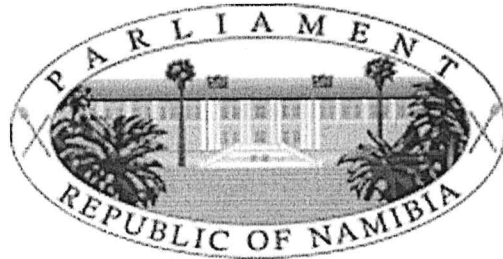


7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

REPORT

OF THE

**60TH MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN,
CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS) AND THE 41ST
SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
(JPA), STRASBORG, FRANCE**

APRIL 2022

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ACRONOMYS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACP-EU	African, Caribbean and Pacific European Union
CBAM	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
EC	European Commission
LDC	Least Development Countries
JPA	Joint Parliamentary Assembly
MEPs	Members of the European Parliaments
NPA	New Partnership Agreement
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
RPAs	Regional Parliamentary Assemblies
SID's	Small Island Developing States
UHC	Universal Health Coverage

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The 60th Session of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the 41st Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) took place from 29 March to 03 April 2022 in Strasbourg-France. These were the first physical meetings of parliamentary bodies since the Covid-19 outbreak.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The joint meetings were attended by members of the European Parliament and their counterparts from seventy-eight (78) countries of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The Namibian Parliament was represented by Honourable Natangue Ithete, Chairperson of the National Assembly's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration.

3. OPENING SESSION

The 60th Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly opened under the Chairpersonship of Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jr. of Solomon Islands in Strasbourg, France in his capacity as the President of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA).

President Hon. Kenilorea Jr. expressed, "It is good to finally meet in-person with other OACPS parliamentary colleagues. I look forward to leading the discussions that will put us in a good position on the future of the parliamentary institution under the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement."

He further presided over the OACPS Speakers of National Assemblies – Roundtable Discussion with the Secretary-General of the OACPS H.E Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, who took the opportunity to commend the achievements of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the active and dynamic participation of all members to meetings held virtually and across different time zones.

The morning session opened with a statement and a lively debate with Jutta Urpilainen, Member of the Commission with responsibility for international partnerships. Topics discussed included the post-Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the Global Gateway, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its consequences, climate change, technology transfer and food security. This was followed by a lively debate on the "Threats to stability, security and democracy in Western and Sahelian Africa." Most Members recognized the complexity of the situation and called for the need to address the root causes of violence and instability in the region.

4. DISCUSSIONS

- 4.1. The joint meeting was proceeded by three meetings of the OACPS Committee and the 60th session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly. Among the issues discussed were the challenges of peace and security within Members of OACPS Committees and climate change, in particular, the European Commission's (EC) proposal to establish a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) with the European Union (EU).
- 4.2. Participants noted that the CBAM will put pressure on exporters to the EU, to decarbonizes the production of certain goods and that many exporters and producers in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other developing countries such as those in members of the OACPS will face particular difficulties to finance necessary investments. Members also discussed trade issues guaranteeing access to the European Market for producers in the framework of new regulations arising from the green pact for Europe.
- 4.3. An innovation in the work of the OACPS-JPA was the holding of the first round table of the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the National Assemblies with the Secretary-General of the OACPS, H.E. Mr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti. The Secretary-General called on the Members to support the work of the OACPS, enhance the visibility of the OACPS and its work in their respective countries, and invited them to commemorate key OACPS days in their national assemblies. This dialogue was complemented by the Secretary-General's presentation of the 2nd Annual State of the Organization (SOrg) Address to the OACPS parliamentarians, an event that was live-streamed and followed in all Member States.
- 4.4. The Secretary General further commended the achievements of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly with six Resolutions adopted, two Women's Forum, two Youth Conferences, one meeting with Civil Society Organizations, and ten meeting sessions of the drafting committee on the Rules of Procedures of the JPA under the new agreement.
- 4.5. The OACPS members also discussed the EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and the list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regime. Members requested that a study to be carried out on the impact of the list on their countries.
- 4.6. Of particular mention, was the parliamentary dialogue on COP26 that led to a Joint Declaration by the JPA Co-Presidents, which elevated the concerns of the JPA on climate change issues, to a wider international community. President, Hon. Kenilorea Jr. acknowledged the opportunity to have exchanges with the Secretary General and the Honorable Speakers

of the OACPS National Parliaments and assured the support of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly as a vital institution under the auspice of the OACPS as an organization.

