and concentrates contain natural trace elements of substances considered hazardous in the EU, and as such these would potentially be subject to the registration, evaluation and authorisation provisions of the REACH legislation, thereby burdening industry with significant costs,
- L. whereas the proposed REACH legislation represents a major step toward the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks affecting chemicals across all 25 EU member economies,
- M. whereas the proposed REACH legislation could provide the incentive to develop safer products and processes over time, while enhancing the availability of information on the properties of chemicals used in a wide range of end uses,
- N. whereas concerns that need to be met on the proposed REACH legislation include: the high administrative costs on producers and importers of preparing the required registration documentation, the workability of the legislation, and the potential inconsistency between the requirements to register some naturally occurring raw materials (such as metal ores and concentrates) but not others (such as coal and oil),
- O. whereas the proposed REACH legislation represents a major step toward enhancing the protection of human health and safety and the environment, an objective that is consistent with other chemicals regulatory frameworks in many developed economies,
- P. whereas it is vital to consider whether the costs of REACH, both financial and social, are proportionate to its ultimate goal of assessing and managing the risks related to the exposure of humans and the environment to chemical substances,

- Q. whereas production and imports of mineral ores and concentrates are generally high in volume, but these volumes are not necessarily correlated with the risks relating to public health or the environment,
- R. whereas the direct costs of REACH could potentially be significant, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, but the indirect costs of the legislation are likely to be much more considerable,
- S. whereas the inclusion of minerals under the provisions of the REACH system would create an incentive to shift the production of intermediate products, such as nickel and stainless steel, as well as related end-use products for non-EU markets, to non-EU countries such as China,
- T. whereas a market access restriction placed on particular substances contained in minerals, ores and concentrates would also have a spillover effect on non-EU countries, in particular through losses related to the fall in EU imports of minerals,
1. Stresses its support for the broad objectives of REACH, which are environmental and health protection;
 2. Welcomes the REACH proposals and their aim of ensuring that more information is gained about the chemical substances being used by industry and/or placed on markets for eventual use by consumers in particular;
 3. Calls on the EU to ensure that the objectives and the implementation of its policy with regard to chemical substances and specifically its prospective REACH Regulation are consistent with the Community's policy in the sphere of development cooperation, in compliance with and complementary to the objectives and implementation of the Cotonou Agreement and other relevant obligations under international law;
 4. Urges that REACH should not lead to unintended consequences which may result in this laudable legislation becoming a technical barrier to trade and thereby negatively impacting on the export of commodities and raw materials from ACP countries;
 5. Is firmly of the view that those substances and articles that fall within the remit of REACH do so irrespective of their country of origin/manufacture if they are eventually placed on the EU or ACP markets in one form or another; given that placing on the market, and not the place of manufacture, is the key regulatory trigger,
 6. Stresses that sufficient impact analysis of the REACH legislation on the economies of affected ACP countries should be carried out;
 7. Calls on ACP member states to develop appropriate chemical management frameworks in a similar manner, in such a way as to put an end to the double standards that currently allow the European Union to export prohibited substances to ACP countries;
 8. Urges the need to articulate the costs, both direct and indirect, in the implementation of the REACH legislation, particularly with respect to ACP countries;
 9. Calls on the EU, as a matter of urgency and prior to the final vote by the European Parliament on the draft REACH legislation, to enter into dialogue with the ACP Group and to jointly decide on the modalities for conducting feasibility impact studies on the potential effects of REACH on ACP states;
 10. Calls on the EU to appropriately address the concerns expressed by developing countries and to consider, inter alia, the exemption from REACH of naturally occurring substances, such as ores and minerals from registration with provision for restrictions where any risk is involved, and unless they have been chemically modified;
 11. Further calls on the EU to enter into dialogue with the ACP Group and to jointly decide on the modalities for the provision of required capacities that would enable and assist affected developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and in other ACP countries, to build necessary technical and human resource skills to ensure compliance with the REACH legislation;

12. Calls, in particular, for the Commission to establish a Chemicals Initiative Programme on the model of the Pesticides Initiative Programme, to help ACP exporters meet the requirements of EU chemical legislation;
13. Calls for the task of technical assistance and capacity building to be institutionally embedded in the European Chemicals Agency with the expertise and financial means needed to carry it out and for cooperation with and assistance to third countries to pre-date the entry into force of REACH so that industries are prepared;
14. Believes that assistance should include upgrading testing laboratories to meet OECD Good Laboratory Practice principles and that training institutes of EU Member States could also play a role in information dissemination and training;
15. Welcomes recent attempts to lessen the regulatory and administrative impact on SMEs and in particular the One Substance One Registration (OSOR) approach, and calls for substance data to be made freely available to exporters in ACP countries as part of the OSOR approach;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the ACP Ministers responsible for the Environment, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on agricultural and mining commodities

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾ and, in particular, to Article 68 thereof, which recognises the importance of agricultural and mining commodities for the economic stability of the ACP States, as well as to the Compendium of Cooperation Strategies approved by the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and by the European Community and its Member States,
- having regard to the Declaration and Resolution on Sugar adopted by the Fourth Summit of the Heads of State of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States held on 23 and 24 June 2004 in Maputo,
- having regard to the reforms relating to the common agricultural policy of the European Union currently under way and to the proposed reforms, in particular the Commission's Communication on the reform of the EC sugar regime,
- having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Council of the European Union of 27 April 2004 relating to the Commodities Action Plan and to the EU-Africa Cotonou Partnership,
- having regard to the resolution on food aid and food security adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in The Hague from 22 to 25 November 2004,
- having regard to the resolution on cotton and other commodities: problems encountered by the ACP States adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Addis Ababa from 16 to 19 February 2004,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

- having regard to the resolution on the promotion of the private sector under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Brazzaville from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules,
 - having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC and Regulation (EC) (on Persistent Organic Pollutants) and the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 67/548/EEC in order to adapt it to the Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals,
 - having regard to concerns expressed by Ministers from 26 African countries at the Second African Mining Partnership Plenary meeting in Cape Town on 7 February 2005 about potential 'unintended consequences' of REACH legislation on exports to Europe of African mineral products and the need, therefore, to ensure that REACH 'will not create obstacles to economic development and poverty reduction strategies of African states', and the Communiqué of the Fourth Meeting of the African-European Troikas in Luxembourg on 11 April 2004,
 - having regard to the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of 1 August 2004 whereby the members adopted frameworks and other agreements designed to focus the negotiations and to raise them to a new level in the process governing the Doha Agenda work programme,
 - having regard to the negotiations for economic partnership agreements currently being conducted between the European Union and the ACP States,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals and the Commission's Communication on Accelerating Progress towards attaining the MDGs — Financing for Development and Aid-Effectiveness and the EU Council's conclusions of 24 May 2005 thereon,
 - having regard to the communication from the European Commission dated 2 July 2002 entitled: 'Corporate Social Responsibility: A business contribution to Sustainable Development',
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/3765/05/fin.),
- A. reaffirming the central objective of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement set out in Article 1 thereof: 'reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy',
- B. whereas ACP states are mostly dependent on the production and export of primary commodities and the majority of the population, particularly women, live in rural areas and work with subsistence food production,
- C. whereas, according to the 2002 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on least developed countries (LDCs), the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than doubled over the last 30 years, rising from 138 million in the 1960s to 307 million in the 1990s and, if current trends persist, the number of people living on less than USD 1 a day will rise from 307 million to 420 million by 2015,
- D. whereas, after almost 10 years, the 1996 World Food Summit's commitment to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by the year 2015 is far from being achieved,

- E. having regard to the continuing preponderant role of agricultural and mining commodities in the economies of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the fact that outlets for these products and their prices have a major impact on employment for, and the income of, the most-disadvantaged sections of society,
- F. whereas the signing of an agreement between the EU and China to limit the exportation of some categories of textiles to the EU shows how necessary and legitimate it still is for ACP countries to protect their markets from those imports which threaten the existence or the development of their processing or service enterprises,
- G. whereas the prices of most of the raw materials exported by ACP countries have slumped drastically, while the prices of industrial products have increased continuously, which renders the economies of the ACP countries unviable in the event of mechanisms not being adopted for the regulation of raw materials prices and if they do not diversify their production by manufacturing processed products,
- H. whereas the cash crop economy can put the ACP population in a situation in which they produce for the international market and import subsidised staple food from rich countries to cover their local needs,
- I. having regard to the importance of guaranteeing a fair and stable price for commodities for the economies of the ACP States, which ranges from being a source of revenue to an element of political stability, via social cohesion and the preservation of cultural traditions, ecotourism and the campaign to halt emigration,
- J. aware of the European Union's interest in and attachment to the availability of and easy access to certain commodities which are imported principally from the ACP States and are vital to the smooth functioning of the industrial sector in Europe,
- K. whereas the internal development of the European Union and the pressure of multilateral trade negotiations make a reform of the European common agricultural policy an absolute necessity,
- L. whereas sustainable development of the agricultural and mining sectors of the ACP States may contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, including food security and the fight against poverty,
- M. recalling the need to ensure that the commitments given by the European Union and by the ACP States under the Cotonou Agreement are honoured, in particular those set out in Article 36(4) which provide for a review of the commodity protocols with a view to safeguarding the benefits for the ACP States derived therefrom, taking into account the special legal status of the Sugar Protocol,
- N. whereas cooperation in the WTO between the European Union and the ACP States may eventually lead to account being taken of the interests of the two groups and protect the commodity sectors and industries threatened, including the selection of sensitive products covered by the Commodity Protocols as well as the maintenance of the Special Safeguard Clause,
- O. recalling the overwhelming importance of banana exports to the EU market for several ACP countries; recalling also the rejection by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body of the EU's proposal for the new banana import regime to be implemented as of 1 January 2006 and the new import arrangements recently announced by the European Commission,
- P. whereas, at the WTO negotiations, discussions must focus on the reorganisation of the commodities markets and on the early abolition of export subsidies and of certain domestic support mechanisms that have a damaging impact on the production and export of certain ACP commodities,
- Q. concerned by the European Union's commercial concessions made in various fora which significantly reduce the preferences from which exports from the ACP States currently benefit, without providing the necessary assistance to improve competitiveness,

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- R. recalling the commitment of the European Union and of the ACP States to conclude new trade arrangements whereby no ACP State would find itself in a situation less favourable than the one which it currently enjoys,
- S. noting the discussions currently under way in the ACP States concerning the establishment of a new framework for trade cooperation in the form of economic partnership agreements (EPAs),
- T. whereas the imposition of health and plant health standards, as well as standards relating to the use of chemical substances, should only seek to protect consumers and the environment and not to serve as barriers to the export of commodities from the ACP States to the European Union,
- U. concerned at the diversity and plethora of standards and control mechanisms applied to the same products, which reduce the ACP exporters' ability to comply with those rules and procedures, bearing in mind the limited resources and capacity at their disposal,
- V. emphasising the need to provide the ACP States with the capacities which they require if they are to be able to comply with the requirements laid down by the health and plant health standards and the standards relating to the use of chemicals,
- W. whereas short-term fluctuations in commodity prices hamper the implementation of viable and sustained economic policies in the ACP States,
- X. noting the existence, under ACP-EC cooperation arrangements, of a financing mechanism to offset short-term fluctuations in export revenue (FLEX) as well as the shortcomings which became apparent when that mechanism was implemented,
- Y. whereas the impact of such fluctuations might also be alleviated if commodities were processed locally before being exported; noting, however, that the recent adjustment to FLEX does not go far enough to accommodate the problem of addressing the adverse effect of fluctuation in export earnings and reduction in earnings arising from the reform of CAP in respect of products covered by Commodity Protocol,
- Z. whereas, in order to facilitate industrialisation and marketing, the development of public services and instruments and structures for providing support for the private sector must be mobilised in order to underpin processing, marketing, distribution and transport activities (PMDT),
- AA. emphasising the need for clearer and more concise information about mineral deposits in the ACP States and about the investment opportunities available in terms of exploration, exploitation and processing in that sector,
- AB. whereas mining commodities, for example diamond, titanium, cobalt, oil and gas resources, have been used by rebel groups and by non-elected governments to finance the illegal purchase of weapons and have, therewith, fuelled civil wars and contributed to the loss of many lives and to destruction,
- AC. emphasising, further, the importance of access to relevant up-to-date information about the development of agricultural and rural activities and about the policies either pursued in the ACP States or having an impact thereon,
- AD. welcoming the recent establishment of an ACP mining database created by the ACP Secretariat,
- AE. emphasising the important work that the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) have been carrying out for more than 20 years to promote the agricultural and mining commodities of the ACP States,
- AF. reaffirming the importance of the welfare, security and social rights of workers and their families and the need to protect the environment in which farming and mining activities are carried out,

1. Calls on the Commission and the EU-ACP Council to take new initiatives at a bilateral and multilateral level to safeguard the mechanisms for ensuring a stable and fair price for the principal raw materials, and to create other, new, mechanisms that are in keeping with the new realities;
2. Reaffirms the role of a socially and ecologically responsible private sector in stepping up the pace of sustainable development, more particularly, in processing commodities locally, marketing, distribution and transport activities;
3. Considers that the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, which stipulates the duty of states to cooperate with each other in eliminating obstacles to development and fulfil their duties by promoting a new economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence and mutual interest to encourage respect for human rights, should be implemented;
4. Reaffirms its willingness to continue its efforts to promote the production of goods and services in the ACP States by protecting and supporting certain particularly job-creating sectors of activity and developing local and regional markets as a means of reducing poverty and fostering the prosperity of the populations of those countries;
5. Calls for the EU, ACP States and other like-minded members of the WTO to work closely together in the ongoing WTO Doha Development round, in particular in the run-up to and during the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, so as to consolidate longstanding preferences as recognised in the 2004 July Framework Agreement, and to agree on a tariff reduction formula that provides a safety net for weak and vulnerable ACP States, who otherwise run the risk of being squeezed out of the multilateral trading system and in the process risk being further marginalized;
6. Considers that the European Union should use the WTO and EPA negotiations to promote development especially in ACP countries whose economies are considerably weaker and therefore require strengthening the capacity of their local and regional markets to withstand competition in the context of trade liberalisation;
7. Emphasises the importance of providing the CDE and the CTA, as joint ACP-EU institutions, with adequate resources so as to enable them to take effective action in the restructuring of the mining industry and the agricultural sector in the ACP States, through the provision, on a long-term, sustainable and predictable basis, of adequate support to make them competitive;
8. Emphasises the urgent need to develop national or regional strategies for the development of the commodities sectors including diversification within the sugar sector and PMDT with a view to reducing the ACP States' excessive dependence on the export of raw materials and the consequent vulnerability of their economies;
9. Notes that the global prices of the main agricultural products such as corn, wheat, soy, cotton and rice have fallen by over 60 % since 1996 and, within certain LDC countries, most of which are African countries, the price of coffee, cocoa, sugar and palm oil have decreased by over 60 %;
10. Deplores the fact that, for the past 20 years, many public intervention instruments in the agricultural commodities sector such as state marketing boards have been dismantled as a result of structural adjustment programmes, and this policy reduced the capacity of states to regulate the market;
11. Considers that ACP countries should have the right to protect their agriculture if necessary in order to guarantee decent income for small farmers, increase local production, guarantee food security and proceed to selective market openings, as was the case in Europe;
12. Notes that the EU's compensation and restructuring package for the EU sugar sector exceeds EUR 5 billion; insists that the 18 ACP Sugar Protocol countries, many of whose economies are almost fully dependent on sugar, be given more adequate and timely support, which should be new and fresh money;

13. Calls on the European Council and the Commission to provide, on a secure and predictable basis, at least EUR 80 million in 2006 and an adequate amount thereafter to enable the ACP States supplying sugar under the Sugar Protocol to adapt to the reform; calls for this to include the financing of diversification within the sugar cane cluster through the production of environment-friendly green energy, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability, competitiveness and profitability of their sugar cane industry;
14. Asks for an evaluation of experiences with commodity price stabilisation systems and supply side management schemes, in order to design mechanisms and policies which are primarily oriented towards guaranteeing stable prices for the range of commodities that ACP countries depend on;
15. Reaffirms the need to find solutions in the WTO and in the EPA negotiations so as to maintain the viability of the agricultural commodities sector, in compliance with the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular to safeguard the benefits derived from the Commodity Protocols as spelt out in Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement;
16. Agrees to use health, food safety, chemical and other regulations as mechanisms only to protect consumers and the environment without the intention to use them as barriers to trade;
17. Calls on the EU Council and the Commission to ensure that the reform of the EC sugar regime is fair and equitable to all stakeholders, including the ACP and the LDCs, and is respectful of the EU's legal commitment under the Sugar Protocol;
18. Encourages the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to speed up the implementation of support programmes to assist ACP countries to comply with reasonable standards in the health, plant health and chemical safety fields and to initiate new ones in order to respond to the changing requirements of the international rules and regulations governing those issues;
19. Expresses its grave concern that the very low tariff recently announced for the new banana regime will not preserve remunerative market access for the ACP suppliers, in particular the most vulnerable; calls on the EU Council and the Commission, following the rejection by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body of the latest proposal relating to the level of the single tariff under the new 'tariff only' banana import regime starting on 1 January 2006, to extend the current import arrangements beyond that date so as to make it possible to negotiate, free of pressure, a balanced settlement that is acceptable to all the parties concerned, in particular Community and ACP producers;
20. Calls, in the context of ACP-EC cooperation, for a strengthening of the capacities of the authorities and various players in the ACP States so as to enable them to participate in the devising of the international standards which should serve as a reference point for rules and regulations in the health and plant health field;
21. Considers it necessary to amplify and implement tangibly and effectively the initiative of the European Parliament and of the European Commission which seeks to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and that concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), as a means of improving the welfare of workers and consumers and urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to keep a close watch on developments concerning those issues so as to prevent those initiatives from turning into non-tariff barriers to trade and to this end calls:
 - for the EU to support impact assessment studies on EU health, plant health and chemical safety regulations on industries in ACP countries;
 - for the rapid introduction of a system of exemptions from costly registration procedures for products which pose minimal risk to consumer welfare and the environment;
 - for assistance to ACP countries to meet compliance costs with reasonable health, plant health and chemical safety regulations;

22. Calls on the ACP States and on the European Union to cooperate more fully with recognised civil society organisations, local authorities, public services and private sector organisations in order to promote fair-trade initiatives which will benefit ACP producers and improve the quality of natural products from the ACP States;
 23. Calls for measures to be taken to ensure that the current reform of the FLEX mechanism, including a product by product approach for agricultural products, and the allocation of the requisite resources to enable this important instrument, established by the Cotonou Agreement, to help alleviate in good time the adverse effects of the instability of export revenues arising as a result of the reform of the CAP and, in this way, to safeguard the social and economic reforms undertaken, and policies pursued by the ACP States;
 24. Calls on the EU and the Commission to review the terms and conditions of financing under the Investment Facility in order to facilitate access to its resources to finance the restructuring and modernisation of the ACP agricultural and mining sectors;
 25. Calls on the European Commission and on the ACP Secretariat to review the possibility of establishing a Guarantee Agency in order to respond to the specific requirements of small and medium-sized enterprises with regard to the protection of their investment in the ACP States, as advocated in Chapter 5 of Annex II to the Cotonou Agreement;
 26. Underlines the importance of the control of trade in raw materials; urges all countries involved in trade in diamonds to accede to the Kimberley process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds; underscores the importance of progressing towards independent monitoring of compliance with the guidelines concerning the trade in diamonds;
 27. Encourages the setting up and proper use of information systems such as the mining database;
 28. Calls on the ACP governments to publish extractive industry revenues and implement the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and calls on companies to publish what they pay to the government;
 29. Urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to strengthen the existing instruments with a view to supporting local private sector and to create new ones in order to enhance ACP countries' private sector capacity of commodity processing, distribution systems and transport sectors, and to boost those countries' national and regional markets and the export of products to other regions;
 30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and to the European Commission.
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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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— on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security (ACP-EU 3850/06/fin.)	17
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 30, 11 and 8 thereof,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular Chapter VIII thereof ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Declaration issued by the UN 2005 World Summit (Millennium + 5) of 18 September 2005 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1631 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations on maintaining international peace and security,
- having regard to the Conclusions of the Sixth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organisations held on 26 July 2005,
- having regard to the G8 Conclusions on Africa and Development of 1995 and the G8 Gleneagles 2005 Statement ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to Decision No 3/2003 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers meeting of 11 December 2003 on the functioning of the African Peace Facility ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to the Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus on Development' of 20 December 2005, especially Article 37 thereof, which stipulates that 'the EU will support a strengthened role for the regional and sub-regional organisations in the process of enhancing international peace and security, including their capacity to coordinate donor support in the area of conflict prevention',
- having regard to the Joint Declaration on EU-UN cooperation in crisis management of 24 September 2003,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 22 June 2006.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ www.un.org/aboutun/charter/

⁽⁴⁾ www.un.org/ga/59/hl60_plenarymeeting.html

⁽⁵⁾ www.g8.gov.uk

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 345, 31.12.03, p. 108.

- having regard to the Ouagadougou EU-Africa Declaration on Terrorism of 28 November 2002,
- having regard to the Cairo Declaration issued by the first Africa-EU summit on 4 April 2000,
- having regard to the meeting between the African Union and international partners on African regional organisations held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 October 2005,
- having regard to its resolution on the role of national parliaments in the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, adopted at its 10th session in Edinburgh on 24 November 2005 ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to its resolution on ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted at its 8th session in The Hague on 25 November 2004 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to its resolution on conflict prevention and resolution and the establishment of a lasting peace, adopted at its 7th session in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2004 ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Report of the Commission for Africa ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the European Parliament resolution on that communication ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to 'The European Security Strategy: A secure Europe in a better world', adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003 ⁽⁷⁾, the European Parliament resolution on that document ⁽⁸⁾ and the related conclusions of the European Council,
- having regard to the declarations on peace and security made by the ACP Heads of State and Government at the ACP Summits held in Santo Domingo, Nadi and Maputo,
- having regard to the Action Plan for ESDP Support for Peace and Security in Africa adopted by the European Council on 16 November 2004, and the European Parliament resolution on that document,
- having regard to the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009, adopted at the UN Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World on 3 December 2004, and the report of the ad hoc delegation of the European Parliament to that summit,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU 3850/06/fin.),

The Cotonou Agreement as a basis

- A. emphasising that regional cooperation should address common problems, especially in the fields of conflict prevention and resolution, human rights and democratisation, arms control, organised crime and disaster preparedness and mitigation, as stated in Article 30 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement,
- B. emphasising that, pursuant to Article 11 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, parties must pursue an active, comprehensive and integrated policy of peace building, conflict prevention and resolution, based on the principle of ownership, and this must in particular focus on building regional capacities,
- C. whereas, pursuant to Article 8(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, parties must regularly engage in comprehensive, balanced and deep political dialogue focusing on the above issues,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 136, 9.6.2006, p. 17.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 17.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://213.225.140.43/english/report/introduction.html>

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.grandlacs.net>

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 92E, 16.4.2004, p. 315.

⁽⁷⁾ <http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 33, 9.2.2006, p. 496.

The nature of conflicts

- D. stressing that peace and security as well as good and effective governance are essential for sustainable development and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
- E. whereas conflicts have regional and global dimensions, whereas neither their causes nor their consequences are delimited by national borders, and whereas they are best addressed through a regional and global approach,
- F. stressing that conflict prevention strategies have to depend on understanding and addressing the root causes of conflict, and on building cultures of peace by promoting mechanisms for bridging dividing lines between different sections of the society in question,
- G. whereas mining commodities and other natural resources, for example diamonds, titanium, cobalt, oil, gas and timber, have been used by rebel groups and by non-elected governments to finance the illegal purchase of weapons and have thus made civil wars possible and contributed to the loss of many lives and to destruction,
- H. whereas the causes of conflicts also include the impact of natural disasters, the shrinking amount of arable and grazing land, the shortage of water and desertification, which greatly reduce the land available for both people and animals,

The United Nations' global framework

- I. whereas in July 2005 the UN Secretary-General called for 'a common vision of a global architecture of peace and security with interlocking capacities based on the comparative advantages of global and regional institutions',
- J. whereas the UN is currently in the process of developing a global security mechanism based on further cooperation with those 'regional arrangements' which meet the criteria set out in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter ⁽¹⁾,
- K. whereas the UN Security Council has clearly called for the strengthening of regional organisations' capacities, especially for conflict prevention,
- L. whereas a UN standing committee has been established, whereby each regional organisation designates a permanent representative to the UN,
- M. stressing that establishing regional cooperation areas — at the same time eliminating tariffs and corruption — is necessary for long-term economic growth and development and, by extension, stability and peace,

Regional organisations in conflict prevention, management and resolution

- N. underlining that regional organisations have a comparative advantage, in that their experience on the ground gives them a thorough knowledge of local political, historical, cultural, social, legal, tribal and spiritual structures, so that they can usually count on a greater level of trust and acknowledgement from the local population and parties to conflicts than external actors would be able to muster,
- O. stressing that regional organisations have become essential partners of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security,
- P. whereas regional organisations can play an important role in tackling the underlying causes of many conflicts, and whereas justice for everyone and the sentencing and punishment of the authors of crimes are measures which can contribute greatly to re-establishing the truth, fostering reconciliation and encouraging people to play an active part in society,

⁽¹⁾ 'Organisations of a permanent nature, a grouping in a given geographical area several countries which, by reason of their proximity, community of interest or cultural, linguistic, historical spiritual affinities make themselves jointly responsible for peaceful settlement of any disputes which may arise.'

- Q. recalling that regional and sub-regional organisations in ACP countries, such as the African Union in Darfur, the West African peacekeeping and intervention force, ECOMOG, the SADC peace-keeping deployment in the DRC, the IGAD in Somalia and Sudan, the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the CARICOM intervention in Haiti, have been emerging as legitimate conflict managers,
- R. whereas these interventions were improvised rather than being based on long-term policies, commitment and coordination on the part of regional organisations and other levels (national, local) of governance,
- S. whereas at the same time regional organisations still lack the critical mass of sustained expertise and capacity for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace-building and peace-keeping; whereas their human and institutional capacities are not adequate to fulfil their broader mandates,
- T. whereas the European Union and other European organisations ⁽¹⁾ must consider ACP regional organisations ⁽²⁾ as their equal partners,

Role of regional organisations

1. Calls for development policy to be used as a tool for addressing the root causes of insecurity and for it not to be subordinated to security policy;
2. Urges that the concept of security should not be too narrowly defined, but that the consequences of natural disasters, the scarcity of natural resources, land use and the destruction of the environment should also be seen as security risks; conflict resolution strategies should be designed accordingly;
3. Urges regional organisations, in conjunction with their member states, to develop conflict prevention strategies rather than simply reacting once violence has already erupted;
4. Calls on all the parties concerned to initiate as soon as possible a process of political dialogue in keeping with the spirit of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, with a view to preventing violent situations;
5. Calls on the ACP Group to transform the existing annual meeting between the ACP Secretariat and the Heads of ACP regional organisations into, inter alia, an institutionalised Coordination Forum on Peace and Security in order to facilitate dialogue, cooperation and coordination between them;
6. Calls on the above Coordination Forum to propose and develop structures to facilitate ACP participation in the new UN regional and global security mechanism and to cooperate in promoting peace and security at ACP, regional and sub-regional levels;
7. Calls for targeted support for capacity building and the training of non-state actors, representatives of regional organisations and parliamentarians in order to increase their participation in the conflict prevention and resolution process and political dialogue;
8. Calls on regional organisations to engage and facilitate the participation of non-state actors in conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation processes and to create conditions whereby displaced persons and refugees can return to a dignified living environment;
9. Urges regional organisations to pay special attention to the problems of the most vulnerable social groups in armed conflicts, such as children, women, the elderly and the disabled, and to facilitate the Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) process, with a special focus on former child soldiers;

⁽¹⁾ Council of Europe (CoE), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Western European Union (WEU).

⁽²⁾ Regional organisations incorporating ACP countries: African Union (AU), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), South African Customs Union (SACU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC), Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL), Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Indian Ocean Commission (COI).

10. Stresses the need to involve women in all conflict management and rehabilitation measures on an equal footing, since the challenges of coping with everyday life rest mainly on their shoulders;
11. Calls on regional organisations to step up their involvement in post-conflict reconstruction in order to prevent wars from flaring up again, in particular through support for an effective UN Peace-Building Commission, for the consolidation of institutions in former failed states, and for measures to prevent the collapse of fragile states;
12. Encourages support for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as an effective tool to contribute to regional peace and security, through country-level 'self-assessment' and learning across countries; calls on more African ACP states to participate in it; and further calls on the ACP Group to investigate the scope for developing an all-ACP peer review mechanism, especially for conflict prevention and resolution;
13. Calls on regional organisations to set up a strategy to coordinate donor support in the area of conflict prevention;
14. Points out that the organisation of meetings at regional or sub-regional level pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Cotonou Agreement should enter the active implementation phase; stresses the importance of these regional meetings for addressing conflict prevention and resolution issues and invites the parliamentary assemblies of ACP sub-regions to take the initiative in proposing that these regional meetings be held as soon as possible;

The importance of political dialogue in conflict prevention

15. Asks to be involved in political dialogue, which has a preventive role and can foster mutual trust before a crisis breaks out, through consultation, as required under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement;
16. Calls on the ACP and EU Member States to inform it of any new crises or (re-) emerging conflicts in order to find solutions through political dialogue; encourages the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, the Pan-African Parliament and other regional and sub-regional parliaments in the ACP, as well as the European Parliament, to promote exchanges of information with a view to strengthening the role of parliaments, and calls on the Commission to make the necessary funding available for such exchanges;

Role of the international community

17. Calls on the international community to increase substantially its support for capacity building for the African Union and other regional organisations, especially their capacities in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace-building and peace-keeping, and their human, institutional and logistical resources, including through the provision of training for the police, legal officers and military staff and equipment;
18. Calls on international donors and the Commission to support capacity building for regional organisations, especially as regards strategies and programmes to prevent conflicts;
19. Calls on the Brussels-based Peer Group of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors to initiate conflict prevention and resolution strategies, and further urges the Peer Group to explore joint strategies with the EU;
20. Calls for further funding for the strengthening of regional early-warning and early-response mechanisms which have already been successfully established, such as the ECOWAS Early-Warning Mechanism and the IGAD Early-Warning and Early-Response Mechanism (CEWARN);
21. Calls on the EU to support the creation of a Peace Facility for all ACP countries and provide funding for its effective functioning;

22. Calls on the ACP States and regional organisations and the European Commission to incorporate peace and security components — especially conflict prevention and human security promotion programmes — into Regional and National Strategy Papers and Indicative Programmes;
23. Expects, in the event that violent conflicts cannot be prevented, consistent action on the part of regional and international organisations and regional civil society organisations working towards peaceful solutions to prosecute and punish crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual exploitation, in order to encourage local reconciliation processes, thereby restoring people's confidence that authorities are acting in conformity with the rule of law; these organisations should encourage respect for human rights in the process of community (re)building;
24. Expects, likewise, a responsible and transparent approach to be adopted in dealing with natural resources such as gold, diamonds and oil, and resolute action to be taken in the event of misuse and illegal trading, with the backing of regional and international organisations, the European Commission and the institutions of ACP-EU cooperation;
25. Requests that the European Commission provide funding for research and training programmes in ACP countries for public communicators — including parliamentarians — on how media and public communication can facilitate peace and prevent conflict by addressing its root causes and bridging dividing lines between different sections of society;
26. Calls on the European Commission to provide funding for research and training in conflict prevention and management, including communication strategies to foster peace and security;
27. Asks to be involved as an observer in high-level meetings with the United Nations;
28. Calls for an interlocking system of parliamentary cooperation on peace and security involving the ACP-EU JPA, the Pan-African Parliament and other regional and sub-regional parliaments in the ACP, to promote exchanges of information and best practices on peace and security issues, and calls on the Commission to facilitate such exchanges;
29. Urges ACP and EU parliamentarians to actively promote conflict prevention strategies and programmes, and to facilitate coordination and political dialogue between ACP and EU regional organisations, national governments, non-state actors and the United Nations;
30. Calls on the members of the African Union to make all possible efforts to ensure the prompt signing of the African Union-ICC cooperation agreements which have already been negotiated and agreed upon by the two parties; calls on the international community and regional organisations to fully cooperate with the ICC;
31. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and ACP regional organisations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the problematics of energy in the ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, and in particular Article 32 thereof, which recognises the need to optimise the use of the ACP States' natural resources, especially their energy resources,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 22 June 2006.

- having regard to the Compendium of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, according to which ‘cooperation shall put particular emphasis on energy programming, operations for saving and making efficient use of energy, reconnaissance of energy potential and the economically and technically appropriate promotion of new and renewable sources of energy. Cooperation shall also support policies aimed at the development of the ACP States’ conventional and non-conventional energy potential and their self-sufficiency’,
- having regard to the declaration adopted at the World Millennium Summit, held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002, which identified priority measures in five key areas in order to ensure that the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are achieved: water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,
- having regard to the reports periodically drawn up by the Energy Facility Steering Committee set up within the European Commission with a view to establishing an Energy Facility,
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 26 October 2004 on the future development of the EU Energy Initiative and the modalities for the establishment of an Energy Facility for ACP countries (COM(2004) 711),
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 17 July 2002 on energy cooperation with developing countries (COM(2002) 408) calling for energy to account for a greater share of development aid and stressing the central role it plays in three areas: the social dimension (poverty reduction), the economic dimension (security of supply) and the environmental dimension (environmental protection),
- having regard to the European Council declaration of 18 March 2003 establishing a new consensus on the fact that access to energy services is a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs and on the need for a cross-sectoral approach,
- having regard to the resolution on the promotion of the private sector in the context of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Brazzaville from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to the many possibilities presented at the initial ACP-EU sectoral meetings for the promotion of inter-enterprise partnership and investment in the energy sector, held in Dakar (Senegal) from 28 September to 1 October 2005,
- having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 at the Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Lomé (Togo), which stipulates that its central body, the Executive Council, will coordinate policies in the field of energy, industry and mineral resources in view of the particular importance of these sectors to Africa’s development,
- having regard to the framework document adopted at the 37th Summit of the OAU, under which the ninth of the ten NEPAD objectives is ‘building and improving infrastructure, including information and communication technology (ICT), energy, transport, water and sanitation’,
- having regard to this framework document, which states that energy is an integral and essential part of development, but that some countries have no exploitable natural energy,
- having regard to the fact that energy is one of the priority sectoral policy areas of the Pacific Islands Forum, a regional organisation without a founding charter, established on 5 August 1971,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU 3765/06/fin.),
- A. reaffirming the central objective of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement set out in Article 1 thereof: ‘reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy’,
- B. whereas energy can play a prominent role in eradicating poverty and spreading growth throughout the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and contributes to the greater well-being of society as a whole; whereas the MDGs cannot be achieved without improvements in the energy supply to the population, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,
- C. whereas more than 530 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, i.e. 48 % of the urban population and 92 % of the rural population, do not have access to electricity,

- D. whereas the International Energy Agency estimates that to meet the MDGs worldwide an additional 500 million people would need to gain access to electricity and up to 700 million would require access to some form of modern cooking and heating energy; whereas the overall cost is estimated to be more than EUR 150 billion,
- E. whereas many poor rural households cover their energy needs by buying woodfuel or charcoal, often in small amounts at very high prices per unit of energy compared with other energy sources, spending more money on energy than relatively wealthy households with access to advanced forms of energy supply,
- F. recalling that energy forms the basis of all economic growth in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States,
- G. whereas energy plays a multifunctional role in the economies of the ACP States, from the generation of thermal energy for the public and private sectors to food and health safety and the co-generation of environmentally friendly and renewable green energy from agricultural products and by-products,
- H. aware of the European Union's interest in and commitment to the availability and supply of energy production equipment for the ACP States for the benefit of the population groups affected and of European industry,
- I. whereas the current rise in oil and gas prices on the international market means that the cost of supplying these energy resources is placing an unbearable strain on the balance of payments of those ACP States that are not fossil energy producers, adding to their indebtedness and leading inevitably to the need to consider renewable energy supply,
- J. recalling that corruption involving the embezzlement of oil and mining revenues has undermined good governance and entrenched poverty in many resource-rich countries, leading in some cases to violent conflict and great human suffering,
- K. noting that such corruption is made possible by lack of transparency about the flow of revenues from the extractive industries to states and the management of those revenues,
- L. noting the endorsement given by numerous governments, international financial institutions, civil society groups, mining companies and their shareholders to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as one means to promote revenue transparency,
- M. anxious to prevent the unregulated gathering of firewood from causing the disappearance of forestry resources; recalls that systematic replanting of trees is necessary for the use of firewood to be sustainable,
- N. recalling, further, the need to ensure that the commitments entered into by the European Union and the ACP countries in the Cotonou Agreement are honoured, in particular Article 36(4), which provides for a review of the commodity protocols with a view to safeguarding the benefits derived therefrom for the ACP States,
- O. whereas a partnership among the European Union, the ACP States, international development institutions and private-sector operators should allow solutions to be developed for the supply to the ACP States of abundant, environmentally friendly energy at a reasonable cost; drawing attention, in this context, to the need to ensure that the ACP States benefit from the findings of research into energy efficiency and sustainable energy sources and from transfers of the resulting technologies,
- P. whereas, in the context of the support measures for the energy production sector in the ACP States, discussions should target the speedy abolition of mechanisms related to production factor costs, whilst identifying sensitive products for which special clauses should be drafted,
- Q. recalling the commitment by the European Union and by the ACP States to conclude new trade arrangements whereby no ACP State should find itself in a situation less favourable than the one which it currently enjoys,
- R. noting huge differences between the ACP regions, none of which is pursuing a centralised energy policy,

- S. whereas ACP energy suppliers are chiefly underfunded public structures unable to guarantee the level of investment required to meet ACP countries' growing energy needs for the well-being of their inhabitants,
- T. whereas the UNEP-facilitated Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) has found that most market-oriented reforms of the energy sector in developing countries have no impact or an adverse impact on the poor,
- U. concerned at the almost complete lack of hydrological, oil and gas resources in some ACP States and regions, which makes them almost entirely dependent on energy imports, except where the existing potential for renewable (wind and solar) energy is maximised, which can reduce but not eliminate dependence,
- V. whereas the short-term fluctuations in oil and gas prices hinder the short-term implementation of development programmes for electricity production based on the extension of thermal production capacities,
- W. noting the existence in some ACP regions of energy development programmes based on the concentration of investment in regional projects and on the interconnection of distribution networks,
- X. whereas the impact of such fluctuations might also be alleviated if commodities were processed locally before being exported,
- Y. whereas, in order to facilitate industrialisation and marketing, the instruments and structures for providing support for the private sector must be mobilised in order to underpin processing, marketing, distribution and transport activities (PMDT),
- Z. emphasising the need for clearer and more concise information about energy resources in the ACP States and about the investment opportunities available in terms of exploration, exploitation and distribution in that sector,
- AA. emphasising, further, the importance of access to relevant, up-to-date information about the development of ACP energy markets and the world energy market in general,
- AB. recalling the urgent need to provide non-pollutant energy sources, which is a major challenge for sustainable development in urban areas of the ACP States in the 21st century,
- AC. stressing the particular importance of supplying low-cost energy to rural communities in the ACP States, where this will encourage the growth of local economic activities and assist in combating isolation, whilst improving living conditions for local people,
- AD. welcoming the ACP States' willingness to equip themselves with an action plan to establish, in partnership with the European Union, a sectoral framework for action in the field of energy,
- AE. reaffirming the importance of the well-being and security of workers and their families and the need to protect the environment in which agricultural activities and mining take place,
1. Reaffirms the key role energy plays in speeding up growth and development, in particular as regards economic production;
 2. Reaffirms its willingness to continue its efforts to promote energy production at competitive prices and for the benefit of all economic stakeholders in the ACP States as a means of reducing poverty and aiding the gradual integration of these countries into the world economy by increasing their economic production;
 3. Emphasises the importance of energy production undertakings in the ACP States having access to financial resources on favourable terms, notably through international financial institutions, development banks and the European Investment Bank and in particular by means of the use of interest rate subsidies under the 9th and 10th EDFs, so that they can make the very substantial investments necessitated by the expected increase in their production capacities and the growth in their distribution potential;

4. Notes that decentralised off-grid solutions in remote or sparsely populated areas are in many cases much more cost-effective than grid extensions; notes that such off-grid solutions can include combinations of solar energy, photovoltaic systems, LPG, local biofuel, and in particular can take advantage of the production of jathropa, elephant grass, palm oil, groundnuts, other biodiesel crops and bioethanol;
5. Asks the European Union to support the financing of such off-grid solutions in ACP countries, including the creation of rural energy service companies made up of local small businesses which can provide good services adapted to the needs of customers in rural areas;
6. Calls on the European Union and ACP governments to effectively manage demand for energy and diversify energy supply from fossil to non-fossil, particularly to renewable energy sources;
7. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to invest in energy-efficient and energy-conservation systems to manage the escalating increase in global energy demand;
8. Calls on energy producing companies in the EU and ACP countries to forge strategic partnerships for the development of renewable energy sources to help especially remote rural settlements; calls on Western, and in particular European, companies in the energy sector which are active in the ACP countries, and on the governments of those countries, to comply with the rules on good governance in force and to offer the ACP transfers of the technologies developed by means of their own research;
9. Calls on the EU to assist the ACP countries in formulating and implementing long-term energy master plans as part of an integrated broad strategy for the ACP countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015;
10. Calls on the ACP and EU countries to work together to formulate energy policies which are pro-poor and environmentally friendly and conducive to sustainable economic development for all;
11. Stresses the urgent need to develop or strengthen national and/or regional strategies for the improvement of sustainable energy supply, with a view to reducing the ACP States' excessive dependence on oil and the resulting vulnerability of their public finances;
12. Asks the ACP countries to pay more attention to energy in their national strategies for economic development, and not only to focus on large infrastructure projects, but also to address the crucial issue of access to energy, specifically for the poor;
13. Notes that market-oriented reforms of the energy sector should contain a pro-poor dimension in order to address the issue of the financing of electricity supply for the poor and to allow for investment in energy saving;
14. Calls on the European Union to share with the ACP States its experience in the area of improving energy efficiency, in particular by giving energy production undertakings access to the relevant technology, by means of staff exchange programmes, by facilitating access to the capital needed to make the requisite investments and by supporting the establishment of an appropriate legal and financial framework;
15. Notes that the development of renewable energies such as solar, wind, water and biomass energy, their adaptation to the specific needs of the ACP countries and their distribution, particularly to rural areas, is of the utmost importance for the improvement of living conditions and for the achievement of the MDGs;
16. Calls on the Commission to initiate and implement an ACP-EU Renewable Energy Development Programme under the ACP-EU Research and Development Framework involving ACP and EU research institutes;
17. Stresses the need for all ACP countries to appoint a national energy coordinator and the need to establish coordination at the level of transnational institutions, such as the AU and Caricom, and even at regional level;

18. Calls on the ACP States and the European Union to speed up the implementation of the Energy Facility in accordance with the European Council's conclusions on the communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 26 October 2004 on the future development of the EU Energy Initiative and the modalities for the establishment of an Energy Facility for ACP countries;
19. Reaffirms the need for the European Commission to continue the efforts made with regard to the ongoing creation of the Energy Facility by searching for solutions to guarantee energy supply for the ACP States, in keeping with the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement;
20. Calls on the Commission, the EU Council and the ACP to replenish the ACP-EU Energy Facility out of resources to be decommitted under the 9th EDF or through a dedicated allocation from intra-ACP cooperation under the 10th EDF;
21. Calls on the ACP States and the European Union to work with recognised civil society organisations and private sector organisations to promote initiatives for the setting-up of ACP regional energy networks;
22. Calls for the Energy Facility to be set up so that this important instrument can, in the context of the Cotonou Agreement, play a part in remedying, in due course, the negative impact of the shortage of energy resources and in safeguarding the reforms and socioeconomic policies implemented by the ACP countries;
23. Calls on the European Union and the ACP countries to ensure that oil and mining companies based within their jurisdiction fully disclose their revenue payments to governments in each country where they operate and clearly indicate such payments in their annual financial reports;
24. Calls on the European Union and the ACP countries to explicitly and publicly endorse the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and on the EU to make the promotion of fiscal transparency in resource-rich countries a major theme of its proposed Common Energy Strategy;
25. Notes the recent intimidation of civil society activists campaigning for more transparency in public revenues in several EITI pilot countries and calls on the European Union and the ACP countries to support the implementation of the EITI in resource-rich countries, in particular by defending the active and unconstrained participation in the EITI by civil society groups in the countries concerned;
26. Encourages the setting-up and appropriate use of information systems in the form of an ACP energy database;
27. Urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to strengthen the existing instruments with a view to supporting the private sector and to create new ones in order to enhance the global competitiveness of the ACP countries' private sectors, in particular in terms of production, distribution and the identification of potential energy resources;
28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on fisheries and their social and environmental aspects in developing countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,
- having regard to articles 23, 53 and 84, to Annexes III and V, to Common Declarations XXXVII and XL and to the ACP Declaration to Protocol 1 of Annex V of the Cotonou Agreement,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 22 June 2006.

- having regard to the Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing adopted on 12 March 2005 in Rome (Italy),
 - having regard to its resolution on tuna, adopted on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 9 October 2003 on the Commission communication on an integrated framework for fisheries partnership agreements with third countries (2003/2034(INI)) ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on small-scale fisheries, adopted on 12 October 2000 in Brussels (Belgium) ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on the impact of structural assistance to the European fisheries sector on the sustainable development of the ACP fisheries sector, adopted on 1 April 1999 in Strasbourg (France) ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on ACP-EU trade relations in the fisheries sector and the sanitary standards for the export to the European Union of fishery products, adopted on 24 September 1998 in Brussels (Belgium) ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the Declaration on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted on 11 March 1999 in Rome (Italy),
 - having regard to its resolution on ACP-EU cooperation in the fisheries sector beyond 2000, adopted on 29 October 1997 in Lomé (Togo) ⁽⁶⁾,
 - having regard to the treatment of fisheries in the ongoing negotiations on economic partnership agreements,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment on fisheries and their social and environmental aspects in developing countries (ACP EU/3847/06/fin.),
- A. whereas some 50 of the 79 ACP States are coastal and over 60 export fish and fish products to regional and international markets,
 - B. whereas 75 % of global fish stocks are being fished at or above their sustainable limits, and whereas the ecosystems in many areas have been severely depleted, which undermines efforts to achieve sustainable development,
 - C. whereas the EU's development cooperation policy and the common fisheries policy (CFP) must be consistent, complementary and coordinated,
 - D. whereas the EU and some ACP countries have committed themselves to ensuring the sustainable character of fisheries worldwide, as defined at the Johannesburg summit, and maintaining or restoring stock levels with a view to producing the maximum sustainable yield; whereas these goals are to be achieved as a matter of urgency for over-fished population units as soon as possible and no later than 2015,
 - E. whereas the EU has also committed itself to the general objective under the CFP of ensuring the sustainable management of fishery and marine resources in economic, social and environmental terms, especially in the context of fisheries partnership agreements (FPAs) signed with third countries; whereas, furthermore, it is a legitimate objective of the CFP to maintain the Union's presence in distant fishing grounds and to protect the interests of the Union's fisheries,
 - F. whereas the EU and some ACP countries have adopted the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and follow provisions laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 231, 26.9.2003.

⁽²⁾ P5_TA(2003)0431

⁽³⁾ OJ C 64, 28.2.2001.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 271, 24.9.1999.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 79, 22.3.1999.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 96, 30.3.1998.

- G. whereas the potential contribution made by fisheries and the activities of local communities to food security and employment in the developing countries, including the important role played by women in processing and marketing in these communities, make this sector a major factor in sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries,
- H. whereas drastically reducing the current level of EU tariff protection on canned tuna imports from third countries as a result of increased competition from south-east Asian countries may cause imbalances on the European tuna market as well as the erosion of the ACP States' preferential treatment, and whereas this would cause great damage to the latter countries' tropical tuna sectors and endanger the economic and social development fostered by the tuna industry there,
- I. whereas, although individual ACP countries may be entitled to specific policy-driven measures and solutions, regional integration should be envisaged as a development goal, in particular towards the development of a regional fisheries policy and the implementation and enforcement of an effective regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanism to prevent illegal fishing,
- J. whereas overexploitation of fishery resources is mainly a result of weak or non-existent national fisheries policies,
- K. whereas Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has harmful and worldwide consequences for the sustainability of fisheries (ranging from large-scale high seas fisheries to small-scale artisanal fisheries), for the conservation of living marine resources and marine biodiversity as a whole and for economies of developing countries and their efforts to develop sustainable fisheries management,
- L. whereas joint ventures and temporary partnerships between businesses can play an important role in supplying markets and developing cooperation between the Community fishing industry and the fishing industries of third countries,
- M. whereas ACP countries should prevent the indiscriminate use of flags of convenience by all boats, including those that have lost their fishing rights under signed agreements,
- N. whereas regional fisheries organisations have the potential to be the most effective instrument for responsible fisheries management and one of the most effective means of combating undesirable phenomena such as fishing by pirate ships or under flags of convenience; whereas the creation of regional fishery bodies must be encouraged and given a wide range of delegated competences by individual governments,
- O. whereas improving the equipment of local boats should be included as a targeted measure in all partnership agreements signed by the EU with ACP countries and other developing countries,
- P. whereas studies on the potential of the EEZs, research and use of reliable scientific data are essential to ensuring the sustainable character of fisheries and other marine resources; whereas all available data on ACP countries' waters should be sent to those countries and made public,
- Q. whereas scientific resource assessment must be a precondition for access to fishing, and an annual evaluation of the resources must be a condition for the granting of further fishing permits,
- R. whereas satellite surveillance of the waters of ACP countries with fisheries agreements with the EU should be developed, all EU vessels should be equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) as a compulsory requirement, and information, including on the position and catches of fishing vessels in ACP States' waters, should be sent in real time to the authorities of the ACP States concerned,
- S. whereas social and cultural factors which affect fishermen and other people dependent on fisheries are particularly complex as they connect a system focused around the use of fisheries and other marine resources to a far broader system which determines the ways in which people interact with one another; whereas many past failures in fisheries development and management have been attributed to the failure of those responsible to understand the wide range of social and cultural factors in the lives of people involved in the sector and their effects on fisheries,

- T. whereas the harsh lifestyle of many fishermen and other people dependent on fisheries, and their exposure to water-borne diseases, malaria, poor sanitation and poor nutrition, increase the susceptibility of fishing communities to HIV infection and place additional strain on fishing households as a result of having to deal with the burden of caring for those affected by AIDS-related illness,
- U. whereas defining a social and legal status for fishermen should be a priority in national fisheries policies,
- V. whereas education, training and information on sustainable fisheries must be part of national policies set by all countries in all regions,
- W. whereas fisheries have a significant direct and indirect impact on the marine environment,
- X. whereas the creation of protected areas and marine parks proposed to ACP countries could be financed by the EU and subject to joint monitoring and surveillance,
- Y. whereas the use of incentives to generate change in individual and collective behaviour towards the environment is increasingly recognised as a tool which has the potential to help mitigate environmental impacts,
- Z. whereas inland fisheries can play a crucial role in rural development; whereas many people — including women and children — engage in casual fishing, for instance in flood plains, which makes a significant contribution to the high-grade animal protein available to households,
- AA. whereas fisheries in inland waters shared by two or more countries should be subject to coordinated policies and measures; whereas the EU can provide technical help for the countries involved in setting up these measures,
- AB. whereas aquaculture has been growing constantly over the past decades and whereas it can be expected to undergo geographical expansion in terms of species farmed and technologies used,
- AC. whereas the EU can set up aquaculture partnership projects with developing countries aimed at minimising the negative effects they may produce in the environment,
- AD. whereas aquaculture contributes to poverty reduction by being an important additional source in population feeding,
- AE. whereas the EU can help developing countries at enterprise level to improve the sanitary conditions of fish, fish products and by-products,
- AF. whereas the current stringent rules of origin do not allow the ACP States concerned to take full advantage of processing for export to the EU under the Cotonou preferential trade regime,

Principles and challenges

1. Reiterates that ACP-EU development cooperation policy in fisheries must: promote the ACP countries' capacity to develop their fishery resources sustainably and to enhance local added value; facilitate monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries; promote a continuous policy dialogue with all relevant actors, including small-scale fishermen and civil society, and obtain a fair price for access rights for foreign fleets to their EEZs, while acknowledging the need to protect the interests of the ACP and EU fisheries;
2. Considers that the protection of EU and ACP fishing interests must be coordinated with the sustainable management of fishery resources in economic, social and environmental terms, and with the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on fisheries;

3. Insists that EU fishing boats should operate in ACP EEZs only if they meet the sustainable fishing and environmental needs of the ACP State concerned and also if they are equipped with VMS;
4. Calls for opt-out clauses for the ACP countries if they, at any time, consider that the fishery agreements are harmful to their social, political, environmental or economic interests;
5. Calls for national marine and inland resources fishing policies to be adopted by all countries; further calls for regional integration of these policies;
6. Welcomes recent EU-funded regional cooperation initiatives taken by southern African countries towards joint fisheries surveillance using both vessels and satellite surveillance; calls for identical initiatives to be planned by other regional organisations;
7. Calls for measures to be taken to prevent coastal communities' traditional fisheries being edged out by other, alien practices; therefore insists that all agreements should contain measures to protect small-scale indigenous fisheries, to promote the landing of the fish locally and to require access to be dependent on the use of selective fishing methods;
8. Calls for action to encourage the participation of local community organisations based on traditional forms of association in all policy-setting and decision-making related to fisheries and fish-related activities, and for due attention to be paid to the role played by women in the processing and marketing of sea and aquaculture products; for this purpose calls for national policies to include measures fostering the creation of associative, cooperative or other micro, small and medium enterprises or other forms of social and economic organisations;
9. Calls on ACP-EU development cooperation policy to step up dialogue at regional, national and local level between the industrial and artisanal fisheries sectors with a view to promoting sustainable development of fishery resources;
10. Calls on the EU to make aid for third countries aimed at helping them implement the FAO's international action plan for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing one of the main priorities when concluding future agreements with third countries; further calls on the EU to help ACP countries sign all international marine and fisheries conservation agreements and to impose measures similar to those agreed by the EU in all fisheries agreements signed with other third countries;
11. Calls for policies and measures focused on food security to be incorporated into Country Strategy Papers (CSP); therefore recommends the creation of locally and regionally controlled integrated circuits allowing fish to be delivered from the fisherman to the final consumer at the lowest possible price;
12. Calls for strong national fisheries policies preventing the overexploitation of fisheries resources;
13. Calls for programmes to manage by-catches; urges that captured fish that cannot be returned to the sea alive should be disembarked and used for food aid;
14. Recommends that necessary studies on the potential of the EEZs, research and the use of reliable scientific data should be carried out in partnership between EU and ACP countries, because they are essential for ensuring the sustainable character of fisheries and for the negotiations of bilateral fisheries agreement;
15. Considers that scientific resource assessment must be a precondition for access to fishing, and that an annual evaluation of the resources must be a condition for obtaining further fishing permits;
16. Calls on ACP states to develop regional scientific cooperation programmes for the collection and sharing of data on fish stocks as well as a continuous evaluation of the effects of fisheries and various fishing methods on ecosystems;

17. Calls for programmes to meet the special requirements of developing countries in combating IUU fishing and, in particular, the need to strengthen their capacity for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; further calls for the prevention of the indiscriminate use of flags of convenience by all boats, including those that have lost their fishing rights under signed agreements;
18. Requests that satellite surveillance of the waters of ACP countries with fisheries agreements with the EU be developed, that all EU fishing boats be equipped with VMS as a compulsory requirement and that the position and catches of the vessels be reported in real time to the ACP States concerned;

Social aspects

19. Calls for ACP countries to adopt a social and legal status for fishermen and other fisheries workers;
20. Calls for the inclusion of the social clause adopted on 19 December 2001 at the plenary meeting of the 'Sea Fishing' Sector Social Dialogue Committee in the protocols to agreements, with a view to ensuring that all seafarers on board EU and ACP vessels enjoy freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of discrimination, adequate remuneration, and living and working conditions similar to those of EU seafarers;
21. Calls for the creation of tailored insurance products to cover coastal traditional and artisanal fisheries hazards;
22. Calls for special EU/ACP joint surveillance to be carried out concerning the treatment received by fishermen employed on ships sailing under flags of convenience;
23. Calls for strengthened institutionalised initiatives that address the problem of HIV/AIDS and water-borne diseases among fishing communities in both the developing and EU countries;
24. Calls for the creation of pools of government-paid on-board observers to be deployed on EU and ACP fishing vessels and on other distant-water fishing vessels offloading catches at designated ports in ACP countries, thus preventing the corruption that can arise when that payment is the responsibility of the vessel owner;
25. Calls for training and capacity-building programmes for local communities dependent on fisheries to be included in national policies; further calls for primary and secondary education curricula to include general awareness and technical subjects addressed to children living in areas where fishing is the dominant activity;
26. Calls for the provision of scientific and professional training programmes for local fishermen in the CSPs, thus allowing them to apply for jobs in the EU fleet;
27. Calls for the creation of alternative programmes for generating income for families having to abandon traditional fisheries, for instance in tourism, rural development or other activities;
28. Calls for special EU support as part of EU development aid for inhabitants of remote ACP States of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans that are heavily dependent on subsistence fisheries for income generation, so as to improve their families' health, balanced diet and the education of their children, especially girls;
29. Urges ACP fishing nations to include mechanisms in their national policy frameworks to avoid or minimise the negative effects on families caused by fishermen that must work for months or years away from home without returning to their native countries; these effects may lead to family break-ups, often causing hardship and long-lasting negative implications for the children left with their mothers, especially for girls and very young children;

30. Recognises that diversifying fisheries activities, increased local processing of production and other value-added activities, especially through micro-project types in ACP countries, could lead to wider participation, job creation and other employment opportunities for young people and women, thus redistributing wealth in the community; therefore encourages the European Commission to pay equal attention to this sector as to every other sector;
31. Calls on the ACP States and the EU to fully recognise that fisheries can potentially contribute to food security, are fundamental in food relief programmes in times of disasters and help to reduce famine in ACP countries; therefore urges the European Commission and the World Food Programme to allocate resources for island states with large fisheries potential to participate, in line with accepted standards, in food relief initiatives that are also important for the local economies, and further calls on the ACP island states included in this programme to give special customs consideration as is usual during relief works;
32. Calls on the ACP States and the EU to pay special attention to traditional and cultural values and practices attached to fishing or in use in some island states;
33. Urges ACP and EU fishing nations to strengthen their national policy frameworks and regional cooperation strategies against the use of fishing boats or the fishing industry to disguise illegal immigration and drug trafficking within or between ACP States or between ACP States and the EU Member States;

Economic and financial aspects

34. Proposes the encouragement at local level, in the ACP countries, of transfers of technology, scientific know-how etc. in an investment-friendly form;
35. Calls for efforts by national and regional authorities to promote the creation of joint enterprises with preferential access to the EU market, provided such joint action does not contribute to over-fishing;
36. Urges that discriminatory measures are not taken within the WTO to reduce customs duties for canned tuna from some Asian developing countries, measures that may be harmful to the ACP countries, and calls on the Commission to consider the use of a 'carve-out' clause in the WTO tariff reduction formula in the DDA in order to maintain an effective level of preference for ACP canned tuna exports to the EU; otherwise their entire tuna canning industry may be devastated with serious socio-economic consequences;
37. Calls on the EU to make every effort at the WTO tariff negotiations under way to maintain the current regime regulating the import of canned tuna from third countries;
38. Urges ACP countries to implement the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement); asks therefore that EU financial assistance be used for the improvement of export facilities, thus bringing them into line with international SPS requests;
39. Stresses the principle of the exclusive competence of the recipient country to spend at its discretion the contribution it receives in exchange for granting fishing rights to the EU; nevertheless recognises that earmarking part of the financial contribution for the development of the local fishing industry or the adoption of targeted measures, preferably in agreement with a national policy for marine resources, should be envisaged;
40. Considers that a clear separation must be made between compensation paid for access to fishing and any more general sustainable development aid included in the agreement as targeted measures, for instance for monitoring, surveillance, control or infrastructure development, or for direct support to communities dependent on fisheries;

41. Calls for the implementation of micro-credit programmes aimed at promoting locally and regionally coherent fisheries; recognises the important role micro-credit plays as a decentralised cooperation tool; calls, in this context, on EU-ACP cooperation to include fiscal, administrative and technical capacity-building that could lead to further local and regional investment in the fisheries sector;
42. Urges the negotiators of the EPAs and other stakeholders such as economic interest groups, civil society and citizens of the ACP and EU in general to take cognisance of the messages expressed herein, both prior to and during the negotiation process, in order to enable an appropriate and proportionate response to this resolution by the relevant ACP countries; and further calls on the Commission to examine seriously the ACP proposal for the conclusion of a Regional Fisheries Framework Agreement in the context of future EPAs, as appropriate;

Environmental aspects

43. Calls for special programmes designed for fisheries in inland waters to be adopted;
44. Recognises the contribution inland fisheries can make to rural development, as many people — including women and children — engage in casual fishing, for instance in flood plains, making a significant additional contribution to the high-grade animal protein available to households;
45. Calls for coordinated policies and measures for fisheries in inland waters shared by two or more countries; further calls for EU technical help to the countries involved in setting up these policies and measures;
46. Calls on the EU to finance measures by ACP States involved in inland fisheries aimed at combating the disappearance through sand encroachment of lakes and waterways, at maintaining their fish stocks in the long term and at modernising fishing techniques with a view to making them more viable and sustainable;
47. Calls on the ACP States of the African continent to strengthen their national policy frameworks or regional cooperation strategies against abuse, overuse or pollution of rivers or lakes on which more than one country is dependent for fishing, aquaculture or other fisheries-related activity;
48. Urges a ban in all ACP and EU waters on any fishing boat from those countries fishing any endangered species (fish or sea mammal) as specified by CITES and a total ban on the practice of shark finning, except where this is a by-product of fishing shark for meat;
49. Calls for a focus on decentralised production, using environmentally friendly, low-cost sustainable aquaculture methods;
50. Urges that precautions be taken to ensure that aquaculture does not lead to a loss of biodiversity as a result of interaction between escaped farmed animals or the introduction of waste into the wider environment;
51. Calls on the EU to continue impact assessment studies concerning the sustainable character of the Fishing Partnership Agreements (FPAs) and to allocate the necessary resources for this purpose;
52. Envisages, based on scientific studies, the creation by ACP countries of marine parks or protected zones, where only traditional indigenous fisheries could be allowed; calls for financing and training of personnel capable of carrying out the surveillance needed in these areas;
53. Calls for national and regional sustainable development strategies in the fisheries sector to take into consideration, based on reliable scientific research and adapted to the particular local marine circumstances, other means of reducing the negative biological effects of fishing and to restore depleted fish stocks, such as closed seasons and mesh size regulations;

54. Underlines the need for measures in the fisheries sector for the protection of the marine environment to be integrated into, and complemented by, more wide-ranging marine sustainable development strategies that address issues such as coastal and off-shore pollution and maritime transport;
55. Underlines the need, when developing fisheries strategies, to find a proper balance between economic and ecological considerations so as not to penalise economically and socially vital fishing operations through over-regulation; stresses the need for financial mechanisms to compensate or support fishermen having to adapt to new environmental legislation;
56. Calls for a ban on the use of fishing techniques which may cause migratory species to lose their feeding habits and migration trajectories; admits that exceptions could be accepted when coastal fisheries contribute towards meeting local communities' fish security needs;
57. Calls for a ban on the use of explosives and traditional herbal poisoning of fish as methods of fishing, as these kill fish indiscriminately and are very harmful to coral and the general marine ecosystems; therefore urges all fishing nations to ensure that the ban is reflected in their national policy frameworks;
58. Urges tropical ACP countries which have mangroves around their coastal waters to formulate national policy frameworks for the protection of mangroves, as they provide the marine environment and ecosystems necessary for natural fish breeding;
59. Recommends that ACP countries use EU help at enterprise level to improve the sanitary conditions of fish, fish products and by-products;
60. Calls for eco-labelling to be included in country and regional fishery strategies as a tool for conservation of the environment and marine biodiversity, and also as a marketing tool for creating market niches with better and more stable prices;
61. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union and all Regional Fisheries Organisations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Sudan

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Sudan,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on Sudan of 6 April 2006,
- having regard to the Pan-African Parliament report on Sudan of April 2006,
- having regard to the reports on the fact-finding missions to Darfur of the European Parliament (February and September 2004), the Pan-African Parliament (November 2004) and the ACP-EU JPA (March 2005),
- having regard to the visit of a UN Security Council delegation to Darfur in June 2006,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 22 June 2006.

- having regard to the third report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to the UN Security Council on Darfur of 14 June 2006,
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolutions S/RES/1663, 1665 and 1672 of 2006 and the report to the UN Secretary-General of the International Commission of Enquiry on Darfur,
 - having regard to the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement signed on 8 April 2004 between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the two rebel movements,
 - having regard to the protocols on the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Darfur and on the enhancement of the security situation in Darfur, both signed in Abuja (Nigeria) on 9 November 2004,
 - having regard to the Tripoli declaration of 8 February 2006 between Sudan and Chad following the tension between the two countries,
 - having regard to the African Union Ceasefire Commission's Violation Report No 96/2005,
 - having regard to the latest report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sudan published on 27 January 2006,
 - having regard to the Abuja (Nigeria) Peace Agreement of 5 May 2006,
- A. whereas a rebellion led by the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) began in Darfur in February 2003,
- B. whereas the main rebel group in Darfur, the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), and the GOS signed a peace agreement on the future of Darfur on 5 May 2006, while the two other parties, the JEM and the smaller Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) faction, did not sign, are calling for further concessions from the GOS and have rejected the terms of the deal,
- C. whereas the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) decided on 12 January 2006 to extend the mandate of AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to 31 March 2006; it has further decided to extend the mission to 30 September 2006; the AU has expressed its support for a transition after that date from AMIS to a UN mission,
- D. whereas there are serious difficulties with, and obstacles to, the delivery of humanitarian aid to the population of Darfur,
- E. whereas the Darfur conflict is increasingly affecting the stability of neighbouring Chad and constitutes a threat to regional peace and security,
- F. whereas the protection of those in villages and in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Darfur remains inadequate,
1. Welcomes the conclusion of the peace agreement on 5 May 2006 but regrets that some rebel groups have refused to sign;
 2. Calls for all parties to the peace agreement to implement this agreement especially with regard to the disarming of all armed militias including the Janjaweed;
 3. Urges the two other rebel groups outside the 5 May 2006 peace agreement, and the GOS, to reach an agreement to bring peace to the region;
 4. Calls on the GOS, all Sudanese parties and the international community to have all landmines in the south cleared in order to help to create a more conducive environment for returnees;
 5. Supports the efforts of the Government of National Unity of Sudan to effectively implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in a fully inclusive process;
 6. Welcomes the support of the AU for a UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur, and calls on the international community led by the AU to act immediately in order to secure the protection of civilians, in particular women and children, in Darfur, notably by reinforcing the resources of AMIS;

7. Welcomes the call by Kofi Annan for a technical assessment mission to be sent to Darfur in preparation for the UN force with the aim of establishing safe conditions and providing protection for the population, which has been the victim of an unprecedented genocide, in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter;
8. Urges the resumption of bilateral development talks between EU Member States and the Government of National Unity of Sudan in order to stabilise war-affected areas in Darfur;
9. Calls on all armed groups to respect human rights and international humanitarian law by ceasing all attacks on civilians including sexual violence against women;
10. Urges the Sudanese authorities to fight impunity and to bring to justice immediately the perpetrators of human rights violations including sexual violence;
11. Urges the GOS to apprehend the four leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in compliance with the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), and immediately hand them over for trial;
12. Is gravely concerned over recent events on the Sudan-Chad border; calls on both Governments to refrain from any action that would undermine the stability of the region, and to use all means in support of the Darfur peace process;
13. Calls on the international community and the GOS to recognise and to support the ICC's investigation into violations of humanitarian and human rights law in Darfur; underlines the extreme gravity of the findings of the third report of the ICC Prosecutor, which states that some of the groups involved in the commission of crimes in Darfur did so 'with specific genocidal intent';
14. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider an arms embargo as well as an oil embargo on Sudan and targeted sanctions against those responsible for human rights abuses and other atrocities, and to ensure that such sanctions do not add to the suffering of the population of Sudan;
15. Urges the GOS to make every effort to ensure the safe and voluntary return of all refugees and IDPs and to cooperate with the UN agencies, the NGO community and civil society organisations in this regard;
16. Calls on the international community to establish a special fund for the rehabilitation of the Darfur region following the signing of a peace agreement binding on all parties and the cessation of fighting;
17. Calls on the Bureau of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly to monitor the situation in Sudan and in doing so to schedule a follow-up mission to Sudan before the first meeting of the Bureau in 2007;
18. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union Institutions including the Pan-African Parliament, the UN Secretary-General and the Government of Sudan.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on avian influenza

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the recent spread of the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) from south-east Asia to western Asia, Europe and Africa,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 22 June 2006.

- having regard to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals adopted on 23 June 1979,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000,
 - having regard to the International Health Regulations adopted by the World Health Organisation on 23 May 2005 concerning the management of public health emergencies of international concern,
 - having regard to Directive 2005/94/EC of the Council of the European Union adopted on 20 December 2005 on Community measures to control avian influenza,
 - having regard to the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Influenza held in Beijing (China) on 17 and 18 January 2006,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to deal with any situation arising out of the spread of HPAI,
- A. whereas, since late 2003, outbreaks of HPAI, caused by the H5N1 virus, which are unprecedented in their geographical scope and virulence, have been spreading rapidly in many countries in Europe and Africa,
- B. whereas HPAI has potentially serious implications for agriculture and sectors of the subsistence economy, in particular poultry-keeping, and for human health, the sustainable use of wild birds and the conservation of species,
- C. whereas, in addition to causing human mortality and morbidity, a pandemic may disrupt the global economy, break production chains, halt trade and interrupt services that involve human contact,
- D. whereas, according to World Bank estimates, a global pandemic could cost US\$ 800 million per year, reducing global GDP by 2 %, with Asia and Africa likely to be hardest hit,
- E. whereas essentially all currently known cases of human infection with the avian influenza virus have been caused by contact with infected poultry rather than by contact with wild birds,
- F. whereas there is a need to strengthen public health systems in developing countries,
- G. whereas in many developing countries, particularly the ACP States, there is a flagrant lack of information coupled with general disregard for the important issues related to the spread of avian influenza, the risks it may pose, and ways of anticipating and responding to outbreaks of avian influenza,
- H. whereas the outbreak of the H7N7 virus in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany was successfully stamped out in 2003 by implementing rigorous control and biosecurity measures,
- I. whereas it is important to minimise at source the threat posed by the avian influenza pandemic to both animal and human populations by means of a rapid reduction in the viral burden of H5N1, prompt notification of outbreaks in birds, poultry culling and vaccination, including of 'backyard' flocks, and provision of appropriate compensation for farmers,
- J. whereas human cases of H5N1 infection may be difficult to distinguish from other infections, since health systems in developing countries, particularly in Africa, are already struggling to cope with children and adults suffering from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, respiratory infections and other diseases,
- K. whereas at the Beijing International Pledging Conference the international community pledged US\$ 1,9 billion to help third countries, in particular the least developed, to tackle avian influenza at source and, in so doing, reduce the risk of a human influenza pandemic,
- L. whereas at their 11th Summit held in Nairobi (Kenya) on 20 March 2006 the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) announced concerted efforts to establish all the necessary mechanisms and preparedness plans to mitigate the impact of avian influenza,

- M. whereas the WHO has issued a warning about a possible influenza pandemic in the near future,
1. Expresses its solidarity with all the countries affected by the H5N1 avian influenza virus and pays tribute to all the victims of this epidemic;
 2. Recognises that avian influenza poses a global threat with possible repercussions for human health, the global economy and world stability, since little is known about human immunity to a mutated strain of H5N1;
 3. Urges the ACP States to further integrate public health into their national economic and social development strategies, including through the establishment and improvement of effective public health mechanisms, in particular networks for disease surveillance, response, control, prevention and treatment, information exchange and recruitment, training and retention of national public health personnel;
 4. Draws attention to the need to draw up emergency plans in the event of human or animal infection and takes the view that those emergency plans should focus on:
 - strengthening surveillance and detection capacities,
 - preventive containment measures at the slightest suspicion of infection,
 - making the general public and the professionals concerned more aware of what is at stake, educating them and making appeals to their individual sense of responsibility,
 - supporting those affected by the crisis so that they can develop their ability to overcome it, and in particular full compensation for small poultry-farmers,
 - promoting human vaccine research and development,
 - supporting the measures needed to contain the disease;
 5. Emphasises that national plans to combat the virus must reflect the situation on the ground and specific national or local circumstances, in particular taking account of the role played by associations and the medical professions or of the arrangements for distributing medicines;
 6. Calls on the ACP States and the EU Member States to take effective, fully transparent measures to prevent the spread of avian influenza in their respective regions;
 7. Emphasises the importance of international cooperation in the area of the control of infectious diseases with a view to strengthening public health facilities in developing countries, including by exchanging information and sharing experience;
 8. Welcomes the biosecurity measures being taken by the European Union in response to the most recent outbreaks of avian influenza;
 9. Stresses the need to implement fully integrated approaches in order to address the issues raised by the spread of avian influenza, approaches which must draw on and integrate virological, epidemiological, medical, ornithological and wildlife management expertise;
 10. Urges the African countries affected by avian influenza to make even greater efforts in their respective regions to halt the spread of the disease by establishing their own coordination and surveillance plans at national, regional or continental level, with a view to optimising collective cross-border prevention and planning measures and to being ready to work together in the event of a cross-border outbreak or an outbreak in a neighbouring region;
 11. Calls on the European Union to promote research into and the development of vaccines against the H5N1 virus and to assist the ACP countries with response and containment measures in the event of outbreaks;
 12. Calls on the international community to help the countries affected and the countries at risk to enhance their veterinary and public health capacities;

13. Calls on the European Union to provide financial assistance for farming and rural communities in the ACP States hit by an epizootic and for associated sectors, such as agri-foodstuffs, tourism and transport;
 14. Urges that existing national immunisation networks, such as the polio immunisation network, should be used to provide large numbers of people with timely health information and to take action in connection with potential outbreaks of avian influenza;
 15. Welcomes the undertaking given by the European Commission to earmark € 30 million for the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, out of the € 80 million it pledged at the Beijing International Pledging Conference, to help third countries to tackle potential outbreaks of avian and human influenza;
 16. Hopes that there will be no delay in mobilising financial resources so that the countries concerned can implement programmes to combat H5N1 avian influenza as effectively as possible; calls on the Commission to release the whole amount pledged for ACP countries at the Beijing International Pledging Conference;
 17. Calls on the Commission to actively support the efforts of the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme; urges that the measures to be taken should seek to establish the precise routes taken by migratory birds across the world, with a particular focus on the European-African and European-Russian routes, and should concentrate on what can be done to protect birds; emphasises that random screening of animals and vaccination against avian influenza can be valuable tools to supplement disease control measures;
 18. Expresses its concern at the increase in export refunds for poultrymeat announced by the Commission and calls for a study into the impact which that measure might have on markets in the ACP countries;
 19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the ACP Ministers responsible for health and agricultural/veterinary matters, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union Commission.
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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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— on the impact of tourism on the development of ACP countries (ACP-EU 3871/06/fin.)	15
— on small arms and light weapons and sustainable development (ACP-EU 3892/06/fin.)	22
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the impact of tourism on the development of ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bridgetown (Barbados) from 20 to 23 November 2006,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Article 24 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000,
- having regard to the Fiji Declaration, adopted on 20 October 2004 at the seventh regional seminar of the ACP/EU economic and social interest groups under the aegis of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
- having regard to the resolution on tourism and development in the context of the management and control of the European Development Fund (EDF), adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in March 2001 in Libreville (Gabon) ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the resolution on tourism and development adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly on 14 October 1999 in Nassau (Bahamas) ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation in Santiago (Chile) on 1 October 1999 and endorsed by a resolution of the UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2001 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the resolution on the cultural dimension in development cooperation, including matters relating to heritage and tourism adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly in Strasbourg on 1 April 1995 ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the resolution of the Development Council held in Brussels on 30 November 1998 on sustainable tourism in developing countries,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on tourism and development adopted on 8 September 2005,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU 3871/06/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2006 in Bridgetown (Barbados).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 265, 20.9.2001, p. 39.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 59, 1.3.2000, p. 41.

⁽⁴⁾ A/RES/56/212.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 271, 24.9.1999, p. 73.

