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**SECRETARIAT NOTE ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> EXTRAORDINARY  
INTER-SESSIONAL SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE ORGANISATION OF  
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)**

**HELD VIRTUALLY ON 3 JUNE 2020**

**SECRETARIAT NOTE ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> EXTRAORDINARY INTER-SESSIONAL SUMMIT OF  
THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ORGANISATION OF  
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit of the Organisation of the African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Heads of State and Government was held on 3 June 2020. The Virtual Summit was convened by H. E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and President-in-Office of the OACPS Summit and was attended by 11 Heads of State and Government, representing the regional leadership of the OACPS, the troika of the OACPS Summit, and a Special Guest at the invitation of the President-in-Office. It was also attended by invited key strategic development partners. The objective of this Extraordinary Summit was to assess the current global situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its socio-economic effects to the Members of the OACPS, review opportunities and actions for immediate response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and identify opportunities for global solidarity and actions.
2. The full list of Leaders that attended the Summit is attached to this Note.

**Welcome Remarks and Opening Remarks**

3. The President-in-Office, H. E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, expressed his gratitude to colleagues for attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit. In his remarks, he underscored the significant negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He emphasized the importance of crafting a way forward for the Members of the OACPS that can shield their economies from the impacts of the pandemic, and the need to forge new paths of cooperation with key development partners.
4. He concluded by calling for stronger unity and solidarity among the Members of the OACPS, these being key in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Welcome Remarks by the Secretary-General of the OACPS**

5. In his welcome remarks, the Secretary General of the OACPS, H. E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, expressed his deep gratitude to H. E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President-in-Office for the OACPS Summit, for convening the 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit on the pertinent subject matter of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and its impacts on the Members of OACPS. He extended a warm welcome to all the OACPS Heads of State and Government attending the Summit and thanked them for their commitment and solidarity to the OACPS.

**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE ON CHALLENGES FACING  
MEMBERS OF THE OACPS AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

6. The Summit was addressed by the Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO), H. E. Dr. Tedros-Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who provided a strategic brief on the current situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Member of the OACPS.

7. Dr. Ghebreyesus recalled the importance of countries having a comprehensive approach in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic by isolating, testing, caring, tracing and quarantining. He also stressed the need to ensure the maintenance of essential health services, and called on the leaders to ensure they prioritise preparedness at the core of their health security and resilience programmes in pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). On efforts by the WHO, he informed the Summit of the launch of the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), which seeks to compile pledges made under the Solidarity Call to Action to voluntarily share the COVID-19 health technology-related knowledge, intellectual property and data. The Director-General, concluded his intervention by underlining the need for solidarity in dealing with the pandemic, as a way of preventing the retention of the virus for an extensive period of time as this would have dire economic consequences for Members of the OACPS. He cautioned leaders to take a phased approach as they lift the lockdown measures, in order to manage any likelihood of a resurgence of the disease.

#### **Address by Regional Leaders and Leaders from the Regions**

8. The Summit was also addressed by leaders of the various OACPS Regions, who highlighted some of the challenges confronted by the respective Members and Regions of the OACPS. In addition, leaders highlighted the innovative and strategic initiatives that were put in place to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective regions. The interventions were made by: a) H. E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chair of the African Union, b) The Hon Ms.. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of CARICOM, c) The Hon. Mr. Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, d) H. E. Mr James Marape, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and President of the 8<sup>th</sup> OACPS Summit, and e) H. E. Mr. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia and President-in-Office of Council of the OACPS.
9. The leaders also highlighted the following in their interventions:
  - Called for the availability of provisions needed to address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, particularly those related to medical supplies, testing equipment and facilities, laboratories, personal protection equipment (PPE) and ventilators.
  - Advocated for support to the African Union's (AU's) strategy for addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Noted the African Union's (AU's) comprehensive economic stimulus package for Africa, and the need for debt relief or cancellation for the heavily indebted Member States by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
  - Welcomed the debt relief initiative by the G20, and called for the orderly restructuring of debt or at the very least, a debt moratorium that provides certainty for both borrower and lender. Further they requested that these measures to be extended to all countries.

