



Samoa Agreement: The EU's new Partnership with the Countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)

The OACPS-EU Partnership

- Unites **more than 100 countries**
EU member states & 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific
- Impacts **over 1.5 billion people worldwide**
- Is the **largest of its kind** in the world
- It is ruled by the **Cotonou Agreement** (since 2000 & until 31 December 2023) and will **now** be replaced by the **Samoa Agreement** (from 1 January 2024)
- Was **renegotiated to adapt to today and tomorrow's realities**



New OACPS-EU Partnership

1957 Rome Treaties included provisions on overseas countries and territories

1964 Yaoundé conventions

1975 Lomé conventions

2000 Cotonou agreement

2020 Extension of the Cotonou agreement until 31 December 2023
from 1 January 2024 the Samoa Agreement enters into provisional application



New York, September 2018

Launch of the negotiations **to remodel the Partnership**, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

In line with the **negotiating directives** adopted unanimously by EU member states in June 2018.

Signature of the Samoa Agreement



On 15 November 2023, the Agreement was signed in Apia, Samoa by the EU Commissioner **Jutta Urpilainen**, and **EU Member States** and **OACPS Member States**



Key milestone – the Agreement:

- Proposes an ambitious and strengthened **political partnership** for the next 20 years, expected to be **a game-changer**.
- **Shifts dynamics**, with **new ambitions** and **ways of working together**.
- **Strengthens our relations with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific** to tackle the most pressing challenges that each region faces specifically, while **bolstering our cooperation as a group** on the world stage.
- **Goes beyond traditional development cooperation** with new political aspirations.



New Chapter in our Cooperation

- By **extending the scope and scale** of our work together, which revolves around common, strategic interests and shared values.
- Not aid-driven, with **no more dedicated fund**, but support to cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the EU budget (NDICI).
- It is now **in tune with the regional and global contexts**, but also the latest internationally agreed laws, standards, advances and, most importantly, **with peoples' needs**.



In short, what is the Agreement about?



- ✓ **Improving people's life, advancing common interests and better protecting the planet.**
- ✓ The new Agreement provides an **opportunity to play an important role in many areas**, including:
 - achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - fighting climate change
- ✓ The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **Paris Agreement** are overarching frameworks guiding the partnership.

How to deliver on our new ambitions?

With a new “3+1” structure fit for purpose

The Samoa Agreement is **legally binding** and now consists of:

**General part
all countries**



→ **1 Foundation part** common to all countries

**Africa
protocol**



+

→ **3 regional partnerships,** binding the EU
with the **OACPS** countries of each region,
with tailored priorities

**Caribbean
protocol**



**Pacific
protocol**



1- FOUNDATION common to all countries (1/3)

Composed of **6 parts**, along with Annexes and Declarations:

All Member
States

- **Part I - General Provisions**, presenting the general objectives and principles.
- **Part II - Strategic Priorities**, divided into 6 key titles - more details on the next slide
- **Part III - Global Alliances and International Cooperation**, detailing the new political ambitions on the world stage.
- **Part IV - Means of Cooperation and Implementation**, describing the diversified resources to achieve the objectives of the partnership.
- **Part V - Institutional Framework**, explaining the different settings and partners involved.
- **Part VI - Final Provisions**, providing details on the application of the Agreement.

1- FOUNDATION common to all countries (2/3)

As a group, our action will focus on **6 strategic priorities**, which are:

All Member
States

- Title I - **Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance in People-Centred and Rights-Based Societies**
- Title II - **Peace and Security**
- Title III - **Human and Social Development**
- Title IV - **Inclusive, Sustainable Economic Growth and Development**
- Title V - **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change**
- Title VI - **Migration and Mobility**

1- FOUNDATION common to all countries (3/3)

NEW: The Agreement **will be governed differently**, at either partnership or regional level, according to the matters and format concerned.