Tourism as a factor in economic development and international trade

- A. whereas tourism undeniably constitutes a driving force behind growth in developing countries at all levels; whereas its role in international trade tends to increase in spite of recent natural disasters that have affected tourism flows to several regions of the world,
- B. whereas an organised tourism programme, or an individual trip, increasingly encompasses multiple tourism destinations in more than one country, thereby contributing to increased regional cooperation and the strengthening of ties between countries,
- C. whereas tourism is one of the fundamental aspects of any coherent development policy to be implemented in developing countries; whereas its links to other economic sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries, food and beverage production and processing, other manufacturing industries, handicraft production, transport, and financial services, should be encouraged,
- D. whereas tourism activities may require infrastructure projects in the areas of transport, energy, new communication technologies, housing, sanitation, health and hygiene in developing countries,
- E. whereas it is fundamental that such projects should benefit both local communities and the tourist industry,
- F. whereas the tourism industry has often failed to establish strong links within national economies; whereas tourism infrastructure is mostly foreign-owned and investment is driven by substantial financial and tax incentives granted by individual countries in competition with one another,
- G. whereas tourism accounts for more than twice as much in financial transfers from rich to poor countries than governments give in aid; whereas, of the 50 Least Developed Countries, 46 now have tourism as the largest foreign exchange earner,
- H. whereas, in 41 of the 50 poorest countries in the world, tourism constitutes over 5 % of GDP or 10 % of exports,
- I. whereas the 2001 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) base document specifically refers to the importance of African tourism and draws up a Tourism Action Plan, endorsed by the African Union (AU) in 2004, which includes the recognition of the role of ecotourism and cultural tourism for Africa,
- J. whereas local investment in the hospitality sector should be encouraged, either by policies allowing the creation of local private and cooperative forms of enterprises that could produce goods and services previously imported, or through joint ventures between local and international enterprises,
- K. having regard to the current negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which will, as from 1 January 2008, replace the unilateral preferential trade regime for commercial relations between the ACP countries and the EU,

Tourism as a factor in environmental protection and the conservation of heritage and culture

- L. whereas sustainable tourism can develop only if it respects natural and cultural conditions and the traditions of the local communities where it evolves,
- M. whereas tourism must not be seen as an enemy of the environment but rather as its ally, since tourism's profitability is conditional on preserving the environment and heritage,
- N. whereas special attention needs to be paid by the authorities to environmentally friendly forms of tourism such as ecotourism, rural tourism and 'solidarity tourism',
- O. whereas tourism is sustained by the conservation and improvement of local heritage — be it natural or cultural, tangible or intangible — and of historic buildings,

- P. whereas the safety of tourists and tourist facilities and sites requires special attention on the part of the authorities,
- Q. whereas sensitive areas should be opened to tourism investment only after evaluation of their capacity to withstand the impact of tourism-related activities,
- R. whereas it is legitimate for governments, after consulting representative tourist sector organisations, to lay down strict rules for visitors to very popular sites,
- S. whereas the concept of limiting tourist numbers in small island States, mountain areas and coastal areas affected by overwhelming numbers of tourists needs to be integrated and accepted by the national authorities concerned,
- T. whereas unplanned and uncoordinated tourism development may put pressure on scarce water and energy supplies, add to the stress on wildlife and marine resources in protected areas and threaten ecologically fragile areas,
- U. whereas it may be necessary for the EU to assist governments in framing, monitoring and implementing legislation controlling access to, and use of, ecologically fragile areas,
- V. whereas it is necessary to reconcile energy practices with transport policies, with a view to protecting the environment and complying with the targets of the Kyoto Protocol aimed at sustainable development,

Tourism as a factor in public health and education, including the social impact of sex tourism

- W. whereas a country's public health standards are an element of its attractiveness,
- X. whereas tour operators should provide tourists with information on risks of disease and injury linked to a given destination or tourism activity and on the norms and values of host societies,
- Y. whereas tourism necessarily impacts on public health standards on account of hygiene requirements, healthcare measures, vaccination campaigns and the dissemination of information on disease prevention,
- Z. whereas an appropriate fiscal policy directed towards the tourism sector can provide governments with revenue to provide improved health facilities that benefit both local residents and tourists,
- AA. whereas traveller behaviour may exacerbate tourist health problems and put undue pressure on local health services,
- AB. whereas HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are now global scourges,
- AC. whereas the risk both to tourists and local people from the spread of highly contagious diseases such as diarrhoeic infections, respiratory infections, fevers of unknown cause and hepatitis cannot be ignored or downgraded in developing countries' health policies,
- AD. whereas nationals should receive appropriate education and training to participate in tourism activities at all levels,
- AE. whereas tourism impacts on education, providing local communities with access to language learning and new information and communication technologies, thereby enabling them to promote their cultural heritage on the basis of respect for customs and traditions while at the same time requiring greater awareness of, and adaptation to, the evolution of society and modern habits,

- AF. whereas it is nonetheless essential for public authorities to ensure the preservation of local traditions that respect human rights, especially the rights of women and children,
- AG. whereas tourism in some countries is associated with violations of human rights such as child labour, prostitution and sexual exploitation,
- AH. whereas sex tourism must be dealt with by means of a permanent and concerted campaign on the part of European and local authorities, in coordination with non-governmental organisations,
- AI. whereas only coordinated measures, the spread of information and the introduction of penalties on the basis of respect for international law can be genuinely effective,
- AJ. whereas widespread publicity regarding the penalties for sex tourism should have a deterrent effect, crimes related to sex tourism must be prosecuted, and it must be possible to bring prosecutions both in the country of origin and in the country where they are committed,
- AK. whereas policies and measures implemented by tour operators, travel agencies and airlines, such as distributing brochures or screening videos on journeys to sensitive destinations, have a positive impact,
- AL. whereas Member States of the World Health Organisation (WHO) have been called upon to take measures to protect the poorest and most vulnerable groups from 'transplant tourism' and the sale of tissues and organs,

Tourism as a factor in poverty reduction

- AM. whereas the World Tourism Organisation's programme 'Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty' contributes to the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction, by seeking to develop and support tourism projects in least developed and other developing countries, support micro-entrepreneurial initiatives in tourism, create job opportunities, facilitate market access and develop local capacities to favour those people living on less than one dollar a day,
- AN. whereas tourism is not the answer to all problems, but should be part of a broader pro-poor national growth policy,
- AO. whereas in some countries tourism has emerged accidentally, sometimes as the only economic development option when the traditional agro-export sector has failed to retain its position in the global market place,
- AP. whereas tourism is a major employment generator; whereas all job creation measures must comply with International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards,
- AQ. whereas forms of tourism seeking to guarantee fair payment for local workers and entrepreneurs merit particular attention from the authorities, especially in the case of 'fair tourism',
- AR. whereas tourism is labour intensive, has high female employment ratios and is not necessarily import intensive; whereas it has low barriers to entry, encompassing all types and dimensions of enterprises, and it provides opportunities for downstream economic links in the local economy, thereby allowing poor people to gain opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled employment,
- AS. whereas governments could create incentives for companies to invest and operate in ways favouring the poor, by adapting their licensing, concessioning, supply-chain and marketing policies,

Tourism as a factor in economic development and international trade

1. Calls for the impact of tourism and the principles of sustainable tourism and good governance to be systematically and coherently taken into account in the drafting of EU and ACP development policy;
2. Considers that, to be sustainable, tourism must improve the lives of local people, protect their environment and health, and support the local economy through the purchase of food, processed goods, handicraft, services and other resources locally; calls on the governments of developing countries to ensure the full involvement of local communities in tourist activities and to ensure the fair sharing of the economic, social and cultural benefits generated;
3. Recommends that the Commission focus on sustainable tourism in its cooperation and development policy and in the context of its development guidelines and its efforts to consolidate entrepreneurial structures, specifically within its relationship with the ACP countries; regrets that the current Strategy for Africa does not include any reference to tourism; asks, therefore, in order to allow for effective development of the recommendation, that the personnel in the Tourism Unit of the European Commission's DG Enterprise and in the services dealing with tourism in the AU and ACP Secretariats should be reinforced, and their expertise be used in subjects directly or indirectly concerning tourism;
4. Calls on ACP governments to examine policies designed to guarantee 'planning gain' benefits for the local communities where tourism projects take place;
5. Insists on the need to reinvest the profits of tourism in local development; calls on tour operators to review their 'all-inclusive' packages which prevent spin-off benefits to the local communities, and encourages these operators as far as possible to source materials and staff locally, including managerial staff;
6. Encourages governments to promote the creation and development of public-private partnerships and to facilitate the setting-up of private and cooperative enterprises in the tourism sector;
7. Calls for an increase, where appropriate, in the proportion of sustainable tourism-oriented projects financed under the European Development Fund (EDF);
8. Proposes that the issue of sustainable tourism and its economic impact be included in the current negotiations on the EPAs, and that the interests of developing countries in relation to the European market be given positive consideration when tourism-related issues are raised by them in the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS);
9. Notes that in many developing countries the tourism sector is fundamentally a private-sector activity, and that the Community must therefore find ways to ensure that interested parties and other social partners are fully involved in all discussions regarding development policy affecting the tourism sector;
10. Demands that the governments of the countries concerned and EU tour operators enforce human rights standards, workers' rights in accordance with ILO core labour standards, the protection of the European tourism-consumer and the recommendations concerning tour operators;
11. Calls on the governments of developing countries to introduce transparent and properly regulated procedures for access to national markets in accordance with the recommendations of the UN World Tourism Organisation, as a necessary condition for all foreign investment;

Tourism as a factor in environmental protection and conservation of heritage and culture

12. Calls for the establishment of sustainable tourism policies and regulations to protect and conserve natural resources, the cultural heritage and traditional land tenure systems;
13. Encourages the optimisation of existing technical and scientific resources with a view to preventing the degradation or destruction of architectural heritage and environmental deterioration;

14. Calls for EU support to the tourism sector also to incorporate the environmental dimension, particularly with regard to waste management and coastal zone development;
15. Calls for all European investments in tourism in developing countries to be subject to the same rules applicable to EU funding for investment within the EU, such that any investment which is manifestly detrimental to the environment, human rights, ILO core labour standards, the way of life of indigenous communities or the historical and cultural heritage of the recipient country must not be supported;
16. Calls on the EU to provide technical support to countries which, under the impact of mass tourism, are obliged to take measures to preserve their tourist sites; calls also for an exchange of best practices in this field;
17. Stresses the urgent need for the Community to aid countries hit by natural disasters that affect their tourist industry; calls for special attention to be paid to the situation of small island States;
18. Encourages local authorities which are confronted with an over-rapid tourist boom to take measures to limit numbers where necessary;
19. Calls, in the interests of accessible, protected and secure tourism, for initiatives to tackle crime directed against tourism, including specialist training for police services;
20. Calls on the Commission, in its activities in support of sustainable development, to recognise the right of a country or a region to define its own priorities democratically when financing regional cooperation projects;
21. Calls on the governments of the Member States, and the Commission, with the support of tour operators and experienced organisations, to act to promote ethical standards in tourism by introducing a certified European Fair Trade Tourism label;
22. Calls on the EU to assist governments in framing, monitoring and implementing legislation controlling access to, and use of, ecologically fragile areas on land or sea;

Tourism as a factor in public health and education, including the social impact of sex tourism

23. Considers that income from sustainable tourism may contribute to improving the standard of living of the population in developing countries and to public health, as well as to housing, communications, energy and technology infrastructures;
24. Considers that appropriate fiscal policy directed towards the tourism sector can provide governments with revenue to offer improved health facilities and other infrastructure that benefit both local residents and tourists;
25. Underlines that tourism has an impact on public health standards and local health services; recognises, therefore, the need to mobilise research at European level to combat malaria, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and neglected diseases;
26. Calls once more on the Commission to ensure financial support for the vaccination of children, targeted at urgent needs regarding vaccines combining antigens against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenzae type B meningitis;
27. Calls on tour operators and travel agencies to inform their clients of the risks of disease and injury they may face when choosing a destination or tourism activity and of the norms and values of host societies;

28. Calls on the EU to support the creation in ACP countries of schools teaching professional skills in tourism, languages and new information and communication technologies, aiming to train personnel for regional and local tourism activities in developing countries or groups of developing countries with the same needs;
29. Calls on the Union and the Member States to make their experience and know-how available to developing countries with tourist potential with a view to offering on-site training of personnel; calls on the Commission to support projects in developing countries requesting such know-how;
30. Calls on the governments of the countries concerned to circulate among themselves an annual list of visa refusals on the grounds of male and female sex tourism offences, crimes against humanity or terrorism;
31. Calls, with a view to combating child sex tourism:
 - on the Commission and Council to give greater priority to the fight against child sex tourism, including restoring the budget line 'Combating child sex tourism in third countries' in order to ensure that resources are dedicated to this;
 - on the Commission to recognise the link between child pornography and sex tourism and ensure that this is raised in political dialogue with third countries;
 - on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that children's needs and rights are given priority in development aid, in particular the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of children affected by sex tourism;
32. Encourages tour operators, travel agents and airlines who have already done so to continue to act against sex tourism by raising their clients' awareness and informing them of potential legal risks, and calls on those who have not taken such steps to begin to do so; calls on all operators to cooperate with the authorities in identifying potential criminal activity;
33. Calls on all States to ensure the ethics of transplantation by adopting measures to eliminate 'transplant tourism';

Tourism as a factor in poverty reduction

34. Calls for the above-mentioned Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to be incorporated into national law by all countries;
35. Calls for the promotion of locally-controlled sustainable tourism initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of human rights;
36. Calls on the EU and its Member States to provide financial support to the UN World Tourism Organisation initiative ST-EP (Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty) and other initiatives that work towards alleviating poverty in developing countries;
37. Recommends a new pro-poor vision in national policies and in tourism policies that is aimed at the empowerment of local populations and their organised economic activities;
38. Calls on the governments of the Member States to ensure that the rules applicable to EU companies are fully implemented in cases of relocation to, or execution of contracts in, developing countries, giving special consideration to the rights of the workers affected and to a sustainable supply chain, using mainly national inputs;
39. Recognises the role of tourism in offering an alternative source of income for traditional farmers in small States who have lost their competitiveness in the global market due to new trade agreements;
40. Stresses the fact that tourism is a major employment generator; stresses, therefore, that all job creation measures must comply with ILO standards;

41. Recognises tourism is labour intensive, has high female employment ratios, is not necessarily import intensive, has low barriers to entry, encompasses all types and dimensions of enterprises and provides opportunities for downstream economic links in the local economy, and thereby allows poor people to gain opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled employment;
42. Considers that governments could create incentives for companies to invest and operate in ways that favour the poor, by adapting their licensing, concessioning, supply-chain and marketing policies;
43. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on small arms and light weapons and sustainable development

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bridgetown (Barbados) from 20 to 23 November 2006,
- having regard to Rule 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement, particularly Article 12,
- having regard to the Millennium Summit and Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals and its resolution calling for concerted action to end illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,
- having regard to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (henceforth referred to as the UNPoA) as adopted in July 2001,
- having regard to the first United Nations Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the UNPoA held, respectively, in July 2003, July 2005 and July 2006,
- having regard to the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2005 of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the entry into force on 6 July 2005 of the 2001 Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace,
- having regard to the conclusions of the G8 Summit in Gleneagles (United Kingdom) of June 2005, in particular concerning the doubling of aid by 2010 — an extra USD 50 billion worldwide and USD 25 billion for Africa — and the conclusions of the G8 Summit held in St Petersburg (Russia) on 16 and 17 July 2006,
- having regard to the Rome Statute establishing the ICC,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2006 in Bridgetown (Barbados).

⁽²⁾ A/60/463 (L.55) decision, 8 December 2005.

⁽³⁾ The Protocol known as the 'UN Firearms Protocol' was adopted in May 2001 by General Assembly Resolution 55/255.

- having regard to the EU Strategy for Africa adopted on 12 October 2005,
- having regard to the European Consensus on Development signed on 20 December 2005,
- having regard to the European Parliament's resolutions of 15 March 2001 ⁽¹⁾, 15 November 2001 ⁽²⁾, 19 June 2003 ⁽³⁾ and 26 May 2005 ⁽⁴⁾ on combating the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and of 17 November 2005 ⁽⁵⁾ on the Council's Sixth Annual Report according to Operative Provision 8 of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, and of 6 April 2006 ⁽⁶⁾ on aid effectiveness and corruption in developing countries,
- having regard to the 26 June 1997 EU Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms ⁽⁷⁾, to the Council Joint Action 2002/589/CFSP of 12 July 2002 on the European Union's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons ⁽⁸⁾, to the Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP of 23 June 2003 on the control of arms brokering ⁽⁹⁾, and to the EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition as adopted by the European Council on 15-16 December 2005 ⁽¹⁰⁾,
- having regard to the conclusions adopted by the Council at its meeting of 3 October 2005 expressing EU support for an International Arms Trade Treaty in the framework of the United Nations that would establish binding common standards on the global trade in conventional arms ⁽¹¹⁾,
- having regard to the European Security Strategy, approved by the European Council in Brussels on 12 December 2003,
- having regard to the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALW adopted by the OAU ministerial meeting on 30 November and 1 December 2000 in Bamako, Mali,
- having regard to the 'African Common Position to the Review Conference on Progress made in the Implementation of the UNPoA' adopted at the African Union's Second Continental Conference of African Governmental Experts and Regional Economic Communities on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons at Windhoek (Namibia) on 14-16 December 2005, and to the Decision Ex.CL/DE.255 (viii) of the African Union of January 2006 adopted at Khartoum (Sudan),
- having regard to the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials of 2001 that entered into force in July 2005,
- having regard to the Africa governmental conference on the implementation of the UNPoA: Needs and Partnerships held in Pretoria in March 2002,
- having regard to the Nairobi Declaration and Coordinated Plan of Action of 2000 (including its three Ministerial Review Conferences of 2002, 2004 and 2005) and the Nairobi Protocol of 2004 for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa that entered into force on 5 May 2006,
- having regard to the ECOWAS moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of SALW in West Africa of 1998 and its subsequent extensions,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 343, 5.12.2001, p. 311.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 140 E, 13.6.2002, p. 587.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 69 E, 19.3.2004, p. 136.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 117 E, 18.5.2006, p. 230.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 280 E, 18.11.2006, p. 443.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 293 E, 2.12.2006, p. 316.

⁽⁷⁾ Adopted by the Council on 26 June 1997.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 191, 19.7.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 156, 25.6.2003, p. 79.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Council of the European Union, 5319/06, 13 January 2006.

⁽¹¹⁾ Council of the European Union 2678th Council meeting, Luxembourg, 3 October 2005.

- having regard to the 1998 Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA),
- having regard to its resolution on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security adopted in Vienna on 22 June 2006 ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/68 on 'Addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of SALW and their excessive accumulation',
- having regard to the global 'One million faces petition' supported by more than 1 million people and 250 NGOs across the world demanding a binding international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs,
- A. welcoming the growing international support for a legally binding International Arms Trade Treaty to ban arms transfers which risk undermining human rights or international humanitarian law, or which threaten the stability of countries or regions or that are likely to contribute to the outbreak or escalation of armed conflict, for which more than 50 countries have officially announced their support,
- B. welcoming a set of Global Principles on Arms Transfers, developed by NGOs and legal experts, which set out States' obligations in respect of international transfers of arms and ammunition,
- C. recalling that under the revised Cotonou Agreement serious cases of corruption can lead to consultations in accordance with Art. 96 and 97 of the Partnership Agreement and that, in special cases, these consultations can give rise to special measures,
- D. determined to reduce the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, and bearing in mind the need to include national measures to regulate SALW in post-conflict and peace-building efforts, and recalling that there is no security or sustainable development without peace,
- E. whereas it is estimated that half a million people are killed each year by small arms,
- F. welcoming the circulation on 24 July 2006 of the draft UN resolution entitled 'Effective control over the import, export and transfer of conventional arms' calling for the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts 'commencing no later than 2008, to examine the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms',
- G. having regard to the UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the UNPoA, which took place between 26 June and 7 July 2006 (henceforth referred to as the Small Arms Review Conference) and to the need to make a full success of that Conference's follow-up, although it failed to agree any steps and measures to further strengthen the Programme of Action,
- H. noting that the above Draft Resolution, to be tabled at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2006, needs to include States' obligations to promote and protect human rights, without which an ensuing ATT would not prevent the supply of weapons to the most serious abusers,
- I. reaffirming its concern about the ongoing illicit spread of SALW, which are the true weapons of mass destruction of the developing world, cause unnecessary human suffering, exacerbate armed conflict and instability, facilitate terrorism, undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, and contribute to grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 307, 15.12.2006.

- J. welcoming the Draft Resolution of 24 July 2006 submitted to the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations by Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the UK requesting the establishment of an expert group responsible for the drafting of a report about a legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and urging that committee to strengthen the mandate of the expert group by adding explicit references to human rights law, tightening the timeline and replacing the ambiguous language about examining 'feasibility' by clear support for a binding ATT,
- K. recalling that G8 countries account for around 85 % of the global weapons trade and that according to a report presented to the US Congress on 29 August 2005, agreements on conventional arms transfers to developing nations accounted for 62.7 % of the value of all international arms transfer agreements between 1997 and 2004 and, in 2004, arms deliveries to developing nations constituted 64.6 % by value of all such arms deliveries worldwide,
- L. recalling that collectively G8 countries spend some € 63 billion each year on development and that the EU and the European countries themselves contribute more than half of the total ODA,
- M. affirming that the export of SALW by developed countries, as well as between developing countries, can fuel conflicts and thus work at cross-purposes to the development and technical assistance policies of those same countries,
- N. encouraged by the support expressed by the Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit for the implementation of the UNPoA and their recognition of the negative effect of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on development, peace, security and human rights,
- O. whereas due attention should be given to the link between the licit and illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of SALW and corruption practices in both developing and developed countries,
- P. affirming its determination to strengthen the UNPoA, and to further persuade governments to agree upon binding provisions to control SALW (including brokering and transfers) through international, regional and national legislation,
- Q. convinced that the time is ripe for the international and regional communities to tackle the proliferation and misuse of SALW through binding international standards that are based upon a full respect for international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law,
- R. concerned about the exclusion of ammunition and explosives from the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit SALW, as well as the non-legally binding nature of the instrument,
- S. regretting further the slow progress of the UN broad-based consultations on combating illicit brokering of SALW as well as the absence of a commitment to negotiate a legally binding international instrument on arms brokering,
- T. underlining that the UNPoA requires States to assess applications for export authorisations according to strict national regulations and procedures that cover all SALW and are consistent with the existing responsibilities of States and the relevant international law, taking into account in particular the risk of diversion of these weapons into the illegal trade,
- U. welcoming and supporting the ongoing campaigning efforts by civil-society organisations, especially the ones focused on advocacy in favour of an ATT,
- V. affirming that the reduction of the availability and supply of, and demand for, SALW is critical to the wellbeing of all States and their citizens and can be achieved through actions/initiatives at the national, regional, continental and international levels in that respect in general, but in particular through:
- a reduction in production of SALW,
 - political commitment and action to address the root causes of conflict in a comprehensive manner,

- preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit manufacture, possession and stockpiling of, trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons,
 - placing emphasis on public awareness and education,
 - engaging in effective collection and destruction mechanisms for both surplus and illicit arms,
 - effective disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration measures that promote human security and sustainable development in peace agreements,
 - providing for rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to demobilised soldiers, ex-combatants and in particular child soldiers as referred to in the conclusions of the African Union concerning Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), taking into account their special needs, particularly in relation to their reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society and their appropriate rehabilitation,
 - ensuring that children are protected from direct contact with SALW in conflict areas,
 - acknowledging the impact — including gender-based violence — of the presence of SALW on women and girls in particular;
 - promoting implementation of the provisions contained in UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000),
 - recognising the need for SALW programmes to continue beyond post-conflict and transitional stages, through mainstreaming of small arms reduction and management in all national and local action plans and strategies related to national security, development, health, poverty reduction, crime prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, conducted in consultation and collaboration with all members of the community and stakeholders, including NGOs, making use of locally-appropriate development incentives,
- W. welcoming the EU's 'Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition' and affirming the need for a coherent overarching concept behind EU SALW action abroad which takes long-term sustainable development into account, as well as the need for international cooperation between governments within international organisations and for compliance with their obligations in international law,
- X. calling on EU Member States to prioritise SALW control and eradication strategies including projects aiming at the disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRRR) of ex-combatants in full partnership with local communities and the survivors of armed violence as well as to ensure sufficient funding under the 10th EDF for such programmes,
- Y. whereas a clear, efficient and harmonised common arms export control policy pursued by the EU Member States, anchored in a legally binding Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, would be a decisive contribution by the EU to sustainable development in ACP States,
- Z. reiterating that the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are key elements in any effort to support conflict prevention and resolution and sustainable post-conflict reconstruction and promote lasting peace and security as well as crime prevention and thereby help create conditions for sustainable human and socio-economic development,
- AA. considering further the special needs of survivors of armed violence, including their health, economic and rehabilitation needs, as well as the distinctive needs of women, men, girls, boys, the elderly and refugees,

- AB. reiterating grave concern regarding the devastating impact of SALW on children, many of whom are victims of armed conflict or are forced to become child soldiers or are involved in organised armed violence, and in this regard, taking into account the special sessions of the UN General Assembly on children, as well as Security Council Resolutions 1379, 1460, 1539 and 1612, which contribute to a comprehensive framework for addressing the protection of children in armed conflict,
- AC. recalling that the costs of military expenditure and debts are, according to the UNDP Human Development Report of 2003, two of the most important obstacles to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and that export credit agencies play a major role in increasing military expenditure as well as debts of developing countries,
1. Calls on States to agree on a global set of principles on arms transfers, which at the minimum should ensure that:
 - all transfers be authorised by means of a specific permit or licence,
 - existing obligations under relevant international law should be respected,
 - arms embargoes imposed by the UNSC should be respected and enforced and
 - issuance of permits or licences is to be denied when there is a risk that exported arms might be used in the commission of serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law, including the risk that such arms might be diverted to unauthorised users such as terrorists, mercenaries and guerrillas and might affect regional and/or internal security and stability;
 2. Urges the international community to expeditiously start negotiations on an International Arms Trade Treaty within the UN, in order to establish a legally binding instrument to decrease the production of SALW by all producer countries and to regulate arms transfers worldwide as defined by the discussions on global principles referred to in the previous paragraph;
 3. Stresses that existing obligations under international law with respect to arms transfers, specifically covering human rights and humanitarian law criteria, should be codified;
 4. Calls on all signatories to the UN Firearms Protocol to ratify the protocol and incorporate it into national legislation without any further delay;
 5. Urges States Parties to the UNPoA, the Firearms Protocol and other similar international and regional instruments and initiatives to develop technical assistance programmes in order to assist any third State or regional organisations wishing to develop legislative controls to regulate the arms trade;
 6. Urges States Parties to the UNPoA and other applicable international instruments to agree on a single reporting mechanism for utilisation in subsequent Review Conferences or Processes, which should be developed and coordinated by the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA) through consultations with State Parties;

At regional level

7. Calls for the establishment or designation, as appropriate, of a point of contact within sub-regional and regional organisations to act as liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the UNPoA;
8. Encourages negotiations with the aim of concluding legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, and calls on States to ratify and fully implement them;

At national level

9. Urges States to make violations of arms embargoes (including financial or logistical support) a criminal offence under national law;
10. Urges States to improve the functioning, transparency and democratic accountability of armed forces, as well as law enforcement agencies and criminal justice systems, in order to contribute to a secure environment where citizens no longer feel the need to possess firearms;

11. Recommends that national laws should be implemented and actively enforced to regulate private military and security services operating overseas, and where such laws do not exist that they be developed and applied in order to improve regulation and accountability in this growing security sector;
12. Urges all States to incorporate into national legislation the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials ⁽¹⁾ and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials ⁽²⁾;
13. Strongly recommends that governments prohibit the civilian possession and use of all automatic and semi-automatic rifles and machine guns;
14. Urges States to develop national legislation for screening and licensing of SALW and automatic and semi-automatic machine guns and to prevent gun acquisition by people who have a record of violence, especially family violence, or have a criminal record for trafficking in arms or violating arms control regulations;
15. Stresses the need to ensure the sustainability of national initiatives by, inter alia, developing needs and resource assessments; promoting relevant partnerships for implementation with civil society; and accepting primary responsibility of States in the implementation of action;
16. Calls upon all actors to strengthen the existing National Focal Points/national coordinating agencies and their links with international and bilateral donors;
17. Considers (as recommended by the Bamako and UNPoA frameworks) as priorities:
 - the establishment and development of operative national focal points, national action plans and/or national coordinating agencies where they do not already exist;
 - the need for strengthening of regulations for arms management, including the need to strengthen and harmonise legislation to that effect; the need to engage in training and capacity building programmes for law enforcement agencies on all aspects of the issue but particularly on border controls, stockpile management and recordkeeping;
 - the improvement, where needed, of operational capacity for enforcement including stockpile management, monitoring, destruction, recordkeeping and border controls;
 - the enhancement of information exchange and cooperation mechanisms to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit SALW trade;
18. Urges all States which have not yet done so to engage in the implementation of the UNPoA;
19. Urges all States to regulate stockpile management and secure stockpiles against theft or disappearance;
20. Urges all States, especially ACP and EU States, to exchange information on arms brokering;
21. Urges all States to adopt, as soon as possible, the necessary legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offences under national law the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and illegal possession and use of SALW, ammunition and other related materials;
22. Urges all States to reaffirm their commitment to protect children from the impact of proliferation and misuse of SALW as well as from being exploited as child soldiers in times of war;

⁽¹⁾ Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by General Assembly Resolution 34/169 of 17 December 1979.

⁽²⁾ Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990.

23. Urges all States to uphold their responsibilities under UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) by putting an end to impunity and by prosecuting those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those relating to sexual violence against women and girls, and in this regard, stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible, from amnesty provisions;
24. Urges all States to take into account gender issues, as well as the specific needs of women when addressing the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects in order to effectively implement the Programme of Action and UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security;

Final considerations and priority actions

25. Affirms its determination to implement and extend the UNPoA, whose integrity should be maintained and which should not be subject to negotiation;
26. Recommends that despite the disappointing outcome of the Review Conference a yearly report on progress made by the UN on the implementation of the UNPoA should be published;
27. Recommends, after the UN Review Conference on the UNPoA, whilst recognising that this process will occur outside the parameters of the UNPoA and in parallel to it, the development of general principles for arms transfers to be taken forward by interested States in 2006 and/or become a parallel and complementary process within the UN system leading to the creation of an international instrument;
28. Welcomes the approval, on 26 October 2006, by the International Disarmament Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations of a resolution aiming at a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing international standards in the trade on conventional arms and asks ACP-EU States to support this resolution in the General Assembly;
29. Deeply regrets that the UN Review Conference of July 2006 was unable to reach a common position and particularly could not agree on the principles of a future ATT and did not set up a follow-up mechanism;
30. Requests that multilateral and regional financial institutions take measures, where appropriate, to establish SALW programmes in the framework of reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in post-conflict areas and in efforts to consolidate governance issues, to strengthen legislation and to improve the operational capacity of law enforcement agencies regarding SALW;
31. Calls also on these financial institutions to promote socioeconomic development programmes that include raising public awareness of the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects;
32. Encourages, where appropriate, regional support for national disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes, particularly in post-conflict situations, with specific reference to the introduction, adherence to, implementation or strengthening of relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures;
33. Calls on regions to promote effective stockpile management and security, in particular physical security measures;
34. Encourages regions to develop, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, measures to enhance transparency to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects;
35. Urges all EU and ACP States and the appropriate international and regional organisations in a position to do so to seriously consider rendering assistance, including technical and financial assistance, to support the implementation of the measures contained in the UNPoA;
36. Urges all States and international and regional organisations, both at governmental and at parliamentary level, to cooperate and develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources and information on the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects;

37. In order to facilitate the implementation of the UNPoA, urges all EU and ACP States and international and regional organisations to seriously consider assisting interested States, upon request, in building capacities in areas including the development of appropriate legislation and regulations, law enforcement, tracing and marking, stockpile management and security, destruction of SALW and the collection and exchange of information, thereby emphasising the responsibility of all Member States to ensure the sustainability of national initiatives in the implementation of all the UNPoA undertakings;
38. Calls on all States to establish a public database which contains information, provided on a voluntary basis by Member States and international, regional and other relevant organisations on the needs of affected countries, lessons learned regarding the implementation of the UNPoA and other information that could improve coordination and match resources with needs;
39. Recalls the OECD Development Assistance Committee's guidelines and other steps taken by development partners to allow the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the implementation of the UNPoA; encourages all States, agencies and institutions to take full advantage of this development; calls for a further review of such guidelines to enhance the use of ODA to support the implementation of the UNPoA and to combat the negative effects of the proliferation and illicit use of SALW;
40. Calls on the UN Secretariat to show leadership and coordinate the implementation of UNPoA action;
41. Calls on the ACP-EU Council to commit to strengthening EU-ACP cooperation on the implementation of the UNPoA and to hold regional Needs and Partnership Conferences every two years to review implementation in each region, similar to the African Needs and Partnerships Conference of 2002;
42. Calls for issues relating to SALW to be mainstreamed into relevant EU and ACP processes and documents, particularly in all peace and security policies and actions of their respective regional and national bodies, as needed for security sector reform (SSR) and the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process (DDR);
43. Calls for the prioritisation of Parliamentary actions and work on good governance as elements essential to any strategy for tackling SALW and regional conflicts;
44. Requests the EU and ACP Member States, Commission delegations and EU and AU Presidencies-in-office to defend the principles and recommendations stated in this resolution;
45. Calls urgently, in this context, on the Commission and the Council to end their court case on the issue of competence relating to light weapons programmes and to seek — if they cannot solve the issue between themselves — the binding mediation of the European Parliament;
46. Calls on the Member States to implement their commitments given in the Council's 2003 Common Position on arms brokering; furthermore, calls for the biennial review of the Strategy to be published and include a list of those Member States that have not implemented their commitments in this area;
47. Calls for the 1998 EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports to be made legally binding; calls on the EU to inform ACP partners about the annual reports on the Code of Conduct and progress made in implementing it;
48. Specifically calls on the Council and the Commission to allow appropriate resources for SALW action to be mobilised through the Regulations establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the Development Cooperation Instrument;

49. Calls on the EU Member States to investigate the highly problematic impact of credits granted by their export credit agencies on peace, security and development in third countries and asks all Member States to disclose detailed information on credits for arms exports, which, according to some estimates, currently account for about 20 % of total export credits granted and in some Member States even 50 % or more, and asks Member States in particular to commit themselves to refraining from granting credits for arms exports in the future;
50. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Parliamentary Forum on SALW, the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the US Congress and the Pan-African Parliament.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on water in developing countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bridgetown (Barbados) from 20 to 23 November 2006,
- having regard to Articles 177, 178, 179, 180, 181 and 181a of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed at Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, and in particular Article 32 thereof, which recognises the need to improve the use of the natural resources of ACP States,
- having regard to the outcome of the 4th World Water Forum held in Mexico from 16 to 22 March 2006,
- having regard to Agenda 21 approved at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and in particular paragraph 18 thereof,
- having regard to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the final report (2005) of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation, entitled 'Health, dignity, and development: what will it take?',
- having regard to the political declaration adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002, which identified priority action in five key areas with a view to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals: water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,
- having regard to the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen (1995) and its declaration on water supply and sanitation in connection with fighting poverty,
- having regard to the Bonn International Freshwater Conference (2001),
- having regard to the UN Conference on Water held in Mar del Plata and its action plan for the assessment and use of water resources (1977),
- having regard to the Global Consultation in New Delhi (1990) relating to safe water and proper means of waste disposal,
- having regard to the Framework Document adopted at the 37th Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Summit, which states that the ninth of the ten objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is 'building and improving infrastructure, including information and communication technology (ICT), energy, transport, water and sanitation',

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2006 in Bridgetown (Barbados).

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 4 September 2003 on water management in developing countries and priorities for EU development cooperation (P5_TA(2003)0377),
 - having regard to the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (WSSD) in 2002,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Water Facility launched in 2004,
 - having regard to the report on financing of water presented at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003,
 - having regard to the UN World Water Development Report entitled 'Water, a shared responsibility', presented on 9 March 2006,
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU 3916/06/fin.),
- A. whereas 1.1 billion people do not have proper access to drinking water and 2.6 billion are without adequate sanitation (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2004) ⁽¹⁾,
- B. whereas, owing to population growth, by 2015, 1.1 billion people will need to be provided with drinking water and 2.6 billion with sanitation facilities, including 400 and 410 million respectively in Africa; whereas drinking water requirements will continue to grow steadily, given that the world's population should stand at more than 9 billion people by 2050,
- C. whereas water's importance to socioeconomic development is now well established, given that it is an important factor in productive activities and plays a leading role in farming, fishing, health, industry, energy, the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity and all forms of consumption for human well-being,
- D. whereas access to drinking water is recognised as a fundamental human right, as endorsed by international conventions on social, economic and cultural rights, and whereas water, which is essential for life and human wellbeing, cannot be considered as merely a commodity, but must also be seen as a social good,
- E. whereas water and sanitation are key cross-cutting issues for the MDGs and whereas it is essential to approach them in an appropriate manner if the MDGs are to be met,
- F. whereas no strategy for combating poverty can ignore people's vital need for water and the need for equitable and sustainable management of this essential resource, in the interests of society as a whole,
- G. whereas promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly water treatment provides a guarantee of clean water and an opportunity for fertilisation of agricultural land for food production; whereas the MDGs identify water as a crucial environmental factor,
- H. whereas inadequate access to drinking water and sanitation is the cause of a large number of diseases; whereas infections linked to a lack of hygiene, and public health risks in general, are widespread in Africa and are essentially due to the contamination of water sources, improper water use or unhygienic behaviour,
- I. whereas world water resources are inequitably distributed, with 60 % of freshwater supplies being located in nine countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, Canada, Indonesia, China, Colombia, the United States, Peru and India), and whereas the countries where there is a shortage of freshwater are primarily islands, small countries and arid countries (including Israel, Libya, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Djibouti and Kuwait),

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.wssinfo.org>.

- J. whereas three out of every four countries — which are often politically, culturally and economically different from each other — are located on the same international rivers, and whereas, in the absence of agreements on reasonable and equitable use, water, the source of life, becomes a potential source of tension and disputes that can degenerate into conflict,
- K. whereas in African and Asian countries the availability of water is subject to numerous seasonal fluctuations and periodic cycles of drought and flooding, and whereas some coastal and island States are faced with the problem of saltwater infiltration of groundwater,
- L. whereas drought is often caused by incorrect land use, over-grazing, deforestation and the implementation of major irrigation projects that are unsustainable,
- M. whereas current trends as regards, among other things, demographics, urbanisation, climate change, the environment and economic structures are a major challenge in water management terms for developing countries, particularly those in the Sahel region,
- N. whereas intensive production farming consumes about 70 % of freshwater for irrigation purposes, with 40 % losses, and whereas improving field irrigation techniques should result in major water savings and an increase in agricultural production that will offset the failure of rain-fed production to cover all food requirements,
- O. whereas current water-for-food requirements will need to be increased by 50 % over the next 10 years in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of malnourished people,
- P. whereas in many rural parts of Africa the local population has no access to wells, a water supply network, a drinking water source or a rainwater cistern,
- Q. whereas the development and promotion of appropriate sanitation technologies, the implementation of strategies mobilising endogenous financial resources and the involvement of communities will enable the use of sustainable sanitation methods to be stepped up at local level over the coming decade,
- R. whereas a lack of the necessary financial resources to cover the renewal of infrastructure and the maintenance and management of existing facilities unavoidably results in the deterioration of water services and the exclusion of poor population groups, particularly in periurban areas, owing to the high cost of the services,
- S. whereas rational water management requires the involvement of local populations — particularly women, who play an important role in water management — at national, local and regional levels, as well as appropriate charging so as to ensure universal access to the water required to cover essential needs while ensuring efficient water use by enhancing user responsibility,
- T. whereas governments in developing countries are unable to set water rates at a level that reflects supply costs,
- U. whereas a lack of the necessary technical, financial and human resources lies at the root of poor water resource and water service management,
- V. whereas policies involving the privatisation of water resource management and the liberalisation of public services have accelerated the growth of the external indebtedness of southern countries, whose available resources are being earmarked for debt repayment rather than sustainable development and access to drinking water, education, health, housing and energy,
- W. whereas private sector participation in water supply and sanitation remains low in developing countries,
- X. whereas private participation in water services remains controversial due to the fact that universal, non-discriminatory use of water should be seen as a right; whereas, however, private sector participation can in some cases make a financial and management contribution to water services and contribute new technology and skills,

- Y. whereas in most developing countries there is a genuine desire to take due account of water, hygiene and sanitation issues in development policies and strategies (decentralisation, combating poverty, integrated water resource management etc.) and water and sanitation financing initiatives (EU, NEPAD, African Development Bank (ADB), African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) etc.),
- Z. whereas with a view to meeting the MDGs, initiatives are being taken at European level, including the EUWI, which seeks to promote improved access to drinking water and sanitation for disadvantaged population groups in the ACP countries by actively addressing the funding deficit issue,
- AA. whereas the EU and its Member States provide some EUR 1.4 billion per year for water and sanitation in developing countries, making the EU the largest aid provider in the world in this sector, and whereas this funding must be used to strengthen the public sector, which must guarantee access to water supply,
- AB. whereas the EUWI aims to increase international mobilisation for achieving the MDGs and WSSD targets for drinking water and sanitation, through strategic regional partnerships involving all stakeholders — governments, civil society, local authorities and the private sector,
1. Reiterates that universal, non-discriminatory access to water is a right, and considers that development and anti-poverty policies and strategies should take account of people's vital water needs, particularly those of the most disadvantaged groups, and the need to ensure that water resources are managed equitably and sustainably in the interests of society as a whole;
 2. Calls on ACP countries to introduce agricultural policies and strategies that promote irrigation methods which bring major water savings and to make control over water a priority with a view to achieving sustainable food security;
 3. Recommends that ACP States introduce new water production and consumption methods based on sustainable integrated water resource management, taking account of the socioeconomic dimension of water and giving prominence to ecological agriculture based on the mobilisation of endogenous resources, the promotion of appropriate technologies and the involvement of all stakeholders;
 4. Calls on the EU to pay special attention to ACP countries hard hit by water shortages and the attendant phenomena of drought and famine, by stepping up the provision of funding;
 5. Acknowledges that privatisation of water in developing countries remains a highly sensitive and controversial issue which should be handled accordingly; calls for policies involving the privatisation of water resource management and the liberalisation of public services in ACP countries consistently to address social responsibility, and to be conditional on an affordable and increased supply of water and sanitation, in particular for the poorest, and on the principle that universal non-discriminatory use of water should be seen as a right;
 6. Calls for an end to international pressure on developing countries, in negotiations conducted in bilateral and multilateral forums and through international financial institutions, to liberalise their water industries, which undermines their public services in this field;
 7. Recalls that, while water and sanitation are widely cross-cutting issues, they have still not been adequately integrated into the development actions of other related sectors such as agriculture, industry, health, education, forestry and the environment;
 8. Notes that water resources are deteriorating because of climate change and recalls that dynamic sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems is essential for prevention and mitigation of the negative impact of climate change;

9. Recalls that awareness-raising in sustainable management practices is essential to ensuring water supply for future generations, increasing food security and improving the hygiene and sanitation behaviour of the population;
10. Calls for integrated management of water resources taking account of all legitimate uses and demands, with an emphasis on the integration of land and water uses, upstream and downstream areas, coastal zone management and surface and groundwater management;
11. Recognises that gender and culture have a role in water and sanitation development and recalls that all approaches and solutions need to be adapted to local culture and gender roles;
12. Recalls that making progress towards sustainable access to, and management of, water in developing countries relies on strong local political commitment, transparency and stakeholder ownership;
13. Recalls the importance of fostering water-responsible behaviour among users, which implies a shift from a supply approach to a demand-driven one in water management;
14. Considers that public authorities should retain control of water management, providing access to it for all and maintaining scales of charges which are transparent to the public;
15. Considers that the financial resources marshalled as part of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative should help to provide funding for the vital sectors of water and sanitation, education and health;
16. Encourages the EU and the ACP countries to introduce innovative funding instruments such as local, national, regional and continental funds to support water policy and existing public and private funding instruments;
17. Calls on the EU to continue its efforts to ensure sustainable access to water for ACP countries, in order to make control over water a top strategic priority enabling ACP countries to reduce the structural vulnerability of the countries hardest hit;
18. Calls for strengthening of potential in the EU-ACP cooperation process in the area of water and sanitation; calls for a higher priority to be given by the ACP countries to water and sanitation in their development strategies and plans, and for a coordinated EU response through mechanisms such as the EUWI, the ACP-EU Water Facility and the development assistance programmes of the Commission and the Member States;
19. Calls on the EU to support research into water hydrants and the eradication of rivers in flatlands, which may lead to the creation of swamps, the evaporation of 50 % of water resources and a deficiency in iodine available for river fish, which, in turn, may lead to an iodine deficiency among the population, especially among children;
20. Calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment and an evaluation of the ACP-EU Water Facility and the projects that it has funded, in order to determine whether specific funding for further initiatives in this field is to be set aside under the 10th EDF;
21. Recognises the need for a substantial increase in financial resources to cover infrastructure renewal, and maintenance and management of water and sanitation facilities, with a view to improving services and stepping up the involvement of a large section of the population which is unable to pay high water service prices;
22. Recalls that the main goals of the EUWI are to reinforce the political commitment to water and sanitation and to improve the effectiveness of water management through dialogue with all stakeholders including civil society and the public and private sectors, promoting a demand-driven approach and coordination of donor responses; calls on the Member States and the Commission to reinforce their support and involvement in pursuing these goals;

23. Calls for institutional strengthening and capacity building to improve water governance and combat corruption by means of legal and policy reforms, human resources development, training and networking;
24. Calls on ACP countries sharing the same water catchment area to improve coordination policies and intervention and water resource management strategies, in particular by setting up and/or building the capacities of regional organisations with responsibility for water policy, with a view to ensuring arbitration in disputes over water use and fostering the emergence of a culture of sharing common assets and support for more responsible management of those assets; calls on the governments of the EU Member States and the international community to support the ACP countries in their efforts;
25. Calls for extensive dialogue among various water users at local, national and cross-border level, with the aim of developing efficient cross-sectoral planning, providing adequate management of reservoirs, developing a database on bilateral water projects, promoting long-term institutional twinning and cooperation between higher education institutions, sharing local knowledge and conserving ecosystems;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union and all organisations responsible for water management.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the review of negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting at Bridgetown (Barbados) from 20 to 23 November 2006,
 - having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to its resolution of 21 March 2002 adopted in Cape Town (South Africa) ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to Article 37(1) of the Cotonou Agreement, which states that the EPA negotiations shall take place 'during the preparatory period which shall end by 31 December 2007 at the latest',
 - having regard to the Declaration by the Trade Ministers of the Member States of the African Union adopted in Nairobi (Kenya) on 14 April 2006,
 - having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 23 March 2006 on the development impact of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in particular Article XXIV thereof,
 - having regard to the decisions, resolutions and declarations adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 83rd session, held in Port Moresby from 28 to 31 May 2006, in particular Decision No 2 on Economic Partnership Agreements,
- A. whereas carrying out critical evaluation of EPA negotiations is necessary,
 - B. noting that in most regions the negotiations on EPAs have reached virtual deadlock in view of disagreements on what is understood by the 'development dimension', which should be central to discussions on EPAs,
 - C. whereas firm and specific undertakings have so far not been provided by the European side on the financing of the development dimension,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2006 in Bridgetown (Barbados).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 231, 27.9.2002, p. 41.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 292 E, 1.12.2006, p.121.

- D. whereas the Cotonou Agreement addresses the question of support for economic development and regional cooperation in the ACP countries, in particular in Articles 21, 22, 25, 29, 30, 33 and 35,
- E. having regard to the concerns that are apparent among States, and in civil society and the private sector, in the light of the conclusions of impact assessments conducted at national and regional level,
- F. whereas the main objective of EPAs should be to contribute to the sustainable social and economic development of ACP countries, through the promotion of greater value addition to goods and services produced in ACP countries for national, regional and international markets,
- G. whereas the agricultural sector is the engine of development for most ACP countries because it makes a significant contribution to national GDP and is the main source of employment and income for many people,
- H. whereas EPAs should ensure that benefits of increased trade and economic growth contribute to poverty reduction in order to fulfil Cotonou commitments,
- I. whereas the level of education and training of the population is a fundamental factor for competitiveness and in some ACP regions is being undermined by the growing HIV/AIDS crisis,
- J. whereas the establishment of a genuine regional market, within a customs union, represents an essential basis for the success of the implementation of EPAs,
- K. whereas the increase in intra-regional trade intended by the EPAs is hindered by weak intra-regional infrastructures and a wide range of non-tariff barriers to trade,
- L. acknowledging the right for the European Union to have high phytosanitary and other health standards and therefore calling for increased assistance to ACP countries to comply with such regulation in order to be able to export their products to the European Union,
- M. whereas the reciprocal freedom of trade between the developed countries of the European Union and the ACP developing countries constitutes a serious risk until the ACP countries become competitive,
- N. whereas the EPA configurations are not a reflection of existing regional economic integration arrangements,
- O. whereas the ACP must resolve questions of overlapping membership of regional groups and establish long-term frameworks for regional harmonisation for any EPA to be successful and workable,
- P. whereas the waiver accorded by the WTO in Doha in 2001 to allow for preferential trade relations between the EU and ACP countries was meant to last three years longer (until 2007) than the Doha Round negotiations (to be concluded in 2004) launched at the same time,
- Q. whereas the pressing problem of availability and timely disbursement of financial resources remains a serious stumbling block,
- R. whereas the parallel conduct of the EPA negotiations and the WTO cycle of negotiations has been interrupted by the suspension of the Doha Round, giving rise to valid concerns about the commitments that should be made under the EPA negotiations,
- S. understanding ACP reluctance to negotiate, bilaterally or otherwise, on issues which have been jettisoned at a multilateral level,
- T. recognising that a positive outcome to negotiations could help redefine what a multilateral development round should consist of; recognising further that EPAs should be complementary to an agreement on Doha and not an alternative,

- U. having regard to the setting-up of EPA adjustment mechanisms to address the loss of government revenue resulting from EPA-induced trade liberalisation and structural adjustment and to provide support for economic development and regional cooperation in the ACP countries,
 - V. whereas Article 2 of the Cotonou Agreement provides for differential treatment, taking into account the different levels of development of ACP countries,
 - W. whereas the EPAs should facilitate the reduction of existing inequalities between men and women in the economic and social sectors,
 - X. noting that, as far as the European side is concerned, the implications of the EPAs have not yet been clearly determined at this stage of negotiations,
 - Y. whereas the EPAs will in any case increase the financial needs of the ACP countries to carry out enhanced regional integration policies and economic reform,
 - Z. whereas parliamentarians, as representatives of the people and their institutions, should be kept informed throughout the negotiations,
 - AA. whereas in Port Moresby the ACP Council called for the 'full and comprehensive' review required under Article 37(4) of the Cotonou Agreement to 'be all inclusive and consultative with all stakeholders including non-state actors and parliamentarians' and whereas, in view of there being little evidence of this occurring, it welcomes a second JPA resolution on EPAs,
 - AB. whereas EU common agricultural policy reform and subsidies for products of export interest to the ACP have a significant bearing on ACP agricultural exports to European markets,
1. Understands that the EPA negotiations stem from the need to make ACP-EU trade relations compatible with WTO rules but calls on the Commission to be vigilant that the issue of compatibility does not take precedence over the overall aim of sustainable development; calls for the pacing, timing and extent of liberalisation schedules to be in line with ACP regional harmonisation schedules to minimise harmful shocks;
 2. Calls on the Commission not only to focus on compatibility with WTO rules but also, in cooperation with developing countries, to aim to improve the rules of the WTO so that they work better for development;
 3. Recalls that, under the Cotonou Agreement, EPAs should be aimed essentially at economic growth and poverty reduction in countries, most of which are classified as LDCs;
 4. Calls for priority to be accorded in the negotiations to supporting the structural transformation of ACP economies, thereby supporting 'sustainable economic and social development'; considers that EPAs should be devised and negotiated as development agreements rather than trade agreements;
 5. Recognises that, whether it be liberalisation of services or of competition and government procurement, robust regulatory frameworks are needed before any liberalisation takes place and calls on the Commission to support and monitor independent regulators as part of any change to current provisions;
 6. Calls for negotiators to work together to develop a strategy to increase ACP agricultural competitiveness that goes beyond market access and addresses real development issues for ACP agriculture such as scaling up SPS quality programmes across the ACP;
 7. Calls for a strengthening of competitive production capacities in ACP countries before the removal of customs duties;

8. Calls on the Commission and the ACP regions to design EPAs around the principles of asymmetry in favour of ACP regions, support for ACP regional integration and implementation of a sound and predictable framework for promoting trade and investment in ACP regions;
9. Expresses its concern over the current EU proposals for free trade with ACP countries under the Cotonou EPAs leading to the liberalisation of trade, including trade in agricultural products, and considers that this policy might cause problems to ACP countries' development, relating in particular to food security and development of local industries;
10. Calls for the EPAs to be based on the principle of building and consolidating regional markets first, before markets are opened to the EU;
11. Calls on the EU to develop more effective instruments of support to production adjustment in ACP countries, thereby encouraging the diversification of production and promoting greater value addition;
12. Reiterates its call on the European side to provide support as regards the financing of tax and economic adjustment costs and investments linked to the lifting of supply constraints;
13. Welcomes recent pledges of additional Aid for Trade resources specifically focused on EPA support and calls for the arrangements and timescale for disbursement of the funds pledged to be fully explained by both the Commission and Member States as part of a response to ACP requests for additional funds for EPAs;
14. Calls on the Commission to look at ways of reducing the bureaucratic burden of EDF requirements and for the ACP side to bring forward detailed, costed proposals of how and for what any additional EPA funds would be needed;
15. Calls for further money, additional to existing European Development Fund commitments, to be made available if necessary;
16. Calls on the EU to support the proper sequencing of the development of ACP policies in trade-related areas in ACP countries, with the subsequent conclusion of inter-regional agreements in trade-related areas, so as to ensure coherence;
17. Calls on the EU not to exert undue pressure and to take steps to ensure that, in the event of negotiations not being completed by 1 January 2008, existing ACP exports to the EU are not disrupted until a final settlement is reached;
18. Urges the Commission and the ACP to use the EPA review as an opportunity to discuss openly the obstacles to completing negotiations and bring forward detailed proposals to overcome them;
19. Recalls that the Cotonou Agreement provides that in the event that a country or region does not wish to sign up to an EPA/FTA it should not find itself worse off in terms of market access; calls on the Commission to examine all alternative possibilities, which include improved rules of origin, including non-reciprocal arrangements, in accordance with Article 37(6) of the Cotonou Agreement;
20. Calls on the EU to refrain from proposals which could disrupt ACP regional processes;
21. Calls therefore for a real public debate in the ACP and EU countries, including civil society and governmental and parliamentary institutions; calls also for the establishment of appropriate information and consultation mechanisms;
22. Recognises that Parliamentary oversight with regard to scrutiny of, and participation in, EPA implementation will contribute to the stated aims of good governance and transparency and that the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is the appropriate body to formally, comprehensively and officially review the impact and implementation of EPAs, and calls for the establishment of a monitoring group within the JPA;

23. Calls on the Commission to respect the position of those regions which do not want to include the 'Singapore Issues' in the EPA negotiations and recalls that bilateral negotiations on trade in services should respect the right of each country freely to regulate public services;
 24. Calls for the EU to undertake not to include in EPAs provisions on intellectual property rights forming an additional barrier to access to essential medicines and to provide ACP countries with support enabling them effectively to implement the 2001 Doha Declaration, i.e. effective use of TRIPS flexibilities;
 25. Stresses the importance of public services for development and democracy and consequently asks the Commission to act with caution when considering liberalisation of services and in fields such as water, health, education, transport and energy;
 26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.
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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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— on good governance, transparency and accountability in relation with the exploitation of natural resources in ACP countries (ACP-EU/3937/07/fin.)	17
— on poverty reduction for small farmers in ACP countries — in particular in the fruit, vegetable and flowers sectors (ACP-EU/100.011/07/fin.)	25
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on good governance, transparency and accountability in relation with the exploitation of natural resources in ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Wiesbaden (Germany) from 25 to 28 June 2007,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, as amended by the agreement amending the partnership agreement, signed in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 ('the Cotonou Agreement'), and in particular, Articles 9, 68, 96 and 97 thereof,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention of 31 October 2003 against Corruption,
- having regard to the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Rome on 17 July 1998,
- having regard to the United Nations Declaration of 16 December 1996 against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,
- having regard to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption adopted in Caracas on 29 March 1996,
- having regard to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption adopted by the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Maputo on 11 July 2003,
- having regard to the OECD Convention of 21 November 1997 on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions,
- having regard to the national laws on money laundering applicable in the ACP-EU States,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration of 2 March 2005 on Aid Effectiveness,
- having regard to the Declaration of 2 June 2003 by the G8 Summit in Evian entitled 'Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency' and having regard to the Declaration adopted on 8 June 2007 at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm (Germany) 'Growth and Responsibility in Africa'

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 28 June 2007 in Wiesbaden (Germany).

- having regard to the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 2/2005 concerning EDF budget aid to ACP countries ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the IMF Guide on Resource Revenue Transparency adopted in June 2005,
- having regard to the World Bank Extractive Industries Review of 2004,
- having regard to the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering,
- having regard to the results of the plenary meeting of the FATF which was held in Vancouver from 9 to 13 October 2006,
- having regard to the 'Publish What You Pay' (PWYP) and 'Publish What You Earn' (PWYE) Initiatives,
- having regard to the principles and criteria of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI),
- having regard to the support provided by the European Union for the Kimberley process certification scheme for imports and exports of diamonds and to the involvement of the ACP countries in the Kimberley process,
- having regard to the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and EC Regulation 2173/2005,
- having regard to the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Scheme adopted in 2003,
- having regard to the European Parliament's resolutions of 31 March 2004 on governance in the European Union's development policy ⁽²⁾ and of 6 April 2006 on aid effectiveness and corruption in developing countries ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to its resolutions of 24 November 2005 on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and on agricultural and mining commodities ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 12 October 2005 to the Council, to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee entitled 'EU strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa's development',
- having regard to the parliamentarian's handbook on controlling corruption drawn up by the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC),
- having regard to the 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) published on 6 November 2006 in Berlin by Transparency International,
- having regard to the report of the fact-finding mission by the JPA Bureau to Mauritania from 23 to 27 February 2006,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/3937/07/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 249, 7.10.2005.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 103 E, 29.4.2004, p. 550.

⁽³⁾ Not yet published in OJ.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 136, 9.6.2006, p. 17.

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- A. upholding the principle of the accountability of governments towards their countries and all their citizens for the management of public revenue and expenditure,
- B. whereas the economic and financial benefit derived from the exploitation of natural wealth must be reflected in a substantial increase in human development,
- C. whereas the governments of countries with ample natural resources have the duty and the responsibility to make it a priority to use their revenue to satisfy the basic needs of their populations, particularly in the health and educational sectors, and to combat poverty,
- D. whereas good governance should take account of the fact that this revenue has much greater added value when natural resources are processed and enriched in the country itself than when they are exported as raw materials,
- E. whereas it is also the duty of sovereign governments and the competent public authorities to use revenues from the exploitation of the natural resources of their country in a responsible manner for the direct benefit of its present and future inhabitants,
- F. whereas the exploitation of natural resources can only become a force for sustainable development if its negative social and environmental impact is minimised and its benefits and costs are fairly shared,
- G. whereas the populations of countries with ample natural resources have the inalienable right to benefit in the fairest way possible from the resulting wealth and economic growth potential,
- H. whereas the companies concerned also have a responsibility to ensure that their investments contribute to the sustainable development of the countries whose ample natural resources they are exploiting,
- I. whereas a lack of transparency about the — legitimate — payments which they make to governments represents a considerable business risk insofar as it makes them vulnerable to accusations of complicity in corrupt behaviour and undermines the legitimacy of their activity,
- J. whereas European governments are under an obligation to combat such practices,
- K. whereas poor governance and lack of transparency regarding the management of government revenue from natural resources is likely to aggravate political corruption and increase the risks of misappropriation of public funds,
- L. mindful of the increase in world oil prices over the last 36 months and of the resulting surplus revenue,
- M. whereas the substantial revenue from the exploitation of natural resources, particularly oil, in developing countries may give rise to serious economic and social imbalances, exacerbate social injustice and even encourage a climate of violence if it is not properly used to the benefit of all sections of the population and for the purpose of national development, and whereas, in the case of oil, there is a risk of artificially high growth indicators to the detriment of human development indicators,
- N. whereas the European Parliament adopted in March 2004 an amendment to the directive on transparency requirements calling on EU Member States to encourage companies quoted on European stock exchanges to publish the payments made to governments,
- O. whereas improving governance and accountability in the management of public finance tends to reduce the risks of conflict in relation to the exploitation of natural resources,

- P. whereas a significant increase in fiscal transparency and the eradication of public corruption would help attenuate the political risk and foster a more stable environment conducive to national and foreign investment, particularly in the extractive industries sector, as has been acknowledged by institutional investors managing funds representing a total of EUR 12,3 billion,
- Q. mindful that fiscal transparency and security of energy supply are linked, given that corruption and poor governance in energy-supplying countries are likely to strengthen local feelings of resentment towards the energy sector and trigger threats to energy installations, so reducing the supplies reaching world markets,
- R. whereas poor governance and lack of accountability regarding the exploitation of natural resources may also have serious environmental consequences with excessive logging potentially causing desertification, other climatic changes and environmental damage, affecting human beings, fauna and flora,
- S. whereas the populations of areas being exploited for natural resources do not benefit enough from the resulting profits and are in addition frequently affected by the serious environmental impact of such activities, for example air, water and soil pollution,
- T. whereas natural resources include not only mineral resources but also fauna and flora, clean water and clean air, which should be protected or improved,
- U. mindful of the importance of implementing environmentally-friendly best practice in managing oil resources and the principal natural resources of the ACP countries,
- V. whereas it is important to promote values and virtues such as disinterestedness, integrity, responsibility, transparency and honesty among public officials, with a view to making corruption practices unthinkable and impossible,
- W. whereas the pursuit of integrity and ethical standards is, above all, a way of ensuring that the population is provided with the services it is entitled to expect of the State as regards the exploitation of natural resources,
- X. mindful of the need to strengthen the capacities of the parliaments and democratic institutions of the developing countries to enable them to exercise effectively their powers of executive scrutiny and budgetary authority,
- Y. whereas being endowed with natural resources has in the past not always been a blessing but far too often a curse for the affected populations in countries that lack democratic control, accountability and rule of law, where the fight for resources has fostered corruption and violent conflict under which the local populations have often suffered,
- Z. whereas the growing demand for natural resources by rapidly growing economies such as China has accelerated the international scramble for such resources and often prolonged the rule of undemocratic regimes, violent conflicts and human rights abuses,
- AA. whereas certain companies are failing to adhere to the agreed ILO Core Labour Standards and are responsible for lethal accidents and the use of child labour; whereas they are also the driving force behind the expanding deforestation in Africa, and the surge in Africa's illicit ivory trade, while some have been repeatedly caught fishing illegally in African waters,

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1. Calls on the ACP countries to allocate any revenue from the exploitation of natural resources as a matter of priority to satisfying the basic needs of their populations, particularly in the fields of health, education, the conservation of natural resources and the environment, thus helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
2. Calls on the ACP and European countries to respect and fully implement the definitions and recommendations of the Cotonou Agreement relating to good governance (Article 9(3));
3. Calls on the Member States and the Commission, in their concern for good governance, to attach greater importance to developing the processing sector in the ACP countries than to providing European companies with access to natural resources in ACP countries;
4. Calls on the African countries of the ACP group to ratify the African Union Convention on preventing and combating corruption; calls on the Caribbean countries to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Corruption; calls on all ACP-EU countries to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and to set in place specific mechanisms for the effective monitoring and implementing of the provisions of paragraph 3 above;
5. Asks the governments of the European Union Member States and ACP countries to adopt and help put into practice the principles set out in the private initiatives to promote better governance in the management of the revenue derived from natural resources such as the EITI and the 'Publish What You Pay' and 'Publish What You Earn' campaigns;
6. Asks the European Commission and the governments of the EU Member States to promote the improvement and full implementation of the EITI, in particular by making the provisions on transparency mandatory, enacting effective control mechanisms and implementing the fifth criterion enshrining the active involvement of civil society in the EITI, and making a financial contribution to the EITI trust fund;
7. Calls on ACP countries to ensure that the revenues are also used to diversify their economy and develop economic activities at a more advanced stage of the production process rather than being restricted to the extraction of natural resources alone;
8. Asks the European Commission to dispatch missions to the energy-supplying developing countries to help with implementation of the EITI;
9. Asks all the ACP countries which have formally signed up to the EITI initiative to proceed with the implementation in practice of its minimum criteria, in particular, the fifth criterion, by ensuring that civil society is in a position to fulfil its supervisory role without restrictions and without fear or intimidation of any kind;
10. Encourages all the resource-rich countries signatory to the Cotonou Agreement that have not yet formally joined the EITI to do so and calls on the EU Member States and ACP governments to implement the civil society capacity building provisions of Article 7 of the Cotonou Agreement and the recommendations of the two ACP Civil Society Fora held in 2002 and April 2006;
11. Asks all ACP and EU governments to urge all investors to join the EITI and adhere to other initiatives and conventions that enhance good governance, transparency and accountability regarding the exploitation of natural resources;
12. Asks all ACP and EU governments to invite also the governments of emerging countries to fulfil their commitments such as adherence to international core labour standards, the abolition of child labour, curbing the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), particularly in conflict zones, and prohibiting illegal imports of raw materials and timber;

13. Asks the European Commission and the EU Member States to make their development aid to resource-rich countries conditional on progress in the field of good governance, transparency and accountability regarding the management of natural resources by joining and actively implementing initiatives such as PWYP, PWYE and EITI;
14. Asks the governments of the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission to support the efforts by the Member States to promote transparency in the extractive industries by introducing suitable accounting standards and company law provisions, in view of the backing given by the European Parliament in March 2004 to the amendment to the directive on transparency requirements and the Commission communication of 12 October 2005 on the strategy for Africa;
15. Asks all the players concerned to implement standards requiring transparency and greater accountability in public expenditure and revenue management systems, including:
 - budgetary control by Parliament and its bodies,
 - separate auditing of budgets and public expenditure by an independent court of auditors,
 - transparency of State budgets,
 - monitoring of government revenue and expenditure within the ACP countries,
 - accountability of companies affected by rules on the disclosure of information;
16. Asks all players to ensure that the governments of energy-supplying countries that have experienced serious governance problems and corruption do not benefit from non-essential aid, favourable trading terms or other advantages until such time as they provide evidence of a quantifiable commitment to greater transparency, particularly regarding the national budget;
17. Calls on all bilateral and multilateral donors and export credit agencies to develop a set of conditions which are not merely abstract but based on the fiduciary liability of governments towards their citizens and a system of partnership where non-humanitarian aid is conditional on compliance with a series of specific jointly negotiated criteria and, in particular, public transparency about revenue from the exploitation of natural resources, in accordance with the principles codified in the *'IMF Guide on resource revenue transparency'*;
18. Calls on ACP-EU States to ensure that the promotion of good governance, transparency and accountability regarding the exploitation of natural resources are the subject of mutual undertakings and jointly negotiated criteria within the political dialogue provided for in Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement;
19. Asks the governments of the EU Member States to ensure that the promotion of transparency and democratic scrutiny regarding the use of revenue in the countries supplying energy to the EU is a priority of the common European energy strategy;
20. Recommends that the issues of good governance, transparency and accountability regarding the exploitation of natural resources figure prominently in the future 'Joint UE-Africa Strategy';
21. Encourages the implementation of best practice in the management of oil resources as codified in the *'IMF Guide on resource revenue transparency'*;
22. Asks the ACP and the EU governments and parliaments to ensure that the exploitation of natural resources does not cause major ecological imbalances; in this connection, notes with concern that excessive tree-felling can lead to desertification and other climatic changes, against which action should be taken through responsible forestry and appropriate reafforestation practices, and calls on companies exploiting natural resources to comply with environmental standards;

23. Calls on national and regional governments, parliaments and institutions to ensure that the legal exploitation of natural resources forms part of an environmental protection plan geared towards measures to protect the air, water and soil and the preservation of diversity in fauna and flora;
24. Asks all governments to enact laws which ban the import of illegally logged timber; and in the meantime make sure that public procurement procedures are restricted to timber from sustainable and legal sources;
25. Calls on all timber-producing countries to ensure the sustainable logging of all domestic timber, respecting the rights of local populations and taking account of the environmental impact;
26. Asks the EU to carry out a comprehensive and formal forestry survey, strengthen the land tenure and access rights of local communities, and ensure meaningful public participation;
27. Urges all the countries involved in the diamond trade to subscribe fully to the Kimberley certification scheme for international trade in rough diamonds; emphasises the importance of making progress towards independent verification of compliance by the participating countries and the diamond industry with the diamond trading guidelines and of ensuring that the participants in the Kimberley process are able to supervise compliance by the diamond industry;
28. Calls on the members of the UN Security Council to adopt a definition of 'conflict resources' and to add natural resources management to the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission;
29. Encourages the installation and proper use of information systems such as the mining data bank;
30. Stresses that companies exploiting natural resources have a responsibility to promote a transparent economic environment that respects sustainable development and that it is in their interest to so; encourages them to take collective initiatives to this end, such as the certification of 'clean' companies;
31. Points out that, under Articles 96 and 97 the Cotonou Agreement, serious cases of corruption may lead to consultations;
32. Calls on the ACP countries to launch a national public debate about the utilisation of revenue from natural resources and social justice;
33. Asks the oil-producing ACP States to respect, support and encourage the activities of anti-corruption activists and advocates of transparency;
34. Stresses the role of the national parliaments of the ACP countries in promoting good governance and recommends that this role be recognised and officially established in the future *Joint EU-Africa Strategy*;
35. Calls on the national and regional ACP and EU parliaments, along with the representatives of civil society, to cooperate in establishing a system of checks and balances, including criminal proceedings, to counter corruption on the part of governments and administrations;
36. Urges governments, institutions and all political leaders to allocate a proportion of the revenue resulting from the responsible exploitation of natural resources to increase the earnings of civil servants, police officers and employees in the relevant economic sectors, with a view to making corruption less attractive;
37. Calls on the governments of the ACP countries and the European Commission to support the ACP national and regional parliaments in their work as a budgetary authority through dialogue, information sharing and capacity building;
38. Asks the Commission to draw up a communication defining the European Union's strategy for strengthening parliamentary democracy and the rule of law in the developing countries;

39. Encourages the national parliaments of the ACP countries to exert pressure on their governments to combat internal corruption and thus promote better governance in the management of public revenue through the incorporation of anti-corruption legislation and independent monitoring mechanisms aimed at greater transparency or providing more access to information about the use and allocation of revenue deriving from the exploitation of natural resources;
40. Emphasises that it is also essential to strengthen the judicial system, the independent judiciary and the supreme audit institutions in the ACP countries;
41. Calls also on the ACP parliaments to adopt specific codes of conduct for good governance so as to prevent any risk of internal corruption; believes that publishing the incomes of parliamentarians may also contribute to greater transparency;
42. Calls on the national and regional parliaments to support and facilitate action by the representatives of civil society to combat poor governance and corruption by enabling them to carry out their work under optimum conditions and with maximum freedom of action and guaranteeing them the capacity, the means and the necessary resources;
43. Asks that civil society and national parliaments participate in effective budgetary monitoring in the form of public expenditure tracking surveys (PETS) which make a detailed comparison between 'income' and 'outcome' on the basis of the criteria applied by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC);
44. Believes it appropriate to draw up specific social indicators so as to obtain more detailed data about the quality of governance achieved by the signatories to the Cotonou Agreement and calls for transparency on the part of the civil society organisations involved regarding the management of the funds they receive;
45. Calls on governments, institutions and all political leaders to ensure that officials are given special training and made aware of the importance of the responsible use and environment-friendly exploitation of natural resources;
46. Stresses that the fight against corruption can contribute effectively to the promotion of a more secure investment climate; calls on the European Union as co-chair of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) programme — which provides a standard framework for assessing fiduciary risk in the recipient countries — to include specific PEFA indicators designed to measure the level of corruption;
47. Asks the Commission to take the levels of corruption thus detected as its basis for promoting good governance and for initiating consultations under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement regarding appropriate measures against corrupt regimes; points out, however, that the promotion of good governance should not serve as a pretext for unilaterally imposing conditions for aid;
48. Points out the important part played by regional initiatives in reducing corruption and promoting good governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); emphasises the need for the African countries to implement these initiatives and for the Commission and the Member States to provide technical and financial assistance to this end;
49. Asks the Member States of the European Union possessing financial centres to take all the necessary legal and administrative measures to guarantee the repatriation of illegally acquired funds to the country of origin;
50. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and national and regional parliaments, and the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on poverty reduction for small farmers in ACP countries — in particular in the fruit, vegetable and flowers sectors**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Wiesbaden (Germany) from 25 to 28 June 2007,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 in the area of trade and poverty alleviation,
 - having regard to the UN report on food security in developing countries, presented by the UN Special Rapporteur to UN Commission on Human Rights in March 2002 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the Cape Town Declaration on future ACP-EU negotiations of new trading arrangements,
 - having regard to the 1996 World Food Summit commitment to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by the year 2015, which is far from being achieved ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the UN declaration concerning the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the its commitment to eliminate poverty ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the successive Human Development Reports drawn up by the United Nations Development Programme,
 - having regard to the Midterm Review of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) by ACP regional networks of farmers' organisations, published on 10 December 2006 ⁽⁵⁾ and the ongoing EPA negotiations,
- A. whereas, according to the 2006 UNCTAD report on LDCs, the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than doubled over the last thirty years, rising from 138 million in the 1960s to 334 million in 2000 and, if current trends persist, the number of people living on less than USD 1 a day will rise from 334 million to 471 million by 2010,
- B. whereas hunger, malnutrition, and the exclusion of millions of people from access to food are consequences of, among other things, government economic, agricultural and trade policies in both the developing and industrialised countries,
- C. whereas agriculture is the major economic sector for most of the ACP populations; whereas their livelihoods depend on agricultural production and related activities, an estimated 60 % of the working population being employed in this sector in all ACP countries; whereas 73 % of the rural population in Africa consists of smallholder subsistence farmers, for whom food security is the top priority,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 28 June 2007 in Wiesbaden (Germany).

⁽²⁾ Report (E/CN.4/2002/58) by Jean Ziegler, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, to the UN Commission on Human Rights.

⁽³⁾ Rome Declaration on World Food Security adopted at the World Food Summit on 13-17 November 1996 in Rome, Italy.

⁽⁴⁾ UN General Assembly Resolution 55/2 adopted on 18 September 2000 'United National Millennium Declaration'.

⁽⁵⁾ Midterm Review of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), independent contribution of the regional networks of farmers' organisations, 10 December 2006.

- D. whereas biological diversity, sustainable agriculture and food security depend absolutely on the recognition of ACP countries food sovereignty and the policy space necessary to protect ACP countries' fragile economic sectors and farmers' individual and collective rights to store, exchange, distribute and improve seeds, so as to enhance food production,
- E. whereas most agricultural production and exportation activities in the ACP countries are basically carried out by small family farms, which are very sensitive to price fluctuations,
- F. whereas most ACP agricultural exports depend on one or two non-processed products that bring little added value to the economy, thereby making their economies all the more vulnerable,
- G. whereas, over the last 15 years, growth figures for traditional agricultural exports such as coffee, cocoa, leather and skins have been slack in the EU market contrasting with the spectacular (sixfold) growth in respect of new products such as flowers and the rapid expansion of niche markets in Fair Trade and organic products, which are showing great potential,

Declining domestic support and increase in cheap imports

- H. whereas the Structural Adjustment Programmes being implemented since the 1980s have led to a reduction in government support for small farmers and food production and contributed to the weakening of local agriculture,
- I. whereas the radical policy changes in the ACP agricultural system include the removal of price control on farm input and output, a drastic reduction in import tariffs, reductions in government support for agricultural extension and veterinary services, withdrawal of parastatal agricultural marketing organisations and the opening up domestic markets to external competition,
- J. whereas local ACP farmers are being undermined by imports of staple products for domestic consumption, such as cereals, milk, meat, vegetables, and processed products,

Unfair terms of trade

- K. whereas the cash crop economy, unavoidably dictated by geo-climatic conditions and terrain, is putting the ACP population in the highly paradoxical position of producing food for international markets while importing subsidised staple food products from rich countries to cover their local needs,
- L. observing that ACP countries' export revenue has decreased for the past decades despite their absolute advantage in respect of tropical products, commodity price fluctuations having caused a collapse in the price of tropical products such as coffee, cocoa, palm oil and cotton, by as much as 60 %, which is having a disastrous social and economic impact on the ACP populations,
- M. whereas the current EPA negotiation process is inappropriate, particularly as regards the agricultural sector, given the enormous differences in productivity and competitiveness between the six ACP regions and EU,
- N. recalling that ACP-EU trade relations are rooted in the Yaoundé agreements between the former colonial powers and their ex-colonies which sought to secure access for Europe to certain raw materials, while providing the ACP countries with dependable outlets and valuable export earnings on a stable and predictable basis, in particular under the Commodity Protocols,

Climate change impact

- O. whereas, according to the Second UN World Water Development Report (2006), 75 % of the population of Africa live in arid or semi-arid regions and around 20 % in areas where there are wide annual climate fluctuations,
- P. whereas the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report concludes that approximately 60 % of the world's ecosystem, including fresh water and fisheries stocks, is being degraded or used unsustainably; whereas, the world's poorest people are suffering most as a result, the most vulnerable areas being water, agriculture, human health, biodiversity, and rising sea levels,
- Q. whereas floods and droughts are expected to occur more frequently, leading to famine and widespread disruption of socio-economic wellbeing, particularly in Africa, while rising sea levels are threatening the viability of certain Pacific islands,
- R. whereas, according to the 2007 Fourth IPCC Assessment Report, climate change over the next 50 years could impede achievement of the MDGs, with agricultural yields in some African countries likely to fall by up to 50 % by 2020 and potable water supplies becoming insufficient in certain small islands in the Caribbean, Africa and Pacific,

HIV/AIDS impact

- S. whereas, according to FAO estimates, 7 million agricultural workers have died from HIV/AIDS since 1985, and 16 million more deaths are likely to occur in the next two decades in the 25 most affected countries in Africa,
- T. whereas, in the ten most affected African countries, labour force decreases of between 10 and 26 %, are anticipated, which present a very serious threat to public health and the social and economic development of Africa, where agriculture plays a central role,
- U. whereas HIV/AIDS predominantly affects the productive labour force, depriving the affected regions of their food producers and farmers, and decimating the agricultural sector for generations to come,
- V. whereas the issues of small-scale farming and HIV/AIDS are intrinsically linked, given that a sustainable small scale agricultural sector is important, not only in providing the means to pay for Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs, but also in providing the balanced and nutritious diet that is necessary for these drugs to be effective,
- W. whereas coping strategies (access to land, credit and medicines) and new tools to address the specific needs of the rural populations affected by the pandemic, especially the elderly, women and adults weakened by illness, should be developed,

Agriculture as part of national development policy and ACP-EU cooperation

- X. whereas, despite the fact that the majority of the poor people in ACP countries live in rural areas, neither national governments nor EU development cooperation policy are giving priority to the development of agriculture and rural development,
- Y. whereas only 4 out of 78 ACP countries have made agriculture a priority sector under the 9th EDF,
- Z. whereas 30,7 % of the 9th EDF has been allocated to structural adjustment programmes, 21,4 % to transport, only 7 % to rural development and 1,1 % to sectors specifically related to agriculture,
- AA. whereas, although most of the producers are women, no recognition is being given to their work and very little attention is being paid to their specific needs,
- AB. whereas, under the 10th EDF, only two focal sectors per country are chosen,

- AC. whereas access to credit is a major problem for small farmers and this is hampering their development,
- AD. whereas small farmers in Less Favoured Areas should be given priority, having traditionally missed out on agricultural support; whereas the principle of subsidising and investing in remote and deprived areas is a well established principle of EU cohesion policy,
- AE. whereas the EU is currently in the process of developing an 'Aid for Trade' Strategy which could result in increased support for small-scale farmers,
1. Considers that ACP-EU development cooperation policy should be based on the recognition of the right of the ACP countries to protect their agriculture in order to guarantee decent earnings for small farmers, increase local production and guarantee food security, while allowing selective market openings, as was the case in Europe;
 2. Believes that the fight against poverty and food insecurity must address the structural causes of poverty in developing countries, and, accordingly, calls for measures to promote access to land, water and biodiversity resources and to encourage a policy of local support for sustainable agricultural smallholdings;
 3. Supports the Maputo Declaration ⁽¹⁾ of African Heads of State, which recognises the central role of agriculture in the fight against poverty and the need for a 10 % increase in budgetary support in this sector;
 4. Believes that farmers' organisations must be recognised as important players in initiatives affecting the rural and agricultural sectors and must be included in the non-government group regularly consulted by the EC; believes, in particular, that the interests of small-scale subsistence farmers should be adequately represented;

Reorienting EDF funding

5. Asks both the EU and ACP countries to reorient their policy by putting agriculture at the heart of EDF programming to take account of the fact that the majority of the poor people in ACP countries lives in rural;
6. Calls on the EU to support the structural transformation of production in poor countries away from an export-led economy towards an intra-regional sustainable development strategy, taking into account the real need of the populations and seeking to reduce dependency on industrialised countries and build domestic and regional markets;
7. Reiterates the importance of making sufficient means available to facilitate compliance with rules such as those concerning labelling, packaging and public health requirements for products coming from small farmers and exported to regional and EU markets, and to provide suitable training for farmers;
8. Reiterates the importance of making adequate means available for small farmers, in particular women, to invest in the improvement of local production processes;
9. Recommends making increased means available to the organisations serving the rural communities and producers by providing EDF funding under the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement;
10. Calls for EDF assistance for conversion to organic farming, where possible and Fair Trade farming where appropriate, in order to promote long term sustainable production as well as increasing farmers' income per kilogram produced;

⁽¹⁾ Maputo Declaration 'Together shaping our future', 4th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, Maputo, Mozambique, 23 and 24 June 2004 (ACP/28/010/04 final).

11. Calls for EDF assistance to enable the use of modern sea water desalination and water quality improvement technology in all areas where water is scarce;
12. Calls for EDF assistance to reduce the use of capital intensive pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in favour of more sustainable alternative sources of nutrients and plant protection products adapted to local needs;
13. Calls for the needs of small-scale subsistence farmers to be prioritised in ACP and EU development strategy policies, given that they make up a high percentage of ACP farmers and are particularly vulnerable;

Unfair terms of trade

14. Considers that some free trade agreements between unequal partners have exacerbated poverty and are having an adverse impact on food security and contributing to the deterioration of the situation of some net food importing ACP states; calls on the EU and the Member States to take this on board while considering the allocation of resources under the scaling-up of ODA to trade-related adjustment requirements;
15. Observes that the free trade policy package designed by the donors, which includes drastic import tariff reductions, has resulted in increased food imports in several African countries: imported rice in Burkina Faso having increased from 99 000 tonnes in 1996 to 137 808 tonnes in 2000 and local paddy rice production having decreased from 111 700 tonnes in 1997 to 66 300 tonnes in 2001, with rice imports today in Cameroon covering 87 % of the population's need at the expense of local producers;

EPAs and ACP-driven regional integration

16. Calls on the ACP countries to achieve solid, functioning, sustainable and complementary regional integration before considering a Free Trade Agreement with the EU and/or others and considers that ACP-driven regional integration should be a precondition for the conclusion of development-oriented EPAs;
17. Notes with surprise that the regional configurations for conducting the EPA negotiations do not always correspond to existing regional structures within which the ACP countries are currently working;
18. Calls on the parties involved in the on-going EPA negotiations to ensure that the obligation to safeguard the benefits underpinned by the guarantees enshrined in the existing trading arrangement is upheld and complied with so that no ACP States are worse off in the future EPAs;
19. Considers that the current EPA free trade negotiations could pose a serious threat to the ACP local production if they lead to competition between two agricultural systems which differ greatly in terms of productivity, policy and EU subsidisation, and urges the EU to take account of the views of local governments;
20. Points out that fair trade between the North and the South entails paying a fair price for the resources and agricultural products of the developing countries i.e. a price which reflects internal and external costs, whilst respecting the minimum criteria governing working conditions, wages of the workforce and environmental protection; urges the EU and ACP to step up their support for Fair Trade in line with the commitment contained in Article 23(g) of the Cotonou Agreement;
21. Stresses the need to support public and regional development processes in the ACP countries; calls for local structures and regional networks for agricultural production and distribution to be strengthened;
22. Urges strongly that generally-available funding instruments for financially weak producers be developed and utilised; stresses the importance of small and medium-sized loan programmes to promote rural development and support local producers, local cooperatives and the setting up of businesses, particularly by women;

Climate change

23. Points to the devastating impact of climate change on vulnerable countries, the scale of food emergencies occurring each year in Africa having tripled since the mid-1980s, and in 2006 alone more than 25 million Africans faced food crises;
24. Notes that a 2005 study by the World Health Organisation (WHO) established a direct link between global climate change and increased rates of malaria, malnutrition, and diarrhoea, predicting that diseases and other human hazards will increase more rapidly in Africa, because it is ill-equipped to deal with them;
25. Calls on the ACP and EU countries to put climate change at the heart of strategic development policy and address the global warming threat to food production, which a UN report predicted would fall by 5 % by 2080, while between 25 % and 40 % of Africa's natural habitats could also be lost, and 30 % of its coastal infrastructure destroyed;
26. Calls on the EU to fulfil its goal of ensuring a maximum temperature increase of 2 degrees, the necessary investment outlay to be met by the industrialised countries;
27. Demands an environmental impact assessment of trade liberalisation agreements in order to identify their ecological costs and their impact on food security, energy resources, and global warming;

Fight against HIV/AIDS

28. Expresses its serious concerns at the potentially harmful effect of HIV/AIDS on sustainable development in the ACP countries, and in particular its impact on subsistence and commercial farming due to a diminishing rural labour force, and the loss of those with agricultural knowledge and skilled workers, resulting in a fall in productivity, decreased employment opportunities and food insecurity;
29. Considers that the fight against HIV/AIDS should be at the heart of ACP governments and the EU development policies, in order to deal with the devastating consequences of HIV/AIDS on food security and socio-economic development and that measures to combat HIV/AIDS should accordingly be linked with agriculture and rural development programmes;
30. Considers that the high cost of drugs to combat HIV/AIDS and other curable diseases presents a serious threat to agricultural production and the development of the rural sector in the ACP countries;

Supporting agriculture and giving the population faith in the future

31. Stresses that the structural adjustment policies pursued by the International Financial Institutions (IFI) and supported by the European Union since the 1980s, which are based solely on economic deflation through monetary measures, the application of market economy principles and less state involvement, are not equal to the task of reducing poverty;
32. Calls for the elimination of all EU export subsidies as they are gravely undermining local food production;
33. Welcomes in this context the decision taken by the EU at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) conference in Hong Kong in 2005 to abolish agricultural export subsidies by 2013, and urges that implementation of the decisions taken be brought forward;
34. Calls for a commitment from the EU Member States and the European Commission to address the structural causes of massive migration by changing their current policies, including the dumping of EU products on the third-world markets, in order to allow African countries to protect and build their economies, guarantee decent earnings for their populations, thereby offering better prospects for the future;
35. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on migration of skilled workers and its effect on national development**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Wiesbaden (Germany) from 25 to 28 June 2007,
- having regard to Articles 177, 178, 179, 180, 181 and 181a of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the 'Cotonou Agreement' ⁽²⁾), and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 ⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 13 thereof on migration,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'Migration and Development: some concrete orientations' ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries' ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council entitled 'Contribution to the EU Position for the United Nations' High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development' ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'The global approach to migration one year on: towards a comprehensive European migration policy' ⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the European Commission's Policy Plan on Legal Migration ⁽⁸⁾,
- having regard to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), held in Khartoum on 23-24 January 2006, which reaffirmed the scope and impact of migration on development,
- having regard to the report adopted by the plenary session of the Meeting of Experts from the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean on Migration in March 2006,
- having regard to the Brussels Declaration and Plan of Action on Asylum, Migration and Mobility, adopted at the first Meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of Asylum, Migration and Mobility, held in Brussels on 13 April 2006,
- having regard to the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development, adopted at the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference held in Tripoli on 22-23 November 2006,
- having regard to the outcome of the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Rabat on 10-11 July 2006,
- having regard to United Nations General Assembly resolution on 'International migration and development' ⁽⁹⁾,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Councils of December 2005, March 2006 and December 2006,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 28 June 2007 in Wiesbaden (Germany).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 4.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2005)0390.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2005)0642.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2006)0409.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2006)0735.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2005)0669.

⁽⁹⁾ A/RES/61/208.

