

**EVOLVING DRAFT
OF THE
NEW OACPS-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
(AS OF 9 JUNE 2020)**

DRAFT - DO NOT COPY

STRUCTURE OF THE NEW OACPS–EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Preamble

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PROTOCOL Africa-EU

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DECLARATIONS

FINAL ACT

PREAMBLE

The [EU Party], of the one part, and the OACP States, of the other part,

1. HAVING REGARD to the Revised Georgetown Agreement establishing the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), on the one hand and the Treaty of the European Union and Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union, on the other;
2. REAFFIRMING their attachment to the rules-based global order, with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core;
3. CONSIDERING their strong links and the close political, economic and cultural ties that unite them;
4. CONFIRMING their commitment to democratic principles and human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments as well as to the principles of the rule of law and good governance;
5. REAFFIRMING their commitment to consolidating their partnership by coordinating actions in the international fora based on common interests, shared values, mutual respect [**OACPS: and sovereign equality**] and cognisant of their ability to shape global outcomes when acting jointly;
6. STRESSING the urgency to tackle global environmental challenges and the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the urgent need to build stable and sustainable low-carbon economies and societies resilient to climate change, and to move forward to achieve common environmental, climate change and renewable energy goals;
7. CONFIRMING their commitment to sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
8. CONFIRMING their willingness to collaborate in support of regional and continental integration, particularly in view of achieving the objectives set out in Africa's Agenda 2063 and integration and cooperation frameworks of the Caribbean and Pacific;
9. RECALLING their commitment to fostering human and social development, eradicating poverty, fighting discriminations and inequalities, leaving no-one behind;
10. RECALLING their strong will to promote peace and security and their international obligations on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their determination to prevent and prosecute the most serious crimes of concern to the international community;
11. RECOGNISING the importance of structural economic transformation in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development;
12. RECALLING their commitment to the principles and rules that govern international trade, in particular those agreed in the WTO;

13. RECALLING their commitment to respect labour rights, taking into account the principles laid down in conventions of the International Labour Organisation;
14. REAFFIRMING that gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are essential to achieving inclusive and sustainable development;
15. REAFFIRMING their commitment to promoting a people-centred partnership and to enhancing people-to-people contacts, including through cooperation and exchanges in the field of science, technology, innovation, education, and culture;
16. RECOGNISING the important role of science, technology, and innovation in accelerating transition towards sustainable development as well as knowledge-based societies, facilitated through the use of digital tools in pursuit of sustainable development;
17. ACKNOWLEDGING that changing demographic dynamics, combined with economic, social and environmental changes offer opportunities for, and pose challenges to, sustainable development;
18. RECOGNISING the increasing risks caused by natural disasters, economic and other exogenous shocks including pandemics;
19. RECOGNISING the importance of the youth for shaping the future and contributing to sustainable development;
20. REAFFIRMING their commitment to enhancing cooperation and dialogue on migration and mobility;
21. RECALLING the principles of policy coherence for development and aid effectiveness as well as the principles of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA);
22. STRESSING the importance of regular dialogue on issues of mutual interest, at all relevant levels;
23. HAVING REGARD to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, as first amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and then in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Objectives

1. This Agreement establishes a strengthened political partnership between the Parties to generate mutually beneficial outcomes on common and intersected interests and in accordance with their shared values.
2. This Agreement shall contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as overarching frameworks guiding the partnership.
3. The objectives of this Agreement are to:
 - a. promote, protect and fulfil human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance, paying particular attention to gender equality;
 - b. build peaceful and resilient states and societies, tackling ongoing and emerging threats to security;
 - c. mobilise investment, support trade and foster private sector development, with a view Yes, to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth and creating decent jobs for all;
 - d. foster human and social development, and in particular eradication of poverty and tackling of inequalities, ensuring that everyone enjoys a life in dignity and no-one is left behind, with special attention to women and girls;
 - e. implement a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration, so as to reap the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration and mobility and stem irregular migration while addressing its root causes in full respect of international law and EU and national competences;
 - f. combat climate change, protect the environment, and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.
4. Dialogue and tailored action shall constitute the main tools to achieve the objectives of this Agreement.
5. This Agreement shall facilitate the adoption of common positions by the Parties on the world stage, reinforcing partnerships to promote multilateralism and the rules-based international order, with a view to driving global action forward.

