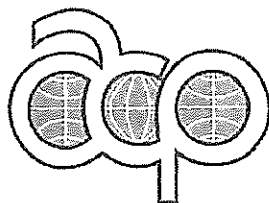


Groupe des Etats d'Afrique
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and
Pacific Group of States
(ACP Group)

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Niamey, 20 October 2019

5TH MEETING OF THE ACP MINISTERS OF CULTURE

NIAMEY DECLARATION

**"STRENGTHENING AND DIVERSIFYING PARTNERSHIPS
FOR ACP CULTURES"**

Niamey, Niger, 20 October 2019

5TH MEETING OF THE ACP MINISTERS OF CULTURE

NIAMEY DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Culture of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, meeting in Niamey, Niger, on 20 October 2019,

I. PREAMBLE

- A. **Recalling** the principles enshrined in successive Declarations of ACP Heads of State and Government, in particular, the Port Moresby Declaration of June 2016, which calls for culture to be placed at the heart of development policies and strategies;
- B. **Reaffirming** all the commitments made at our previous meetings, in particular under the Brussels Declaration "Making Culture an Impact Investment in Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," adopted in 2017;
- C. **Recognising** culture's major contribution to community cohesion and to the strengthening of our unity and integration processes, to peacekeeping and security in the world, to the sustainable development of our States, and to the potential economic development of the cultural and creative industries;
- D. **Recalling** that multiculturalism and the rich diversity of ACP cultural heritage must be preserved and developed, since they contribute to community cohesion and cement our unity and integration processes;
- E. **Recognising** the crucial role that ACP regional organisations play in supporting sustainable development, promoting the culture sector as an instrument for accelerating regional integration processes, and maintaining social cohesion, justice and peace, as well as the relevance of regional approaches in order to address the challenges of the culture sector in ACP countries;

- F. **Reaffirming** our commitment to developing the relevant legal frameworks for the benefit of the culture sector, in order to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- G. **Reaffirming** our attachment to the principles enshrined in UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and other relevant international instruments related to culture;
- H. **Reiterating** the important role that cultural partnerships play in increasing the impact that our cultural policies and strategies have on the sustainable development of our States;
- I. **Reaffirming** our commitment to supporting South-South and Triangular partnerships, particularly in the area of culture, while stressing the importance of continuing North-South cultural cooperation;
- J. **Recognising** that culture represents a major lever for taking into account the climate change issues that affect the populations of ACP countries, as well as their cultural and natural heritage;
- K. **Recognising** the major potential contribution of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) to ACP economies, particularly in terms of innovation and the creation of decent jobs, and ensuring that intellectual property rights are respected and enforced in the field of culture;
- L. **Recognising** the important role of women and youth in the culture sector, particularly with regard to the development of the cultural and creative industries in ACP States;
- M. **Considering** the exponential growth of the youth population in ACP States and the future impact of this phenomenon on the culture and employment sectors in ACP countries;
- N. **Recognising** the fundamental role of all actors and their creations at the heart of all efforts to develop cultural policies and programmes within ACP States;
- O. **Devoting** our 5th meeting to the review of priority issues for strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new partnerships for culture and development;

II. POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE ACP CULTURE SECTOR

We commit to:

1. ***Incorporate*** the culture sector into national and regional development strategies in the areas of employment, training, trade, the environment and climate change, and sustainable tourism, and into all sectoral policies related to risk mitigation and the building of resilient societies;
2. ***Intensify*** efforts aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy for protecting ACP States' cultural property from the effects of climate change, by promoting traditional knowledge, taking concrete actions with immediate impacts, and complying with the relevant international agreements, including the United Nations Convention on Climate Change;
3. ***Pursue***, in this context, efforts to develop a comprehensive strategy for the protection of ACP heritage sites, in the framework of the relevant international agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as part of the fight against climate change;
4. ***Adopt*** policies aiming to recognise, promote, and consolidate tangible and intangible ACP cultural heritage, especially in the fight against climate change, by involving ACP populations and non-State actors;
5. ***Encourage*** all ACP countries to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects, through the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit import, Export and Transport of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, which complements it;
6. ***Recommend*** that ACP States adopt a joint political declaration on the return of ACP cultural property to their countries of origin, and strengthen post-Cotonou negotiations, in this regard, within the framework of cultural cooperation;
7. ***Promote*** the introduction of economic incentives, such as fiscal and customs measures, to encourage private sector participation in the development of the cultural and creative industries;
8. ***Deepen*** regional integration processes and intensify South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation, through regional cultural festivals, for example, in order to support and facilitate the mobility of ACP works, artists, operators, and cultural goods and services;