- having regard to the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, held in New York on 14-15 September 2006,
 - having regard to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'International migration and development' ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the report of October 2005 by the Global Commission on International Migration entitled 'Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action' ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the report of June 2006 of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) entitled 'Effects of migration on sending countries: what do we know?',
 - having regard to the report of 2002 of the OECD entitled 'International mobility of the highly skilled',
 - having regard to the report of the World Bank entitled 'Global Economic Prospects 2006: Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration' ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the 'Human Development Report 2001' of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 6 July 2006 on development and migration ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.012/07/fin.),
- A. whereas the right of individuals to move abroad is an inalienable human right,
- B. whereas international migration has become a priority issue on the international agenda, recently addressed by policy-makers at global, European, Euro-African levels and Euro-ACP nation state levels, and there is an increasing recognition that migration and development are closely interlinked at global level and that they influence each other,
- C. whereas there is a growing consensus in policy circles that a better management of migrations may generate very important gains, perhaps more important than the removal of world trade barriers,
- D. whereas Europe, both at Community and at Member State level, has not yet adopted an integrated migration policy, with migration, development, trade and security policies being run by various non-coordinated departments,
- E. whereas there is no international consensus on the actual impact of the migration of the (highly) skilled for the countries of origin and the 'brain debate' is still marked by a considerable amount of confusion and frustration, especially due to the lack of reliable statistical data and the lack of impact assessment studies on potential policy recommendations to address the 'brain drain' phenomenon,
- F. whereas the issue of the brain drain has not been sufficiently addressed in the framework of the EU-ACP dialogue,
- G. whereas in most ACP countries over 10 % of the tertiary-educated adult population have emigrated to the EU, North America and other developed countries, and sub-Saharan Africa is the region most severely hit by the migration of skilled workers, with almost the entire region witnessing a rate of tertiary-educated population living in OECD countries over 20 % ⁽⁵⁾, and some small countries reaching a dramatic rate of 80 % ⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ A/60/871.

⁽²⁾ www.gcim.org.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.worldbank.org/globaloutlook>.

⁽⁴⁾ P6_TA(2006)0319.

⁽⁵⁾ OECD, 'Effects of migration on sending countries: what do we know?' (2006).

⁽⁶⁾ Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'International migration and development' (A/60/871).

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- H. whereas, while the main centres of migration are Asia and Latin America, Europe's highly skilled migrants come mostly from Africa (13,5 % of highly skilled EU residents born in non-OECD countries) ⁽¹⁾,
- I. whereas statistical data on migration flows from some countries in Africa are often incomplete and outdated, depriving policy-makers of an important tool with which to make decisions,
- J. whereas the UNDP has stated that the brain drain represents a loss of billions of dollars for developing countries ⁽²⁾, given the importance of knowledge as a decisive factor of growth in a globalised world,
- K. whereas in sub-Saharan Africa, the brain drain can lead to labour shortages in vital sectors, particularly in health and education, with devastating consequences on the supply and quality of such essential services,
- L. whereas the departure of a skilled migrant signifies for the country of origin the loss of tax revenue and at worst a loss, at best no direct return, of investment in previous education and training of skilled professionals as well as a loss of skills and experience that would contribute to development,
- M. whereas the brain drain slows down the innovation process in sending countries, further harming the potential for economic growth,
- N. whereas the brain drain may have social effects on family composition, gender equality, and children's education and health,
- O. whereas the growth, health and education of the children of migrants are affected by migration, with either positive (remittances can relieve child labour and increase households' expenditure on education and health) or negative (family disintegration and stress, lower parental supervision can result in declining school attendance and results) outcomes,
- P. whereas many European countries have adopted legislation to facilitate the arrival of skilled workers, in particular by putting in place selective admission policies for migrants under the term 'chosen migration', in order to compete with North America to attract the most able citizens from developing countries, which has exacerbated the haemorrhaging of skills from many Southern countries, drastically in the case of sub-Saharan African countries,
- Q. whereas, while Europe and ACP countries have committed themselves to working towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including achieving universal primary education (goal No 2), reducing child mortality (goal No 4), improving maternal health (goal No 5) and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (goal No 6), meeting those objectives could be threatened by the large-scale exodus of professors, doctors and nurses from ACP nation states to OECD countries and made more difficult by the lack of international regulatory frameworks designed to ensure that the objectives are met,
- R. whereas skilled migration from developing countries to Europe is fuelled by economic factors (poverty, underdevelopment, low wages, poor education system, ageing and declining population in OECD countries leading to labour shortages), political factors (violence, conflicts, political repression, especially against intellectuals, aggravated by their exile) and — particularly for African countries — by geographical proximity, common language and colonial or historical ties,
- S. whereas manpower needs in European countries give rise to an adverse effect by draining the skilled labour force from ACP countries, thereby contributing to a decrease in the quality of life and public social services in ACP countries,

⁽¹⁾ OECD, 'Effects of migration on sending countries: what do we know?' (2006).

⁽²⁾ UNDP, 'Human Development Report 2001'.

- T. whereas the issue of irregular or forced migration is being addressed in terms of security considerations, rather than in the wider context of development and taking account of the problems of migration in development strategies,
- U. whereas skilled migration can have positive consequences for the individual migrant, better economic prospects and higher salaries, for his or her family in the country of origin, and for the country of origin itself, in particular through the sending of remittances,
- V. whereas it is vital to note the positive contribution that migration could make to promoting better understanding amongst civilisations and cultures and to transcending post-colonial and territorial divisions through the establishment of relationships between states and peoples,
- W. whereas difficulties of integration experienced by migrants in receiving countries and of reintegration in their countries of origin, discrimination and 'brain waste' (where a migrant is hired below his/her skill level) can hinder migrants' career development,
- X. whereas remittances are the second-largest source of external finance for developing countries, have a positive impact in countries of origin (mainly an increase in migrants' families' income and an increase in consumption and investment — fuelling, in turn, economic growth) and have a counter-cyclical effect in the event of economic crises, wars and natural disasters, but whereas up to 20 % of their value is absorbed by handling charges,
- Y. whereas the effectiveness of voluntary codes of conduct on ethical recruitment (which in certain cases do not adequately comply with the provisions laid down by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)) has been called into question by experts and practitioners, particularly when limited to the public sector,
- Z. whereas circular migration (allowing two-way movement between countries of origin and destination) facilitates genuine international mobility, fosters international awareness and offers significant opportunities for the development of host countries and countries of origin, and should therefore be encouraged and facilitated,
- AA. whereas return migration has a better chance of addressing the brain drain and of enhancing development when it is based on voluntary return of migrants to their countries of origin, especially if this is adequately supported,
- AB. whereas return migrants may, paradoxically, be extremely difficult to reintegrate into their countries of origin and may also be more vulnerable to unemployment in their countries of origin than people who have not migrated,
- AC. whereas there is evidence that gathering groups of migrants, such as diasporas, within national or transnational associations of migrants, and channelling their activities towards development, a phenomenon known as 'co-development', can have a very positive outcome for both receiving and sending countries,
- AD. whereas the ageing European population will put even more pressure on the skilled labour market and thus increase the problems already visible, and therefore a more responsible and better management of skilled labour migration will be necessary in the EU and ACP countries,
- AE. whereas 'one-size solutions' do not fit all; whereas better research into ACP national labour markets will therefore be necessary in order to bridge the information gap and to address the shortcomings of skilled labour migration more adequately,
1. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP countries to increase their efforts to meet their commitment to achieving the MDGs, and in particular halving extreme poverty in the world by 2015;
2. Stresses the fact that the potential benefits of well-managed international migration can be greater than those generated by freer international trade;

3. Points out that a bad and incoherent migration policy has enormous consequences in terms of individual suffering and permanent under-development;
4. Urges the EU and ACP countries to address migration challenges, including the brain drain, in a spirit of true partnership for development, on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement and in particular Article 13 thereof, and develop specific migration policies and regimes towards developing countries from which skilled workers migrate on a wide scale, with particular regard to sub-Saharan African countries, with a view to mitigating the adverse economic and social effects of the migration of skilled workers;
5. Expresses concern at the current migration policies of the European Commission and of EU Member States focused on security priorities rather than on development priorities;
6. Expresses concern at the potential adoption by the EU of discriminatory practices amongst different categories of migrants and calls upon the European Commission to prevent it; calls, therefore, upon the Commission to extend to all categories of migrants the advantageous working and living conditions for highly skilled migrants, as suggested in the Policy Plan on Legal Migration ⁽¹⁾, soon to be reflected in a proper directive, such as an EU work permit (EU green card), issued by one Member State but valid throughout the EU;
7. Stresses that EU development aid should be aimed at eradicating poverty, thus tackling some of the underlying causes of migration;
8. Stresses the need for integrated migration policies at international, regional (including EU and ACP levels) and national levels by ensuring mainstreaming of migration concerns in poverty reduction strategies and coherence between all policies that can influence migration, such as agriculture, fisheries, trade, development, security, justice and home affairs, and foreign affairs;
9. Urges the European Commission, EU Member States and ACP countries to address jointly migration and development policies and to explore synergies between them, in order to enhance the effectiveness of both policies;
10. Urges the EU Member States, international intergovernmental institutions and other relevant institutions to design and implement preventive measures and strategies intended to eradicate racial discrimination, xenophobia, ethnocentrism and related intolerance against migrants from ACP countries;
11. Believes that a common migration policy at EU level requires the extension of codecision with Parliament and qualified majority voting in Council, and calls on the Council to act accordingly;

Codes of conduct

12. Welcomes the April 2006 EU Council conclusions aimed at addressing labour shortages in the health sector in developing countries;
13. Calls on the European Commission and EU Member States to develop and implement, as stated in the April 2006 conclusions, an EU Code of Conduct (compliant with the ILO provisions) for ethical recruitment of health workers, and commends those EU Member States which have already done so, like the UK;
14. Recommends that the scope of the EU Code of Conduct be extended to other vital areas such as education and that an improved code be based on the objective that both public and private recruiters should adopt an ethical approach to, or even better abstain from, the hiring of skilled migrants working in any area in which their country of origin suffers from a drastic labour shortage;

⁽¹⁾ COM(2005)0669.

15. Supports bilateral and multilateral agreements between countries of origin and receiving countries in order to:
 - (i) enhance the contribution to development;
 - (ii) build human and institutional capacity for maximising the benefits of migration;
 - (iii) provide improved social and economic conditions in countries of origin in order to minimise factors that make people leave their homes in search of self-improvement; and
 - (iv) promote advocacy and awareness-creation;
16. Stresses that a voluntary code of conduct on ethical recruitment, particularly if limited to the public sector, is a good measure but by no means enough to address the consequences of massive skilled migration — incentive measures in the countries of origin and the receiving countries are required;

Investing in education

17. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to significantly increase investments in training and education in developing countries, targeting sectors suffering from labour shortages, especially health and education;
18. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to create national and regional centres of excellence, especially in the form of universities and research institutes particularly in the field of health and education; further calls on the EU and ACP countries to create these multidisciplinary centres of excellence using European Development Fund (EDF) resources, as appropriate, in all sectors necessary for economic growth and sustainable development;
19. Believes that EU Member States and developing countries should adopt pro-active skills replenishment initiatives by investing significant resources in education; reiterates its support for the '20/20' objective: 20 % of public aid from the North and 20 % of the national budgets of the South allocated to basic social services (health and education);
20. Calls on developing countries to invest the benefits of the oil boom in long-term strategies and programmes in education and training and to use that revenue in a transparent fashion;
21. Urges ACP countries to develop the potential sources of economic wealth that they possess and to pay special attention to developing human resources and generating employment in all relevant sectors, in order to stimulate skilled workers to stay in, or return to, their countries of origin;
22. Urges the European Commission to collaborate with the ACP Secretariat in order to identify economic support initiatives under the Cotonou Agreement which would enable countries of origin to improve their economic profile and cut the rate of illegal migration, thereby reducing the tension between partner states within the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA);
23. Calls on the EU Member States to live up to their Lisbon targets, such as improving the quality of education and increasing female labour participation rates in order to increase the supply of skilled labour within the EU;

Brain waste

24. Stresses the negative effects of brain waste for all actors involved, since host countries cannot benefit from the migrant's skills, countries of origin are confronted with a loss of investment and the migrant works below his/her skill level;
25. Urges the European Commission, the EU Member States and ACP countries to take decisive measures to tackle brain waste, such as international or bilateral mutual recognition of diplomas and skills and explicit efforts to fight discrimination at the recruitment stage;
26. Calls on the European Commission to lay down proposals as regards the establishment of a European system of equivalences for foreign diplomas;

Remittances

27. Recalls the fact that remittances are and should remain private funds, that no compulsory use of remittances can be imposed on individuals and that remittances can in no way substitute for Official Development Assistance (ODA);
28. Calls on EU Member States and ACP countries to design and implement policies in order to maximise the positive impact of remittances by obtaining larger, faster, cheaper and better-channelled remittance flows, especially by cutting red tape and improving banking services for small transactions without over-regulating the market;
29. In particular, calls on the European Commission, EU Member States and ACP countries to implement policies aiming at:
 - improving and enlarging access to financial institutions for migrants and for their families ('banking the unbanked') ⁽¹⁾,
 - supporting and actively encouraging financial institutions to explore strategies aimed at lowering the cost of sending remittances, in particular developing the use of new technologies,
 - stimulating transfer of remittances through tax exemptions, both in the country of origin and destination,
 - encouraging the channelling of remittances to development projects (mainly focused on education and health) by complementing remittances with national and local governmental contributions ('matching funds') ⁽²⁾,
 - creating innovative financial products for migrants, such as tax exempt 'savings for development' accounts in receiving countries, where migrants can save funds to be remitted at a later stage,
 - channelling remittances towards productive investment, by facilitating access to credit for micro-companies and SMEs and by improving the financial education of migrants and of their families,
 - making remittance transfers swifter and safer, in order to encourage migrants to use formal transfer systems, and ensuring the transparency of financial transactions through 'informal channels', particularly the hawala networks;
30. Warns, however, against the risk of over-regulating financial flows, which could impede or make difficult the flow of remittances, and calls on the EU Member States and the European Parliament to take these concerns into consideration when examining the European Commission proposal for a directive on payment services in the internal market ⁽³⁾;

Circular migration

31. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP countries to encourage circular migration by agreeing on tangible measures aimed at increasing flexibility of entry and readmission requirements and processes in both countries of destination and origin, longer and more flexible contracts and the option of re-entry for circular migrants;
32. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP countries to encourage circular migration by setting up 'dual post' systems for public sector personnel in Southern countries (teachers, researchers and doctors); calls once again on the European Commission to conduct a study on experiences in the EU Member States with regard to 'dual posts';
33. Believes that the directive on highly skilled workers now under preparation by the European Commission should pay due attention to the status of skilled migrants in order to provide them with an incentive for circular migration and/or temporary return;
34. Calls on EU Member States and ACP countries to undertake necessary actions to ensure pension portability, the portability of health benefits by migrants returning to their countries and the possibility to come back for healthcare in the country where services had been provided;

⁽¹⁾ As the UK House of Commons International Development Committee puts it.

⁽²⁾ Such policies have been successfully implemented by the Mexican '*Dos por uno*' programme and the Italian '*Juntos por los Andes*' initiative.

⁽³⁾ COM(2005)0603.

35. Calls on EU Member States and ACP countries to examine dual citizenship agreements in order to encourage circular migration and temporary return;
36. Calls on the EU to offer potential returnees the possibility to opt to come back to the EU during a certain period following their initial return;
37. Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to design specific initiatives, namely a specific budget line aimed at supporting voluntary return of migrants, in the framework of the thematic programme of cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum, with the following components:
 - involving return migrants in development programmes where they can successfully use their acquired skills and ensure proper reintegration in the community,
 - offering potential returnees professional and financial incentives, as well as adequate infrastructures to develop their profession,
 - improving access to loans and management training of return migrants in order to provide an incentive for the creation of small businesses;

Diasporas and co-development

38. Recognises the importance of diasporas and associations of migrants in strengthening relations between the EU and countries of origin, particularly in the field of migration; calls for closer cooperation between institutions in developing countries and the Member States, including in the carrying-out of co-development projects;
39. Takes the view that co-development, which consists in recognising and supporting the role of diasporas in serving the development of their countries of origin, should be fully recognised at European level;
40. Calls on host countries and countries of origin to support, logistically and financially, the initiatives of diasporas and associations of migrants aimed at migrants' integration, collective transfer of remittances, investment projects in their countries of origin and the dissemination of information concerning acquired rights;
41. Advises the governments of the countries of origin also to develop closer ties with migrants by setting up specific institutional platforms where various public actors work together;
42. Recognises and encourages the strong involvement of diasporas in enhancing trade and economic cooperation between host countries and countries of origin, notably by removing information barriers;
43. Encourages diasporas to engage in, and facilitate, skill and knowledge transfers, in particular by fostering the link between skilled workers living in OECD countries and those remaining in countries of origin, through the creation of transnational networks of scientists and researchers and of digital universities and the enhancement of e-learning, and welcomes the programmes managed by the International Organisation for Migrations ('Migration for Development in Africa') and by the UNDP ('Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals') in this area;
44. Welcomes the creation of migration research centres in Africa in the framework of the intra-ACP Migration Facility as sources of reliable data and additional tools for better policy-making and migration management, in particular by ACP governments;
45. Welcomes the announced establishment of migration information and management centres ⁽¹⁾ to be founded under the EU Programme on Migration and Development for Africa with the objective of providing information and support to potential migrants and to returning migrants, and calls on EU Member States to support those centres financially and logistically;

⁽¹⁾ The first migration information and management centre will be created in Bamako (Mali).

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46. Recognises the substantial contribution of NGOs to improving the management of migration flows and, especially, to enhancing the contribution of migrants to the development of their own countries, and calls for adequate support to be provided to NGOs active in the field of migration;
47. Stresses that the role of diasporas, migrants' associations and NGOs needs to be accompanied by a coherent and effective migration and development policy in the host countries and in the countries of origin;
48. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission and the AU.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Darfur

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Wiesbaden (Germany) from 25 to 28 June 2007,
 - having regard to the final report of 11 October 2006 drawn up by the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, appointed under United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1591,
 - having regard to the African Union (AU) decision of April 2004 to establish the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS),
 - having regard to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in Abuja (Nigeria) on 5 May 2006 between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the major rebel group the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M),
 - having regard to the Tripoli Consensus on the Political Process for Darfur, adopted in Tripoli on 28 and 29 April 2007,
 - having regard to the tripartite Agreement reached on 9 April 2007 in Addis Ababa between the GoS, the United Nations (UN) and the AU on the light support package and on the heavy support package,
 - having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the UN 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine provides that where national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations, others have a responsibility to provide the protection needed,
 - B. whereas China is a permanent member of the UNSC and a privileged commercial partner of Sudan; whereas on 10 May 2007 China appointed Liu Guijin Special Envoy for Darfur,
 - C. whereas Sudan has signed the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002, but has not ratified it,
 - D. whereas the performance of the AU forces in Darfur has been truly commendable; whereas, however, they need to be strengthened and given all the logistical and financial support that they need in order to fulfil their mandate effectively,
1. Welcomes the acceptance by the GoS on 12 June 2007 of the AU/UN hybrid force; recalls that the GoS has made previous commitments to allow the hybrid force into Sudan; stresses, therefore, the importance of ensuring the swiftest possible deployment and continued cooperation of the Sudanese authorities and expects the GoS to disarm all militia, including the Janjaweed, and to stop the bombing of the Darfur region;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted on 28 June 2007 in Wiesbaden (Germany).

2. Condemns any violation of the ceasefire agreements by any party, and in particular any violence directed towards the civilian population and the targeting of humanitarian assistance;
3. Calls on the GoS to cooperate fully with the UN and to implement the relevant UN resolutions;
4. Calls on the UN to act in line with the 'Responsibility to Protect', by ensuring that the future hybrid force has a full mandate to protect civilians under the UN Charter;
5. Calls on the EU and other international actors to apply appropriate measures that target any perpetrators of violence that violate the ceasefire or attack civilians, peacekeepers or humanitarian operations and to take all necessary action to help end impunity;
6. Calls on the EU and the AU to present a united front in efforts to resolve the conflict in Darfur and to prioritise a comprehensive peace process, which should include the consultation and representation of Darfur's tribes, communities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), women's groups and other civil society groups; calls on the international community to ensure that AU/UN mediation is the only route by which a peaceful Darfur settlement will be pursued and to promote a process of political dialogue in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) that brings in opposition groups;
7. Calls on the international community to build consensus on the next strategic steps to be taken in Darfur, to include key actors such as China and the USA in every step, to create a contact group that is capable of continuously upholding and updating such a consensus, and to put pressure on all rebel movements and on the GoS to cease fire and initiate new peace negotiations;
8. Calls for continued EU and international support for confidence-building measures, such as the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, involving all parties to the conflict as well as civil society;
9. Calls on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to help unify all Darfur rebel factions in order to enable them to take part in international negotiations; calls on the international community to bring pressure to bear on rebel groups to unify, and further calls on the GoS to allow the rebels time to regroup;
10. Calls upon the international community, the AU and the UN to pursue a political process that begins by helping the remaining rebel groups to unify their ranks so they can negotiate coherently, broaden participation and strengthen the negotiating structure;
11. Calls for the fullest possible cooperation between the CAR, Chad and the GoS through diplomatic and peaceful means for the sake of regional security in the interest of all;
12. Welcomes the Tripoli Consensus on the Political Process for Darfur ⁽¹⁾, which urges all parties to the conflict to 'immediately cease hostilities and act upon their commitment to uphold a ceasefire without delay', warns that 'those who obstruct the peace process in Darfur will have to bear the consequences', and stresses 'the need for sustained funding for AMIS until transition to the hybrid operation';
13. Urges the GoS to ratify the statute of the ICC and to comply with its responsibilities under UNSC Resolution 1593; calls on the individuals that have been indicted by the ICC to surrender themselves;

⁽¹⁾ The Tripoli Consensus is the concluding text of an international meeting on Darfur held in Tripoli on 28-29 April 2007, attended by the UN, the AU, the EU, the League of Arab States, Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, China, France, Russia, the UK, the USA, Canada, the Netherlands and Norway.

14. Recognises the contribution which China has endeavoured to make towards the deployment of the UN hybrid force; urges China to use its influence to build on these recent steps taken and to encourage the GoS to resume inclusive negotiations with all rebel forces in order to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict;
 15. Calls further on all third parties to cease exporting arms to all parties to the conflict in the region and to uphold respect for human rights and international peace and security in their relations with Sudan;
 16. Considers the root causes of the conflict in Darfur to be underdevelopment and the economic and political marginalisation of the population of the region as well as the severe ecological problems linked to climate change, such as rapid desertification, widespread drought and increasing water shortages;
 17. Calls on the GoS and the international community not to spare any efforts to tackle the underdevelopment of the Darfur region including the enormous challenge of water shortages, to provide substantial humanitarian aid as well as aid aimed at strengthening the rule of law and the political and economic rights of the population;
 18. Calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from the recruitment and use of child soldiers under the age of 18, and calls on the Sudanese authorities to protect displaced children, especially unaccompanied minors, as laid down in the relevant Conventions;
 19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Sudan, the UNSC and the Institutions of the AU.
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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on elections and electoral processes in ACP and EU countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the 'Cotonou Agreement') ⁽²⁾, and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 ⁽³⁾, and in particular Articles 8, 17(2), 20, 31, 33, 96 and 97 thereof,
- emphasising that a 'political environment guaranteeing peace, security and stability, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, and good governance is part and parcel of long-term development' (Cotonou Agreement, Preamble),
- emphasising that, according to Article 9 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, 'respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including respect for fundamental civil rights, democracy based on the rule of law and transparent and accountable governance are an integral part of sustainable development',
- emphasising that, according to Article 11 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, parties must 'pursue an active, comprehensive and integrated policy of peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution', based on the principle of ownership, and this must in particular focus on building regional capacities,
- having regard to its resolution on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted at its 8th session in The Hague on 25 November 2004,
- having regard to its resolution on post-conflict rehabilitation in ACP States, adopted at its 9th session in Bamako on 21 April 2005,
- having regard to its resolution on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, adopted at its 10th session in Edinburgh on 24 November 2005,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 4.

- having regard to its resolution on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security, adopted at its 11th session in Vienna on 22 June 2006,
- having regard to the resolution on ACP-EU cooperation and involvement in electoral processes in ACP States and the role of the Joint Assembly (ACP-EU 2748/99/fin),
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'EU election assistance and observation' (COM(2000) 0191),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 25 April 2002 on the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the European Union's role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 March 2001 on the Commission communication on EU Election Assistance and Observation ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolutions of 31 March 2004 on governance in the European Union's development policy ⁽³⁾ and of 6 April 2006 on aid effectiveness and corruption in developing countries ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Observers of 24 October 2005, endorsed by the European Parliament on 16 May 2007,
- having regard to the UN Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international and regional legal instruments,
- having regard to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), which has established a mechanism for reviewing the performances of African governments in all sectors through the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM),
- having regard to the UN and other international legal instruments calling for deliberate, immediate and sustainable affirmative action mechanisms for redressing imbalances created by history, tradition or customs which exclude women from participating in the public sphere,
- having regard to Article 21(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the OSCE Commitments agreed upon in Copenhagen in 1990,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union proclaimed in Nice on 7 December 2000,
- having regard to the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights,
- having regard to all the agreements between the European Union and third countries,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU 100.123/07/fin.),
- A. whereas developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, constitute a global objective of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and are an integral part of the European Union's external policy,
- B. whereas efforts to promote respect for human rights and democracy as fundamental objectives of EU external relations policies will fail if the inherent principles are not given sufficient priority with regard to security-related, economic and political interests,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 131E, 5.6.2003, p. 147.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 343, 5.12.2001, p. 270.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 103E, 29.4.2004, p. 550.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 293E, 2.12.2006, p. 316.

- C. whereas reducing poverty, the main objective of the Union's development policy, requires the existence of genuine participatory democracy and responsible, corruption-free governments,
- D. whereas the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, representing as it does the people of ACP and EU States, is a key component of ACP-EU relations and can make an essential contribution to deepening the political dimension of future ACP-EU cooperation,
- E. whereas the Cotonou Agreement gives a mandate to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to promote democratic processes through dialogue and consultation,
- F. whereas the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly is a unique forum for dialogue between ACP and EU parliamentarians, particularly on human rights and democracy issues,
- G. whereas democracy at the political level implies far more than the mere act of periodically casting a vote, and covers the entire process of participation by citizens in the decision-making process,
- H. whereas the right for citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs may be achieved through a wide range of democratic political mechanisms,
- I. mindful of the need to strengthen the capabilities of the parliaments of developing countries to enable them to exercise effectively their powers of executive scrutiny and budgetary authority,
- J. recognising that the participation of non-state actors and civil society is vital in the functioning of democracy, and recognising the role that churches and religious communities or organisations, traditional community leaders and civil society, in the form of national NGOs and fora, could play in promoting peace or providing mediation by creating opportunities to debate and settle differences,
- K. considering that freedom of the media is one of the essential elements of democratic elections, as citizens have the right to be informed about different political views, meaning that all democratic political forces and election candidates must have free access to the media,
- L. whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the right to elect freely chosen representatives in secret, periodically held, and genuine elections, on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, is one which all citizens should enjoy and is an essential element of democracy and the rule of law, to which the European Union and ACP States are committed under their various legal obligations,
- M. whereas the European Union should play a key role in supporting ACP States, in upholding human rights and democracy, encouraging the promotion of these rights through its external action and responding swiftly and effectively in the event of serious and persistent human rights violations,
- N. whereas equality between men and women and women's participation in the decision-making process, at both legislative and executive level, are essential elements of good governance,
- O. whereas the universality, individuality and indivisibility of human rights, meaning not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights, must be guaranteed and promoted,
- P. whereas political pluralism, freedom of expression, equal access to the media during the campaign, secret ballots and respect for the basic rights of candidates are essential elements of democratic, free and fair elections,

- Q. recognising that the election process is crucial in determining the extent to which the key tenets of political pluralism are respected, which means that states must organise elections in accordance with internationally and regionally recognised standards,
- R. whereas election observation and election assistance are key elements of the EU's global strategy on respect for human rights, the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law and the promotion of development in its relations with developing countries,
- S. whereas the promotion of democracy through the electoral process has to be based on prior observation of the political environment of the country in question and scrutiny of elections must be part of a continuous process of observations and support to democratisation,
- T. whereas the scrutiny of elections, particularly by democratically elected members of parliament, is vital for strengthening the legitimacy of the electoral process, increasing public confidence in the elections, avoiding electoral fraud, better protecting human rights and contributing to conflict resolution,
- U. whereas evenly constituted ACP-EU election observation delegations and missions can make an important contribution to easing critical situations in the countries in question,
- V. whereas the European Parliament ought to assume a prominent role in the EU's scrutiny of elections, given its democratic legitimacy and specific expertise, and whereas its doing so raises the political profile of such missions,
- W. deeply concerned by the fact that many unstable ACP States in transit from conflict to democracy with limited institutional capacity to conduct free, fair and safe elections can easily slide back into conflict, if not supported by election peacekeepers to safeguard elections and electoral processes,
- X. further concerned by the fact that the presence of armed security forces outside polling stations, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and militarisation of citizens in a number of ACP States increase the risk of intimidation, harassment and outbreaks of violence during elections, thereby making it difficult for many people to cast their votes,
- Y. whereas the participation of women, as actors in the democratic process, in decision-making in the context of ACP-EU cooperation is unsatisfactory, which calls for special measures to redress this imbalance,
- Z. aware that ACP and EU States like Rwanda, Sweden, South Africa, Uganda and others that have attained 30 % representation of women in national parliaments have done so through institutionalising different forms of affirmative action in favour of women,
- AA. convinced that there is a dire need to institutionalise civic education, training and public awareness for candidates, voters and election personnel,
- AB. whereas there is a need for national governments to establish public funding for political parties so as to avoid their dependence on external influence, and to prevent those parties from becoming dependent on external sources which can exert influence in favour of their specific interest in such countries and encourage corruption,
- AC. recognising that building and supporting institutional frameworks to promote democracy, good governance, peace and security, accountability and human rights are key to enhancing free and fair elections and electoral processes,
- AD. noting that in a number of ACP States opposition parties are prevented in different ways from operating freely in recruiting members and in exercising their rights of freedom of assembly, association and expression,

Democratic principles and practice

1. Calls on all states to recognise the importance of free elections conducted by secret ballot and on the basis of universal suffrage as one of the tenets for guaranteeing democracy and to understand that free and fair elections and legitimate national institutions are a prerequisite for democracy;
2. Affirms that there are universal democratic principles and standards contained in international and regional legal instruments which must be a guiding principle for states to conform to while establishing democratic institutions and frameworks;
3. Urges incumbent governments to ensure fair competition between political parties and groups so that elections may meet international standards; stresses the need to avoid any late modification of the electoral system such as changing the process or cutting voters from the list;
4. Calls on states to employ a political system — whether plurality/majority, proportional representation or mixed — that reflects their historical and cultural environment and which addresses the fundamental principles of participation by all citizens in democratic governance;
5. Calls on states to employ an electoral management structure based on an independent model that recognises historical and cultural development of the state in question and can ensure free and fair elections; stresses that electoral management bodies must be free of government bias and employ independent and neutral officials;
6. Stresses that, on the one hand, measures to prevent the fraudulent exercise of the right to vote and electoral fraud, and, on the other, the organisation, on the basis of a reasonable level of administrative work, of the simplest, clearest and most straightforward possible procedure guaranteeing the inclusion of every person eligible to vote on the electoral roll are central to any election preparation process;
7. Stresses that, on the one hand, measures to ensure that people do not face obstacles or repression when casting their votes, and, on the other, the requirement to ensure that the count is not manipulated in any way and that the process of determining the result is transparent and publicly accessible at all stages are central to the electoral process;
8. Stresses that measures taken by public authorities or by third parties in a deliberate attempt to influence the preparation, conduct or aftermath of an election or to falsify its results must give rise to appropriate criminal law penalties;
9. Urges all states to further strengthen the role of women in the political arena, as voters and as candidates, through voluntary or constitutional gender quotas and incentives for women to become candidates;
10. Urges governments to establish a legal regime that allows for an independent, free and balanced media by ensuring that the state does not have a monopolistic or dominant position and by encouraging a wide-ranging private media that is not dominated by one group or individual;
11. Calls on the political authorities to provide objective information about elections, e.g. on the registration procedure, electoral systems, the opening times of the polling stations and the competing parties or candidates, through the mass media, in particular on television and above all on the radio, because even people who are illiterate, and inhabitants of remote areas, can be reached by radio; considers that it is also important for this information to be broadcast in local and regional languages;
12. Calls on all governments to recognise international standards of human rights, in particular those related to freedom of expression and assembly and to promoting the rights of the opposition to participate meaningfully in election processes;

13. Urges all states to provide for equal treatment and political equality of citizens (specifically those groups which are traditionally marginalised or a minority) and to provide fully comprehensive and universal election-related training;
14. Urges all states to establish legal mechanisms to protect the effective participation of the opposition allowing them freedom to mobilise and promote their alternative policies in order to foster political competition;

Democracy and good governance

15. Urges ACP and EU States to put in place national policies based on respect of values, principles and standards of democracy and human rights and aimed at building the rule of law, ensuring the transparency of electoral processes, strengthening the efficiency of legal and security services and combating discriminatory policies of exclusion and violence during elections;
16. Calls on ACP and EU States to mainstream gender into national policies through introducing legislative provisions to entrench affirmative action (quotas) in favour of women and to ensure that such affirmative action mechanisms are capable of ensuring a minimum of 30 % representation of women in decision-making positions;
17. Calls on states to ensure that laws on political parties address the essence of equal inclusion of women in party election lists and also promote internal democracy within such parties by laying down clear requirements, and to ensure that women with limited material resources receive special support for their electoral campaigns so that they can compete on equal terms with their generally better-off male opponents;
18. Encourages states to establish a constitutionally independent electoral body which is not subject to direction and control by any authority, to be responsible for: organising, conducting and supervising elections; demarcation of constituencies; compiling, maintaining, revising and updating the electoral register; hearing and determining election complaints arising before and during polling and formulating and conducting voter education programmes relating to elections, among other functions;
19. Calls on ACP States to impose stiff penalties for the misuse of campaign funds, the unfair use of electoral pledges and gifts with the aim of substantially influencing an election, the buying of votes, threatening violence against people intending to vote for an opposing candidate and electoral fraud;
20. Calls on ACP States to establish a national framework for funding all political parties based on proportional party representation in the national assembly as is practised in South Africa, Namibia and the Seychelles, and encourages ACP States to ban external funding of political parties;

Importance of the Electoral Cycle

21. Stresses that an election cannot be successful without sufficient care for all three stages of the electoral process — the pre-election period, the election period and the post-election period — as each is crucial in its own way and must be recognised as such;
22. Urges all states to engage in full preparation for elections through an electoral management body that enhances freedom of expression as well as freedom for parties to mobilise and recruit members;
23. Calls for the registration of voters in a manner that is transparent, engages all citizens and provides for large-scale voter education; and calls for the voting list to be ready in due time so that all citizens are aware of their registration and that there is sufficient time to contest before citizens place their vote;

24. Calls on electoral management bodies to do all in their power to ensure a fair and safe election day, through full accessibility to polling stations and transparent counting and tabulation of results;
25. Urges candidates and parties to do all in their power to prevent election violence and intimidation;
26. Stresses the need for election observers to follow the Code of Conduct for International Election Observation (signed at the UN in October 2005) and for their recommendations to be strongly considered by states which invite observation;
27. Calls on all states to introduce rules to make the electoral process as transparent as possible, and to promote and support the participation of neutral domestic observers from civil society organisations who are authorised by means of an accreditation procedure, have access to all polling stations, are present throughout voting, from the opening of the polling stations until the end of the counts, and give an assessment of the procedure, in which connection they must give an undertaking of strict political neutrality;
28. Calls on the ACP States also to allow accredited party representatives free access to polling stations, from when they open until they close and during the count, such representatives being required to act with the utmost impartiality and not to campaign on behalf of their parties; endorses the view that critical observation by competing political forces substantially reduces the risk of abuse and fraud;
29. Stresses the need to appoint election observers from the JPA on the basis of equal ACP and EU representation and to send them to all ACP States in which the European Union is supporting the democratic process, and emphasises the importance of sending these election observation delegations on a decentralised basis to various cities and regions in order to obtain as detailed a picture as possible of what is happening;
30. Considers it imperative for election observers to be given a briefing on the country in question and on its political and social situation and to travel in good time so as to be able to learn about the country on the spot and to get to know the area for which they are responsible, and only to leave it when the outcome of the election is foreseeable; only then is it possible to give a reliable assessment;
31. Urges that all national electoral law allow for redress and complaints over elections to be addressed by effective mechanisms through an independent judiciary and to recognise the importance of the post-election period;
32. Calls for post-electoral support to be provided to a government resulting from legitimate elections that meet international and regional standards and for a strong line to be taken against governments which are not the result of free and fair elections;
33. Calls on the international community of donors and in particular the European Commission to organise post-electoral support to strengthen the newly elected democratic institutions, civil society organisations, and non-state actors (NSAs) in particular to monitor the implementation of democracy in the country;

Peace and security

34. Calls on ACP and EU States to ensure that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants and militias is a top priority in all post-conflict reconstruction programmes to ensure that the period leading to democratic reforms for the holding of an election is safe and free from violence;
35. Calls on states, and ACP and EU States in particular, to support and strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons in order to ensure that they do not turn into weapons used to intimidate opponents and voters during the election period;

36. Urges ACP and EU States to establish mechanisms to ensure that states emerging from conflict, like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia etc., are supported through the deployment of peacekeeping personnel during the run-up to elections and after, to consolidate peace and security while democratic reforms are being effected in such countries;

ACP-EU partnership

37. Calls on the EU to create a focal point from which to coordinate support for democratisation and election assistance/observation; urges the EU to speak with one voice regarding democratic and election-related issues;
38. Recommends that all three EU institutions have jointly-defined and complementary roles, in the field of democracy and election assistance/observation, that may maximise the efficiency and capacity of the EU;
39. Recognises the importance of democracy in the prevention of violent conflict and the success of long-term economic development;
40. Recognises the work done by the European Commission in the election observation process, underlines the important role played by MEPs in the EU's election observation delegations and expresses its will to continue the good cooperation already established;
41. Stresses the importance of a clear coherence in EC policy regarding the electoral process with continuity and harmonisation of election observation and assistance to ensure respect for the electoral cycle;
42. Calls on EU and ACP States to work together and increase cooperation in the field of democratic development and electoral processes; recommends more ACP-EU joint missions, especially in the field of democratisation;
43. Urges EU and ACP States to support collaboration with other international organisations, NSAs, non-governmental organisations, civil society, local authorities, and grassroots movements in order to improve or solidify support for democratic governance;
44. Calls on states to engage in capacity building and training for electoral and parliamentary administrators as well as to support and strengthen political parties;
45. Calls for equal access to vote and civil/political rights of disadvantaged and marginalised groups, such as disabled people, ethnic and other minorities and displaced people, to be respected and guaranteed;

Role of Civil Society

46. Recommends high-level training initiatives, directed at civil society, national parliaments, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and electoral administration staff, which must be carried out well in advance, on a permanent basis and not just before the election period;
47. Urges states to support a sustainable approach to enhance the domestic capacity to administer electoral processes and consolidate democratisation;
48. Urges states to observe electoral processes whenever the conditions exist for holding democratic elections and the countries concerned ask for such an observation as a means of ensuring their free and fair character and to promote electoral assistance initiatives through better planning and implementation of activities;
49. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and national and regional parliaments, the European Commission, the Council Presidency and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement ⁽²⁾ signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 in the area of investment and private sector development support, and trade,
 - having regard to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Reports for 2005 and 2006, and its Report on Economic Development in Africa: Rethinking of the Role of Investment (2006),
 - having regard to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Africa Foreign Investor Survey reports for 2005 and 2006,
 - having regard to its Cape Town Declaration of 21 March 2002 on future negotiations of new trading arrangements,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration (2000) on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the commitment to eliminate poverty,
 - having regard to the commitments of the international community made at the United Nations Conference on Finance for Development (Monterrey, 2002), in particular on mobilising international resources and enhancing the net flow of financial resources and technical cooperation for development, *inter alia* to achieve the MDGs,
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.126/07/fin.),
- A. whereas FDI plays an important role in the development process of host countries, in particular by providing both the capital and technology, and thereby bringing skills, know-how and market access that contributes to improved efficiency in the use of resources and to increased productivity,
- B. whereas the flow of private capital to developing countries has been increasing in recent years, being of growing importance as a source of financing comparable to official development assistance (ODA),
- C. whereas FDI enhances growth by incorporating new inputs and technologies into the production process of the host country and can enhance supply capacities in ACP States and contribute to building a dynamic investment-export nexus that could help these countries achieve their economic growth and development objectives, including the MDGs,
- D. believing that FDI can play an important role in the transformation of African economies, but that the impact depends on both quality and quantity; stressing that the challenge for EU-Africa relations is to think critically about how to attract and regulate the type of FDI that will support equitable growth, creating employment and supporting and upgrading local industry,
- E. aware of the barriers to FDI flows that vary greatly across ACP regions and within regions, including, *inter alia*, basic issues of governance, the legal framework and corporate climate, the strength of institutions, the degree of financial intermediation, and location factors such as transport and infrastructure, education, availability of skilled labour and health,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 4.

- F. whereas most ACP economies have put in place legislation offering a wide range of guarantees and opportunities for foreign investors, including reduced restrictions on the ownership of land and real estate, and foreign exchange restrictions, thereby guaranteeing foreign investors a right to repatriate capital and profits,
- G. whereas many ACP economies have enacted legislation allowing foreign investors to participate in privatisation programmes and offer generous tax incentives,
- H. whereas ACP countries have concluded 210 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with EU Member States and are increasingly also doing so with other developing countries,
- I. whereas availability of additional financial resources, including greater inflows of FDI and trading opportunities, is of considerable importance to economic and social stability and sustainable development in ACP countries,

Significance of FDI

- 1. Considers that, in the face of inadequate resources to finance long-term development and with the MDGs looking increasingly difficult to achieve by 2015, attracting FDI has assumed a prominent place in economic renewal strategies;
- 2. Underlines the need for support to ACP countries in attracting greater flows of FDI and transfer of appropriate technology in order to enhance their development and competitiveness;
- 3. Considers that policies to attract FDI should be revisited and the cost-benefit perspective must be seriously taken into account, including environmental degradation, as well as social problems and the contribution to the sustainable development objectives of the national economy;

Corporate environment

- 4. Reaffirms the primary responsibility of the ACP countries for their development and the crucial importance of national ownership of the development effort, including sustained macroeconomic stability and the business environment;
- 5. Stresses the critical importance of location factors, such as economic and social infrastructure, business climate, local market conditions, resource availability, pro-active investment promotion initiatives and asset availability, in influencing the decisions to invest in a host country;
- 6. Welcomes the greater attention given to strengthening governance and transparency, with the aim of ensuring that benefits reach the poor;
- 7. Stresses that many ACP countries still require a big push in public investment to overcome the region's high transport costs, generally small markets, low-productivity agriculture, adverse agroclimatic conditions, high disease burden and slow diffusion of technology from abroad;

Promoting European FDI

- 8. Recognises that host-country drivers — the pull factors — and regional cooperation can bring greater financial stability, better policy coordination, improved infrastructure planning and a more dynamic pattern of industrial development, that can contribute to a more favourable investment climate for domestic and foreign firms alike;
- 9. Calls on ACP countries to deepen progressively their respective regional integration initiatives and division of labour;
- 10. Underlines the critical importance of home-country drivers — the push factors — which includes, *inter alia*, market and trade conditions, business conditions and home government policies;

11. Calls on the EU Member States and the European Commission to maintain a high standard of monitoring and auditing of European transnational companies (TNCs), particularly in sensitive sectors, holding them accountable to higher standards of corporate responsibility, sharing information gathered with host-country policy makers, and designing disciplinary measures and compensation schemes where there is clear evidence of damage to the host economy;
12. Calls on the EU Member States to agree on a collective framework for the marketing of investment opportunities in the ACP countries, in addition to encouraging the extension of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) beyond the current concentration on Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and the Netherlands;
13. Calls on the EU Member States to urgently agree on a collective framework of innovative investment promotion measures including, *inter alia*, providing tangible financial and other incentives to their enterprises and institutions to transfer technology to ACP countries, and providing tax credits to companies investing in ACP countries; stresses, however, that this cannot be a substitute for development finance, and better, more predictable ODA;
14. Stresses the need to analyse how FDI links in with local investment and the need for a structured discussion on how to promote linkages between TNCs and local firms, including the need to foster public/private dialogue to remove the main investment barriers;
15. Is concerned at the lack of information on the national and regional implications of including investment provisions in EPAs;
16. Asks the European Commission to inform it once a year about the share of FDI originating in the EU compared to FDI from other parts of the world;

Use of Cotonou Agreement instruments to promote FDI

17. Urges the European Investment Bank to strengthen and improve the performance of the Investment Facility to make the instrument a viable resource for the private sector in ACP countries;
18. Urges the Parties to the Cotonou Agreement to assign the Investment Facility an investment promotion mandate, in particular by making this facility an instrument for promoting joint ventures in addition to its current mandate;
19. Urges the European Commission and the Parties to the Cotonou Agreement to establish, within the 10th EDF, an adequately financed ACP investment guarantee agency, as stipulated in Article 77(4) of the Cotonou Agreement;
20. Underlines the urgent need to redefine the role and mandate of the joint ACP-EU institutions — the Centre for Development of Enterprises and the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation — with a view to entrusting them with targeted pro-investment promotion mandates with commensurate additional financing;
21. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Members States to increase the level of financial and technical support to ACP national and regional investment promotion agencies (IPAs), including giving them an explicit 'outward investment' mandate;
22. Underlines the need to address, especially in the framework of ACP-EU cooperation, the structural deficits faced by ACP countries in attracting and retaining FDI inflows; urges all Parties to the Cotonou Agreement to place special emphasis on resource mobilisation for infrastructure development, social and economic investments and good governance;
23. Underlines the need to ensure that the expected increase in FDI inflows into ACP States, particularly in natural resources, creates a balanced development impact through appropriate policies and institutions; calls on ACP States to fulfil their development commitments in this regard and on the international community to support this process;
24. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on access to healthcare and medicines, with a particular focus on neglected diseases**

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Articles 177-181a of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the European Union (EU) common objectives as defined in 'The European Consensus on Development' ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the 'Cotonou Agreement') ⁽³⁾, as amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled 'Speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — The European Union's contribution' ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the increasing role of public-private partnerships in the provision of global public goods, as defined in the Commission Communication entitled 'Health and Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries' ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled 'EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries' ⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the World Health Organisation (WHO) World Health Report 2006 'Working together for health' ⁽⁸⁾,
- having regard to the resolution of the Fifty-Ninth World Health Assembly (WHA) on 'Public health, innovation, essential health research and intellectual property rights: towards a global strategy and plan of action' ⁽⁹⁾ of 27 May 2006,
- having regard to the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP),
- having regard to the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) ⁽¹⁰⁾, adopted on 18 December 2006,
- having regard to its resolution of 19 February 2004 on poverty diseases and reproductive health in ACP States, in the context of the 9th EDF (ACP-EU 3640/04/fin.) ⁽¹¹⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 25 November 2004 on food aid and food security (ACP-EU 3692/04/fin.) ⁽¹²⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 8 September 2005 on major and neglected diseases in developing countries ⁽¹³⁾,
- having regard to the report of its Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.083/07/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda).

⁽²⁾ *The European Consensus on Development*, Part I, Section 1, OJ C 46, 24.2.2006.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 4.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2005)132.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2002)129, p. 12.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2005)642.

⁽⁸⁾ http://www.who.int/whr/2006/whr06_en.pdf

⁽⁹⁾ Resolution WHA 59.24 of 27 May 2006.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 412, 30.12.2006.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 29.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 23.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ C 192E, 17.8.2006, p. 350.

- A. whereas health is a basic right and a prerequisite for development and economic prosperity, and thus access to health services and medicines should be at the heart of development policies,
- B. whereas access to healthcare is a global security and human rights issue since the emergence and resurgence of communicable diseases can cause widespread poverty, disability, morbidity and instability and spread rapidly throughout of the world,
- C. whereas there has been inadequate progress in achieving the MDGs by their target date of 2015, highlighting the need for greater commitment to achieving them,
- D. whereas 27 000 people die every day due to a lack of access to essential medicines,
- E. whereas 25 % of the 10 million child deaths each year are caused by diseases that can be prevented with vaccines,
- F. whereas each year more than 28 million children miss out on immunisation during their first year of life,
- G. whereas in addition to the burden of the three major killer diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB), there are a range of many other diseases which together affect an estimated 1 billion people — a sixth of the world's population,
- H. whereas these neglected diseases include African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Buruli ulcer, Chagas' disease, dengue, gastrointestinal helminths, infantile diarrhoea, leishmaniasis (Kala Azar), leprosy, lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis (snail fever), trachoma, as well as diabetes, mental illnesses and epilepsy,
- I. whereas, because of the limitations of existing therapies, neglected diseases cause a huge burden of disability and poverty, but receive comparatively little research funding, *inter alia* at EU level,
- J. whereas research for drug development is mainly for medicines that sell in the developed countries and for diseases that face the developed world,
- K. whereas there is a need for more 'translational' research and development which carries forward the scientific knowledge and basic research into clinical trials and registrations of new products,
- L. whereas TB/HIV co-infection is a major threat, yet only 0,5 % of HIV patients are tested for TB and 7 % of TB patients are tested for HIV, showing the need for greater financial support and resources and greater collaboration between disease-specific programmes and services,
- M. whereas multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is very difficult to diagnose and treat,
- N. whereas counterfeit medicines account for 6-10 % of the world market and 25 % of medicines consumed in Africa are believed to be counterfeit,
- O. whereas prevention is the most effective way to fight sexually transmitted diseases, and access to family planning and maternal and reproductive health information and services plays an important role in poverty reduction and the fight against HIV/AIDS, and *vice versa*,

- P. whereas there is a global shortage of an estimated 4,3 million health professionals, including a deficit of 2,4 million doctors, nurses and midwives in 57 of the world's poorest countries, a problem exacerbated in rural areas,
- Q. whereas greater access for young girls to education and a higher proportion of female health workers are two factors encouraging women to make use of health services,
- R. whereas aid has often been too short-term and unpredictable to support the long-term recurrent costs of the health sector, can be complex due to the large numbers of international organisations involved, and is not always aligned to governments' priorities and capacity-building efforts,
- S. whereas International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank policies sometimes present massive obstacles for poor countries by imposing over-rigid rules on public spending incompatible with achieving the MDGs on health, water and sanitation,

Health Focus

1. Urges ACP countries to allocate 15 % of annual public expenditure on health (Abuja Declaration ⁽¹⁾) and the EU to meet the European Parliament's target of spending 20 % of financial aid commitments on health and education;
2. Stresses that the Member States must keep their promise to give 0,7 % of their national income as foreign aid and to ensure that such aid is coordinated, predictable and long-term;
3. Calls on the EU, the IMF and the World Bank not to impose over-rigid rules on public spending and not to promote the pursuit of inappropriate market reforms of public services through aid conditions, technical advice and trade agreements;
4. Believes that health must be much more prominent in Country Strategy Papers (for the 10th European Development Fund), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks, including their budgets, and that they should ensure that the analysis that informs them influences the focus of work in the health sector;
5. Stresses the importance of national political leadership and accountability and calls on the ACP governments and the Commission to ensure that civil society and affected and marginalised communities are involved in policy formulation and implementation;
6. Argues that aid commitments should reflect the overall health status and outcomes of countries, and not merely HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
7. Supports the recommendation of the World Health Report 2006 to devote 50 % of international development assistance earmarked for health to strengthening health systems, and that the remaining 50 % of this funding be dedicated to strengthening workforces;
8. Supports the need to strengthen health systems in ACP countries through approaches such as improving access to essential and generic drugs, reducing bureaucracy by streamlined management, increasing cost-effectiveness, improving efficiency through reorganised services and decentralised health systems, and allocating resources to better address the needs of the population;

⁽¹⁾ Abiya Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related Infectious Diseases, adopted on 27 April 2001.

9. Supports all interventions aimed at increasing access to essential medicines, particularly for the poor and vulnerable communities in ACP countries;
10. Encourages the establishment and strengthening of national health regulatory frameworks and quality insurance systems as a means of streamlining the planning and supervision of the activities of public and private providers of health service medicines;
11. Emphasises that Public-Private Partnerships, Public Development Partnerships, and North-South and South-South Partnerships can play a positive role in strengthening the health sector, especially in under-developed and developing countries;

Prevention

12. Stresses that prevention of illness should be at the core of government policies, through vaccination campaigns, food security (nutrition) and the provision of clean drinking water and good sanitation, tobacco and alcohol control programmes, as well as hygiene, safe sex, promotion of healthy lifestyles and other education campaigns;
13. Emphasises that information and vaccines are the most cost-effective way to prevent and control infectious diseases and that there is significant scope in developing countries for more extensive coverage with existing vaccines, for the introduction of new and under-used vaccines and for superior vaccine design appropriate for developing countries;
14. Calls for preventative measures, including extended coverage of long-lasting insecticide-treated anti-malaria nets, the removal of sources of stagnant water, training in recognising symptoms, TB testing of HIV patients and *vice versa*, and sexual/reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes, with related supplies;
15. Encourages pharmaceutical companies engaged in efforts to increase access to essential and affordable medicines in ACP countries, particularly targeting neglected diseases;

Capacity and Infrastructure

16. Believes that health infrastructure and logistics chains are the key to improving healthcare outcomes, including personnel, clinics and hospitals, and supply and distribution channels of medicines and vaccines;
17. Calls for renewed efforts to restore, build and reinforce health systems, through increased annual budgets and with EU assistance, in order to improve access to quality services, diagnostics, vaccines and medicines, especially for poor and at-risk groups;
18. Welcomes the efforts of global health partnerships such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) to support the strengthening of health systems in developing countries;
19. Calls for initiatives to provide accelerated local access to appropriate diagnostics, safe, accessible and sufficient medicines, safe blood collection methods and secure blood supplies, with associated training, technical assistance and infrastructure, *inter alia* in rural areas, and stresses the importance of ensuring that all immunisation programmes prevent the re-use of medical technology;
20. Notes that the collection of reliable data and monitoring of key health parameters allow the development of evidence-based policies that can be more effective;
21. Supports the work of the WHO Prequalification Programme for assessing and procuring new essential medicines and strengthening capacity-building;

22. Welcomes the Commission's Communication on an EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries and calls for measures to be strengthened in this area; reiterates the need to develop better working conditions, training and career opportunities for medical staff, as well as retention incentives, twinning arrangements and exchange programmes;
23. Urges ACP governments to make society more equitable by pursuing gender equity in health and education as well as employment status and to strengthen women's social status and autonomy, focusing on women and girls in the development of human resources and in career opportunities in the health sector;
24. Encourages the EU to develop and implement an EU Code of Conduct for ethical recruitment of health workers and to support a global code with a view to preventing the 'brain drain' from developing countries to developed countries; believes that EU and international assistance should ensure long-term financing of human resources as a health system investment;
25. Believes that investment in water supply, sanitation and infrastructure, as well as raising awareness of the links between health, clean water, sanitation and hygiene, are critical to combating waterborne diseases and to the delivery of healthcare systems;

Research and Development

26. Welcomes the adoption of the WHA resolution on public health, innovation, essential health research and intellectual property rights, which paves the way for defining health research needs and priorities for developing countries;
27. Welcomes the inclusion of neglected diseases and the emphasis on translational research in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for research; asks the Commission to support institutes willing to cooperate with public health initiatives aimed at these sectors and to guarantee that new medicines resulting from public-financed research will remain accessible to all;
28. Points out that this increased political commitment at the EU and international levels must now be matched by long-term financial support and greater cooperation between partner countries, academia and industry to obtain results in developing new diagnostic tools and safe, effective drugs;
29. Recognises the role of the EDCTP in organising clinical trials for new medicines and vaccines suited to the local clinical, ethical and social conditions of disease-endemic countries, and calls for the activities of the EDCTP to be broadened to include other neglected diseases and other phases of clinical development (Phases I and IV);
30. Calls for more gender-specific clinical trials of medicines; stresses the need to increase awareness among medical researchers of the different lifestyles and living conditions of women and men so that this is taken into account in the development of new medicines and vaccines;
31. Advocates strengthening local research, clinical trials and production capacities, including development of regional and national generic pharmaceutical-producing industries in affected areas and development of integrated projects, from the identification of new illnesses to the development and manufacture of new medicines, and calls for research that includes operational and health systems research aimed at more effective implementation of interventions and taking account of cultural issues of prescription, use, access, affordability and distribution of medicines;
32. Calls for the promotion of a range of measures to improve access to and affordability of medicines, including tiered prices, donations and discounts, innovation prizes, tax credits, incentives, advance purchase commitments and advance market commitments for vaccines, whereby a specific commitment is given by donors to subsidise the purchase of vaccines that meet pre-agreed standards, as well as transfer of manufacturing technology and expertise to disease-endemic countries;

33. Welcomes innovative approaches such as Advance Market Commitments to accelerate the development and scale up production of medicines and vaccines for the developing world;
34. Believes that the review and registration of drugs should be relevant to the priorities of disease-endemic countries, with specific procedures for better assessment of the risk-benefit ratio of drugs for neglected diseases;
35. Believes that Public-Private Development Partnerships (PDPs) offer a successful model for building collaboration between pharmaceutical companies and public research in order to develop innovative therapies and strengthen capacity building;
36. Recalls the right of developing countries to use the flexibilities afforded to them by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), especially in non-profitable areas not applicable to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) market, while maintaining incentives through intellectual property protection and addressing regulatory issues relating to the registration and marketing of drugs; believes that such rights can be useful in disputes over the licensing of new medicines and intellectual property rights with the pharmaceutical industry where health issues of overriding public interest are at stake;
37. Highlights the recent example of Brazil's use of all the opportunities afforded by the TRIPS Agreement with regard to the compulsory licensing of medicines and other intellectual property right aspects;
38. Is very concerned that some ACP governments levy tariffs, import duties and taxes on active pharmaceutical ingredients, finished pharmaceutical products and vaccines, which then make drugs unaffordable to poor communities; urges the European Commission to investigate this and to encourage governments to abolish such taxes;
39. Emphasises the importance of complying with prescribed medication in order to limit resistance, and seeking wherever possible shorter drug regimes, combinations and fixed doses;
40. Calls on ACP countries and the EU to step up efforts against counterfeit medicines by supporting effective quality control of medical products and materials, strengthening customs and police cooperation and promoting an international convention aimed at criminalising the production and sale of counterfeit medicines;
41. Calls on ACP countries to commit to and accelerate the introduction of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT), recognised as the most effective treatment for malaria; calls on donors to finance ACT drugs and to support their purchase, prequalification and manufacture;
42. Underlines the shared interest between developed and developing countries, for example in controlling antimicrobial resistance and finding better antivirals and vaccines for influenza; points out that research into neglected diseases can have positive spin-offs for the understanding of other diseases: for example, research into vaccines and immunity can enhance knowledge about allergic disorders that affect a growing number of people in Europe;
43. Urges that the Global Plan to Stop TB be implemented, and believes there is an urgent need for new, rapid diagnostic tests for TB, including MDR-TB, suitable for resource-limited settings, and urges that steps be taken to ensure that all TB drugs in development are tested in trials with MDR patients;
44. Believes that the scourge of HIV/AIDS must be tackled by providing universal access to prevention, treatment and care, including access to antivirals, voluntary counselling and testing, and through reinforced efforts to develop microbicides and vaccines;

45. Calls for the international donor community to support the WHO and its Preventative Chemotherapy Strategy in increasing access to adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality anthelmintic drugs (albendazole, ivermectin, praziquantel) to prevent and treat parasitic worm infections, and for the establishment of a global procurement facility;
46. Calls for a commitment by ACP countries and the EU to strengthen care for those with mental illnesses and neurological disorders and injuries, by improving primary care and community-based rehabilitation whilst increasing public and professional awareness and combating stigma and discrimination;
47. Believes that services able to diagnose, manage and treat conditions such as diabetes would save many lives and reduce disability and, in particular, that access to insulin and drugs should be expanded and networks of specialists and specialist training established;
48. Calls on the ACP governments and the Commission to support programmes to prevent and cure obstetric fistula, including enforcement of laws on the legal age for marriage, promotion of universal access to obstetric care and reproductive health education and social rehabilitation of girls and women after treatment;
49. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the WHO, the European Commission, the African Union, the World Bank and the IMF.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on natural disasters in ACP States: EU funding for preparedness (EDF funds) and relief (ECHO funds)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement, and in particular Articles 30 (regional cooperation) and 32 (environment and natural resources) thereof,
- having regard to the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
- having regard to the Decision on Climate Change and Development and the Decision on the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, taken by the Assembly of the AU at its session of 29-30 January 2007,
- having regard to Decision No 3 of the 79th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Gaborone (Botswana) on 4 and 5 May 2004, which reaffirmed the need to mainstream desertification policies and dry land issues in order to address critical sustainable management matters, such as drought, deforestation and water resources,
- having regard to Decision No 3/LXXIX/04 of the 4th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Maputo (Mozambique) on 23 to 24 June 2004, which underlined the extreme vulnerability of many ACP States, regions and populations to natural disasters and their associated environmental problems, and encouraged a commitment to support pro-active initiatives to combat these problems,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda).

- having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of 8-9 March 2007, underlining the importance of achieving the strategic objective of limiting the global average temperature to not more than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels,
 - having regard to the agreement of the EU, Canada and Japan at the G8 meeting in Heiligendamm in June 2007 to at least halve the level of global emissions of CO₂ by 2050,
 - having regard to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, and in particular to the Fourth Assessment Report of Working Group II of the IPCC entitled 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability',
 - having regard to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report of 2005, studying the use and degradation of many of the planet's natural resources,
 - having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol,
 - having regard to Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests, adopted by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 3 to 14 June 1992 and whose principles were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 26 August to 4 September 2002,
 - having regard to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and entered into force on 26 December 1996,
 - having regard to the final report of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) of 18-22 January 2005 and, in particular, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,
 - having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 57/256 of 20 December 2002 on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World — Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and the UN 'Barbados plus 10' International Meeting on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Mauritius in January 2005,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions adopted on 1 April 1999 in Strasbourg on climate change and small island developing states in the context of the ACP-EU cooperation framework ⁽¹⁾, on 19 February 2004 in Addis Ababa on the damage caused by cyclones in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and the need for a rapid response to natural disasters ⁽²⁾, on 25 November 2004 in The Hague on the hurricane damage in the Caribbean region ⁽³⁾ and on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh on causes and consequences of natural disasters ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (APP/3802/05),
- A. whereas disasters and the depletion of natural resources pose a serious threat to poverty reduction and to the achievement of the MDGs,
- B. whereas the contribution of ACP countries to the causes of climate change is negligible, while they are the ones suffering its consequences most severely; whereas climate change can slow the pace of progress towards sustainable development, either directly through increased exposure to adverse impact or indirectly through erosion of the capacity to adapt,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 271, 24.9.1999, p. 30.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 44.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 36.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 136, 9.6.2006, p. 22.

- C. whereas the impact of natural disasters is particularly detrimental for developing countries, reversing the beneficial effects of development cooperation, hampering further growth and poverty eradication and causing severe biodiversity losses,
- D. whereas the ACP States face a key challenge to effectively address the long-term impact of natural disasters through developing and strengthening national and regional disaster risk reduction, recovery and management activities,
- E. whereas ACP countries provide a wide range of ecosystem services to the world, without due compensation,
- F. whereas new studies confirm that Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate variability because of multiple stresses and low adaptative capability; whereas by 2020 between 75 and 250 million Africans are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change; whereas agricultural production, fisheries and access to food are also projected to be severely compromised,
- G. whereas climate change is projected by 2050 to reduce water resources to the point where they become insufficient to meet demand in many small island states, e.g. in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific, which are especially vulnerable to rises in sea-level and natural disasters,
- H. whereas towards the end of the 21st century, projected rises in sea-level will affect low-lying coastal areas with large populations and are expected to exacerbate flooding, storm surges, erosion and other coastal hazards, affecting local resources and tourism, threatening settlements, facilities and vital infrastructure,
- I. whereas non-climate stresses can increase vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters by reducing resilience and can also reduce adaptative capacity and the effects of prevention and mitigation policy because of resource deployment to competing needs,
- J. whereas few plans for promoting sustainability and reducing vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters have included promoting adaptative capacity,
- K. whereas DRR is primarily a national responsibility, and whereas there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership at the regional and international level,
- L. whereas environmental concerns, disaster preparedness and prevention and climate change mitigation are not mainstreamed in all EC aid programmes and related instruments, while they are important for all countries,
- M. whereas policies for the promotion of energy security and other mitigation efforts over the next decades will have a large impact on opportunities to achieve lower stabilisation levels of greenhouse gas emissions,
- N. whereas the financial flows to developing countries through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and development assistance for technology transfer have so far been limited and geographically unequally distributed,
- O. whereas making development more sustainable by changing development paths can make a major contribution to climate change mitigation, but implementation may require resources to overcome multiple barriers,
- 1. Stresses the threats posed by natural disasters and climate change to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs; also stresses the importance of MDG 7 on ensuring environment sustainability;

2. Notes the growing number and frequency of natural disasters, their devastating impact and the particular vulnerability of poor people in these situations; underlines the increasing difficulty to distinguish natural from man-made disasters, when risks are determined not only by natural hazards, but also by human activity and lack of planning;
3. Stresses that there is a need for an effective global response to the problem of natural disasters in ACP countries in which industrialised countries should assume their responsibility and take the lead in combating the effects of greenhouse gases, which have contributed to climate change;
4. Asks ACP and EU governments and parliaments to ensure that the exploitation of natural resources does not cause major ecological imbalances; in this connection, notes with concern that excessive tree-felling and illegal logging can lead to desertification and other climatic changes, against which action should be taken through responsible and effective forestry policies, appropriate reafforestation practices and sustainable agricultural practices; calls on companies exploiting natural resources to comply with environmental standards and regulations;
5. Notes the consequences and the challenges of climate change, namely in the form of extreme weather conditions and receding natural resources, with serious development and security implications, like increased vulnerability, conflicts over natural resources and disaster-driven migration; underlines, therefore, that DRR must address climate change mitigation and adaptation;
6. Notes that natural disasters may lead to large-scale population movement and acknowledges that, although DRR is above all a national responsibility, it is incumbent on ACP and EU governments to demonstrate solidarity with affected nations;
7. Highlights the WHO warnings on the extremely high risk that global warming poses to health in Southern countries, particularly with regard to malaria and eyesight, and urges action to be taken to support measures to prevent, ameliorate and manage these exacerbated health problems;
8. Calls for a time-bound comprehensive strategy to mainstream DRR, disaster preparedness and climate change strategies into all National Development Plans, EU development policy and humanitarian aid; stresses that these strategies should support action by civil society, local communities and authorities in a long-term approach to reducing vulnerability to disasters;
9. Calls on EU Member States to support ACP countries in designing people-focused DRR, climate change and pre-crisis plans that should include mitigation and adaptation strategies, early warning systems, disaster preparedness and evacuation strategies, emergency safety zones, insurance schemes and the funding of humanitarian resources for rapid distribution; calls also on ACP countries to ensure these actions are a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation and taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable groups;
10. Calls on the EU to allocate at least 10 % additional funding to humanitarian assistance budgets for reducing disaster risks and to increase significantly resources for DRR and climate-change mitigation and adaptation within development aid budgets, without jeopardising other efforts, in particular in the field of basic health and education;
11. Underlines that ACP States and regions demand the support of the international community which is necessary in order to improve their national and regional disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacities, increase public awareness about disaster reduction and prediction and respond to emergency situations,
12. Regrets the very low level of resources allocated to the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility, despite increasing needs, while welcoming its creation; calls on the EU to allocate additional resources to the Facility under the 10th EDF and other EU budget lines, in order to adequately assist ACP States and regions in DRR and emergency relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) capacity building and the financing of improved early-warning and rapid-response systems;

13. Urges the European Commission, therefore, to continue, under the 10th EDF, to support the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility, and to further extend its scope by providing at least EUR 250 million out of the resources earmarked for intra-ACP cooperation, also using part of the resources under the proposed 'reserve' to assist ACP regions and ACP States, in particular the small island ACP States, in the comprehensive implementation of an all-ACP natural disaster preparedness and management programme and long term post-disaster reconstruction;
14. Believes that the European Development Fund (EDF) needs sufficient funding in order to assist developing countries in their adaptation and the mitigation of effects caused by climate change, emphasises in this regard the importance of capacity building, disaster prevention, education, working infrastructures and access to medicines, and points to the need to build capacity in science, impact and adaptation assessment, forecasting of risks, and the preparation of CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) projects;
15. Stresses the need to increase funding for the development of the relevant human resources for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and management and for climate change adaptation, as well as for strengthening South-South cooperation in these areas;
16. Calls on the European Commission and EU Member States to take all the necessary measures to enable the quickest possible mobilisation of adequate financial support for emergency and humanitarian relief;
17. Stresses the need for a constant update of the ACP country environmental profiles and for environment mainstreaming in the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs), Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs) and thematic programmes; underlines the importance of associating national parliaments and civil society in this process;
18. Believes that development policy cannot be dissociated from environment and other policies and calls for a holistic sustainable development policy approach, which integrates the environmental dimension in ACP country and regional strategy papers, as well as in all development programmes and projects;
19. Calls for the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) to become a key instrument in addressing disaster prevention and preparedness as well as climate-change adaptation and mitigation;
20. Urges ACP governments to design pre-crisis emergency and contingency plans that should include evacuation strategies, emergency safety zones, insurance schemes and the financing of humanitarian resources for rapid distribution;
21. Stresses the need for a truly global approach on natural disasters and climate change and calls on the international community to commit itself to international progressive solutions; calls, therefore, for the launch of negotiations at the UN International Climate Conference on a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement, which should build upon and broaden the Kyoto Protocol;
22. Urges developed countries to commit more resources for the existing funding mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol and to seek to make these contributions a binding commitment;
23. Calls for the sharing of best practices, technology transfer and awareness raising, namely on land-use planning, construction in risk zones, safe building construction and the protection of critical facilities;
24. Calls for improved regional and international cooperation in order to facilitate information and communication technology (ICT) sharing and the continued financing of low-tech solutions such as radio in rural and remote locations;
25. Calls on ACP countries to agree regionally on the management of river basins, taking coordinated measures on water and fisheries resources;

26. Notes that the use of renewables, such as solar, wind and biomass energy, would make ACP countries less dependent on oil, calls on the EU and its Member States to transfer the appropriate technology and provide adequate funding, and urges the European Commission to review the criteria to include pro-environment, vulnerability and insularity criteria, in determining eligibility for access to the resources of the Energy and Water Facilities under the 10th EDF;
27. Calls on ACP and EU countries to fix a specific target for the use of renewable energy, and considers that renewable energy should be put at the heart of ACP-EU development cooperation programmes under the Cotonou Agreement;
28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in the East of the country, and its impact on the region

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes region,
- having regard to the resolutions of the United Nations (UN) Security Council on the situation in Democratic Republic of Congo and the monthly reports of the UN Secretary-General on this matter,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 15 December 2004, on the situation in the eastern DRC ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Pact for Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region that was signed in Nairobi (Kenya) on 16 December 2006 by the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Great Lakes region,
- having regard to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989, which prohibits the involvement of children in armed conflicts,
- having regard to the report of the mission of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the observation of the presidential and legislative elections held in the DRC on 30 July and 29 October 2006 respectively,
- having regard to the joint action of the Council concerning the mission of the European Union (EU) to provide advice and assistance in the framework of the reform of the security sector in the DRC,
- having regard to the Kimberley process, which aims, ultimately, to put an end to the circulation of blood diamonds and to improve governance in those countries rich in natural resources through the verification and complete publication of all payments made by the companies and the revenue derived by the governments from oil, gas, and mining products,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 226E, 15.9.2005, p. 359.

- A. whereas the many years of armed conflict have resulted directly and indirectly in 4 million direct and indirect victims and caused the displacement of at least 1,5 million people, most of them women and children, as well as the destruction of the socioeconomic infrastructures of the DRC,
- B. recalling, with concern, that, since the end of 2006, approximately 300 000 persons living in the province of North Kivu have been forced to flee their homes due to warfare involving the regular armed forces of the DRC and the rebel troops of ousted general Laurent Nkunda, and other armed groups bringing the total number of displaced persons up to 800 000 people,
- C. tremendously worried by the increasing violence, the widespread human rights violations, rapes and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against women from the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu,
- D. deeply concerned by the persistence and increasing recruitment of child soldiers in the east of the DRC by armed militias,
- E. concerned by the near-permanent situation of insecurity in the east of the DRC, which makes it impossible for humanitarian organisations to distribute foodstuffs and basic necessities such as medicines, to the civilian population,
- F. considering the presence of foreign armed groups, including the ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR)/Interahamwe (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)), which continue to commit, with impunity, atrocities such as murder, rape, torture and raids, thereby forcing civilians to become displaced to the east of the DRC and in the neighbouring countries, which constitutes a threat to the security, stability and development of the country,
- G. whereas the persistence of armed conflicts and renegade armed groups in the Great Lakes region constitutes a serious threat to peace, stability, democracy and the development of that region; whereas it compromises cooperation between the states of the region and cancels out the efforts of the international community to bring about the emergence of vibrant and prosperous democratic states in that region and the improvement of the living conditions of their respective populations,
- H. whereas it is imperative, consequently, to take all the necessary measures to put an end to the conflicts, dismantle the armed groups and forestall any future conflict so as to consolidate peace and democracy, promote the stability and development in the region for the wellbeing of all the peoples of the Great Lakes region, and to enable the legitimate institutions of the DRC to devote their energies to rebuilding their country, which has been destroyed by recurring wars,
- I. whereas peace and security, both in the DRC and in the Great Lakes region, can only be achieved by putting an end to the threat created by foreign and national armed groups in the DRC and their political organisations, as well as by the complete disarming of all paramilitary groups marauding in that region,
- J. whereas the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been investigating the crimes that may have been committed in the DRC since 2004,
- K. having regard to the commitments made in Kigali on 28 August 2007 by the parties at the 'Tripartite Plus' summit, namely the army chiefs of the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, and those made on 16 September 2007 by the foreign affairs ministers of those countries, with the aim of seeking peace by neutralising the rebel armed forces located in the respective territories; having regard to the Joint Declaration of the foreign affairs ministers of the DRC and Rwanda issued at the end of the meeting in Kinshasa on 3 and 4 September 2007,
- L. whereas the Joint Communiqué of the Government of the DRC and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on a common approach to end the threat posed to peace and stability in both countries and the Great Lakes region, signed on 9 November 2007 by the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries under the facilitation of the UN and in the presence of representatives of the United States of America and the EU, outlines new prospects for peace and cooperation among the states in the region,

- M. whereas the President of the DRC, Joseph Kabila, and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni, met in Tanzania in September 2007 to set up, with the support of the UN, a joint military force to dislodge the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels causing instability in the region and also to embark on joint oil exploration exercises,
- N. whereas the DRC possesses an abundance of natural mineral wealth and forestry resources, among others, which must be carefully and efficiently managed to ensure that country's economic and social development,
- O. having regard to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), to which the DRC is party,
- P. having regard to the decision of the Government of the DRC to review the mining and forestry contracts signed during the period of war and the transition phase,
- Q. whereas the new constitution adopted on 18 December 2005 by the Congolese people offers the solid base necessary to build a state founded on the rule of law and a truly democratic society,
- R. whereas the multiparty presidential and legislative elections held in the DRC on 30 July and 29 October 2006 respectively have given the population renewed hope for an era of peace, stability and prosperity after many years of dictatorship and war; whereas municipal elections are currently being organised,
- S. whereas all Congolese citizens have the right to equal protection by the government entities, particularly as regards security, and the safety of their persons and property,
- T. whereas the Congolese Parliament has recently passed the law on the status of the political opposition in the DRC so as to strengthen democracy and the role of the political opposition in governing the country,
1. Calls on all the forces participating in conflicts in the east of the DRC to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, to cease all attacks on civilians and to allow humanitarian agencies to come to the assistance of the civilian population;
 2. Urges that the perpetrators of human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against humanity, sexual violence against women and the recruitment of child soldiers be reported, identified, prosecuted and punished in accordance with national and international criminal law;
 3. Calls on the Government of the DRC and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) to guarantee an appropriate level of security for the members of humanitarian organisations;
 4. Calls on the governments of the EU and ACP countries, the Council of the EU, the European Commission, the UN and the African Union (AU) to do everything possible to provide efficient and adequate aid to the population in the east of the DRC and to contribute to address a humanitarian disaster;
 5. Expresses grave concern regarding the situation and the number of internally displaced persons and refugees who are still in the neighbouring countries, and calls on the DRC authorities and the host countries to do everything in their power to facilitate the safe return of the Congolese refugees, particularly by cooperating fully with partners such as the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR);
 6. Calls on the European Commission and the Council to prepare, with the cooperation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Government of the DRC, a humanitarian programme for the DRC with the aim of providing increased and improved medical assistance to the Congolese people;
 7. Calls on the European Commission to provide support, including financial aid, to the organisation of a peace conference in Kivu, so as to enable the population to participate in the search for lasting solutions;
 8. Takes due note of the mutual commitments by Burundi, the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda, and in particular the Joint Communiqué signed by the governments of Rwanda and the DRC in Nairobi on 9 November 2007, with a view to finding a concerted and lasting solution to the security problems in the region, and commends the parties for their efforts;

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the social and environmental consequences of structural adjustment programmes**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Articles 177 to 181a of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on more and better cooperation: the 2006 EU aid effectiveness package (2006/2208(INI)) ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on the strategic review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2005/2121(INI)) ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach initiated by the IMF and the World Bank in 1999,
- having regard to the Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of 22 March 2002 of the International Conference on Financing for Development,
- having regard to the Washington Consensus,
- having regard to the Rome Declaration on Harmonisation, adopted on 25 February 2003, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted on 2 March 2005 following the High Level Forum on Harmonisation and Alignment for Aid Effectiveness (hereinafter referred to as the 'Paris Declaration'),
- having regard to the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative launched in 1996 by the IMF and World Bank with the aim of ensuring that no poor country faces a debt burden it cannot manage,
- having regard to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) launched in June 2005 by the G-8,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 306 E, 15.12.2006, pp.373-380.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 291 E, 30.11.2006, pp. 118-122.

- having regard to the Debt Sustainability Framework of the World Bank and the IMF (2005),
 - having regard to the Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF report on the IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa (2007) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the 2005 World Bank Review of Conditionality ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the IMF Guide on Resource Revenue Transparency adopted in June 2005 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the 2004 World Bank Extractive Industries Review,
 - having regard to the June 2003 Performance Measurement Framework of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Programme (PEFA),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.202/08),
- A. whereas the main objective of a structural adjustment programme (SAP) is the promotion of sustainable economic growth, and SAPs broadly cover the set of conditions, technical assistance and policy advice for a developing country, usually as part of its lending programme,
 - B. whereas SAPs have often failed in the countries in which they have been implemented, because of overly restrictive conditions imposed by the creditor; whereas in 2004 the World Bank replaced its SAPs by a new Development Policy Lending instrument (DPL),
 - C. whereas stable macroeconomic conditions, improved public expenditure, sound fiscal planning and debt management, effective public financial management and budgetary systems, and market-based interest and exchange rates are fundamental to growth and development,
 - D. whereas SAPs have sought to reduce government budget deficits, leading in many cases to a reduction in the budget for the social sectors, despite the fact that social investments such as in the areas of education and health care are needed for sustainable economic growth,
 - E. whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have often implemented SAPs without taking the specific conditions of recipient countries into due consideration; whereas such programmes should be tailored to address the specific needs of the countries concerned,
 - F. whereas, after implementing SAPs, countries are often worse off than before, and in cases where there has been macroeconomic improvement the negative consequences in the microeconomic field are often not mentioned,
 - G. whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have played the leading role in structural adjustment over the past three decades; whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have major influence over lending and development aid as most donors and financial institutions rely on their eligibility criteria,
 - H. whereas the cuts in civil service staff and salaries in ACP countries and the scaling down of administrations' operating resources have led to under-administration in those countries and to a decrease in the effectiveness of their administrative machinery,
 - I. whereas donors and lenders rely on conditionality, given their duty and legitimate interest to ensure that money provided is managed correctly and used for its intended purposes,

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.imf.org/external/np/ieo/2007/ssa/eng/pdf/report.pdf>

⁽²⁾ [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMIT/Documentation/20651860/DC2005-0013\(E\)-Conditionality.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMIT/Documentation/20651860/DC2005-0013(E)-Conditionality.pdf)

⁽³⁾ <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/grrt/eng/060705.pdf>

- J. whereas economic policy conditionality has often resulted in the blocking of loans and grants from the IMF and the World Bank, which can lead to policies that are inappropriate to national conditions or even contradictory to achieving the MDGs,
- K. whereas the abolition of agricultural subsidies in ACP countries under SAPs has led to a decrease in yields and agricultural production, resulting in an increase in the import of food products, thereby affecting their food independence and security, and a decrease in the export of cash crops, including the drastic reduction in the ACP guaranteed price for ACP sugar on the EU market, thereby causing a preference erosion and a deterioration of ACP countries' terms of trade and balance of payments,
- L. whereas the IMF and World Bank have different priorities,
- M. whereas the austerity required under SAPs has affected the social climate and has at times led to political instability,
- N. whereas privatisations and the liberalisation of economies have been effected by the IMF and the World Bank in an ideological manner; whereas regarding Development Policy Lending the World Bank states that 'reflecting the mixed record of adjustment lending, the policy no longer contains any policy prescriptions — such as directives for privatisation and trade liberalisation policies' ⁽¹⁾,
- O. whereas the austerity policy pursued under SAPs has reduced demand, restrained growth and increased unemployment, particularly among young graduates,
- P. whereas the increase in unemployment has fuelled the rural exodus and the migration flows from ACP countries to wealthy countries,
- Q. whereas SAPs have tackled the symptoms of under-development and not its deep-seated causes, i.e. unequal trade, debt and the domination of multinationals, and the persistence of those causes, despite the increase in Official Development Assistance, has resulted in negative net flows for ACP countries,
- R. whereas poor political governance (democratic deficit) and economic governance are an obstacle to economic and social development,
- S. whereas the declared aims of the IMF are 'to promote international monetary cooperation, facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, to contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high levels of employment and real income, promote exchange stability, improve the degree of disequilibrium in international balances of payments and provide financial assistance to ease balance of payments adjustments',
- T. whereas the declared aims of the World Bank are to reduce global poverty and improve living standards through two development institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which is focused on middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries, and the International Development Association (IDA), which works with low-income countries,
- U. whereas international financial institutions can play a positive role in favour of more equitable globalisation, but this requires developing differentiated and non-conditional approaches, based on ownership and tailored to specific country circumstances, to issues such as trade liberalisation, privatisation and labour market deregulation,
- V. whereas there is marginal ACP representation on the Executive Boards of the IMF and the World Bank,
- W. whereas sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs,

⁽¹⁾ 'Development Policy Lending Retrospective', World Bank, 7 July 2006, p. 3.