Article 2 Principles

1. The Parties shall pursue the objectives of this Agreement in a spirit of **[OACPS: sovereign equality]**, shared responsibility, solidarity, reciprocity, mutual respect and accountability.

2. The Parties agree to implement each Regional Protocol within the broad principles agreed in the General Part whilst taking account of the specificities of the Regions concerned.
3. The Parties shall make decisions and undertake actions at the appropriate level, in line with the principle of subsidiarity and complementarity.
4. The Parties shall systematically promote a gender perspective and ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all policies.
5. The Parties shall take an integrated approach that incorporates political, economic, social, environmental and cultural elements.
6. The Parties shall intensify efforts to further regional integration and cooperation to best manage security concerns, reap the economic gains of globalisation, and address transnational challenges and opportunities as appropriate.
7. The Parties shall promote a multi-stakeholder approach, enabling the active engagement of a wide variety of actors in dialogue and cooperation processes, including parliaments, local authorities, civil society and the private sector.
8. **[OACPS: The Parties agree to accord special treatment to the least developed countries. They shall take account of the vulnerability of landlocked and island countries and Low Lying Coastal State.]**
9. Cooperation within formal and ad-hoc regional formats may be pursued in order to meet the objectives of the Partnership more effectively and efficiently. The Parties may also agree on provisions and flexible procedures that allow interested Parties to deepen dialogue and cooperation on specific thematic and cross-regional issues.

Article 3 Partnership Dialogue

1. The Parties agree to engage in regular balanced, comprehensive and substantive dialogue on all areas of this Agreement leading to commitments and, where appropriate, actions on both sides, for the effective implementation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties agree that the objective of partnership dialogue shall be to exchange information, foster mutual understanding, facilitate the establishment of agreed priorities and shared agendas at the national, regional and international levels. They shall cooperate and coordinate on issues of common interest and new challenges in international settings.
3. The Parties agree that dialogue shall be conducted in a flexible and tailor-made manner, shall take place at regular intervals in the appropriate format and at the appropriate level in line with the principle of subsidiarity, and shall take full advantage of all possible channels, including in regional and international settings. They agree to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness and adapt its scope as appropriate.

4. The Parties agree that national parliaments, and representatives of civil society organisations and the private sector, where appropriate, shall be duly informed, consulted and enabled to feed into this dialogue. Regional and continental organisations shall be associated with the dialogue as appropriate.

Article 4 Policy coherence

1. The Parties agree to work towards coherent policies at the national, regional and international levels with a view to attaining the objectives of this agreement through a targeted, strategic and a partnership-oriented approach.
2. The Parties shall individually and collectively foster synergies between policies with a view to avoiding or minimising negative impacts that their policies may have on the other Parties. They shall undertake to inform and, where appropriate, consult with the other Parties on initiatives and measures that may significantly affect them.
3. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to policy coherence for development as a crucial element to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Article 5 Actors

1. The Parties acknowledge that governments play a central role in defining and implementing priorities and strategies for their countries. They recognise the crucial role of parliaments in shaping and adopting legislation, agreeing budgets and holding governments to account. They acknowledge the role and contribution of local authorities in enhancing democratic accountability and complementing governmental action.
2. The Parties recognise the important role of regional, sub-regional and continental organisations in achieving the objectives of this Agreement, in particular those of the three regional protocols.
3. The Parties acknowledge the important role and contribution of **[[OACPS: non-state actors] [EU: stakeholders], [OACPS: in all its forms and national characteristics] namely] civil society [OACPS: in all its forms according to national characteristics], [OACPS: including economic and social partners, including trade union organisations,]** and the private sector, and agree to promote and strengthen their effective participation with a view to fostering more inclusive and multi-stakeholder policy processes. For these purposes, the Parties shall ensure that all these stakeholders, where appropriate, are informed and consulted on strategies and sectoral policies, provide inputs into the broad process of dialogue, receive capacity building support in critical areas, and participate in the implementation of cooperation programmes in the areas that concern them based on the extent to which they address the needs of the population, their specific competencies **[OACPS: and appropriate governance structure]**.

