

**REVISION COTONOU PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENT 2020 – RELATIONS  
BETWEEN EU AND ACP COUNTRIES  
PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT, DECENT WORK AND  
SOCIAL PROTECTION**



# REVISION COTONOU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2020

## Plan of Presentation:

1. **Cotonou Partnership Agreement (2000-2020): what's positive - Achievements?**
2. **And what is less than positive or shortcomings, from appreciation of 20 years CPA?**
3. **EC Priorities for Revised CAP...**
4. **Priorities of the CONCORD Meeting 6-7 December 2016 ....**
5. **And our own ITUC and ETUC priorities so far...**

# Cotonou Partnership Agreement (2000-2020): what's positive?

At the formal adoption of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement in 2000 the ETUC & ITUC in a joint statement appreciated positively the CPA as a unique model of North South Cooperation, because of its **comprehensive scope covering three pillars cooperation program, trade and political dialogue and because of its objectives reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the aims of sustainable development and gradual integration of ACP countries in world economy**. The ETUC and ITUC acknowledged in particular the following as positive elements in CPA:

- Legally binding, contractual nature of the agreement, CPA as predictable multiannual development cooperation tool
- Regional approach (going beyond bilateral approach) - Regional integration as strategic priority

# Cotonou Partnership Agreement (2000-2020): what's positive?

- Social and human development as priority domains of development cooperation
- institutional framework consisting of joint institutions based on the principle of equal partnership and joint planning, monitoring and evaluation of the program, aiming at ownership
- Multilateral approach, participation of non-state actors not only at the level of development cooperation but also at the level of political dialogue and in monitoring of trade agreements aspects
- Inclusion of mechanisms, suspension of cooperation included to remedy violations of human and labour rights and rule of law as basis for political dialogue

# Cotonou Partnership Agreement (2000-2020): what's positive?

- Social and Labour rights as inseparable of all efforts for growth and economic development
- Transparency as principle of development cooperation and basis of good public management
- Differentiation between ACP countries, taking into account their level of development
- Decentralized cooperation / increased responsibility of ACP countries for joint program
- Inclusion in the agreement of crosscutting issues : gender equality, youth, environment, cultural development

*Trade Unions would like to first and foremost see that any revised CPA, after 2020, would maintain these basic elements in the Partnership Agreement. (ITUC consultation on ACP revision)*

# And what is less than positive, from appreciation of 20 years CPA?

## 1. CPA as a trade agreement – Integration of ACP countries in free world trade Conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements – End of preferential tariff system in their trade with the EU – Conclusion of EPA

The EPAs aim at **liberalizing trade in goods (including agriculture) and services**. As the agricultural, industrial and more broadly economic structures in ACP are still to be developed with own means, become diversified and sustainable, the ITUC has warned against the EPAs because they are to reduce policy space and the ability of ACP countries to apply tariffs to protect their production. The production basis of ACP is largely still in an infantile stage. One of the reasons is the escalating tariffs regimes maintained till recently. The EPAs give a phase-out timeline of about 20 years for tariffs. However, **eliminating tariffs need to be decided by ACP countries when they have developed a production basis that can stand international competition, and not with a deadline of 20 years for these countries to achieve it. EU's declared goals in the partnership and the actual goals of the EPAs are in stark contrast.**

ACP's agricultural basis is still on a subsistence level. Mechanization and productivity increases need to be locally owned. With this understanding, green field FDI in agriculture usually ends up reproducing patterns of economic dependency and takes the form of land grabbing.

Also more increase in EU-ACP flows than in regional trade...

Therefore, the EU has to stop negotiating EPAs and revisit its WTO positions in order to promote development, food security, and structural transformation in ACP even if this means that certain private interests in EU are put in a second priority. (see ITUC consultation on Revision CPA)

## And what is less than positive, from appreciation of 20 years CPA?

### 2. Political Pillar & dialogue for respect of human rights and democracy?

- Has been largely unsuccessful in triggering improvements with regard to human rights and democracy. Inconsistent use of article 96, CPA...
- Institutional architecture (Council of Ministers, Committee of Ambassadors, Joint parliamentary Assembl), insufficiently engaged for monitoring and accountability
- ACP-EU group not utilized as actor at global stage (UN...) for SDG's or Climate change
- Institutional Coherence in this group? See emergence of regional actors such as African Union.... Alternative for separate agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries?
- What to do with other partnercountries? North African Countries? Coherence with Neighborhood policies and programmes?