- X. whereas an increase in poverty, massive unemployment, diminishing productivity and falling export earnings could be some of the consequences of development strategies that fail to take into account the social reality of the country concerned and the situation of its natural resources, which are fundamental for its economy,
- Y. whereas implementation of SAPs has had detrimental effects on public investment in social services, particularly in the field of health and education, on the growth of family salaries and incomes, on employment and on living conditions; and whereas governments have also been encouraged or forced to scale down their intervention in many sectors of the economy through the privatisation of public enterprises and the liberalisation and opening-up of markets to foreign competition, including in the field of health and education,
- Z. whereas the adverse impact of SAPs is recognised in the post-Washington-Consensus approach, under which facilitating increased investment in the social sphere is also recommended,
- 1. Recommends that the IMF and the World Bank scrap the negative conditions under SAPs and tackle the issues of unequal trade in connection with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), debt and limiting multinational intervention in ACP countries; considers that, in accordance with the MDGs, education (including higher education and research), health, water, agriculture (with a view to eradicating hunger) and the environment must be priorities for all the programmes;
- 2. Calls in this context on the World Bank Group and the IMF to refrain from economic policy conditionality in their lending, to increase transparency of conditionality, to give a true meaning to the principle of ownership by ensuring that policies are country-selected, and to focus on outcome-based, anti-poverty conditionality in their programmes;
- 3. Considers that there should be fairer trade between ACP countries and wealthy countries, and that liberalisation of markets must not leave the weakest economies at the mercy of the strongest economies;
- 4. Considers that the endeavours to cancel or alleviate debt should not be limited solely to low-income countries, but should apply to all overindebted ACP countries, including middle income countries where appropriate;
- 5. Considers that intervention by multinationals in ACP countries must be limited; considers, in particular, that the setting-up of semi-public companies can enable states to increase their control over the exploitation of their national resources;
- 6. Welcomes, in this context, the support given by the World Bank Group, the IMF and the Africa Development Bank to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which 'sets a global standard for companies to publish what they pay and for governments to disclose what they receive'; calls for their continued support for the EITI and calls on public and private extractive industry companies to comply with the EITI;
- 7. Considers that the IMF must help the ACP countries to develop and implement economic growth policies in line with its initial mandate; considers that the World Bank, for its part, should revert to its initial mandate, which is to help create the right conditions for development and hence to eradicate poverty; considers that the IMF and the World Bank must, in particular, put aside all ideological considerations when addressing the issues of privatisation, liberalisation and agricultural subsidies in ACP countries;
- 8. Welcomes the move by the IMF to make poverty reduction a priority in its programmes, and welcomes the fact that poverty reduction is the overarching goal of the World Bank;
- 9. Considers that unsustainable debt levels, bad macroeconomic planning and poor policies seriously harm a country's development and that financial instability can have repercussions on the economy, affecting growth, jobs and economic and social well-being;

10. Notes that Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are intended to be country-owned strategies specifically adapted to countries' development needs; is adamant that national ownership creates important responsibilities for governments in terms of the proper use of aid, good governance and a firm commitment to a development agenda;
11. Welcomes the recent positive economic performance of many developing countries, including those in sub-Saharan Africa, which has resulted from a number of factors, namely debt relief, multilateral development assistance, improvements made by donors and, most importantly, the policies carried out by developing countries;
12. Welcomes the World Bank finding that, between 1999 and 2005, countries receiving debt relief under the HIPC Initiative more than doubled their expenditure on poverty reduction plans; recalls that at least 60 countries need all of their debts to be cancelled if they are to have any chance of achieving the MDGs and that there are yet more countries that require further debt relief;
13. Stresses that whereas economic growth is extremely important it does not automatically lead to poverty reduction, and underlines the importance of equitable development policies and pro-poor growth strategies resulting in social and economic benefits for society at large and, in particular, strategies focusing on the achievement of the MDGs;
14. Stresses the need for full political and operational cooperation with UN institutions, especially the ILO, in order to assess the real consequences of SAPs and possible solutions;
15. Believes that sustainable development should be a central priority of reforms and considers that sustainable development includes good governance, human rights and environmental aspects; recalls that macroeconomic reforms can have a sustainable effect only when they fully embrace the objectives of human and social development;
16. Recognises the need for immediate action to deal with environmental problems; underlines the fact that the burden of responsibility for fighting climate change cannot be shifted to the developing world; takes the view, in particular, that the growing demand for biofuel in the developed world has to be balanced so as not to jeopardise food security and so as not to increase deforestation in the developing world;
17. Notes that the IMF has strict macroeconomic rules in terms of reserve thresholds and inflation targeting that determine its guidelines on the use of aid; regrets that the IMF has blocked the use of available aid to sub-Saharan Africa in some cases; encourages the IMF to be less restrictive in situations that permit a more ambitious development strategy and to take into account all available resources, particularly aid; notes that fiscal policy restrictions on these programmes might lead to difficulties in engaging health and education personnel;
18. Regrets that the potential of aid has not been fully realised in the internationally supported national reform programmes;
19. Recognises the considerable assistance provided by the EU to the ACP countries to mitigate the harmful effects of the transitional phase and negative conditions under SAPs as proof of its commitment to helping those countries; takes the view that the EU, and rich countries in general, must nevertheless endeavour to increase their aid to 0,71 % of GDP; is of the opinion that the ACP countries and the EU must frame a sound partnership agreement with a view to promoting genuine development in the ACP countries;
20. Calls on the EU Member States and the Commission to take into account the autonomous economic reform programmes being implemented by ACP countries in the provision of aid under their respective Aid for Trade programmes in order to enable the ACP countries concerned to successfully address adjustment-related costs, including in the context of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) or wider liberalisation programmes;

21. Welcomes the IMF's and the World Bank's HIPC Initiative; considers that onerous debt obligations have prevented countries developing, but calls on the IMF and the World Bank, along with developing countries, to prevent the recurrence of unsustainable debt situations; underlines the fact that debt reduction will have a significant effect only if an indebted country carries out policies that prevent recurrence of an unsustainable debt situation;
22. Considers sound public financial management to be essential to the reform agenda and calls for greater support to be given to supreme audit institutions; welcomes the PEFA international performance measurement framework for assessing a country's public financial management and calls on the Bretton Woods Institutions and other donors to apply it rigorously;
23. Is worried about the situation of fragile, conflict and post-conflict states and underscores the need for the rule of law, a democratic political system, in particular respect for the outcome of elections, and a peaceful and stable political climate for a country to embark on a positive development path;
24. Is concerned by the finding of the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office that there are differences of views among members of the Executive Board about the IMF's role and policies in low-income countries; considers therefore that the IMF should be reformed with a view to making it more democratic, not least through better representation of the ACP countries on its Executive Board;
25. Is disappointed by the finding that the IMF's aspirations with regard to the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) have not materialised in practice, and that there is a disconnect between poverty reduction initiatives and the actual policies implemented;
26. Is concerned by the IMF's operational shortcomings and in particular the diffusion and implementation of policy and institutional cohesion;
27. Encourages the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO, along with the UN and other multinational and bilateral donors, to cooperate to the greatest extent possible so as to better understand and assist the ACP countries subjected to SAPs and to help them achieve the MDGs;
28. Considers that maximum country ownership of, and commitment to, policy reforms are fundamental to their success; stresses the need for an integrated approach to decent work (employment, social protection, social dialogue, rights at work and gender mainstreaming) for the effective uptake of employment and social policy at national level;
29. Calls on the relevant international bodies to create mechanisms for the exchange of experiences which can serve as tools for those countries in which the process of economic restructuring has not succeeded, or in which it is due to be launched;
30. Urges those countries with economic restructuring programmes to submit regular reports to it on the functioning and development of those programmes and the relevant agreements, so that best practices can be acquired for the benefit of the other members;
31. Considers it essential that governments be held accountable to their citizens with regard to the management of public revenue and expenditure, and in particular revenues earned from extractive industries, and calls on the World Bank, the IMF, the EU and other donors to demand that public revenues be managed in a transparent fashion; regards it as essential that democracy and the rule of law be strengthened in the ACP countries; also considers it vital to strengthen the machinery of state by equipping it with substantial human and operating resources; stresses the importance of creating a culture of accountability which fully involves parliaments and the audit institutions;

32. Considers that the funds embezzled by dictators must be repatriated to ACP countries; considers that the EU must, to this end, bring all its influence to bear on the banks in which those funds have been deposited; welcomes in this context the launch, on 17 September 2007, of the joint UN-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, which aims to stop asset theft by strengthening accountability institutions in developing countries;
33. Regrets that the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office has found that representatives of the IMF in countries in which it operates are stretched and do not adequately engage with local players;
34. Considers that reform programmes should be drawn up and implemented in such a way as to increase democratic legitimacy through the involvement of parliaments and through the consultation of other actors, namely the social partners and civil society, in particular employers' and workers' organisations;
35. Underlines the fact that policies that encourage private-sector growth, including promotion of foreign direct investment, open and well functioning financial services, economic diversification, encouragement of a spirit of enterprise and private land ownership, are prerequisites for economic development and should therefore be reflected in the programmes; encourages, in this context, public-private partnerships;
36. Considers that the state has a role to play, not least in managing the economy and in all sectors where private initiative is wanting; at the same time considers that the private sector has a role to play in sectors where the public sector fails, but that this role has to be well regulated to promote sustainable development of the country, poverty reduction as well as maximum access for the majority of citizens;
37. Is worried about the dependence of some ACP countries on one main export, which is usually a basic commodity, and in this regard considers that the encouragement of industrial development and economic diversification strategies is essential for sustainable growth;
38. Considers that, for development to be sustainable, it is necessary to promote, at international level (including via the WTO), the laying down of rules on fair trade, to set prices for products from developing countries which afford those countries sufficient revenue to guarantee workers there fair and decent pay, to guarantee the right to food security for all, and to cancel developing countries' debts where it is shown that such cancellation is likely to enhance significantly the living conditions of the inhabitants of those countries and not just of their leaders;
39. Considers that, prior to any privatisation in sectors of the economy, it is imperative to assess objectively and impartially the economic and social effects that this will engender, that privatisation can therefore only be undertaken when the living conditions of the whole population stand to improve, and that it is essential to have binding international rules in this field, particularly in order to monitor the activities of local and foreign companies as regards compliance with acceptable social and environmental standards;
40. Considers that privatisation as a borrowing condition is not an effective way to implement change and that countries should have maximum ownership of these crucial policy decisions;
41. Welcomes the fact that the World Bank's narrow focus on privatisation and liberalisation has been replaced by a broader view regarding institutional reform and complementary policies;
42. Welcomes the more targeted and pragmatic policy focus of the World Bank that allows for greater flexibility focused on medium-term reforms;
43. Welcomes the IMF's review of conditionality and calls for the immediate implementation of its conclusions, which place greater emphasis on country ownership, harmonisation of policies across sectors, stakeholder consultation, implementation of essential, tailored policies, predictability and transparency; stresses that conditionality should not undermine national autonomy and independence in policy-making, and that conditions should be limited to ensuring that assistance is used for its intended purposes, such as combating corruption, and to preventing assistance to governments that do not respect human and democratic rights and undermine countries' efforts to achieve the MDGs;

44. Welcomes the increased sense of national ownership of programmes, but reiterates that a strong commitment to necessary development reforms is a prerequisite for this;
45. Calls on donors to step up coordination of their activities, but is concerned about the impact this may have on country ownership, and considers it crucial that national policy ownership be upheld at all times and that developing countries can decide on their development strategies;
46. Stresses that environmental conservation and protection tasks cannot be undertaken by government alone; calls for the development of partnerships with local and foreign agencies (World Bank/IMF, UN agencies, World Wildlife Fund and universities);
47. Calls on the EU and ACP representatives to coordinate their positions better on the boards of the World Bank and the IMF in line with development objectives of the EU and ACP countries and to ensure that EU funds are used solely for these objectives;
48. Welcomes the recent adjustments to the voting quotas in favour of some countries, but calls on the IMF and the World Bank, in the interests of their own legitimacy, to make further improvements in the decision-making mechanisms to be more transparent and give appropriate weight to developing countries;
49. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the World Bank and the IMF.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on experiences from the European regional integration process relevant to ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005, and in particular Articles 1, 11 and 28 to 30 thereof,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular Chapter VIII on regional arrangements,
- having regard to the joint statement of 20 December 2003 by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus', and in particular Articles 72 to 74 thereof,
- having regard to the Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome, adopted in Berlin on 25 March 2007,
- having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, signed on 13 December 2007,
- having regard to the Kigali Declaration on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
- having regard to the resolution on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security, adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

- having regard to the ACP Committee of Ambassadors' report on the future of the ACP Group as adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 86th session held from 10 to 14 December 2007 in Brussels, Belgium,
- having regard to the ACP Secretariat's project to develop indicators to measure and monitor regional integration processes in the six ACP regions,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.203/08/fin.),
- A. whereas regional integration has become a dominant feature in the ACP world, with all ACP countries being members of at least one regional organisation and around twenty regional integration arrangements including ACP countries ⁽¹⁾,
- B. whereas the joint exercise of sovereignty in regional integration frameworks may lead to an enhanced capacity of governments to protect the interests of their citizens, rather than a loss of sovereignty,
- C. whereas, in connection with regional integration, it must also be ensured that no loss of transparency and democratic accountability in decision-making takes place and that increased crime through the abolition of border controls and negative social repercussions through hasty liberalisation and wage competition are prevented,
- D. whereas major progress has been made in recent years in the field of regional economic and political integration among ACP countries, and regional organisations play an increasingly prominent role in conflict prevention and peace-keeping; whereas the fight against poverty and for sustainable development has been, and remains, a major objective for regional integration in most ACP countries,
- E. whereas the strong political will of all partners to lay down and carry through common objectives and projects is the basis for successful integration,
- F. whereas several regional organisations including ACP countries have established a customs union or are planning to do so in the coming years, and monetary unions are already in effect in some regional groupings; whereas some regional organisations have established solidarity mechanisms for reducing disparities or for offsetting polarisation effects from trade liberalisation within the region,
- G. whereas many ACP regional organisations have indirectly elected parliamentary institutions, which may develop democratic oversight functions and legislative powers in parallel with the deepening of integration,
- H. whereas regional initiatives like NEPAD or the Pacific Plan may further enhance regional cooperation with a view to meeting development and good governance challenges,
- I. whereas overlapping membership in different organisations with similar functional objectives is a serious problem in Africa, as recognised by the African Union at its 7th Summit in Banjul in July 2006,
- J. whereas the lack of cross-border infrastructure, e.g. transport routes, makes regional integration more difficult,
- K. whereas some ACP subregions and states have entered into interim EPA arrangements in a way that may split ACP regional economic groupings and could undermine their integration process,

⁽¹⁾ Among the regional integration organisations incorporating ACP countries are: African Union (AU), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Indian Ocean Commission (COI) and Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).

- L. whereas all integration processes must be transparent to the population concerned and require democratic oversight over all political levels through the involvement of parliamentary bodies and civil society,
- M. whereas EPAs must have a strong development content to ensure that the ACP states become trade-competitive and to foster the smooth and gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy,
- N. whereas no model of regional integration can be laid down since any integration strategy has to be adapted to particular interests and circumstances, but nonetheless general features can be identified which impede or foster integration processes; whereas the study of Europe's experiences with regard to the ACP regional integration processes can therefore be instructive, and can also deliver new insights for the EU itself,
- O. whereas European integration dynamics have partly stemmed from the existence of strong joint institutions, in particular the European Commission, which has considerable autonomy and the right of initiative, and from the existence of a European Parliament, directly elected by citizens, with ever increasing competences,
- P. whereas, in the European case, solidarity between countries and societies has been one of the key factors for successful integration, as both richer and poorer countries have gained from internal development and cohesion policies,
- Q. whereas Europe's integration process benefited, particularly in its early phases, from territorial continuity and proximity, an advantage neither the island states in the Caribbean and Pacific regions nor the African continent with its large land mass share,
- R. whereas economic development and reconstruction in Europe after the war also benefited greatly from external aid, in particular the US-funded European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan),
- S. whereas the European economic integration process has not been based on liberalisation alone, but has been complemented by regulatory and budgetary policies for supporting and protecting certain sectors, as well as cooperation for the promotion of sustainable development,
- T. whereas compliance with common principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law has been essential for successful integration in Europe, and the EU has recognised their central role by adopting a mechanism for suspending membership rights in the event of serious violations of these principles,
- U. whereas a similar level of development and prosperity among Member States has proven not to be a precondition for regional integration in Europe and its experience suggests that regional organisations can be an effective framework for diminishing economic and social disparities; noting that nonetheless significant income inequalities remain, both between and within EU Member States,
- V. whereas the European Communities/European Union has also experienced major crises and difficult phases because of diverging interests among Member States and as a result of reservations among citizens inter alia as regards the speed and depth of regional integration; whereas those crises could always be overcome because of the readiness of all parties to accept compromises and the political will to uphold the overall objective of European integration,
- W. whereas integration in Europe has not prevented separatist movements and tendencies to disintegrate, but has helped to prevent or diminish violent conflicts,
- X. whereas the increasing number of EU Member States has led to more flexible integration mechanisms, with some Member States entering into enhanced cooperation structures; stressing that these pioneering agreements have always been non-exclusive, remain open to all other members and do not touch on the core areas of integration,

Reconciliation and conflict prevention

1. Underlines the fact that stabilisation of peace and institutionalisation of peaceful means of resolving conflicts constitute one of the major achievements of the European integration process, resulting from the lessons learned in Europe from devastating wars;
2. Welcomes the fact that regional and subregional ACP organisations play an increasingly important role in conflict management, peace-keeping and peace-building, and are important partners of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security; welcomes the creation of regional early warning and early response mechanisms, e.g. by ECOWAS and IGAD, and calls for further strengthening of such mechanisms; calls on the international community to support capacity-building for regional organisations active in the field of peace and security, in particular as regards conflict prevention, management and resolution;
3. Believes that regional organisations can play an important role in tackling the root causes of conflicts within and between Member States; believes that the promotion and protection of human rights at regional level and the joint fight against impunity represent a major step towards preventing conflict and permitting reconciliation between conflicting parties;
4. Calls — realising that education is an important factor for tolerance and understanding — for the setting up of regional commissions to reach agreement on school and university curricula resulting in a breaking down of concepts of the enemy, in mutual respect and in the elimination of discrimination, meetings between teaching staff, pupils and students being important fora for bringing people in conflict-ridden regions closer together as neighbours;
5. Notes that, as a rule, women and children are affected most by war, conflicts, violence, hunger and expulsions and that women must therefore be appropriately involved in all development and decision-taking processes;
6. Calls on the ACP countries to step up regional actions for joint exploration, regulation and control of natural resources, in order to promote reconciliation and interdependence;

Institutions and integration agendas in ACP regions

7. Underlines the fact that strong joint institutions, representing regional rather than national interests, are needed to push the integration process forward and ensure compliance with jointly agreed standards; calls on the ACP regional organisations to ensure the necessary autonomy, proper funding and selection of qualified staff for joint institutions; invites the Commission to support capacity building for regional institutions, both with know-how and the necessary funding;
8. Stresses the need for regional institutions to mitigate power differences among Member States;
9. Calls on the regional organisations to define priorities, realistic common objectives and clear benchmarks to allow joint institutions, governments, parliaments and civil society to measure progress and success;
10. Invites the ACP governments to agree to the joint exercise of sovereignty in selected sectors where long-term joint interests exist and cross-border problems need to be solved;
11. Underlines the fact that regional integration processes must be built on tolerance and mutual respect for national and cultural differences;
12. Encourages the ACP Secretariat to expedite the development of the proposed regional integration monitoring system and calls on the European Commission to provide financial and technical support required for implementation of this system for the benefit of ACP regional integration organisations;

Interregional cooperation

13. Invites the African Union to support and steer a process of rationalisation of the regional organisation framework in Africa where competing integration agendas exist; notes that the European example shows that overlapping membership is not a major obstacle where close coordination and cooperation are ensured between regional organisations or functional differentiation is agreed upon;
14. Calls on the ACP Group to consider, with the EU's support, transforming the existing periodic meetings between the ACP Secretariat and the heads of ACP regional organisations into an institutionalised Coordination Forum in order to facilitate dialogue, cooperation and coordination; calls on the ACP regional organisations to coordinate their positions in international negotiations to enhance their positions and influence;
15. Welcomes the fact that the organisation of meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly at regional or subregional level pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Cotonou Agreement will enter the implementation phase and looks forward to the outcomes of the first regional meeting of the JPA in Windhoek (Namibia);

Democracy and good governance

16. Underlines the fact that a culture of freedom, openness and inclusion within the Member States of regional organisations is a precondition for successful regional integration; calls on all regional organisations in the ACP region which have not done so to define clear political criteria for membership, based on human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and to develop constructive mechanisms for helping member countries to comply with these criteria; invites the ACP countries to consider effective mechanisms for suspending membership rights in the event of serious violations of these principles;
17. Calls on the EU to support regional initiatives for promoting democracy, human rights and good governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and regional election observation mechanisms, and to bring its governance initiatives into line with the existing regional mechanisms;
18. Calls on the EU and the ACP Group to step up their support for the parliamentary structures of regional organisations; stresses that direct election of representatives of Member States in regional parliamentary assemblies contributes greatly to the legitimacy of the integration process and is the prerequisite for securing it on a lasting basis;
19. Believes that civil society organisations — in particular their transnational activities — play a major role for pushing regional integration processes forward and ensuring democratic accountability of regional institutions;
20. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to ensure that the parliamentary organs of the regional organisations are consulted on the EDF Regional Strategy Papers and their implementation;

Economics and trade

21. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to ensure that the EPAs are consistent with and contribute to the strengthening of ACP regional integration initiatives; notes that many ACP countries fear that the current trend in the EPA negotiations and the adoption of agreements by subregions may undermine regional integration efforts; insists that any agreements adopted by subregions must be open to other members of their respective regional organisation;
22. Stresses that trade barriers between ACP regions should be reduced in order to enhance South-South trade, and calls for harmonisation policies to ensure a level playing field for trans-border commercial activities;

23. Calls on the ACP regional organisations to establish or further develop regional cohesion mechanisms and solidarity funds for helping weaker Member States to bear adjustment costs from trade liberalisation and to ensure proper financing; considers that the EU should support these mechanisms with both expertise and funding; points to the EU experience that strong and independent anti-fraud mechanisms must be developed to limit the risk of misuse of structural and solidarity funds;
24. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to enhance targeted investment in regional infrastructure networks to permit cross-border economic activities;

Functional cooperation

25. Underlines the fact that trade liberalisation alone is not sufficient to engender regional understanding and integration dynamics, and that regional programmes and projects in selected priority sectors must accompany economic cooperation;
26. Welcomes the many functional cooperation efforts in the ACP region; calls on ACP countries to intensify regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as health and education, food security, infrastructure, environment and migration and to ensure adequate financing; points out that the EU budget for joint policies is composed both of external trade revenues and direct contributions from Member States' budgets;
27. Underlines the fact that the EDF Regional Strategy Papers not only must focus on trade liberalisation and integration into the world market, but also need to put more emphasis on regional institution-building, on capacity-building and human resource development in regional integration, on functional cooperation, and on support for redistributive and regulatory policy-making within the regions;
28. Recommends the extension of exchange programmes for schools, universities and research institutions in the ACP regions to enhance transnational understanding and the forging of a transnational civil society;
29. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency and the ACP regional organisations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the conclusions of the 1996 World Food Summit and the objective of reducing by half the number of people on Earth suffering from hunger by 2015,
- having regard to the United Nations statement on the Millennium Development Goals and its commitment to halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger and living on less than one US dollar a day,
- having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU partnership agreements signed in Lomé and subsequently in Cotonou concerning development and trade,
- having regard to the UN report of 25 October 2007 drafted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Food,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

- having regard to its Kigali Declaration of 22 November 2007 for development-friendly Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs),
- having regard to the conclusions of the EU-Africa Summit of December 2007 and the First Action Plan,
- having regard to the conclusions of the 2007 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.205/08/fin.),

Importance of the agriculture sector to the economies of ACP countries

- A. whereas the international community has undertaken to halve extreme poverty and hunger in the world by 2015 (pursuant to the first Millennium Development Goal), and whereas food insecurity affects almost one-third of the inhabitants of ACP countries,
- B. whereas in 1996 the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation defined food security as 'access for all people at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy, active life',
- C. whereas the repercussions of hunger are more pronounced in rural areas (which are home to up to 60 % of the population which is directly dependent upon agriculture or agriculture-related rural activities), and whereas agriculture is the ACP countries' main economic sector (20 % of GDP and two-thirds of employment),
- D. whereas, despite the proven importance of the agriculture sector to ACP countries, neither national governments nor EU development cooperation policies give priority to this key sector, in addition to which small farmers are becoming increasingly marginalised,

ACP-EU cooperation and food security

- E. whereas the objective of promoting the integration of the ACP countries into the global economy, as provided for in the Lomé and Cotonou Agreements, has yet to be attained and whereas, despite the privileged access to the European market that products from ACP countries enjoy, their share of imports to the EU has continued to decrease,
- F. whereas a hasty opening up to European exports of ACP countries' markets would expose the economies of those countries to major upheaval and would weaken them,
- G. whereas only four of the 78 ACP countries made agriculture a priority sector under the 9th EDF, while 15 chose rural development, and whereas only 7 % of the 9th EDF's budget has been allocated to rural development and 1,1 % to activities specifically linked to agriculture,
- H. whereas, by subsidising the export of its agricultural products, the European Union is practising dumping on the markets of the ACP countries, with serious consequences for the local producers, who are unable to compete with European products which sometimes sell for a third of the price of their own products,

Challenges associated with food security in ACP countries

- I. whereas 60 % of the world's ecosystems, including freshwater and fisheries resources, have been degraded or misused, and the first people to suffer from this will be the very poor; whereas the greatest risks are linked to water, agriculture, human health, biodiversity and the rise in sea levels,
- J. whereas increasing food production is of key importance to reducing food insecurity in so far as it helps to bring down food prices and to increasing producers' incomes,

- K. whereas irrigation can, to a significant extent, increase, and ensure, the sustainability of agricultural production,
- L. having regard to drinking water's importance to food security and the difficulty of accessing it in ACP countries, with the health problems which this entails,
- M. whereas the ACP countries must enjoy effective public services, with particular regard to access to water, which is a key aspect of food security,
- N. noting the environmental benefit of agrifuels, while highlighting the challenges their production represents in terms of availability of arable land, food prices and hunger eradication in the context of the Millennium Development Goals,
- O. having regard to the frequency of disasters affecting the agriculture sector, coupled with the decrease in the resources allocated to food aid before and after such disasters in ACP countries,
- P. whereas the ACP countries are dependent on exports of commodities, which account for over 50 % of their foreign currency revenue,
- Q. whereas the role of women in ACP countries is of crucial importance to development, particularly as regards food security and health, and whereas inequality between the sexes reduces women's ability to play that role,
- R. whereas a direct link exists between women's access to, and control over, household resources and an improvement in their households' food security,
- S. whereas, according to FAO estimates, seven million agricultural workers have died of HIV/AIDS since 1985 and the pandemic is set to claim 16 million more victims over the next two decades in the 25 African countries worst affected,
- T. whereas HIV/AIDS mainly affects the productive labour force, reducing not only the amount of work done but also the quality of that work,

Responses to the challenges associated with food security in ACP countries

- U. whereas increased access to modern information technologies is essential to enhancing capacities and better informing farmers on practices, prices and access to factors of production,
1. Stresses the essential nature of the right to food; reminds the EU and the ACP countries that they have undertaken to help halve the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger by 2015, and calls upon the Commission, the EU Council and the ACP countries to adopt — and properly finance — whatever measures are needed in order to enable that commitment to be honoured;
 2. Calls for adequate recognition of the importance of research — extension services — farmer linkages in pursuing food-security objectives; stresses the need for ACP countries to adopt affordable technologies that have proved to be effective and innovative for achieving food security;
 3. Points out that, in order to strengthen food security in the ACP countries, the most effective method for sustainable exploitation of agricultural land must first be identified and policies which foster the use of that method must then be devised;
 4. Considers it essential to give fresh impetus to the EU-ACP partnership by negotiating fair and balanced EPAs which are genuinely geared towards development and not purely confined to trade considerations;
 5. Takes the view that imposing the liberalisation of services on ACP countries has a negative influence on the development of promising new sectors and deprives the public authorities in those countries of the power to manage key public services which are more in accordance with the realities of the societies concerned;

6. Stresses that it is essential for the discussions on the implementation of the 10th EDF to take far greater account of the needs of populations in terms of agricultural food production than has previously been the case;
7. Calls on the EU to include in its 10th EDF a specific priority programme of agricultural development for each of the ACP countries, and for that programme to include clear and ambitious targets as well as concrete measures to be established and applied within precise time limits, in close consultation with farmers' organisations and civil society;
8. Calls on the EU Commission and Council to give priority, in close consultation with the ACP countries, to the issue of the impact on ACP countries of Europe subsidising the export of its agricultural products, and to pledge to provide concrete solutions for the prevention of dumping, in line with the commitments made in connection with the Millennium Development Goals;
9. Urges the EU Member States and the international community to assist the WFP in facing up to new challenges in the fight against hunger, with soaring global food and oil prices, increasingly severe weather shocks due in part to climate change, and declining global food stocks;
10. Calls for efficient planning of water supply for irrigation in ACP countries, so as to permit significant growth in agricultural production; stresses that water and water-related services (which are essential to food security) cannot be regarded as a commodity or as commercial services and calls for the EU and the ACP countries to have the right to water formally recognised as a universal, indivisible, inalienable and imprescriptible human right stemming from the right to life for all;
11. Calls upon the EU and the ACP countries to back a comprehensive movement in support of public-private water-access partnership programmes launched by and involving North-South, South-South and North-North local communities;
12. Calls on the EU to factor into its development policy the short-term needs and constraints to which men and women living in rural areas are subject, be they social, economic, judicial or technological, in order to guarantee the success of agricultural and rural development projects and programmes in general and, in particular, programmes relating to food security; stresses, in this connection, the importance of investing in educational programmes for all people living in rural areas;
13. Urges the ACP countries and the European Union to lay emphasis on gender equality in general and to recognise and promote the multi-dimensional role of women in seeking to achieve food security, particularly in connection with regard to access to and acquisition of land, in order to allow sustainable growth in this sector;
14. Calls upon the EU and the ACP countries to recognise the vital economic role played by women in the agricultural sector and the importance of increasing women's productivity and their contribution to food systems; calls upon them to incorporate, as a major concern in their food-security policies and programmes, the direct link between women's access to, and control over, household resources and an improvement in their households' food security; calls upon the EU Commission and Council and the ACP countries to make micro-credit programmes accessible to women in rural areas;
15. Urges the ACP countries and the European Union to release the additional resources to which they committed with a view to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the third goal ('Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education enrolments preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015'), since proper nutrition for entire families depends to a large extent on women;
16. Expresses concern at the fact that HIV/AIDS constitutes a risk for the economic and social development of ACP countries, owing to the decrease in size of the workforce, and also in the quality of the work done, and calls for the issue of HIV/AIDS also to be considered from the viewpoint of food security and its impact on nutrition;

17. Urges EU and ACP governments to address the problem of land-tenure arrangements for HIV/AIDS-affected households and individuals in areas where there is land pressure/land scarcity and calls on them to address the impact of changes on land-tenure systems (including patterns of ownership, inheritance, access and rights) caused by HIV/AIDS, with a focus on women and children;
18. Recommends that agricultural and rural development be promoted and that investments be made which, as a priority, lead to opportunities for the very poor to improve their livelihoods;
19. Urges increased investment in information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to improve capacities and better inform farmers about production factors, and to facilitate market access; believes that a special effort is needed to ensure that the poorest people in ACP countries can access ICTs, which means putting in place policies to address computer illiteracy and the high cost and lack of access to computer equipment;
20. Recommends that support be provided for training and for the exchange, development and adoption of sound agricultural practices in the ACP countries, in order to ensure that the poor have immediate access to food; calls upon the EU Council and Commission and each of the Member States to support research into bio-fuels produced from agricultural waste and those produced from inedible plants grown on arid or semi-arid land;
21. Calls upon ACP countries and the EU to promote the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a moratorium on plant production intended for conversion into fuel;
22. Emphasises the need for the EU and the ACP countries to have effective, well-thought-out plans for dealing with emergency situations arising from disasters in the agricultural sector;
23. Recommends that studies be carried out into environmental problems such as soil deterioration, damage to the biodiversity of agricultural areas and the effects of climate change on agriculture, and that relevant action be taken in order to enable environmental resources to be properly managed (one example being the regeneration and conservation of soil);
24. Calls upon the ACP countries to bolster their government procedures for budget implementation and management, particularly with a view to facilitating the financing of all specific actions and measures designed to combat food insecurity;
25. Calls on the EU Member States and Commission to increase ODA, in particular for the least developed ACP states and the net-food-importing ACP states, so as to enable them to mitigate the adverse effects they are experiencing following the significant rises in food prices which are increasingly exacerbating their balance of payments problems;
26. Deplores the inadequate coordination, particularly at national level but also within the international development community, of the efforts made in the context of programmes which are a burden on human and financial resources;
27. Calls for pinpointing of the areas in which the integration of policies is particularly poor, and for development of the means to enable that integration at every level;
28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the protection of civilians during peacekeeping operations by the UN and regional organisations**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions and in particular to the Fourth (12 August 1949) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and its additional protocols of 1977 and 2005,
- having regard to the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty) signed in September 1997 and to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which was concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980 and entered into force in December 1983, and its additional protocols,
- having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948, and the Vienna Declaration and Action Programme which resulted from the World Conference on Human Rights from 14 to 25 June 1993,
- having regard to the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court adopted in 1998, and particularly Articles 6,7 and 8 thereof,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the 'Cotonou Agreement') ⁽²⁾, and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 ⁽³⁾, and in particular Articles 8, 17(2), 20, 31, 33, 96 and 97 thereof,
- having regard to its resolution on post-conflict rehabilitation in ACP countries adopted at its 9th session in Bamako on 21 April 2005 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its resolution on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security adopted at its 11th session in Vienna on 22 June 2006 ⁽⁵⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 4.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 272, 3.11.2005, p. 26.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 307, 15.12.2006, p. 17.

- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council S/1998/318 of 13 April 1998 entitled 'The Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa',
 - having regard to the reports of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict contained in documents S/1999/957 (8 September 1999), S/2001/331 (30 March 2001), S/2002/1300 (30 November 2002), S/2004/431 (28 May 2004), S/2005/740 (28 November 2005), and S/2007/643 (28 October 2007),
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 1265 of 17 September 1999, 1296 of 19 April 2000, 1674 of 28 April 2006, and 1738 of 23 December 2006, on the Protection of civilians in armed conflict, which reaffirm that parties to an armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict and which also recognise the important contribution by regional organisations to the protection of civilians in armed conflict,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Presidential Statements of 15 March 2002 and 15 December 2003 and the 'Aide Memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians during the Security Council's deliberation of peacekeeping mandates',
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 of 31 October 2000 and 1820 of 19 June 2008, stressing the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
 - having regard to the EU Operation Headquarters' Final Report on Gender Work inside EUFOR DR Congo,
 - having regard to the report on 'A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility' (2004), published by the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, urging emphatic responses from the international community,
 - having regard to the World Summit Declaration adopted in New York in September 2005,
 - having regard to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution 1385 (2004) and Recommendation 1665 (2004) on 'Conflict prevention and resolution: the role of women', both adopted on 23 June 2004,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution S/2001/1366 of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution S/2003/1502 of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian personnel and the UN and its associated personnel in conflict zones, and the Convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel of 9 December 1994 and its Optional Protocol of 8 December 2005,
 - having regard to the biannual statements of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to the Security Council on the Protection of civilians in armed conflict,
 - having regard to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) basic definition explaining peacekeeping as 'a way to help countries torn by conflict create conditions for sustainable peace. UN peacekeepers — soldiers and military officers, police and civilian personnel from many countries — monitor and observe peace processes that emerge in post-conflict situations and assist conflicting parties to implement the peace agreement they have signed. Such assistance comes in many forms, including promoting human security, confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development',
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.291/08/fin.),
- A. whereas the classic concept of peacekeeping, intended essentially to separate conflict parties after the signing of a cease-fire, is changing over time and includes the surveillance of border lines, the creation of demilitarized areas and, if integrated in the accords, the monitoring of prisoner exchanges and demilitarisation, being thus conceived as part of a 'routinised process' intended to provide and preserve political space for the parties to conduct negotiations and reach a settlement of their dispute,

- B. whereas the World Summit Declaration adopted in New York in September 2005 by 109 sovereign governments recognised the responsibility of States and the United Nations to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing,
- C. whereas the multitude of tasks entailed in mandates for protection of civilians pulls peacekeepers in different directions and forces are increasingly engaging in 'soft security' issues, such as development, reconstruction and long-term peace building, all activities for which military forces do not typically train,
- D. whereas one of the challenges to the ability of peacekeeping missions to protect civilians is the under-recognition of the potential role and ability of standing civilian capability, composed of multinational well-trained professional civilian personnel, rapidly deployable and with adequate skills for tasks directly relevant to the protection of civilians, such as human rights monitoring, community-level mediation, gender advice, community mobilisation and information,
- E. whereas the UN and the African Union (AU), sometimes supported by the European Union (EU), are increasing the number of peacekeepers on the continent this year, with new missions in, among other places, Sudan's Darfur region, Chad, the Central African Republic and Somalia,
- F. whereas the African Union's peace forces have received assistance under the EDF Peace Facility,
- G. whereas, since the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam, the EU's European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) has had the tasks, laid down in Petersberg in 1992, of peacekeeping, protection of civilians and protection of humanitarian assistance,
- H. whereas these missions are carried out under a UN mandate, and whereas five such missions are being or have been conducted in Africa,
- I. whereas EU, UN and regional organisations before deploying peacekeeping operations should carry out a conflict and threat analysis to develop a better understanding of the context in which they work and thus prevent their intervention from having negative impacts such as fuelling tensions and conflict,
- J. whereas military actors are not yet accustomed to identifying and protecting civilians in hostile environments as part of an international or third-party intervention and frequently military personnel in peacekeeping operations are not directly recruited by the UN or regional organisation but, rather, they are seconded from troop-contributing countries which retain jurisdiction over the training and disciplinary measures to be adopted towards their troops,
- K. whereas the role and approach of humanitarian actors, such as NGOs and UN agencies, to the protection of civilians is different from that of peacekeeping troops,
- L. whereas responsibility for determining agency practice on protection is often left to individual protection officers in the field, rather than emerging out of clear guidance developed at the institutional level,
- M. whereas violence against civilians in conflict-affected countries, in particular against women and children, is often used as a method of warfare to humiliate and psychologically weaken the victims, who are afraid to report sexual exploitation and abuse by anyone, including peacekeeping troops and humanitarian aid workers,
- N. whereas the scale of a peacekeeping mission, especially with respect to the numbers of its complementary civilian unarmed peacekeepers component and its geographical reach, is an important factor in increasing the level of protection of civilians,

Defining the protection of civilians

- 1. Underlines the fact that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians and for meeting their basic needs rests with States or other authorities or actors that have effective control over them and that the role of external or third-party peacekeeping operations is secondary to this;

2. Points out that the principle of non-interference must not lead to toleration of serious crimes such as genocide and mass murder, ethnic cleansing, expulsions and mass rape, but, rather, that in this instance the international community has the responsibility to protect and to take resolute countermeasures, in particular to protect the population in danger and in the process, if possible, involve regional organisations in overcoming conflicts;
3. Stresses the value of recognising that peacekeeping operations (PKO) should have a strong enough mandate to support the restoring or establishment of peace and rule of law, including a transition to Security Sector Reform; states that, to that end, an integrated security strategy must be developed which also provides for the training of civilian security forces (police), supports demobilisation measures and lays down clear reconstruction objectives;
4. Again voices its concern at the proliferation of light and small-calibre weapons, and takes the view that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration must be integral components of peacekeeping operations;
5. Stresses that it is important for efforts to improve the protection of civilians to take into account the broader complexity of challenges and threats faced by civilians, and welcomes increased interaction of the different unarmed civilian actors in the field as added value to implement protection strategies;
6. Stresses that military strategies alone cannot be successful if they are not accompanied by comprehensive humanitarian measures and political objectives for peace; states that a robust mandate may be necessary for overcoming clashes between parties to a conflict and for securing pacification and reconstruction, which must be clearly incorporated into a protection strategy;
7. Points out that a number of states have set up a civilian peace service and, as a result, have scored major successes, including in the post-conflict environment in states formerly part of Yugoslavia; recommends that other states and regional organisations, such as the African Union and the EU, also set up a permanent civilian peace service;
8. Welcomes the increased inclusion in peacekeeping mandates of activities for the protection of civilians and notes the need for guidance on how to implement such mandates to ensure more comprehensive approaches to human development, human rights, human relief and human security action; therefore urges the UN and regional organisations to clarify how the protection of civilians is interpreted in the mandates of their missions and in joint missions, and to support better the preparation of their troops and personnel for such operations;
9. Stresses the need to develop improved capacity to act, including the creation of standing civilian peacekeeping capacity composed of a well-equipped coordinating office at operational HQ and possibly regional levels and by a roster of rapidly deployable civilian personnel, and by determining appropriate staffing levels;
10. Points to the need to protect the civilian population not only against violent assaults, but also against criminal acts such as, for example, gang attacks and looting;
11. Welcomes the EU Council's decision to establish a civil protection mechanism and the new EU financial instrument intended to improve the mobilisation and coordination of emergency civil protection assistance, both inside and outside the EU;
12. Recommends that military strategies for PKOs with specific protection mandates should include practical instruments to fulfil these mandates effectively, such as civilian unarmed protection, night patrols and radio communication, the organisation of village defence committees to alert peacekeepers, aerial cover, the inclusion of a rapid reaction force ready to respond to disturbances, use of satellites to monitor and intercept, and the inclusion of stability police as a way to support missions and provide exit strategies for PKOs;
13. Stresses that, in conflict regions, humanitarian actors must also be protected by peacekeeping forces in order to secure their activities locally;

14. Highlights that participatory approaches to points of control, involving local state representatives and civil society, will help to identify vulnerability factors in order to develop appropriate responses, and points to the importance of better coordination between economic, political, civilian and military forces;
15. Calls on the EU Member States and the international community to promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325/2000 and 1820/2008 on women and children in armed conflicts and to develop national action plans and strategy papers;
16. Underlines the important role that a female presence can play in peacekeeping missions in defusing violence towards women in conflict and post-conflict zones and the fact that female peacekeepers have often been found to serve as role models to local women and inspire them to participate in post-conflict reconstruction, in particular democracy building and economic development;
17. Calls for account to be taken, as is proper, of UN Security Council Resolution 1325/2000 on the participation of women in conflict prevention, management and settlement mechanisms;
18. Strongly condemns cases of peacekeepers abusing their power and becoming involved in sexual exploitation of civilians on the ground or in corruption practices and underlines the fact that the reaction by national contributors in this case is very important; insists that such criminal offences be rigorously prosecuted by the authorities in the perpetrators' home country or by the International Criminal Court; rejects the granting of immunity, in any form, for UN staff or UN-mandated soldiers in connection with such criminal offences;
19. Recommends that each peacekeeping mission be supported by units specifically tasked with monitoring, investigating and publicly reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and by an independent investigation unit to examine cases of alleged sexual abuse by peacekeepers and that an adequate system of assistance for victims of such abuse, and for children born as a result, be set up;
20. Urges the creation of a follow-up mechanism, or 'watchdog', with a remit to ensure that investigations into complaints are transparent and effective so that complaints are dealt with fairly at the national level;
21. Stresses the need for contact points to be involved in international UN and NGO initiatives in order to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse;
22. Recommends that contact points guarantee communities the possibility of reporting their complaints by setting up a joint complaints registration mechanism; states that the mechanism should be accessible to all agencies and contact points so that communities realise where they should make their complaints;

Implications for mandates, rules of engagement and training

23. Affirms the importance of improving pre-mission training as well as in-service training (especially in international humanitarian law, human rights law, implementation of points of contact mandates, including prevention of and response to sexual violence) for multinational troop deployments, both at national and multinational level, and criticises the fact that for military personnel of UN-led missions it is considered a national responsibility only;
24. Calls, in line with the Joint Parliamentary Assembly's guidelines on children and armed conflict, for provision to be made for specific training with regard to the protection of children;
25. Calls for the issuing of a 'Soldier's card' — such as that used by EUFOR in DR Congo — which would contain guidelines for peacekeepers on how to behave with civilians; calls for a similar card specific to children;
26. Recognises the effort made by the UN DPKO to offer some pre-deployment training to senior staff and troop contributors, focusing especially on rules of engagement, but regrets that states are not required to participate;

27. Recommends that the UN member states set up a joint training academy for peace missions in which, at least for command personnel, standard multinational basic training is provided on humanitarian tasks and technical assistance tasks for looking after and protecting the civilian population;
28. Recommends that UN regional and sub-regional organisations should work towards more standardised training modules and increase bilateral and multilateral training exercises, with, in particular, awareness-raising measures to be included on human rights compliance in line with the principle that all persons are equal and should be held in the same regard, irrespective of age, gender, race or ethnicity, religion or belief;
29. Welcomes the effort of the EU to harmonise better its approaches to the protection of civilians amongst Member States in particular through the provision of joint training activities and underlines the fact that the notion of protection of civilians and protection of children should become part and parcel of such training by professional global civil society initiatives;
30. Requests that the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse should become a standard issue to be addressed in the training of contributing countries' personnel and that appropriate funding and compensation mechanisms for victims of peacekeeping personnel abuses should be approved alongside the operations themselves;
31. Urges that an important part of the training modules provided for peacekeeping personnel, whether UN or regional, should include issues of abusive behaviour, as too often information on how to report abuse, and what will happen to the perpetrator, is unclear to UN mission personnel;
32. Urges that each ESDP mission include a specialised child protection adviser;
33. Welcomes the fact that nowadays the UN DPKO deploys assessment teams to identify gaps in training and offers to certify that countries that have trained their forces meet UN standards;
34. Points out that the EU is also undertaking similar developments with the Headline Goal and the Civilian Headline Goal, but underlines the fact that it is still behind in a systematic approach as training ultimately falls under the domain of state responsibility;
35. Reminds EU Member States of their responsibility, under international law, of ensuring the appropriate training of all civilian and military personnel, in line with international humanitarian standards, and of making sure that appropriate guidelines are developed and reviewed so as to guarantee respect for local populations, cultures and genders; points to the importance of taking account of human rights and gender equality;
36. Calls for the training provided by European military personnel for African military personnel under the 'Euro Recamp' programme to include, systematically, training in respect for human rights and protection of civilians and for a sufficient budget to be provided in order to do so;
37. Highlights the importance of giving due consideration to the value of lessons learned and best practices, in particular the fact that lessons learned in operations with a clear protection mandate — such as ARTEMIS and EUFOR in DRC — offer material to enhance the EU's training; commends particularly the emphasis in supplying clear information to the public and to promote positive perceptions of the operation, which is facilitated by the fact that most EU troops could communicate in a language understood by the population;

Improving communication

38. Reaffirms the essential role that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly can play in raising awareness and prompting debate on how to put the protection agenda at the centre both of the EU ESDP operation mandates and those of other regional organisations' peacekeeping missions;

39. Highlights the importance that lessons learned do not remain restricted to a 'leading nation' and underlines the fact that it is fundamental to develop a European doctrine for intervention in humanitarian situations, particularly drawing on the experiences of those EU Member States that are most forward-looking in this regard, in order to enhance the appropriateness of rules of engagement;
40. Underlines the need to formalise a communication system between NGOs and UN and regional organisations, especially covering dangerous areas under peacekeeping protection;
41. Recalls the requirement that States uphold and respect the human rights and humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and ensure that humanitarian actors have safe and unhindered access to populations in need, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws;
42. Urges that in the field, PKOs should systematically engage with the humanitarian community on the interpretation of their mandate for the protection of civilians and that the political as well as military leadership of the operation should carry out similar communication initiatives with local political and administrative authorities;
43. Stresses the need to create a contact team inside each peacekeeping structure to follow communication aspects and to inform the local population, including the bordering populace, about the real mandate of the mission, as a main contribution to upholding the neutrality of peace support operations; states that the team's chief task would be to set up, with input from local communities, a complaints registration mechanism;
44. Points out that communication with the local population is essential and that an attitude which encourages clear information and ensures access to both genders should be adopted; states that this must be extended to other third-party forces and humanitarian, human rights and development organisations on the ground;
45. Underlines the fact that it is important for effective and continued assessment of the determinants of civilian (in)security to be carried out and that the resulting analysis be used as the basis for determining protection strategies aiming to prevent the resurgence of violent conflicts;
46. Calls on the EU, in consultation with other relevant actors such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to carry out a further specific study on the inclusion of protection strategies in the EU's developing military approach to crisis management and to include reflections on the experience gained at EU level in the protection of civilians, and especially children, and considers that it should form the basis for the adoption of a broader 'EU protection doctrine' that would include elements of and guidance on legal, civilian, humanitarian and military protection;
47. Stresses the importance of establishing lead agencies that can provide clear strategic direction, identify key gaps and clarify roles and responsibilities for responding to conflict;
48. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the AU Commission, the Pan-African Parliament and national and regional parliaments, the European Commission, the UN and regional organisations, the EU Council Presidency and the AU.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on aid effectiveness and defining official development assistance**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as objectives established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty, and to the UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2007,
- having regard to the joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus' (the European Consensus for Development) signed on 20 December 2005,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2 March 2005,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the UN International Conference on Financing for Development of 21 and 22 March 2002,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 28 February 2007 entitled 'EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy' (COM(2007)0072),
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 9 April 2008 entitled 'The EU — a global partner for development. Speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals' (COM(2008)0177),
- having regard to the main findings and recommendations of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in the 2007 Peer Review of the European Community,
- having regard to the conclusions of the GAERC (May 2008) and of the Council (June 2008),
- having regard to the outcome of the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra from 2 to 4 September 2008,
- having regard to the Accra Declaration adopted by the ACP Heads of State and Government on 3 October 2008,
- having regard to the report of its Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.300/08/fin.),
- A. whereas the aid effectiveness agenda should deliver concrete advances in the eradication of poverty and inequality and help partner countries to attain the MDGs and meet internationally agreed human rights standards,
- B. whereas the major limitation of the Paris Declaration definition of ownership is the lack of explicit recognition of the importance of democratic ownership, especially the role of civil society organisations and local authorities, and of a clear commitment regarding the role of parliaments,
- C. whereas the EU has made important commitments on gender equality which must be followed through; whereas, however, the gender dimension is still being taken into account to only a limited extent in the debate on aid effectiveness,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

- D. whereas scaling up aid volumes and improving aid effectiveness are equally important, and whereas progress is needed on both quantitative and qualitative aspects of aid to achieve the MDGs, with particular reference to the health and gender-related MDGs, which are hardly showing any progress at all and are key to fulfilling these commitments,
- E. whereas recent OECD figures show that overall EU aid decreased significantly in 2007, and whereas aid figures are often inflated by including debt relief and funds that do not reach the populations of partner countries,
- F. whereas donor and partner countries must adhere to the highest standards of openness and transparency, especially donors as regards their budget estimates of aid flows, which otherwise cannot be reflected in the annual budget estimates of the partner countries, thereby severely reducing parliaments' ability to scrutinise government development policies and the partner countries' capacity to make long-term investments,
- G. whereas tied aid seriously undermines aid transparency and raises the cost of goods and services by up to 30 %, according to World Bank estimates,
- H. whereas donors remain reluctant to use country systems, and progress has been extremely slow in this respect; whereas this is a key component of ownership, and whereas alignment and is essential for strengthening capacity building and developing local markets,
- I. whereas the international aid system is becoming more complex, with the creation of vertical structures and the arrival of new public and private actors who often work outside existing codes and coordination mechanisms,
- J. whereas budget support can contribute to ownership, to building institutional capacity and to improving accountability and scrutiny by domestic stakeholders; whereas, however, its success is determined by governments' capacity to plan, execute and account for their public spending,
- K. whereas partner countries often face hundreds of results-based and policy conditionalities, which may in some cases be contradictory and set by a variety of donors and which can place an unmanageable burden on partner countries, thereby diminishing country ownership and governments' accountability to their citizens and parliaments,
- L. whereas technical assistance may amount to as much as 50 % of aid, but much of it continues to be tied, overpriced and ineffective in building local capacity and ownership,
- M. whereas a steadily rising proportion of the most vulnerable sections of society will become still more vulnerable,
- N. whereas the economic and environmental vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDSs) and land-locked ACP states to multiple crises can lead to serious adverse social and environmental consequences and poor economic resilience, and can adversely affect those states' capacity to pursue sustainable development goals and successfully undertake much-needed economic reform,
- O. whereas the international community has rightly made great efforts to cooperate with the poorest countries; whereas this has not been accompanied by similar efforts for middle-income countries (MICs), in particular the net food and fuel-importing SIDSs, and whereas such countries risk falling back into low-income country status unless adequate and timely measures are taken to help them to address their needs,
- 1. Welcomes the advances made as regards political commitments in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and stresses the need for ambitious implementation of that agenda, moving from concepts and political pledges to tangible and measurable achievements as regards implementation of the Paris Declaration principles; expects the EU to engage more proactively and to play a leadership role in improving aid effectiveness worldwide;

2. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to actively promote the common values and priorities defined in the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement, such as poverty reduction, gender equality, sustainable economic, social and environmental development, regional integration, promotion of peace, security and a democracy respectful of human rights, within the Aid Effectiveness Agenda;
3. Stresses that democracy provides the best foundation for sustainable development, peace and security; calls, therefore, for EU-ACP cooperation to prioritise democracy promotion, allowing transparent, inclusive and accountable decision-making as one important means of increasing aid effectiveness;
4. Urges the European Commission and Member States to use a broader definition of coherence than that set out in the AAA, in order to ensure more development policy coherence in European policies such as agriculture, fisheries, trade, energy, environment, climate change, security and migration, to assess the impact of those policies on development and to ensure appropriate reform in order to prevent those policies from creating non-tariff barriers and undermining the attainment of the MDGs and the objectives of the EPAs;
5. Stresses that, although the Paris Declaration is driving the debate on aid effectiveness, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the Paris Declaration can mutually reinforce each other, since the former is also a model for effective development cooperation;

Ensure democratic ownership and accountability

6. Stresses that the concept of ownership in the Paris Declaration should, in line with the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, be broadened to include democratic ownership (including national parliaments, local governments, civil societies, an independent judiciary and the media), so as to allow increased transparency and mutual accountability based on clear and monitorable indicators and to ensure that the objectives of development aid are met;
7. Welcomes the recognition in the AAA of the significant role of parliaments and local governments in the development process; calls on donors and partner governments to ensure that parliaments and local government play a proper role in ensuring the effectiveness of aid by supporting ownership, providing checks and balances through the scrutiny of budgets, policies and their outcomes, and involving citizens in development decisions through the democratic process;
8. Also welcomes the recognition in the AAA of the significant role of civil society in the development process; calls on donors and partner governments to provide for full and meaningful participation by civil society in planning, implementing, monitoring and assessing budgets and programmes, and to create the conditions it requires to play its proper role;
9. Calls on donors and partner countries to take into account the disproportionate impact that poverty has on women and to ensure that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights are fully incorporated into national development processes; regrets that the AAA does not identify mechanisms for implementing gender equality and women's empowerment and does not include progress indicators therefor;
10. Regrets that the AAA fails to translate the Paris Declaration commitment to involving parliaments, civil society organisations and local authorities into practical measures; expects the EU to respect partner countries' leadership and help strengthen their capacity to exercise it, and urges the EU and partner countries to develop practical action plans to ensure democratic ownership and to agree upon progress indicators;

Scale up for more effective aid

11. Welcomes the Council conclusions reaffirming the commitment to achieving its collective official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.56 % in 2010 and 0.7 % in 2015; calls for new commitments to ambitious multiannual timetables, in order to be able to measure the gradual rise in aid budgets;

12. Urges the European Commission and Member States to ensure that there is no broadening of ODA definitions to include non-aid items such as military spending; calls on the European Commission and Member States to separate spending on debt relief from other ODA reporting, and to not to include money spent in Europe on students and refugees in calculations of total development aid expenditure;
13. Insists that donors allocate aid in a transparent, accountable manner and that predictability in flows, programming and disbursement be dramatically increased, notably by drawing up reliable multi-annual timetables and ensuring in-year predictability; welcomes the AAA rolling programming initiative, which ensures medium-term predictability;

Sustained economic growth for sustainable development

14. Stresses that one indicator of aid effectiveness is the extent to which it contributes to creating a strong economy that protects the environment and in which nobody is deprived of basic social services;
15. Calls for development cooperation better to address barriers to economic growth, such as a lack of foreign direct investment, capital flight and high administrative hurdles for small and medium-sized businesses;
16. Calls in this context for development policies promoting the transfer of know-how, competition and sound macroeconomic policies, as well as minimising red tape for businesses, respecting or introducing property rights and combating corruption;
17. Stresses that fair trade can be one of the most effective means of driving sustainable economic development, underpinned by adequate accompanying measures to address adjustment-related costs and finance social-safety-net and empowerment programmes, but that it needs to be complemented by redistributive and social policies to ensure that the benefits are equitably shared;
18. Regrets that little progress is being made as regards the use of country systems (only a small percentage of ODA goes through country budget systems, whereas donors had promised 50 % by 2010) and that even in countries with properly functioning country systems, donors are not willing to use those systems; urges donor countries to speed up alignment of their aid to country systems to the maximum possible extent, to strengthen government systems and to increase the amount of aid used for general and sectoral budget support in cases where good economic and political governance exists, ensuring full budget transparency and accountability; stresses that budget support should under no circumstances be provided where there is widespread corruption;
19. Welcomes the fact that the AAA refers to a number of development actors other than bilateral donors; stresses that one of the big challenges in the run-up to 2011 will be to extend the Paris Declaration principles to cover vertical funds and the new donors, so as to ensure genuine coordination amongst donors and alignment with the partner countries;
20. Calls on partner governments to base budget support on a sound national poverty reduction plan that strengthens domestic accountability, financial management and monitoring through systematic and committed strategic engagement with national parliaments, local governments and non-state actors, something which is extremely limited at present;
21. Welcomes the European Commission's intention to ensure a more predictable form of budget support in the longer term by using MDG contracts for well-performing countries, but stresses that this requires a strong commitment to achieving the MDGs on the part of partner countries and that continuous monitoring with a strong focus on results is needed;

22. Welcomes the fact that the AAA mentions that the OECD-DAC donors will extend coverage of the 2001 DAC Recommendation on Untying Aid to non-LDC heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC); urges the European Commission and Member States to make a real commitment to untying all aid to ACP countries by 2010, including technical assistance, which must reflect national priorities and specificities, public procurement, food aid and food aid transport and storage;
23. Calls on the European Commission to apply gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process by linking disbursement of variable tranches to improvements in gender-disaggregated indicators; calls on partner countries to incorporate a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and to stimulate a wider dialogue with women's organisations;
24. Calls on the European Commission and Member States to go beyond the AAA and drastically reduce the number of conditionalities and phase out economic policy conditionality, and instead to use mutually agreed contracts reflecting a common understanding on key priorities that link disbursements to performance and policy outcomes, focusing in particular on the MDGs, and to set up a real timetable for this process; calls on the EU and its Member States to use their influence to convince the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to move towards the same transition, especially at a time when most ACP states risk being adversely affected by the multiple crises impacting on the world economy;

Division of labour and donor coordination

25. Calls on the European Commission and Member States to significantly step up their efforts to increase donor coordination and improve the division of labour by aligning multilateral and bilateral aid with national processes, democratic ownership, accountability, harmonisation, joint analysis, programming and delivery, and to drastically reduce the number of Program Implementation Units; notes the AAA initiative to start dialogue on international division of labour across countries by June 2009;
26. Hopes that the 2008 donor atlas will help to inform and influence more ambitious donor coordination, and in particular to resolve the 'darling' and 'orphan' countries problem and the neglect shown for crucial sectors such as health, energy, education, social cohesion, gender equality and agriculture; welcomes the fact that the AAA also states that donors will work to address the issue of countries that receive insufficient aid and ensure that new arrangements on the division of labour will not result in individual developing countries receiving less aid;
27. Calls for capacity-building in all ministries in order to endure greater effectiveness in health, education and gender equality through budget support spending, as country ownership is too often limited to the Ministry of Finance;
28. Recognises the need for more sustained aid to fragile states and lower-income post-conflict countries; welcomes the fact that the AAA urges donors and partner countries to adapt the Paris Declaration to the OECD-DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Conflict Situations, but underlines the need to build a strong civil society in both fragile and vulnerable states;
29. Considers, however, that greater and better-targeted efforts need to be made to increase support to middle-income ACP states, and calls for the early adoption and implementation of an agreement on systematic and predictable provision of aid that will effectively address the specific needs of those states, in order to enable them to continue along their sustainable development path;
30. Welcomes the fact that the donor community has committed itself to stepping up efforts to cooperate with the poorest countries and that Africa's share of programmable aid is rising as a result of the commitment to double ODA to Africa by 2010, especially now, with the rise in fuel and food prices and the effects of global climate changes, which could negate all the efforts already made;

31. Commends the work carried out by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta in developing vulnerability and resilience indices and expects the EU to take a leading role in implementing the indices and designing a new framework for systematic assistance to SIDSs and landlocked developing countries; proposes that small states in particular should plan a vulnerability and resilience profile in conjunction with the preparation of the Medium-Term Development Strategy;
32. Calls on the European Commission and Member States to make a strong common EU commitment at the Doha Conference regarding both the quantity and quality of development aid, with the aim of achieving the MDGs through a sustainable approach and clear roadmaps for meeting their ODA commitments, both individually and collectively, notwithstanding the current financial crisis;
33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the Council Presidency, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the national and regional parliaments, the ACP regional organisations and the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the social consequences of child labour and strategies to combat child labour

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted on 20 November 1989 ⁽²⁾ and entered into force in 1990, and in particular Articles 28 and 32 thereof,
- having regard to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions 138 concerning the minimum age for admission to employment (1973) ⁽³⁾ and 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (1999) ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to Articles 177-181 of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Cotonou Agreement'), and in particular Articles 26 and 50 thereof,
- having regard to the joint statement of 20 December 2005 by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus', and in particular Articles 12, 97, 101 and 103 thereof ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments, adopted by the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in 2000 (Dakar Summit) ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to the Brussels Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development in ACP States and its Framework for Action adopted by the ACP Ministers of Education in 2006,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

⁽²⁾ <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

⁽³⁾ <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/ilolex.asp?cl=138>

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/ilolex.asp?cl=182>

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001211/121147e.pdf>

- having regard to the 2003 EU Declaration of Lucca (Italy),
 - having regard to the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC),
 - having regard to the Commission communication on 'A Special Place for Children in EU External Action' ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2008 'Education for all by 2015: Will we make it?' ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on children's rights and child soldiers in particular, adopted on 15 October 2003 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution on the exploitation of children in developing countries, with a special focus on child labour ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution on corporate social responsibility: implementing the partnership for growth and jobs ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.247/08/fin.),
- A. whereas child labour has its roots in mass poverty and in the culture and traditions of many communities in developing countries,
 - B. whereas child labour depresses adult wages, and therefore contributes to the cycle of poverty by forcing adults to compete against the cheap labour which children provide,
 - C. whereas child labour is characterised by hard work, often under severe conditions, for twelve to fourteen hours a day, where what little is earned in 'wages' is often returned to the employer for room and board, or as a fine for unachieved quotas,
 - D. whereas, according to the ILO, some 165 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are involved in child labour; whereas the worst forms of child labour and violation of children's rights, including child slavery (domestic servants), the sale and trafficking of children, child prostitution, recruitment of children in armed conflict and other forms of work, are harmful to the steady physical development and mental health of children,
 - E. whereas special attention must be paid to, and urgent action taken against, the worst forms of child labour,
 - F. whereas certain groups of children and adolescents, especially children belonging to ethnic or other minorities, child migrants, displaced children or refugees, children affected by armed conflicts, child soldiers, orphans and children without parental care, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and children with disabilities, are particularly at risk; whereas girls face additional risks of exploitation and sexual abuse,
 - G. whereas child labour is one of the most striking indicators identifying vulnerable children and, as such, pointing to shortcomings in several of the MDGs, such as poverty eradication, education for all, gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and creation of a global partnership for development,
 - H. whereas the commercial exploitation of children is a gross violation of their human dignity and is against the principles of social justice; whereas, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the states parties recognise the human rights of children,
 - I. whereas the achievement of quality universal primary education for all children is a key to empowering children to gain the critical skills and knowledge to help them escape from poverty, to influence the development of their societies and to make free and informed choices in life, thus also contributing to the social and economic development of their countries,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2008)55 final.

⁽²⁾ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001547/154743e.pdf>

⁽³⁾ OJ C 26, 29.1.2004, p. 17.

⁽⁴⁾ P6_TA(2005)0272.

⁽⁵⁾ P6_TA(2007)0062.

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- J. whereas real access to quality education means having schools that are child-friendly, providing for the needs of both genders equally, and that have healthy drinking water and sanitation facilities, as low-standard education can alienate children from school and leave them vulnerable to exploitation,
- K. whereas the effects of various forms of child labour include low enrolment in primary and secondary schools (especially for girls), a high rate of school drop-outs, high illiteracy and high failure rates, the retarded physical development of children, a high rate of teenage pregnancy, drug abuse among children and a high unemployment rate among adults,
- L. whereas most countries have enacted laws and policies to protect the welfare and interests of children,
- M. whereas governments, employers, workers and their organisations and society at large have a shared responsibility to work for the progressive elimination of child labour,
- N. whereas the practice of employing child labour often takes place outside lawfully established enterprises governed by appropriate legislation and is prevalent in the informal and rural sectors, in the private environment of the household and in family occupations which are not even considered as having the social relevance to be identified as work, and in some cases in illegal activities,
- O. whereas, in many instances, child exploitation in ACP countries takes place on behalf of European firms, which are thus helping to worsen the problem of child labour in ACP countries,
- P. whereas economic exploitation of children affects between four and ten million children in Europe (some of whom fall prey to the worst forms of exploitation, including prostitution of young girls), and whereas it should be stressed that many of these children and young adults come from ACP countries and, most of the time, are illegally present in European countries,
- Q. whereas the contribution that child labour makes to family incomes in the poorest countries cannot be ignored,
- R. whereas there is no objection to employing older children part-time on the family farm or in the family business, provided that their education, health and welfare are not impaired,
- S. whereas it might not be easy in practice to draw a moral distinction between children who are being commercially exploited and children whose labour is being used to support subsistence-level farmsteads,
- T. whereas the scourge of diseases such as HIV/AIDS has contributed to the use of children in income-generating activities,
- U. whereas the elimination of child labour is complicated by cultural and gender inequalities,
- V. whereas improving access to affordable and repayable credit has the potential for alleviating child labour and increasing school enrolment,
- W. whereas the availability of alternative childcare options contributes to the reduction of child labour and creates conditions for higher school attendance,
- X. whereas efforts to bolster adult educational levels and wages help to curb the prevalence and intensity of child labour and improve the likelihood of children staying in school,
- Y. whereas the urban-rural dichotomy impacts on child schooling and work decisions,

- Z. whereas every child has the right to registration at birth; whereas the lack of birth registration facilitates the exploitation and abuse of children in the 'hidden sectors' of labour, such as domestic work and agriculture,
- AA. whereas companies that operate in breach of international instruments and international and domestic legislation relating to child labour may have an unfair competitive advantage,
- AB. whereas the agriculture sector in developing countries offers significant potential for the exploitation of children, and according to a 2002 Human Rights Watch report some 70 %, or 170 million children, are involved in this industry, where they are forced to work 12 hours a day, 365 days a year, are often exposed to toxic pesticides and extreme temperatures of up to 100 °C, and must handle heavy loads and industrial cutting tools,
- AC. whereas pyrotechnics, rubbish recycling, rock splitting and mining are amongst the worst forms of child labour, and whereas the most terrible form of exploitation is the use of child soldiers in warfare,
- AD. whereas purchasers of goods from the developing world are in a key position to detect, and refuse to purchase, goods which are made wholly or in part with child labour, and can thus bring direct and effective economic pressure to bear,
- AE. whereas the fundamental rights of children are at risk of being seriously undermined by exposing and exploiting them in non-stop advertising in the media (e.g. radio, television and newspapers),

General

1. Welcomes the large number of ACP and EU countries that have ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 (see Annex 1); calls on states parties to ensure the implementation of the conventions and urges those who have not yet done so to ratify these conventions as a matter of urgency;
2. Recognises that children employed in the most dangerous industries must be given top priority;
3. Demands in the strongest possible terms that anyone against whom there is evidence of recruiting or using child soldiers must be surrendered to the International Criminal Court for prosecution;
4. Stresses in the context of Convention 182 the need for urgent action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, such as the employment of children in slave-like and bonded conditions and in dangerous and hazardous work in the production and trafficking of drugs and the smuggling and trafficking of small arms, the exploitation of very young children, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
5. Calls on all EU signatories to ILO Convention 182 to publish yearly evidence of compliance with Article 8, which calls for members to assist one another in giving effect to the provisions of the Convention through enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance;
6. Calls on the EU Member States and ACP States to develop integrated strategies within the ACP-EU partnership, with a view to combating child labour on the basis of accurate assessment of the facts, guided by the best interests of the child; in this respect stresses the need to fully engage civil society and trade unions in policy formulation and implementation and monitoring of actions to combat child labour;
7. Stresses that combating child labour requires the right mix of policy choices and programmes, in particular in the areas of health, education, employment and social protection, to be geared to raising awareness, social mobilisation advocacy, improving database resources and analysis, labour legislation and enforcement, decent work, free compulsory quality education, vocational training and direct action to remove, rehabilitate and reintegrate children;

8. Calls on the international community, in particular the EU Member States and the European Commission, to include child labour concerns in each activity of their development cooperation programmes and in the process of achieving the MDGs by 2015 by, inter alia, addressing the causes of inadequate protection of children and violations of children's rights; stresses that such policies must also tackle the issues of rehabilitation and social integration of children removed from child labour;
9. Recognises that child labour is to a great extent caused by poverty and that the long-term solution lies in sustained economic growth and good governance leading to social progress, in particular poverty alleviation and achievement of universal primary education;
10. Stresses the need to address the elimination of child labour in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in conflict resolution strategies;
11. Stresses that children living without parental support, such as orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced children, refugees, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, need special care and that targeted measures should be taken to help such children and the institutions, facilities and services that support them;
12. Notes that, while many governments have adopted policies and taken action to eliminate child labour, the failure to provide the families of the children affected with alternative means of supporting themselves will worsen conditions for families;
13. Emphasises that any policies to eliminate child labour should always be considered in the context of decent work for all, in accordance with core international labour standards; believes that any targeted campaign against child labour cannot succeed unless it is supported by wider reforms in trade practices in both the EU and ACP States;
14. Calls on governments and civil society actors in EU and ACP countries to work together to establish national Child Labour Task Forces that will, inter alia, provide and disseminate information on rights and best practice and will work towards coordinating policies of local, national and international government actors, NGOs and trade unions;
15. Calls on EU Member States and ACP States to incorporate child labour concerns into existing and future development initiatives in the agricultural sector;
16. Urges governments of ACP countries to step up efforts to universalise official birth registration and calls on the European Commission to promote and support such efforts, incorporating universal official birth registration into development cooperation policy;
17. Urges the EU to adopt a directive introducing special treatment for illegal-status children who have fallen prey to trafficking and exploitation on EU territory;

Education and elimination of child labour

18. Considers any child not in full-time education to be at risk of exploitation; believes that the definition of 'child' in this context should be up to the age of compulsory full-time education in the country concerned;
19. Stresses that, whilst work experience can play a part in a child's education, it should never be exploitative and never interfere with the child's full-time education and should also always provide adequate time for play and for experiencing childhood; states that this applies equally to paid employment and work in the family, such as child care or work on a family farm; points out that, whereas the income from a child's work can be a crucial part of the income of families on very low incomes, all due care must be taken not to criticise parents when they are rightly protecting their child against labour exploitation;

20. Urges all EU and ACP States to ensure that measures taken to meet MDG 2 — universal primary education — are sustainable and quality-oriented; to this end, calls on the EU to tie funding for education to maintaining manageable class sizes and to providing satisfactory training for teachers; urges both the EU and ACP to make funding available for materials and meals for students in an effort to ensure that education does not become a cost that would lead to children being withdrawn from school;
21. Calls on the European Commission to target funding for education, with urgent attention being paid to those most at risk from exploitation, namely girls, children in areas affected by conflict, children from marginalised or vulnerable groups in society and children in rural agricultural areas;
22. Calls on governments to improve the legal frameworks on child labour and incorporate child labour concerns into education policies and plans, taking into consideration the urban-rural dichotomy;
23. Calls on the ACP States to increase expenditure for education, particularly with respect to universal primary education and adult education;
24. Stresses the importance of enhancing the knowledge base and networks on child labour and education through, for example, research and monitoring, data collection, and effective and appropriate analysis of feedback from surveys and pilot projects, in order to improve understanding of core child labour concerns and of regional and national characteristics with regard to children and education;
25. Encourages improved advocacy and dissemination of good practice, focused on real political and economic changes and based on up-to-date knowledge of the child labour situation;
26. Calls on the governments and other lawfully established employers to put in place educational activities targeted on working children and their families, with a view to mitigating the effects of the involvement of the children concerned in labour activities;
27. Calls for bridging classes to be put in place for children coming late to education and for those returning to education from labour, conflict or displacement;
28. Expresses concern at the discrepancies between international instruments, notably MDG 2 and ILO Convention 138, with the latter setting 15 or, exceptionally, 14 as the minimum age for admission to employment but calling only for universal education at primary level; considers that this leaves children from the ages of 11 to 15 at increased risk of exploitation and calls for this discrepancy to be addressed;

The responsibilities of the corporate sector in eliminating child labour

29. Welcomes the increasing trend for large companies to produce social codes of conduct and to voluntarily sign up to ethical trading initiatives; believes, however, that such voluntary codes are no replacement for public authority supervision and transparent compliance with core labour standards;
30. Encourages the promotion of workplace codes of conduct, the enacting of legislation on minimum wages and family economic security;
31. Calls on the European Commission to maintain and strengthen the responsibility that the corporate sector has in eliminating child labour; calls on the European Commission to oblige the corporate sector operating in the EU to document, report and take responsibility for labour practices at all levels of the supply chain; therefore asks the Commission to set up a child labour hotline to enable information to be submitted on child labour in the direct operations or supply chain of EU-based companies; believes that this supply-chain compliance should be supported by regular and thorough inspections at all levels and be subject to verification by independent audit; considers that, where a company is found to have child labour in the supply chain, the European Commission should oblige it to put in place and publish a time-bound programme of no more than three years for the immediate elimination of child labour in this supply chain; takes the view that a programme of sanctions should be devised and implemented if use of child labour continues;

32. Urges the European Commission and ACP governments to ensure that it is the responsibility of any company found to be using child labour to ensure that the children working for that company are properly integrated into the education system;
33. Stresses that GSP and GSP+ status must be conditional on those ACP countries benefiting from the GSP and GSP+ programmes not only ratifying, but also demonstrating compliance with the ILO conventions on child labour and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; to this end, calls on the European Commission to put in place a structure for regular and frequent monitoring and reporting on compliance with the provisions of these conventions; states that appropriate action must be taken where there is evidence of serious and systematic violation;
34. Believes that public procurement contracts should include clauses that oblige the companies in question to demonstrate supply-chain compliance with international child labour standards, that such contracts should not be awarded in the absence of such proof and that there must be an appropriate opportunity (within the public arena) for NGOs and other parties to present evidence of the contrary; strongly emphasises that such clauses should in no way be considered non-tariff trade barriers;
35. Calls on the EU Member States and the European Commission to tie support for companies through trade missions, export subsidies, grants and loans to demonstrations of compliance with international conventions on child labour;
36. Stresses that globalisation and liberalisation of world trade must be accompanied by the observance of fundamental rights, including the prohibition of child labour;
37. Calls for the international community (which includes the World Trade Organisation) to pioneer a 'child kite mark', which would indicate clearly that a product was 'grown/manufactured without child labour' and which could be used specifically vis-à-vis countries where child labour is known to be prevalent;
38. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the African Union, the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Pacific Islands Forum, the EU Member States, the United Nations Children's Fund and the ILO.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Mauritania

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), the Lomé Declaration of July 2000 and the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union on unconstitutional changes of government,
- having regard to the decisions taken by the PSC at its 144th and 151st meetings,
- having regard to the United Nations Security Council statement of 20 August 2008,
- having regard to the statements and resolutions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF),
- having regard to the consultations opened under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

- having regard to the communiqué at the consultative meeting on the situation in Mauritania attended by the League of Arab States, the United Nations, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the OIF, the EU and the AU on 21 November 2008 in Addis Ababa,
- having regard to the report of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors' fact-finding mission to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 7 to 11 October 2008,
- having regard to the Mauritanian National Assembly resolution of 14 September 2008,
- A. whereas on 6 August 2008 a military junta led by General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz ousted the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi,
- B. whereas the economic and social situation in the country is catastrophic, and whereas the success of democracy is best ensured by development,
- C. whereas President Abdallahi was democratically elected in April 2007 at the end of a democratic transition process hailed as exemplary by the international community and validated by the European Union election observation mission and the European Parliament delegation,
- D. having regard to the EU's backing of the democratic transition and the EUR 156 million 'support programme' for the period 2008 to 2013 under the 10th European Development Fund, complementing the assistance already in place and the EUR 335 million granted in aid since 1985,
- E. whereas Mauritania is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, otherwise known as the Barcelona Process, and took part in the Summit for the Mediterranean held in Paris on 13 July 2008,
- F. whereas, although the change of government was effected without bloodshed, President Abdallahi and several other political figures were arrested, and whereas President Abdallahi remains deprived of his liberty,
- G. whereas a 'High State Council' has been established by the junta, and whereas the chairman of that council, General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, has been appointed head of state by means of a 'constitutional ordinance',
- H. whereas the 'constitutional ordinance' in which the junta defines its powers and which enables it to govern by decree is without any legal basis,
- I. whereas the 'High State Council' has appointed a prime minister,
- J. whereas the difficulties Mauritania was experiencing at the time of the coup were political in nature and could thus have been resolved by peaceful, political means and dialogue,
- K. whereas, despite those difficulties, Mauritania had made remarkable progress with extremely sensitive domestic policy issues such as the return of refugees, the eradication of slavery and media liberalisation, and whereas this augured well for the eventual development of a firmly rooted democracy,
- L. whereas an open debate between all political forces is required in order to establish the means of restoring constitutional order and the mechanisms governing the balance between executive and legislature, with a view to securing, within the framework of the constitution, a proper balance between president and parliament and the necessary political stability, without interference by the armed forces,
- M. having regard to the various means of ending the crisis and restoring constitutional order put forward by political forces and by 'civil society', in particular the proposal from the democratic opposition and the 'transition roadmap' put forward by the National Assembly,
- N. having regard to the security problems in the Sahelo-Saharan strip, which are giving lifeblood to terrorism, cross-border crime and arms and drugs trafficking and are having a destabilising effect on the countries of the subregion,
- O. having regard to the role played by Mauritania in combating those scourges,

- P. noting the condemnation of the coup voiced by the international community, in particular the ACP Group, ECOWAS, the AU, the EU, the Arab League and the United Nations, and the decision by the AU and the OIF to suspend Mauritania until such time as democracy has been restored,
- Q. whereas on 22 September 2008 the African Union gave the junta an ultimatum to restore constitutional order and unconditionally reinstate Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi by 6 October 2008,
- R. whereas the military junta rejected that ultimatum, and whereas on Tuesday, 7 October 2008, the AU Commission called on the AU member states not to recognise the putschists in Mauritania,
- S. having regard to the opening of the consultation procedure between the European Union and Mauritania, in accordance with Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which provides for such consultations where 'a Party considers that the other Party has failed to fulfil an obligation stemming from respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law',
- T. whereas the World Bank has suspended USD 175 million in aid to Mauritania; whereas that suspension will affect some 17 national projects in Mauritania as well as the country's participation in World Bank regional projects relating to, among other things, rural development, health, education and infrastructure (such as road building),
- U. whereas the police have used violence to break up unauthorised demonstrations organised by a coalition of political parties calling for the reinstatement of President Abdallahi,
1. Condemns the overthrow of the president and government by the armed forces in Mauritania, and stresses that the democratically established institutions must be respected; regrets this setback, given the notable advances made in the development of democracy and the rule of law over the past few years in Mauritania;
 2. Notes the transfer of deposed President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi to his home village, where he is being kept under house arrest, but continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release;
 3. Calls on the Mauritanian authorities to uphold human rights, including freedom of expression, association and assembly;
 4. Maintains that broad-based consultations are the only means of ending the crisis and enabling all democratic institutions to perform their proper function once again, including full exercise by the parliament of all of its prerogatives;
 5. Calls on the ruling military authorities to commit themselves forthwith to a timetable for a return to constitutional order and the restoration of the democratic institutions, and to making the military ineligible to stand in the elections;
 6. Calls, accordingly, on all political players in Mauritania to establish an appropriate framework for such consultations without delay;
 7. Welcomes the commencement of consultations between the European Union and the ruling authorities in Mauritania, and calls on the European Commission to give the JPA regular progress reports on the consultations conducted under Article 96 and on the establishment of a timetable for the restoration of constitutional order, but regrets that, to date, there has been no significant progress in this respect;
 8. Welcomes the AU's announcement that it will submit 'concrete proposals' following the rejection of its ultimatum by the Mauritanian 'High State Council';
 9. Calls on the AU and the EU to look at all the targeted sanctions that might be taken against the military putschists (travel ban, freezing of assets, etc.) should no commitment be made in the near future to a relevant and credible plan for ending the crisis and restoring constitutional order, but not to take any steps that might jeopardise the development of Mauritania and an improvement in the living conditions of its people;
 10. Insists that the people of Mauritania, who are already severely affected by the economic and food crises, must not be made hostages of the current political crisis, and calls on the European Commission to implement the support projects for civil society under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights;

11. Urges the junta to consider the multiple benefits for the Mauritanian people of taking part in the political process for peace, democracy, prosperity and human, social and cultural understanding outlined at the Summit for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, which was attended by Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
12. Welcomes the sending of an ACP Committee of Ambassadors' delegation and notes the adoption of the Mauritanian National Assembly resolution of 14 September 2008;
13. Decides to send an ACP-EU parliamentary delegation to Mauritania, to assist the Mauritanian Parliament in rediscovering its unity and seeking a way out of the crisis that is honourable for all concerned;
14. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Pan-African Parliament, the Commission of the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union, the United Nations Security Council and the National Assembly and other authorities of Mauritania.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Zimbabwe

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of 29 March 2008 of the Pan-African Parliament Election Observer Mission on the harmonised elections in the Republic of Zimbabwe,
- having regard to the preliminary statement of 29 June 2008 of the Pan-African Parliament Election Observer Mission on the Zimbabwe presidential run-off and House of Assembly by-elections,
- having regard to the interim statement of 30 June 2008 of the Pan-African Parliament Election Observer Mission to the presidential run-off and parliamentary by-elections in Zimbabwe,
- having regard to the preliminary statement of 29 June 2008 of the African Union (AU) Observer Mission to Zimbabwe,
- having regard to the resolution on the establishment of a government of national unity in Zimbabwe adopted at the African Union Summit of 1 July 2008 in Sharm el-Sheikh,
- having regard to the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections adopted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum in 2001 and the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections adopted by the SADC Summit in Mauritius in August 2004,
- having regard to the agreement of 15 September 2008 between the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations, on resolving the challenges facing Zimbabwe,
- having regard to the SADC Treaty and the Protocols thereto, including the SADC Electoral Protocol,
- having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

- A. whereas the run-up to the presidential, parliamentary (lower house) and senatorial elections in March 2008, as well as the run-off elections in June, took place in an inadmissible context of violence and violations of the rights of the opposition perpetrated by elements in the Zimbabwean army and militias deployed by Mugabe's party, ZANU-PF,
 - B. whereas the arrest, during the run-off election campaign, of Tandai Biti, Secretary-General of the opposition party, the MDC, and the attempted murder of that party's leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, who was standing against Robert Mugabe and was forced to take refuge in a European embassy and then leave the country, obliged Mr Tsvangirai to withdraw from the presidential run-off,
 - C. whereas, in spite of the pressure and intimidation of all kinds exerted on the population, Morgan Tsvangirai gained a large majority in the first round of the presidential elections, and whereas the MDC also won the parliamentary (lower house) elections and the elections for speaker of parliament,
 - D. whereas, on the basis of the official results of the run-off elections of 27 June 2008, the incumbent president, Robert Mugabe, was re-elected, following the withdrawal of Morgan Tsvangirai,
 - E. whereas a large number of African observer missions (Economic Community of West African States, Pan-African Parliament, African Union) stated that, as a result of the violence, the election results failed to reflect the will of the people,
 - F. whereas the political agreement of 15 September 2008 on the principle of forming a government of national unity with a view to ending the crisis is a step forward, achieved through the mediation of President Thabo Mbeki,
 - G. having regard to the continuing deadlock in the negotiations between the two sides on a government of national unity,
 - H. whereas the disastrous conduct of these elections has exacerbated the already catastrophic humanitarian situation of Zimbabwe's population, forcing people to move away from their homes or leave the country,
 - I. whereas the country is facing a cholera outbreak, with a virtually collapsed health system and a broken water supply; whereas life expectancy has dropped from 60 years for both sexes to 37 years for men and 34 for women in the past decade; and whereas 1.7 million people are now living with HIV in Zimbabwe,
 - J. whereas the World Food Programme (WFP) fed 2 million Zimbabweans in October, but that figure is expected to rise to 5.1 million by early 2009, meaning that half of the country's population will soon be aid-reliant,
 - K. whereas, according to UNICEF, only an estimated 40 per cent of the country's teachers are attending lessons, with only a third of pupils reporting for classes,
 - L. noting with concern the regrettable denial of entry to Zimbabwe to a delegation consisting of former US President Jimmy Carter, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and human rights activist Graça Machel,
- 1. Firmly condemns the campaigns of violence and intimidation conducted against the population with the aim of influencing the voting in the 2008 elections, as well as the violations of the rights of the opposition;
 - 2. Declares that, in the light of such flagrant violations, the Zimbabwean elections held in June 2008 cannot be deemed to have been transparent, credible and fair;
 - 3. Welcomes the African mediation efforts led by President Thabo Mbeki, and urgently calls for increased engagement of African countries and regional institutions such as the SADC and the AU, as well as eminent African personalities, in negotiating, and subsequently monitoring, a solution to the Zimbabwean situation;
 - 4. Confirms that a government of national unity is a solution for ending the crisis for a transitional period permitting reform of the institutions and restoration of the rule of law; stresses that, in the power-sharing deal of 15 September 2008, the parties agreed to work together for a sustainable and lasting democratic and peaceful solution to Zimbabwe's current political, economic and social crisis;

5. Urges all parties to the agreement to live up to their commitments and to engage constructively and fully in the implementation of the agreement and show greater restraint and moderation in the negotiations; stresses that all parties are equal and should refrain from taking any unilateral action in connection with the formation of a new government;
6. Strongly appeals to the international community to ensure the rapid provision of substantial humanitarian aid to the people of Zimbabwe;
7. Notes the devastating impact that the political crisis is having on the people of Zimbabwe; notes that the EU has just released EUR 10 million in aid and calls on the Zimbabwean authorities to lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid agencies and to ensure that humanitarian aid can be delivered in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;
8. Expresses deep concern about the situation of Zimbabwean refugees in the region and deplores the acts of violence against Zimbabwean refugees in surrounding countries; calls on the European Commission to support the neighbouring countries with financial and material assistance programmes for the refugees;
9. Strongly appeals to all stakeholders and the international community to be prepared to ensure the rapid provision of aid for the post-conflict reconstruction of Zimbabwe;
10. Deeply regrets that the Elders Humanitarian Delegation comprising former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former US President Jimmy Carter and advocate for women's and children's rights Graça Machel was denied an entry visa by Mugabe's regime, since they wished to use their influence to increase the immediate and longer-term flow of assistance to the country to stop the terrible suffering of the people of Zimbabwe; strongly supports the Elders' continuing efforts to ease Zimbabwe's humanitarian crisis;
11. Calls on the future government of national unity to set up a neutral and independent peace and reconciliation commission with a view to promoting a national healing process that will review the crimes against humanity, torture, rape and other crimes committed in internal conflicts;
12. Believes it essential that the newly-elected parliament receive funding and support in order to reinforce its capacity;
13. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Pan-African Parliament, the government and parliament of Zimbabwe, the African Union, the SADC and the UN Secretary-General.