Article 6 Structure

1. This Agreement consists of the General Part (Parts I, II, III, IV, V, VI and Annexes) and three Regional Protocols.
2. The provisions of the General Part and its Annexes shall be legally binding on all the Parties to this Agreement.
3. The provisions of the Regional Protocols shall be legally binding on the ["EU Party"] and on the Parties that are in Africa, in the Caribbean or in the Pacific, respectively. Nothing in the Regional Protocols and their interpretation and implementation can affect or deviate from the provisions under the General Part of the Agreement and the decisions of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

Article 7 Cross-cutting themes

1. The Parties agree that systematic account shall be taken of the following cross-cutting themes to inform action into all areas of cooperation: human rights, democracy, gender equality, peace and security, environmental protection, the fight against climate change, culture and youth.
2. The Parties shall also cooperate to support capacity building to effectively address challenges and achieve the objectives set out in this Agreement. They shall aim to foster institutional strengthening, promote exchange of best practices, and facilitate knowledge transfer and sharing.
3. The Parties shall strengthen resilience at the level of countries, communities and individuals, particularly of vulnerable populations, in the face of environmental and climate change related challenges, economic shocks, conflicts and political crises and epidemics and pandemics.

[Article 8 LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICS and HIMICS]

1. [The Parties acknowledge the geographical, geopolitical, and economic character of individual, as well as groups of ACP States. In this regard, the Agreement will have specific recognition for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Middle-Income Countries (MICS) and Highly Indebted Middle-Income Countries (HIMICS).]
2. [The Parties recognise that Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change, because of multiple existing stresses, from low adaptive capacity to intrinsic exposure to climate change due to geographical conditions.]

PART II: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

TITLE I

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE IN PEOPLE-CENTRED AND RIGHTS BASED SOCIETIES

Chapeau

1. The Parties reaffirm their determination to protect, promote and fulfil human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic principles, to strengthen the rule of law and good governance in compliance with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law, in particular international human rights law and, where relevant international humanitarian law.
2. The Parties shall promote people-centred and rights-based policies, encompassing all human rights and ensuring equal access to opportunities for all members of society, directed towards sustainable development centred on the human being.
3. The Parties recognise that respect for democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and good governance are integral parts of sustainable development.

Article 1

Human rights, democracy and rule of law

1. The Parties, recognising that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, agree to promote, protect and fulfil all human rights, be they civil, political, economic, social and cultural. They shall protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of thought, religion and belief.
2. The Parties commit to achieving the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination based on any ground including sex, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age, **[EU: sexual orientation and gender identity]**. They commit to fight all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. They commit to the recognition and advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples.
3. The Parties reaffirm that the universally recognised democratic principles underpinning the organisation of the state, ensure the legitimacy of its authority, the legality of its actions reflected in its constitutional, legislative and regulatory system, and the existence of participatory mechanisms. They shall preserve and strengthen the application of these principles by ensuring inclusive, transparent and credible elections as well as by allowing and supporting participatory decision-making processes, **[OACPS: free from external interference in due respect for sovereignty.]** OR **[EU: in due respect for sovereignty]**.

4. The Parties shall actively support the consolidation of the rule of law at national, and international including regional level, acknowledging its crucial importance for the protection of human rights and for the effective functioning of democratic institutions. This includes ensuring the existence of an independent, impartial and well-functioning judicial system, equality before the law, the right to a fair trial and due process and access to effective mechanisms of legal redress.
5. The Parties recognize the right to development based on the indivisibility, interdependence, universality, and inalienability of all human rights. By virtue of which every human being and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. The Parties shall support measures for the enhancement of the right to development and shall ensure, *inter alia*, equality of opportunity for all, regarding access and benefit from basic resources and essential services such as, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income.
6. The Parties agree that respect for human rights; democratic principles and the rule of law shall underpin the domestic and international policies of the Parties and constitute an essential element of this Agreement.