- Underscored the need for evidence-based frameworks that determine development priorities, and advocated for affordable financial resources to build the resilience of the Members of the OACPS.
- Called for the lifting of economic sanctions against Sudan and Zimbabwe, to enable them devote their respective resources to address the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Underlined that the COVID-19 Pandemic had proven that multilateralism remained an effective framework of addressing global health threats.
- Called for an enhanced commitment to a multilateral system which contributes to sustainable development, and promotes the OACPS political identity as an international player.
- Noted the challenges faced by the Members and Regions of the OACPS that are heavily dependent on tourism and the travel industry as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In this regard, called for the support for urgent recovery efforts that will lead to economic growth and job creation, and encouraged the revision of the vulnerability index in order to provide for an assessment mechanism that takes into account the inherent vulnerabilities of Member States.
- Noted the Pacific Region's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic through the activation of the Pacific regional instrument for joint security, the Biketawa Declaration, and the establishment of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for the COVID-19 Pandemic (PHP-C), overseen by a Ministerial Action Group and supported by a Regional Task Force.
- Underscored the need to design responses and recovery measures to the COVID-19 Pandemic that are climate-smart responsive, and are supportive to sustainable agriculture, particularly small-holder farming.
- Emphasized the need to outline strategies and action points to minimize the disruption of the food and agriculture systems, while adequately supporting the livelihoods of all vulnerable groups.
- Called for a collective strategy that solicits support from the international community to assist Members of the OACPS, in addressing the short, medium and long-term capacity constraints compounded by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In this regard, encouraged the promotion of intra-OACPS collaboration, particularly through the sharing of innovative medical, research and treatment approaches and applications.

## **Discussions on the Key Global Solidarity Actions**

10. During the second section of the Summit, the leaders exchanged views on key global solidarity actions with respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The interventions from Members of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS were made by: a) H. E. Mr. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, b) The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, c) H. E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo Brazzaville, d) H. E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, e) H. E. Mr. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and H. E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia.
11. The leaders highlighted the following in their interventions:
  - Called for radical financing solutions to respond to the economic crisis that will ensure the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Underlined the importance of solidarity among the Members of the OACPS, in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Expressed deep concern to the unilateral actions pursued by the EU without consultations, as characterized by the OACPS-EU Partnership, in publishing a list on Anti-Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, which included some of the Members of the OACPS. Further underscored that such actions adversely affect the targeted countries' economic recovery efforts, during the challenging times caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Called for the Members of the OACPS to lobby collectively in order to curtail the unilateral black listing of some Member States by the EU, which imposes further economic and financial hardships, and negates the efforts to build the economic resilience needed for development.
  - Appealed to the EU to withhold the publication of its report on Anti-Money Laundering and the financing of terrorism, and accord a moratorium for its implementation to allow the targeted Members of OACPS, to align their rules and regulations with international norms.
  - Reaffirmed the unequivocal commitment of the Members of the OACPS to cooperate with all States in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
  - Underlined that the current global crisis calls for a comprehensive revision of the global economic governance that promotes sustainable development, particularly during pandemics, through the redefining of development indices, ameliorating inequalities and addressing economic imbalance.
  - Emphasized that collaboration among regional health agencies across the OACPS, and the exchange of information, technical expertise and best practices, are essential. In addition, encouraged increased investments in strong health care systems, and the provision of resources to support health innovations including Research and Development (R&D) in diagnostics, medicines and vaccines.

- Encouraged bilateral partnerships, and partnerships with multilateral institutions and the private sector in the response and recovery efforts to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Underscored the vulnerability of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), especially in view of their high dependence on tourism. Noted that SIDS have been heavily impacted by the economic fallout caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, resulting in substantive increase in unemployment and a drastic drop in the value of the respective currencies.
- Noted the adopted ECOWAS regional strategy to combat the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the West African Region.

12. In conclusion, the Heads of State and Government underlined the following:

- The need for the assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the main sectors of the respective economies of the Members of the OACPS, and the identification of concrete solutions on how to build resilience with better preparedness in Member States.
- The necessity to call upon key players in the private sector to contribute towards the Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) in order to assist the OACPS to achieve its mandate.
- The respective OACPS Ambassadors and Representatives in Brussels be requested to lobby for enhanced support from the EU, in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in their respective countries.
- The provision of support to the African Union (AU) in its condemnation of the assassination of Mr. George Floyd in the United States of America.

**Exchange of Views with Special Guest – H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.**

13. In his capacity as the special guest of the President-in-Office of the OACPS Summit, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, H. E. Mr. Paul Kagame, expressed his gratitude for the convening the Extraordinary OACPS Summit. He further expressed his support for the work of the WHO and its leadership. He also applauded the Heads of the States and Government, for the rich proposals put forward during the Virtual Summit, and noted it as a clear demonstration of the relevance of the newly transformed OACPS and an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of cooperation amongst the three regions of the OACPS.

14. In his statement President Kagame highlighted the following:

- Underlined that the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic necessitates a reinforced response through closer collaboration on measures aimed at ending the pandemic, and to enhance economic resilience. Noted the need to ensure equitable access to treatment, vaccines and medical supplies.