Port Moresby declaration

on the global food and financial crises

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) from 25 to 28 November 2008:

Food price crisis

1. Calls on the EU institutions to speedily adopt and implement the recently-agreed EUR 1 billion Food Facility proposal without corresponding cuts in bilateral aid budgets, in order to respond to urgent needs in developing countries with substantial additional aid;

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on challenges to the democratic accommodation of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in ACP and EU countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6 to 9 April 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 1970,
- having regard to the American Convention on Human Rights of 1978,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations signed on 26 June 1945, and the establishment of the International Court of Justice,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948,
- having regard to the African (Banjul) Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1985 and the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights of 2004,
- having regard to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1992,
- having regard to the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1 February 1995,
- having regard to Chapter IV of the Declaration of the XII Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in Durban, in 1998,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April 2009 in Prague (Czech Republic).

- having regard to article 30 of the African Union Constitutive Act of 2000,
- having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 2 November 2001,
- having regard to the 2001 World Conference against Racism and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development,
- having regard to the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,
- having regard to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice of 2003,
- having regard to the Resolution on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville,
- having regard to its Resolution on the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted on 3 April 2003 in Brazzaville ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Dakar Declaration on the Promotion of ACP cultures and cultural industries adopted on 20 June 2003 at the first meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture,
- having regard to Resolution 1334 of the Council of Europe on positive experiences of autonomous regions as a source of inspiration for conflict resolution in Europe adopted on 24 June 2003,
- having regard to the UNDP Human Development Report 2004 on 'Cultural liberty in today's diverse world',
- having regard to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005,
- having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 8 June 2005 on 'Protection of minorities and anti-discrimination policies in an enlarged Europe' ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement signed in June 2000 in Cotonou ⁽⁴⁾ and revised in Luxembourg ⁽⁵⁾ in June 2005, in particular to article 33 'Institutional development and capacity building' which calls for 'full respect for diversity within and among societies',
- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance adopted by the African Union in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2007,
- having regard to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007,
- having regard to the Conventions of the International Labour Organization,
- having regard to the African Union's 2003 Maputo Summit decision to include the African Diaspora as its 6th Region,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.460/09/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 231, 26.9.2003, p. 20.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 124 E, 25.5.2006, p. 405.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 27.

- A. whereas the world's nearly 200 countries are home to some 5 000 ethnic groups and two thirds have at least one substantial ethnic or religious minority,
- B. whereas, therefore, all democracies need to design policies that explicitly recognise cultural differences, while ensuring inclusion and furthering common bonds and a sense of solidarity, which are necessary for the functioning of democratic society,
- C. whereas a legal framework recognising the equal rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic groups is essential for promoting democratic governance, designing multicultural policies and fostering human development,
- D. whereas cultural diversity has been an established feature of most ACP and EU countries and has been growing in the last decades as a consequence of the forces of globalisation; whereas the accommodation of additional cultures, religions and languages poses a new challenge for many societies, notably in Europe and the ACP world,
- E. whereas in a globalised world, respect for diversity becomes even more vital, both for states and the international community, in order to prevent social, ethnic and religious conflicts,

Political and legal aspects

- 1. Stresses the importance of respect for and adherence to regional and inter-regional legal instruments and structures and the important role of human rights courts, as well as of the International Criminal Court;
- 2. Acknowledges the key role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in the protection of the rights of all peoples and the elimination of discrimination of all kinds;
- 3. Calls on all EU and ACP member states to ratify and implement international and regional human rights conventions, including the specific legal instruments for the protection of minority rights, and to develop effective anti-discrimination legislation aligned with these international conventions; draws attention, in this context, to the plight of groups of persons in need, such as persons infected with HIV/AIDS, albinos, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrant workers;
- 4. Acknowledges the role of the International Labour Organization in the protection of the rights and the elimination of discrimination against all labourers and calls on the ACP and EU member states to uphold these rights,
- 5. Calls on all EU and ACP states to ratify as a matter of urgency International Labour Organization Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples;
- 6. Believes that, where diversity has resulted in violent conflicts or threatens to do so, standing mediation mechanisms should be established which can tackle conflicts before escalation;
- 7. Calls on EU and ACP governments to involve civil society organisations, including those representing marginalised and minority groups, in the political dialogue, in accordance with article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement;
- 8. Believes that development cooperation between regional and local actors is particularly suited to exchanging best practices on the accommodation of diversity and to responding to specific needs of certain communities; therefore invites EU and ACP governments to support joint development initiatives at local and regional level and provide them with the necessary political space to flourish independently from governmental cooperation;

9. Believes that a multilateral peer review, similar to the African Peer Review Mechanism Process, could be undertaken to assess conditions in states and set down benchmarks for democratic accommodation of diversity;
10. Underlines the fact that democratic representation of minority groups, as well as their ability to participate in political, social and cultural debates, are a central necessity to ensure the implementation of good governance principles;
11. Stresses that it is not necessary for a citizen to be a member of a religious group in order to be granted full civil and social rights;

The cultural dimension

12. Acknowledges that there are different policies and constitutional solutions for accommodating cultural diversity; believes, however, that designing multicultural policies requires, first and foremost, a legal framework recognising the equal rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, and protecting citizens from any form of discrimination;
13. Stresses, in particular, that all ACP and EU states must respect freedom of religion, as enshrined in article 18 UDHR, articles 1 and 2 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (Minorities Declaration) and other international human rights treaties;
14. Underlines that cultural and religious practices themselves have to adhere to international human rights standards, including the rights of minorities, women's rights and the rights of children, as advocated, for example, in articles 5 and 16(2) UDHR and 4(2) of the Minorities Declaration, and that freedom of choice of the members of religious or cultural communities must be ensured;
15. Stresses that traditional, cultural or religious rights of a group cannot undermine internationally agreed human rights standards available to all persons;
16. Recalls that religious practice is a personal choice pertaining to the private sphere and believes that in diverse societies religious organisations and state institutions should remain clearly separate;
17. Calls on all ACP and EU countries to ensure that the right of all minority linguistic groups to use their mother tongues is respected, in accordance with article 2 UDHR; recalls the obligation of states, under article 4(3) of the Minorities Declaration, to take appropriate measures so that, wherever possible, persons belonging to minority groups have adequate opportunities to learn their mother tongue or to have instruction in their mother tongue and to ensure that separation in educational systems along ethnic, religious or linguistic lines is avoided; stresses the necessity also to promote and to ensure learning of other languages;
18. Encourages ACP and EU countries to invest in their education systems, as education is a fundamental human right (article 26 UDHR) and provides one of the most effective tools for promoting tolerance and integration (article 4(4) Minorities Declaration); calls in this context on the European Commission to respect its commitment to allocate at least 20 % of funds under the Development Cooperation Instrument's geographic programmes to health and education, and invites it to extend this commitment to the European Development Fund;
19. Calls on all ACP and EU governments to ensure that, in line with article 19 UDHR, all citizens have access to media so as to fully express their ethnic, religious or linguistic identity, including targeted support to minority language media and fair and balanced representation of all groups within society; diverse voices should be able to exercise these rights through adequate representation in the media and through access to the media as a benefit of living in a democratic state; underlines the importance of widespread access to nationwide media in order to secure a certain level of information;

20. Believes that where exclusion and prejudices pose a major problem, ACP-EU cooperation should support specific programmes in the media and education sectors to promote tolerance and understanding;
21. Calls on ACP and EU countries to adopt proactive policies to promote the fair representation of different ethnic, cultural and linguistic groups in public offices, electoral systems, administration, the police and security sector, by fighting any form of discrimination and developing targeted recruitment policies, including, where appropriate, affirmative action;
22. Invites the ACP and EU countries to consider re-designing their electoral systems so as to encourage fair representation of minority interests, while preventing ethnicity from becoming the main point of cleavage;
23. Calls on ACP and EU countries to promote appropriate Intellectual Property laws – as prescribed by recognised international bodies such as the World Intellectual Property Organization - in relation to the exchange and transfer of cultural property or cultural and natural heritage resources;

Social and economic issues

24. Calls on ACP and EU countries to recognise the importance of economic diversification and to implement policies to that end, given that socio-economic factors can generate or exacerbate ethnic and cultural tensions, as well as to promote regional integration in the interest of development;
25. Calls on the ACP and EU countries to promote the social inclusion of minorities and to adopt active policies to ensure equal access to employment, education and social services;
26. Calls on the EU member states to fulfil their commitments to assist the ACP countries in their task of achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
27. Recognises that factors such as globalisation, conflict over natural resources or climate change are likely to produce further migration flows and considers that migration within the ACP group and between ACP and EU countries should not only be viewed from an economic perspective but should also take account of political, social and cultural exchange; firmly believes that it is essential to respect fully the rights and dignity of all migrants;
28. Insists that revenues from natural resources of ACP and EU countries should be used to the benefit of the development of all sectors of society within those countries; calls on governments to ensure that all communities are consulted so that they may benefit from any commercial revenue and that environmental and cultural concerns are taken into account; recognises the need to create mechanisms in order to secure the distribution of these benefits;

International and regional cooperation and development policy

29. Calls on the EU and the ACP governments to analyse, when drawing up and reviewing country and regional strategy papers, problems relating to the inclusion and equality of ethnic, cultural, religious and emerging minorities, and to involve representatives of the groups concerned in the consultation process; stresses that specific programmes should be designed and funded which promote equal access to social services and political participation;
30. Calls on the EU member states and the Commission to ensure that the rights of minorities, including indigenous peoples and emerging minorities, are mainstreamed in all programmes and projects, specifically in the human rights, democracy and governance sector;

31. Recalls the EU's positive experience regarding the protection of minority rights and the peaceful solution of border conflicts;
32. Calls on ACP and EU countries to recognise the positive impact of the African Union Constitutive Act which stipulates that governments which come to power through unconstitutional means shall not be allowed to participate in the activities of the African Union;
33. Believes that the African Peer Review Mechanism effectively enhances democratic institutions which foster diversity and responsible governance; urges ACP regional and subregional organisations to give greater consideration to minority issues in such frameworks;
34. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and national and regional parliaments, the European Commission, the UN and regional organisations, and the EU and African Union Presidencies.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and their impact on ACP States

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6 to 9 April 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Article 178 of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement) ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Decision ⁽³⁾ of the Eleventh ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008, on the report on Economic Partnership Agreements,
- having regard to the Declaration of the Tenth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting in Addis Ababa, from 31 January to 2 February 2008, on Economic Partnership Agreements,
- having regard to the 'Accra Declaration' adopted on 3 October 2008 at the 6th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee of 12 April 2005 on Policy Coherence for Development – Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals ⁽⁵⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April in Prague (Czech Republic)

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ AU/Dec. 197(XI)

⁽⁴⁾ ACP/28/025/08

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2005) 134 final

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- having regard to the conclusions adopted by the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in May 2005 in respect of the Millennium Development Goals ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 980/2005 of 27 June 2005 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 of 20 December 2007 applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the conclusions of the 2870th EU General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting of 26 and 27 May 2008 on the Economic Partnership Agreements,
- having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers adopted in Addis Ababa on 13 June 2008,
- having regard to the Communication of 27 June 2007 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'From Cairo to Lisbon – The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership' (COM(2007) 357),
- having regard to the Communication of 23 October 2007 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, on Economic Partnership Agreements (COM(2007) 635),
- having regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in particular Article XXIV thereof,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals as criteria collectively established by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Declaration of the second Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration, adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, on 26 and 27 July 2007,
- - having regard to the Declarations of the Fourth and Fifth African Union Conference of Ministers for Trade, meeting in Addis Ababa on 3 April 2008 and 2 March 2009, on Economic Partnership Agreements,
- having regard to the report presented by Ms Christiane Taubira, Member of the French National Assembly, on 16 June 2008 entitled: 'Les Accords de Partenariat Economique entre l'Union européenne et les pays ACP. Et si la Politique se mêlait enfin des affaires du monde?',
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 September 2002 on the European Parliament's recommendations to the Commission concerning the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP countries and regions ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 23 March 2006 on the development impact of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 23 May 2007 on Economic Partnership Agreements ⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ 9266/05

⁽²⁾ OJ L 169, 30.6.2005, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 348, 31.12.2007, p. 1-154

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 273 E, 14.11.2003, p. 305.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 292 E, 1.12.2006, p. 121.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 102 E, 24.4.2008, p. 301.

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 23 May 2007 on the EU's Aid for Trade ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 December 2007 on Economic Partnership Agreements ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 19 February 2004 on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs): problems and prospects ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 23 November 2006 on the review of negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its Kigali Declaration for development-friendly Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), adopted on 20 November 2007 ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.463/09/fin.),
- A. whereas Article 36(1) of the Cotonou Agreement contains the agreement of the European Union and the ACP States to conclude 'WTO compatible trading arrangements, removing progressively barriers to trade between them and enhancing cooperation in all areas relevant to trade',
- B. whereas, however, Article 37(3) of that Agreement lays down that a 'preparatory period shall also be used for capacity-building in the public and private sectors of ACP countries',
- C. whereas negotiations between the European Union and the ACP Group of States on issues of general interest started in 2002 and were followed by separate negotiations between the EU and six EPA regions (Caribbean, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, SADC minus, Pacific),
- D. whereas the 15 Member States of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) initialled an Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU and its Member States on 16 December 2007,
- E. whereas 18 African countries, of which 8 are Least Developed Countries (LDCs), initialled 'stepping stone' Economic Partnership Agreements in November and December 2007, while 29 other African ACP countries, of which three are non-LDCs, did not initial any EPAs, and whereas South Africa had already signed up to the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA), a WTO compatible trade regime with the European Union,
- F. whereas Papua New Guinea and Fiji, two non-LDC ACP countries, initialled an interim Economic Partnership Agreement on 23 November 2007, while the remaining Pacific ACP countries (six LDCs and seven non-LDCs) did not initial an EPA,
- G. whereas in 2008 only the agreement between the CARIFORUM States and the EU and the interim agreements between the EU and Côte d'Ivoire and the EU and Cameroon were signed,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 102 E, 24.4.2008, p. 291.

⁽²⁾ Texts adopted, P6_TA(2007) 614.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004 p. 16-22.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 330, 30.12.2006 p. 36-40.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 58, 1.3.2008 p. 44-46.

- H. whereas the EU has applied, as from 1 January 2008, the import arrangement to products originating in the ACP States which initialled EPAs or stepping stone EPAs, as provided for in these agreements ⁽¹⁾,
- I. whereas the African and the Pacific regions are continuing negotiations with the European Union with a view to the conclusion of full EPAs, and whereas half the ACP States have not yet initialled or signed such agreements,
- J. whereas the ACP countries have voiced concerns over the 'contentious clauses' contained in the initial EPAs and have requested that these be addressed before signing,
- K. whereas all parties have repeatedly maintained that the EPAs must be instruments of development in order to promote sustainable development, regional integration, and reduction of poverty in the ACP States,
- L. whereas the adjustment costs resulting from EPAs will have a significant impact on the development of ACP countries, which, whilst difficult to predict precisely, will have a direct impact through the loss of customs duties and an indirect impact through the costs incurred by adaptation and social support in the areas of employment, skills enhancement, production, export diversification and reform of public financial management,
- M. whereas 21 ACP countries, some of which have not yet signed an EPA, have allocated specific amounts for the accompanying measures to the EPAs in their National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF),
- N. whereas the development impact of EPAs on ACP States might, in some instances temporarily, result in:
- the reduction of net customs revenues and its effect on the budgets of the ACP States,
 - regional integration problems among the ACP regional blocs due to the initialling of interim agreements, which may hinder the necessary creation of a framework for integrated economic development that can contribute to economic growth in the ACP States,
 - the improvement of the supply to ACP countries' economies, and provision to customers, of imported EU products,
 - growing exports to the EU from ACP countries through, *inter-alia*, improved Rules of Origin, which would contribute to economic growth, more employment and increased state revenue, which could be used to fund social measures,
 - regional integration in the ACP regions, which has the capacity to improve the framework for economic development and would therefore contribute to economic growth,
 - the successful use of financing for Aid for Trade in connection with the EPAs,
 - the implementation of reform and response measures in the ACP countries, in particular as regards public finance management, collection of customs duties and the establishment of a new tax revenue system,
- O. whereas the trade inside and between ACP regions and between ACP countries and other developing countries (South-South trade cooperation) can have important positive effects on the development of ACP countries,

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 of 20 December 2007 applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements (OJ L 348, 31.12.2007, p. 1.)

- P. whereas one stated aim of the Cotonou Agreement is to make EPAs instruments for promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty, gradually integrating the economies of the ACP regions into the world economy and enhancing regional integration,
- Q. whereas the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, stated at the EU-Africa summit, held in Lisbon in December 2007, that there would be an 'opportunity to revise the provisions of the Economic Partnership Agreements signed by the two parties over the past few months',
- R. whereas the inhabitants of the ACP countries are the most affected by the global financial and food crisis and it is more vital than ever that every effort be made to achieve the MDGs,
1. Urges the EU Member States to respect their commitments to increase Official Development Aid (ODA) to help meet demands for trade-related capacity building, which will enable accompanying measures to be established in the form of regional Aid for Trade packages for the implementation of the EPAs with a view to their positive impact on development; stresses the fact that signing an EPA is not imposed as a precondition for receiving Aid for Trade funds;
 2. Insists that EPAs are an instrument for development which should reflect both the national and regional interests and the needs of the ACP countries, in order to reduce poverty, achieve the MDGs and ensure respect for fundamental human rights such as the right to food and the right to access basic public services; urges the Council, the Commission and the governments of the EU Member States and ACP countries to do their utmost to re-establish an atmosphere of trust, mutual respect and security insofar as this has been damaged in the course of negotiations;
 3.
 - a) Reminds the EU institutions and governments that neither the conclusion nor the renunciation of an EPA should lead to a situation where an ACP country may find itself in a less favourable position than it was under the trade provisions of the Cotonou Agreement;
 - b) Urges the European Union to provide sufficient and predictable resources, in addition to those under the European Development Fund, to cover the cost of adjustments, bolster supply-side capacity and strengthen infrastructure, regulatory capacity, competitiveness and national and regional inter-connectivity;
 - c) Urges the European Union also not to tie the release of funds under the 10th EDF or Aid for Trade to the signing of a full EPA;
 4. Stresses that WTO compatibility as defined by Article XXIV of GATT pertains only to trade in goods and requires 'a substantial part of the trade' to be liberalised 'within a reasonable length of time', and urges the Council and Commission to accept any goods-only WTO compatible proposals from ACP countries;
 5. Urges the ACP countries and the European Commission to make best use of the funding available for Aid for Trade in order to support the reform process in areas essential for economic development; to improve infrastructure where it is necessary to benefit more effectively from the opportunities offered by the EPAs; to compensate for the net loss of customs revenue and encourage tax reform so that public investments in social sectors are not reduced; to invest in the production chain in order to diversify export production; and to produce more, and more added value, export goods;
 6. Reiterates its view that EPAs must be funded not by the EDF but by additional aid for trade, to which the EU committed itself in 2005, namely EUR 2 billion annually, starting in 2010, 50 % of which would go to ACP countries; opposes any kind of conditionality linked to EPAs in the matter of granting European aid, and calls on the Commission to guarantee that access to funds under the 10th EDF is kept separate from the outcome and pace of the negotiations;

7. Stresses that the increases in ODA promised by the Member States should, as a priority, be used to redouble efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals in those ACP countries which are hardest hit by the consequences of the global financial and food crisis, which has threatened, and continues seriously to threaten, the success achieved towards attaining those goals;
8. Also underlines that all agreements must respect the asymmetry in favour of the ACP countries regarding both the range of products targeted and the transition periods, and that the EPAs must provide firm guarantees of protection for those sectors which the ACP countries identify as sensitive;
9. Notes with alarm that the EC is concluding a deal on bananas with most favoured nation suppliers in Latin America that will threaten the viability of the ACP banana industry and in particular the sustained economic and social development of small vulnerable economies; calls on the European Commission to ensure that measures are taken to safeguard the livelihoods of small banana farmers, who are the most vulnerable;
10. Stresses that support measures linked to the EPAs should take into account the importance, for the development of the ACP countries, of regional integration and economic relations with other developing countries;
11.
 - a) Urges the Commission to allow the ACP countries to renegotiate contentious clauses before signing the comprehensive regional agreements, to give ACP negotiators sufficient time to evaluate the agreements, to make suggestions before they are adopted and to offer them advice on any matters the ACP negotiators deem appropriate; stresses in particular the importance of reflecting the concerns of the partner countries and their parliaments, local authorities and civil society in the framework of the negotiations on full EPAs, which should not be concluded under pressure or in haste;
 - b) Calls on the European Commission to hold full consultations with the ACP Group, in accordance with Article 12 of the Cotonou Agreement, before entering into any commitment liable to adversely affect the economic integration of the ACP regions or ACP-EU trade relations;
12. Stresses that EPA agreements should incorporate a clause providing for revision five years after their signature, with the formal involvement of national parliaments, the European Parliament and non-state actors, as well as stronger monitoring and evaluation provisions, making it possible to determine the impact of the EPA on country and regional development and poverty reduction objectives – not merely EPA compliance levels – and provide for a redress mechanism to allow for the amendment or repeal of any aspect of the EPA that undermines a process of regional integration or damages chances of reducing poverty or achieving the MDGs;
13.
 - a) Urges the ACP governments to implement necessary reforms in order to pursue their efforts towards good governance, in particular in the field of public administration, such as in public financial management, the collection of customs duties, the tax revenue system and the fight against corruption and mismanagement;
 - b) Calls for the active participation of all stakeholders, and in particular governments and parliamentarians, in the negotiation process, and for the increased involvement of civil society with a view to reaching a regional consensus prior to the signing of a full EPA;
14. Stresses that there is a need to increase transparency in the negotiations and their outcomes in order to allow for public scrutiny by policy makers, parliamentarians and civil society representatives;
15. Urges the institutions and governments of the EU Member States to do their utmost to re-establish an atmosphere of confidence and trust in so far as it has been damaged in the course of negotiations;

16. Stresses that the implementation of the EPAs should be monitored by a parliamentary body, which has to be provided for in the EPA texts, and that this parliamentary body should, in each case, evolve from the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) and its bodies and remain closely connected to, or part of, the JPA in order to take due account of the impact of the EPAs on the economies of the ACP countries, as established in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
17. Stresses in particular the crucial role of national parliaments and non-state actors in the monitoring and control of EPAs and calls for their systematic involvement in the on-going negotiation procedures; this requires a clear agenda for further negotiations, to be agreed by ACP countries and the EU and based on a participatory approach;
18. Recommends that the European Parliament wait for the opinions of the ACP parliaments on the outcomes of the EPA negotiations wherever possible and that it take these into account before issuing its assent;
19.
 - a) Considers that the EDF Regional Strategy Papers and Regional Indicative Programmes should contain important, systematic and well considered support for EPA implementation, taking into account the necessary reform process that would make the EPA a success;
 - b) Insists that documentation on full EPAs must take into account any projected loss of revenue revealed by impact studies at the level of each region and each ACP country, and that provision be made for their renegotiation, where necessary;
 - c) Requests that the ACP regions organise workshops on EDF Regional Strategy Papers and regional indicative programmes as swiftly as possible, in order to assess their impact on the implementation of EPAs;
 - d) Calls on the European Union and the ACP States to ensure that EPAs are responsive to the current global crisis, in order to reduce the impact on the ACP States of the slowdown in the world economy;
20. Emphasises that the signing of interim agreements by ACP States must not hinder the possibility of ACP regions concluding with the EU full EPAs that take into account the development dimension and steps to integrate the regional economies, and which strengthen cooperation between the ACP States and the EU Member States;
21. Stresses again the need to identify sensitive goods that should not form the subject of trade liberalisation;
22. Highlights the need to restore trust between the ACP countries and the EU countries, which was shaken during the EPA negotiations, in the spirit of the partnership that binds them;
23. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, national and regional parliaments and the ACP regional organisations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the social and environmental consequences of climate change in the ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6 to 9 April 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (hereinafter: 'the Cotonou Agreement'), and in particular Article 32 thereof,
- having regard to Articles 177 to 181 of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the joint statement of 20 December 2005 by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus', and in particular Articles 12, 22, 38, 75, 76, 101 and 105 thereof ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests, adopted by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 3 to 14 June 1992, whose principles were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 26 August to 4 September 2002,
- having regard to the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol,
- having regard to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, which was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and entered into force on 26 December 1996,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
- having regard to the 'Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters' adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo (Japan),
- having regard to the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation, adopted by the Development and Environment Ministers of the OECD member countries on 4 April 2006,
- having regard to the G8 Summit Declaration of 7 June 2007, issued in Heiligendamm, on 'Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Energy Security – Challenge and Opportunity for World Economic Growth',
- having regard to the Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change as part of the First Action Plan (2008-2010) for the implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April in Prague (Czech Republic)

⁽²⁾ OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

- having regard to the Bali Roadmap, adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference on the island of Bali (Indonesia) in December 2007,
- having regard to the 14th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Fourth Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol, from 1 to 12 December 2008 in Poznan (Poland),
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on climate change in the context of development cooperation ⁽¹⁾, of 11 March 2003,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions and the 2004-2008 Action Plan on climate change in the context of development, of 24 November 2004,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee on policy coherence for development – Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals ⁽²⁾, of 12 April 2005,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Limiting global climate change to 2 degrees Celsius – The way ahead for 2020 and beyond ⁽³⁾, of 10 January 2007,
- having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of 8-9 March 2007, underlining the importance of achieving the strategic objective of limiting the global average temperature to not more than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on building a global climate change alliance (GCCA) between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Resolution of the European Parliament on building a Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change ⁽⁵⁾ of 21 October 2008,
- having regard to the Paper from the High Representative and the European Commission to the European Council entitled 'Climate Change and International Security' of 14 March 2008 ⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on 'Addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss' ⁽⁷⁾, of 16 October 2008,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen' ⁽⁸⁾, of 21 January 2009,
- having regard to the CARIFORUM-EU Declaration on Climate Change and Energy, of 17 May 2008,
- having regard to the Declaration by the Pacific Islands Forum States and the European Union on Climate Change, of 7 November 2008,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2003) 85.

⁽²⁾ COM(2005) 134 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(2007) 2 final.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2007) 540.

⁽⁵⁾ P6_TA(2008)0491.

⁽⁶⁾ S113/08.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2008) 645 final.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2009) 39 final.

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- having regard to the Africa-EU Declaration on Climate Change, of 1 December 2008,
 - having regard to the 2006 report by Nicholas Stern entitled 'The Economics of Climate Change. The Stern Review',
 - having regard to the OECD report of 2007 entitled 'Stocktaking of Progress on Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Development Co-operation Activities',
 - having regard to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and in particular to the Fourth Assessment Report of Working Group II of the IPCC entitled 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability',
 - having regard to the Human Development Report 2007/2008 entitled 'Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world' launched by the United Nations Development Program,
 - having regard to the report of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund entitled 'Global Monitoring Report 2008: MDGs and the Environment -Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development',
 - having regard to the OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030, of March 2008,
 - having regard to its resolution on climate change and small island developing states in the context of the ACP-EU cooperation framework, adopted on 1 April 1999 in Strasbourg,
 - having regard to its resolution on natural disasters in ACP States: EU funding for preparedness (EDF funds) and relief (ECHO funds), adopted on 22 November 2007 in Kigali (Rwanda),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.383/09/fin.),
- A. whereas developing countries have contributed least to climate change but are facing its most severe social and environmental consequences, due to their social, economic and geographical vulnerability, their heavy dependence on the primary sector, including agriculture, fisheries and other natural resources, and their limited infrastructure for dealing with climate change impacts,
- B. whereas accelerated sea level rise will cause flooding, coastal erosion, salt water intrusion into inland fresh-water resources and even submersion of some low-lying Pacific and Caribbean islands; whereas the number of people at risk from coastal flooding in Africa alone could increase from 1 million in 1990 to over 70 million in 2080,
- C. whereas temperature rise and rainfall variability will lead to severe droughts and sharply reduce water availability in the ACP countries; whereas 75 to 250 million people in Africa will be exposed to greater water shortage and insecurity by a rise of just 1 °C, 350 to 600 million by a 2 °C rise and up to 1,8 billion if temperatures rise by 3 °C,
- D. whereas rising sea temperatures will lead to the proliferation of extreme climatic phenomena such as tropical storms and cyclones, which will drastically affect low-lying coastal areas, river basins containing megacities and other large population centres, economically vital infrastructure such as ports, offshore facilities, coastal urban areas and tourism infrastructure,

- E. whereas climate change will further increase desertification and soil degradation, compromising agricultural production and food security even more, and exacerbating hunger and malnutrition in the ACP regions,
- F. whereas rising sea levels and temperature will heavily impact on coastal and marine ecosystems, reducing the catch in the Pacific and Caribbean islands and along the African coast, and negatively affecting local food supplies,
- G. whereas climate change will further accelerate decline in biodiversity, pose a serious threat of extinction to many plant and animal species, and damage beyond repair some ecosystems that are particularly sensitive to climate disruption, such as coral reefs, mangroves and rainforests; whereas biodiversity consequences in the ACP countries will have crucial effects on the food chain and on the livelihoods of people who depend directly on goods and services deriving from those ecosystems,
- H. whereas climate change, coupled with existing weak public health systems and limited access to public healthcare, as well as poor water management and purification, will lead to an increased incidence of vector- and water-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera, increased heat stress and prevalence of respiratory illnesses,
- I. whereas environmental consequences of climate change will trigger large-scale migration flows both internally and across borders (the IPCC estimates 150 million migrants by 2050); whereas most ACP environmental migrants will move and settle within their home countries or neighbouring countries thus leading to escalating humanitarian crises, rapid urbanisation and associated slum growth, and stalled development within the ACP countries; whereas that urban growth will have as its corollary the abandoning of rural areas and increased soil degradation,
- J. whereas, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, climate change will lead to increased levels of insect-borne disease, including malaria, chikungunya and Lyme disease, requiring adaptation measures,
- K. whereas many of the effects of climate change on health as reported, for instance, by the WHO, may be kept at bay by preparing and strengthening health systems by appropriate preventive measures, with particular attention being paid to the spread of tropical diseases, and by public information campaigns addressing especially vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, newborn babies, children and elderly people,
- L. whereas climate change undermines national, regional and global security, leading to conflicts over accessing, controlling and using scarce natural resources, or tensions due to displaced populations,
- M. whereas climate change is placing 40 % of international poverty reduction investment at risk (World Bank estimates), thus posing a serious threat to poverty reduction, economic and social development and the achievement of the MDGs in many ACP countries,
- N. whereas, to avoid the worst irreversible effects of climate change, global temperature rise has to be limited to below 2 °C and global greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere have to be stabilised below 450 ppm; whereas, indisputably, the biggest CO₂ emitters – the industrialised countries and emerging economies – should bear the primary responsibility for slashing their emissions,
- O. whereas mitigation measures have to be combined with adaptation measures in the ACP countries to manage the significant impacts of climate change; whereas industrialised countries have a historical responsibility for climate change and are morally obliged to assist ACP countries in their efforts to adapt to its consequences in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle,

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- P. whereas there is currently a huge gap as regards the financing of adaptation in developing countries; whereas, while estimated annual adaptation costs range from USD 10 billion to over USD 80 billion per annum, the resources currently provided by industrial countries through multilateral funding mechanisms equal USD 150-300 million a year,
- Q. whereas early action on climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) represents a clearly cost-effective solution; whereas estimates predict that one dollar spent on DRR has the potential to save up to seven dollars in disaster response, thereby also providing a strong argument for frontloading aid spending,
- R. whereas the procedures for application and distribution of resources under different climate change financing mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), are rather complicated and lack involvement by recipient countries,
- S. whereas CDM has so far been poorly suited to meeting the needs of the poorest countries for investments in clean technology, with Africa hosting only 2 % of all CDM projects; whereas often the sustainability and additionality criteria of the CDM projects are not maintained,
- T. whereas any delay in taking firm decisions on the mechanisms and financing necessary to reduce the causes and consequences of climate change will result in much higher costs,

General

- 1. Calls on the Commission and donor countries to reshape and redesign development cooperation to make it climate change resilient and follow low carbon pathways;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to simplify its existing structures for dealing with climate change and development issues;
- 3. Calls on the Commission and the EU Member States to build better links between the MDGs and climate change by incorporating impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change into projects and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs, and into all broader strategies for poverty reduction and development policies;
- 4. Welcomes the fact that some progress in placing adaptation on an equal footing with mitigation has been achieved during the negotiations on the future post-Kyoto framework; stresses, however, that a firmer link between adaptation and mitigation negotiations needs to be established, so that key decisions on these issues are not made in isolation from each other;
- 5. Calls on the international community and the private sector, in the interests of facilitating the ACP countries' transition to a reduced carbon economy, to provide the necessary investments for research, development and rapid and comprehensive transfer of technologies for mitigation (e.g. low carbon energy technologies, technologies for carbon capture and storage) and adaptation in the ACP countries; also calls on the international community to remove trade barriers to climate change adaptation technology and to free up intellectual property rights (e.g. compulsory licensing);
- 6. Calls on the Commission and EU Member States to support UNESCO activities that contribute to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the subsequent Mauritius Strategy;

Mitigation

7. Underlines that a global consensus on an ambitious and binding mitigation goal, based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility established in the UNFCCC, must be reached during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, and therefore calls on all industrialized countries and rapidly developing countries to agree to a binding GHG target; suggests that in order to stimulate the participation of emerging economies in the new agreement a more flexible and differentiated approach for these countries should be established (e.g. targets only for specific sectors), taking into account each country's adaptation and mitigation capacity and the industrialised countries' historical responsibility for global warming;
8. Notes that the procedures for application and distribution of resources under the CDM need to be reviewed and simplified to make the CDM more easily accessible to ACP countries and to result in a more balanced distribution of CDM projects, with an increase in the number of projects particularly in sub-Saharan Africa; stresses that a system should be set in place to ensure that CDM projects comply with the additionality principle and lead to sustainable development of the ACP countries; calls on donor countries to help build the necessary capacity in the ACP countries to enhance their participation in the CDM; and calls on the donor countries not to focus exclusively on CDM as the ultimate policy tool, but also to develop new mechanisms for mitigation in the ACP countries;
9. Calls on the governments of the industrialised countries and emerging economies to set clear and consistent long-term policy frameworks to encourage eco-innovation and investment (e.g. renewable energy, fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles, new fuels); underlines that the private sector also has a central role in driving eco-innovation; believes also that, in the medium to longer term, ways to change the overall consumption patterns in the developed countries have to be put in place to reduce emissions;
10. Stresses that the Commission and donor countries' governments should strengthen partnership with the ACP governments to develop ambitious policy initiatives and plans to curb deforestation and reduce forest degradation, and to provide technologies and substantial resources for sustainable forest management in the ACP countries;

Adaptation

11. Calls on the ACP governments to incorporate adaptation goals and measures directly into their national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and strategies, as well as in all stages and levels of their decision-making processes;
12. Underlines that contributions for adaptation should become a legally binding commitment, reflected both in the international agreement to be adopted in Copenhagen in December 2009, and in domestic legislation within the EU-27;
13. Calls on industrialized countries to increase significantly their financial support for adaptation in ACP countries and to explore innovative financing mechanisms intended for this purpose such as, *inter alia*, international taxes on trade, national emission taxes, levies on air travel tickets and auctioning of assigned amount units; calls on the Commission to increase substantially the budget for the GCCA, to give significantly more consideration to climate change in the forthcoming EDF budget and to implement urgently the idea of a Global Climate Change Financing Mechanism, an innovative financing instrument to front-load support for climate related investments for the poorest and most vulnerable countries;
14. Emphasises that adaptation finance has to be additional to already-existing Official Development Assistance and aid commitments;
15. Calls on the international financial institutions to expand their adaptation policies, programmes and financing instruments;

16. Urges the private sector to step up its commitments to fill the climate change financial gap; encourages the Commission and the EU and ACP governments to invest in developing public-private partnerships to attract additional funding from the private sector for financing adaptation projects, especially in the least developed countries;
17. Believes that there is a need for better donor coordination, much more intensive North-South dialogue and enhanced cooperation between donor and developing countries on climate change policies, mechanisms and financing for adaptation, in accordance with the Paris Principles and the Accra Agenda for Action 2008;
18. Underlines the need to further foster regional collaboration, the exchange of good practices and the creation of discussion forums between ACP countries facing similar climate change problems;
19. Encourages the governments of the ACP countries to be more inclusive of civil society and local communities in the drawing-up and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, owing not least to their solid practical experience and their direct proximity to the people and places most exposed to the harmful effects of climate disruption;
20. Calls on donor countries and international organisations to invest in strengthening the infrastructure for climate monitoring and climate-related data management and the adaptive capacity of institutions, local communities and individuals in the ACP countries;
21. Encourages R&D institutions in EU Member States to promote and facilitate exchange of best practices and information, share expertise and knowledge, and forge networks and partnerships with similar institutions in the ACP countries in sectors where climate change is a major issue (e.g. agriculture, water resource management);
22. Calls on development partners to support ACP governments and civil organisations in elaborating public education and information campaigns on climate change impacts;
23. Welcomes the Commission's intention to propose an EU Strategy for DRR; calls on the Commission and the EU Member States to increase investment in DRR as a means to facilitate climate change adaptation and to include long-term funding for DRR as part of development aid; considers that private sector development of climate-related insurance markets in the ACP countries should be promoted to enhance resilience to climate shocks;
24. Calls on the Commission and EU governments to provide more resources for strengthening the capacity of health systems in the ACP countries, in order to help them cope with the adverse effects of climate change on health;
25. Considers that adequate planning and management of environmental migration will be critical for human security; to this end calls on the international community to identify and address the legal shortfalls that exist in respect of the protection of environmental refugees; suggests that asylum regulations or agreements on a regional or international level be considered in view of the extremely vulnerable situation of the island states that risk becoming submerged; points out also that instruments to protect the identity, culture and traditions of environmental refugees should be developed and put in place;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the UNFCCC and the World Bank.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the role of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement in addressing the food and financial crisis in ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6 to 9 April 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, and revised in 2005 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the G20 declaration on the financial crisis of 15 November 2008 ⁽³⁾, and to the G20 Leaders' Statement at the London Summit of 2 April 2009,
- having regard to its Port Moresby Declaration on the global food and financial crises, adopted on 28 November 2008 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the commitment to halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger and living on less than one US dollar a day,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 9 April 2008 entitled 'The EU – a global partner for development – Speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals' (COM(2008) 177),
- having regard to the Commission communication adopted on 8 April 2009 on supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the UN International Conference on Financing for Development of 21 and 22 March 2002, and to the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of 2 December 2008 adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration ⁽⁶⁾ and the Accra Agenda for Action ⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the recently released IMF report entitled 'The implications of the Global Financial Crisis for Low-Income Countries',
- having regard to the conclusions of the 2007 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report ⁽⁸⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April 2009 in Prague (Czech Republic)

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3. Agreement as amended most recently by Decision No 1/2006 of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers (OJ L 247, 9.9.2006, p. 22)

⁽³⁾ 'Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy', adopted in Washington on 15 November 2008

⁽⁴⁾ ACP-EU/100.393/08 (28.11.2008)

⁽⁵⁾ 'Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus' (doc. A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1*)

⁽⁶⁾ 'Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability', adopted on 2 March 2005 at the Paris High Level Forum: 'Joint Progress toward Enhanced Aid Effectiveness'

⁽⁷⁾ Adopted at the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra (Ghana), 2-4 September 2008

⁽⁸⁾ See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>

- having regard to the conclusions of the World Food Summit of 1996 ⁽¹⁾ and its objective of reducing by half the number of people on Earth suffering from hunger by 2015,
 - having regard to the report from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, submitted to the UN General Assembly on 25 October 2007 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1337/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 establishing a facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation,
- A. whereas the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, as well as the development targets and principles agreed in the United Nations' Conferences, provide a clear vision and must underpin ACP-EC cooperation within the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,
- B. whereas, as a result of the financial crisis, some donor countries have reduced their financial contribution to Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries, which already have fragile economies,
- C. whereas the objective of promoting the integration of the ACP countries into the global economy, provided for in the Lomé and Cotonou Agreements, has yet to be attained and their share of the imports to the EU has continued to decrease,
- D. whereas the ACP countries are dependent on exports of commodities that constitute over 50 % of their foreign currency revenue, and the financial crisis is resulting in decreasing exports from, and remittance flows into, many developing countries, reduced access to credit and reduced foreign direct investment, and the plummeting of commodity prices,
- E. whereas new World Bank estimates for 2009 suggest that lower economic growth will trap 46 million more people on less than USD 1,25 a day than was expected prior to the crisis, thereby adding to the 130 to 155 million people pushed into poverty in 2008 because of soaring food and fuel prices; whereas each 1 percent drop in growth could trap another 20 million people in poverty,
- F. whereas, according to a recent Executive Report by Global Financial Integrity (GFI), debt service repayments from developing countries reached USD 540 billion in 2006 and these countries lost close to USD 1 trillion in illicit financial outflows; whereas borrowing costs are up sharply for developing countries and currencies have weakened significantly; whereas economic and financial integration has never been greater and foreign bank claims on developing countries have almost tripled to USD 3,1 trillion in the last five years; whereas, according to some estimates, global financial flows to developing countries will tumble from USD 1 trillion in 2007 to USD 165 billion this year,
- G. whereas, despite the proven importance of the agricultural sector to ACP countries, neither national governments nor EU development cooperation policies award adequate priority to this key sector, putting hundreds of millions of people in danger of extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition,
- H. whereas a serious obstacle to increasing agricultural output in developing countries, which is fundamental to reduce food insecurity, is the fact that small farmers, especially women, often lack access to land, loans or microcredit for investment in seeds, fertilisers and irrigation mechanisms and the necessary range of crop protection tools,

⁽¹⁾ Rome (Italy), 13-17 November 1996

⁽²⁾ UN General Assembly, 62nd session, doc. A/62/289 of 22.8.2007

⁽³⁾ OJ L 354 of 31.12.2008, p. 62

- I. whereas the abolition of agricultural subsidies in ACP countries and export oriented subsidies in developed countries have contributed to a decrease in yields and in agricultural production, resulting in an increase in imports of food products,
- J. whereas the agricultural sector is hit by increasingly frequent natural disasters, and whereas at the same time the resources allocated for food aid before and after such disasters are decreasing,

G20 and the London Summit

1. Endorses the outcome and commitments of the London G20 Meeting of 2 April 2009, in particular references to: restoring growth and jobs; strengthening financial supervision and regulation; strengthening global financial institutions; resisting protectionism; promoting global trade and investment; ensuring a fair and sustainable recovery for all; and delivering on aid commitments;
2. Welcomes, therefore, the agreed USD 1,1 trillion and trusts that close to one quarter of that sum will be devoted to developing countries; calls on G20 countries to deliver that amount to them through the speedy disbursement of truly new and additional funds;
3. Calls on the G20, EU and ACP countries to do their utmost to prevent the spreading global crisis from becoming a severe human crisis, and highlights the importance of social protection and investment in food security to address the immediate needs of the poor;
4. Calls for the disbursement of the USD 50 billion dedicated to low-income countries to be made in form of direct grants rather than loans, in order to support social protection, boost trade and safeguard development in low income countries;
5. Supports the G20's intention for resources to be used effectively and flexibly to support growth; welcomes the progress made by the IMF with its new Flexible Credit Line, moving away from its past prescriptive and rigid lending and conditionality framework, as illustrated in its recent report on 'The implications of the global financial crisis for low-income countries' in which it states that *'in formulating spending policies, priority should be given to protecting or expanding social programmes or bringing forward approved investments, and, in general, to preserving the momentum toward achieving the MDGs'*;
6. Fully supports the G20's determination to reform international financial institutions, but considers it impossible to wait until 2011 to give greater voice and representation to developing countries at the level of international finance, especially in the light of the IMF's new responsibilities, and in this regard asks for improved transparency and accountability and for a new approach to development policy; these governance reforms need to be agreed at the next World Bank and IMF committee meetings on 25 and 26 April 2009;
7. Calls on the EU and ACP States to take action to eradicate tax evasion and illicit capital flight from developing countries, which cost these countries an estimated EUR 800 billion per year, in other words over eight times what they receive in aid;
8. Regrets that the G20's promises on Aid for Trade and ODA were insufficient; stresses that, although the communiqué lists financial measures to increase resources for the developing world through the World Bank and IMF, there was no specific commitment to ensuring that Aid for Trade represents additional funding;
9. Believes that the challenge of climate change must be addressed through structural reforms and calls for a systematic climate change risk assessment in all aspects of policy planning and decisions, including trade, agriculture, food security, etc; requests that the result of this assessment be used for formulating clear guidelines for a sustainable development cooperation policy;

Financial crisis

10. Calls on the EU Member States to honour their commitments as regards ODA – i.e. 0,56 % of Gross National Income by 2010 and 0.7 % by 2015 – and not to use the financial crisis to justify aid cutbacks;
11. Considers that the situation requires initiatives and mechanisms to solve the current debt problems of developing countries, and calls on the EU Member States not to include in their ODA figures resources provided for debt relief;
12. Considers that greater efforts are required for mobilizing more domestic and international resources for sustainable development, which implies providing universal access to basic economic and social infrastructure and inclusive social services, as well as capacity-building;
13. Recalls that sustainable and fair incomes and wealth distribution require a modern and effective fiscal system; calls for ACP-EU cooperation to promote fiscal reform that allows for increasing tax revenues through more efficient tax collection, a broader tax base and a more effective fight against tax evasion;
14. Calls on the international community, and in particular on the EU Member States, to give a more central role to employment and labour market issues in international development policy, in order to reduce the effects of the global economic slowdown on developing countries' growth, trade and foreign direct investment flows, by helping to strengthen further their trading capacity and improve their infrastructure, and by facilitating remittances;
15. Underlines that free and fair trade, market principles promoting investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, and effectively regulated financial markets are fundamental for economic growth, employment and poverty reduction;
16. Believes that non-discriminatory and equitable international trade can be a strong engine for development and sustained economic growth, but affirms that it should be guided by transparent rules agreed by all; reminds the ACP and EU Member States of the necessity of establishing coherence between trade policies and development goals, including in the process of EPA negotiations;
17. Underlines the need to avoid over-regulation that would hamper economic growth, and stresses the need for increased dialogue between the state and the business community to find innovative ways to set clear rules, enforce respect for property rights and create financial infrastructure promoting micro business and SMEs;
18. Calls on the ACP and the EU, in the light of the impact of the current financial crisis on ACP countries, to commit themselves to open, transparent and inclusive EPA negotiations;
19. Calls on all stakeholders to work together to secure a successful, sustainable and timely conclusion of the Doha Development Round;

Food crisis

20. Calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to improve policy coherence for development in the fields of agriculture and trade;
21. Reiterates the principle of the right to food; reminds EU and ACP leaders that they have pledged to halve the number of people who suffer from hunger by 2015, and urges the Commission, the EU Council and the ACP countries to adopt – and properly finance – whatever measures are needed in order to honour that commitment;

22. Calls on ACP and EU governments to respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable – particularly women and children – by enhancing sustainable nutrition interventions and safety nets and expanding social protection systems;
23. Calls on ACP governments to involve farmers and pastoralists, many of whom are women, in the elaboration of their agriculture and land-use policies, and to ensure their access to land, credit and new technologies that will increase production;
24. Calls, in framework of the ongoing review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, for the revision of Article 54 to accommodate the objectives of Millennium Development Goal 1, which aims to cut the proportion of people suffering from hunger by half by 2015;
25. Calls on ACP and EU governments to ensure jointly that sufficient aid and public spending is channelled towards achieving food security, as stated in the Maputo Declaration of the ACP Heads of State and Government of June 2004 ⁽¹⁾;
26. Calls on wealthy nations, including EU Member States, as well as the new US Administration, to reduce agricultural subsidies and eliminate agricultural export subsidies, as most rich countries promised to do at the outset of the Doha Development Round, although since then there has not been much progress;
27. Strongly condemns the activities of speculators on global commodities, agricultural raw materials and energy markets, which contribute to exacerbating the volatility of food prices and to deepening the global food crisis; stresses that it is not acceptable that the hunger for some means profits for others, and calls for adequate regulation and effective oversight at national and international level to prevent the violation of the right to food, through speculation; calls on EU and ACP countries and companies to fully implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;
28. Notes with alarm that the EC is concluding a deal on bananas with MFN ⁽²⁾ suppliers in Latin America that will threaten the viability of the ACP banana industry and in particular the sustained economic and social development of small vulnerable economies; calls on the European Commission to ensure that measures are taken to safeguard the livelihoods of small banana farmers, who are the most vulnerable;
29. Calls on the EU institutions to speedily implement the recently-agreed USD 1 billion Food Facility proposal without corresponding cuts in bilateral aid budgets, and to push food production back up the international agenda in line with Article 23(d) of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
30. Calls upon the EU and ACP countries to design mechanisms and policies to cushion the effects of commodity price volatility and to encourage diversification of local and supporting industries of the ACP countries' economies wherever possible; recognizes that the transfer of technology and business skills can have a positive impact on development; calls on ACP and EU countries to develop efforts aimed at maximizing linkages with domestic production activities, enhancing technology transfer and creating training opportunities for the local labour force;
31. Stresses the urgent need for the EU and the ACP to draw up comprehensive and effective strategies for addressing emergency situations arising from natural disasters in the agricultural sector;
32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EC Council, the Commission, and the governments and secretariat of the G20 Group.

⁽¹⁾ 4th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, Maputo (Mozambique), 23-24 June 2004: Maputo declaration: 'Together shaping our future' (doc. ACP/28/010/04 [Final]), Maputo, 24 June 2004

⁽²⁾ Most Favoured Nation

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on Establishing and promoting peace, security, stability and governance in Somalia**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6 to 9 April 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the UN Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, of 10 March 1988,
- having regard to the Declaration on Somalia by the EU Council Presidency on behalf of the European Union, of 3 February 2009,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 1814 (2008), 1816 (2008) and 1844 (2008) on Somalia,
- having regard to the statements made by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana, on 23 February and 4 April 2009, and by Louis Michel, Member of the European Commission, on 26 February 2008,
- having regard to the Decisions and Declaration adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union on 30 January 2009 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia),
- having regard to the Communiqué issued by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government on 4 February 2009 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia),
- having regard to the Declaration adopted at the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held on 29 October 2008 in Nairobi (Kenya),
- having regard to the Communiqué of the 32nd Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers of 27 January 2009 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia),
- having regard to the report by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors on the future of the ACP Group, adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 86th session, held from 10 to 14 December 2007 in Brussels (Belgium),
- having regard to the ACP Secretariat's project to develop indicators to measure and monitor regional integration processes in the six ACP regions,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolutions of 19 June 2008 and 20 November 2008 on the situation in Somalia ⁽²⁾ and to its previous resolutions on Somalia,
- having regard to Resolution of the African Parliamentary Union on the situation in Somalia, adopted on 30 November 2008,
- having regard to the African Union's Declaration of 10 December 2008 and its communiqué of 22 December 2008,
- having regard to the signing of the documents on Modalities for the Implementation of the Cessation of Armed Confrontation and a Joint Declaration on Common Political Aims by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Reliberation of Somalia (ARS) on 26 October 2008,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April 2009 in Prague (Czech Republic)

⁽²⁾ Texts adopted, P6_TA(2008)0313 and P6_TA(2008)0569.

- having regard to the Conclusions of the 14th meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia, held under the chairmanship of the UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, on 26–27 February 2009,
- A. affirming the importance of respecting Somalia's territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and unity,
- B. whereas Somalia has been a failing state for the last 17 years and the situation has deteriorated into one of the world's worst humanitarian and security crises,
- C. whereas the TFG and the ARS signed a power-sharing deal in Djibouti on 9 June 2008; whereas the initial aim of the Djibouti peace process was to initiate a broad-based national reconciliation and create a strong and inclusive political alliance capable of securing the peace, reconciling the country and re-establishing central state authority,
- D. whereas the peace process has been further complicated by splits within the ARS and TFG as well as by the advance of radical militias such as Al-Shabab, which are not yet party to the peace process and now control parts of Somalia, including Baidoa, the former seat of the parliament,
- E. whereas widespread human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by all parties in the conflict in Somalia, specifically torture and other ill-treatment, rape, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention and attacks on civilians, journalists and human rights defenders and civilian infrastructure continue to occur in Somalia,
- F. whereas the number of grave human rights violations against children in Somalia, from acts of murder and rape to the recruitment of child soldiers and the denial of humanitarian access to those in need, have all increased in the past year,
- G. whereas, since February 2007, some 340 000 Somalis have fled fighting in Mogadishu, while 2,6 million Somalis – about 35 per cent of the population – are in need of humanitarian assistance, and while there are 1,3 million displaced people; whereas many refugees were robbed, raped or beaten by freelance militias as they fled Somalia,
- H. expressing its appreciation that Kenya is hosting 250 000 refugees at the Daadab refugee camps; whereas hundreds of Somalis have drowned trying to cross the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, and many have been abandoned at sea by traffickers,
- I. whereas Ethiopia withdrew its troops from Somalia as part of a UN-backed peace deal between the fragile transitional government and the moderate wing of the main opposition; whereas the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops – though stoking fears of a volatile power vacuum – and the election of a new president open a window of opportunity for intra-Somali reconciliation; whereas the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), which has since March 2007 been essentially confined to Mogadishu, will now find itself alone on the ground,
- J. whereas acts of violence against civilians and humanitarian workers, in violation of international humanitarian law, as well as attacks on AMISOM personnel and positions and all acts and threats of violence perpetrated by those elements seeking to undermine the political process, hinder the operations of AMISOM and undermine regional peace and stability,
- K. whereas an estimated 10 000 refugees – with that number expected to reach 25 000 over the next few weeks – have arrived at the border town of Dolo Ado, in the Somali Region of Ethiopia since the beginning of the year; whereas they are mostly women and children fleeing following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops,
- L. whereas there has been a significant increase in the number of successful pirate attacks in the last three years (10 in 2006, 35 in 2007, 43 in 2008 and 9 so far in 2009), and in the subsequent hostage-taking and seizure of vessels,

- M. whereas piracy on the high seas represents a growing threat to human life and safety and to the supply of humanitarian aid, particularly in the seas off Somalia and the other countries of the Horn of Africa; whereas these acts of piracy and armed robbery are due to the continuing conflict and political instability in Somalia,
- N. whereas the scale of illegal fishery in Somali waters also contributes to acts of piracy, and is destroying a food resource essential to Somalis and to the income of local fishermen,
- O. whereas, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a vast number of illegal shipments of toxic waste, the contents of which are leaking, have been deposited along the coast of Somalia, in total disregard for the health of the local populace and conservation of the environment,
- P. whereas, according to the same report, the waste dumped at sea partly originated from the European Union, and that waste is irreversibly damaging human health and the environment in the region, in flagrant violation of human rights,
- Q. whereas, as a result of piracy, the World Food Programme (WFP) had to suspend delivery of food aid to Somalia, worsening an already precarious humanitarian situation,
- R. whereas on 8 December 2008, the EU launched its maritime operation EU NAVFOR Somalia (or Operation Atalanta), aimed at protecting maritime convoys of the WFP and other merchant ships sailing through the waters off Somalia,
- S. whereas the fight against piracy cannot be won by military means alone, but depends mainly on success in promoting peace, development and state-building in Somalia;

Recent political developments

1. Strongly supports the progress made since December 2008, specifically the creation of an enlarged and more inclusive Parliament, the extension of the transitional period, the election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as President and the appointment of a prime minister and cabinet; acknowledges and supports this new process as a Somali-owned and -led peace and reconciliation process;
2. Particularly welcomes the relocation of the Government and Parliamentarians to Mogadishu and their commitment to continuing the Djibouti peace process; underlines the urgent need to provide tangible and coordinated support to address the agreed linked priorities of political, security, recovery, human rights and institution-building issues; sees this as an important step towards a functioning administration within Somalia;
3. Welcomes the truce reached in February 2009; calls upon all political actors and relevant stakeholders in Somalia to join the peace process and to refrain from new acts of violence;
4. Calls for the participation of civil society organisations, and in particular women's organisations, in the national dialogue and in the process of national reconciliation;
5. Underlines the urgent need to restore law and order, including respect for internationally-recognised human rights and international humanitarian law, throughout the country; notes that President Ahmed has agreed to the introduction of sharia law, stresses that sharia should be codified in order to prevent its misinterpretation in violation of human rights and stresses also that any legislative changes should respect human rights and, in particular, women's rights;
6. Calls for the new leadership to create and implement a plan that aims at establishing viable institutions without delay and within the timeframe provided for by the extension of the Transitional Federal Charter to August 2011;

Djibouti Agreement and the responsibility of the international community

7. Expresses its gratitude to the Republic of Djibouti for acting as an intermediary and mediator throughout the peace process in Somalia, and for working for stability and peace in order to restore calm in the region;
8. Pays tribute to the role played by Kenya in hosting and mediating the Somalia Reconciliation Conference under the auspices of IGAD, that led to the formation of the TFG; shares the AU's appreciation of the sacrifice made by Ethiopia and its commitment to the search for a lasting solution for the conflict in Somalia;
9. Calls on the international community to strengthen the UN arms embargo and to monitor airports and sea ports to ensure that illegal arms imports are not entering the country, in order to improve the overall security situation;
10. Calls on all sides in the conflict to stop attacks targeting civilians, cease all use of death threats, rape, unlawful arrest, kidnapping, intimidation and robbing of civilians, and to abide fully by the provisions of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions; calls on the European Commission and Council to support the efforts to guarantee appropriate penalties for persons guilty of such offences;
11. Calls on the UN Security Council to strengthen the monitoring and reporting on human rights conditions, provide assistance and advice to the transitional federal institutions and support human rights defenders throughout Somalia;
12. Calls on the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia, the AU and donor states contributing to the TFG, including the EU, Norway and the United States, to support mechanisms to investigate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in Somalia since 1991;
13. Welcomes the commitment made by the TFG to introduce effective and accountable governance based on the outline proposals presented at the ICG meeting in New York in December 2008; also welcomes the fact that the Somali transitional institutions have invited all Somali stakeholders from inside and outside Somalia to join the reconciliation process;
14. Welcomes the ICG's decision to provide regular updates relating to six-month action plans developed in partnership with the TFG; strongly supports the ICG's call to promote quick recovery initiatives, such as job creation, delivery of social services and livelihood activities, which would have an immediate impact on the well-being of Somalis, the security environment and future stability of Somalia, through additional resources, and to protect the political and financial investment already made by the international community;
15. Calls on the Council and the Commission to continue their support for institution-building in Somalia; urges the reinforcement of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the deployment of the UN stabilisation force in a timely manner as soon as political and security conditions allow;

Role of AMISOM

16. Requests the UN Secretary-General to create without any further delay a special fund to support AMISOM until such time as the UN deploys a peacekeeping mission;
17. Urges that, especially after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops, AMISOM and any succeeding UN peacekeeping mission be given a mandate to protect civilians – including women, children and internally displaced persons – with a strong human rights component, with the capacity to monitor, investigate and report human rights violations;

18. Pays tribute to the African States, and particularly Uganda and Burundi, for the action they have taken, and condemns the recent attacks in which several Ugandan and Burundian soldiers from AMISOM, as well as many civilians, have been killed and injured; encourages the continued commitment of AMISOM and its troops, performing under extremely difficult conditions, and calls on all Somali parties to support those working to bring peace and stability to their country;

Humanitarian aspects and Human Rights

19. Urges the new government swiftly to take all requisite and appropriate measures to prevent a worsening of the current humanitarian crisis, and to bring security and peace by ending the fighting that has led to population displacement, civilian and material losses, malnutrition and disease;
20. Condemns the ever more frequent attacks on humanitarian workers over the last few months, which have gravely constrained aid operations and have worsened the humanitarian situation in Somalia; urges the new leadership to take all necessary steps to ensure humanitarian access and assistance to affected populations in that country, and to take effective measures to ensure the safety of local and international humanitarian workers;
21. Calls on the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia to negotiate humanitarian access separately from the Djibouti peace process, geographic area by geographic area, speed up food supplies and alleviate the dire humanitarian situation; calls on all governments concerned to grant full access for humanitarian aid to Somali refugees in the region, and calls on the international community to strengthen its support;
22. Calls on the new government to address the issue of justice as a matter of priority, in order to put an end to the culture of impunity, as the Somali people in general, and women in particular, are victims of human rights violations, including killings, rape and torture;
23. Calls on the EU to provide all necessary support in order to create a lasting democratic government in Somalia and to further aid the current leadership of Somalia to assert its control over the country and establish the rule of law in a manner compatible with its international human rights obligations;

Piracy

24. Strongly condemns any act of piracy or armed robbery, especially off the coast of Somalia;
25. Welcomes the deployment of EU ships under operation Atalanta to combat piracy, which has sharply reduced the number of attacks this year; calls for effective coordination with other naval formations in the region, and especially those of the USA, Russia and China; and requests that the Atalanta operations be extended to the western Indian Ocean, where the pirates are re-establishing themselves;
26. Calls on the Transitional Federal Parliament and the new TFG, in collaboration with the UN and the African Union, to treat piracy and armed robbery committed from the Somali coast against vessels carrying humanitarian aid as criminal acts, the perpetrators of which must be brought to justice under existing international law;
27. Welcomes the establishment of the UN Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia on 14 January 2009;
28. Strongly recommends the EU to support the new Government of Somalia and all other parties concerned so as to improve basic infrastructures for fisheries activities, marine resource conservation and waste management, in order to encourage employment that will reduce the recruitment of youth in piracy and militia activities;

Illegal fishery, toxic waste and trafficking

29. Strongly condemns illegal fishery in Somali waters, and calls on the EU to address that illegal fishery by implementing rapidly the new rules adopted in 2009 concerning traceability, controls and penalties;
 30. Calls on the United Nations and the European Commission to fully investigate toxic waste dumping along the Somali coast, to establish responsibilities at all levels, to support the efforts to bring to justice those responsible for this environmental crime and to ensure that environmental contamination is comprehensively dealt with;
 31. Calls on UNEP to continue its investigation and provide an in-depth accurate assessment of the extent of the problem, as this is vital to Somalia's future;
 32. Condemns all acts of human trafficking taking place off the coast of Somalia;
 33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission, the parliaments of the EU and ACP States, the President and the Parliament of Somalia, the Presidency and Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and the UN Secretary-General.
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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on global governance and the reform of international institutions

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the outcome of the London and Pittsburgh G20 meetings held in April and September 2009,
- having regard to the communication by the European Commission of April 2009 on supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Larosière report of February 2009 on financial supervision in the EU,
- having regard to the World Bank's report on Global Development Finance 2009: Charting a Global Recovery,
- having regard to the conclusions of the UN conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, held in New York on 24-26 June 2009,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.587/09/fin.),

A. whereas the world is currently facing financial, economic, food, energy and environmental crises of unprecedented proportions,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

⁽²⁾ COM(2009)0160 final.

- B. whereas the origins of these crises lie in industrialised nations and yet they hit developing countries hardest,
- C. whereas the world's global governance architecture, set up in a post-war, colonial era, still mirrors the geopolitical balance of the last century and no longer matches the realities of a globalised planet,
- D. whereas we need to overhaul our political and financial global institutions to make them more effective, more transparent, more representative and more legitimate,
- E. whereas the worst excesses of deregulation, neoliberal capitalism and free market fundamentalism have conspired to wreck the world's financial system, destroy millions of jobs and increase poverty,
- F. whereas the state is responsible for promoting stability, sustainable, pro-poor growth and ensuring that wealth creation benefits the many and not the few and therefore needs to regulate and supervise the markets and play a redistributive role in the economy,
- G. whereas certain nations' rejection of multilateralism in recent years has led to confrontation, conflict and intercultural strife,
- H. whereas we must react to halt climate change in order to prevent devastating environmental damage and its harsh economic and social consequences,
- I. whereas governments from rich nations have found trillions to bail out financial institutions but some of them are backtracking on their MDG commitments,
- J. whereas only 1,6 % of the IMF's new lending since the London G20 summit has gone to sub-Saharan Africa,
- K. whereas ACP States are severely under-represented in institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF and the UN Security Council,
- L. whereas women are also under-represented in governance structures,
- M. whereas outflows from developing countries in the form of illicit capital flight, to a large extent facilitated by tax havens and banking secrecy, have been estimated at EUR 350-600 billion a year,
- N. whereas OECD countries' aid to poor farmers amounts to 1 % of their agricultural subsidies,
- O. whereas one of the prime tasks of the World Bank and the IMF is to reduce poverty,
- P. whereas the World Bank and the IMF continue to apply economic and policy conditionality to their loans,
- Q. whereas the G20, which has become the main forum for international economic cooperation, is more inclusive than the G8 but nevertheless excludes 85 % of the world's population,
- R. whereas the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a forum of donor governments, while the new Development Cooperation Forum comes under the UN umbrella and offers developing countries voice and ownership,

- S. whereas it is urgent and essential to rebuild social trust in our global governance architecture,

Global governance – fairer and more democratic representation and participation for developing nations

1. Calls on the international community to make global institutions more representative, democratic and inclusive, allowing developing nations, in particular in Africa, to be more influential and to enjoy greater decision-making capacity;
2. Asks the G20 to give G77 members a seat at the negotiating table;
3. Welcomes the Pittsburgh G20's commitment to a shift in IMF quota share to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries; insists on fairer voting rights for developing and emerging economies on the IMF executive board and the World Bank board of governors; calls, therefore, for a new double-majority voting system based on one member, one vote, as well as on economic weight;
4. Calls for an end to the US right of veto at the IMF and World Bank;
5. Insists that the G20 upholds its pledge to open, transparent and merit-based processes for appointing the senior management of all international financial institutions;
6. Urges the UN Security Council to enlarge its membership;

Economic governance — learning the lessons of the recent past

7. Asks the international community to ensure a tighter, more transparent, more accountable regulatory framework for the world's financial markets, with increased oversight, as demanded by the G20;
8. Strongly supports overhauling the IMF so it can play an enhanced surveillance and supervision role and issue early warnings in the event of global market imbalances or macroeconomic risks;
9. Invites all relevant actors to ensure better coordination between the Bretton Woods institutions, the G20 and regional development banks;
10. Urges G20 members, the EU and ACP countries, to take speedy action to eradicate tax havens and combat banking secrecy, stepping up international cooperation, automatic information exchange, country-by-country reporting standards for multinationals and capacity building in countries affected by capital flight; looks forward to the G20's promised countermeasures against tax havens as of 2010;
11. Exhorts governments to cap executive pay to avoid obscene levels of remuneration, and to regulate incentive schemes in the financial sector that threaten the stability of the system; welcomes the Pittsburgh G20's support for increasing financial stability and aligning compensation and remuneration with long-term value creation and not with excessive risk-taking;

Multilateralism – essential to meeting global challenges

12. Calls on all states wholeheartedly to support multilateralism and the UN system;

13. Recommends that the UN Development Cooperation Forum is taken into account, together with the OECD DAC, as the two high-ranking forums for development cooperation and for analysing and monitoring global aid trends, including the aid effectiveness agenda;
14. Welcomes the fact that the US has decided to re-engage with the UN Human Rights Council and has at last taken up its seat; calls on the EU, ACP and other partners to ensure this Council defends all victims of human rights abuses;

Aid and trade

15. Salutes the G20 commitments of USD 1.1 trillion to kick-start the world economy but regrets that only a fraction is earmarked for the poorest countries; warns against crippling developing countries with sizeable new debt;
16. Calls on EU Member States to live up to their MDG aid commitments;
17. Recognises the importance of trade but stresses that free markets alone do not guarantee an end to poverty;
18. Urges all WTO members to work towards an equitable outcome for the Doha Development Round which curtails protectionism but reflects the different capacities and levels of development that exist between stronger and weaker economies, and allows ACP states to protect their most vulnerable industries;
19. Asks the EU, in the context of the economic partnership agreements, to respect those ACP countries that decide not to move to a full EPA or choose to renegotiate controversial areas of interim EPAs; insists on a full role for the JPA in all planned EPA parliamentary follow-up structures;
20. Calls on the EU to reduce significantly its agricultural subsidies and eliminate all agricultural export subsidies;
21. Asks the EU to keep its aid-for-trade commitments and to continue to help bolster ACP countries' trade capacities;

Social and environmental issues

22. Calls on the international community to implement high standards of social and environmental protection and workers' rights, including the 'decent work' agenda (as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)), and to support developing countries in applying these standards;
23. Calls on all governments to respect the right to free bargaining and collective agreements and to guarantee the right to strike mentioned in the constitution of the ILO;
24. Exhorts the UN to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment;
25. Invites the UN to upgrade ECOSOC, with a view to promoting lasting solutions for economic, social, employment, cultural and health issues;
26. Calls on the World Bank to attach higher priority to development issues, climate change and promotion of health and education, in line with the Pittsburgh G20 conclusions;

27. Urges all governments at the December Copenhagen climate summit to strike an ambitious, fair and sustainable deal, sharing the burden equitably between industrialised and developing nations and taking into account countries' different degrees of responsibility for climate change;
28. Urges EU States to respect their G20 commitments to assist developing countries in fighting climate change; insists that these funds must be additional to existing development aid;
29. Calls on the EU to invest massively in research, education and the environment, and increase funding and technology transfer for developing countries;

A role for parliaments

30. Asks all states to embrace greater parliamentary scrutiny to make governments' action more transparent, democratic, accountable and effective;
31. Calls on the UN and WTO to attach higher priority to parliamentary input;

Involving civil society

32. Calls on policy makers, particularly in ACP countries, to engage with civil society and to provide CSOs with basic resources to operate;
33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, as well as to national and regional parliaments in ACP States, the European Commission, the UN and regional organisations, the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO and the EU and African Union Presidencies.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the impact of the financial crisis on the ACP States

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17 (1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the objectives of the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), on the one hand, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement) and all its amendments,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the commitment to set up a global partnership for development, and the conclusions and recommendations from the UN High-Level Meeting held in New York on 25 September 2008,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

- having regard to the 2009 report of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, entitled 'Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis', and the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009,
 - having regard to the Monterrey Consensus, which was adopted at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development held on 21 and 22 March 2002, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted on 2 December 2008 at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,
 - having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2 March 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action adopted at the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held from 2 to 4 September 2008,
 - having regard to the G20 declarations from the meeting on the financial crisis held in Washington on 15 November 2008 and the summits held in London on 2 April 2009 and in Pittsburgh on 24-25 September 2009,
 - having regard to the appeal by World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick to developed countries to pledge 0,7 % of their stimulus packages to a 'Vulnerability Fund' for developing countries,
 - having regard to the IMF report 'The implications of the Global Financial Crisis for Low-Income Countries' of March 2009,
 - having regard to the Commission communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 8 April 2009 on supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.510/09/fin.),
- A. whereas the global financial and economic system is characterised by increasing interdependence between all of the countries of the world,
- B. whereas the financial and economic crisis originated in financial centres such as New York and London, and whereas the ACP States are not responsible for the financial and economic crisis but rather suffer the consequences thereof,
- C. whereas the financial and economic crisis stems from a growing disjunction between the creation of international added value, effective saving and a financial sphere increasingly operating in a virtual and speculative world whose core characteristic is the endless and unsupervised creation of derivative products from other derivative products,
- D. whereas according to the recently released IMF report 'The implications of the Global Financial Crisis for Low-Income Countries (LIC)', the crisis will 'increase the financing needs of LICs by at least USD 25 billion in 2009', with sub-Saharan Africa likely to be particularly severely hit,
- E. whereas commercial financing has been drying up since the onset of the financial crisis, and in developing countries has slumped by between USD 100 billion and USD 300 billion, on top of which new trading restrictions have had an adverse impact in many countries and there is deadlock in the trade negotiations within the framework of the Doha Development Programme,
- F. whereas the ACP countries are dependent on commodity export earnings which account for 50 % of their foreign exchange, and the crisis has led to a drop in export earnings for many developing countries, the transfer of funds to these countries, foreign direct investment, and official development assistance,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2009)0160 final.

- G. whereas, among other factors, the high prices for imported fuels and foodstuffs, coupled with weak demand for exported goods which has reduced important sources of income, have hampered the ability of many developing countries to settle their foreign debt,
- H. whereas the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the ACP countries has broken a cycle of continuous economic growth dating back to 2004 and thereby jeopardises advances made, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,
- I. whereas, according to United Nations estimates, donors' contributions are still USD 35 billion per annum short of the promise they made on annual aid flows at the G8 meeting in Gleneagles in 2005, and USD 20 billion per annum short on aid to Africa,
- J. whereas the Doha Conference on Financing for Development focused on medium-term development issues, while identifying a number of goals in respect of fundamental reform, emphasising the need for an integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental aspects of development, and acknowledging the diversity of national situations,
- K. whereas the international financial architecture possesses weak points that require reform in order to make it more representative and effective,
- L. whereas the developed economies have implemented a series of measures in response to the crisis, at the multilateral, European and national levels, and whereas the G20's response in particular, structured around short-term measures and structural reforms, gives priority to restoring the operation of financial markets and mechanisms to boost confidence in them, while only briefly addressing the specific needs of developing countries or the other major challenges linked to the solving of the economic crisis (food security, climate change, preserving biodiversity, access to energy resources and access to water for drinking and household use as well as for production sectors),
- M. whereas ACP countries are not all equally affected by the financial and economic crisis, and whereas the disparities are based on criteria such as: degree of openness to foreign trade, dependence on export earnings, financial reserves and the dynamism of national and regional markets,
- N. whereas, nevertheless, the ACP States are more vulnerable to exogenous shocks, and whereas the World Bank estimates that, in general terms, a 1 % drop in world growth would plunge a further 20 million people into poverty, because such a decline in global growth could threaten the progress made in the area of development over the last decade, and particularly the progress made towards achieving the MDGs,
- O. whereas the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that the number of people in the world suffering from hunger has now reached one billion and that the total has increased by 100 million due to the global financial crisis ⁽¹⁾,
- P. whereas the risks for ACP countries engendered by the crisis include:
- a slow-down in trade between the EU and the ACP States, and consequently a decline in export revenue for ACP States, resulting in difficulties in servicing debts,
 - credit restrictions, resulting in a fall in purchasing power, and adjustments in production, employment and associated incomes,
 - a decline in private investment flows (foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio investments),
 - a reduction in remittances from migrant workers to their countries of origin,
 - a decrease in Official Development Assistance (ODA),

⁽¹⁾ FAO news report 19 June 2009.