- 4.7. At the 41st Session, the JPA held a special session to celebrate its 20 years of existence, during which the many accomplishments and achievements of the JPA were highlighted, in particular the establishment of a solid basis for constructive dialogue and international political cooperation with a focus on multilateral solutions. The importance of the parliamentary dimension of the OACPS-EU partnership was another key message of the commemoration. The session also featured young leaders from the OACPS Members who expressed their views on the post-Cotonou agreement. Speakers highlighted the need to engage young people, by establishing a youth forum under the revised Georgetown agreement.
- 4.8. The parliamentarians also debated the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its global impact. They highlighted the rising food prices which pose a serious threat to food security and energy prices.
- 4.9. With regard to the new agreement between the EU and the OACPS, the JPA members called on the EU to fast track the internal European process with a view to signing the new agreement as soon as possible. The JPA participants recalled that the Members of the OACPS and the EU have clearly stated their support for EU-OACPS collaboration on key issues such as economic recovery and investment, the fight against global warming, environmental protection, ensuring universal health coverage and access to COVID-19 vaccines for all. The assembly adopted a resolution on enhancing the resilience of small island developing states (SIDS) against climate change and natural disasters.
- 4.10. Members of European Parliament (MEP) and OACPS parliamentarians also discussed the threat to stability and peace in West Africa and the Sahel, which has led to governance problems and increased poverty. In this context, they also discussed the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, climate change and land scarcity-all at which threaten peace and security in parts of the Sahel and West Africa
- 4.11. In the Address, themed, "OACP: Innovation and Resilience", the OACPS Secretary-General presented the main aims and objectives for the Organisation in the context of global and external events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the expected fall-out for the Members of the OACPS as a result of the Russia/Ukraine conflict.
- 4.12. Among the key highlights of the previous year, Secretary-General Chikoti cited the publication of the Organisations's Strategic Plan for the period

2022-2025, which identifies five Strategic Objectives for the OACPS and five consequent key impact areas. Noting the achievements of the previous year, and acknowledging the challenges facing the Organisation, the OACPS Secretary-General ended his message on a positive note, "The time has come to realise our immense potential while improving our resilience to our own challenges and global issues... Together, we are stronger, more innovative and indeed more resilient. Our unity and solidarity are unwavering and solid... Together, let us work tirelessly to improve the political and security situation in some of our Member States.

- 4.13. Carlos Zorrinho Member of European Parliament (MEP), Chair of the EP's Delegation to the ACP-EU JPA and JPA co-president, said: "We are living in time of global tensions, with war in Ukraine, Yemen and in several African regions, and with food insecurity spreading and the threat of climate change. The 41st Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the EU and Members of the OACPS showed great maturity in affirming a multilateral approach to these challenges, based on a response to peoples' practical problems and on our shared values. We all expressed the urgency of finalising the post-Cotonou agreement, and its coming into force as a partnership of equals."
- 4.14. The afternoon session of Saturday, 2 April 2022, continued with the topical debate on "Russia's conflict of Ukraine and its global impact (with Nataliya Bugayova, National Security Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of War, Former Chief Executive Officer of the Kyiv Post). The discussion was lively as well as controversial. Two other discussions followed-on "Enhancing the resilience of small island developing states against climate change and natural disasters (urgent resolution) and on "Overcoming the global Covid-19 pandemic: cooperation for economic recovery and investments to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (with Jakkie Cilliers, Chairperson of the Board and Head of African Futures & Innovation at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria).
- 4.15. On Sunday, 3 April, following a timely debate on "Building international solidarity to address the global education crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic," the ACP-EU JPA celebrated "20 years of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the future of OACPS-EU Parliamentary cooperation "through an enriching debate with a diverse set of speakers, including a strong focus on the voice of the youth. Two former JPA Co-Presidents also participated in the discussions, namely, Mr Fitz Jackson from Jamaica (Co President, 2013-2015) and Mr Joseph Owona Kono from Cameroon (Co-President, 2017-2019). Looking to the future, a debate on the "Draft Rules of Procedure for the JPA under the post-Cotonou Agreement took place.

The Rules of the JPA-prepared by a Drafting Committee over a one-year period-would be complemented by three sets of Rules for the RPAs and consequently adopted by the JPA in the coming months.

5. CONCLUSION


Based on the principle of geographic rotation, OACPS-EU JPA will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, in October. The meeting will be the first under the New Partnership Agreement (NPA).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration recommends that the House take note of the following resolutions adopted at the meeting:

- 6.1. The ACP-EU governments to place more emphasis on investments in projects and infrastructure that will make the ACP States in particular SIDS more resilient in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and better adapt to it
- 6.2. With the support of the EU and member's governments, ACP governments are encouraged to work with all relevant multilateral institutions towards building their resilience and sustainability
- 6.3. Most countries at risk to disasters from climate change and natural hazards are called to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as disaster risk reduction strategies into their sustainable development policies and plans at all levels.
- 6.4. Stresses the need to support the development and transformation of resilient local food systems; encourages community-based adaptation strategies, including the use of traditional knowledge in farming, agro-ecology, agro forestry and fisheries
- 6.5. EU and ACP States to mainstream the gender perspective into climate policies and promote the participation of indigenous women and women's rights

7. SIGNATURES



Hon. Natangue Ithete (Chairperson)

Hon. Mathias Mbundu (Deputy Chairperson)

Hon. Modestus Amutse

Hon. Dr. Tobie Aupindi

Hon. Apius !Auchab

Hon. Celeste Becker

Hon. Bertha Dinyando

Hon. Elifas Dingara

Hon. Maria Elago

Hon. Hamunyera Hambyuka

Hon. Gotthard Kasuto

Hon. Johanna Kandjimi

Hon. Joseph Kauandenge

Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu

Hon. Patience Masua

Hon. Hilaria Mukapuli

Hon. Jan Mukwiilongo

Hon. Fennie Nanyeni

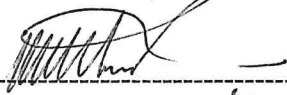
Hon. Erastus Shuumbwa

Hon. Henny H. Seibeb

Hon. Nico Smit

Hon. McHenry Venaani

Date: 23 November 2022





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