In pursuit of the right to development, the Parties shall support activities that improve the value and benefit of their natural resources, *inter alia*, the value addition and beneficiation of primary commodities as well as their integration into national, regional and global value chains, with a view to fostering structural economic transformation and decent work.

Article 2

Gender equality

1. The Parties reaffirm their strong commitment to achieve gender equality, the full enjoyment of all human rights by all and everyone's empowerment as a driver for sustainable development. They shall embody the principle of gender equality in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation.
2. The Parties acknowledge that gender inequality, deprives women of their basic human rights and opportunities. They shall adopt and strengthen enforceable legislation, legal frameworks and sound policies, programmes and mechanisms to ensure girls' and women's equal access to, equal opportunities in, equal control over and full and equal participation in all spheres of life, on an equal footing with boys and men.
3. The Parties shall focus, in particular, on improving access of women, and where appropriate girls, to all resources they need throughout life for the realisation of their full potential and the full exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a special emphasis on vulnerable women, such as in respect of quality education, health, employment opportunities, access to and control over economic resources, political decision-making, governance structures and private undertakings. They shall promote women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

4. They shall also undertake to prevent, combat and prosecute all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination in the public and private spheres including trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. The Parties shall take all necessary measures to tackle deeply rooted gender bias and eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting.

Article 3 Inclusive and pluralistic societies

1. The Parties undertake to ensure equal opportunities for all members of society in all spheres of life. They shall prevent, prohibit and eradicate discriminatory practices and shall adopt effective measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.
2. The Parties shall protect and promote freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, freedom of assembly, media independence and pluralism as pillars of democracy, noting that these are not only human rights but prerequisites for democracy, development and dialogue.
3. The Parties shall foster inclusive and pluralistic societies, including multi-party democracy. They recognise and shall promote the key role of effective, transparent and accountable national and local assemblies and political parties. They shall also promote the active and genuine participation of all stakeholders and citizens, including women and the youth, in responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative political processes and decision-making at all levels.
4. [The Parties shall **[OACPS: in compliance with applicable national and local]** preserve and broaden an enabling space for an active, organised, transparent **[OACPS: and vigilant] civil society organisations**], acknowledging its role as **[EU: promoter]** of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice, as defenders of rights holders and of the rule of law, and **[EU:its oversight role]**, thus strengthening domestic transparency and accountability].
5. The Parties, acknowledging that the internet offers a platform to share knowledge and ideas, shall endeavour to harness the potential of digital solutions to promote equal public access to information at all levels, participatory decision-making, and enhance digital competence; while addressing the risks of abuse and promoting open attitudes towards and respect for diversity.

Article 4 Good governance

1. The Parties reaffirm that good governance rests on transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governments, and appropriate oversight mechanisms. The Parties agree that good governance is critical to the respect of all human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. They commit to universal access without any discrimination to public services.
2. The Parties reiterate their commitment to the transparent and accountable management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for the purposes of equitable benefit sharing and sustainable development.

3. The Parties commit to the creation of an enabling environment for transparency and accountability to thrive in public administration, including enhancing integrity and independence of governance institutions. The Parties shall develop and implement sound public finance management systems, compatible with the fundamental principles of effectiveness, transparency and accountability, with a view to protect public finances and improve the delivery of public services by eliminating administrative bottlenecks and tackling regulatory deficiencies.
4. The Parties shall ensure transparency and accountability over public funding and in the delivery of public services, improve revenue collection, tackle tax evasion and avoidance, money laundering and illicit financial flows.
5. The Parties shall combat corruption at all levels and in all its forms, developing and implementing or maintaining effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability. They shall adopt legislative and other measures to prevent and prosecute bribery and the embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of resources by public officials for their direct and indirect benefit and to recover and return assets obtained through corruption.
6. [The Parties recognise and commit themselves to implement the principles of good governance in the tax area, **[EU: including] [OACPS: through compliance with]** the global standards on transparency and exchange of information, fair taxation, and the minimum standards against Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS). The Parties will promote good governance in tax matters, improve international cooperation in the tax area and facilitate the collection of tax revenues.]