The FOUNDATION part of the Agreement will be steered by:

- OACPS-EU **Council of Ministers**
- OACPS-EU **Ambassadorial Level Senior Officials Committee (ALSOC)**
- OACPS-EU **Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA)**, whose members are also members of the three regional joint parliamentary assemblies
- OACPS-EU **Summits of Heads of State or Government**, upon joint agreement



All Member
States

3 Tailor-made Regional Protocols

As one of the **main novelties** of the new Agreement, they will:

**Africa
Protocol**



**Caribbean
Protocol**



**Pacific
Protocol**



- be the main platform for **political dialogue and action**
- reflect the new regional dynamics, with **tailored priorities**
- have their **own governance to steer the protocol**, involving relevant **regional organisations**
- will respect of the principles of **subsidiarity and complementarity**

Caribbean Regional Protocol - 1/2

→ Based on **specific priorities** detailed according to the region's needs. These are:



Caribbean
Protocol

The graphic shows a teal scroll with the text 'Caribbean Protocol'. To its right, a line connects to a globe icon and the European Union flag. Below this, the text 'Between:' is followed by a box containing 'OACPS Caribbean countries + EU member states'. To the right of this box is a large rounded rectangle containing a bulleted list of four priorities. A faint map of the Caribbean is visible in the background.

Between:

OACPS
Caribbean
countries
+
EU member
states

- **Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development**
- **Environmental sustainability, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;**
- **Human rights, governance, peace and security**
- **Human development and social cohesion**

Caribbean Regional Protocol - 2/2

→ With its own specific governance, through the:



Caribbean
Protocol



Between:

OACPS
Caribbean
countries
+
EU member
states

- **Caribbean-EU Council of Ministers**
- **Caribbean-EU Joint Committee**
- **Caribbean-EU Parliamentary Assembly**

The Samoa Agreement and EPAs

- The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are **stand-alone international agreements**.
- They **remain valid** and the **new Agreement will ensure the link to the EPAs**, especially insofar as general principles and essential elements are concerned, and its drive for inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.
- The **new Agreement will be the framework agreement for all EPAs**, just like the Cotonou Agreement until now.
- All **EPAs will remain anchored to the provisions on appropriate measures** for which the framework agreement provides in case its essential or fundamental elements are breached (democracy, human rights, rule of law; non-proliferation; and the fundamental element of good governance/anti-corruption).

The Caribbean Protocol and CARIFORUM

Under Article 13 of the Caribbean Protocol on **Trade cooperation**:

*Parties commit to support the **implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA**, to reinforce its effectiveness as a tool for promoting sustainable development and to ensure its commercial relevance.*

They agree to:

- cooperate to **strengthen mechanisms, procedures and institutions** to enhance national and regional productive and regulatory capacities.*
- cooperate to **institute appropriate support policies to facilitate greater trade flows**, including through strengthened production and entrepreneurship, quality infrastructure, enhanced digital support frameworks, increased investment in value-adding sectors and the development of effective e-commerce.*

Under the Prioritised Economic Sectors, on the sector of **Services** (article 14):

*Parties agree to enhance the regulatory and productive capacity of key services subsectors to enable service suppliers to **seize market opportunities under the CARIFORUM-EU EPA**, the CSME, the OECS and other intra-Caribbean regional arrangements.*

Other novelties include

→ Stronger emphasis on **cooperating in international forums and on building global alliances** on the world scene.

Our work is set to be **more political** at international level, but also locally, nationally and regionally to **advance common interests and values**.



The group's impact can be significant:

Together  and  countries = **MORE THAN HALF** the seats at the United Nations

Other novelties include

- Special attention to **sustainable, inclusive growth and job creation**, in particular investment and private sector development.
- **Renewed focus on climate change and environmental sustainability** across a number of areas, to better protecting people and the environment.
- **Strengthened Partnership dialogue**. It concerns all subjects covered in the Agreement, but also broader topics of common interest.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in various fields

Allowing us to better tackle global challenges together



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Promoting new **economic opportunities** for all by working together:

- To bring about the necessary **conditions for structural economic transformation, diversification & industrialisation**
- To foster **investment, trade and private sector development**
- To uphold **high environmental, social and labour standards**, while intensifying efforts in **technical and vocational education**
- To advance **digitalization, science, technology, research & innovation**
- To support the **green transition** towards low-emission/resource efficient economies, such as the **blue economy**

Note that existing sector specific agreements, such as the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) will remain in place.