- Emphasized the key role of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in building the needed resilience for its Member States during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Noted that the OACPS–EU partnership has stood the test of time, and much has changed for the better in terms of the socio-economic development of the Members of the OACPS. To this end, he called for the Post-Cotonou Agreement, to reflect these realities of development, particularly with respect to the prevention and recovery measures of pandemics, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

15. The second segment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Inter-Sessional Summit was an opportunity for consultation between the OACPS Heads of State and Government and key Development Partners on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
16. In his welcome remarks, the President-in-Office H. E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta expressed his appreciation for the participation of the Development Partners in the Extraordinary Summit of the OACPS, which attested to the importance they attached to global solidarity and corrective action in addressing the COVID–9 Pandemic. He highlighted the socio-economic impacts the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on the Members of the OACPS, which requires global solidarity and a financing mechanism. In this regard, he proposed to discuss the following: -
  - a) Strategies to address the unsustainable debt situation in the Members of the OACPS, and a fair, effective and timely international process for debt restructuring. Additionally, address the need for increased access to concessional financing to the Members of the OACPS and ensure that lending practices are fully in line with sustainable, and responsible financing practices.
  - b) Enhanced South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation in addressing the challenges faced by the Members of the OACPS.
  - c) Broadened sources of financing through public-private partnerships, and innovative other financing mechanisms.
17. The Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) H. E. Mr Antonio Gutteres, in his address, underscored the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic around the world and stressed the need for a much stronger response of unity and solidarity.
18. He highlighted the UN's call for an economic stimulus package of more than 10% of the global economy, that priority be given to the most affected States and to increase social protection for the vulnerable States in the developing and developed world.

19. The Secretary-General informed the Summit of the creation of six Working Groups that will focus on six priority areas for immediate action to address the COVID-19 Pandemic. These areas include: Global Liquidity, Sovereign Debt, Dialogue with private sector creditors, External Finance, Illicit financial flows and Better recovery.
20. He also highlighted the challenges faced by the Small Island Development States (SIDS), with many being heavily indebted, and on the frontline of the climate crisis. He also noted that the SIDS are heavily reliant on the tourism industry, and that the remittances sectors are hardest hit by the Pandemic.
21. H. E. Mr. Antonio Guterres applauded the rapid response by African countries, but noted that much needed to be done to avoid an economic recession that could push many countries to extreme poverty. In this regard, he called for support to African countries in strengthening health care systems, maintaining food supplies and protecting jobs.
22. H. E. Mr. Antonio Guterres concluded by indicating that while countries continue to address the COVID-19 Pandemic, global and unified solutions lag behind and as such an optimum solution rests in finding a vaccine which must be seen as a global public good. He emphasized that this should be done quickly and must be affordable and equally distributed.
23. H. E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, in his intervention expressed his gratitude to the President-in-Office and the Secretary-General for organizing the Summit.
24. The President of the European Council indicated that the global COVID-19 Pandemic reminded us how inter-connected we are, and the need to re-invest in multilateralism, international cooperation, and collective action. In this regard, he acknowledged that the cooperation between the EU and OACPS, remains a prime example of a case of a vibrant multilateralism. He recalled the successful cooperation between the EU and Members of the OACPS during the 2015 Paris Agreement, and encouraged the same spirit and solidarity to guide the approach to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic.
25. The President of the European Council noted that the EU had contributed EUR 25 billion to provide financial support to developing partners, and welcomed the initiative taken by the G20 to provide the most vulnerable countries fiscal space and margin for manoeuvre during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He also stressed the need to involve major creditors in debt relief efforts. Noting that vaccines, treatments and diagnostics are the only way to relegate the virus, he expressed strong support for a vaccine that will be accessible to all.



