



European Youth Event 2018

European Parliament, Strasbourg

ACP YPN Workshop: "Trade Agreements: is your Deal my Deal?"

Final Recommendations

About ACP Young Professionals Network

The ACP Young Professionals Network provides a platform for young people to play an active role in policy-making processes nationally, regionally and internationally, assuring equality of opportunity.

ACP YPN works to connect young experts with international organisations in the EU-ACP partnership in line with **Article 26** of the legally binding Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and 79 states from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. In particular, we run 1) the **Youth Forums** at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and 2) we are the only youth network with a formal role as member of the EU-Cariforum **Consultative Committee** monitoring the EU's trade agreement with the Caribbean region. All our advocacy aims to ensure inclusive, responsive decision-making at all levels as outlined in the **Sustainable Development Goals 16.7** agreed to by 193 nations at the UN as part of the Agenda 2030.

Introduction

The **objective** of ACP YPN's workshop at the EYE2018 is to strengthen the capacity of EU and ACP youth to contribute to the ACP-EU partnership. In particular, the ACP YPN Delegation to EYE2018 has two specific **aims**: to (i) engage with EU and ACP youth on the topic of trade and post-Cotonou relations; and to (ii) share opportunities for youth to boost their skills and ability to contribute to policy-making, while strengthening ACP YPN's international database of youth experts.

The **format** of the workshop was the world cafe model, whereby participants were divided in 6 groups of 5 people. They had an hour and a half to draw up 3 recommendations on 6 themes based on the thematic areas of ACP-EU trade and post-Cotonou relations.

Title I

Human Rights, Fundamental Freedoms, Democracy, Rule of Law and Good Governance

1. We recommend that companies should be accountable and liable to EU and ACP law - respecting financial transparency as well as human rights of their employees - and answer to a special Court allowed to implement binding sanctions to companies not respecting to these laws.
2. We recommend the recognition of a plurality of political regimes in respect to human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance.
3. We recommend to impose a fairly low tariff on every dollar gained by companies that will be funneled towards the support of educational aspects, carried out by CSOs and the national educational ministries.

Title II

Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development

1. We recommend to ensure accountability of political decisions to guarantee the full implementation of youth advocacy recommendations with the long term objective of reaching legally binding resolutions.
2. We recommend to advocate for grassroots initiatives and enhancing capacity building for young women (social entrepreneurship, vocational trainings, research & innovation)
3. As obstacles remain in the integration of gender equality into international agreements, we recommend of developing a local and national approach towards gender equality in relevant sectors related to EU-ACP trade relations.

Title III

Environment and Climate Change

1. We recommend that climate change refugees be taken into consideration in the post Cotonou agreements as it pertains a definition of this category of refugees [in non economic terms] and in terms of aid provision by signatory states.
2. We prescribe stricter adherence to existing protocols and provisions for climate change and greater reciprocity and dialogue between the EU and ACP countries as it regards to the formulating of stipulations, climate change reporting, and so on.
3. We suggest the implementation of fiscal measures as it relates to unsustainable production. Also imports should be included in the mechanisms of the European Emissions Trading System.

Additional recommendations

We recommend having region-specific policies for climate change while concurrently encouraging inter-acp partnerships.

We suggest a more effective use of the funds allocated for climate change.

We propose that there be greater support for small and medium sized enterprises with initiatives to combat climate change and who advocate for environmental protection.

Title IV

Peace, Security and Justice

1. Recognition, Reconciliation and Reparations of EU Colonial Past for Justice, Peace and Security

We recommend that the European Union and its member states formally recognise its colonial history in ACP countries and take necessary actions in reconciliation and reparation of genocides, crimes and injustices committed in the past.

We recommend that the European Union and its member states enact a formal statement in recognition and acknowledgement of its colonial past and make a promise of a partnership based on equality, non-discrimination, solidarity and mutual respect.

We recommend that the European Union and its member states, in reconciliation, halt the glorification through statues and monuments of historical figures that contributed, promoted, tolerated directly or indirectly the commission of genocides, crimes and injustices towards colonies and colonised populations within the ACP Group; that the European cultural heritage of alleged historical figures remain preserved within a specific context in museums and expositions.

We recommend that the European Union and its member states, in reparation, establish Memorials in Europe and provide funding for the establishment of Memorials within ACP countries, in respect of historical suffering of the people from ACP countries and in promotion of human dignity and resilience.

2. Stronger Education and Job Opportunities for Stable, Well-governed, and Prosperous States and Societies

We recommend that the ACP Group and the European Union further strengthen their collaboration in education and in creating job opportunities for young people as a prevention measure towards economic unrests and political turmoils and as the foundation for sustainable, resilient and diverse economies.

We recommend that the European Union and its member states enlarge the Erasmus + university students exchange program towards more universities in ACP countries in order to increase partnerships between European and ACP universities, exchange education system based practices, reverse Brain Drain effects and recognise certificates from ACP educational institutions.

3. Fighting Corruption

We recommend that the ACP Group and the European Union prioritise the fight against corruption in order to build peaceful and prosperous societies with credible institutional structures, good governance and strong judicial systems.

We recommend that the European Union and its member states align their development policies with their trade policies in transparency, traceability and accountability so that the benefits of Trade Agreements can reach every layers of society and support stronger middle classes in ACP countries.

Title V

Migration and Mobility

1. We recommend to lobby for a new VISA policy, on a temporary basis, in order to promote the bilateral exchange of expertise with mutual, fair and sustainable benefits for both parties.
2. We recommend to promote talent recognition through scholarships and diplomas by enlarging the Erasmus exchange program (see the European Neighbourhood partnership), to install a brain-gain strategy on a bilateral basis. Indeed, such a trade agreement should boost the process of granting protection and/or facilitating access to citizenship for people on the move. This would encourage people to play an active role in the society.
3. We recommend to put forward the role of Diaspora, above all as far as political representation is concerned, in order to give minorities the chance to run, to have their voices heard and to play an active role in the society.

Title VI

Human Dignity and development

1. We recommend adding further dimensions to the human development index. This includes the possibility to take part in modern technologies and digital market places, and global connectedness.
2. Human dignity and sustainability must be at the core of human development. All are related and interdependent. The agreement aims to enable people to make use of basic human functioning (Capabilities approach – Amartya Sen & Martha Nussbaum).
3. We recognize natural resources as natural goods. We encourage ACP and EU countries to share information and exchange knowledge regarding natural goods and cultural goods for the mutual benefit of both parties. We encourage a fair distribution of the value chain between the two parties.

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