9. **Promote** technical and vocational training policies aimed at supporting education in art, culture, cultural heritage and history, in school curricula and at ACP art schools and universities;
10. **Advocate** the compilation of statistics and the development of legislative frameworks in the cultural field, to support and promote the contribution of the cultural industries to the economic and social development of ACP States;
11. **Ensure** the continuation of ACP-EU cultural cooperation under the post-Cotonou partnership, with appropriate support mechanisms;
12. **Devote** special attention to the incorporation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) into the production of cultural goods and services in ACP States, and promote the creation of content that takes account of the cultural values of ACP States;

III. FINANCING OF CULTURE

We commit to:

13. **Increase** access to financial support and investment in the culture sector by Pacific Member States, in keeping with their national priorities, and establish a framework that facilitates remittances to Pacific Member States to address the lack of capacity to obtain funds;
14. **Facilitate** access for all actors of the ACP cultural and creative industries to alternative financing, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and encourage institutions to offer funding mechanisms to support cultural and creative industry incubators for ACP micro-entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
15. **Strengthen** the entrepreneurial skills of ACP cultural operators to boost economic growth and job creation in the sectors of cultural and creative industries;
16. **Develop** legal tax incentive instruments aimed at increasing and stimulating private sector investments and sponsorship for ACP cultural and creative industries, especially for women and young people;
17. **Promote** the creation of collaborative frameworks with the business sector to encourage national, regional, and international finance institutions to invest in the ACP cultural economic sector, particularly in the digital and animation sectors;
18. **Assist** in financing infrastructures to meet the need for creative spaces and cultural venues;

IV. STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

We commit to:

19. **Continue** and deepen our partnerships with ACP regional organisations, the European Union, and other development partners, for cultural cooperation in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
20. **Intensify** cooperation with international institutions responsible for the culture, trade, and development sectors, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the Commonwealth, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
21. **Encourage** the establishment of new partnerships for cultural cooperation, by adopting appropriate measures to support efforts to promote the creation of active networks and regional funds for cultural cooperation;
22. **Accelerate** our efforts to ratify the various UNESCO Conventions relating to culture, which are fundamental tools for the development of ACP States' cultural and creative industries;
23. **Develop and support** partnerships with local ACP entities, in particular cities, with the aim of incorporating culture into urban development policies;
24. **Promote** local cultural development initiatives, in particular by supporting the organisation of cultural activities in rural areas, which mobilise and support cultural actors and their creations;
25. **Encourage** cultural exchanges among ACP countries in order to facilitate increased understanding, economic growth and mutual respect, while promoting professional networking platforms among ACP cultural institutions and structures, including ACP Festivals at the regional and international levels;
26. **Encourage** and support copyright and intellectual property protection bodies;
27. **Work** to establish a network of university centres offering graduate and post-graduate programmes specialising in cultural and heritage management, as well as artistic curricula specialising in all artistic and creative fields;

V. TAKING ACCOUNT OF CULTURE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMMES TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP

We commit to:

28. **Engage** in dialogue with ACP cultural operators, non-State actors (NSA's), cultural institutions, financial organisations, and the private sector, in the definition of future ACP cultural strategies and programmes;
29. **Promote** innovative cultural financing initiatives in ACP States, through intra-ACP programming, and encourage the latter's effective participation in the ACP-EU CreatiFI Programme;
30. **Implement** this Declaration and continue implementing the Brussels Declaration, in the framework of future ACP-EU financing mechanisms;

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

31. **Recommend** that financing be fairly allocated to ACP regions, and that an all-ACP culture financing mechanism be maintained in the framework of the next ACP-EU financial protocol;
32. **Instruct** the ACP Secretariat to incorporate the monitoring mechanism of the Brussels Declaration into this Niamey Declaration "Strengthening and Diversifying Partnerships for ACP Cultures";
33. **Call** on ACP States, the Chair of the 5th Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture, ACP Regional Organisations, the ACP Secretariat and joint ACP-EU institutions, in collaboration with national, regional, and international development partners and financial institutions, to support, monitor, and participate in the implementation of the Niamey Declaration;

34. **Mandate** the Chair of the 5th Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture to forward the Niamey Declaration to the President of the ACP Council of Ministers, the President of the European Union Council of Ministers, the President of the European Commission, and the Co-Chairs of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to the other bilateral and multilateral partners concerned.

Done in Niamey, 20 October 2019

For the 5th Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture

The Chair



H.E. Mr. Assoumana Malam Issa
Minister of Cultural Renaissance, Arts
and Social Modernisation
of the Government of Niger