- Q. whereas prices for natural resources have fallen, reducing one of the most important sources of income for ACP countries,
- R. whereas ACP countries are not able to receive money in the form of sovereign bonds,
1. Recalls that the ACP-EU Partnership should respect the letter and spirit of the Cotonou Agreement and emphasises that the EU is required to play a decisive role in mitigating the immediate and long-term effects of the crisis on ACP countries, also given its position as the main trading partner of the ACP States, the principal source of remittances from migrant workers, the main provider of private investment, and the world's largest donor of ODA;

Guarantee a strong, quick response to the crisis in ACP countries

2. Urges donor countries to seriously take into account, in a coordinated and consistent manner, the effects of the crisis on ACP countries, in observance of the principles established in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and reiterated in the Accra Agenda for Action, and in conformity with the promises on financing for development made in Monterrey and reaffirmed at the Doha Conference and the various G20 Summits;
3. Urges, more specifically, the G20 countries to honour the commitments made to the developing countries at the summits on the financial crisis held in Washington on 15 November 2008, in London on 2 April 2009 and in Pittsburgh on 24-25 September 2009,
4. Reaffirms the importance of the MDGs in the fight against poverty and calls for the respect for and delivery of commitments made by EU Member States to increase ODA to 0,56 % of GNI by 2010 and to 0,7 % by 2015; calls for new commitments to ambitious multiannual timetables, in order to be able to measure the gradual rise in aid budgets;
5. Encourages donor countries and ACP countries to direct short- and medium-term spending towards the poorest population strata and key sectors (health, education, agriculture and rural infrastructure, job creation, water for drinking and for production sectors), as well as towards the creation and preservation of appropriate social protection systems and safety nets; emphasises the importance of these measures given that it is impossible to finance recovery packages in the ACP countries and there is a need to make resources available very swiftly;
6. Emphasises that this type of spending is the most adversely affected in times of crisis, despite being the most financially affordable and the most profitable in the short, medium and long terms, and despite its potential for producing a counter-cyclical effect;
7. Urges donor countries to use this unprecedented crisis as a catalyst to further explore existing possibilities in terms of additional and innovative sources of financing for development, such as an international financial transaction tax, and to identify new ones, to allow developing countries to diversify their sources of revenue and implement more effective, concrete and operational spending programmes;
8. Calls on the EU Member States and on rich countries to cancel the foreign debts of all impoverished countries, without onerous economic policy conditions; stresses that possibly as many as 60 countries need all of their debts to be cancelled if they are to have any chance of achieving the MDGs; welcomes the action already taken by many EU countries in writing off the debt of developing countries, but expresses concern that such debt write-offs have artificially boosted EU aid figures;
9. Emphasises, in particular, the benefits associated with the use of micro-financing techniques, in economic terms at local level and also in terms of the involvement of the population, especially women, in development;

10. Calls on the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including the multilateral development banks, to support developing countries in overcoming the current crisis, in restoring growth, in building up increased market and trade capacity and restoring the developing countries' access to credit and private capital flows;
11. Invites the developed countries to ensure that the IFIs have sufficient resources to play their role to full capacity;
12. Calls on ACP countries in their own interest to increase good governance and transparency in national finances in order to improve budget predictability, implementation and control; stresses the importance of parliamentary oversight over public finances;
13. Stresses the need for appropriate legislation and regulations to protect the ACP countries, the main borrowers, against predatory vulture funds;
14. Points out that a comprehensive response must be provided to the economic and financial crisis, that no financial institution, market segment or jurisdiction must be exempt from regulation and supervision and that the transparency and accountability of all parties must form the bedrock of a new brand of international finance governance;

Structural measures to reduce the vulnerability of ACP States to exogenous shocks

15. Underlines that fair trade, promotion of investment in industry and local production, entrepreneurship and innovation, and effectively regulated financial markets are fundamental for economic growth, employment and poverty reduction;
16. Calls on the ACP States to establish a healthier legislative and regulatory environment for businesses to operate in, in order to attract more private, foreign and national investment;
17. Urges EU Member States as well as the ACP countries to refrain from the creation of protectionist barriers in international trade as a reaction to the economic crisis;
18. Urges EU Member States to consider, and fully implement, measures outside the financial sector that have a positive impact on development in ACP countries, and especially cutting-edge technology transfers, in areas, including environmental protection, which foster capacity building and enable the development of research and infrastructure;
19. Emphasises the need to strengthen the development and regional integration process among ACP States, and, in particular, appeals for the effects of the crisis on their development to be taken into account in the negotiations on and implementation of the economic partnership agreements (EPAs) between the ACP States and the EU; recalls that EPAs must be accompanied by the promised new funding for Aid for Trade, i.e. EUR 2 billion a year by 2010;
20. Recalls the need, amplified by the economic crisis, for EU Member States to implement an approach to migration which is respectful of human rights and in accordance with development objectives; transfers of migrants' funds to their countries of origin, which have large capital needs, must be facilitated and even encouraged; in the same way, the social and cultural dimensions of migration, as a factor in integration, tolerance, exchanges and mutual acceptance between peoples, must be enhanced, and be given greater prominence in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement;
21. Emphasises the urgent need to reform international financial governance, covering the architecture and operation of the financial system, which presupposes full and equitable incorporation of ACP countries into international financial bodies to improve these bodies' representation and, consequently, reflect the diversity of national, regional and international interests with greater legitimacy;

22. Invites the ACP countries to involve their parliaments more closely in their decision-making procedures, and particularly in the preparation of their development strategies;
23. Calls on the international community to conclude the Doha cycle of trade negotiations for development in a just manner satisfactory to all sides;
24. Believes that the effects of the crisis on ACP States can serve as a stimulus for ACP States to invest in the agricultural sector so as to guarantee food security and the right to food sovereignty and to commence a process of reflection on the diversification of production and the transformation of commodities to increase added-value, which would improve the terms of exchange and mitigate the volatility of raw-material prices;
25. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and the parliaments of the ACP countries, the World Bank, the IMF, the FAO and ACP Regional Development Banks.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on social and cultural integration and participation of young people

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005, hereinafter referred to as the Cotonou Agreement, and in particular Articles 9, 13, 26 and 27 thereof,
- having regard to Articles 149-150 and Articles 177-181 of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to Article 13 of the EC Treaty on combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,
- having regard to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 7 November 1995,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, adopted at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 December 2006,
- having regard to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,
- having regard to the Braga Youth Action Plan, adopted at the third UN World Youth Forum from 2 to 7 August 1998 in Braga (Portugal),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

- having regard to the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on 21 May 2003,
- having regard to the Agenda 21 for Culture approved by the Fourth Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion of Porto Alegre, held in Barcelona (Spain) on 8 May 2004,
- having regard to the Dakar Declaration on the promotion of ACP cultures and cultural industries and its action plan, adopted by the ACP Ministers of Culture at their first meeting, held in Dakar (Senegal) in 2004,
- having regard to the Santo Domingo resolution, adopted by the ACP Ministers of Culture at their second meeting, held in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in October 2006,
- having regard to the resolution concerning youth employment, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 93rd Session in Geneva in June 2005,
- having regard to the African Youth Charter, adopted by the African Union in Banjul, The Gambia, in July 2006,
- having regard to the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010, adopted by the Second Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community, held from 5 to 7 December 2005 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea),
- having regard to Title II (Investment, Trade in Services and E-Commerce) of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the Cariforum States and the European Community and its Member States, establishing free movement of services between the parties, and to Protocol III (on Cultural Cooperation) thereto,
- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 30 October 2008 on the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society,
- having regard to the Council resolution of 14 December 2000 on the social inclusion of young people ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the European Commission White Paper of 21 November 2001 on a new impetus for European youth ⁽²⁾ and the European Parliament resolution of 14 May 2002 on the Commission White Paper on a new impetus for European youth ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Council resolution of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 22 and 23 March 2005 adopting the European Youth Pact ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the communication of 30 May 2005 from the Commission to the Council on European policies concerning youth: addressing the concerns of young people in Europe – implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship ⁽⁶⁾, and the Council resolution of 24 November 2005 on addressing the concerns of young people in Europe – implementing the European Pact for Youth and promoting active citizenship ⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 on youth policy: Youth in Action Programme for 2007-2013 ⁽⁸⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 374, 28.12.2000, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ COM(2001)0681.

⁽³⁾ P5_TA(2002)0223.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 168, 13.7.2002, p. 2.

⁽⁵⁾ 7619/1/05, Annex 1 to the Presidency Conclusions.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2005)0206.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 292, 24.11.2005, p. 5.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 327, 24.11.2006, p. 30.

- having regard to the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013 the programme 'Europe for Citizens' to promote active European citizenship ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the communication of 5 September 2007 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 16 November 2007 on a transversal approach to youth policy with a view to enabling young people to fulfil their potential and participate actively in society ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the communication of 27 April 2009 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an EU strategy for youth – investing and empowering: a renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities ⁽⁴⁾, and to its accompanying Commission staff working document – EU Youth Report ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the UN World Youth Report 2003, the UN World Youth Report 2005 and the UN World Youth Report 2007,
- having regard to the UNDP Human Development Report 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World,
- having regard to the Brussels Declaration on Asylum, Migration and Mobility and its action plan, adopted in April 2006 by the ACP Ministers in charge of asylum, migration and mobility,
- having regard to the ACP Group's Brussels resolution on migration and development, adopted by the ACP Ministers in charge of asylum, migration and mobility,
- having regard to Decision No 2/LXXXVII/08 taken at the 27th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 8 to 13 June 2008, on the implementation of the ACP Group's Brussels resolution on migration and development,
- having regard to the World Bank's World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation,
- having regard to the ILO's report of October 2008 entitled 'Global Employment Trends for Youth',
- having regard to the Final Declaration of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, held from 4 to 7 December 2007 in Lisbon (Portugal),
- having regard to the European Youth Forum Position Papers of 3 May 2008 on youth and migration and on youth employment,
- having regard to the European Youth Forum report of 2008 entitled 'Development Needs Youth – Youth Organisations in Action',
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.504/09/fin.),

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 32.

⁽²⁾ COM(2007)0498.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 282, 24.11.2007, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2009)0200 final.

⁽⁵⁾ SEC(2009)0549 final.

- A. whereas 'youth' is defined as young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years ⁽¹⁾; whereas youth constitutes 18 % of the world's population or 1.2 billion people, almost 85 % of whom live in developing countries,
- B. whereas many young people live in poverty and suffer from exclusion or marginalisation, in particular young women, youth with disabilities, young migrants and refugees, youth living in rural areas and youth from ethnic minorities,
- C. whereas the social, economic and cultural inclusion and active participation of young people in society are essential both for their personal development and for sound and democratic national and global development,
- D. whereas education and employment are a prerequisite for successful integration and participation of young people in society,
- E. whereas, despite the fact that today's youth are the best educated youth generation in history, youth unemployment and underemployment have increased to record levels, exacerbated by the economic crisis; whereas young people represent 25 % of the global working-age population, but accounted for 43,7 % of the unemployed in 2007 ⁽²⁾,
- F. whereas cultural industries promote an alternative economic development, create wealth and provide decent work for young people,
- G. whereas migration has become one of the coping mechanisms used by young people to expand their options for education and opportunities to work, but these educational opportunities do not benefit the developing countries from which they come or increase these countries' level of education,
- H. whereas globalisation has contributed to an increased mobility in education and vocational training, work and voluntary services, thus promoting solidarity and better cross-cultural understanding, and encouraging respect for difference and diversity,
- I. whereas culture plays an important role in the well-being and personal development of young people,
- J. whereas the proliferation of information and communication technologies (ICT) is presenting new opportunities to young people for their development, inclusion and civic participation; whereas governments' commitment to invest in ICT can reduce the current digital divide between EU and ACP countries and promote equality,
- K. whereas only if young people are recognised as decision-making partners will it be possible to find long-term solutions to global threats such as climate change and to meet development objectives,

General considerations

1. Urges ACP and EU governments to mainstream youth issues into all policy-making and enhance coordination between youth policies and other policy areas directly affecting youth;
2. Stresses the need to defend integrally the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Articles 23, 24, 26 and 27 referring to work, education and culture;

⁽¹⁾ UN definition.

⁽²⁾ United Nation's World Youth Report 2007, p. 238.

3. Calls on the Commission to provide for balanced financing for Action 3.2 of the current Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) within the provisions foreseen and, following the example of the Euromed Youth Programme, to establish an ACP-EU Youth Programme under the Cotonou Agreement, with additional appropriations in the follow-up programme;
4. Stresses that policy makers at all levels should further develop their cooperation and foster exchange of good practices on social and cultural integration and participation of young people, for instance through promoting inter-agency alliances that consolidate national, regional and international programmes for young people;
5. Calls on EU and ACP countries to guarantee to all young people full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms and eliminate all forms of discrimination; calls on the Commission, the EU and ACP countries to increase funding for programmes for social and cultural inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups;
6. Considers that the EU should develop a common migration policy that is coherent, with a strong sense of equality and focused on the social integration of migrants in receiving societies; calls on EU Member States to ensure respect for young migrants' rights and the same access to education, social services and economic opportunities as those enjoyed by the citizens of the country concerned;
7. Calls on the EU to enhance the protection measures for all young third-country nationals working legally in Europe; encourages the EU to work towards applying the status of long-term residents to them and defining the status of semi-skilled and non-skilled workers; considers also that EU and ACP governments should create programmes to curtail the brain drain of young people from developing countries and to coordinate their measures to prevent it;
8. Calls on EU and ACP governments to provide all young people with access to appropriate and youth-friendly health information and services;

Education

9. Calls on ACP and EU governments to establish programmes that reduce school drop-out rates, reduce youth illiteracy and improve the quality of basic education;
10. Calls for universal access to secondary education; calls on ACP and EU governments to remove barriers to access to primary education, especially for young people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; urges governments to provide grants and concessional loans to students from developing countries who would like to enrol in tertiary education;
11. Calls on EU and ACP countries to promote a smooth transition from education to employment through a switch from theoretical classroom methods to practical experience at school and integration of entrepreneurship education in the curricula;
12. Urges ACP and EU governments to place emphasis on cultural and social education and encourage young people's involvement in cultural activities inside and outside school that could enrich their lives, lead to balanced personal development and protect them from drug addiction and other abuses, thus fostering their social and cultural integration into society;

13. Urges ACP and EU governments to recognise that young people are the group most open to change and the best ambassadors for change that any society possesses; calls on ACP and EU governments to use young people to effect positive change in society through such mechanisms as peer-to-peer education on HIV/AIDS, ICT and sustainable technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change;
14. Calls for universal ICT access for young people; calls on governments to invest in ICT infrastructure and provide ICT facilities in schools; calls on the Commission and ACP and EU countries to link ACP and EU classrooms through eTwinning technology to foster intercultural learning; calls on ACP and EU governments to promote distance learning as a means of facilitating the social integration of people from disadvantaged groups, particularly people with disabilities;

Employment

15. Calls on ACP and EU governments to establish national youth employment strategies and action plans in cooperation with the ILO and to regularly monitor the employment situation of young people;
16. Calls on the EU and ACP governments to promote employment rights and a fair remuneration as an effective way to promote social inclusion;
17. Notes that young people working while studying gain valuable experience that facilitates their transition from education to the labour market; encourages the private sector to create more apprenticeship opportunities for young people still in school; warns against all types of employment exploitation in this context;
18. Notes that young women ⁽¹⁾ and young people with disabilities ⁽²⁾ face higher rates of unemployment and underemployment; calls for the elaboration of specific policies to support employment of young women and people from disadvantaged groups;
19. Stresses the need for creating more favourable conditions for young entrepreneurs by providing them with information and financial incentives and removing administrative burdens from those wishing to set up a business; calls on the financial institutions to facilitate access to micro-credit for young people; calls on governments to establish professional counselling and financing programmes for young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative industry sector, and to encourage community-based services with a view to improving social integration at local level;

Culture

20. Calls on national parliaments and on EU and ACP governments to incorporate the protection of existing cultures on their territory in their national legislation, as a guarantee of the preservation and development of those cultures;
21. Rejects a concept of culture as a commodity subject to profit rules; upholds the democratisation of the creation and bringing to fruition of culture to stimulate cultural development for young people, defined according to their own aspirations and with their participation;
22. Urges ACP and EU governments to create plans or support existing initiatives to help boost the development of cultural tourism, encouraging young people to appreciate the cultural and natural heritage of our countries;

⁽¹⁾ Global trends in women's access to decent work, ILO, Occasional papers No. 43, May 2009, p. 18.

⁽²⁾ Men and women with disabilities in the EU: statistical analysis of the LFS ad hoc module and the EU-SILC – final report, 2007, p. 94.

23. Calls on ACP and EU governments to create or strengthen already existing intercultural policies in order to promote cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence of different cultures in society; also calls on ACP and EU governments to encourage decentralisation of cultural policies, thus promoting local development on the basis of culture and subcultures, and respect for diversity and difference;
24. Calls on ACP and EU governments, the Commission and international organisations to strengthen their efforts to organise workshops, seminars and youth camps for young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds as a means of promoting intercultural understanding;
25. Considers that the UN, the Commission and governments should incorporate a cultural dimension in development cooperation policies, programmes and plans;
26. Calls on the international community and EU and ACP governments to focus on preserving traditional handicrafts by allocating more funds to vocational training and manufacturing possibilities; to support sales and marketing of these products; to improve market access opportunities for cultural goods and services, especially those produced by young people, in order to improve the mobility of cultural goods and services; and to support initiatives for the teaching of local languages via the Internet;
27. Calls on ACP and EU governments to ensure that the voices of young people are being heard and welcomes the establishment of youth parliaments in an effort to promote young people's political culture and the development of their sense of responsibility;

Participation

28. Welcomes the Commission initiative on structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations on policy matters relevant to them, but underlines the need to better define the implementation of such a concept;
29. Notes that improving access to information enhances the transparency of governments and public administration, which will encourage young people's empowerment and participation in decision-making; stresses the importance of ICT in improving access to information and calls on governments to create and implement mechanisms that ensure the protection of young ICT users; underlines the role of ICT in strengthening new forms of youth participation such as cyber-participation and e-citizenship;
30. Considers that the minimum age for voting should not be above 18 years of age, to ensure the full participation of youth in society;
31. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the EU Member States, the ACP countries, the UN and UNESCO.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on climate change**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992,
- having regard to the Kyoto Protocol of 1997,
- having regard to the action plan adopted by the European Council following the report by the High Representative for the CFSP in March 2008,
- having regard to the ACP-EU joint declaration on climate change and development adopted by the Joint Council in May 2009,
- having regard to Resolution A/63/281 on climate change and its possible security implications, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 June 2009,
- having regard to the views of the World Humanitarian Forum held on 23 June 2009 in Geneva on the initiative of Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General,
- having regard to the declaration on climate change by the Pan-African Parliamentary Conference held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 25 to 27 June 2009,
- having regard to the resolutions adopted on 10 July 2009 at the G8 Summit and the Major Economies' Forum on Climate and Energy held in L'Aquila (Italy),
- having regard to the regional workshop of West African Parliamentarians and local elected representatives on climate change governance held in Praia (Cape Verde) from 3 to 6 August 2009,
- having regard to the resolutions on climate change and conflict by the African Union Summit held in Syrte (Libya) on 30 August 2009,
- having regard to the recommendations by the High-Level Meeting on Climate Change convened in New York on 22 September 2009 by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
- having regard to the recommendations of the World Forum on sustainable development held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 9 to 11 October 2009,
- having regard to the Declaration of the Second Pan-African Parliamentary Network on Climate Change Summit held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 12 to 15 October 2009,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 29 and 30 October 2009,
- having regard to the Declaration of the Third Sub-Regional Conference (Congo Basin) of the Pan-African Parliamentary Network on Climate Change held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 12 to 13 November 2009,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2009 on the EU strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the forthcoming fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5) to be held in Copenhagen (Denmark) from 7 to 18 December 2009,
 - having regard to its resolution of 4 April 2009 on the social and environmental consequences of climate change in the ACP countries ⁽²⁾,
- A. whereas global warming raises the problem, which is universally recognised to be urgent, of the survival and sustainable development of humankind,
 - B. whereas, according to a report by the Global Humanitarian Forum led by Kofi Annan, climate change has already pushed over 12 million people into poverty, while 300 000 people are dying every year from the adverse effects of climate change, and 20 million will fall into poverty by 2030,
 - C. whereas the unsettled climate, which is already perceptible because of the intensity and frequency of the natural disasters observed on all continents (floods, drought, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, etc.), represents a serious, frightening threat for countries that largely consist of desert, islands or coastal regions,
 - D. whereas the report on the State of World Population 2009 presented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) recognises that climate change is also an issue of population dynamics, poverty and gender equity,
 - E. whereas deforestation in the tropics is a major factor of climate change and a serious threat to biodiversity and the livelihoods of more than one billion poor people living in and off such forests,
 - F. whereas the international community recognises the impact of climate change on international security,
 - G. aware that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which have limited capacity and lack resources to adapt to climate change, will suffer the most although they have contributed the least to global warming,
 - H. having regard to the importance of agriculture, particularly small- and medium-scale agriculture, in LDCs, in terms of percentage of the active population and the impact of climate change in this sector,
 - I. convinced that guaranteeing a sustainable environment for future generations requires the shared but differentiated responsibility of the whole of humankind,
 - J. whereas industrialised countries bear a historical responsibility for global pollution and therefore have a duty to provide financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to adapt to its consequences, including loss and damage caused by the impact of climate change,
 - K. whereas most of the money promised for climate change comes from official development assistance (ODA) budgets, thus diverting funds from development assistance and posing a serious threat to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

⁽¹⁾ P7_TA-PROV(2009)0089. Not yet published in the *Official Journal*.

⁽²⁾ ACP-EU/100.383/09/fin, OJ C 221, 14.9.2009, p. 31.

- L. whereas the increasing displacement and forced migration of people caused by climate change can lead to major complications and conflicts, so this needs to be seriously addressed, since international agreements on climate change and international law do not provide the people concerned with specific assistance,
- M. whereas the G8 Summit and the Major Economies' Forum on Climate and Energy held in L'Aquila (Italy) have recognised that, in accordance with the conclusions of the UNFCCC and of the Kyoto Protocol, the average temperature in the world must not rise more than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels,
- N. stresses the urgent need to take account of the situation of women when analysing the impact of climate change, and the link with MDG 3 (gender equality) and MDG 5 (maternal health),
1. Welcomes the universal consensus finally achieved on the need to act together quickly to save planet Earth from the ecological and environmental crisis that threatens it;
 2. Urges that the agreement that will be concluded at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009 should place the emphasis on fairness and social justice by a differentiated approach that takes account of the countries' population, industrial development and poverty;
 3. Emphasises the need to reach a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen by the end of this year, which will build on the Kyoto Protocol and come into force on 1 January 2013;
 4. Calls on the representatives of EU and ACP countries to work closely together and to coordinate their positions so as to bring the Copenhagen summit to a successful conclusion;
 5. Notes the recognition by the G8 and the Major Economies' Forum in L'Aquila of the need to establish a world partnership to promote low-carbon-emission, environment-friendly technologies and to double public sector investment in them;
 6. Points out that the main cause of climate change is economic activity that fails to respect natural balances that has been taking place since the Industrial Revolution;
 7. Stresses that the international agreement should be based on the principle of a 'common but differentiated responsibility', with the industrialised countries taking the lead in reducing their domestic emissions while the developing countries and the emerging economies also commit themselves to taking nationally appropriate mitigation action in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner, by technology, financing and capacity-building from industrialised countries;
 8. Calls on industrialised countries to take the lead in addressing the climate change issues by making legally binding commitments to reduce emissions by 25 to 40 % below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 80 to 95 % below 1990 levels by 2050;
 9. Calls upon ACP and EU countries to fix a specific target for the use of renewable energy and considers that energy efficiency and renewable energy should be put at the heart of ACP-EU development cooperation programmes under the Cotonou Agreement;
 10. Strongly believes that climate change policy must not be dissociated from other policies, such as agriculture, food security, energy, environment, public health and international trade policy; therefore urges the EU and emerging and developing countries' governments to actively integrate environmental, social and climate change dimensions in country and regional strategy papers as well as in all development programmes and projects;

11. Considers that the hope raised by the existence, in the African countries in particular, of large natural reserves that could genuinely serve as the planet's lungs must result in appropriate financial flows enabling them to use their natural resources while respecting the ecosystem for the good of the whole of humankind;
12. Calls on the European Commission urgently to develop a comprehensive agenda to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, including promotion of Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programmes to ensure that the rights of the indigenous forest communities are respected; in addition considers that the Commission has to come forward with clear, rigorous proposals to ban the import of illegally logged timber and timber products into the EU market; calls on the Commission to present such proposals without further delay;
13. Stresses that the financial resources needed to counter climate change must be additional, renewable, predictable, transparent, long-term, appropriate and allocated primarily as subsidies; underlines that donor countries need to invest in improving and increasing the 'absorption capacity' in developing countries, so that the latter are able to use the resources effectively;
14. Stresses that mitigation and adaptation financing should respect priorities set by developing countries; underlines the need to incorporate local knowledge into mitigation and adaptation strategies as well as the importance of South-South knowledge transfers;
15. Urges that technological transfers should be organised speedily, so it is possible to address emergency situations associated with ecological disasters (drought, floods, etc.);
16. Calls on the international community to explore innovative financing mechanisms in order to increase its financial support for adaption to and mitigation of climate change for developing countries; encourages the EU and ACP governments to create programmes to attract additional funding from the private sector, in a transparent manner, for financing adaptation projects; stresses that there is a need for better donor coordination and enhanced cooperation between donor and recipient countries;
17. Calls likewise for the agreement concluded by the G8 to reduce the level of greenhouse gases by 2050 to be accompanied by short- and medium-term action plans;
18. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to include agriculture in any climate change deal in Copenhagen so that it has much greater access to adaptation funding as it is vital for food security, poverty reduction and maintaining the ecosystem;
19. Calls on the ACP governments to promote a regional fund for the improvement and propagation of cooperation techniques among small-scale farmers for adaptation and mitigation programmes; stresses the need to reinforce education and information campaigns on climate change impact;
20. Draws attention to the statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food saying that promotion of agrofuels is creating the conditions for another food crisis in the near future; stresses that the first goal of agriculture is to produce food;
21. Calls consequently on the developed countries in Copenhagen to enter into research and development activities and to share new technologies with the LDCs and all the developing countries;

22. Underlines the need for institutional accountability and trust by establishing equal representation of donor and recipient countries in the management bodies of adaptation funding institutions;
23. Insists that the post-2012 climate change agreement should take into account the existing development processes both at international and national level; calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to build the necessary links between climate change and the MDGs by incorporating mitigation and adaptation to climate change into projects and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs and into all poverty reduction strategies;
24. Calls on the international community to identify and address the legal shortfalls that exist in respect of the protection of people affected by climate-induced displacement and migration and to initiate a specific assistance and protection system;
25. Calls for the upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into a fully fledged World Environment Organisation to be based in Nairobi (Kenya), enhanced with adequate capacity to address the severity of the environmental catastrophe and related challenges in the world;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the UN Secretary-General, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the UNFCCC and the World Bank.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Madagascar

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005,
- having regard to the declaration by the Commission of the African Union,
- having regard to the declaration of 31 March 2009 by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors on the situation in Madagascar,
- having regard to the resolution on the political situation in Madagascar, adopted by the ACP Parliamentary Assembly on 10 February 2009,
- having regard to the work by the International Contact Group on Madagascar, and in particular the Maputo and Addis Ababa agreements concluded on 9 August 2009 and 6 November 2009 respectively,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution ⁽²⁾ of 7 May 2009 on the situation in Madagascar,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

⁽²⁾ P6_TA-PROV(2009)0392. Not yet published in the *Official Journal*.

- having regard to the statement of 10 November 2009 by the Secretary-General of the International Organisation of French-Speaking Countries (OIF) on the situation in Madagascar,
- A. whereas Mr Andry Rajoelina, the mayor of the capital Antananarivo, became the head of the High Transitional Authority on 17 March 2009, when the military handed over the executive power that it had seized from former President Marc Ravalomanana, who was forced to resign and go into exile,
- B. whereas Mr Rajoelina, having suspended the National Assembly and the Senate, proclaimed himself President of the Republic and head of the High Authority of Transition,
- C. noting the numerous protest demonstrations, which have been forcibly quelled by the army,
- D. noting that these events have been condemned by the international community and in particular the United Nations Security Council, the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the OIF, the Interparliamentary Union, the European Union, the United States of America and Norway,
- E. whereas the AU and SADC have not recognised Mr Rajoelina's authority and have suspended Madagascar from both organisations' membership,
- F. whereas on Monday 6 July 2009 the European Union initiated a consultation process with the Republic of Madagascar under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, thereby opening a dialogue to explore means of finding appropriate solutions to the country's political problems,
- G. whereas the European Union suspended funding to Madagascar, apart from humanitarian assistance and certain programmes and projects of direct benefit to the population, until it is satisfied that the road map to return to constitutional order is credible and based on consensual participation by everyone,
- H. whereas the international community's efforts to support the local parties in seeking an inclusive solution to the crisis and the rapid re-establishment of constitutional order in Madagascar are being thwarted by intransigence on the part of Mr Rajoelina – who is apparently a hostage of his own faction – and by the demands of the exiled President, Mr Ravalomanana, who is displaying an unhelpful lack of realism,
- I. whereas Madagascar's political situation is penalising it in economic terms and national economic recovery is contingent on political stability,
1. Vigorously condemns the seizure of power in Madagascar, in flagrant breach of the national Constitution, and the decision to entrust the Presidency of the Republic to Mr Rajoelina, which amounts to nothing less than a coup d'état;
 2. Calls for a return to constitutional republican order, to be achieved by the Malagasy parties to the dispute agreeing on, and diligently implementing, an inclusive solution to the crisis;
 3. Calls on the four political groupings involved to work tirelessly, as they undertook to do in Maputo and Addis Ababa, to reach consensus on the sharing of positions of responsibility and government posts so that transition can take place in accordance with the Addis Ababa timetable;
 4. Insists that the Malagasy Parliament must be reinstated immediately and involved in the efforts to resolve the crisis;

5. Believes that political pluralism, basic democratic freedoms, respect for human rights and rule of law can only be ensured as a result of consensual and inclusive dialogue which addresses the root causes of the country's wide range of problems: economic, social, political and environmental;
6. Hails what was achieved by the International Contact Group involving the UN, the AU, the EU and numerous regional organisations – the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and SADC – at the mediation meetings in Maputo and Addis Ababa and encourages it to press ahead with its efforts to normalise the situation;
7. Calls for an international independent investigation with the task of shedding light on the human rights violations and the series of acts of repression against the population;
8. Asks the international community to increase humanitarian assistance to the Malagasy people; calls on the international community and the EU to gradually resume aid to Madagascar, as soon as the transitional institutions of the government of national unity are in place, and calls for full respect for all democratic principles and fundamental freedoms;
9. Calls on any interim government of Madagascar not to finalise any agreement or contract with other countries or enterprises concerning its natural resources and national assets before the elections are held and a new government has received a legitimate mandate from the Malagasy population;
10. Welcomes the principled stance thus adopted by the international community in opposing any attempt to take power by unconstitutional means; and expresses particular satisfaction at the UN General Assembly's refusal to give Mr Rajoelina a hearing;
11. Calls on all political actors to put at the top of their agenda the fight against poverty, aiming to improve the standard of living of the population by putting in place a sound sustainable development policy, in particular basic healthcare services, education and job creation;
12. Undertakes to carry out a fact-finding mission on implementation of the Maputo and Addis Ababa agreements and calls for an international election observation mission at the appropriate time, in which it is willing to take part;
13. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and the cancellation of the judicial proceedings against them;
14. Calls on the African Union, the International Contact Group and Malagasy political players to consider the possibility of putting in place a monitoring and support body, with a view to ensuring respect for the commitments made in Maputo and Addis Ababa and bringing the transition process to a successful conclusion;
15. Calls for individual sanctions, in the event of failure to respect the undertakings given in Maputo and Addis Ababa;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the SADC, President Joaquim Chissano and the Commission of the African Union.

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the financial and economic impact of climate change in ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Tenerife (Spain) from 29 March to 1 April 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation, adopted by the Development and Environment ministers of the OECD member countries on 4 April 2006,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 April 2010 in Tenerife (Spain).

- having regard to the fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in Valencia (Spain) on 17 November 2007,
 - having regard to its resolution on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation, adopted in Ljubljana on 20 March 2008 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on the social and environmental consequences of climate change in the ACP countries, adopted in Prague on 9 April 2009 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the resolutions adopted on 10 July 2009 at the G8 Summit and the Major Economies' Forum on Climate and Energy held in L'Aquila in Italy,
 - having regard to the World Bank's World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change, released in Washington, USA, on 15 September 2009,
 - having regard to its resolution on climate change, adopted in Luanda on 2 December 2009 ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council held on 10 and 11 December 2009,
 - having regard to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.642/10 /fin.),
- A. whereas natural changes in the global climate have happened throughout history, but the rapidity and volume of both the global warming and the loss of biodiversity observed are such that their causal link to human activity can no longer be doubted,
- B. whereas climate change constitutes a serious threat to poverty reduction, human rights, peace and security, the availability of water, energy and food resources and the achievement of the MDGs in many developing countries,
- C. whereas the last century has witnessed an average increase in global surface temperature of 0.74 °C and the IPCC predicts that this will continue rising to between 1.1 °C and 6.4 °C, depending on the scenario,
- D. whereas the human, social, financial and economic consequences of these changes will be felt in the achievement of the MDGs and in many sectors, including agricultural and livestock productivity, marine activities, tourist flows, physical infrastructure and health services; whereas they are likely to result in desertification and threaten the existence of many indigenous peoples, islands and forests that constitute tangible and intangible global heritage,
- E. whereas ACP countries have least contributed to climate change but are facing its most severe consequences; whereas climate change has the potential to reduce or even annihilate global development trends by destroying productive potential across the developing world,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 271, 25.10.2008, p. 20.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 221, 14.9.2009, p. 19.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 68, 18.3.2010, p. 36.

- F. whereas the fragile public finances, high levels of public debt and heavy reliance on monocultures for export which characterise ACP countries render them vulnerable to exogenous shocks; whereas these countries' heavy reliance on primary sector production as a main source of national income leaves them most at risk from climatic changes,
- G. whereas at the household level climate change will decrease individual financial, social and physical security, increasing poverty and vulnerability, especially among the most vulnerable groups; whereas, on a macro-economic level, climate change is likely to increase the need for public spending, while at the same time reducing the sources of government revenue,
- H. whereas climate change can lead to increased scarcity of resources, such as habitable land, drinking water and arable land, triggering new conflicts, insecurity and migration flows, problems likely to further increase global instability,
- I. whereas agricultural production, employing 70 % of the population in the Least Developed Countries, is already threatened by rising temperatures and changing levels of precipitation which contribute to decreased and unpredictable yields; whereas, in addition, unsustainable farming practices further degrade lands in a potentially permanent manner,
- J. whereas nearly all of the estimated one billion undernourished people in the world live in rural areas and are dependent on the availability of arable land and agricultural yields for their livelihoods, and hence for their survival,
- K. whereas marine activities are undergoing changes owing to sea level rises and increases in ocean acidity which damage biodiversity, thus jeopardising the income of local fishermen, the revenue from coastal tourist industries and the scope of coastal countries' commercial portfolios; whereas industrial-scale tourism, when it is environmentally unsustainable, must be rethought,
- L. whereas the impact of climate change on agriculture and marine activities poses a serious threat to food security,
- M. whereas acute hazards believed to be linked to climate change are often unpredictable and devastating and they can wipe out primary sector production, physical infrastructure and tourist industries and cause widespread loss of life,
- N. whereas Small Island Developing States are often hardest hit by acute hazards and also suffer the further geographical disadvantage of being low-lying, therefore in danger of gradual encroachment by the sea and ultimately of their complete submergence as sea levels rise,
- O. whereas unstable climatic conditions will mean certain regions are designated as 'high risk' areas, thereby reducing their attractiveness for foreign direct investment,
- P. whereas economic actors who vigorously pursue their own interests to the detriment of the global climate, local environments, habitats and social welfare are rarely held accountable for the damage they cause,

- Q. whereas in a globalised world with global profits, corporate responsibility must also become global, as must the obligation to compensate for damages and losses,
1. Regrets the failure of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009, which, by not leading to a comprehensive legally binding international agreement, has demonstrated that while there is near unanimity on the types of challenges, there is much less agreement on the ways to meet them; takes note that the EU, during the negotiations in Copenhagen, did not withdraw its goals, and therefore calls on the EU to fully assume its responsibility, as a significant actor, in the ongoing efforts to reach a binding agreement during the conference to be held in Cancún from 29 November to 10 December 2010;
 2. Recognises that substantial global efforts urgently need to be made, particularly in the most industrialised and developed countries, to limit global warming by implementing coordinated, convergent, ambitious and proactive mitigation and adaptation policies;
 3. Notes that among the impacts of climate change on developing countries will be reductions in their productive potential, decreased exports and government revenues, rendering their economies more fragile; insists that support measures be implemented in favour of locally existing sustainable and productive agricultural practices, in order to enhance food security and avoid unnecessary erosion and depletion of soils;
 4. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to invest in alternative clean energy sources and in technologies to improve energy efficiency in order to take full advantage of the beneficial effects their use may have on the employment market, energy security and biodiversity and consequently on food security; underlines in particular the need for widespread use of renewable energies, especially solar energy, and more water-efficient farming methods; also urges the Commission to support innovative solutions such as green belts around cities to meet the basic food requirements of urban populations in developing countries;
 5. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to implement a vast joint public research programme with large-scale funding from the EU, involving innovative firms and specialist research centres, to develop powerful new technologies to exploit renewable energy sources, making the patents and processes available at no cost to entrepreneurs and state-owned companies in the EU and ACP countries;
 6. Calls on the EU, as part of its development cooperation, and on the ACP countries to develop Technology Partnerships in order to facilitate the use of clean technologies in the ACP countries and to support, potentially through the establishment of an ACP-EU energy initiative, research and development of similar technologies in the ACP countries themselves; in a broader context, underlines the necessity to clarify and enhance property rights in ACP countries, in order to create additional development potential based on property and its use for production and as collateral;
 7. Underlines the need for private economic actors from EU countries to behave in socially responsible ways whilst present in ACP countries, particularly concerning respect for the employment and remuneration rights of populations and the natural resources, environment, habitats, natural landscapes, fauna and flora of the countries in which they operate and on which local populations depend; emphasises in particular the need to improve the social responsibility of companies as regards the exploitation of natural resources;

8. Demands that funds for climate-related activities constitute money in addition to donors' long-standing commitments on levels of official development assistance (ODA) and that clear records of funds allocated under these two separate channels be kept;
9. Welcomes the initiative by the Bolivian President Evo Morales Ayma of organising a World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba (Bolivia) from 19 to 21 April 2010 as part of the international effort on the road from Copenhagen to Cancún;
10. Recalls that the international commitments made regarding the MDGs will be achievable only if the industrialised countries keep their commitment to contribute 0.7 % of their GDP in ODAs;
11. Calls on the EU and its Member States to adequately help the small island ACP States to address the problems caused by climate change in their agriculture and marine/fisheries sectors, including food security, by promoting the development of green economies through the transfer of technology and the provision of additional resources to finance their adaptation and mitigation strategies;
12. States that in the long run, the sums required for combating the impact of climate change in developing countries cannot be mobilised by states drawing on public funds alone, but the private sector must also contribute; welcomes therefore the initiatives of EU Member States on the establishment of voluntary levies on air and sea transport emissions and calls for a consequent taxation on international freight transport to be applied according to the proportional pollution volume and intensity of each mode of transport;
13. Calls for the implementation of a 'responsible-entity-pays' principle as a logical extension of the 'polluter-pays' principle;
14. Demands that the EU and those of its Member States holding individual seats at the G20 engage in negotiations with G20 and OECD partners and, more generally, within the global financial institutions designed to obtain an agreement on the need for a global levy, the product of which will be used for financing global public goods, including combating the worst effects of climate change;
15. Notes with concern that, apart from South Africa, no ACP state or group of states is present at the G20 table; states that a new model for sustainable global governance cannot be developed without greater participation from the poorest countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific;
16. Calls on the ACP and EU countries to implement international best practices when developing domestic legislation aimed at sustainable development, reducing carbon emissions, fostering cleaner energy technologies and promoting the use of renewable energy;
17. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the social impact of the global crisis**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Tenerife (Spain) from 29 March to 1 April 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the objectives of the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), on the one hand, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement) and all its amendments,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the commitment to set up a global partnership for development, and the conclusions and recommendations from the UN High-Level Meeting held in New York on 25 September 2008,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus, which was adopted at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development held on 21 and 22 March 2002, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2 March 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action adopted at the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held from 2 to 4 September 2008,
- having regard to the European Commission communication of 8 April 2009 entitled 'Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis' ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the declarations issued by the G20 following its meetings on the financial crisis held in Washington on 15 November 2008, London on 2 April 2009, and Pittsburgh on 24 and 25 September 2009,
- having regard to the resolutions adopted on 10 July 2009 at the G8 Summit held in L'Aquila (Italy),
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 10 and 11 December 2009,
- having regard to the appeal by the World Bank President, Robert B. Zoellick, to developed countries to pledge 0.7 % of their stimulus packages to a Vulnerability Fund for developing countries,
- having regard to the World Health Organization's 2008 report entitled 'Primary health care: now more than ever',

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 April 2010 in Tenerife (Spain).

⁽²⁾ COM(2009)0160 final.

- having regard to the IMF report of March 2009 entitled 'The implications of the global financial crisis for low-income countries',
 - having regard to the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome on 16-18 November 2009,
 - having regard to the resolution entitled 'The effects of the global economic and financial crisis on the African economies: strategies and measures to face them', adopted by the African Parliamentary Union at its 32nd Conference held in Ouagadougou on 19-20 November 2009,
 - having regard to its resolution on the impact of the financial crisis on ACP States, adopted in Luanda on 3 December 2009 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.640/10/fin.),
- A. whereas the current crisis is of an exceptional nature and is a conjunction of social, environmental, energy, economic, financial and food crises; whereas the development model has to be adjusted in order to ensure it is effective and transparent,
- B. whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the number of people in the world suffering from hunger has reached one billion and the total has increased by 100 million due to the global crisis; whereas the number of people living in poverty could rise by 90 million by December 2010,
- C. whereas most ACP countries are dependent on exports of commodities and natural resources, and the crisis has led to a drop in export earnings for many developing countries, a drop in the transfer of funds to these countries, and a drop in foreign direct investment,
- D. whereas developing countries also face a reduction in remittances from migrant workers to their countries of origin and a decrease in official development assistance (ODA), estimated by the United Nations at USD 20 million per annum short of the promise of the G8 meeting in Gleneagles in 2005 on aid to Africa,
- E. whereas the impact of the various crises on the ACP countries will jeopardise the achievement of the MDGs,
- F. whereas HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue as the disease's spread has created a pandemic with social, economic and demographic consequences in all countries,
- G. whereas the economic and financial crisis is likely to increase the lost of skilled labour from ACP countries, exacerbating the long-term effects of the crisis,
- H. whereas the ACP countries are not to blame for the financial and economic crisis but are amongst those being hit hardest by its effects, which is also true as regards climate change; whereas the financial and economic crisis was caused, inter alia, by the deregulation of financial and economic markets,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 68, 18.3.2010, p. 24.

- I. whereas employment conditions are worsening following the crisis: unemployment has risen by up to 59 million worldwide and over 200 million workers are exposed to extreme poverty following the financial and economic crisis, both in ACP and EU countries,
- J. whereas the vulnerable groups in society, first and foremost young people, will have to bear the brunt of the medium- and long-term effects of the crisis; whereas the already excessive proportion of unemployment accounted for by young people will continue to rise,
- K. whereas the effects of the global economic crisis on the 'middle-income' developing countries and on their social development programmes should not be overlooked,

Multifaceted consequences of the crisis

1. Recalls that the EU is required to play a decisive role in mitigating the effects of the crisis on ACP countries, given its position as the main trading partner of the ACP States, the main provider of private investment, and the world's largest donor of ODA;
2. Urges donor countries to use this unprecedented crisis as a catalyst to further explore existing possibilities in terms of additional and innovative sources of financing for development, such as an international financial transaction tax, and to identify new ones to allow developing countries to diversify their sources of revenue and implement effective, concrete and operational spending programmes;
3. Fears that the crisis will hamper the achievement of the MDGs and the financial crisis will become a development crisis, and calls therefore for respect for and delivery of commitments made by EU Member States to increase ODA to 0.56 % of GNI by 2010 and to 0.7 % by 2015; calls on Member States to honour these commitments by enshrining them in binding national legislation; calls for coordinated action and reinforcement of the development programmes in order to safeguard existing ODA allocations for the health, education and social protection sectors;
4. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to put European funding to the most effective use with a view to attaining the MDGs through more careful selection of focal sectors in the Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes;
5. Reiterates the importance of the principles of aid effectiveness set out in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and the principles of donor coordination set out in the EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy ⁽¹⁾; calls on the ACP-EU Council of Ministers meeting in June 2010 to renew its commitment in that respect;
6. Calls on EU and ACP governments to fight jointly to eradicate tax evasion, illicit capital flows and money laundering; stresses the need to support capacity-building in ACP States, including national tax systems and the judiciary, in order to better redistribute wealth;

⁽¹⁾ COM(2007)0072 final.

7. Supports the implementation of international practices in tax matters, particularly the observance of the principles of transparency and exchange of information between the ACP States that have committed to them;
8. Insists on the need to reduce the cost of remittance transactions, especially at a time when migrants suffer severely from the crisis and cannot transfer as much to their country of origin;
9. Points out that regional cooperation has a key role to play in surmounting the effects of the crisis;

Improving social sectors

10. Emphasises the role of social protection systems in mitigating poverty and calls for the creation and development of social protection mechanisms;
11. Calls, in the short term, on recipient governments and donors to focus on safety nets to prevent people from falling into poverty; supports the establishment of a Global Poverty Alert System, an international rapid response fund that would provide a safety net for the world's most vulnerable people;
12. Welcomes the Vulnerability FLEX mechanism from the European Commission, which aims to provide support in order to safeguard social spending; calls on the Commission and the ACP governments to take the opportunity of the mid-term review of Country and Regional Strategy Papers to examine the possibilities of reinforcing social sectors and to increase the resources for the second 'tranche' of the V-FLEX with a view to fully financing the residual funding gap of the eligible ACP States in 2010;
13. Urges governments and donors to prioritise support for basic social needs and enhance support to vulnerable children and women hit hard by the crisis, at-risk young people, low-wage, low-skilled and migrant workers, rural workers and disabled people;
14. Recalls that efforts should be made to reduce infant and maternal mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa where these MDGs might not be attained; recalls that education and health should be at the core of development policies and insists that the current situation should not justify any reduction in national spending and international aid to these sectors;
15. Believes that health programmes, including sexual and reproductive health, promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women, and child rights should be prominent in ACP-EU development policy, in particular in areas where gender-based violence is pervasive and women and children are put at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or denied access to information, prevention and/or treatment;
16. Calls on ACP and EU governments to take measures aimed specifically at integrating young people and women into society and increasing their full participation in the economy;
17. Emphasises that job creation should be facilitated through improving tertiary education, including vocational training, and lifelong learning; calls for an increase in equal access to and opportunities for skills development, quality training and education; calls for improvements to be made as regards access to credit (including micro-finance) to encourage job creation and help set up micro-enterprises to revitalise local economies;

18. Stresses the need to protect workers' rights and calls for more measures to be taken to fight child labour and youth unemployment; calls on stakeholders to develop crisis response strategies at national and sectoral levels through social dialogue;
19. Underlines that decent work has to be at the heart of job creation to overcome the issue of the 'working poor'; therefore stresses that a regional growth strategy focusing on employment and decent-work-related issues should be incorporated into the mid-term review of the ACP Country Strategy Papers;
20. Calls on donor countries to support the ACP countries in diversifying their economies so that they become less dependent on a single product; recalls the need to invest in infrastructure and regional connection projects and insists that a partnership of equals should guide trade policies, with a view to placing economies on a stable footing at regional and local level;
21. Points to the need to assess investment in developing countries in terms of its sustainability and to maintain healthy environmental and living conditions on a lasting basis;
22. Reaffirms that brain drain is an alarming reality that threatens the development path and prospects of Least Developed Countries by negatively affecting basic sectors of health and sanitation, education, and the building of the public sector; therefore encourages circular migration;

Food security

23. Reiterates that the recent food crisis has proved that agriculture has been neglected for too long and that malnutrition urgently needs to be tackled by long-term measures; urges the countries, donors and international institutions concerned to encourage investment in food security and agriculture, especially small-scale agriculture; takes the view that the European Commission should take the opportunity provided by the mid-term review of the Country Strategy Papers under the Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation and the European Development Fund to discuss with the recipient countries the need to move agriculture and fisheries higher up in the agenda;
24. Stresses that subsidised EU food exports should be channelled towards regions where there are acute food shortages;
25. Welcomes foreign investment in agriculture when it supports development and helps build local capacity for transforming raw materials (especially agricultural products) into processed products; is nevertheless worried by the current trend whereby some countries rent land in developing countries in order to import production from those countries; insists that such contracts should be transparent and that part of the produce should stay in the producing countries; expresses its concerns regarding food speculation;
26. Calls for technical, financial, and human capacity to be boosted with a view to promoting small farmers, local markets, and modern cultivation techniques in ACP countries so as to make them less vulnerable to the effects of volatile world markets;

27. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to treat development of the agricultural sector, fisheries and food security as a priority and to make them a focal sector when drawing up Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes; stresses that food production and distribution should be addressed in order to prevent hunger in ACP countries; also suggests that urban agriculture be developed;
28. Calls on the EU to engage with regional fisheries management organisations in order to achieve sustainable fisheries and to develop ACP countries' in-house capacity to process their fish;

Climate change

29. Recalls that USD 100 billion per annum is needed by 2020 to help developing countries cope with climate change; calls on ACP countries to establish their own priorities to fight climate change through the establishment of national adaptation programmes; insists that the funds should not come from already planned development assistance budgets: they should instead be new and additional funds;
30. Emphasises that mitigating climate change is a huge challenge for developing countries but that it should also become an opportunity, with the financial and technical support of donors, to promote green technologies to develop the countries (green development) through technological transfers (solar power, etc.), and to create green jobs;
31. Regrets the lack of a legally binding agreement at the Copenhagen Summit; therefore calls for a joint ACP-EU strategy towards a real commitment in the framework of the next COP 16 to be held in Mexico;
32. Points to the importance of promoting a world alliance to combat climate change, which should seek to provide greater support to the poorer developing countries more exposed to climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;
33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the African Union, and the Pan-African Parliament.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation in Haiti, and the link between poverty and natural disasters**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Tenerife (Spain) from 29 March to 1 April 2010,
 - having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the G7 summit in Iqaluit (Canada) on 6 February 2010,
 - having regard to the results of the International Donors' Conference 'Towards a New Future for Haiti', held in New York on 31 March 2010,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Ministerial Preparatory Conference in Montreal on 25 January 2010,
 - having regard to the debate on the earthquake in Haiti, held in the European Parliament on 20 January 2010, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Brussels on 18 January 2010,
 - having regard to the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH),
- A. whereas an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, causing catastrophic damage to Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and other settlements in the region, and was followed by numerous powerful aftershocks that continued to affect the country,
 - B. whereas it is estimated that there are more than 200 000 dead, 250 000 people wounded and more than 3 million people directly affected; whereas the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has paid a heavy toll and is mourning 146 deaths and 70 people reported as missing among its civilian and military staff,
 - C. whereas the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported that in the country as a whole up to one million people are in need of shelter, particularly on the eve of the rainy season, and there are up to 500 000 internally displaced people,
 - D. whereas even before the earthquake of 12 January 2010, the country had been devastated by hurricanes and tropical storms in 2008, which caused damage estimated at 15 % of GDP,
 - E. whereas some 1.8 million people were 'food insecure' prior to the earthquake, in a country where close to 60 % of the population live in rural areas and 70 % (12 million people) live on less than USD 2 a day,
 - F. whereas this extreme poverty has exacerbated the destructive effects of the earthquake and plunged the country into one of the most severe humanitarian crises it has ever experienced,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 April 2010 in Tenerife (Spain).

- G. whereas the Commission has agreed to provide EUR 137 million for short-term needs and at least EUR 200 million for the medium and longer term, with Member States providing an additional EUR 92 million; whereas the Inter-American Development Bank estimates that it will take EUR 10.5 billion to reconstruct Haiti, at a rate of EUR 2 billion a year; noting the decision by the Union of South American Nations to create an aid fund for Haiti of EUR 217 million,
- H. whereas Haiti is crippled by foreign debt, estimated at approximately USD 1 billion, which was an obstacle to its development even before the earthquake and may hinder the country's recovery effort,
- I. noting the decision by the G7 ministers to cancel Haiti's debt, but also the fact that Haiti's debt to the G7 countries accounted for only USD 214 million out of a total of USD 890 million,
- J. whereas, beyond the immediate relief operation, medium- and long-term recovery efforts to rebuild people's livelihoods, destroyed infrastructure, state institutions and economic activities require a long-term international commitment,
1. Expresses its sincere condolences to, and sympathy and solidarity with, the people of Haiti and of the other nations affected, and the staff of international organisations, including the UN and the European Commission, for the massive loss of life and the devastation caused by the exceptionally strong earthquake; pays tribute to the exemplary courage and solidarity shown by the people of Haiti who, in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and before it hit the media, and in utter destitution themselves, saved thousands of lives and gave succour to thousands of injured people and orphans;
 2. Welcomes efforts by the Haitian authorities and civil society, as well as by the UN, NGOs and other bilateral donors, to bring aid to the people of Haiti and pays tribute to the work of relief organisations and individuals from across the European Union and the ACP countries and throughout the world;
 3. Welcomes wholeheartedly the solidarity shown by the United Nations member states and international partners gathered at the International Donors' Conference 'Towards a New Future for Haiti' in New York on 31 March 2010, which resulted in pledges totalling up to USD 9.9 billion over the next three years and beyond, and urges the international community to fulfil the historic pledges made;
 4. Supports the fact that the international donors aligned their contributions on the Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti, presented by René Préval, President of Haiti, as a clear sign that the Haitian authorities will take the lead in long-term reconstruction efforts;
 5. Emphasises that it is crucial for the UN, acting under the aegis of the Government of Haiti, to be and remain in charge of coordinating all civilian and military operations, with regard to restoring security and to humanitarian aid, and also to reconstruction and development;
 6. Calls on the UN to review MINUSTAH's mandate in conjunction with the Haitian authorities in order to respond to the country's post-disaster needs, with a particular focus on security issues;
 7. Calls for a comprehensive assessment to identify the population's short- and long-term needs and establish the involvement of the international community in the reconstruction process, covering the three phases of emergency aid, rehabilitation and reconstruction;
 8. Expresses grave concern about the welfare of the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and the elderly; calls on the Commission and the UN to pay special attention to and support women's participation in reconstruction efforts by actively involving them in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and evaluation phases of all relief and rebuilding programmes;

9. Stresses that unaccompanied children and children separated from their families should be provided with services aimed at reuniting them with their parents or customary care-givers as quickly as possible; calls on the EU and the international community urgently to assess the need for a coordinated plan to deal with the thousands of children left orphaned by the earthquake; highlights the grave risk of illegal adoption and child trafficking;
10. Urges the EU to support a temporary moratorium on new adoptions of children from Haiti for up to two years after tracing efforts have begun; calls for EU efforts to provide children with their basic needs, bring temporary schools into operation and provide counselling to children as a matter of urgency;
11. Strongly urges the European Commission and the international community to monitor the health situation of the Haitian population, especially women and children;
12. Calls on the international community to cancel outright the Republic of Haiti's external debt and congratulates all those who have taken or announced measures to that end; stresses that any emergency earthquake assistance must be provided in the form of grants, not debt-incurring loans;
13. Supports efforts by the EU and other donors to boost food production locally, rehabilitating damaged infrastructures and making the necessary material (seed, fertiliser and tools) available to agriculture smallholders – particularly for the spring planting season starting in March, which accounts for 60 % of national food production; calls on the EU and other international donors wherever possible to purchase locally produced food for the relief effort, thereby making an important contribution to helping the rural economy and protecting local producers;
14. Emphasises the need to focus on long-term investment in the construction of earthquake-resistant buildings that meet appropriate technical standards and in basic infrastructure, such as water supply, roads, electricity and the transfer of technology, which was non-existent or largely inadequate prior to the earthquake, thus greatly exacerbating the potential impact of natural disasters;
15. Calls for the creation of a fund administered by the United Nations to finance public awareness-raising and training measures, prevention and early warning systems, the construction of adequate protective structures and the stockpiling of emergency medical and sanitary equipment;
16. Calls on the international community to ensure that the people of Haiti and their government, under the democratic control of its parliament, are the main actors in the reconstruction process, to allow them to take ownership of their collective future; asks the European Commission and the EU Member States to put the EU's know-how at their disposal and thus strengthen the national and local, regional and sub-regional capacity;
17. Urges the international community to ensure that the issue of alleviating poverty in Haiti is kept high on the agenda, even when media attention has moved away, in order to help Haiti to emerge from this disaster as a fully functioning democracy with an economy that can provide for its people in a sustainable way;
18. Urges the EU to work with the Haitian authorities to establish a disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism and capacity management for the long term, emphasising that reconstruction efforts must be based on national priorities, while respecting aid-effectiveness principles and supporting Haiti's institutions in order to enable them to govern effectively; supports President Préal's proposal to create a permanent structure within the UN that is capable of managing, from day one, crises caused by natural disasters;

19. Considers it vital to undertake massive reforestation in Haiti, given that the present situation makes the country extremely vulnerable to all kinds of natural disasters, and to find economic and sustainable alternatives to deforestation for cooking food;
20. Calls on the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response to play a leading role in coordinating the EU's crisis response, in cooperation with the United Nations, using the responsibilities created under the Lisbon Treaty to coordinate the EU's response to future crises more effectively while building on what has already been achieved;
21. Strongly encourages the creation, at international level, of operational civil protection mechanisms that can be used in situations comparable to that of Haiti, on the basis of regional pre-positioning or depending on the frequency or predictability of disasters;
22. Calls on the European Commission to put forward proposals as soon as possible for establishing an EU Civil Protection Force based on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and enabling the EU to bring together the resources necessary for providing initial emergency humanitarian aid within 24 hours of a disaster;
23. Calls on the European Union, in view of the importance of regional integration and cooperation in the Caribbean region, to release special funds for the French outermost regions of the Caribbean (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guiana) so that they can continue and intensify their aid to the people of Haiti;
24. Appeals urgently to the re-constituted Government of Haiti to do its utmost to establish and deepen democracy in Haiti;
25. Welcomes the African Union's positive response to the proposal of President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, supported by a resolution of the Senegalese Parliament, on the right to return of Haitians, and urges the international community to take this proposal forward by adopting a United Nations resolution;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the President of the European Commission, the President and Government of Haiti, the ACP Council, the Caricom Member States, the Commission of the African Union, the UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the governments of the Member States of the European Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on supporting the consolidation of peace in Southern Sudan

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Tenerife (Spain) from 29 March to 1 April 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A (Sudan's People's Liberation Movement/Army) in January 2005,
- having regard to Sudan's Interim National Constitution, adopted in 2005,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 April 2010 in Tenerife (Spain).

- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, both ratified by Sudan,
 - having regard to the United Nations Security Council's resolutions on Sudan,
 - having regard to the work of the African Union Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in the Sudan and other African Union initiatives,
 - having regard to the report by the President of the African Union Commission on the process of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA),
 - having regard to the communiqué of the 201st meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held in Addis Ababa on 26 August 2009,
 - having regard to the EU code of conduct on trade in small arms and light weapons and the UN conventional weapons systems,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Sudan and to the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament resolutions on Sudan,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions on Sudan,
 - having regard to the International Crisis Group Policy Briefing of 17 December 2009 on 'Sudan: Preventing Implosion',
 - having regard to the joint NGO report of January 2010 on 'Rescuing the peace in Southern Sudan',
- A. whereas the CPA ended the terrible and devastating civil war that cost Sudan over two million deaths and nearly four million refugees and displaced persons,
- B. aware of the fact that this civil war as well as the increase in the violence can be ascribed to:
- disputes about natural resources and power sharing,
 - the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons,
 - the continued frequent, brutal and bloody incursions by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group operating from outside Uganda,
- C. whereas, moreover, the CPA had fixed an interim period of six years (2005-2011), setting out the objectives to be achieved under the heading of 'peace dividends' and certain key dates, such as the national elections originally scheduled for 2009 and the referendum on the self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan scheduled for January 2011,
- D. whereas the forthcoming national elections are the first elections to be held after the conclusions of the CPA and are crucial for the peace process, before moving to the referendum on self-determination of Southern Sudan and the referendum of Abyei,
- E. whereas solutions are needed on citizenship, the remaining parts of north-south border demarcation, demilitarisation of the border areas, and sharing of resources, including oil, ahead of the South's self-determination referendum,

- F. whereas the dispute on the census has been bypassed by the agreement between the two parties which allocates an extra 40 seats in the national Assembly for the SPLM/A,
- G. whereas the accuracy of the final data of the May 2008 housing and population census is disputed by the SPLM; whereas in the south 108 % of the estimated eligible number of voters were registered,
- H. whereas recent progress of the negotiations between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM on the Southern Sudan referendum law, the Abyei area referendum and the popular consultations in South Khordofan and Blue Nile regions are positive steps,
- I. whereas UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made clear that the United Nations would work to support the parties in their efforts to make unity attractive and the exercise by the people of Southern Sudan of their right to self-determination in a referendum,
- J. whereas the UN Peacekeeping mission (UNMIS) was created in 2005 with the main aim of supporting the implementation of the CPA and deployed over 9 000 military personnel and has over 3 000 local civilian and international personnel; whereas UNMIS has focused on monitoring the CPA to the detriment of its civil protection mandate,
- K. whereas at its meeting of January 2010, the African Union Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in the Sudan stressed the need for the Sudanese parties to spare no efforts to overcome the challenges facing the implementation of the CPA, including the successful conduct of the elections and the democratic transformation of the country, border demarcation, resolution of the issue of Abyei on the basis of the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and addressing the issue of insecurity in Southern Sudan,
- L. whereas a surge in tribal fighting has killed thousands of people since the beginning of 2009 in Southern Sudan, most victims being women and children, in remote rural areas; whereas since the beginning of 2010 hundreds of people have died as a result of violence in the State of Warrap,
- M. whereas Southern Sudan is one of the least developed regions in the world; whereas the UN Population Fund puts literacy in Southern Sudan at 24 %; whereas 90 % of women cannot read or write,
- N. whereas, according to the World Food Programme, violence forced 350 000 people to flee their homes in 2009, leaving them dependent on food aid; whereas last year's poor seasonal rains also destroyed the harvest; whereas a total of 4.3 million people need food aid, up from around one million last year,
- O. whereas, according to the WHO, Southern Sudan is dramatically short of physicians, with 0.22 doctors for every 1 000 people and the government says just 25 % of the population have access to health services; whereas Southern Sudan has the highest world record of maternal mortality and one in each seven children dies before the age of five; whereas according to the South Sudan AIDS Commission, HIV awareness is below 10 %; whereas the government of Southern Sudan is going ahead with a health system reconstruction plan,
- P. whereas the donor community has not fulfilled its 2005 commitments made in Oslo (Norway), with only a small fraction of the USD 4.8 billion assistance pledged having actually reached Southern Sudan,

- Q. whereas, following the signature of the CPA, the European Commission resumed cooperation with Sudan and has committed over EUR 500 million, principally in the areas of post-conflict recovery, rehabilitation and development activities; whereas because Sudan has decided not to ratify the first revision of the Cotonou Agreement, it is now no longer eligible to receive European Development Fund aid, and whereas the European Commission is working on a solution to this,
1. Solemnly reaffirms its full endorsement of the CPA and urgently requests all parties concerned to implement it effectively and in its entirety in order to promote a comprehensive peace in Sudan; calls for closer cooperation between the Sudanese Government and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), with a view to removing any obstacles to the success of the CPA agenda;
 2. Calls also on the AU, the EU and the international community to rapidly agree on action and measures to support the Sudanese parties in the implementation of the CPA and promote democratic governance throughout Sudan;
 3. Acknowledges the role played so far by the two partners signatory to the CPA (the NCP and the SPLM) and the Sudanese people for honouring their peace agreement; and calls them to summon their ultimate political goodwill in order to overcome the impasses and to complete the implementation of the CPA to the letter;
 4. Calls on the NCP and the SPLM to implement key democratic reforms needed to ensure that national elections and the southern referendum are credible, free and fair;
 5. Insists that all fundamental freedoms granted in the Interim Constitution are implemented in practice and calls on the competent authorities, notably the Electoral Commission, to overcome remaining technical problems in the run-up to the elections;
 6. Supports the people of Sudan, whose active participation in the process of voter registration shows a significant interest, in taking part in the upcoming elections;
 7. Welcomes the fact that with closed party lists for women (25 %) Sudan will have one of the highest percentages of parliamentary representation by women in the region, but would also like to see women proposed by the parties outside the women's lists;
 8. Calls on both parties, the African Union and the international community to consider future political, economic and security relations between the north and the south in the event that secession is approved in the referendum, including transition mechanisms for secession; considers that a post-referendum transition period is needed so that pre-referendum agreements establishing the terms of a peaceful secession can be properly implemented and managed;
 9. Calls on both parties to the CPA to create a peaceful and stable environment for conducting a transparent and credible referendum as provided for in the CPA;
 10. Calls on all parties to stop violence; calls on the GoSS to facilitate inter-tribal dialogue and to establish institutional mechanisms for achieving and sustaining tribal reconciliation;
 11. Calls on the GoSS to put more effort into security at the local level, paying attention to the ethnic composition of units, and to prioritise police reform, building on existing strategy documents and the 2009 Police Act; stresses the importance of security sector reform;

12. Urges the United Nations Security Council:
- to make all the promised resources available to UNMIS, so that it can perform its mission under optimum conditions;
 - to make civil protection an UNMIS priority;
 - to provide clear guidelines for UNMIS and training for all its personnel on its civil protection responsibilities;
 - to continue to take part in resolving the LRA problem and do its utmost to find a comprehensive and lasting solution;
13. Calls on UNMIS to undertake a more proactive civilian protection role and to become an active partner in local conflict prevention, in cooperation with tribal authorities;
14. Considers that the north-south issue cannot be viewed in isolation and that reconciliation is a key element in any lasting peace in southern Sudan; therefore calls on all parties to respect the basic human rights of the population, make protection of civilians a priority area, put an end to impunity and bring criminal suspects to justice in order to build trust;
15. Calls on the EU, and on other donors, in particular those that made commitments at the 2005 Oslo Donors' Conference, to recognise the significant humanitarian and development needs in Southern Sudan and to ensure that allocated funds reflect those needs and are released; further calls on them to support the government to articulate a strategic vision for the roles of the existing funding mechanisms and to find creative ways to support indigenous organisations, recognising that a strong civil society is critical to Southern Sudan's stability;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the United Nations and the national, regional and continental parliaments of the ACP Group.

DECLARATION

The EU-Latin America bananas agreement and its impact on ACP and EU banana producers

The deal

- A. In December 2009 the EU came to an agreement within the WTO with the US and Latin American producers to put an end to the long-running dispute on bananas.
- B. The deal will mean significant tariff cuts (35 % between 2010 and 2017 at the earliest) for non-ACP imports and, as a result, it will harm the competitiveness of ACP and EU producers.
- C. Moreover, the EU is currently holding bilateral talks with certain Latin American countries, with a view to signing free-trade agreements, which may lead to significant further tariff reductions and considerably reduce any supposed benefits to ACP banana producers derived from EPAs.
- D. Bananas are the world's fourth biggest agricultural export. The EU market accounts for over a third of all imports.

ANNEX IV

TEXTS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on free and independent media**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19 and 20 thereof,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 11 thereof,
- having regard to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, in particular Article 9(2) thereof,
- having regard to the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, of 3 May 1991,
- having regard to the principles of independent journalism, as affirmed by the global voice of journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, and its African and European regional organisations, the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ),
- having regard to Article 1 of the Statutes of the World Association of Newspapers,
- having regard to the FAJ Press Freedom Report 2009,
- having regard to the European Parliament's award of the 2005 Sakharov Prize to Reporters Without Borders (RWB),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

- having regard to the annual reports of RWB, in particular that of 2009,
 - having regard to the reports of Freedom House, in particular those entitled 'Freedom of the Press 2009' and 'Freedom on the Net',
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 September 2006 on media and development ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 25 September 2008 on concentration and pluralism in the media in the European Union ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the African Union-European Union Forum on Media and Development held in Ouagadougou in September 2008,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.655/10/fin.),
- A. whereas the concept of free and independent media is a principal component of the fundamental right to freedom of expression, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequently endorsed both by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,
- B. whereas there is overall recognition in global fora, such as the International Federation of Journalists, the World Association of Newspapers, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House, that freedom and independence in the media are crucial to the proper functioning of a democracy in which basic freedoms are respected and a society in which the rights of the individual are given their true value,
- C. whereas recent developments have shown that there has been an overall regression in terms of freedom of expression in the media, as borne out by reports by independent bodies, in both developed and developing countries,
- D. whereas authoritarian regimes are not only limiting freedom of the media in order to stifle opposition, thereby hampering the proper functioning of democracy, but also jeopardising electoral processes and the normal operation of society by taking measures which curtail the right of the opposition or of minorities to promote their message in a free and transparent manner,
- E. whereas there is also widespread recurrence of activities by criminal elements in society, including in more prosperous areas of the world, who stifle any investigative journalism, going so far as to murder individuals working in the media who attempt to expose their activities,
- F. whereas independent bodies have identified a worsening of the situation as regards the freedom and independence of the media in both EU and ACP countries,
- G. whereas certain EU countries' overall rankings in the area of media freedom and independence have fallen, in some cases considerably,
- H. whereas there are certain ACP countries where media freedom and independence are severely curtailed or even non-existent; whereas certain ACP countries such as Haiti, Guyana and Papua New Guinea have been praised for the progress achieved in improving freedom of the media,
- I. whereas journalists have a responsibility, which is proportional to their influence, not to incite hatred, in particular racial hatred,
- J. whereas the development of new internet and mobile telephony-related technology is providing people with ever greater opportunities to express themselves,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 306 E, 15.12.2006, p. 96.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 8 E, 14.1.2010, p. 85.

1. Deplores the worsening of the situation as regards the freedom and independence of the media in the world, with authoritarian regimes stifling opposition by committing serious breaches of human rights against journalists, media employees and users of the internet, going as far as murder or illegal imprisonment, thereby violating Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
2. Denounces the negative consequences stemming from concentrated ownership of media in big business, particularly in terms of reduction of pluralism, conditioning of freedom to inform and be informed, constraints imposed on journalists activity and the emergence of new forms, explicit and implicit, of censorship;
3. Calls on governments that have imprisoned journalists carrying out their legitimate functions, to release them immediately;
4. Calls on the European Commission, the ACP Group and the EU Member States strongly to condemn all forms of violation of freedom of speech and press freedom in their member and partnership countries;
5. Condemns the frequently unpunished acts of criminal elements, often working in organised crime syndicates or under orders from the political authorities, who harass, injure or sometimes murder journalists for conducting investigations into their activities;
6. Considers it unacceptable that journalists must curtail, adjust or cease their activities, or are forced to lead lives of confinement, for having addressed religious issues;
7. Considers it unacceptable that religious figures should pronounce sentences on journalists, thereby curtailing their activities, restricting their freedom of expression and putting their lives in danger;
8. Regrets the absence of any effective instrument for enforcing respect for fundamental rights in the application of international trade and cooperation agreements;
9. Emphasises that freedom and independence of the media are essential elements for the proper functioning of a democratic society, ranging from the holding of free and fair elections to pluralistic freedom of expression for all;
10. Recognises that members of the media have a moral and legal responsibility to give the public quality information and should be serving the public good; considers, nevertheless, that governments, companies and criminal entities should not attempt to censor the media;
11. Acknowledges that new forms of internet-based media must be protected as part of the free and independent media, in addition to the traditional media of radio, television and the printed press;
12. Calls for a more explicit reference to freedom and independence of the media in international agreements to ensure that proper conditionality applies when such freedom is curtailed;
13. Expresses concern at the fall in rankings for freedom of the press in certain ACP countries, but praises Papua New Guinea, Guyana, Ghana, Tanzania, Djibouti and Lesotho for setting a good example of what can be achieved in ACP countries in spite of difficult conditions; states that ten of the ACP countries are among the first 50 positions in the 2009 rankings, but that one EU Member State is outside the top 50;

14. Expresses concern over restrictions in media freedom in countries applying for accession to both the EU and the Cotonou Agreement, and calls for accession to be conditional on respect for human rights and, explicitly, respect for freedom of expression in the press and other media;
15. Regrets that the media are too often overly answerable to economic or political interests or to the State, which limits pluralism of opinion;
16. Calls for the promotion of ethical codes and statutes that protect the editorial independence of journalists, promote professional standards and oblige them to exercise their independence responsibly within the limits of Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and within journalists' representative organisations;
17. Calls for the establishment of a separate budget line within the European Commission's development aid budget, with the aim of increasing capacity building and training of journalists, in particular in ACP countries;
18. Praises the European Commission for its initiatives in the area of freedom and independence of the media, and calls on it to promote further the freedom of journalistic expression through its programmes, such as the Lorenzo Natali Prize and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights;
19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to look into ways of giving its backing to action in support of freedom of the press in ACP and EU countries through an annual prize awarded by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), and to report thereon at the next session of the JPA;
20. Praises the work of professional organisations such as the IFJ, EFJ, FAJ, IPI and WAN, NGOs such as RWB, Freedom House, the Committee to Protect Journalists and UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication, in promoting awareness of infringements of media freedom worldwide, and calls for their work to be supported and disseminated as widely as possible;
21. Welcomes the initiative of the EU and the AU to support the Pan-African Media Network and Portal;
22. Undertakes to continue to monitor the freedom and independence of the media in ACP and EU states, as well as in its institutional relations at regional and international level;
23. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP and EU institutions.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on post-Copenhagen: technology transfer, new technologies and technical capacity building in the ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,

— having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in particular Article 4(5) thereof,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, and in particular the second revision of the Agreement, signed at the EU-ACP Council meeting in June 2010, and specifically Article 32a (Climate Change) thereof,
- having regard to the report by Nicholas Stern entitled 'The Economics of Climate Change. The Stern Review' ('the Stern Report') of 2006,
- having regard to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in Valencia, Spain, on 17 November 2007,
- having regard to the Bali Action Plan (Decision 1/COP 13),
- having regard to the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December 2009, and to the Copenhagen Accord,
- having regard to the draft text on 'Enhanced action on technology development and transfer' of 15 December 2009,
- having regard to the EU's Global Climate Change Alliance and the provisions for enhanced cooperation with developing countries in the fight against climate change,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 10 February 2010 on the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15) ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'International climate policy post-Copenhagen: Acting now to reinvigorate global action on climate change' (COM(2010)86), of 9 March 2010,
- having regard to the Council report on 'Financing climate change: fast start financing' of 11 May 2010,
- having regard to the ACP-EU cooperation programme in the field of science and technology, launched in June 2008,
- having regard to the Africa-EU renewable energy cooperation programme, planned to be launched by the end of 2010,
- having regard to the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change, adopted at the 35th Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 22 June 2010,
- having regard to its resolution on the financial and economic impact of climate change in ACP countries ⁽²⁾, adopted in Tenerife on 1 April 2010,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 341 E, 16.12.2010, p. 25.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 193, 16.07.2010, p. 20.

- having regard to COP 16, held in Mexico in December 2010,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.739/10/fin.),
- A. whereas it is essential to accelerate research, development and transfer of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) in ACP and EU countries in order to halt global warming (after initially limiting it to no more than 1,5 °C above pre-industrial levels) create low-carbon economies based *inter alia* on the production of clean energy and enable everyone to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change and to effectively combat climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the widespread pollution worldwide,
- B. whereas the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibility’ for global warming should be taken into consideration in the field of LCTs transfer to ACP countries,
- C. whereas technology transfer must serve to complement and enhance all efforts, including mitigation, capacity building and adaptation, that are being pursued at global level in the fight against climate change,
- D. whereas ACP countries are among those that have contributed the least to, but are at the greatest risk from, the adverse effects of climate change; whereas the limiting of energy consumption in the industrialised and emerging countries, combined with the rapid development and transfer of LCTs to ACP states, would help avert the consequences of global warming for these countries,
- E. whereas most technology cooperation is still taking place primarily at national rather than international level and only 2 % of joint patents are shared between companies and institutions from developed and developing countries,
- F. whereas developed countries pledged in Copenhagen in December 2009 to provide ‘scaled-up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding’ for an initial amount of USD 30 billion over the period 2010-2012 and USD 100 billion by 2020 ⁽¹⁾ to support action on mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer and capacity building; whereas the EU has committed to deliver EUR 7,2 billion out of the USD 30 billion for 2010-2012,
- G. whereas biomass is the main renewable energy source in least developed countries, but its extensive and unregulated use is not sustainable and it has a wide range of negative effects on the environment and human health,
- H. whereas, at the same time, only a small fraction of Africa’s vast sustainable renewable energy potential is exploited ⁽²⁾,
- I. whereas most of the pesticides sold by companies from the richest countries to ACP countries, and the intensive and non-regulated use thereof, have numerous adverse effects on the environment and human health; whereas chemicals technology exchange should make it possible for agricultural producers in ACP countries to purchase low-cost products that are as environment-friendly as possible,
- J. whereas the massive exporting of waste of all kinds from the developed and richest countries to ACP countries poses a serious threat to the ecological balance of ACP countries, which, moreover, do not have appropriate, efficient technology to deal with the reprocessing, reconditioning and recycling of such waste, ranging from harmless to highly toxic materials,

⁽¹⁾ Copenhagen Accord.

⁽²⁾ Only 7 % of the hydro and 1 % of the geothermal potential is exploited.

- K. whereas extending decentralised renewable energies in ACP countries could reduce poverty by increasing access to energy supply, thus presenting better opportunities for rural development and forest conservation and lead to direct benefits for human health and employment opportunities; whereas currently only 0,2 % of EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets investments in decentralised renewable energy supply,
- L. whereas all policy, institutional, financial, commercial, as well as information and human-capacity related obstacles to the transfer of LCTs to ACP countries should be eliminated,
- M. whereas technology and innovation deficits in ACP countries are often addressed as symptoms of market failures instead of indicators for the need to improve international cooperation in technology development,
- N. whereas the important role of information and communication technologies in the process of technological diffusion should also be recognised,
1. Underlines that the scaling-up of research and innovation in ACP and EU countries and the diffusion, and transfer of pertinent technologies and know-how to ACP countries are key elements of any effective international response to the global challenge of climate change;
 2. Regrets that, despite the fact that development and transfer of technology for mitigation and adaptation to climate change was one of the building blocks of the Bali Action Plan and a key point in the UN climate change negotiations in Copenhagen 2009, COP 15 failed to come up with a mechanism for green technologies development, transfer and cooperation;
 3. Considers that a successful international agreement on climate protection needs to include robust institutional rules and regulations for technology development and non-prohibitive transfer in order to facilitate public and private investments in this field; to this end, calls on COP 16 to already take specific decisions on technical capacity building and technology development and transfer, building on the provisions in this area from the UNFCCC process;
 4. Points out that the Technology Mechanism, proposed at COP 15 in Copenhagen, should be further developed in any future international framework for climate protection; calls also on the negotiators to ensure that adequate funding within the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund is earmarked specifically for technology development and transfer to secure the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism;
 5. Notes that, for the success of the development and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building projects in ACP countries, research and development national needs, experiences, barriers and endogenous opportunities should firstly be identified; stresses that the approaches undertaken should be customised to specific country conditions and should increase country ownership of those activities;
 6. Points to the need to consider the special conditions of the fragile economy of the Least Developed Countries and highly indebted middle-income countries, and the vulnerability, remoteness and little opportunity to create economies of scale of the Small Island Developing ACP States;
 7. Calls on developed countries to support the development and further strengthening of institutional, scientific, technological and human capacity and know-how in ACP countries, following the example of the ACP Science and Technology Programme, to enable them to absorb, adopt and develop appropriate LCTs;
 8. Notes that capacity support remains fragmented and is dependent on national characteristics such as labour intensity and decentralisation of services; stresses that capacity building for technology development and transfer in ACP countries must be considered a priority goal, rather than a measure to advance near-term project outcomes; emphasises that it is a long-term process, which requires a systematic approach, taking cognisance of country- and sector-specific circumstances and linking together institutional, organisational and human capacity developments; also underlines that capacity building should foster the demand for the development and/or transfer of technology among ACP countries;

9. Points to the need for the provision of training programmes to enhance endogenous capacity on project development, management, operation and maintenance of technologies; notes, however, that there is an urgent need to tackle the reasons that lead to an outflow of trained staff in some ACP countries, namely, low salaries and poor working conditions;
10. Considers that a clear and far more ambitious approach towards the development of LCTs should be adopted to facilitate and speed up their diffusion and the ending of fossil energy dependence; notes the need to strengthen the capacities of existing national and regional public institutions in assisting this approach;
11. Calls on developed countries to actively support research and development in ACP countries, in order to allow public and private actors from developing countries to participate as owners in the growing global market for low-carbon technology; encourages the setting up of national institutions working on innovative systems that could lead to the endogenous development of technologies; points out that initiatives should link technical and social areas, ensuring that projects are locally owned and meeting local needs; underlines that issues relating to property rights should also be considered;
12. Emphasises the need to capitalise on the innovative potential of EU businesses and EU public services in renewable energies and technologies, including energy efficiency technologies and advanced ICT, to promote through trade agreements a gradual shift towards a low-carbon economy worldwide, thus ensuring new opportunities to sell EU products and know-how in this area to developing countries, or to transfer this know-how to them where applicable;
13. Considers diversification of energy sources, supply routes and infrastructure, and the interconnection of networks for oil, gas, and smart grid as key to the long-term security and sustainability of energy supplies to both the EU and ACP countries; recalls that these policy trends are also instrumental in fostering new energy technology developments and job creation in the EU and ACP countries;
14. Reaffirms the importance of increasing joint EU-ACP research and capital injections in building and modernisation of energy infrastructure in both the EU and ACP countries, notably through public-private partnerships and joint ventures, or public-public partnerships where applicable, thus encouraging mutually beneficial trade in energy or technology transfer, and promoting energy-mix diversification in ACP countries;
15. Calls on the ACP countries to tailor and implement national climate change innovation strategies according to their own needs and policies, also taking into account their positive spill-over effects on health, education and employment;
16. Calls on the EU to support the innovative solutions and projects already in progress in ACP countries;
17. Calls on the EU and its Member States to bring pressure to bear and impose binding legislation on European companies present in ACP countries so as to ensure that they set an example as regards sustainable development, low CO₂ emissions, respect for the environment and the avoidance of soil and water pollution; considers that this may also consist in a form of technology and expertise exchange by example;
18. Calls on the ACP countries to impose sanctions on EU companies present on their territory which do not act in accordance with the aforementioned principles, and which are thus not involved in such exchanges by example;
19. Underlines the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation between developed countries' companies, public sector bodies, research institutions and their counterparts in ACP states, and encourages the creation of technological partnerships between them; calls for improved knowledge on already existing cooperation arrangements in the area of technology transfer, as well as for the setting up of a register for such actions and a global database on licensing data and best practices;

20. Calls for the enhancement of partnerships with intergovernmental and international institutions; stresses that cooperation at a lower local level, including non-governmental and community-based organisations, should also be promoted;
21. Emphasises the need for the establishment of a Climate Technology Centre and a network to boost international cooperation on key technologies and provide technical assistance, training and joint capacity building; underlines that the new global architectures for climate change technology transfer should be less burdensome and bureaucratic;
22. Notes the importance of South-South cooperation, which could lead to technological self-reliance and thus avoid possible conflict stemming from IPRs; encourages the ACP countries to set up regional R&D cooperation platforms/networks of existing domestic research institutions for climate change technology development, to permit the sharing of resources and costs for R&D;
23. Urges EU and ACP governments to develop further and increase funding for climate change research in their universities and research institutions and improve linkages between them in order to find joint solutions for common problems (e.g. by developing water-saving and water-reuse technologies);
24. Calls for the promotion of public-private partnerships in the area of technological research, development and deployment as well for the creation of joint ventures between EU and ACP companies; calls also on the EU and its Member States to provide financial and technical support for investments in ACP countries in technology development and transfer, thus offering incentives for business cooperation;
25. Calls for thorough involvement of local NGOs in technology diffusion and capacity-building processes; emphasises the importance of NGOs' knowledge of local environments for the successful implantation of new technologies;
26. Points out that ACP countries comprise a great number of isolated communities and islands and calls, therefore, for the promotion of locally produced energy to become a priority;
27. Points out that particular attention should be paid to the development and transfer of energy-related and environmentally sound technologies; considers that ODA should focus more on developing energy efficiency technologies and decentralised renewable energies in ACP countries, and that this would reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities; recalls that nuclear energy is not a solution to secure low-carbon development; stresses that technologies should also prove to be efficient and economically viable and that their adoption should require a holistic approach with various dimensions of sustainability, including health, environmental, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional aspects;
28. Emphasises that EPAs must impact positively on promoting technological diffusion and enhancing innovation capacity in ACP regions, as set out in the draft text on enhanced action on technology development and transfer;
29. Emphasises that ACP countries should draw greater benefits from the potential of the Clean Development Mechanism, which is to be reshaped in the post-Copenhagen scenario;
30. Underlines the need to focus specifically on the technology potential to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change in ACP countries;
31. Stresses the need to ensure that development and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building project activities, are routinely tracked, monitored and evaluated; calls for the preparation of periodic reports on status, opportunities and any need for further improvements, in order to frame recommendations on the basis of evaluation findings; underlines the importance of sharing lessons learned;
32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Union and the UNFCCC secretariat.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on achieving the MDGs: innovative responses to meet the social and economic challenges**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus, which was adopted at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development held on 21 and 22 March 2002, and to the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 at the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,
- having regard to its resolution on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation, adopted in Ljubljana on 20 March 2008 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action,
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee entitled 'Tax and Development: Cooperating with Developing Countries on Promoting Good Governance in Tax Matters' (COM(2010)0163),
- having regard to the Addis Ababa Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health,
- having regard to the Berlin Call to Action and the Strategic Options for NGOs, which were both issued to mark the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD/15),
- having regard to the July 2009 report by the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration,
- having regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),
- having regard to the UNDP report entitled 'Beyond the Midpoint: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals', published in January 2010,
- having regard to the World Health Organisation's 2008 report entitled 'Primary health care: now more than ever',
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by 95 states and is in the process of being adhered to by the European Union, and in particular to Article 32 thereof,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 271, 25.10.2008, p. 32.

