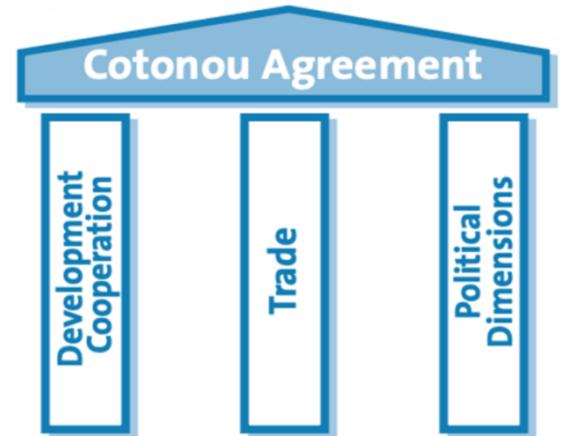


New ACP – EU Partnership Agreement

Highly promising but includes deceptive provisions bringing in LGBT issues, abortion, CSE and other violations of Africa’s sovereignty that need to be removed!

What is the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement?

- A revised extension of the 20-year Cotonou Partnership Agreement signed in 2000 governing trade and economic relations between the EU and **all 48 Sub-Saharan countries in Africa, 16 Caribbean countries, and 15 Pacific countries (ACP)**.
- Includes over 100 countries (EU Member States + 79 ACP countries) representing over 1.5 billion people.
- Was to expire in 2020 but was extended until a new 20-year binding agreement can be put in place called the “ACP-EU Agreement.”



It’s not too late! Urgent action can make the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement a better deal for African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

10 Core Issues of Concern with ACP-EU Treaty

- 1. Elevates soft law documents (ICPD, Beijing, Maputo Strategic Plan, etc.) to the status of treaty obligations** and makes African governments accountable to the EU for their implementation.
- 2. Obligates ACP governments to “uphold [unspecified] international norms and agreements”** deliberately leaving room for controversial interpretations.
- 3. Binds ACP governments to implement all of the controversial review conference outcome documents of ICPD and Beijing** (ICPD Nairobi Summit, Beijing Generation Equality Forums, etc.).
- 4. Obligates ACP governments to “cooperate with the UN’s human rights bodies and mechanisms** [i.e., UN committees, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - SOGI] and to fully support the controversial work of the UN Human Rights Council.” These UN human rights

mechanisms intentionally misinterpret international human rights law claiming benign provisions like the right to health encompass abortion, sexual rights, LGBT rights and autonomous sexual rights for children.

- 5. Obligates ACP governments “to coordinate positions” and “voting” in “international and regional organizations and forums.”** Yet at these forums, the EU most often holds positions on life, family and sexual issues that violate the religious and cultural values and laws of African countries.
- 6. Requires ACP governments to provide access to “comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and education” [CSRHE]** in accordance with the UN’s controversial “technical guidance” on sexuality education. This UN “guidance” includes teachings on homophobia, transphobia, sexual pleasure, and more. CSRHE is a euphemism for controversial Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) (see StopCSE.org).



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7. Commits African governments to implement highly controversial “sexual and reproductive health and rights” (SRHR) (Article 36.2), a term always rejected by the African Group in UN-negotiated documents because, according to the WHO’s guiding document “Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law,” SRH encompasses abortion, LGBT rights, same-sex marriage, transgender surgeries, CSE without parental consent, etc.

8. Obligates ACP governments to provide “universal access to sexual and reproductive health commodities” and “health-care services,” without defining them. The European Parliament in their report “On the Situation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the EU” (June 2021) defined SRHR to encompass abortion services, sexuality education, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), etc.

9. Makes ACP governments accountable to the EU to implement their own regional documents (i.e., Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action). The Maputo Protocol brought in abortion to the African continent.

10. Is an all-out assault on the culture and national sovereignty of African States, making financial aid contingent upon implementing harmful provisions which African governments have consistently rejected in other UN consensus documents and resolutions for very good reasons.

How Did This Happen?

African UN human rights experts likely were not consulted during the Agreement negotiations, and those who negotiated this Agreement in Brussels on behalf of their countries likely weren’t trained on the controversial and deliberately deceptive UN terminology that is constantly being pushed by the EU at the UN.

What Has Been Done?

1. From the EU side, Hungary and Poland have refused to sign the Agreement in its current form, which has hindered EU adoption.
2. Conservative members of the EU Parliament have asked formal Parliamentary Questions about the ACP-EU Agreement such as asking if it encompasses abortion.
3. SADC recently issued a joint Communiqué to the European Commission stating concerns including that the Agreement may shift decision-making power on the funding and spending from African Union countries and AU RECs to other parties.
4. The African Bar Association has called upon African Heads of State to review the Agreement’s SRHR provisions.

What You Can Do

1. **Brief your government, parliaments, colleagues within the AU, RECs, and your UN delegations** about the harmful ACP-EU Agreement elements by sharing this document and other resources that will soon be posted (by Oct. 31) on a new site at DeviousEUTreaty.org.
2. **Request European Commission to provide written assurances** that no provisions in this binding Agreement will be interpreted to promote abortion, CSE or LGBT rights that have not achieved consensus at the UN.
3. **Clarify with the European Commission whether this treaty is to be understood to trump national laws** and clarify who will be the custodians of the financial aid.

ULTIMATE GOAL

Raise awareness among African leaders to ensure this new 20-year, binding Agreement with the EU respects African religious and cultural norms and values and the sovereignty of African states.



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