26. The President of the Republic of France, H. E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, in his intervention, noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic reaffirmed the need for the strengthening of common objectives for shared growth, based on the fight against inequality, and climate change. He recalled the successful role the two parties (EU and OACPS), played in the adoption of the Paris Agreement during the COP 21.
27. President Macron highlighted the priority areas that France is engaged with at the international level in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic. These include: i) participation in (Access to COVID-19 Tools) - Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative, ii) support for the most fragile countries facing the pandemic with specific reference to Africa, iii) support for the private sector in the countries most affected by the economic shocks, and iv) the provision of support through the French Development Agency to job protection schemes that primarily benefit women and young people.
28. President Macron concluded by informing the Summit of the upcoming "One Planet Summit", that France will host in Marseille, France during January 2021 with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
29. The Prime Minister of Norway, H. E. Mrs Erna Solberg, in her intervention stressed the importance of dialogue, solidarity, cooperation and multilateral solutions in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic. She further called for the need to build resilience in communities, and to invest in health and education, ensuring gender equality .
30. The Prime Minister of Canada, H. E. Mr Justin Trudeau in his intervention recalled that economic and social shocks have the potential to threaten the achieved development gains and to roll back economic growth, thereby pushing people into extreme poverty. He noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic had exposed much vulnerability in societies, and within the international system. He highlighted that countries are facing increasing concerns on climate change, food security, the flight of foreign capital to developed markets, and sharp falls of revenue from tourism. In this regard, Prime Minister Trudeau pointed out that Canada has committed in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic funding for humanitarian efforts, the development of a vaccine, treatment, testing and research and development.
31. In conclusion, Prime Minister Trudeau informed the Summit of the recent meeting he co-convened with the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the UN Secretary-General to address sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. This Meeting led to the establishment of the 6 Working Groups to address the six priority areas as highlighted by the UN Secretary General.
32. The Prime Minister of Australia H. E. Mr. Scott Morrison in his intervention highlighted the efforts made by Australia in combating COVID-19 Pandemic, through various practical arrangements including using digital media to fight the Pandemic. He indicated the ongoing work by Australia to support the Pacific Members of the OACPS in health security, and economic recovery through development assistance. This assistance to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic, focuses on the protection of the vulnerable populations especially women, girls and the elderly. It includes: i) the provision of testing kits, personal protective equipment, and medical supplies, ii)

supporting the creation of isolation facilities and public awareness campaigns, and iii) the reopening of a humanitarian corridor to move experts and supplies across the region especially through the Humanitarian Pacific Pathway.

33. At the conclusion of the consultations with key Development Partners, the OACPS Heads of State and Government called for the following: -
- a) The need to continue to lobby for support to the OACPS Small Island Development States (SIDS) in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - b) The OACPS should request the EU to put moratorium on the implementation of the report on Anti-Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism which include some of the Members of OACPS.
  - c) Continue to call for debt relief or cancellation for the Members of the OACPS to provide them fiscal space to address the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - d) The need for the G20 and G7 to live up to the commitments made in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - e) The support of Members of the OACPS to the WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros-Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and his efforts to addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - f) The need to strengthen global solidarity as a way of addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - g) The promotion of consultations and dialogue to underpin the relations between Members of the OACPS and the EU.

**LIST OF OACPS PARTICIPANTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> EXTRAORDINARY INTER-SESSIONAL SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)  
HELD VIRTUALLY ON 3 JUNE 2020**

H. E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai <b>KENYATTA</b>	President of the Republic of Kenya and President-in-Office of the OACPS Summit
H. E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto <b>CHIKOTI</b>	Secretary-General of the OACPS
H. E. Mr. Cyril <b>RAMAPHOSA</b>	President of the Republic of South Africa and Chair of the African Union (AU)
The Hon. Ms. Mia Amor <b>MOTTLEY</b>	Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
The Hon. Mr. Kausea <b>NATANO</b>	Prime Minister of Tuvalu and Chair of the Pacific Island Forum (Video Message)
H. E. Mr. James <b>MARAPE</b>	Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Member of the OACPS Summit Troika
H. E. Mr. Adama <b>BARROW</b>	President of the Republic of the Gambia and President-in-Office of Council of the OACPS
H. E. Mr. Frank <b>BAINIMARAMA</b>	Prime Minister of Fiji and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS
The Most Hon. Mr. Andrew <b>HOLNESS</b>	Prime Minister of Jamaica and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS
H. E. Mr. Denis Sassou <b>NGUESSO</b>	President of the Republic of Congo Brazzaville and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS
H.E. Mr. Danny <b>FAURE</b>	President of the Republic of Seychelles and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS
H. E. Mr. Umaro Sissoco <b>EMBALO</b>	President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS
H. E. Mr. Edgar <b>LUNGU</b>	President of the Republic of Zambia and Member of the Bureau of the Council of the OACPS

H. E. Mr. Paul <b>KAGAME</b>	President of the Republic of Rwanda and invited Guest of the President-in-Office of the OACPS Summit
H. E. Dr. Tedros-Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO)
<b>KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</b>	
H. E. Mr. Antonio <b>GUTTERES</b>	UN Secretary-General
H. E. Mr. Charles <b>MICHEL</b>	President of European Council
H. E. Mr. Emmanuel <b>MACRON</b>	President of the Republic of France ( <b>Video Message</b> )
H. E. Mrs. Erna <b>SOLBERG</b>	Prime Minister of Norway
H. E. Mr. Justin <b>TRUDEAU</b>	Prime Minister of Canada
H. E. Mr. Scott <b>MORRISON</b>	Prime Minister of Australia ( <b>Video Message</b> )