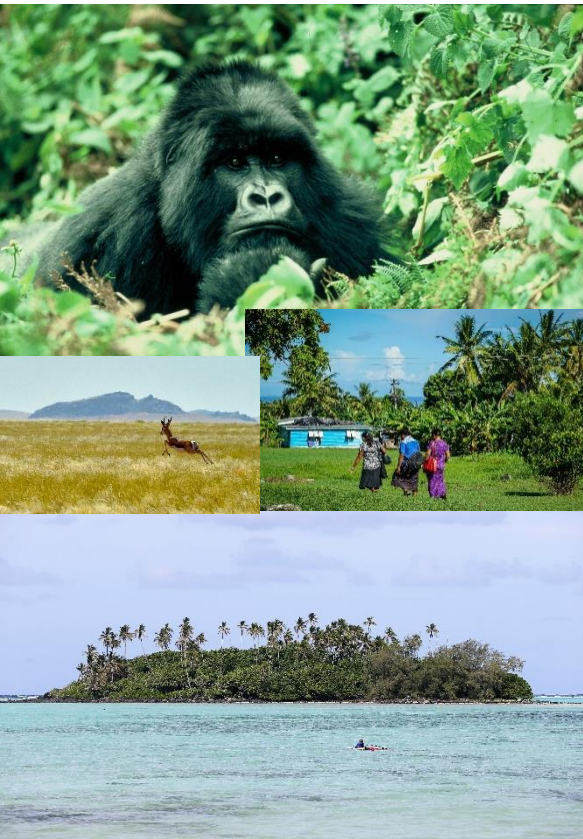
The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Better preserving and protecting the planet, its ecosystems & oceans:

- Together, we recognise the **urgency to act at various level** to counter the serious threat posed by environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and climate change.

Concretely, we :

- Will **strengthen the global response to climate change** as well as **ocean governance**.
- Agreed to **large-ranging commitments** in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and to protect biodiversity.
- Shall **mainstream environmental sustainability**, the fight against **climate change** and **environmentally sustainable growth into all policies, plans and investments**.
- Will work to address **adaptation, mitigation and better tackle natural disasters**.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Supporting a common set of **values and universal principles**:

- Respect for **human rights, international law, democratic principles** and the ones set out in the **Charter of the United Nations constitute the basis for cooperation** under the Agreement.
- They are key issues to ensure other mutual priorities flourish, just like commitments to the **rule of law and good governance, which have been strengthened**.
- The new Agreement makes it clear that human right and fundamental freedoms need to be **respected for all, without discrimination on any grounds** including sex, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age or other status.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Adopting a **comprehensive and balanced approach towards migration and mobility**

- The new Agreement addresses in a **coherent manner the various inter-linked dimensions of both legal and irregular** migration.
- To **foster well-managed migration and mobility**, the Agreement promotes **strengthened cooperation between partners**, relevant agencies and institutions, while also **improving return and readmission, with major predictability and enforceability**.
- Together, we will better tackle common challenges, including the **root causes of irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling of migrants**.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Further promoting peace and security by:

- **Addressing new or emerging threats**, such as piracy and trafficking in persons, drugs, arms and other illicit goods, as well as cybercrime and threats to cybersecurity
- Adopting an **integrated approach towards conflict, crisis and their root causes**.
- **Fostering strengthened cooperation**, including on foreign policy issues of common interest. These include peacekeeping, terrorism, situations of fragility, death penalty with unprecedented provisions, but also law enforcement.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Fostering human and social development like never before, by:

- **Tackling poverty and inequalities**, while leaving no-one behind.
- Further committing to improve **gender equality, social services**, such as **education and health**, and **social inclusiveness**.
- Introducing new references to **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**.
- Better addressing various challenges faced such as **food security, rapid population growth and global health crises**.



The Agreement goes beyond its predecessor in

Fostering multi-stakeholder cooperation by:

- Recognising the **importance of youth and various partners** including **local authorities, civil society organisations and the private sector** in shaping a better future.
- Promoting **active engagement in partnership dialogue and cooperation processes**, but also **collaborative work towards an effective implementation** of the Agreement.



Next steps



- ✓ **Entry into provisional application from 1 January 2024**
- ✓ Focus on **implementation**
- ✓ Development of the **Rules of Procedure for the Joint Institutions**
- ✓ Later, **full entry into force** following the required approval and completion of all parties' ratification processes.

Thank you!

Maria Luisa Troncoso

Team Leader - Strategic partnership with OACPS
and inter-institutional relations – DG INTPA.A.1

Maria-Luisa.TRONCOSO@ec.europa.eu