## And what is less than positive, from appreciation of 20 years CPA?

### 3 Participation of Non State actors and country ownership?

- Research shows that programming in the framework is still **mainly EU driven and that key choices are still made by the EU following a top down approach. No real country ownership**
- Non state actor participation more often than not reduced to 'capacity building' but no real promotion **in the three pillars of the CPA, cooperation program definition planning, monitoring and evaluation and trade agreements and political dialogue. Non-state actors not considered as strategic partners, to be involved at the every stage of making of policies and programs in the framework of CPA, including the stage of implementation and monitoring of policies, programs and agreements.**



# **EC Specific Priorities for Revision of Cotonou Agreement – 2020**

- 1. Promote peaceful and democratic societies, good governance, the rule of law and human rights for all**
- 2. Spur inclusive sustainable economic growth and decent jobs for all.**
- 3. Turn mobility and migration into opportunities and address challenges together.**
- 4. Promote human development and dignity.**
- 5. Protect the environment and fight climate change.**
- 6. Join forces in the global areas of common interests.**

# EC Specific Priorities for Revision of Cotonou Agreement – 2020

- **The new partnership should consist of an ACP – EU framework and regional agreements, all equally binding**
- **The new partnership should be based on a political project rather than donor-recipient relationship**
- **Stronger parliamentary dimension, with reinforced ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly**
- **European Development Fund to be included in EU budget**
- **Joint ACP-EU umbrella agreement defining common values and interests, with three distinct tailor made partnerships with each of the three ACP regions**
- **Inclusion of partners beyond ACP group**

# Priorities of the CONCORD Meeting 6-7/12/ 2016

- **Increase performance of EU and ACP in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDG's**
- **Reinforce unity and solidarity of the ACP and promote South South cooperation**
- **Enable ACP and EU to address issues of common concerns at regional level**
- **Strengthen role of ACP at global level**
- **Enable ACP to engage in political dialogue with EU and other international entities**
- **Replacing NSA by civil society – putting in place national, regional and interregional participatory civil society dialogue mechanisms. Should cover political dialogue, trade and policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation**

## Priorities of the CONCORD Meeting 6-7/12/ 2016

- **Start from democratic ownership and national SDG strategies**
- **Focus needed on ‘leave no one behind sustainable development rather than only economic growth**
- **More focus on policy coherence for development**
- **Migration too narrow focus – full human rights and dignity for migrants; no use of aid for more restrictive border control and readmission agreements**
- **Focus on tax justice, private sector corporate accountability, climate change fight against unfair use of natural resources food systems and agriculture and family farming**

## Priorities of the CONCORD Meeting 6-7/12/ 2016

### On trade and EPA's

- No binding commitment in new agreement on concluding EPA's or enlarge or expand existing EPA's
- Focus on support to family farmers and those working in informal economy
- No to exclusive investor protection rights

# And our own ITUC and ETUC priorities so far... See ETUC Resolution for an EU progressive trade policy 'Trade and Development'

The EU should review its trade and investment policies and agreements vis-a-vis developing countries in general and Least Developed Countries (LDC) to take into account of their **structural economic transformation and the protection of human rights, including labour rights.**

Developing countries and LDCs need to reinforce their **capacity to transform economically such that they move into higher value and more productive economic activities. To accelerate the transition from informal to formal economies, they need a transformation from selling raw materials to selling high value products made of raw materials and develop a wider industrial base and manufacturing economy, as a basis of job-led growth.**

# And our own ITUC and ETUC priorities so far... See ETUC Resolution for an EU progressive trade policy 'Trade and Development'

EU trade and investment policies and agreements can provide leverage for the structural transformation and for protection of human rights, including labour rights by:

- Promoting change of the global trade rules that limit policy space of developing nations for industrialisation and that reinforce the power of global oligopolies, and promote key policies to get the best out of participation in value chains including local content rules and technology transfer requirements.
- Applying tariffs that allow developing countries and LDCs to protect their agricultural, industrial and more broadly economic structures and allow them to decide to have a production base that can withstand international competition.

# And our own ITUC and ETUC priorities so far...

## See ETUC Resolution for an EU progressive trade policy 'Trade and Development'

- Providing technical assistance and financial support to developing countries in the form of **'Aid for Trade' programmes for the structural transformation** of their economies towards higher value and more productive economic activities, in view of their integration in international trade in a further stage.
- **Promoting regional integration** in the poorer regions of the world, especially amongst its privileged partnership of African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries (ACP), as the most viable instrument for structural transformation.
- Providing support to **ILO, as the foremost international agency for technical assistance to the national labour administrations** for the implementation of ILO labour standards.
- Mainstreaming social policies in development cooperation policies and programmes with stronger focus on decent work (SDG Goal 8), including social protection, wage policies and the fight against inequalities (SDG Goal 10)