- having regard to the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP report entitled 'Stocktaking on the Millennium Development Goals', published in January 2010,
 - having regard to the UNICEF report entitled 'Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with equity', published in September 2010,
 - having regard to the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome on 16-18 November 2009,
 - having regard to the twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals, which was issued by the European Commission on 21 April 2010,
 - having regard to the UNIDO Industrial Development Report 2009, entitled 'Breaking In and Moving Up: New Industrial Challenges for the Bottom Billion and the Middle-Income Countries',
 - having regard to the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York on 20-22 September 2010, and its Outcome Document,
 - having regard to UN General Assembly resolution 64/131 on realising the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities,
 - having regard to the report by its Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.732/10/fin.),
- A. whereas the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) ⁽¹⁾ estimates that the number of undernourished people in the world decreased globally to 925 million people in 2010, compared to one billion in 2009,
 - B. whereas the impact of the various crises (energy, food, financial and economic) on the ACP countries is providing an additional challenge to the fight against poverty and could jeopardise the achievement of the MDGs,
 - C. whereas incentives are needed to ensure that investors step up their involvement in projects which have a positive local impact in economic, social and environmental terms,
 - D. whereas measures to support tax reforms should be introduced in the context of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to offset customs revenue losses caused by the elimination of customs duties as part of the liberalisation of trade,
 - E. whereas, in the course of the last years, extreme poverty has fallen marginally and, due to population growth, there has been an actual increase of 27 million people living in extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa ⁽²⁾,
 - F. whereas too many children, especially the poorest and the most marginalised, are still denied the right to education (over 100 million were out of school in 2008, 52 % of them girls) and the children currently out of school, particularly in Africa, have never had any contact with formal education ⁽³⁾, and whereas 80 % of the world's disabled people live in developing countries and more than 98 % of disabled children in these countries do not attend full-time education,

⁽¹⁾ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Addressing food security in protracted crises*, 2010.

⁽²⁾ *Stocktaking on the Millennium Development Goals*, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF (coordinator) and WFP, January 2010.

⁽³⁾ *Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with equity* - UNICEF, September 2010.

- G. whereas unequal opportunities based on gender, ethnicity, income, language or disabilities represent major obstacles to universal education, and without recording information on the inclusion of these groups it is difficult to measure progress made; and whereas the target of eliminating gender disparities has been missed,
- H. whereas the eradication of poverty also calls for democratic participation and must involve a change in economic structures in order to guarantee equal opportunities and access to resources and public services for all women,
- I. whereas, although major progress has been made towards achieving some of the MDGs, the three health MDGs – and in particular maternal mortality – are the most off-track,
- J. whereas the global under-five mortality rate has been reduced from 90 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 65 in 2008, due to improved routine immunisation coverage and the provision of a second opportunity for immunisation, but the rate of decline in under-five mortality is still insufficient to reach the MDG goal by 2015, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa ⁽¹⁾, and under-five mortality rates among children with disabilities is 80 % even in countries where under-five mortality has declined below 20 % ⁽²⁾,
- K. whereas globally underweight prevalence in children under 5 years old declined from 31 % to 26 % between 1990 and 2008, and whereas most countries making insufficient or no progress towards MDG 1 are in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia ⁽³⁾,
- L. whereas the goal of improving maternal health is still failing to be achieved, with a global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) reduction of 1 % per year, in comparison with the annual 5,5 % needed for the MMR to achieve the MDG reduction of maternal mortality by 2015 ⁽⁴⁾; whereas a large number of women suffer from injury, infection or disease, or acquire a disability as a result of complications arising from pregnancy or childbirth,
- M. whereas most of the people affected by HIV live in Sub-Saharan Africa, and most of them are females, and whereas half of the HIV-positive pregnant women in the world are now being protected against the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by antiretroviral (ARV) regimes,
- N. whereas the education sector, through teaching programmes throughout a person's schooling, is a crucial avenue for prevention of HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and Neglected Tropical Diseases, and for reducing associated stigma,
- O. whereas it is estimated by the UN that over 10 million teachers need to be recruited worldwide to reach the internationally agreed target of achieving universal primary education by 2015 ⁽⁵⁾,
- P. whereas malaria is still a significant threat to nearly half of the world's population and 90 % of all malaria deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, mostly among children under five, and whereas malaria can also have other dangerous health implications such as anaemia, low birth weight, premature birth, infant mortality and maternal deaths, and whereas insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) have been shown to reduce child deaths by about 20 per cent ⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ *Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with equity* - UNICEF, September 2010.

⁽²⁾ UNESCO Policy Brief on Early Childhood, *Inclusion of Children with Disabilities: The Early Childhood Imperative* No 46 / April-June 2009.

⁽³⁾ UNICEF, *Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with Equity*, Number 9, September 2010.

⁽⁴⁾ *Stocktaking on the Millennium Development Goals*, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF (coordinator) and WFP, January 2010.

⁽⁵⁾ Joint statement of 5.10.2010 by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director-General Irina Bokova, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Anthony Lake and International Labour Organisation (ILO) Director-General Juan Somavia.

⁽⁶⁾ *Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with equity* - UNICEF, September 2010

- Q. whereas tuberculosis prevalence, i.e. the number of cases per 100 000, has also fallen globally, and the targets of halving the prevalence and death rates by 2015 are unlikely to be met,
- R. whereas there are more than 650 million people with disabilities at global level, 80 % of them living in developing countries, mostly unemployed and below the poverty line,
- S. whereas the ACP states are still facing many environmental challenges connected pollution, climate change and deforestation, which can influence the provision of local agricultural products negatively,
- T. whereas the world is on-track in delivering drinking water from improved sources and an additional 207 million Africans are now using safe sources of drinking water, but the improved drinking water coverage in Sub-Saharan Africa is still lower than in other regions and progress in sanitation coverage has been minimal in some countries, as about 95 % of the poorest people in those countries practice open defecation, ⁽¹⁾
- U. whereas Sub-Saharan Africa still has the highest prevalence of slums, even though, globally, the population in slums has fallen,
- V. whereas, globally, 215 million children are obliged to work, and 115 million are victims of what the ILO defines as the worst forms of work ⁽²⁾,
- W. whereas, according to UNICEF, the term 'child labour' means any form of work carried out by children under the age of 18 that is hazardous or interferes with children's education or is harmful to children's health or their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development,
- X. whereas even though there has been further progress in achieving the eighth MDG, the global partnership for development has suffered significant setbacks, which will hinder the successful realisation of the MDGs,
- Y. whereas the MDGs will not be met without an accompanying sense of accountability, good governance, democracy, security, development, human rights and gender equality,
- Z. whereas, if the 0,7 % ODA target were met by all donors by 2015, it would raise over USD 300 billion per annum for development,
- AA. whereas a lack of peace and security, democracy and political stability often prevents poor countries from meeting their full development potential,
- AB. whereas land ownership creates incentives for individuals, families and communities to take control of their own development and ensure food security at a local level,
1. Recalls that the international commitments made regarding the MDGs require the industrialised countries to contribute 0,7 % of their GDP in Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015; recalls that the EU is currently some EUR 20 billion short of its MDG spending commitments;
 2. Welcomes the outcomes of the UN Summit in New York as a clear sign that all countries remain committed to the goals to be achieved by 2015, even in the current difficult international environment;

⁽¹⁾ UNICEF, *Progress for children - Achieving the MDGs with Equity*, No 9, September 2010.

⁽²⁾ *Accelerating action against Child Labour*, ILO, 2010

3. Recalls that much progress has been made in the achievement of the MDGs; calls therefore, on the one hand, for positive results to be published regularly and, on the other, for the EU and ACP countries to issue multiannual timetables in order to meet the MDG targets within the next five years;
4. Calls on the international donors to provide significant results-oriented, additional, transparent and measurable funding to help poor countries combat poverty, achieve the MDGs and fight the effects of climate change and the economic crisis;
5. Calls on ACP countries to adequately increase and mobilise their domestic resources in order to better achieve the MDGs;
6. Stresses the need to introduce alternative and innovative sources of financing for development in order to be able to fulfil MDG commitments;
7. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to advise the UN to establish an intergovernmental committee on international tax matters;
8. Calls on the G20 to crack down on tax havens, while distinguishing cooperating low fiscal jurisdictions, and tax evasion and to promote greater transparency and country-by-country reporting systems in order to enable developing countries to keep their own resources for their development;
9. Calls on all international donors to continue to improve donor coordination and division of labour and to untie all their aid, in consultation with partner countries;
10. Urges the EU and ACP countries to establish effective strategies for debt relief in ACP countries, particularly in support of the education and health MDGs, noting that the foreign debts of Third World countries and their mechanisms, e.g. debt service, represent a huge permanent constraint on the development of those countries;
11. Stresses that, in order to achieve the MDGs, public services must be safeguarded and strengthened, as an indispensable element for resolving problems, relating in particular to health and poverty;
12. Calls on all EU Member States to take action to make remittances cheaper;
13. Points out that, although aid can act as a leverage for developing countries, it is not enough to guarantee sustainable and lasting development; calls, therefore, for the effective formation of partnerships between the public and private sectors, for greater ownership by developing countries of their MDG projects, and for governments to establish conditions that allow the private sector to innovate, invest and create jobs;
14. Reiterates the important role of trade as an engine of growth and development and its contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; emphasises the need to resist protectionist tendencies;
15. Calls on the EU to take concrete action against poverty by ensuring policy coherence between its trade, development cooperation, common agricultural and common fisheries policies, in order to avoid direct or indirect negative impacts on the ACP countries' sustainable economic development;
16. Believes that Local Economic Development (LED) strategies have a potential to transform developing countries' national and intra-regional sustainable development in order to build domestic and regional markets by taking into account the real needs of populations;

17. Calls for the EU and ACP countries to ensure decisive progress on the most lagging MDG targets, inter alia MDGs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8;
18. Recalls that good tax governance and anti-corruption measures will help to create an investment-friendly environment;
19. Welcomes the European Commission's EUR 1 billion MDG commitment, as expressed by the European Commission President at the UN High-Level Meeting on MDGs in New York, to reward countries which are performing well and support those which are most off-track;
20. Urges ACP countries to take concrete steps to achieve improvements in maternal health; calls on developing countries, therefore, to spend at least 15 % of their national budgets on health care, enhancing their health care systems and speeding up the training of mid-wives and nurses for field-work;
21. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to identify effective social protection strategies, giving priority to the pooling of risks and prepayment schemes, in order to avoid the patient having to pay primary health care providers directly, as this often deters poorer people from making use of their services;
22. Welcomes the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, with pledges of more than USD 40 billion over the next five years, launched at the UN High-Level meeting on the MDGs;
23. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to promote free and inclusive access to health, and to establish, improve and strengthen good-quality health care, including antenatal care, assistance by skilled health workers at birth and access to emergency obstetric care;
24. Calls for a holistic health-in-all approach, covering access to medicine, medical services and clean water, sanitation and nutrition; underlines that such a complex approach could have a greater and stimulating impact on progressing on health-related MDGs;
25. Stresses that health worker training systems are insufficient in Africa, where two-thirds of countries have only one medical training school and some have none; urges the ACP countries, therefore, to include in their strategies specific programmes devoted to providing training courses for health workers so as to make it possible to employ qualified personnel in hospitals and health-care structures;
26. Expresses its concern at the fact that the recruitment of qualified health personnel by industrialised countries constitutes one of the factors aggravating the fragile health systems of developing countries;
27. Calls for a stronger focus on the growing number of non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and those arising out of violence, trauma and accidents, by strengthening health systems in the ACP countries;
28. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to maintain efforts to eliminate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV; reiterates that this can be better achieved when antenatal care and community-based child and maternal health care are provided;
29. Calls on the EU to improve poor people's access to affordable medicines by showing flexibility in applying the agreement on TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) in its trading relationships with developing countries;

30. Urges governments and donor countries, in order to better achieve the health MDGs, to strengthen health care systems, and especially health system building blocks, including service delivery, medical products, vaccines and technologies, health personnel, health financing, health information systems, and leadership and governance and to ensure the accessibility of these systems to people with disabilities;
31. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to invest in child-sensitive social protection, which covers social and health insurance schemes;
32. Stresses that the first objective of the MDGs enshrines the right to enjoy adequate living standards, recognising the need to afford special protection to people with disabilities;
33. Stresses the need to develop and implement appropriate national policies for child survival, including prevention measures, vaccinations and medical treatment, and improved nutrition, drinking water and sanitation; calls, therefore, on the promotion of integrated campaigns which would include, for instance, the distribution of bed nets and vaccination campaigns (especially against measles), in order to reduce child mortality;
34. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to foster education policies and to focus not only on enrolment figures but also on the quality of education and the completion rate, by limiting school drop-out rates, especially among girls, improving the reception capacity of school buildings and stepping up teacher training, while striving to provide inclusive education for children with disabilities, only 10 % of whom currently have access to school in low-income countries;
35. Stresses the central role that education should play in national policies of the ACP countries by combining effective policies and sustained national investments in education; insists, in this respect, on taking a holistic approach to education, which should be seen as a complex system including various participants, structures and relationships and focusing on:
 - providing the full range of learning opportunities available to children, youths and adults,
 - upgrading the quality of education,
 - improving the status, remuneration and working conditions and rights of teachers,
 - involving various participants and stakeholders in the process, e.g. by promoting public-private partnerships,
 - financing and regulating learning services;
36. Welcomes the UN's commitment to human rights and social protection in its Outcome Document;
37. Underlines that the EU and ACP member states should strengthen their commitments to advancing gender equality, the fight against gender-based violence and women's empowerment as key priorities for reaching all MDGs;
38. Recalls that the mutual responsibility of developed and developing countries to meet the MDGs by 2015 is dependent on the strengthening of the frameworks for accountability, governance and transparency;

39. Underlines the need to pursue MDGs through a holistic approach since all MDGs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing;
40. Insists that respect for and the promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of effective work towards achieving the MDGs;
41. Calls for the implementation of 'development pacts' at local level, that involve public commitments by local authorities to deliver on development objectives defined by local communities and ensure that the local authorities are held accountable on how funds are spent;
42. Stresses that an educated and skilled workforce is crucial for boosting economic development, competitiveness and growth;
43. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to set up legal and tax training programmes for tax authority staff; stresses that a special effort is needed in respect of countries which are not yet in receipt of long-term aid in taxation matters;
44. Stresses that the struggle for the elimination of child exploitation and child labour must be a priority for the EU and the ACP countries; calls on the EU and ACP countries, therefore, to focus their efforts on eliminating child labour;
45. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to put European funding to the most effective use with a view to attaining the MDGs through more careful selection of focal sectors in the Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes, as well as easier access to EPA support measures; calls on the European Commission, in this context, to ensure that its proposal to allocate reserves of EUR 1 billion from the EDF funding mainly benefits the most off-track countries in the framework of the 2010 mid-term review of ACP programmes; calls on the EU to mainstream disability in all international cooperation work, in accordance with its obligation under Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
46. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to put in place fair, equitable and regulated trade policies; underlines in this context the importance of the human rights dimension in all trade agreements;
47. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to increase investment in farming and food security with a special focus on supply side, to levels that guarantee freedom from hunger for all, looking particularly at urgent hunger needs, improved infrastructure in rural regions, small-scale farming and social protection programmes, with a view to ensuring long-term food security;
48. Expresses its deep concern about the current farmland acquisition (particularly in Africa) by government-backed foreign investors, which, if not handled properly, threatens to undermine local food security and have serious and far-reaching consequences in developing countries; urges the ACP, the UN and the EU to seriously address the adverse impacts of farmland acquisition;
49. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to ensure that the CAP reforms, the conclusion of the EPAs and the mid-term review of the European Development Fund are conducted in a coherent and coordinated manner;
50. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to promote land ownership as a tool for reducing poverty and guaranteeing food security, by strengthening property rights and facilitating access to credit for farmers, small businesses and local communities; stresses the importance of new investments in enhancing the capacities of small farmers, introducing more efficient water management technologies and restoring soil nutrients;
51. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to recognise the right to food;

52. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to promote local production and local consumption;
53. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to increase opportunities for the self-employed and small businesses and, in this context, to promote and facilitate access to micro-loans;
54. Points out that industrial development has tremendous transformative potential for national economies and is likely to offer wider scope for long-term productivity growth than agriculture exports and the extraction of natural resources, which expose economies to shocks; calls on ACP countries, therefore, to address this issue by designing and implementing industrialisation-related policies with a special focus on manufacturing specialisation and trade-capacity building;
55. Urges governments and donor countries, in order to improve trade performance of ACP countries, to increase investment and improve support to supply capacity building, quality, competitiveness and conformity with importer-mandated product standards of ACP enterprises; considers that this should involve strengthening productivity, technology extension services, training, export consortia building and cluster development;
56. Reiterates the importance of the principles of aid effectiveness, set out in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action;
57. Calls on the ACP parliaments to take stock of progress in the parliamentary dimension of international cooperation and to assess parliamentary involvement in support of the Millennium Development Goal; encourages all parliaments, when examining draft budgets and bills, to assess their impact on the fulfilment of the MDGs;
58. Calls on the international community to promote and support democracy, peace, the rule of law and a corruption-free administration in developing countries;
59. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to address underlying basic causes of inequity by addressing discrimination, social norms and practices, empowering communities with knowledge and capacity development, strengthening systems of accountability, and supporting civil society organisations;
60. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to pay particular attention to minority rights, and to respect human rights and promote non-discrimination;
61. Calls on the EU Member States to follow up on the twelve-point action plan that was issued by the European Commission in April 2010 ⁽¹⁾ and calls on the European Commission to provide, on a yearly basis, a report on EU progress in achieving the MDGs by 2015;
62. Welcomes the commitment by the UN to organise a special event in 2013 to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs;
63. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency and the African Union.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2010)159.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on food security**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its resolution on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation, adopted in Ljubljana on 20 March 2008 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolutions of 29 November 2007 ⁽³⁾, 13 January 2009 ⁽⁴⁾, 26 November 2009 ⁽⁵⁾ and 18 May 2010 ⁽⁶⁾ on food security,
- having regard to the conclusions of the 1996 World Food Summit and their objective of reducing by half the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015,
- having regard to the September 2000 United Nations Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals and its commitment to halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger and living on less than USD 1 a day; having regard to the twelve-points EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals which was issued by the European Commission on 21 April 2010,
- having regard to the 2005 Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,
- having regard to the Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council of 22 May 2008 in Geneva on 'The negative impact on the realisation of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by soaring food prices',
- having regard to the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and its 'Comprehensive Framework for Action', and the High-Level Meeting on 'Food security for all', held in Madrid on 26-27 January 2009,
- having regard to the G8 Joint Statement on Food Security made in L'Aquila on 10 July 2009,
- having regard to the declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, in Rome on 16-18 November 2009,
- having regard to the FAO annual reports on 'The state of food insecurity in the world',
- having regard to the EU 'Food Facility for Developing Countries',
- having regard to the closing Declaration of the 6th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Accra on 2-3 October 2008,
- having regard to the AU Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, adopted in Maputo in July 2003,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 271, 25.10.2008, p. 32.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 297 E, 20.11.2008, p. 201.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 46 E, 24.2.2010, p. 10.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 285 E, 21.10.2010, p. 69.

⁽⁶⁾ Texts adopted on that date, P7_TA(2010)0174.

- having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreements signed in Lomé and subsequently in Cotonou concerning development and trade,
 - having regard to the communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'A thematic strategy for food security: Advancing the food security agenda to achieve the MDGs' (COM(2006)21), of 25 January 2006,
 - having regard to the outcomes of the UN High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York on 20-22 September 2010,
 - having regard to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 2010 report on addressing food insecurity in protracted crises,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, of 11 August 2010,
 - having regard to its Kigali Declaration of 22 November 2007 for development-friendly Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the EU-Africa Summit of 29-30 November 2010 and the Second Action Plan, as well as the EP-Pan-African Parliament pre-summit declaration of 27 November 2010,
 - having regard to the final declaration of the Fifth Regional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in East Africa (Mahé, Seychelles, 14-15 July 2010),
- A. whereas in 1996 the FAO defined food security as 'access for all people at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy, active life',
- B. having regard to the European Commission's Green Paper entitled 'EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development: Increasing the impact of EU development policy' (COM(2010)629, which was issued on 10 November 2010 and whose objectives include 'how to achieve durable results in the area of agriculture and food security',
- C. whereas agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 80-90 % of the population in many developing countries; whereas increasing their incomes will reinvigorate rural economies, create more jobs for poor people and increase demand for domestically produced goods and services,
- D. whereas the number of undernourished people in the world remains over one billion in 2010, despite current global efforts to reduce hunger,
- E. whereas in 2008 soaring food prices, the oil price peak and the financial crisis, combined with climate change, had a devastating impact on ACP countries' economies, rooted in a systemic crisis,
- F. whereas speculation in food and land acquisitions for export-oriented agribusiness can contribute to shortages and, hence, price increases, and deprives millions of people of adequate access to food,
- G. whereas, despite the proven importance of agriculture to ACP countries, the EU-ACP development cooperation programmes have not given enough priority to the agriculture sector,
- H. whereas unsustainable farming practices, including uncontrolled deforestation or over-reliance on pesticides, directly contribute to the scarcity of good quality arable land for healthy food production,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 58, 1.3.2008, p. 44.

- I. whereas the ACP countries are dependent on exports of commodities, which account for over 50 % of their foreign currency revenue, while some SIDS (Small Island Developing States) depend on imports for nearly 80 % of their basic food requirements as they cannot aspire to any reasonable degree of food self-sufficiency,
- J. whereas export subsidies for agricultural products can lead to dumping on the markets of the developing countries, with serious consequences for small local producers,
- K. whereas the impact of climate change, the degradation of plant cover and the increased frequency of natural disasters are likely to increase food insecurity significantly over the coming years, and will have a dramatic impact on the livelihoods of those in the agricultural sector,
- L. whereas many African countries lease farmland to foreign investors, which, if not handled properly, threatens to undermine local food security and lead to serious and far-reaching consequences,
- M. whereas the consequences of climate change and deforestation affecting farming, mainly the reduction of crop yields because of repeated water shortages, droughts, or, in contrast, floods and landslides, have serious adverse effects on agricultural activities in the EU and ACP countries,
- N. whereas the growth of agricultural production, mainly in the sector of family farming can reduce food insecurity and contribute to lowering food prices and increasing producers' incomes,
- O. whereas drinking water is an important factor to food security and ACP countries have difficult access to it,
- P. whereas wild animals, in the form of bush meat, provide much of the protein in the diets of many of the world's poorest people in an unsustainable manner, resulting in wild areas which appear structurally intact, but are potentially incapable of sustaining their biodiversity, and are therefore only a short-term solution, creating further threats to the food chain,
- Q. whereas 70 % of the 1,3 billion people living in extreme poverty are women and, throughout the world, women are denied the necessary opportunities to improve their economic and social conditions, such as property or inheritance rights, or access to education or jobs,
- R. whereas the slowdown in foreign direct investment flows to the developing world as a result of the global recession directly hampers access to loans and credit guarantees, including micro-credit, while adding to the existing obstacles to the acquisition and use of arable land, which is essential to the development of local agriculture and to ensuring food security in the long term,
- S. whereas, according to FAO estimates, 7 million agricultural workers have died of HIV/AIDS since 1985, and the pandemic is set to claim 16 million more victims over the next two decades in the 25 worst affected African countries; whereas HIV/AIDS and other pandemics mainly affect the productive labour force,
- T. whereas political unrest and lack of peace and security jeopardise many countries' capacity to provide food, and also adversely impact on people's livelihoods over the longer term,
- U. whereas increased access to modern information technologies enhances farmers' capacities and ensures that they are better informed on agricultural practices, prices and access to factors of production,
- 1. Stresses the essential nature of the right to food, which should be considered an inalienable and universal right; stresses the right of each country or region to establish a type of agriculture that meets the food needs of its population; reaffirms that access to sufficient and wholesome food is a basic human right and must be guaranteed through common action by governments, international bodies and civil society organisations; stresses that the withholding or denial of that right must be considered a violation of a universal human right;

2. Reminds the EU and the ACP countries that they have undertaken to halve the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger by 2015; calls on the EU and the ACP countries to take appropriate measures within the MDG framework in order to honour that commitment;
3. Calls on the EU to give priority, in close consultation with the ACP countries and in the framework of the WTO, to the issue of the impact on ACP countries of Europe's subsidising of its agricultural exports; stresses the need for a successful pro-development outcome of the Doha Round; stresses also that the developed world should reinforce its commitment to reforming its farm subsidies through a world trade deal; recalls, in this connection, that any agreement should take into account the climatic regions and in consequence the distinct forms of agricultural production; stresses that the results of the Doha Round should provide the developing countries with an incentive to invest in their agriculture and food production;
4. Calls on the ACP countries to grant family farming a significant share of the sector's investments with a view to achieving food security;
5. Considers it essential to give fresh impetus to the ACP-EU partnership by negotiating fair and balanced partnership agreements which are geared towards development;
6. Takes the view that, in order to guarantee food security and sustainability, and help fight poverty, all economic and social rights, including the right to food, should be taken into account in international trade rules and agreements;
7. Regrets that, in 2008, five years after the Maputo Declaration that set an overall objective of devoting 10 % of the AU member states' national budgets to agriculture, 50 % of African countries had spent less than 5 % of their national budgets on agriculture;
8. Stresses that the discussions on the implementation of the 10th EDF should take greater account of the needs of populations in terms of agricultural production aimed at ensuring their food security, as well as on the improvement and diversification of agricultural production and the creation of more added value, in order to help ACP countries emerge from the model of export monocultures;
9. Calls for the implementation of the 10th EDF to include a specific food security development programme for each of the ACP countries, and for that programme to include clear and ambitious targets, as well as concrete measures to be applied within precise time limits, in consultation with farmers' organisations and civil society;
10. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to factor into their development policy the short-term needs and constraints to which men and women living in rural areas are subject, in order to guarantee, in particular, the success of food-security related programmes;
11. Emphasises that food security should be integrated into developing countries' policies in order to improve food availability, food access and food consumption by establishing food strategies aimed at alleviating poverty;
12. Urges the international community to assist the World Food Programme (WFP) in facing up to new challenges in the fight against hunger due to soaring food and oil prices, weather shocks and declining global food stocks;
13. Asks the Commission, EU Member States and ACP countries to cooperate closely together in order to take concrete action to tackle financial speculation in grain and food;

14. Calls for recognition of the importance of research, agricultural extension services and farmer linkages in pursuing food security objectives;
15. Points out that it is necessary to introduce better agriculture production methods, including low-cost technologies, provide research in agriculture, and strengthen the productivity-efficiency ratio in ACP countries in order to enhance the sustainability and mitigate the negative effects of food insecurity;
16. Urges ACP and EU countries to closely monitor large-scale land acquisitions that could lead to the 'pricing out' of local farmers and their ability to produce local crops to feed themselves and the local populations;
17. Stresses the paramount importance of EU-ACP cooperation towards improving farmers' knowledge and skills of farmers; calls, therefore, for training programmes to be provided with the aim of increasing their capacities in sustainable farming methods;
18. Stresses the importance of guaranteeing quality seed for all producers;
19. Calls on the ACP countries to show initiative through ambitious agricultural policy programmes, such as Mali's rice initiative;
20. Calls on the ACP countries to prioritise the agriculture sector in their development plans and Regional and Country Strategy Papers, in particular through expanded public investment in rural infrastructure,
21. Considers that policy coherence for development, particularly between policies on trade, development, agriculture and fisheries, should be a guiding principle of EU development cooperation to make greater use of Article 12 of the Cotonou Agreement;
22. Emphasises the need for the EU and the ACP countries to design an adequate and flexible mechanism adaptable to particular emergency situations arising from disasters in the agricultural sector;
23. Welcomes the assistance of the Food Facility established by the EU with a budget of EUR 1 billion to provide from 2009 to 2011 rapid support to over 50 priority countries worldwide facing soaring food prices, with the aim of increasing the local food production capacity and supply, thus empowering local farming communities;
24. Calls on ACP governments to ensure that women in rural areas are accorded full and equal rights to land and other resources, including through the right to inheritance, and that administrative reforms and other necessary measures are undertaken to give women the same access as men to credit, capital, labour rights, legal identification documents, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;
25. Notes that the European Union as a whole, including its Member States, remains the leading development aid donor, accounting for 56 % of the worldwide total, worth EUR 49 billion in 2009, which is confirmed by the EU governments' collective pledges of reaching 0,56 % and 0,70 % of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance by 2010 and 2015 respectively;
26. Calls on the EU Member States and the European Commission to fulfil their commitments, in particular for the least developed ACP states and the net-food-importing ACP states, so as to enable them to mitigate the adverse effects they are experiencing following the significant rises in food prices, which are increasingly exacerbating their balance of payments problems;

27. Considers that the external debt of poor countries hinders their development possibilities and reduces their resilience and capacity to fight efficiently against poverty and hunger; calls, therefore, on the European Commission and the EU Member States to continue negotiations towards achieving the cancellation of the debt for the Highly Indebted Countries, which as yet remains unresolved;
28. Welcomes the European Commission's EUR 1 bn MDG commitment, as announced by the Commission's President at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on MDGs in New York, in order to reward countries which are performing well and support those most off-track, and, while addressing the specificities and needs of LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and net food-importing ACP States, to set up objective and transparent eligibility criteria and ensure that access to these resources are demand-driven; calls on the European Commission also to consider using part of the EUR 1 bn MDG commitment to leverage additional resources by private entities that will match the grant to implementing projects that will increase food production for local and regional markets and also in the development and use of biotechnology to attain these objectives;
29. Considers that the commercial impact of next-generation agrofuels also needs to be more closely analysed; calls, therefore, on the European Commission to adopt and implement transparent sustainability criteria as a matter of urgency and to look at the possible detrimental effects of subsidies for agrofuel crops;
30. Supports the establishment, within ACP-EU regional cooperation, of an appropriate climate-change mitigation and adaptation mechanism for family farming;
31. Encourages better coordination, particularly at national level but also within the international development community, of the efforts made in the context of agricultural programmes and the overlap of programmes devised in ACP countries, which are a burden on human and financial resources;
32. Stresses the need for financial accountability, at national and international level, of all agricultural programmes stemming from European aid, in order to ensure sound management of the funds allocated;
33. Urges ACP governments to develop more sustainable management of environmental assets such as bush meat, and calls for further research into sustainable protein production in ACP countries, as a means of reducing the dependency on rapidly dwindling sources of wild animal protein;
34. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to place strong emphasis during ongoing and future climate-change negotiations on the need to increase the availability of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and other tools, in order to help farmers stimulate production while promoting sustainable management of water resources, and to pay special attention to providing the necessary support for climate-friendly agricultural practices;
35. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the President of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the national parliaments of ACP and EU member states, the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Parliament and the UN Secretary-General.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the security problem in the Sahel-Saharan region: terrorism and trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 December 1997 in New York,
- having regard to the Protocol to the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted in Addis Ababa on 8 July 2004 at the 3rd ordinary session of the African Union Conference,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,
- having regard to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime of 15 November 2000, and the protocols thereto,
- having regard to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted in New York on 20 July 2001,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement'), and in particular to Articles 1, 8, 25 and 28 thereof,
- having regard to the additional relevant provisions of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), in particular Articles 3, 6, 21 and 39, and of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in particular Articles 205, 208, 214 and 222,
- having regard to the European Security Strategy, adopted in Brussels on 12 December 2003,
- having regard to the EU Strategy Against Terrorism, adopted in Brussels on 30 November 2005,
- having regard to the Africa-EU Peace and Security Partnership, in particular initiatives 2, 7 and 8 of the Action Plan 2011-2013, adopted at the Africa-EU Summit, held in Tripoli on 29-30 November 2010,
- having regard to the Stockholm Programme ⁽²⁾, and its emphasis, in point 1.2.4, on greater coherence between the internal and external aspects of security issues and, in point 4.4.2, on a comprehensive approach, including external relations, to combating human trafficking,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 115, 4.5.2010, p. 1.

- having regard to the Convention of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism, approved at the 26th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Ouagadougou from 28 June to 1 July 1999,
- having regard to the example set by national laws in Mali and Mauritania in identifying lasting solutions to this problem,
- A. having regard to the size of the Sahel-Saharan region and the austere nature of its environment,
- B. whereas its relief is characterised by mountains and caves overhanging vast stretches of dunes, sand and wadis,
- C. whereas Mali, Algeria, Mauritania, Niger, Libya and Chad are the main countries bordering the Sahel-Saharan strip,
- D. whereas, given the vastness of this sparsely populated 4 million square km territory and the length of its ill-defined borders, there is a need for effective coordination of information and action and sophisticated means of detection, protection and prevention,
- E. whereas all international, regional and national stakeholders should be mobilised in order to step up the fight against terrorism and strengthen security in the region, including through structured dialogue,
- F. whereas the Sahel arc is a pivotal area between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe and whereas the situation in the Sahel-Saharan strip is therefore a key security issue for both Africa and Europe,
- G. whereas the transformation of the Sahel-Saharan strip into an area lending itself to illegal and dangerous activities and forms of trafficking is a threat to worldwide security,
- H. having regard to the underdevelopment of arid regions and its impact on young people, who are left without an occupation,
- I. whereas, in their recruitment efforts, the terrorists exploit the development deficit, insecure conditions, social deprivation and the poor employment prospects of many young people in the region with no prospects, by offering them illegal but substantial earnings,
- J. having regard to the harmful impact of terrorism and organised crime on states in the region and their respective local populations,
- K. having regard to the serious repercussions of insecurity on the region's economy, in particular the mining and tourism sectors, on its development and on job creation,
- L. whereas the region has developed into a transit and transaction area for drug traffickers, arms dealers and smugglers of illegal migrants into Europe,
- M. having regard to the upsurge in insecurity in this region, caused by the Maghreb branch of al-Qaeda (AQMI), with its abductions and taking of hostages, who are now being used as bargaining chips,
- N. having regard to the violation of the airspace of a number of neighbouring countries by traders in illicit products, including cocaine,

- O. having regard to the huge resources and possibilities which the terrorists and drug traffickers have vis-à-vis the countries under threat,
- P. whereas a number of countries have expressed their willingness to provide states bordering the Sahara with assistance in dealing with this situation,
- Q. whereas insecurity is making the implementation of development projects and the work of humanitarian NGOs difficult,
- R. having regard to the traditions of tolerance, solidarity and respect for the human person adhered to by Islam as practised in the region,
- S. having regard to the barbarity of the execution of innocent citizens,
- T. whereas kidnappings for ransom are more often connected to organised crime than to ideological or religious struggles,
- U. whereas the military option can only be effective if it is backed up by a policy of sustainable development in the Sahel-Saharan region,
- V. whereas the aforementioned international instruments form a basis for enhanced global cooperation which is also reflected in developments regarding the European Union's relations with third countries,
- W. whereas the International Centre for Terrorism Studies has documented the dramatic rise in terrorist attacks in North and West Africa, which have increased by over 500 % since 11 September 2001 ⁽¹⁾, killing over 1 500 people and wounding 6 000;
- X. whereas the region has been experiencing an alarming strengthening of linkages between drug traffickers in Latin America and in states in West/Central Africa, and whereas the latter now forms a key transit route for drug shipments to Europe, which accounts for more than 25 % of the global consumption of cocaine; stressing that these trends require greater engagement by the European Union,
- Y. whereas in the Sahel there are increasing links between well-resourced and highly organised Latin American drug cartels and terrorist organisations, which seek the involvement of the local population,
- Z. whereas the 2003 European Security Strategy stated that terrorism 'poses a growing strategic threat to the whole of Europe' and whereas the Sahel-Saharan region is one of the EU's priorities in the fight against terrorism,
- AA. whereas it is essential to cut off the sources of funding for illicit trafficking and kidnappings and, to this end, to take every possible measure to avoid money laundering,
1. Honours the memory of the victims of terrorism; firmly condemns terrorism in all its forms and all its manifestations, and calls for the unconditional release of all hostages;
2. Deeply deplores the deteriorating Sahel-Saharan security situation, which has cost many lives and threatens to undermine progress made in the last few years in countering terrorism in the region;

⁽¹⁾ http://www.potomac institute.org/attachments/525_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf

3. Calls on the United Nations to quickly develop a more coordinated response on the Sahel, as advocated in the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 10 July 2009 (S/PRST/2009/20) with regard to combating cross-border criminal activities and terrorist threats, particularly in the Sahel-Saharan strip, including the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region;
4. Stresses the importance of providing assistance, support and psychological aftercare to the victims of terrorism and their families;
5. Supports the strengthening of international cooperation on counter-terrorism, welcomes coordination by some countries, encourages all countries in the region to continue pooling their efforts to effectively combat terrorism and organised crime, and hopes that exchanges of information will not be hampered by regional rivalries;
6. Calls on the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the EU Council and the Chairperson of the AU Commission to facilitate a summit meeting of the Heads of State of Algeria, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Libya and Chad with a view to establishing a common strategy to combat the AQMI and ensuring joint control over the Sahel-Saharan strip as a whole;
7. Calls on the states of the Sahel-Saharan region to pool their communication and intelligence resources in order to be informed in real time of the position of Salafist groups;
8. Calls on the international community to support the countries of the Sahel-Saharan region by means of effective air and land surveillance capabilities and, to this end, to provide them with the necessary military equipment and technical support to combat such terrorists;
9. Urges the states of the Sahel-Saharan region to take all the necessary measures to identify those working in collusion with the AQMI and have them arrested;
10. Stresses the need for the international community and in particular for the European Union as well as the ACP members, especially the members of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), to adopt an efficient approach to combating violence in the Sahel-Saharan region;
11. Urges the Heads of State concerned to set up a permanent forum for consultations on peace and security in the region and to make it a pole of stability and development; further recommends that the links between security and development be clearly identified in order to maximise the effectiveness of the programmes undertaken;
12. Calls on the authorities in the neighbouring countries to conduct awareness-raising campaigns among the local populations in order to involve them in the management of the problem;
13. Calls on the EU and its Member States to mobilise all available resources to promote security and development in the Sahel-Saharan region in cooperation with the countries of the region, the United Nations and other international partners;
14. Supports the initiatives of ECOWAS and its international partners to prevent and combat drugs and human trafficking, as well as organised crime in the region, by developing a regional action plan, notably through the establishment of the office of Special Adviser on drugs, human trafficking and crime to the President of the ECOWAS Commission;
15. Stresses that effective measures should be taken to cut off sources of funding for terrorists and their accomplices, and calls for the states of the region to take the measures advocated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), namely reform of criminal justice systems, anti-corruption laws, improved monitoring of the trade in light weapons and the freezing of suspects' bank accounts;

16. Welcomes the international pressure on states providing material and financial support to terrorist groups and commits itself to use political pressure in order to tackle the exponential growth in the financing of certain terrorist groups;
17. Strongly condemns the companies and organisations which, though technically not breaking the law, are widely known to provide support for terrorist organisations;
18. Encourages support for the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), mandated to facilitate the implementation of African Union (AU) counter-terrorism initiatives, in its efforts to develop a confidential database that will include names of suspected terrorists and trends in terrorist activity;
19. Welcomes the fact that the use of funds from the EU's 'instrument for stability' has been extended to the Sahel-Saharan region;
20. Supports capacity building through a multilateral framework such as the United Nations;
21. Calls for all the measures taken to combat terrorism to comply with international human rights conventions and protocols;
22. Insists on the need to reconcile the fight against terrorist groups and the development of the region;
23. Calls on the European Union, in the context of the Regional Indicative Programmes (RIP) and National Indicative Programmes (NIP), to step up its action in support of the region's populations by helping to provide them with improved access to water and to public education and health services, as well as better infrastructure to open up business and trade activities in the region;
24. Points out that the activities of non-governmental organisations contribute substantially to development, democracy and human rights and that it could be useful to consult them in order to obtain valuable information concerning the situation in the field; points out that repressive counter-terrorism measures should not be allowed to form an obstacle to such organisations' efforts in the areas of development, democracy and human rights;
25. Points out that the Sahel is one of the regions most affected by climate change and loss of biodiversity, which have a profound impact on agriculture, farmers and local people's lives, and that this will increase poverty and inequalities;
26. Urges the European Commission to support measures to reverse the gradual desertification of this region, including by using research and local knowledge in this field;
27. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the President of the EU Council, the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), the United Nations Secretary-General and the governments of the countries of the Sahel-Saharan region.

ANNEX IV

TEXTS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on challenges for the future of democracy and respecting constitutional order in ACP and EU Countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and in particular to Articles 3(2), 3(10), 10, 14, 15, 18-21 and 23-26 thereof,
- having regard to the African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002),
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement') and in particular to Articles 9(1), 9(2) par. 2, 9(3), 20(d) and 33(a),
- having regard to the Treaty of the European Union, in particular to Articles 2, 10 (which states that the functioning of the Union shall be founded on representative democracy), 11(4), 21(1) and 21(2),
- having regard to the EU-SADC Cooperation Treaty of 1994,
- having regard to the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, in particular to Articles 4 and 5,
- having regard to the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society of 19 February 1997, in particular Article VI,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Budapest (Hungary).

- having regard to the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa – AHG/DECL.1 (XXXVIII) – and the AU Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions – X/CL/35 (III) Annex II,
- having regard to the resolution on challenges to the democratic accommodation of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in ACP and EU countries (ACP-EU/100.460/09/fin),
- having regard to the resolution on elections and electoral processes in ACP and EU countries (ACP-EU/100.123/07/fin),
- having regard to the Global Political Agreement of 15 September 2008 concerning Zimbabwe,
- having regard to Council Decision 13283/10 amending and extending the period of application of Decision 2007/641/EC concluding consultations with the Republic of Fiji Islands under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and Article 37 of the Development Cooperation Instrument,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.919/11/fin.),
- A. whereas democracy does not equate to a level of economic development, whereas the ACP countries and the EU have shared universal values and principles in the area of democracy, good governance and human rights, and whereas democracy is a common objective at the core of EU-ACP cooperation,
- B. whereas democracy is a political system in which sovereignty comes from the people,
- C. whereas democracy is not solely about fulfilling the theoretical conditions for freedom but also about a workable system providing just and available means for all citizens to improve their day-to-day lives; whereas the European Union should be aware of the frequently levelled criticism that when assessing situations in third countries it at times focuses too much on the theoretical aspects of democracy while forgetting to review to what extent a genuinely democratic society is being achieved,
- D. whereas democratic principles must not be overshadowed by the search for economic and social stability,
- E. whereas free and fair elections are vital, but insufficient for true democracy, since democracy is a permanent quest, requiring respect for pluralism, majority rule and minority rights, the rule of law and a legal framework within which no party can amend the constitution to its own benefit,
- F. whereas the constitutional rules on succession of power and fundamental rights should never be ambiguous or a potential subject of haphazard interpretation,
- G. whereas post-election government formation often poses significant democracy challenges, in particular when power-sharing deals are established,
- H. whereas both EU and ACP countries have a strong common interest in the continued development of democracy and the establishment of properly functioning constitutionalism,
- I. whereas human, economic and social development enables parliamentary democracy to function more easily,

J. whereas the integrity of public affairs and of the management of public funds is at the heart of good governance and the rule of law; whereas political leaders must be held accountable politically and legally for the private appropriation of public funds,

K. whereas the same principles must apply across the board and not be subject to specific national or regional 'standards',

I. Democratic principles

1. Stresses that the foundation for a solid democracy consists in universality of rights, equality for all citizens before the law and freedom of the individual; points out that it is fundamental that all cultures, religions and ethnic groups within a country must be respected;

2. Recalls that all democratic systems are based on a constitution and the accompanying jurisdiction, and stresses the importance of ensuring respect for the principle of the independence of the judiciary;

3. Stresses that the balance of powers (executive, legislative, judicial) is a *sine qua non* for the exercise of democracy;

4. Underlines the importance of regularly consulting the people through free, fair and undistorted elections and referenda, preceded by extensive information campaigns and debates;

5. Emphasises the importance of a pluralist political party system and the clear definition of an opposition status;

6. Emphasises the common values and objectives of the EU and the ACP countries in terms of democracy and good governance; stresses, however, that all countries have their own cultural and historical particularities and that these differences must be respected;

7. Stresses that a society cannot be truly democratic without independent, free and pluralist media;

8. Calls for vigilance regarding electoral systems in both EU and ACP member states; warns against practices such as gerrymandering, manipulating electoral lists, bias on the part of judges of constitutionality or election disputes, and moulding or amending a constitution to answer to the aspirations of those in power;

9. Stresses that elections and representative democracy must not be a problem but a solution, which means that:

— they must be free and fair;

— the loser must accept the results and contest them only by constitutional means;

— the majority must respect minorities, the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary;

10. Stresses the pressing need to tackle everyday problems, such as poverty, lack of accessible health services and corruption, which contribute to the population's perception that democracy has not improved their day-to-day lives;

II. Democratic institutions

11. Highlights the importance of a clear balance and separation of powers;
12. Recommends that constitutions define clearly the rules on the separation of powers and specify the corresponding institutional framework; expresses reservations about flexible constitutions that are subject to frequent amendments;
13. Underlines the role that parliaments must play in monitoring the executive;
14. Hopes that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) will play a key role in the exchange of opinion, experience and practice in the field of parliamentary work;
15. Advocates the introduction of institutions and mechanisms that prevent monopolies of wealth and corruption;
16. Recommends that rules for political succession be clearly defined, while warning about easily amendable constitutions;
17. Advocates that constitutional fundamental rights be drafted in such a way that any permitted restrictions are clearly defined and limited and strictly subject to the general interest;
18. Recognises that although power-sharing agreements can prove useful in the event of grave crises, these measures should only be taken in highly exceptional circumstances and for a limited period; stresses that power-sharing can lead to the absence of a true, critical opposition, as is apparent for example in Zimbabwe and Kenya; underlines that power-sharing is quite different from coalition government;
19. Warns that the division of power under power-sharing agreements is never clearly defined, creating even more conflict, with the risk that the opinion of civil society is overlooked, since such agreements are often agreements between political party elites;
20. Stresses that an opposition status is essential for the exercise of democracy, as are strict rules on the funding of political parties;
21. Recalls that during election campaigns the allocation of state resources must be strictly controlled;
22. Emphasises that all elections must be free, fair and undistorted and that the results must be scrupulously respected; stresses that attempts to use elections as a tool pose a threat to democracy;

III. Democratic Challenges

23. Welcomes the increase in democratic elections on the African continent, while urging the continuation of close election monitoring, not only during and before, but also, and above all, after elections, and reiterates the central role played by independent national election committees, including financial support; stresses that the latter are often under-resourced; underlines the importance of ensuring that the competent national and international authorities monitor the elections;
24. Recommends, in order to promote democracy, measures to ensure the emergence of citizenship in all of its political, economic and social dimensions, through a set of specific rules and a high-quality education system;

25. Stresses the positive role played by the army in Guinea and Niger in ensuring the transition towards democracy; hopes that all the members of the transition authorities refrain from standing as candidates in the elections for the return to democracy;
26. Condemns the poor commitment among some leaders of ACP countries to democratic values, often reflected in the dominance of the sacred sovereignty of tradition;
27. Deplores the lack of EU observation teams in past elections, for example the last Rwandan elections, and calls for an increase in autonomous joint ACP-EU missions in the future, combining the extensive and varied experience of the two sides; stresses the considerable added value of the cooperation between national representatives of the ACP countries and the EU during these missions;
28. Deplores the threat to democracy posed by corruption, also within the EU;
29. Warns against constitutional reforms or electoral changes introduced at legislative level just before upcoming elections, and stresses the risk that these changes may influence voting results;
30. Commends, on the other hand, the increasingly stronger position of parliaments in several nations, the outstanding resistance of the Parliament of Nigeria to modifying the constitution for a third presidential term in 2006 being a prominent example; encourages regular consultation and consideration of the positions expressed by national parliaments;
31. Welcomes the peaceful presidential election in Niger in March 2011 and stresses that this is a milestone in the process of transition to democracy; likewise welcomes the well-organised and peaceful referendum on independence for Southern Sudan in January 2011, which showed the will of the two parties to resolve the issue of independence in a peaceful manner;
32. Condemns the refusal by the outgoing President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, to accept the results proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission and certified by the UN;
33. Supports the right of citizens to express their will for political change through peaceful demonstrations and supports the democratic movements of mass demonstration by people living under dictatorship; condemns any disproportionate use of armed force to crack down on these demonstrations;

IV. Concrete measures

34. Welcomes the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, which extends the powers of the European Parliament with a view to enhancing the democratic dimension of its actions;
35. Calls on all countries to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and deplores the fact that freedom of thought and cultural rights are not sufficiently guaranteed in several ACP countries; encourages joint discussions on these topics between the EU Member States and the ACP countries;
36. Supports the efforts, and recognises the importance, of the work of the AU, Caricom, Comesa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and applauds initiatives such as PIANZEA ⁽¹⁾; points to the need for concrete measures such as additional training of election observers in the IGAD and SADC framework;

⁽¹⁾ Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators' Network.

37. Stresses the need to strengthen, through training and retraining, the intrinsic capacity of those called upon to lead the democratic institutions and bodies (constitutional court, independent national election committees) involved in running the elections, with a view to streamlining, where possible, the various operations in the electoral process and avoiding the pitfalls that often lead to major post-election crises;
38. Calls for an increase in education on the concept of democracy in ACP and EU countries; undertakes to investigate possible measures within the framework of the JPA;
39. Encourages the EU and ACP member states to make efforts to share best practice in the area of constitutional law, for example by organising reciprocal exchange missions at expert level;
40. Undertakes to continue monitoring democratic trends, and reaffirms the need to adopt appropriate measures under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement when an EU or an ACP member state has failed to fulfil its obligations, as recently done by the Council of the EU with regard to Madagascar and Fiji;
41. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Commission of the African Union, and the Pan-African Parliament.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on budgetary support as a means of delivering official development assistance (ODA) in ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in 2005 and 2010, and in particular Articles 1, 2, 9, 33 and 61 thereof,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 18 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as objectives established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly entitled 'Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals', adopted at the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2 March 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action of 4 September 2008,
- having regard to the European Consensus on Development,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Budapest (Hungary).

- having regard to the Annual Report 2010 on the European Community's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2009,
 - having regard to the Commission Green Paper on 'The Future of EU Budget Support to Third Countries' of 19 October 2010,
 - having regard to the Court of Auditors' Annual Report on the activities funded by the eighth, ninth and tenth European Development Funds (EDFs) of 9 November 2010 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to Special Report No 11/2010 of the European Court of Auditors entitled 'The Commission's management of general budget support in ACP, Latin American and Asian Countries',
 - having regard to the study by the Policy Department of the Directorate-General for External Policies of the European Parliament on 'Monitoring budget support in developing countries: A comparative analysis of the national control mechanisms over budget support in developing countries' of 15 July 2010,
 - having regard to its resolution on aid effectiveness and defining official development assistance, adopted in Port Moresby on 28 November 2008 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.900/11/fin.),
- A. whereas ACP-EU development finance cooperation is a partnership based on the development strategies of the ACP States and on mutual rights and obligations ensuring aid efficiency and coordination,
 - B. whereas donor and partner countries alike wish to respond to emerging aid effectiveness issues, so that Official Development Assistance (ODA) translates fully into positive impacts on people's lives by eradicating poverty and promoting peace and prosperity,
 - C. whereas budget support has become an increasingly important aid modality, and whereas the European Commission aims to increase budget support from 25 % of programmable funding under the 9th EDF to almost 50 % of programmable aid under the 10th EDF,
 - D. whereas budget support has contributed to increasing the level of commitment and disbursement of EDF resources in many ACP States,
 - E. whereas in 2009 budget support represented 28 % (EUR 2,32 billion) of all commitments from the EU budget and the EDF, and whereas General Budget Support (GBS) amounted to EUR 860 million and accounted for 35 % of all new budget support operations (all beneficiaries were ACP countries), while Sector Budget Support (SBS) represented 33 % of new budget support commitments for the ACP; whereas the amount and orientation of budget support delivered bilaterally by EU Member States varies considerably,
 - F. whereas one of the aims of budget support is to improve policy dialogue between donors and recipients, as it is conducted within the framework of a donor-recipient partnership in terms of priority-setting and evaluation, which helps to align donors' contributions to the country's own needs and preferences, with the goal of promoting nationally owned poverty reduction strategies or sector strategies,
 - G. whereas budget support, in accordance with the ownership principle, uses country systems (rather than duplicating structures and institutions in the partner country), with a view to increasing predictability and avoiding aid fragmentation, bureaucracy and transaction costs for both donor and partner countries,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 303, 09.11.2010, p. 243.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 61, 16.03.2009, p. 26.

- H. whereas closer cooperation among donors is still needed and whereas budget support allows for better harmonisation of donors' actions,
- I. whereas budget support is seen as politically sensitive, but is an aid instrument that should not be overburdened with political demands,
- J. whereas budget support should not be provided where there is proven corruption,
- K. whereas budget support can contribute to building institutional capacity and to improving accountability and scrutiny by domestic stakeholders; whereas, however, its success is determined by governments' capacity to plan, execute and account for their public spending; whereas domestically driven demands for accountability are crucial to governance,
- L. whereas civil society needs to be sufficiently involved in the budget support dialogue, the implementation of budget support programmes and the assessment of budget spending, and whereas parliaments must play a full role in terms of monitoring and assessment, both bottom-up and top-down; whereas audit institutions have an important role in monitoring and auditing budget support,
1. Stresses that budget support, as a means of financial assistance for development, should focus on reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs through sustainably increasing public expenditure, and can only be effective if both partners assume their responsibilities in a true partnership;
 2. Asks donor countries to increase the aid going through country budget systems to the 50 % promised, taking account of the eligibility criteria; invites the European Commission and the interested ACP countries to work towards concluding MDG-type contracts;
 3. Calls on the Commission to use budget support as its main aid modality, provided the eligibility criteria laid down in the Cotonou Agreement are met, and to encourage a collective EU target for budget support;
 4. Calls on the Commission to carry out, and share with donors and recipients, country-level assessments of the potential risks and benefits of budget support, allowing for choices about the scope, scale, design and role of budget support in any given partner country; notes, in this context, that significant volumes of budget support might be problematic if macroeconomic stability and elementary fiscal discipline have not been established;
 5. Calls on the EU to adopt a dynamic and incremental approach to budget support as capacity in partner countries improves;
 6. Calls on the EU to develop and manage budget support by seeking to exploit complementarities with other aid modalities and promoting alignment and coordination among the various general and sector budget support instruments; calls on the Commission to examine the implications of decentralising part of budget support;
 7. Calls on donors to increase coordination and aid predictability and to simplify procedures; stresses that budget support donors should be prepared for lengthy engagement with partner countries in a spirit of policy coherence for development;
 8. Encourages the Commission to maintain its dynamic approach on eligibility criteria; calls for performance indicators to be agreed with the ACP countries on the basis of in-depth dialogue and to be measured against results on poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs, as well as in other priority areas jointly agreed by the donor and recipient countries;

9. Stresses that budget support should not be linked to political conditionality and that political dialogue is to take place at the level of overall cooperation and partnership and not in the framework of individual aid instruments such as budget support; stresses, however, the importance of high-level policy dialogue for efficient use of budget support;
10. Calls on the EU to raise systematically the issue of parliamentary oversight of budget support in the framework of the policy dialogue; recalls that including aid in budgets is a key step towards increasing parliamentary scrutiny of aid; calls on the governments of the recipient countries to provide their parliaments with the information necessary in order to hold the executive to account, and calls on parliamentarians to make use of their existing powers;
11. Calls on partner countries to base budget support on sound, detailed national poverty-reduction plans, and on recipient countries to use funds to improve universal access to basic public services and reduce the incidence of poverty;
12. Calls for capacity building in all ministries in order to ensure greater empowerment of the poorest and increased effectiveness in strategic spending, essentially in the areas of health, education, employment, agriculture and infrastructure;
13. Calls on the EU to apply gender mainstreaming by using gender-disaggregated indicators, and on partner countries to include a gender perspective in the budgetary process and to promote dialogue with women's organisations;
14. Stresses that budget support should not be linked to the fulfilment of economic conditions that are likely to hamper ACP countries' development;
15. Recalls that systemic strengthening of public finance is an important part of a broad anti-corruption strategy, which requires regular supervision by the beneficiary countries;
16. Calls on both donor and recipient governments to focus on ensuring full budget transparency and accountability, as these are key to good economic and political governance; emphasises the need for consistently engaging with national parliaments, local government and non-state actors and increasing parliaments' and audit institutions' capacity building in order to strengthen domestic accountability, public financial management systems and monitoring mechanisms;
17. Calls on donor and recipient countries to accompany budget support with measures to strengthen public financial management systems and audit capacity, to increase parliaments' capacity building and to support non-state actors; calls on the ACP countries and the Commission to implement, in the context of the mid-term review of the Intra-ACP and RIP under the 10th EDF, an Intra-ACP programme to support capacity building in interested ACP countries through a peer learning and support programme with a view to improving the public financial management necessary to sustaining rapid and ambitious reforms;
18. Stresses that more information on budget support in donor and partner countries will enhance transparency and accountability and contribute to greater effectiveness of this instrument; calls for a systematic assessment of evaluation studies with a view to identifying possible shortcomings and thus improving implementation;
19. Recommends that the partners standardise as far as possible the assessment criteria for budget support in order to ensure better monitoring and an assessment of this aid modality;
20. Calls on the Commission, the EU Council and the EU Member States to provide adequate resources to the 11th EDF, building on the resources of the 10th EDF, in accordance with their commitment to allocating 0,7 % of their GNI to ODA by 2015, and taking account of the need for financing of new obligations agreed in the recently completed second review of the Cotonou Agreement;

21. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the national and regional parliaments of the ACP and EU Member States.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on water pollution

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 entitled ‘The human right to water and sanitation’,
- having regard to United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 15/9 entitled ‘Human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation’,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty, and particularly to Goal 7,
- having regard to the report of July 2009 by the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration,
- having regard to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report entitled ‘Beyond the Midpoint: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals’, published in January 2010,
- having regard to the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP report entitled ‘Stocktaking on the Millennium Development Goals’, published in January 2010,
- having regard to the UNDP Human Development Report 2006, entitled ‘Beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis’,
- having regard to the annual report (2010) entitled ‘UN-Water global annual assessment of sanitation and drinking water (GLAAS)’,
- having regard to the UNICEF report entitled ‘Progress for children – achieving the MDGs with equity’, published in September 2010,
- having regard to the twelve-point European Union (EU) action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals, which was issued by the European Commission on 21 April 2010,
- having regard to the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on Millennium Development Goals held in New York on 20-22 September 2010,
- having regard to the G8 Water Action Plan, adopted in Evian in 2003, and the subsequent reports pertaining thereto,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Budapest (Hungary).

- having regard to the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 1990, 1995, 2001 and 2007,
- having regard to the resolution on water in developing countries adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2006 in Bridgetown (Barbados),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.915/11/fin.),
- A. whereas the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council have recognised that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental right,
- B. whereas water is an essential resource for life and health and a public good, and not solely a commodity, and whereas although access to water is a fundamental right, society and individuals bear the responsibility for managing it in a sustainable way,
- C. whereas MDG 7 includes the specific target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; whereas, despite all the progress that has been made, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa will not, as matters currently stand, achieve this Millennium Development Goal; whereas drinking water supplies and sanitation continue to be problems, particularly outside of towns,
- D. whereas according to the latest UN figures, almost 900 million people in the world today do not have access to safe drinking water, 2,6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation, and contaminated water is the second most frequent cause of infant mortality in the world,
- E. whereas achieving MDG 7 would create an extra 322 million additional working days and would allow the health sector to save USD 7 billion per year; whereas, in addition, for every dollar invested in sanitation and safe drinking water, the return in terms of economic development is between USD 3 and USD 34,
- F. whereas women and girls, who are responsible for collecting water and caring for the sick, are the first to suffer from the lack of safe drinking water, and whereas access to safe water is essential for maternal health; whereas, in addition, the distances that need to be covered in order to have access to clean water and the lack of sanitation in schools have an adverse effect on access to education for girls in particular,
- G. whereas EU Member States are among the principal donors in the water sector and can draw on a wealth of experience in international development cooperation and water management,
- H. whereas the EU Water Initiative launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, September 2002) was designed as an integrated approach to water resource management, in order to meet the MDGs and sustainable development targets for drinking water and sanitation,
- I. whereas 70 % of untreated industrial waste in developing countries is disposed of in water, polluting the water supply,
- J. whereas, because of the length of river courses and associated water systems, the problem of water pollution is a cross-border issue that requires common action,
- K. whereas in 2002 the EU adopted the Water Framework Directive in order to rationalise its approach to water-related issues and to introduce a general obligation to protect the environment and a minimum standard for all surface waters,
- L. whereas climate change has an influence on access to safe water and sanitation, and the 2007 IPCC report concluded that climate change would reach dramatic proportions by 2050,

1. Takes the view that, given the importance of water as a vital resource, access to clean water is a fundamental human right and must be guaranteed, particularly for food preparation and hygiene; adds that access to water is also essential to production; believes that access to water must be used as a human development indicator;
2. Points out that water pollution prevention makes greater economic sense than any form of water treatment and purification after domestic and other use;
3. Stresses that the problem of water and water pollution is a cross-cutting issue and should be tackled with a multidisciplinary and multilateral approach that combines economic viability, social solidarity, employment protection, ecological responsibility, the precautionary principle and rational use, so as not to compromise the needs of future generations;
4. Regards any investment in water infrastructure and services as a catalyst for development, since improved water services will provide jobs for local communities, free up time for other productive activities and foster the social dimension at a local level;
5. Stresses the importance of dialogue between institutions and the local population throughout the decision-making process concerning water resources with a view to facilitating the participation of all interested parties, fulfilling the real needs of users and choosing solutions which take account of the climate, the environment and the skills available for the installation and maintenance of drinking water supply systems; stresses the need for a proper communication strategy, education and advocacy measures on the importance of clean water;
6. Stresses the importance of financing micro- and small projects in order to bring about a sustainable improvement in local conditions, and underlines the need for better information on possible sources of support;
7. Stresses the need to have an appropriate legal framework guaranteeing access to water, including drinking water, its quality and its responsible use; recommends the implementation of the 'polluter pays' principle; recalls that the adoption of legislation on the protection of drinking water must be a priority for governments;

Waste water pollution

8. Stresses that safe access to clean water, proper disposal of waste water and water sanitation are important prerequisites for public health, because they help to reduce mortality rates from diseases linked to the quality of water, especially among children; notes that the United Nations has recognised the right of access to sanitation as a human right on the same footing as the right to safe drinking water;
9. Stresses, however, that the provision of widespread safe access to drinking water through networks supplying drinking water and disposing of waste water is expensive and will be a burden on the limited financial capacities of many ACP countries; recalls, nevertheless, that this should be one of the priorities of the authorities; recommends greater use of boreholes in villages and shanty towns with very rapidly increasing populations and the use of innovative solutions, for example chlorine tablets to combat diseases such as cholera, which are caused by increasingly frequent flooding;
10. Stresses the need to combat waste wherever there is a risk of water shortage, and to optimise water usage, in particular through re-use, while bearing in mind water's manifold purposes and fostering a sense of responsibility among users;
11. Believes that innovative approaches to balancing the water cycle, such as alternative technologies adapted to the local situation and the use of organic matter as a fertiliser, must be encouraged;

12. Stresses that an adequate, safe water supply can be secured only through long-term strategies and that, to achieve this, the least expensive and most innovative, efficient and sustainable treatment technologies must be encouraged, if necessary through technology transfer, without neglecting the environmental dimension and taking into account the local situation, in consultation with the local population;
13. Stresses the importance of the Second ACP-EU Water Facility and supports its projects, which have been allocated EUR 200 million from the 10th European Development Fund, in ensuring water supply and basic sanitation for the most disadvantaged populations, helping to improve water governance and management of water resources and contributing to the sustainable development and maintenance of water infrastructure; recalls, however, that any decision to this effect must be taken as close as possible to the people concerned;

Industrial and agricultural pollution

14. Takes note of increasing agricultural production, mining, industrial production, power generation, forestry and other economic activities in ACP countries, which are bringing about changes in the chemical, biological and physical characteristics of water in ways that can threaten human health, ecosystems and biodiversity;
15. Calls on the ACP countries and the EU Member States to tackle the pollution of rivers by toxic chemicals and heavy metals, which are a major source of water pollution in EU countries, as well as in some ACP countries; asks that all possible measures be taken to prevent industry, deforestation, mining, chemical production and the extensive use of pesticides in agriculture and horticulture from affecting water quality and purity, in accordance with the precautionary principle; calls for standards to be introduced and for analyses to be carried out in at-risk areas with penalties for polluters, in order to combat the pollution of surface waters (rivers, lakes, run-offs) and the water table by fertilisers, pesticides, toxic chemicals and heavy metals;

Climate and demographic change

16. Underlines the need to study further the links between the rising global population and climate change, and in particular their potential impact on access to essential natural resources such as safe drinking water and on coastal waters;
17. Notes the increasing urbanisation in ACP countries, which triggers a need for major investment in infrastructure to deliver water and process waste water; therefore encourages investment in recovery and reuse of water with a view to saving water and, consequently, energy;
18. Urges the international community to recognise the importance of tropical forest protection and to start tackling this as a priority issue, calling on all parties concerned, including emerging countries, to fulfil the commitments entered into the Copenhagen Agreement to mitigating and transferring clean technologies in order to preserve the planet's water resources and deal with climate change and the restrictions that it could impose on drinking water resources;
19. Calls on the European Commission to transfer the best legislative and technological water protection practices to the ACP countries and to create an online platform to collect examples of best practice in water protection;
20. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the EU and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the decisions and declarations of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union on Côte d'Ivoire,
- having regard to the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution of 25 March 2011 establishing an international commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire since the presidential election of November 2010,
- having regard to the declaration submitted by the Ivorian Government on 1 October 2003 accepting the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the crimes committed in its territory as from 19 September 2002,
- having regard to its Co-Presidents' statements of 3 December 2010 and 18 March 2011 condemning the violence and human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire,
- having regard to the European Parliament's resolutions of 16 December 2006 and 7 April 2011 on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire,
- A. whereas the sole source of legitimacy is universal suffrage, which means having incontestable election results,
- B. having regard to the seriousness of the political crisis that arose after the results of the second round of the Ivorian presidential election of 28 November 2010 were challenged,
- C. whereas the objective of the election was to bring an end to a political crisis that had divided the country for a decade,
- D. whereas, for the first time in Africa, the UN was entrusted, through two of its resolutions, and with the agreement of the then President, Laurent Gbagbo, with certifying the results of the presidential election, and whereas those certified results designated Mr Alassane Ouattara President-elect of Côte d'Ivoire,
- E. whereas Law 2001-303 and Article 64 of the Ordinance of 2008 do not give the Ivorian Constitutional Council the power to proclaim results different from those of the Independent Electoral Commission,
- F. whereas the outgoing President, Laurent Gbagbo, had the responsibility of ensuring a peaceful handover to his successor in order to maintain civil peace,
- G. whereas as early as 7 December 2010 ECOWAS called on the outgoing President to 'yield power without delay',

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Budapest (Hungary).

- H. whereas on 8 December 2010 the African Union called on the outgoing President to 'respect the will of the people as expressed through the ballot box and surrender power peacefully in order to avoid a bloodbath'; having regard to its numerous mediation efforts,
- I. whereas all attempts at mediation to persuade former President Gbagbo to hand over power to the democratically elected President failed,
- J. whereas former President Gbagbo's refusal to hand over power to the democratically elected president has taken Côte d'Ivoire to the brink of civil war,
- K. whereas the violence against civilians has resulted in several thousand deaths, over one million people being internally displaced and over 100 000 people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries,
- L. whereas atrocities have been committed in Côte d'Ivoire, including cases of sexual violence, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions and the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against civilians, which constitute crimes against humanity,
- M. whereas these abuses, looked into by three UN-appointed international investigators, were probably committed by different parties to the conflict on the mere suspicion that the victims belonged to an ethnic group different from that of the perpetrators,
- N. whereas attacks intentionally directed against UN peacekeepers and institutions also constitute war crimes,
- O. having regard to the application to the International Criminal Court forwarded to The Hague on President Ouattara's behalf on 9 March 2011,
- P. whereas this violence will have incalculable repercussions on the life of the population,
- Q. whereas President Ouattara has called for an end to the violence, for reconciliation and for the establishment of a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Dialogue,
- R. whereas this period of crisis has had extremely negative economic, social and humanitarian effects, with young people facing a lack of job prospects,
- S. having regard to the more favourable prospects opening up for Côte d'Ivoire following the arrest of former President Gbagbo,
1. Welcomes the fact that the elected President of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr Ouattara, has now taken office;
 2. Condemns the attempts by former President Gbagbo and his supporters to violently usurp power against the will of the Ivorian people;
 3. States that it has full confidence in the UN staff responsible for certifying the election results;
 4. Commends the efforts deployed by ECOWAS, the African Union and the UN to find a diplomatic solution, which could have prevented the widespread suffering caused by the use of armed force, and regrets the failure of these efforts;
 5. Deplores the high price the Ivorian people have had to pay to ensure that their democratically expressed will is respected;

6. Condemns wholeheartedly all of the brutality, repeated campaigns to incite hatred, reprisals, pillaging, settling of scores and serious human rights violations; condemns in particular the violence that has occurred, especially the use of heavy weapons against civilians, the attacks on UN personnel, the sexual violence and the massacres confirmed by the UN and humanitarian organisations;
7. Welcomes the United Nations Security Council decision to authorise the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) to use force in order to protect the civilian population, inter alia by preventing further use of heavy weapons; calls for ONUCI, with the assistance of the French Force 'Licorne', to continue to provide effective protection of civilians in Côte d'Ivoire for as long as they are requested to do so by the Ivorian authorities;
8. Condemns the failure to comply with the arms embargo; welcomes the UN decision of 28 April 2011 to maintain this embargo for another year and urges the Member States of the European Union and the African Union to do everything possible to render it effective;
9. Calls on Côte d'Ivoire's neighbours to take every possible step to ensure that they do not serve as a refuge for forces seeking to destabilise the country, thus helping the Ivorian Government to improve the security of its borders;
10. Deplores the massive loss of human life and the targeted acts of destruction of property; expresses its condolences to the injured and the families of the victims and those who have disappeared; sends its heartfelt condolences to the Ivorian people and government, and urges the parties on the ground to do all in their power to prevent further human rights violations and to ensure the safety of the population;
11. Welcomes President Ouattara's commitment to restoring the rule of law, calls on the Ivorian authorities to ensure that all their actions respect the rule of law, which means that appropriate recourse to legal prosecution should be used against all those who have used, or continue to use, violence and against all those who have diverted State resources into private hands, but stresses that those accused should be afforded a full right of defence in an impartial and non-selective judicial framework; welcomes the EU's decision to provide immediate aid of EUR 18 million for the purpose of modernising the Ivorian judicial system;
12. Hopes that the truth about all the massacres and crimes will be brought to light; welcomes the UN's decision to establish an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity; calls on all the parties concerned to cooperate fully;
13. Welcomes the decision by the Prosecutor of the ICC to request authorisation from the Pre-Trial Chamber to launch an investigation into the 'widespread and systematic killings', given that the ICC can determine its jurisdiction on the basis of Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute;
14. Recalls that there is no statute of limitations for war crimes and crimes against humanity and that those responsible should not have any temporal, geographical or political impunity;
15. Welcomes President Ouattara's calls for an end to violence and for reconciliation, and hopes that these calls will be heeded across the country, especially within the administration and the armed forces; welcomes the establishment of a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Dialogue and stresses the importance of social cohesion in the country;
16. Reiterates its support for President Ouattara, his government and the people of Côte d'Ivoire in their task of reconciliation, recovery and sustainable development; calls for the initiation of talks to restore order and peace and to establish stability and security in the country while promoting national unity;

17. Recalls President Ouattara's proposal to form a government of national unity in order to promote a democratic and peaceful political transition and enable all political opinions in the country and each of the regions to be represented;
18. Hopes that this restoration of civil peace will allow a parliament to be elected as soon as possible;
19. Congratulates the European Union on its effective humanitarian aid, which amounts to more than EUR 54 million, and encourages it to continue its efforts until the refugees and displaced persons return; recalls that more than 100 000 refugees have fled Côte d'Ivoire, mostly to Liberia, and that over one million have been internally displaced; calls on the international donors to support the action of the European Union, which has released EUR 180 million in aid with effect from April 2011;
20. Welcomes the end of the cocoa export ban by the Ivorian authorities and the lifting of the EU's sanctions on economic entities, which has enabled cocoa exports to be resumed;
21. Hopes that Côte d'Ivoire can benefit from the external debt relief totalling USD 3 billion that it was granted under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, from EDF projects, aid from the World Bank and the IMF, and, where necessary, the additional funds from the European Union, in order to relaunch the Ivorian economy as quickly as possible;
22. Looks forward to its fact-finding mission to Côte d'Ivoire;
23. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Ivorian President, Alassane Ouattara, the institutions of the European Union, the African Union and ECOWAS, and to the UN Secretary-General and the ICC Prosecutor.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the democratic upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East: consequences for the ACP countries, for Europe and for the world

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on 10 December 1948 in Paris by the United Nations General Assembly,
- having regard to Article 2, paragraph 7, of the UN Charter, which establishes non-interference in the internal affairs of a state as a peacemaking principle in international relations, and to exceptions to the principle of non-interference, which apply only in the event of a threat to collective security and are determined exclusively by the Security Council of the United Nations (Chapter VII),
- having regard to the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy since 2004, in particular the Commission's progress reports of 12 May 2010 on its fulfilment of the objectives aimed at strengthening prosperity, stability and security in neighbouring countries ⁽²⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Budapest (Hungary).

⁽²⁾ COM(2011)207.

- having regard to the joint communication 'A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' ⁽¹⁾, which introduces a new approach to the European Union's policy towards its southern neighbours,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolutions of 3 and 17 February, 24 March and 7 April 2011, respectively on the situation in Tunisia and in Egypt, EU relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council, the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy – Southern Dimension ⁽²⁾, and the situation in Syria, Bahrain and Yemen ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the 1975 United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Bahrain, Syria and Yemen are parties,
 - having regard to the Declarations of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean adopted at its meetings in Paris (12 July 2008), Cairo (20 November 2009), Rabat (22 January 2010), Palermo (18 June 2010) and Rome (12 November 2010),
 - having regard to previous UN resolutions on Libya, including Resolution 1973(2011) of March 17 2011, whereby member states and regional organisations are allowed to participate in a no-fly zone over Libya to protect the civilian population and to 'take all necessary measures to protect civilian populations and areas at risk of attack in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya',
 - having regard to the contradictory interpretations surrounding the application of this Resolution,
 - having regard to the reservations expressed by the African Union about the implementation of that resolution,
 - having regard to the statements made by the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission, on behalf of the European Union, on Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain between February and May 2011,
 - having regard to the negotiation initiative undertaken by the African Union with the aim of putting an end to the fighting between the Libyan opposition and the government of Muammar Gaddafi,
- A. whereas the victory of the Tunisian and Egyptian people represents a new wind of hope, freedom, solidarity, democracy and real change, desired by both those populations and by all oppressed peoples,
 - B. whereas through peaceful demonstrations the people of the southern Mediterranean and numerous Middle Eastern countries have clearly expressed their legitimate aspirations for democratic reform,
 - C. whereas these upheavals have resulted in the loss of human lives, and have left thousands of displaced people and refugees both within and outside the countries concerned,
 - D. whereas these democratic uprisings are largely motivated by an unequal distribution of wealth, lack of freedoms, corruption and nepotism; whereas they reflect the general discontent of the population with the regimes in power and their desire for a combination of economic growth, respect for democratic values and social welfare,
 - E. whereas most of the regimes that have been toppled or challenged in the regions have been supported by the European Union and its Member States, primarily for geo-strategic, military, commercial and economic reasons,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011)200 final.

⁽²⁾ Not yet published in the OJ.

⁽³⁾ Not yet published in the OJ.

- F. whereas it is important to consider the risk of dissemination of weapons of war and the consequent threats to the safety of humanity,
- G. having regard to the interdependence of the world's regions and the inevitable consequences – positive or negative – that these movements may have on neighbouring regions in Africa and in the European Union,
- H. whereas the evolution of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) since 2004 has revealed numerous shortcomings in terms of defence of human rights and democratic principles and has not succeeded in bringing about the necessary political, social and institutional reforms, notably because of insufficient dialogue with civil society and the forces of democracy,
- I. whereas the democratic uprisings of the people of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries mean that the European Union must adapt the ENP with a view to providing effective support for the process of political, economic and social reform, while categorically condemning the use of force to suppress peaceful demonstrations,
- J. whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 450 000 people have fled from Libya to neighbouring Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali and Chad and to Europe, and whereas hundreds of thousands more refugees and foreign workers face a desperate struggle to escape the conflict or leave Libya; whereas this is creating a humanitarian emergency that calls for a quick EU reaction and solidarity among Member States and neighbouring countries,
- K. whereas on Monday, 16 May 2011 the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Hague requested arrest warrants for Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, his son Saif al-Islam Gaddafi and his military intelligence chief, accusing them of crimes against humanity,
1. Applauds the courage and determination of the people of the Middle East and North Africa, and strongly supports their legitimate democratic aspirations, which could be an inspiration for democratic change in countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Europe and the rest of the world; reiterates its strong support for people who are demonstrating peacefully against authoritarian repressive regimes, especially for the young people and women acting as key agents and catalysts for democratic reform in the Arab world;
 2. Notes that the recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East have political, economic and social repercussions, above all in the countries themselves, but also in the ACP states and in Europe;
 3. Calls on the European Union to lend strong support to the political and economic reforms in the region; stresses that in order to best support the democratic transition, it is essential to mobilise all existing instruments in the framework of the ENP and development policy; calls for special attention to be paid to respect for fundamental freedoms, good governance, an independent judiciary and the fight against corruption in order to respond to the needs and expectations of the people;
 4. Calls on the European Union to consider a temporary suspension of repayment of the debts of the countries in question, and stresses the need to carry out an audit of those debts; calls for the property of the corrupt leaders to be frozen and returned to the public exchequers of the countries concerned;
 5. Calls for greater attention to be paid to cooperation with civil societies, as they are the main catalyst for the popular uprisings throughout the region; calls also for every effort to be made to ensure that the aid from the European Union and the international community actually reaches them;
 6. Regrets the selective indignation of the international community in response to the violence in Yemen, Syria and, especially, Bahrain, where troops of the joint force of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) came from Saudi Arabia to crush protests;

7. Calls on the authorities to refrain from the use of violence against demonstrators, to respect their freedom of assembly and expression, and to guarantee their security; calls for independent inquiries into the events leading to deaths, injuries and imprisonments of peaceful protesters in these countries and for those responsible to be brought to justice; calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons arrested during the demonstrations as well as of all political prisoners, human rights defenders and journalists;
8. Takes the view that closer sub-regional cooperation between the EU Member States, the African Union (AU) and the countries covered by the ENP that share common interests, values and problems could give rise to a dynamic for the entire Mediterranean region;
9. Denounces the arms sales and largesse granted for the benefit of economic-strategic interests, and the friendly relations maintained with dictators for many years by some EU and ACP countries; applauds the self-determination of these peoples and condemns the violence they suffer;
10. Calls on the European Union to carry out an in-depth evaluation and reform of both its diplomatic policy and the nature of its political, trade and cooperation relations with the countries of North Africa and the Middle East;
11. Together with the Pan-African Parliament, calls on all members of the African Union to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
12. Recalls that any armed intervention must be undertaken with the sole aim of protecting civilians and must be impartial, and that its initiators may under no circumstances assume the right to determine who can govern and who must be excluded;
13. Encourages the African Union, the Arab League and the European Union to make all necessary financial and human resources available to support a robust international humanitarian operation in the countries concerned, in order to assist the UNHCR and other relevant humanitarian agencies in providing protection and emergency assistance to all those in need;
14. Reiterates the importance of respecting and accepting the choice of the people and the results of elections, regardless of who wins, provided that the elections are democratic, free, fair and transparent;
15. Welcomes the progress made by the African Union's Peace and Security Council and the Tunisian and Egyptian authorities, and encourages the continuation of the efforts to put in place a process of democratic stabilisation and to guarantee freedom, fundamental and human rights, peace and justice;
16. Calls on the European Commission and the countries concerned to continue their efforts, while ensuring that a common strategy, including adequate financial, human and technical resources, is put in place to guarantee that the EU can respond appropriately in the event of any mass migratory movement, in accordance with Article 80 TFEU;
17. Calls for strict compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973(2011), aimed at protecting the civilian population;
18. Urges the leaders concerned to show restraint in the use of force and to engage in talks aimed at reaching a positive outcome to the crisis, and deplores any collateral loss of human life;
19. Insists that the African Union be involved in the search for solutions that are acceptable to all parties;
20. Calls on the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League and the coalition to hold a round table with a view to finding a way out of the crisis that will bring about lasting peace and the establishment of democracy in Libya;

21. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States, the institutions of the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly of the United Nations, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, the governments and parliaments of the countries of the Middle East and the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean.

