

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

on the preparations for the forthcoming
ACP/EEC negotiations

(adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983)

The Joint Committee meeting in Kingston (Jamaica) from 21 to
24 February 1983,

- A. Having heard the statement by Mr Cavalevu, the General Rapporteur,
- B. Aware of the fast approaching ACP-EEC negotiations scheduled to begin this September,
- C. Recognising the innovative character and the considerable merits of the Conventions of Lomé I and II, but acknowledging that they have not measured up to all the hopes they inspired, and that their implementation has shown limitations and weaknesses with the result that cooperation has not adequately met development needs,
- D. Recognising also that the European Community is determined to make a significant contribution to the ACP States' development efforts,
- E. Noting that cooperation should continuously adapt to international developments, and in particular to adjust to the increasingly difficult problems faced by the ACP States, in the very unfavourable economic climate in which the negotiations will be opening,
- F. Convinced therefore that the two sides must fundamentally

rethink the aims and methods of cooperation, and must approach the negotiations in that spirit,

- G. Emphasizing that cooperation must devote very special attention to certain crucial problems in many ACP States, such as food, energy, the problems of urbanization, the conservation of natural resources, and the development of human resources, all of which are made more difficult to resolve in view of the desperate financial situation faced by ACP States,
- H. Acknowledging that the Commission's Memorandum on the Community's Development Policy has the merit within the general context of relations between Europe and the developing countries of raising certain fundamental questions concerning the future of such cooperation,
- I. Hoping that the Community will succeed in translating these guidelines which are still at a general stage, into open, clear and specific positions with regard to the ACP/EEC negotiations,
- J. Acknowledging that the work of reflection and review can be of greatest value if undertaken on both sides,
- K. Conscious of the necessity for strong and confident communication between the ACP countries and the Community and disturbed by the present shortcomings in this regard, particularly in the functioning of the Convention's institutional mechanisms,
- L. Recognising that the Report on ACP/EEC Cultural Cooperation proposes a new model of cooperation centred on the development and fulfilment of man based on his liberation from all forms of alienation, economic and cultural,
- 1. URGES the ACP and the EEC to examine jointly before the start of the negotiations the Resolutions adopted by the Consultative Assembly in Luxembourg and Rome on the Cultural Cooperation Report and on the recommendation in the Report;

2. **INSISTS** that the new ACP-EEC Convention should better serve to link the ACP States' own development objectives of self-reliant development and South-South Cooperation with the specific policies chosen by the ACP States in such a way as to avoid the instruments of cooperation operating in isolation of each other or becoming ends in themselves;
3. **UNDERLINES** the crucial importance which the ACP countries attach to regional cooperation among themselves and stresses the need to accord this factor due priority in the forthcoming Convention;
4. **REAFFIRMS** the need for the Convention realistically to provide adequate means for the attainment of the objectives mutually agreed upon;
5. **URGES** the ACP and EEC authorities to devote the remaining period before the negotiations to a fundamental political preparation so as to obtain the degree of political consensus needed, not on the provisions of the forthcoming Convention, but on the objectives and scope of ACP-EEC cooperation, and on the identification of the crucial aspects likely to determine the success or failure of the negotiations.