BUDAPEST DECLARATION

on the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, 2011

The 21st Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Budapest (Hungary) from 16 to 18 May 2011:

- A. whereas aid effectiveness is about improving lives, cutting poverty and achieving the MDGs,
 - B. whereas the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF-4) on Aid Effectiveness, due to take place in Busan, South Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, will conclude the OECD/DAC-led process on aid effectiveness that was launched by the Paris Declaration in 2005 (PD) and followed by the Accra Agenda for Action of 2008 (AAA),
 - C. whereas HLF-4 will also chart future directions for more effective development aid and contribute to a new international aid architecture up to the MDG deadline of 2015 and beyond,
 - D. whereas the EU and its Member States provide more than half the world's Official Development Assistance (ODA), and thus constitute a significant player in the aid effectiveness agenda,
 - E. whereas Article 208 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union commits the EU to striving for policy coherence in relation to development,
 - F. whereas the Second Revision of the Cotonou Agreement, signed in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 23 June 2010, subscribes to the aid effectiveness agenda (Preamble, paragraph 12a and Part 1, Article 2) as committed to in the PD on Aid Effectiveness and the AAA; whereas the primary objective of the Cotonou Agreement is the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty,
 - G. whereas substantial improvements have been made with respect to aid effectiveness, but whereas there is still a long way to go; whereas the continuation of the aid effectiveness agenda is indispensable for ensuring the implementation of existing commitments, particularly in light of the financial crisis, and for considering different and new dimensions of aid and development effectiveness,
1. Stresses that HLF-4 should go beyond a stocktaking exercise and move from pledges to tangible achievements on the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda, and expects the EU and ACP countries to play a leadership role in achieving this;
 2. Recalls the importance of policy coherence for development and of actively promoting common values such as human rights, social justice, the fight against corruption, accountability and gender equality within the aid effectiveness agenda;

ANNEX IV

- Resolution on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the ACP-EU partnership (ACP-EU/101.082/11/fin.)
- Resolution on the influence of debt on development financing in ACP countries (ACP-EU/101.079/11/fin.)
- Resolution on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in developing countries (ACP-EU/100.954/11/fin.)
- Resolution on the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia (ACP-EU/101.112/11/fin.)
- Resolution on the impact of the Arab Spring on neighbouring Sub-Saharan States (ACP-EU/101.111/11/fin.)

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the ACP-EU Partnership**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Lomé (Togo) from 21 to 23 November 2011,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Partnership Agreement'),
 - having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
 - having regard to the Georgetown Agreement, which formally established the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States,
 - having regard to Article 208 of the TFEU,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/101.082/11/fin.),
- A. whereas the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement is still the best example of a comprehensive approach to cooperation, whose added value must be safeguarded, and whereas this partnership should be strengthened, rather than weakened, by increasing its value as a mutual political commitment;
- B. whereas the ACP countries have long been privileged partners of the European Union and whereas, in the Treaty of Lisbon, solidarity with, and support for, the countries of the South are for the first time treated as an essential aspect of the identity of the European Union;
- C. whereas the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon gives the European Parliament greater powers, with shared responsibility with the European Council, in forty essential new areas of the European Union's policies and actions,
- D. whereas the removal of the explicit reference to the ACP countries in the Treaty of Lisbon means that both parties must redefine their common interests so as to ensure that the value of the partnership that has existed since 1975 is strengthened;
- E. whereas the Treaty of Lisbon provides for greater coordination of the EU's external action;
- F. whereas the Treaty of Lisbon has brought changes in the operational manner in which the EU, through its European External Action Service (EEAS), now interacts with the ACP group; whereas those changes, in particular the absence of an ACP unit within the EEAS and the internal structure of the Commission's new Directorate-General for EuropeAid Development and Cooperation, will have an impact on the special partnership with the ACP countries;
- G. whereas ACP-EU relations are founded on a whole range of elements, from development to conflict prevention, from security and stability to the defence of human rights;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2011 in Lomé (Togo).

- H. whereas the rise of the emerging economies, the shift in the balance of power within the international system and the increasing number of policy frameworks such as the G77 and the G24 have revealed the need to analyse how the ACP Group could best achieve its political and economic objectives in parallel with the policy framework provided by EU-ACP relations;
- I. whereas the JPA's influence on political decisions and strategic choices relating to development at national, regional and international level continues to be very limited, despite its unique role in the North-South dialogue;
- J. whereas the ACP Group represents almost half the world's states but does not have a voice in global governance fora such as the G20, which exclude the poorest countries;
- K. whereas although the support received from the EU has been vital, the ACP countries must also embrace the opportunities offered by South-South cooperation and partnerships with the emerging economies of China, India and Brazil in order to capitalise on their huge markets as a means of trading out of poverty;
- L. whereas, as far as the ACP countries are concerned, the diversity of partners is irreversible and generally beneficial, but whereas the export of raw materials without value added, even to a range of partners, slows down the diversification and real development of the ACP economies;
- M. whereas the EU has developed regional strategies with each region of the ACP Group which are at different stages of development, two of which, continuing in the Cotonou tradition, have evolved into joint strategies; whereas these strategies could become three separately managed relationships when the Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires in 2020;
- N. whereas the future of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement will also be determined by the negotiations contributing to the forthcoming Multiannual Financing Framework for 2014–2020, through which the European Union must provide the funding for its external policy;
1. Recalls that the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which has just been revised for the second time, has as its primary objectives the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the global economy;
 2. Calls on the ACP Group and the European Union to take the opportunity offered by the removal of the explicit reference to the ACP in the Treaty of Lisbon to revitalise their partnership; calls, therefore, for the definition of areas of common interest, such as energy, climate change and migration;
 3. Recognises the Treaty of Lisbon as a positive step forward in the democratic process, which allows the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to be more effective in bringing about positive changes for both parties;
 4. Hopes that the EU's external policy, of which poverty eradication, and thus development policy, are an integral part, combines all the instruments it has available to promote a policy of peace;
 5. Takes the view that the ACP Group needs to strengthen itself politically, while the EU must be prepared to review and renew its partnership with the ACP countries, taking it beyond the donor–recipient relationship and into a partner–partner relationship;
 6. Welcomes the appointment of an Ambassadorial Working Group on the Future Perspectives of the ACP Group after 2020;
 7. Welcomes the creation of an informal working group between the EEAS and DG DEVCO with the aim of strengthening the ACP-EU partnership; calls for this group to keep the members of the JPA regularly informed of its work;
 8. Calls on the EU to help strengthen intra-ACP cooperation among the different regions in areas such as food security, technology transfer, infrastructure, climate change, migration, trade, science, peace, security and democratisation;

9. Believes that monitoring the reports adopted is an important work tool for strengthening the JPA as regards the implementation of decisions; suggests in this regard that the two co-rapporteurs monitor the resolutions and regularly inform their respective committees of the progress made and any difficulties encountered;
10. Believes that, ultimately, the ACP countries need to enter into international partnerships that are in tune with their development aspirations and capacities;
11. Recalls that the group of ACP countries represents 40 % of the members of the United Nations; stresses, therefore, the need for the ACP Group to strengthen its identity in order to make its presence felt on the international stage;
12. Shares the view that both the ACP and the EU are far from reaching the full potential their privileged partnership offers in order to exert influence on issues such as the reform of the UN, the World Bank and the IMF, the G20, and the UNFCCC negotiations, and they should make every effort to move forward in that direction;
13. Invites the ACP Group countries to make extensive use of Article 12 of the Cotonou Agreement to make the most of the possibility of influencing those Community policies that have an impact on their development; to that end, invites the ACP parliamentarians to establish closer links with their EP counterparts;
14. Calls for a central and strategic role to be given to the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs) in the work of the JPA committees so that they can participate in the preparation and achievement of the goals laid down in those documents;
15. Takes the view that, as with the reinforced role of Europe's national parliaments provided for by the Treaty of Lisbon, the national parliaments of the ACP countries should assert themselves more in order to strengthen their influence in the national decision-making processes;
16. Believes the ACP would be strengthened as a bloc by promoting its members' common interests in the World Trade Organisation, since a stronger bloc could influence commodity and food prices, secure the protection of important markets and demand measures against European and US subsidies;
17. Recalls that the three EU regional strategies for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions and that for South Africa should aim at strengthening the key pillars of the ACP-EU Partnership as defined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
18. Calls on the European Union to provide its delegations in the ACP countries with the human and financial resources needed for the exercise of their new competencies;
19. Recalls that, when it comes to trade, the European Parliament's approval is now needed for the adoption of trade agreements; suggests, therefore, that serious consideration be given to the possibility of including in the JPA agenda debates on the trade agreements under negotiation;
20. Recalls that the ACP group should assert itself as a global player on the basis of its collective human and natural resources, its historical links with the EU and its proximity to emerging economies.
21. Stresses that the new competences conferred on the European Parliament by the Treaty of Lisbon must be used to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of ACP-EU relations, of which the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is the cornerstone; hopes that this parliamentary dimension will be reflected in the EDF budget and in better information for ACP parliamentarians on the national and regional strategies implemented by the European Union and on the use of the EU's other financial instruments in ACP countries;
22. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Commission of the African Union, and the Pan-African Parliament.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the impact of debt on development financing in ACP countries**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Lomé (Togo) from 21 to 23 November 2011,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in 2005 and 2010, and in particular Articles 60 and 66 thereof,
 - having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as objectives established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty and hunger,
 - having regard to the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 18–22 March 2002,
 - having regard to the Conference on Innovative Financing held in Paris on 28 and 29 May 2009 and the International Conference on Development Financing held in Doha between 28 November and 2 December 2008,
 - having regard to the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative launched in 1996 by the IMF and the World Bank with the aim of ensuring that no poor country faces a debt burden it cannot manage,
 - having regard to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) launched in June 2005 by the G8,
 - having regard to the draft UNCTAD principles on promoting responsible sovereign lending and borrowing of 26 April 2011,
 - having regard to the European Consensus on Development ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the Commission Staff Working Paper entitled ‘Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis – Where does the EU go from Doha? What prospects for meeting the EU targets of 2010 and 2015?’ (Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis – Where does the EU go from Doha? What prospects for meeting the EU targets of 2010 and 2015?) of 15 April 2009,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 8 March 2011 on Tax and Development – Cooperating with Developing Countries on Promoting Good Governance in Tax Matters (2010/2102(INI)) ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-UE/101.079(fin.).
- A. whereas the global crisis has led to increased sovereign debt levels in many countries around the world and whereas one third of ACP countries are either in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress;
- B. whereas servicing high levels of debt can become an obstacle to development by diverting significant budgetary resources and/or decreasing investment in public social services and poverty-related spending; whereas debt servicing could also reduce the investment needed to stimulate economic growth;
- C. whereas 1 % of economic growth in trade is three times greater than public development assistance;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2011 in Lomé (Togo).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0082&language=EN&ring=A7-2011-0027>

- D. whereas donors should assist ACP countries in reaching and maintaining a sustainable level of debt in the long term, thus reinforcing their efforts to reduce poverty and promote growth; whereas, this being the case, it is commendable that the Paris Club of creditors cancelled in July 2010 a second tranche of debt owed by the Seychelles in order to help that country to put its debt on a sustainable footing;
- E. whereas debt relief is one of the targets of Millennium Development Goal 8, which aims specifically to deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long run;
- F. whereas currently the most significant international debt relief instruments for developing countries are the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI); whereas, as of December 2010, debt reduction packages under the HIPC Initiative have been approved for 36 countries, 32 of them in Africa, providing USD 72 billion in debt-service relief over time; whereas the European Commission and the EU Members States bear the bulk of the cost of HIPC and MDRI;
- G. whereas HIPC and MDRI are coming to an end, and policy reforms and new international mechanisms dealing with loan contraction and debt management and resolution are therefore needed;
- H. whereas future debt management and sustainability mechanisms should not only be based on financial considerations, but need to factor in the spending needs of the indebted developing countries for the achievement of the MDGs;
- I. whereas ACP countries' oversight bodies such as supreme audit institutions, parliaments and civil society organisations should play a major role in monitoring government use of budgetary resources, thus reducing mismanagement of public funds;
- J. whereas good governance, the rule of law and transparency are indispensable for the proper management of public funds and debt sustainability;
- K. whereas responsible behaviour by all lenders is crucial to the promotion of sustainable, good-quality finance;
- L. whereas, in the aftermath of the global economic crisis, the ACP countries should pay increased attention to domestic mobilisation of resources as a palliative for a possible reduction in foreign aid and foreign sources of finance for the implementation of their poverty-reduction strategies;
1. Calls on the EU and other donors to enact a set of guidelines on responsible financing, especially in times of a global financial crisis which is aggravating the debt situation in developing countries through its spillover effects, notably a contraction in global trade and a related collapse in commodity exports;
 2. Calls on the EU, the ACP Group and the ACP regional organisations to work out jointly, in cooperation with relevant international bodies, a model for an appropriate debt-offsetting mechanism for indebted countries, based on independent impact assessments of their socio-economic situation, thus reducing the scope for over-politicisation of decision-making on debt relief, including possible corruption on the donor's side (retro-commissions); takes the view that this will enable the donors, on a case-by-case basis, to take into account the particular situation of the partner ACP country and its overall development level; is of the opinion that the debt-offsetting mechanism could take the form of debt cancellation, debt rescheduling, debt repayment, or a mix of these options;
 3. Calls on donors to define jointly with the partner ACP country the specific conditions attached to its debt-offsetting scheme, in order to strike the right balance between the obligation to service the debt and the obligation to provide for the population's basic needs, as sound debt management is a precondition for sustainable development;

4. Takes the view that any additional funds obtained by ACP governments through debt cancellation should be allocated to increasing social expenditure in areas such as basic education, primary health care and HIV/AIDS, thus contributing to the attainment of the MDGs; calls on the Commission, therefore, to explore with partner ACP countries the possibility of debt transformation into public investment in social services and public goods as part of their particular debt relief scheme or in combination with other schemes;
5. Takes the view that when debt cancellation is considered in a particular ACP country, it could also be with the aim of allocating the benefits of debt cancellation to funding the creation of SMEs, whose establishment and growth is a necessary precondition for the emergence and development of a middle class in ACP countries; therefore invites the Commission to explore, in cooperation with the ACP partner countries, the possibility of transforming and refocusing, where appropriate, ACP debt-offsetting strategies towards public investment in SMEs, taking into account that these types of local enterprise can greatly contribute to job creation and domestic growth, and therefore to debt alleviation in ACP countries;
6. Considers it necessary to promote access to credit so as to guarantee a viable entrepreneurial climate; invites, therefore, the ACP countries and private partners to take measures to respond to this requirement;
7. Calls on the Commission and donor countries to assist the ACP countries with designing national debt strategies within the context of their national development strategies, with the participation of civil society, promoting in particular the healthy restructuring of their economy and the internal formation of capital and savings
8. Calls on the EU and the OECD not to broaden the definition of official development aid (ODA) and to end the practice of counting debt relief as aid spending; calls on the EU, however, to consider debt relief in combination with other debt-offsetting schemes as part of a comprehensive effort to address the needs of developing countries;
9. Calls on the Commission to monitor closely (with the assistance of relevant international institutions such as the UN agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the Association of European Development Finance Institutions) the evolution and development impact of the indebtedness rate of ACP countries, with special focus on the situation of the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States;
10. Calls on the Commission to regularly inform, via a report, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the debt-offsetting schemes in place with the partner ACP countries and of their impact on the countries' capacity to meet the MDGs, especially with regard to the fight against hunger and malnutrition, and provision of health services;
11. Urges the ACP partner countries to take seriously the due servicing of both their foreign and their domestic debt;
12. Takes the view that policy coherence for development, particularly among policies on trade, development and financial transparency, should be a guiding principle of EU development cooperation and should inform the development of standards for responsible lending and borrowing;
13. Calls on the ACP partner countries to step up their domestic efforts with respect to sound financial management, budgetary control and the fight against corruption, fraud and tax evasion, and to sustain their long-term efforts to create the stable economic environment required in order to be able to better develop their domestic financial markets and banking sectors;
14. Is of the opinion that the ACP countries should focus on designing and implementing sustainable taxation systems, including the creation of a robust tax collection body empowered to defend the essential interest of the state in accessing what should be the primary source of state funding;
15. Recognises the important role of international cooperation in combating illicit financial flows and building sound rules for finance and investment at global level; recalls EU commitments to policy coherence for development, and calls on the EU to support the ACP countries in their fight against illicit outflows and capital flight, as these are identified as a major obstacle to mobilisation of domestic revenue for development;

16. Takes the view that the ACP countries must seek to create a climate that is favourable to investment by establishing laws guaranteeing that investors have the legal certainty they need to invest;
17. Calls for enhanced cross-border cooperation between ACP countries in exchanging best practices regarding the preparation of their public budget and control of its use for the public welfare; recommends that under the 11th EDF the Commission earmark more funding for technical assistance and capacity building in ACP countries, to be used for budget setting and control and for debt management;
18. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the EU Member States.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in developing countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Lomé (Togo) from 21 to 23 November 2011,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement') and in particular to Article 8(4) on non-discrimination,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted in 2006, and in particular to Article 32 thereof, which states that all parties must include disability and persons with disabilities in their international cooperation efforts,
- having regard to UN Human Rights Council resolutions 7/9 of 27 March 2008, 10/7 of 26 March 2009, 13/11 of 25 March 2010 and 16/15 of 24 March 2011 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,
- having regard to Article 19 of the TFEU, Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 14 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which prohibits all forms of discrimination, as well as Articles 21 and 26 thereof, which set out the rights of people with disabilities,
- having regard to the resolutions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the rights of disabled people and older people in ACP countries of 1 November 2001, and on health issues, young people, the elderly and people living with disabilities, adopted at the Cape Town Assembly on 21 March 2002,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on disability and development adopted on 19 January 2006,
- having regard to the World Report on Disability published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank in June 2011,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to the MDG 2010 Summit Outcome Document entitled 'Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals' (Resolution 65/1),
- having regard to the Beijing Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which calls for a higher standard of living, equal participation and the elimination of discriminatory attitudes and practices,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2011 in Lomé (Togo).

- having regard to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 65/186 and 64/131 on 'Realising the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities towards 2015 and beyond',
 - having regard to the EU Disability Strategy 2010–2020, 'A renewed commitment to a barrier-free Europe' (COM(2010) 0636 final) and its initial implementation plan 2010 –2015 (SEC(2010) 1324 final),
 - having regard to the EU Guidance Note on Disability and Development for EU Delegations and Services,
 - having regard to the International Labour Office report entitled 'The price of exclusion: the economic consequences of excluding people with disabilities from the world of work' published in 2009,
 - having regard to Article 18(4) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981), which states that disabled persons have the right to special measures of protection, and to Article 16(1), which provides that every individual is to have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health;
 - having regard to the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2000–2009), the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993–2002), the New Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003–2012) and the European Year of People with Disabilities (2003)
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.954/11/fin.),
- A. whereas more than one billion people in the world — 15 % of the population — live with some form of disability ⁽¹⁾;
 - B. whereas, according to the CRPD, 'persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others';
 - C. whereas disability tends to disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, where the likelihood of disability increases with the incidence of poverty (WRD 2011); whereas disability is therefore a development issue;
 - D. whereas the CRPD aims to 'promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity';
 - E. whereas the EU, 19 of its Member States and 48 ACP States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and many more are signatories;
 - F. whereas international legal commitments are only effective when they are backed up by national laws and policies;
 - G. whereas the WHO and the World Bank list inadequate policies and standards, negative attitudes, lack of provision of services, inadequate funding, inaccessibility, lack of consultation and involvement, and lack of data and evidence as the causes of exclusion of persons with disabilities;
 - H. whereas people with disabilities can experience exclusion from all aspects of life, including work, public services, transport, communication, education and information;
 - I. whereas in countries where life expectancy is greater than 70 years people spend approximately 8 years of their lives coping with one or more disabilities;
 - J. whereas many developing countries have made significant – though partial – progress on including people with disabilities in development projects;

⁽¹⁾ *World Report on Disability (WRD)*, World Health Organisation and the World Bank, June 2011.

- K. whereas it is estimated that, globally, employment rates of people with disabilities are half those of non-disabled people, and that the majority of disabled people in developing countries who are of working age are unemployed and live in poverty;
- L. whereas the exclusion of disabled people from work has significant economic consequences, which the ILO estimates as ranging from 3 % to 7 % of the GDP of African countries, and whereas the cost of inclusion is much lower than the cost of exclusion, since enabling people with disabilities to participate fully in society permits them to provide for themselves and others and to contribute to the economy;
- M. whereas associations for the disabled have a particular role to play in representing and communicating the specific interests of people with disabilities *vis-à-vis* politicians and the general public;
- N. whereas the exclusion of people with disabilities is the underlying factor in their inequality, whether in terms of discrimination in legislation, of physical and communication barriers or of social stigma or invisibility in policy processes and budgets, and whereas two of the greatest obstacles to the inclusion of disabled people in society are their invisibility and negative attitudes towards them;
- O. whereas women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and are three times as likely to experience gender-based violence as women without disabilities; recalling the dangerous trend whereby this violence is likely to go unreported ⁽¹⁾;
1. Urges all the ACP States and EU Member States who have yet to sign and ratify the CRPD and the Optional Protocol thereto to do so without reservations and to establish domestic mechanisms for their implementation and monitoring;
 2. Encourages parliamentarians to work together to ensure that national disability laws and plans are passed by their parliaments, including through scrutiny of budgets and the use of private members' bills;
 3. Calls on national parliaments to establish committees to follow up the implementation of legislation addressing the needs of people with disabilities;
 4. Welcomes the fact that at the 2010 MDG High-Level Summit the rights of people with disabilities were recognised as crucial to achieving the MDGs; calls upon the international community, therefore, to design MDG initiatives in such a way that people with disabilities are among the main target groups;
 5. Recognises that special measures to achieve equality of people with disabilities, including quotas for elections where appropriate in the local context, have had positive impacts on the image of people with disabilities at national level, and urges the ACP and EU States to further the rights of people with disabilities;
 6. Stresses that the media should play a more active role in challenging stereotypes and promoting inclusion; calls upon international, national and local decision makers to ensure and promote awareness raising via the media, educational policies and public campaigns;
 7. Stresses emphatically the key role of associations for the disabled in promoting awareness of the inclusion problems of people with disabilities; calls on all the ACP and EU States to support the development of a movement for the disabled in the ACP and EU States;
 8. Stresses the need for accessible environments and learning materials in order to facilitate participation in educational activities by all children and adults with disabilities; points to the need to encourage and support the development of a teaching culture sensitive and reactive to the needs of young people with disabilities, notably through specialised training for support teachers; stresses the vital role of the donor community in supporting accessible educational infrastructure and ensuring that the EU includes disability commitments in its educational sector dialogues;

⁽¹⁾ Amnesty International Annual Report, 2011.

9. Emphasises that 98 % of children with disabilities in developing countries have no access to free universal primary education; stresses that this will prevent the full achievement of the second Millennium Development Goal;
10. Stresses the need to improve educational facilities further and to encourage the growth of a teaching culture geared to effectively meeting the needs of young people with disabilities;
11. Requests that national and local governments include all aspects of accessibility in all new legislation and adapt existing legislation to meet accessibility requirements; calls upon the donor community to include all aspects of accessibility in its planning and implementation of development policy and in its contractual relations with others;
12. Calls for an exchange of good practices among both developing and developed countries; asks the European Commission to develop a forum for exchange with other international donors on disability inclusion practices and calls upon it to fulfil better its commitments under Article 32 of the CRPD;
13. Stresses the importance of data collection for effective implementation of the CRPD, and calls on the EU and ACP governments to work closely together with national statistics services to ensure that disaggregated data collection is improved and prioritised and that the latest and most comprehensive data form the basis of their work and policy implementation;
14. Urges the ACP States to mainstream the inclusion of people with disabilities in their national development agendas, to adopt mechanisms for enhancing their representation at all levels of decision making, to provide specific and adequate budgetary allocations for people with disabilities and to ensure increased education for all on illnesses that give rise to disabilities;
15. Urges the ACP States to promote inclusive attitudes towards, and perceptions of, disability and to promote dialogue between people with disabilities and government at all levels;
16. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to put in place measures in correctional centres to ensure that offenders with disabilities are provided with facilities appropriate to their special conditions, when incarcerated and while in the community;
17. Supports the ACP States in increasing access to education, micro-credit schemes and other income-generating opportunities;
18. Asks the EU and ACP States to increase HIV/AIDS education for all, including people with disabilities, who are often excluded from HIV/AIDS prevention and care services;
19. Calls for the opportunities for disability inclusion to be audited when appropriate EU and joint projects are implemented;
20. Calls for EU-funded infrastructure projects to be vetted in order to ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities, and for EU delegations in third countries to be built or refurbished to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities;
21. Calls on the EU to include the needs of people with disabilities and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) in its projects, including those which promote access to justice; requests that Country Strategy Papers take into account the needs of people with disabilities;
22. Stresses that the EU and ACP should promote inclusion policies in all relevant UN and international fora, as the issue of disability is currently absent from many high-level international discussions (Rio+20, OECD agenda) and must be placed high on the political agenda;

23. Stresses that the causes of disability are many and varied and must be met with a broad range of policy measures; calls upon the ACP States, therefore, to take road safety measures, to combat malnutrition as a risk factor for the development of disabilities, to improve access to clean drinking water, to address the disability-related impacts of conflict, and to ensure access to public health services and decent work by mainstreaming disability inclusion in their national development plans; calls on the EU to give priority to these considerations throughout its development cooperation with ACP States;
24. Calls on the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to report on, review and highlight good practices and progress on inclusion in ACP countries on a two-yearly basis;
25. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and the UN Human Rights Council.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Lomé (Togo) from 21 to 23 November 2011,
 - having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the Millennium Development Goals,
 - having regard to the statement of 24 August 2011 by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, on the EU response to famine in the Horn of Africa
 - having regard to the Pledging Conference held by the African Union in Addis Ababa on 25 August 2011
- A. whereas the prolonged drought that is laying waste to the Horn of Africa – combined with conflicts in the region, high food prices and increasingly limited resources – has resulted in the world's biggest humanitarian and food crisis, currently affecting, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 13,3 million people, of whom 840 000 are refugees, with tens of thousands of people, more than half of them children, already dead;
 - B. whereas there is an emergency in the Horn of Africa, with the worst drought in 60 years and mass population displacement, a quarter of the Somali population of 7,5 million being displaced either internally or as refugees in neighbouring countries
 - C. whereas malnutrition rates in most of the drought-stricken regions are above 30 %, i.e. more than double the internationally recognised emergency threshold level;
 - D. whereas Somalia, where four million people are affected and famine has been declared in six regions, is the country hardest hit by the humanitarian disaster; whereas the circumstances there are aggravated by Somalia's lack of natural resources and by the consequences of 20 years of conflict on its territory;

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2011 in Lomé (Togo).

- E. whereas, week by week, the famine is causing thousands more people to become refugees and the humanitarian situation in the camps is worsening from day to day, with 30 % of children under five suffering from malnutrition, epidemics breaking out, including cholera and measles, and cases of rape being reported ⁽¹⁾;
 - F. whereas 80 % of the refugees are women and children, with many experiencing sexual violence and intimidation en route to refugee camps;
 - G. whereas Dadaab, in Kenya, is currently the world's largest refugee camp, with 463 710 ⁽²⁾ refugees living on a site designed for 90 000; whereas, at some point, more than 3 000 Somalians streamed across the country's borders into Ethiopia and Kenya, seeking food and safety;
 - H. whereas, to date, funding is in place for only 62 % of the USD 2,4 billion called for by the UN to combat drought in the region, and a further USD 940 million are needed in order to provide essential aid there;
 - I. whereas access to the people concerned remains the main obstacle to relieving the food situation in the region; whereas Somalia is still one of the most dangerous countries for humanitarian aid workers;
 - J. whereas the World Food Programme needs an additional EUR 250 million to supply the aid that will be needed over the coming six months;
 - K. whereas, in response to the emergency in the Horn of Africa, the Commission has allocated EUR 97,47 million to the region and is preparing to step up its support, bringing its total humanitarian contribution to the drought-relief effort this year to EUR 158 million; whereas, at the Pledging Conference in Addis Ababa, the main African Union member states undertook to release almost USD 350 million for the countries affected by the drought;
 - L. whereas the African Union Mission Somalia (AMISOM) is financed mainly from the African Peace Facility, which in its turn is financed from the resources of the long-term development section of the ninth European Development Fund (EDF)
 - M. whereas the impact of climate change has seriously affected crop yields, which, along with rising food prices, has set back the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - N. whereas pastoralism, stock farming and water security (including dams and pipes) need to be supported; whereas the current situation of pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa is giving great cause for concern; whereas governments should build on the good work already done and institutionalise drought management in the areas concerned;
1. Is acutely concerned at the unprecedented and still deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa and regards the famine death toll as unacceptable;
 2. Emphasises that no improvement in the situation is forecast before next year because harvests are expected to be late, with below-average yields, grazing and water sources have been exhausted and the prices of staple cereals such as maize, as well as water and fuel, have rocketed;
 3. Calls for better mobilisation by the international community, which should redouble its efforts to cope with this emergency so as to meet the growing humanitarian needs and prevent any further worsening of the situation;
 4. Underscores the need to control the aid effort by identifying reliable partners on the ground and improving coordination and distribution arrangements, thus preventing any diversion or pillaging of supplies;

⁽¹⁾ OCHA situation reports for Somalia and Horn of Africa, from August to November 2011.

⁽²⁾ ECHO, crisis report on the Horn of Africa, No 6, 1 October 2011.

5. Welcomes the fact that the EU has mobilised (at both Commission and Member State level) and calls for the planned provision of aid to be stepped up; welcomes the African Union's efforts to address the crisis and underscores the urgent need not only for food aid but also for improved health and sanitation on the ground;
6. Condemns the role of the Islamist militant group al-Shabab in obstructing aid agencies and commends the World Food Programme on its efforts to deliver food assistance to as much of the population as is operationally possible;
7. Reaffirms that the fight against terrorism should be a priority, but calls for solidarity among the neighbouring countries in order to avoid the outbreak of a war whose effects would be truly devastating;
8. Emphasises that it is extremely difficult for people in Somalia to access food aid, especially in the centre and south of the country and the areas controlled by the al-Shabab militia; underscores the need to involve everyone affected by the conflict in Somalia at all levels; encourages the establishment of a national reconciliation regime so that the rebuilding of the country can begin;
9. Calls on the authorities concerned to afford humanitarian aid organisations unhindered access and to ensure that civilians, especially women and children, are protected in all circumstances, in accordance with international humanitarian law; also firmly condemns the escalations of violence, including suicide attacks and kidnappings;
10. Calls on the European Union and governments in the region to urgently improve the transition between humanitarian aid and development aid; calls on the Commission to support East African countries' projects on famine prevention capacities and drought early warning systems;
11. Emphasises that the African countries also need to take long-term measures, with the international community's support, to ensure that drought does not inevitably mean famine; emphasises that, alongside the adoption of immediate measures, long-term support must be put in place to ensure that people have sustainable livelihoods;
12. Calls on the African governments to meet their commitment to allocate at least 10 % of their national budgets to agriculture, with the aim of achieving a 6 % annual growth rate in the agricultural sector, to guarantee access to land for small farmers and investment in agriculture and trade to meet the daily nutritional requirements of their citizens;
13. Welcomes, in this context, the Commission's decision to commit more than EUR 680 million to the region by 2013 in the form of long-term aid for agriculture, rural development and food security and the creation of added value for its agricultural products; calls for an increase in the proportion of official development aid assigned to agriculture;
14. Calls for greater transparency, better quality and timeliness of information on food commodity reserves and stocks, and price formation at international level, as requested in the recent Commission Communication entitled 'Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials'; demands that financial institutions engaged in speculation on food and agricultural commodity markets cease speculative activity, which drives high and volatile food prices, and to put tackling poverty and human suffering above profits;
15. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the UN Security Council and Secretary-General, the African Union institutions, the member governments and states of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly and the governments of the Member States.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the impact of the Arab Spring on neighbouring Sub-Saharan States**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Lomé (Togo) from 21 to 23 November 2011,
 - having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 18 May 2011 on ‘The democratic upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East: consequences for the ACP countries, for Europe and for the world’ (ACP-EU/100.958/11/fin.)
 - having regard to the European Parliament’s resolutions of 3 and 7 February, 7 April and 7 July 2011 on, respectively, the situation in Tunisia and Egypt, European Union relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council, the situation in Syria, Bahrain and Yemen, and the EU external policies in favour of democratisation,
 - having regard to the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy since 2004, and in particular to the Joint Communications of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 25 May 2011 entitled ‘A new response to a changing neighbourhood’ (COM(2011)0303) and of 8 March 2011 entitled ‘A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean’ (COM(2011)0200),
 - having regard to the goals of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 January 2000, and revised in 2005 and 2010,
 - having regard to the African Union’s Cairo Declaration on ‘Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa’ of 4–5 September 2011,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 30 January 2007,
 - having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 16 December 1966,
 - having regard to the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the Status of Refugees,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948
- A. whereas the victory of the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan people represents a new wind of hope, freedom, solidarity, democracy and real change, desired by all three of those populations and by all oppressed peoples;
 - B. whereas these upheavals have resulted in the loss of human lives and have left millions of displaced people and refugees both within and outside the countries concerned;
 - C. whereas some problems highlighted by the Arab Spring are similar to those faced in a number of countries in the Sub-Saharan region: high youth unemployment, rising food and fuel prices, persistent corruption, violation of basic rights and limited participation in decision making;
 - D. whereas, in the case of Libya, these upheavals have resulted in the lynching of numerous black Sub-Saharan Africans, who were wrongly regarded as mercenaries in the pay of Gaddafi, and whereas gangsters and other criminals have seized huge quantities of both light and heavy weapons; whereas these situations pose a threat to Libya’s neighbours (Algeria, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso);

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 18 May 2011 in Lomé (Togo).

- E. whereas the political unrest observed in a number of Sub-Saharan countries can be seen as echoing the Arab Spring, but has had a limited impact in terms of change;
- F. whereas, in this context, the risk of military weapons being taken into Sahelo-Saharan states and the resulting threats to the security of the bordering regions must be taken into account;
- G. whereas the Cairo Call for Peace reflected the AU's common resolve to make peace in Africa a reality and set out certain concrete steps to be taken to this end, underlining the culture of peace, in particular through education, with a view to sparing future generations the scourge of war and violence;
- H. whereas despite the fact that the African continent is rich in oil, minerals and agricultural and other natural resources, the major part of the population is still very poor, which constitutes a violation of human dignity;
1. Expresses its full and absolute support for the legitimate democratic aspirations of the people of the Middle East and North Africa, which could act as the inspiration for democratic change in the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and, potentially, contribute to democratic consolidation throughout the African continent;
 2. Calls on the authorities to refrain from the use of violence against demonstrators, to respect their freedom of assembly and expression, and to guarantee their safety; calls for independent inquiries into the events leading to the death, injury or imprisonment of peaceful protesters in the countries concerned and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
 3. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all demonstrators who have been arrested and all political prisoners, human rights activists and journalists;
 4. Reiterates its solidarity with the Egyptian people and its support for the democratic transition; expresses its deepest concern about the recent violent clashes, in which many civilians were killed and hundreds injured by the security forces; calls for independent and transparent investigations and for those responsible to be held accountable; urges an end to the state of emergency and to military trials for civilians;
 5. Strongly condemns the continuing brutal repression by the Syrian regime and the violent crackdowns and human rights violations by security forces against the population; extends its condolences to the families of the victims and reiterates its solidarity with the Syrian people; calls for a rapid democratic transition to take place in Syria;
 6. Welcomes the progress made by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and encourages the continuation of efforts to implement a process of democratic stabilisation and to guarantee freedom, respect for fundamental and human rights, peace and justice;
 7. Notes that the recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East have political, economic and social repercussions, not only in the countries concerned, but also in the ACP countries and Europe;
 8. Calls on the European Union to firmly support the on-going process of political and economic reform in the region; stresses that, in order to support the process of democratic transition, all the instruments available within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and development policy must be mobilised;
 9. Calls on the Moroccan authorities to fully respect the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination, as the only viable, just and lasting solution to the conflict; stresses the need to fully respect, and to proceed with, the negotiation process in the UN framework;
 10. Calls on the European Union, its Member States and the African Union (AU) to continue to show solidarity in dealing with the humanitarian emergency affecting hundreds of thousands of people who have fled from Libya to neighbouring Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali and Chad, and to Europe;

11. Insists on the involvement of the EU Member States, the United Nations and specialist organisations in the process of receiving, caring for and reintegrating nationals of neighbours of Libya, who are arriving en masse, and in that of releasing the victims of wrongful arrest;
12. Welcomes the African Union's Cairo Declaration on 'Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa';
13. Recalls that the AU has adopted several instruments on human rights, democracy and good governance; calls on all AU Members to adopt and implement those instruments, particularly the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and encourages the authorities in the African States to ratify the latter;
14. Calls for strict adherence to the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, including greater transparency as regards arms trading between the EU and Africa;
15. Is of the opinion that elections are necessary, but not sufficient to create the conditions for a democratisation process, which goes beyond the simple fact of holding elections; takes the view that for democratisation to be successfully achieved, it is crucial to engage with the social and economic development of the country, with a view to respecting the population's fundamental rights, such as education, health and employment, and to put a special highlight on youth unemployment;
16. Emphasises the critical role of governance, respect for the rule of law, fair allocation of resources among all segments of the population and national leadership in preventing conflict and promoting sustainable peace; calls on the ACP countries and the EU to pay particular attention to developing and supporting civil society organisations, strengthening administrative capacity, the fight against corruption, and institutional capacity building;
17. Calls on the Arab Spring countries to uphold equality between men and women and to encourage the latter to become involved in society and its decision-making and political bodies;
18. Takes the view that an independent judiciary and media have an essential role to play in shaping and regulating democratic practices with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and building democratic institutions, including functioning, pluralist parliaments;
19. Highlights the role that modern technology and the social media played in mobilising public opinion in connection with the Arab Spring, and points out that the media coverage of these events overshadowed certain uprisings in Sub-Saharan Africa;
20. Acknowledges that some Sub-Saharan African countries are experiencing difficulties with integrating certain ethnic groups and tribes into their democratic governance structures; urges those countries to learn from the experience of other African nations which have granted various forms of regional and cultural autonomy in order to avoid isolating certain groups in society;
21. Calls on the European Union to take initiatives to strengthen trade relations with the Sub-Saharan states in an effort to mitigate the economic consequences of the Arab Spring;
22. Calls on the European Union to consider a temporary suspension of debt repayments by the countries in democratic transition; calls for the assets of corrupt leaders to be frozen and returned to the countries concerned;
23. Expresses concern about the logistical resources and weapons salvaged by members of the shadowy AQMI (al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb), which is rapidly leading to insecurity in the Sahelo-Saharan strip;
24. Insists on the involvement of the EU Member States, the United Nations and specialist organisations in the process of recovering weapons from former combatants and from civilians and ensuring the security of Libya's neighbours that are threatened by destabilisation;

25. Points out that the massive stock of weapons held by the AQMI poses a threat not only to neighbouring countries, but to the entire world;
 26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States, the institutions of the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly of the United Nations, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, the governments and parliaments of the countries of the Middle East and the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean.
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ANNEX IV

- Resolution on the political impact of the Libyan conflict on neighbouring ACP and EU States (ACP-EU/101.157/fin)
- Resolution on price volatility, the functioning of global markets for agricultural products and their impact on food security in ACP countries (ACP-UE/101.149/fin.)
- Resolution on the social and environmental impact of mining in the ACP countries (ACP-EU/101.156/fin.)
- Resolution on the situation in Nigeria with regard to security (ACP-EU/101.170/fin)
- Declaration on the reform of European fisheries policy and its impact on ACP countries (ACP-EU/101.154)

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the political impact of the Libyan conflict on neighbouring ACP and EU States**

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Horsens (Denmark) from 28 to 30 May 2012,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the African Union Assembly's decision of 25 May 2011 'on the Peaceful Resolution of the Libyan Crisis', which recalled that Libya's African neighbours have borne the brunt of the conflict in Libya, both in terms of security and socio-economic consequences, and stressed that a lasting resolution of the Libyan crisis requires a significant contribution by Africa and the close coordination of all stakeholders,
- having regard to its resolutions of 18 May 2011 'on the democratic upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East: consequences for the ACP countries, for Europe and for the world' ⁽²⁾ and of 23 November 2011 'on the Arab Spring and its impact on neighbouring sub-Saharan states' ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols,
- having regard to UN Security Council resolution 1970 (2011),
- having regard to the Declaration by the extraordinary European Council of 11 March 2011 ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Libya of 21 March, 23 May and 18 July 2011 and 23 March 2012;
- having regard to the Council decision of 21 December 2011 on the unfreezing of Libyan funds ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the Joint Communication of 8 March 2011 to the European Council, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'A Partnership For Democracy And Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' (COM(2011) 200 final),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 30 May 2012 in Horsens (Denmark).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 327, 10.11.2011, p. 38.

⁽³⁾ (ACP-EU/101.111/11/fin.).

⁽⁴⁾ EUCO 7/1/11.

⁽⁵⁾ 18765/11.

- having regard to the Report 'Holding Libya together: security challenges after Qadhafi' by the International Crisis Group of 14 December 2011,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/101.157/fin.),
- A. whereas the Arab Spring, including the Libyan revolution, presents an opportunity for the EU to contribute to stability, democracy and prosperity in a region essential to the stability of neighbouring EU and ACP countries; whereas the EU and the ACP have a shared interest in supporting democracy-building in this region;
- B. whereas in spite of the death of Colonel Gaddafi and the fall of his regime, the situation remains fragile in several former strongholds of Gaddafi's supporters;
- C. whereas it is important to address the humanitarian consequences of the Libyan conflict and the fate of Libyans who are facing difficult circumstances in Libya;
- D. whereas many foreign nationals are being unjustly accused of being mercenaries in the pay of Gaddafi;
- E. whereas NATO and its allies from the international coalition, acting under a UN Security Council Resolution to protect the Libyan civilian population, had not fully considered the collateral humanitarian and security consequences of the fall of the Gaddafi regime for the ACP countries, especially those of the Sahel-Saharan region, at the time they intervened in Libya;
- F. whereas the EU has repeatedly stated its commitment to supporting human rights, civil society and security and political and social reforms aimed at achieving genuine democracy, fighting authoritarian regimes and corruption and ensuring better economic and social conditions in the region;
- G. whereas Amnesty International has reported serious human rights violations in the occupied regions that people had abandoned, since all hospitals that had been ransacked could not even provide the vital minimum access to care;
- H. whereas, while fully respecting the fact that the national transition is essentially a Libyan matter, the EU and its Member States should, in cooperation with the United Nations, increase their efforts to provide the necessary assistance and support to the Libyan people, particularly with regard to the protection of human rights, national conciliation, social justice, support for civil society, education and Demilitarisation Disarmament Reintegration (DDR);
- I. whereas the two sides have expressed their commitment to strengthening relations and cooperation in many areas including security, border management, civil society, healthcare and education;
- J. whereas one of the political consequences of the Libyan conflict for the EU has been a surge in regular and irregular immigration which has put a disproportionate burden on southern Member States of the EU;
- K. whereas migratory flows after the Libyan conflict have been horizontal rather than South-to-North; whereas EU Member States assumed a disproportionately small share of the responsibility to assist, receive and shelter refugees from Libya during the events of 2011 compared to the efforts of neighbouring countries in Africa; whereas the efforts of some EU Member States voluntarily to shoulder a larger share of this responsibility should be recognised and applauded;
- L. whereas the hasty return of ACP migrants to Libya has had economic, social and political consequences for the many families deprived of their main source of income and for the governments of the countries of origin, which are forced to meet the heavy cost of receiving and reintegrating the returnees;

- M. whereas adequate cooperation is lacking between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the EU in coordinating international action to assist the roughly 5 000 non-Libyan refugees from Libya who are currently still in makeshift camps in Tunisia and Egypt;
- N. whereas the Libyan conflict has given rise to the proliferation, in the Sahel-Saharan region, of huge quantities of arms which, in the hands of the various terrorist and criminal groups and drug traffickers that are rife in this region, poses a serious threat to the security and stability of the entire subregion;
- O. whereas the former combatants returning from Libya with large quantities of arms and munitions are potential recruits for rebel movements, groups affiliated to Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and criminal gangs;
- P. whereas this development, together with the resurgence of Tuareg irredentism in countries such as Mali and Niger, is highly likely to jeopardise the stability and territorial integrity of the countries of the Sahel-Saharan region, especially Mauritania and Burkina Faso;
- Q. whereas it is extremely concerned at the occupation of northern Mali, since, with the support of the Islamist group Ansar Eddine, members of AQIM and other rebels, groups of Tuaregs returning from Libya and claiming to belong to the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), have launched deadly attacks in several towns, causing numerous civilian and military casualties and the flight of thousands of persons towards neighbouring countries;
- R. whereas during the night of 21-22 March 2012 the President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, was overthrown in a coup which put an end to a long democratic process which had begun more than two decades ago;
- S. whereas the perpetrators of the coup claim it was sparked by the former government's incompetence in dealing with the Tuareg rebellion;
- T. whereas rebels from the MNLA, Ansar Eddine, AQIM and other rebel groups have occupied the three administrative regions in the north of Mali because of confusion at the head of the state of Mali and a breakdown in the Malian army's chain of command, and the MNLA has unilaterally declared the independence of this region it calls Azawad, which covers two-thirds of Malian territory;
- U. whereas the worsening security situation has caused the collapse of the tourist sector as well as the slowdown, or even shelving, of development projects under way in several countries in the subregion, thus leaving many young people unemployed whose vulnerability is likely to benefit terrorist or criminal groups;
- V. whereas the enormous size and sparse population of Mali's territory and its long, ill-defined borders necessitate a good regional coordination of information and action;
- W. whereas the humanitarian and food crisis is worsening, due to the violent attacks by Tuareg rebels, linked to the radical Islamic group AQIM, which have forced 81 000 people to migrate internally and to neighbouring countries (Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso) where a severe drought has caused food and water shortages in recent years;
- X. whereas the famine is spreading outside the occupied area because of the unprecedented situation;
- Y. whereas terrorism in the Sahel needs to be fought partly by means of an active policy to promote development, social justice, the rule of law and integration; whereas it is necessary to hold out to local population groups economic prospects which provide an alternative to the criminal economy;
- Z. whereas the United Nations Security Council has an important role to play in conflict resolution worldwide;

- AA. whereas in view of Libya's political transition, Libyans should be supported in their attempts to establish a pluralist democracy, without delay and with a constitution drafted following a process of broad-based public consultation;
1. Recalls the shared responsibility of Member States to relocate beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers displaced to the EU by the Libyan conflict, especially in cases where the host Member State's asylum system is under significant pressure;
 2. Calls in this context for the formalisation of a system of 'compulsory and irrevocable solidarity' with Member States exposed to specific and disproportionate pressures in the form of intra-EU relocation, together with greater cooperation with Libya;
 3. Calls on the EU and its Member States for adequate funding to be made available for the purposes of intra-EU relocation;
 4. Pays tribute to the UNHCR for its work on behalf of the refugees and displaced persons from the Libyan conflict and calls on it to increase its efforts to ensure the safe and dignified return of migrants and to facilitate the immediate integration of the returnees;
 5. Calls on the international community and the EU in particular to mobilise urgent humanitarian assistance to help the population groups in the north of Mali;
 6. Believes that there is urgent need to support initiatives aimed at strengthening dialogue and increasing the ability of local communities to resist and counter the appeal of terrorism and the recruitment of young people by terrorist and other criminal groups, including through support for youth employment and training;
 7. Calls on the EU and the entire international community to provide the necessary assistance to the affected ACP states to help them set up the structures they need to receive and reintegrate their migrant workers from Libya;
 8. Is concerned at the serious human rights violations, looting and other atrocities committed by the occupying forces against vulnerable civilians, the majority of whom have been forced into exile in neighbouring countries;
 9. Calls on the new Libyan authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of African migrant workers in Libya;
 10. Welcomes the Council decision of 21 December 2011 to unfreeze all the funds and assets of the Central Bank of Libya and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank held in the EU with a view to supporting the reconstruction of Libya and the recovery of the Libyan economy and assisting the new Libyan authorities;
 11. Calls on the Commission and the Council to speed up the EU's response capability in the field of integrated border management and support for civil society and the media, as agreed at the international conference in Paris on 2 September 2011;
 12. Welcomes the EU's response to the Arab Spring and the Libyan conflict, notably the establishment of a 'Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' as the main instrument to support states undergoing reform in Europe's southern neighbourhood;
 13. Condemns the proliferation of arms during the conflict, and the looting of existing arms caches, and calls for an urgent strategy to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate rebel fighters and civilians in a manner that is sensitive to political realities and while underlining that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration must be a priority for the stabilisation of Libya and its neighbouring region;

14. Urges the states of the Sahel-Sahara region, the new Libyan authorities and the competent multilateral agencies to take all necessary measures to stop the proliferation of arms in the region and to establish adequate mechanisms to control and secure national borders across the region, including the transfer of small arms and light weapons and implement programmes for collecting and destroying illegal small arms and light weapons, and institute measures for exchanging information and launching joint security operations in the region;
15. Welcomes the establishment in 2010 of the Joint Staff Operations Committee (CEMOC) by Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger to coordinate the fight against terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking in the Sahel-Saharan region;
16. Calls on the United Nations Security Council to adopt an emergency resolution within the framework of peace efforts in the Sahel-Saharan region;
17. Highlights the extreme poverty and violence experienced by the population groups of northern Mali, which are exacerbating the humanitarian and food crisis;
18. Condemns strongly the activities of armed gangs in the region, particularly the occupation of northern Mali by rebels from the MNLA, Ansar Dine, AQIM and other groups and calls for their immediate and unconditional withdrawal;
19. Strongly condemns the coup led by sections of the Malian military and calls for an immediate return to democracy and demands the full implementation of the exit strategy envisaged by ECOWAS and the AU;
20. Condemns in particular the atrocities committed especially by the occupation forces against the civilian population, which have been directed against women and children more than other victims, and particularly condemns the use of abduction and rape as weapons of war; calls for an inquiry into the atrocities committed in Mali in recent months;
21. Calls on the EU and its Member States to pay particular attention to the situation of women and girls in the Sahel region and to take all necessary measures to ensure their protection from every type of violence and from violations of their human rights;
22. Re-affirms its commitment to the consolidation of democracy and the territorial integrity of the countries affected by the Libyan conflict;
23. Emphasises the need for the new Libyan authorities to apply the standards of international law; calls therefore on the EU to provide resources and assistance to Libya for this purpose, which would help establish greater legal certainty and secure humanitarian aid for the victims of the conflict;
24. Emphatically rejects the MNLA's declaration of independence of the north of Mali, and considers it null and void; stresses its commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of Mali;
25. Welcomes the initiatives taken by ECOWAS to bring peace to the north of Mali and remove all obstacles preventing the full sovereignty of Mali over this region; invites the international community also to back these initiatives and to take the relevant measures to alleviate the collateral effects of the Libyan conflict in neighbouring countries, particularly with regard to the commitment of NATO and its allies from the international coalition that fought in Libya;
26. Is alarmed at the agreement concluded between the MNLA and the Islamist movement Ansar Dine to create an Islamic state in northern Mali, and calls upon the African Union and the European Union to develop a short, medium and long term strategy to put an end to the occupation of northern Mali by these illegal armed forces;

27. Calls on the international community in general, and the EU in particular, to step up their cooperation with the countries of the Sahel-Saharan region and with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the fight against terrorism and organised crime in the sub-region, especially by increasing the resources available to the Joint Staff Operations Committee (CEMOC) in its mission to secure the Sahel-Saharan strip;
28. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to support efforts to boost the capacities of the states in the region and to mobilise all available resources to protect the people and promote security and development in the region in cooperation with the states in the region and the inter-state organisations ECOWAS and WAEMU;
29. Hopes that a European Security Defence Policy (ESDP) mission will help the countries in the subregion control their borders more effectively and particularly to combat trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings;
30. Calls on the countries of the region to put in place measures to encourage exchanges of security information, in particular in relation to arms seizures, through existing information exchange systems such as those used by the AU's African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, INTERPOL and the United Nations;
31. Underlines that the introduction of a new constitution or legal framework for Libya must respect fundamental human rights;
32. Invites the new Libyan Government to extend cooperation to ECOWAS in order to take all necessary measures to resist attacks from criminal terrorist groups linked to AQIM supporting the Tuareg rebellion in the north of Mali;
33. Calls on the EU to support the Libyan interim authorities in their efforts to achieve an inclusive transition from conflict to peace-building in Libya and calls on the National Transitional Council to pursue a broad-based reconciliation process which reaches out to all Libyans and enables a democratic, peaceful and transparent transition to take place in that country;
34. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the European Parliament, to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, to the European Commission, to the institutions of the African Union and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on price volatility, the functioning of global markets for agricultural products and their impact on food security in ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Horsens (Denmark) from 28 to 30 May 2012,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in 2005 and 2010,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as objectives established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty and hunger, and in particular to MDG1 on the principle of the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 30 May 2012 in Horsens (Denmark).

- having regard to the Food Aid Convention signed in London on 13 April 1999, whose objectives are to contribute to world food security and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situations and other food needs of developing countries,
- having regard to the FAO 'Voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security',
- having regard to the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security signed in 2003, in which African governments committed themselves to allocate a minimum of 10 % of their annual national budgets to agriculture,
- having regard to the 'EU land policy guidelines' of November 2004,
- having regard to the 7th Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council of 22 May 2008 in Geneva, on 'the negative impact on the realisation of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by the soaring food prices',
- having regard to the L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security adopted on 10 July 2009,
- having regard to the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 13 January 2009 on the Common Agricultural Policy and Global Food Security,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2009 on the FAO Summit and food security,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on 'An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges' (COM(2010)0127) adopted on 31 March 2010 and to the Council Conclusions adopted on 10 May 2010,
- having regard to its resolution on food security, adopted in Kinshasa on 4 December 2010,
- having regard to the eight recommendations to the G20 published by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food on 29 January 2011,
- having regard to the Inter-Agency report, coordinated by the FAO and the OECD, to the G20 on 'Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses' of 2 June 2011,
- having regard to the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition on 'Price volatility and food security' of July 2011,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 27 September 2011 on assisting developing countries in addressing food security challenges,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/101.149/fin),

- A. whereas according to the FAO the number of people suffering from hunger amounted to 925 million in 2010;
- B. whereas only 62 out of 118 developing countries are on track to achieve the MDG1 target and 29 countries in the world are currently facing food supply difficulties and are in need of external food assistance;
- C. whereas global demand for agricultural products is expected to increase by 70 to 100 % by 2050 by which time the world's population is expected to reach 9 billion;
- D. whereas food insecurity, the reason behind hunger riots, which may bring about problems of collective security on a global scale, is further exacerbated by issues of land ownership, the lack of appropriate agricultural policies, land degradation, climate change, land tenure insecurity, demand for agro-fuels and energy-related policies, speculation on commodities as well as food prices rising artificially for the main part and as a result of speculation;
- E. whereas there has been a month-on-month rise in food prices since August 2010, with levels now higher than during the food price peak of 2008;
- F. whereas the World Bank's August 2011 Food Price Watch report states that high and volatile global food prices are putting the poorest people in the developing world at risk and are contributing to the emergency in the Horn of Africa;
- G. whereas volatile commodity prices affect not only consumers but also producers, making it extremely difficult for ACP farmers to plan the production and marketing of their produce; whereas the share of farmers' incomes from the food supply chain has substantially dropped, while the profits of processors and retailers have constantly increased;
- H. whereas soil fertility is dropping to alarming levels across many areas, leading to reduced yields and overexploitation of exhausted soils; and whereas the scientific evidence shows that it is possible to restore soil fertility, increase yields, buffer farms against extreme weather, enhance biodiversity, and diversify and increase smallholder incomes by using agro-ecological systems that combine crops with trees and livestock;
- I. whereas there has been a dramatic reduction in the level of development aid allocated to agriculture since the 1980s, falling to as little as 3,8 % of Official Development Aid (ODA); whereas the share of public spending on agriculture has also fallen to an average of 7 % in developing countries;
- J. whereas most African governments have raised concerns that the benefits of world trade liberalization tend to be minimal in Sub-Saharan Africa due to the premature exposure of upcoming agricultural industries to genuine competition from producers in developing and developed countries and that the opening up of the market should be gradual, rather than sudden;
- K. whereas increased acquisition of land, mainly by foreign investors, has made ACP countries' precarious agricultural and food systems even more vulnerable;
- L. whereas agriculture outputs have increasingly been used for biofuels, thus linking the volatility of oil markets to the volatility of commodity markets and contributing to food price rises and to food insecurity;

M. whereas financial speculation and the increased liberalisation of financial markets and trade in agricultural products greatly contribute to price volatility; whereas derivative instruments based on food and agricultural commodity markets have become extremely popular and easily accessible for investors around the globe and are no longer niche instruments for professional investors;

1. Recalls that access to adequate food is a universal human right; urges all countries to implement the FAO voluntary guidelines on the right to food;
2. Emphasizes that political stability is also a necessary condition for development and thus improved food security, and calls on all parties involved to show the political will needed to guarantee that stability;

Agriculture and 'land-grabbing'

3. Calls for a greater percentage of EU ODA to be directed to agriculture and rural development in ACP countries in order to boost food security; urges the international community to meet the L'Aquila summit commitments to deliver USD 22 billion to support developing countries' farmers and fight hunger, of which only one fifth has been delivered so far;
4. Considers that significant contributions from the ACP governments are also needed to fill the wide investment gap in rural development in these countries, so that an integrated agricultural system that enables self-sufficiency can evolve;
5. Believes that small farming can offer a response to the challenge of food security and calls on the EU to stop subsidised exports which destabilise peasant farming in developing countries and to increase its aid and support in favour of sustainable smallholders, sustainable peasants and medium-scale agricultural producers which are the main support of food security;
6. Underlines the fundamental role of women and youth in food and nutrition security and in agriculture production; calls on the European Commission and on the ACP governments to invest in programmes which specifically support women and young smallholders (e.g. education and training programmes on sustainable and environmentally-friendly agriculture; facilitated access to loans and non-profit micro-credit);
7. Stresses that it is crucial to involve smallholders and local agricultural organisations in the implementation of an agricultural policy in the ACP countries, and that the EU should strive to work with and strengthen smallholder and other local associations, so as to ensure that the interests of local communities are protected;
8. Emphasises the need for increased public investment in research for sustainable agro-ecological production systems involving crops, trees and livestock and calls on the EU and ACP countries to develop joint research, training and scaling-up capacities in sustainable farming methods and new technologies, notably through public-private partnerships and joint ventures;
9. Expresses deep concern regarding the large-scale land acquisitions that are currently being carried out by foreign investors in developing countries, which is also to the detriment of local smallholder and medium-scale farmers; calls on the EU to encourage governments of ACP countries to commit to land reform in order to secure the land titles of indigenous farmers and small and medium-sized farmers, especially women, and to prevent 'land-grabbing' practices by corporations;
10. Calls on the ACP States to review their land policies with a view to identifying and designating certain areas as agricultural areas, taking due account of the issues linked to land utilisation and management;

11. Calls on the European Commission to facilitate an independent assessment of the impact of trade liberalisation policies on agricultural land being increasingly used to serve exporting agribusinesses rather than to meet the national food needs of developing countries, and to make concrete proposals to tackle this phenomenon and the resulting problems such as large-scale 'land-grabbing' and the rapid erosion of food security;

12. Calls on the European Commission to update its land policy guidelines with regard to 'land-grabbing' and to come forward with measures to improve reporting and monitoring on large-scale land acquisitions involving European investors;

Financial market speculation on commodity markets

13. Considers that transparency on global agricultural markets should be substantially enhanced; in this sense, commends the establishment of AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System) called for by the G20 agriculture ministers with the aim of addressing food price volatility through more timely, accurate and transparent information on global food markets;

14. Calls on the UN and the G20 to intensify their efforts to agree to global regulation to put an end to speculation in agricultural commodities and to coordinate the creation of preventive mechanisms against the excessive fluctuation of global food prices;

15. Calls for the clear identification of the actors involved in trade in the food and agricultural commodity markets and for an in-depth analysis of transmission mechanisms of speculation on food products on local and world markets; urges all relevant players to jointly establish an international mechanism aimed at monitoring trading activity in commodity and agricultural derivatives;

16. Emphasises that access to markets is the largest hurdle that smallholders and medium-sized farmers have to overcome in ACP states and that there is an urgent need to remove unfavourable trade regimes and barriers to trade, especially those that hinder ACP exports to the markets in developed states;

17. Believes that current trade policies, particularly agricultural subsidies in rich countries and export restrictions during crises, must be reviewed to limit the effects of food price volatility; underlines the EU commitment to gradually phase out export subsidies, in parallel with similar measures being taken by its WTO partners; calls on the EU to further improve coordination of its development and trade policies;

18. Underlines that enhanced regional trade can establish food security and provide producers with a more stable market environment;

19. Calls for the elimination of distorting fiscal incentives and subsidies in support of biofuels which would result in biofuels being produced only where it is economically feasible to do so, thus limiting the impact of biofuels production on food security;

20. Considers it necessary to strike the right balance between the objectives of food security and energy goals; calls on the EU to study the impact of its strategic goals in the field of biofuels on food security and to revise them based on the results of this impact study;

21. Encourages ACP governments to explore or reinforce measures to mitigate the consequences of price volatility, for instance, by providing poor people with subsidised food or cash through flexible safety nets;

22. Calls for the increase, better management and storage of physical grain and emergency food reserves at national and regional level and a strengthening of international coordination and monitoring of prices and stocks, thereby countering food price volatility and enabling a better and faster response to food crises;
23. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to help preserve, improve and promote local seed varieties that are often more suited to the needs of the local population and the climatic conditions of developing countries, to ensure the right of farmers to reproduce their own seeds, and prevent intellectual property rules enabling these seeds to be grabbed by anyone;
24. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, the FAO and the G20.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the social and environmental impact of mining in the ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Horsens (Denmark) from 28 to 30 May 2012,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement') and in particular to Article 8(4) on non-discrimination,
- having regard to the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises which articulate principles of responsible business conduct,
- having regard to the 2005 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Global Initiative for Eliminating Child Labour in Mining and Quarrying,
- having regard to the Africa Mining Vision adopted by the African Union Heads of State in February 2009,
- having regard to the Brussels Declaration on the Sustainable Development and Management of the Mineral Resources Industry of the ACP States (ACP/89/008/10) adopted at the 1st Meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of the Mineral Resources Industry held from 13 to 15 December 2010, in Brussels, Belgium,
- having regard to the scope and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Panel on the sustainable management of natural resources,
- having regard to the study of the International Labour Organization on 'Child labour in gold mining: The problem' (June 2006),
- having regard to the EP resolution of 15 December 2010 on the future of the EU-Africa strategic partnership following the 3rd EU-Africa Summit (P7_TA(2010)0482),
- having regard to the EP resolution on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe (P7_TA(2011)0364),

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 30 May 2012 in Horsens (Denmark).

- having regard to the EP resolution of 25 November 2010 on corporate social responsibility in international trade agreements (P7_TA(2010)0446),
 - having regard to the African Trade Policy Centre study on Mineral Exploitation, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development in EAC, SADC and ECOWAS Regions (2009),
 - having regard to the United Nations Experts Group report on Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa: Transforming a Peace Liability into a Peace Asset (2006),
 - having regard to the UN resolutions on blood diamonds, in particular to UN Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,
 - having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted in 1998,
 - having regard to Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries,
 - having regard to the principle of Policy Coherence for Development as formulated in the Treaty of Lisbon (Art. 208 TFEU) and the legal PCD obligation to consult ACP countries (Article 12 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/101.156/fin.),
- A. whereas, according to UNCTAD, non-renewable mineral resources are classified in three categories: energy minerals such as oil, gas, uranium and coal; metallic minerals such as copper, cobalt and bauxite; and non-metallic minerals such as precious stones (diamonds);
- B. whereas most ACP countries, particularly in Africa, are endowed with abundant mineral resources such as metals, oil, diamonds, gold, iron, cobalt, uranium, copper, bauxite and silver, but despite this wealth the majority of the population lives in poverty;
- C. whereas most minerals are exported in bulk ore or concentrates or metals without much added value in the ACP producing countries;
- D. whereas the opacity and confidentiality of the mining contracts or agreements have contributed to the manipulation of weak States and the overriding of parliamentary scrutiny;
- E. whereas, in the absence of governments with an awareness of the problem and their associated responsibilities in regulating and controlling the mining sector, mining companies' activities in ACP countries have significantly damaged local environmental, social and health conditions;
- F. whereas mining activities by governments, domestic and transnationally owned companies have led to land-grabbing, displacing indigenous peoples and limiting the scope for the local population to ensure food security through agricultural activities;
- G. whereas mining causes severe physical and psychological health issues, leading to critically high mortality among miners;

- H. whereas revenues from illegal mining are known to fuel internal conflicts; whereas the illegal exploitation of natural resources in conflict-prone and conflict-ridden countries continues to be one of the causes of conflicts and their recurrence, such as in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Liberia;
- I. whereas the 2010 study requested by the European Parliament's Development Committee on the possible use of radioactivity-contaminated mining materials in the construction of residential homes from open-pit uranium mines in Gabon and Niger indicates that substantial problems exist in these countries with respect to the operation of the uranium mines and the safety of mines for the local population; whereas this study criticises a lack of transparency regarding company data on radioactive pollution and, in one case, claims that radioactive materials have been used for construction and that water sources and soil around the mining villages have been affected;
- J. whereas child labour is still widely practised in small mining operations in particular, and these activities expose children to serious risk of injury, exposure to toxic chemicals or death; whereas previous initiatives by the relevant governments have often failed to have the desired effects;
- K. whereas the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) - a voluntary body composed of mining companies - underlines the importance of transparency by governments and companies in the extractive industries and the need to enhance public financial management and accountability;
- L. whereas from the 1990s to 2008 world production of 14 major minerals grew from 1 million to about 2.5 million tonnes; whereas global demand is expected to increase significantly as the population will reach 9 billion by 2050 in a context of growth, urbanization and consumption patterns; whereas demand for copper, iron ore and aluminium is expected to double over the next 15 - 20 years;
- M. whereas the African Trade Policy Centre concluded that 'many mining companies keep most of their earnings in offshore accounts, leaving very little in local accounts to cover local operating costs';
- N. whereas the concentration of people in small scale mining areas results in poor sanitation, leading to epidemics of malaria, dysentery and other diseases; whereas the increase in migrant labour to these areas has been associated with an increase in prostitution, that has inevitably led to increased teenage pregnancies, single parenting, and sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, such as in Ghana and in Togo (ILO 2006);
1. Expresses its deep concern that despite the fact that many developing countries, particularly African countries are endowed with rich mineral resources, the current trade pattern, whereby developing countries export raw materials and buy manufactured products from industrialised countries, and national economic structures and development strategies of the countries concerned have made no contribution to combating poverty;
 2. Calls on ACP-EU governments to put an end to the 'resource curse' and put the abundant mineral resources of ACP countries, particularly in Africa, at the heart of their development strategy to benefit the entire population, instead of enriching investors and elites without benefiting ordinary citizens;
 3. Calls on ACP countries to examine existing contracts for compliance with international standards on the sustainable use of national resources in the public interest, to offer investment incentives and to make existing tax systems more efficient, to comprehensively fight corruption in state administrations and supervisory authorities, and to invest the profits gained from the export of resources in the development of the country concerned (infrastructure, social system, manufacturing industry, etc.);

4. Urges ACP countries to deploy skilled and experienced experts when negotiating mineral contracts with mining companies;
5. Stresses the important role that national parliaments and civil society organisations can play in overseeing mining agreements or contracts with a view to assuming their responsibility vis-à-vis their citizens, breaking the culture of secrecy and fighting corruption at all levels; calls on ACP governments to meet their obligations to provide information to national parliaments and to include local decision-makers and representatives of civil society in decision-making processes in relation to the use of national resources;
6. Stresses the need for strong, transparent and enforceable legislative and regulatory frameworks governing the mineral resources industry in ACP countries; calls on ACP countries' governments and parliaments to enact policies and regulate foreign direct investment (FDI) in the public interest, in consultation with civil society, in a way that provides a stable legal environment which encourages foreign direct investment, benefits the local economy, creates domestic added value and fosters development;
7. Calls on the ACP governments to put an end to the massive financial outflows from their countries, given that illicit financial outflows from Africa, including tax evasion, are estimated at \$865 billion from 1970 to 2008, according to Global Financial Integrity (GFI);
8. Insists on addressing the issue of money laundering, which according to the Director of the Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), represents EUR337 billion in West Africa alone, including a significant amount through tax evasion, while the 10th European Development Fund for ACP countries amounts to EUR 22 682 million, covering five years (2008-2013);
9. Insists, in this context, on the need to create, or highlight and defend quality public services, particularly in combating capital flight, money laundering and tax evasion, as a means of combating illicit profits from the income generated by mining;
10. Welcomes the discussions at European level in relation to the establishment of a European transparency initiative, the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, which were triggered by the Dodd Frank Act, obliging all oil, gas and mining companies listed in the USA to publish what they pay to government and to report the use of conflict minerals; calls on all international partners to work to introduce similar requirements;
11. Welcomes the European Commission's proposals to amend the Transparency and Accounting Directives requiring EU publicly-listed companies as well as large unlisted companies active in the extractive industry and the logging of primary forests to report on a country-and-project basis the payments they make to local, regional and national governments in third countries; urges the European Commission to come forward with EU legislative proposals comparable to section 1502 of the Dodd Frank Act, which requires US companies sourcing minerals from the DRC and surrounding areas to exercise due diligence in their supply chains;
12. Calls on ACP and EU governments, in their respective capacity, to present a legislative proposal on the automatic disclosure of transnational corporations' profit and tax payments in each individual developing country in order to bring an end to tax havens, tax evasion and illicit capital flights;
13. Stresses that ACP countries should ensure that mining licences should include legally-binding provisions for social and environmental standards; calls on the EU to include obligations and duties for foreign investors operating in developing countries, to respect human rights, environmental and ILO core labour standards; considers that companies active in third countries should be legally bound by the same rights and obligations as in their home countries;

14. Points out that artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) can play a vital role in local life, providing employment and incomes to a large number of people; calls on ACP countries to regulate this sector, legislate against the use of internationally banned toxic substances such as mercury and cyanide, and provide safe working conditions for Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners by facilitating access to micro credits to equip themselves with healthy and environmentally-friendly technologies and to respect their human rights;
15. Recalls that child labour is still widely practised in small mining operations in particular, and that these activities expose children to serious risk of injury, exposure to toxic chemicals or death; stresses the need for information campaigns dealing with the health risks to children from working conditions in small mining operations; urgently calls on the ACP countries and development partner countries, including the European Union, to implement initiatives to combat child labour;
16. Calls on ACP governments to take the necessary steps to ensure that mining waste is managed in such a way that human health is not put at risk and no potential environmentally harmful processes or methods are used and in order to prohibit the uncontrolled dumping or disposal of waste;
17. Urges development partners, including the European Union, to provide technical assistance to ACP mining countries to assess the past and present environmental and social impact of mining activities, to establish accountability for environmental and health damage at all levels, to compensate victims and rehabilitate the ecosystem according to the 'polluter pays' principle; stresses the need to place the protection of wildlife and environmental concerns above commercial concerns when it comes to mining and urges ACP countries to think twice before granting prospecting licences in areas which are home to rare or endangered wildlife, for example the Virunga national park in Uganda;
18. Recalls that the European Union finances programmes designed to maintain biodiversity in the ACP countries, for example in the context of the tenth and the upcoming eleventh European Development Fund, the aims of which are counteracted by the establishment of oil extraction and mining undertakings in the areas designated for protection; calls on the relevant ACP governments to undertake to comply with national environmental legislation and international conventions;
19. Regrets that mining activities sometimes lead to land-grabbing, resulting in the eviction of people from their original land; insists that mining companies provide resettlement and relocation plans when this is the case and do not abandon shafts/pits, without rehabilitating them;
20. Emphasises that community land rights, in their various forms (individual or collective) should be recognised by law to protect community members and provide adequate protection in case of investment in mining or other sectors;
21. Calls on ACP countries and EU member States to work toward the banning of toxic substances prohibited at international level in mining and to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee mandated to develop a global legally binding instrument on mercury under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP);
22. Encourages ACP countries to establish or strengthen national agencies for science, technology and innovation together with the monitoring capacity to promote green technologies and know-how in exploration and mining;
23. Underlines the importance of the EU's raw materials policy taking fully into account sustainable economic growth in the developing countries (as enshrined in Article 208 TFEU) and ensuring consistency between development policy and the RMI; believes therefore that the EU should also support developing countries in diversifying their economies, reducing their dependency on raw materials exports and increasing the value of their products through domestic manufacturing and processing;

24. Urges EU and ACP governments to address the issue of child labour, as it represents a high risk for children working at a very early age in dangerous environments, mostly lacking basic rights and protection;
25. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, and the UN Human Rights Council.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in Nigeria with regard to security

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Horsens (Denmark) from 28 to 30 May 2012,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its previous resolutions,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights violations in Nigeria,
- having regard to its resolution on the situation in West Africa of 21 March 2001 and particularly the paragraphs concerning Nigeria,
- having regard to the statements by Vice-President/High Representative Ashton of 26 December 2011 on the Christmas Day bombings and of 22 January 2012 on the bombings in Kano, Nigeria,
- having regard to the statement by the UN Security Council of 27 December 2011 on the attacks in Nigeria,
- having regard to the Nigeria-EU Ministerial Meeting of 8 February 2012 in Abuja,
- having regard to the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement 2007-2013, ratified by Nigeria on 27 September 2010,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and in particular its provisions on the protection of freedom of religion in its Chapter IV – Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, ratified by Nigeria on 29 October 1993,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981, ratified by Nigeria on 22 June 1983,
- having regard to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief of 1981,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 30 May 2012 in Horsens (Denmark).

- A. whereas the violence inflicted by the Boko Haram group, a radical Islamist group, has caused the death of several hundreds of innocent people, including Muslims, Christians and people of other religions;
- B. whereas the fundamentalist Islamic sect popularly called Boko Haram became prominent in 2009 in the wake of violent clashes between this shadowy group and the Nigerian police;
- C. whereas this sect is known to preach against what it perceives as the corrupting influence of Western education and to advocate the introduction of Sharia or Islamic law in the country;
- D. whereas this militant group is presumed to draw its membership largely from itinerant Quranic students (*Almajirai*), political thugs and other young people who have been led astray;
- E. whereas several recent reports indicate a possible connection between Boko Haram and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI) and Al-Shabaab in Somalia, which could pose a serious threat to peace and security in the Sahel region and West Africa, as recent events in Mali have demonstrated;
- F. whereas the link with these terrorist groups and collaboration in logistics and training are considered to have been contributing factors in the deadly attacks launched by the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria;
- G. whereas the length of Nigeria's borders poses a major security challenge and has made it difficult to control trafficking in small arms and light weapons over the years, as evidenced over the past decade by acts of armed banditry on the highways of North Eastern Nigeria committed by suspected former rebels from Chad and Niger;
- H. whereas Nigeria's political and ethnic stability has repercussions beyond its borders, owing to the country's leading role in the region and in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole;
- I. whereas the Boko Haram crisis is currently the worst security challenge facing Nigeria, further compounded by the proliferation of small arms, particularly following the ousting of Gaddafi's regime in Libya;
- J. whereas freedom of religion, belief, conscience and thought is a fundamental and universal value, as well as an essential element of democracy;
- K. whereas, in response to the upsurge in violence, President Goodluck Jonathan, on 31 December 2011, declared a state of emergency in some northern Local Government Areas and temporarily closed borders with Chad, Cameroon and Niger;
- L. whereas the group suffered a major setback and went underground following the death of its leader and many followers are in the hands of the police;
- M. whereas the militant sect regrouped and resurfaced in 2011 with deadly attacks against local politicians and security forces in the north-eastern part of the country and the atrocities quickly spread to many parts of Northern Nigeria;
- N. whereas Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks, including those on 20 January in Kano, where 185 people were killed, and for the 2011 Christmas Day church bombings that killed 40 people;
- O. whereas Boko Haram has set on fire more than a dozen schools in the north since last March;

- P. whereas sophisticated weapons and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are increasingly deployed by the sect to cause mayhem and large-scale destruction of public and private property, triggering fear and panic among the population;
- Q. whereas human rights organisations have documented the involvement of Boko Haram in attacks on police stations, military facilities, security offices, mosques, churches, schools, and banks, as well as in a suicide bomb attack at the UN headquarters, which killed at least 24 people and injured over one hundred others;
- R. whereas suicide bombings, a new phenomenon in the country, are now frequent, with lethal consequences;
- S. whereas the death toll from the violence unleashed by the Boko Haram onslaught and the counter-measure operations by the Joint Security Task Force (JTF) has reached at least 1 500 to date;
- T. whereas unclaimed attacks have also taken place in Nigeria since the beginning of the year, adding to the climate of violence;
- U. whereas the security forces have so far not been able to stop the violent campaign of Boko Haram;
- V. whereas few prominent members of Boko Haram have been arrested and detained by security agencies;
- W. whereas the possibility of dialogue and negotiation between the Federal Government and the sect is being explored;
- X. whereas it is believed that Boko Haram is no longer a homogeneous group and this is now being exploited by criminal elements involved in bank robberies, kidnappings and political assassinations;
- Y. whereas most Nigerians are resolved to live together as one indivisible entity;
- Z. whereas there is no underlying conflict between Muslims and Christians in the country;
- AA. whereas, although Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producers and exporters, approximately 60 per cent of the population lived on less than USD 1 per day in 2011; whereas the endemic corruption, all-pervasive poverty and the absence of mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth are blamed for the general insecurity in the country and have created an environment for extremist groups to recruit unemployed youth, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts also implies fair access to resources and the fair redistribution of revenues;
- BB. whereas rising unemployment has made young people vulnerable to indoctrination, manipulation and recruitment by fundamentalist Islamic groups such as Boko Haram;
- CC. whereas Nigeria's national parliament, in acknowledgement of the threat to national security posed by violent insurgency, promulgated the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011;
- DD. whereas national security received the largest ever amount of funding under the 2012 federal budget of Nigeria;
- EE. whereas, on 12 November 2009 the European Commission and the Federal government of Nigeria signed the Nigeria-EU Country Strategy Paper and the National Indicative Programme for 2008-2013, under which the EU will fund projects whose aims include the promotion of peace, security and human rights;

1. Strongly condemns the recent violence – in particular the attacks carried out by the fundamentalist Islamic sect Boko Haram – and the tragic loss of life in the affected regions of Nigeria, and expresses its condolences to the bereaved and sympathy to the injured;
2. Calls on the Boko Haram sect to lay down its arms in order to create a conducive atmosphere for dialogue and negotiation with the Government;
3. Urges the Government urgently to disarm all persons and groups in illegal possession of firearms in the country;
4. Urges all communities to exercise restraint and seek peaceful means to resolve differences between religious and ethnic groups in Nigeria;
5. Reiterates its concern regarding the full and effective respect of the right to freedom of religion for all religious minorities in Nigeria; stresses in this context that freedom of worship is but one aspect of the right to freedom of religion, which includes also the freedom to change one's religion and to manifest it in teaching, practice and observance at the individual, collective, private, public and institutional level;
6. Encourages the government of Nigeria to step up its efforts to end the violence as quickly as possible, to guarantee the security and protection of its population and respect for human rights and to prevent by all possible means any further attacks, to continue to encourage inter-faith dialogue and to enhance freedom of thought, conscience and religion; acknowledges the need for the Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) to intensify its efforts to promote inter-religious harmony, dialogue and peace;
7. Calls upon the authorities to continue to conduct an investigation into the causes of the most recent violence and to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice in a fair and transparent manner;
8. Emphasises the importance of an independent, impartial and accessible judicial system to enhance respect for the rule of law and for the fundamental rights of the population;
9. Calls upon the Government of Nigeria to intensify the fight against corruption, poverty and inequality and to strengthen social, political and economic reforms that respect human rights, which also requires the fair and equitable distribution of resources and wealth;
10. Calls on donor agencies to join the Government of Nigeria in creating jobs for the very large number of unemployed young people in the country;
11. Welcomes the impending pilot project of the Nigerian Government to introduce in all schools, whatever their character, the basic educational elements of democracy, the rule of law, pluralism and tolerance;
12. Regrets the deaths of British citizen Chris McManus and Italian citizen Franco Lamolinara – two engineers working for an Italian construction company who had been held hostage for 10 months in Northern Nigeria – during a failed rescue attempt on 8 March 2012 and extends its condolences to their families;

13. Calls on the international community, particularly the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to support Nigeria in its efforts to address the threats of terrorism, the proliferation of light weapons and trans-border crimes by equipping and training the personnel of security agencies in effective intelligence gathering and in the fight against modern terrorism;
14. Acknowledges the collaboration with – and support given by – the European Union, the United States and other international actors to Nigeria in its determined efforts to fight terrorism;
15. Encourages greater regional cooperation for addressing the threat posed by a possible connection between Boko Haram and AQMI; encourages the countries in the region to deepen their cooperation, including through the relevant regional organisations, in order to prevent synergies between Boko Haram and AQMI, and to secure Nigeria's land and sea borders against infiltration by armed groups; calls on the EU institutions and the Member States to lend their support to these regional efforts;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this Resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the African Union.

DECLARATION ⁽¹⁾

on the reform of European fisheries policy and its impact on ACP countries

- A. The EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), governing the fisheries policy of EU Member States in Community waters, including the external dimension to this policy, is being reviewed and is expected to be finalised in 2013.
- B. Within the EU Common Fisheries Policy, the Fisheries Partnership Agreements and RFMOs provide the main political framework for ACP–EU fisheries relations. At present, the EU has 21 Fisheries Partnership Agreements, of which 15 are in force. Eleven are tuna FPAs and four are multi-species FPAs (Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco and Greenland).
- C. The coastal eco-systems of tropical countries, such as ACP countries' EEZs, are among the richest in fisheries resources. This wealth of resources is attractive to all distant-water fishing nations, including EU Members States.
- D. The external fleet of the countries of the EU currently consists of more than 700 vessels, and only about half of them are involved in Fisheries Partnership Agreements, the other half operating under private licensing arrangements. Another 400 or so vessels of EU origin operate under joint ventures established in third countries, including ACP countries. Fisheries agreements now cover less than 0,5 % of the activities of EU fleets, and fish caught under FPAs accounts for approximately 3 % of total supplies of fish to the EU market, while imports from ACP countries represent around 10 % of EU fish imports.
- E. It should also be recalled that European markets depend for more than 60 % on imports, of which ACP countries represent around 10 %, and 68 % of ACP countries' fish exports are currently destined for the EU market.
- F. In current fisheries agreements, the proportionality between fishing capacities negotiated and the amount of financial contribution extended to the sector has led ACP governments to grant unsustainable levels of fishing access. It has also led to some ACP countries receiving more funding than they are able to absorb, or not enough funding compared to their needs.

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 30 May 2012 in Horsens (Denmark).