[OACPS: The Parties agree to engage in dialogue so as to avoid actions that may be deemed unilateral, coercive, and harmful to any party of this agreement.]
7. The Parties agree that good governance shall underpin the domestic and international policies of the Parties and constitute a fundamental element of this Agreement. They also agree that serious cases of corruption, including acts of bribery leading to such corruption, constitute a violation of that element.

Article 5

Public administration

1. The Parties recognise the importance of well-resourced, efficient and effective civil service systems and processes with strong human resource bases and commit to foster collaboration in this area. They also agree to cooperate with a view to modernising their public administrations and developing an accountable, efficient, transparent and professional civil service. In this regard, efforts shall aim at, inter alia improving organisational efficiency, increasing institutions' effectiveness in service delivery, accelerating the deployment of e-governance and digital services and the digitalisation of public registries, and reinforcing the processes of decentralisation in accordance with their national economic and social-development strategies.

Article 6 Statistics

1. The Parties acknowledge that statistics are crucial for the achievement of sustainable development. The Parties shall develop and strengthen their statistical systems, including gathering, processing, quality control and dissemination of statistics, with a view to contributing to the long-term objective of quality, internationally comparable, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data as these are key to inform decision-making in support of national social and economic development priorities, as well as to support and monitor progress.
2. The Parties shall reiterate their commitment to increase statistical literacy, promote the use of data for decision making by engaging with users in and out of government, and the use of] new technologies and data sources. They shall collaborate in the use of technology for data collection and promote the dissemination of comparable statistics at national and regional levels.
3. The Parties shall ensure the professional independence of the statistical office.

Article 7 Personal data

1. The Parties recognise their common interest in protecting every individual's right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data, as well as the importance of maintaining strong data protection regimes and ensuring their effective enforcement. Parties shall inter alia ensure that personal data undergoing processing shall be processed fairly and in a transparent manner and collected for explicit, specified and legitimate purposes and not processed in a way incompatible with those purposes.
2. The Parties shall ensure a high level of protection of every individual's personal data in accordance with existing multilateral standards and other international legal instruments and practices. To this end they shall establish appropriate legal and regulatory regimes and policies, as well as appropriate administrative capacity to implement them, including independent supervisory authorities.

TITLE II PEACE AND SECURITY

Chapeau

1. [The Parties acknowledge that peace, stability and security, including human security and resilience, are critical for sustainable development and prosperity. There cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and without inclusive development there cannot be sustainable peace and security.]
2. The Parties shall pursue an integrated approach to conflict and crises with due consideration to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, mediation, and human security, and shall address situations of fragility within the framework of this Partnership.
3. The Parties shall address new or expanding security threats, including terrorism and its financing, violent extremism, organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, piracy and trafficking in persons, drugs, arms and other illicit goods, and cybercrime and cybersecurity.]

Article 1 Conflicts and crises

1. The Parties shall apply an integrated approach to conflict and crises, including prevention, mediation, resolution and reconciliation efforts as well as crisis management, peacekeeping and peace support. They shall support transitional justice through context-specific measures promoting truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. They shall contribute to institution and state building and human security, paying particular attention to situations of fragility.
2. The Parties recognize the need to address the root causes of instability holistically, including climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, illicit exploitation of mining, food and water insecurity, lack of good governance, human rights violations, growing inequalities and inequitable access to resources, social exclusion and youth unemployment. The Parties recognize the need to support measures that contribute to building resilience. **[OACPS: They shall cooperate to prevent external interference that could cause or exacerbate conflict.]** Special attention shall be paid to the effective governance of natural resources, notably in relation to raw materials, so as to sustainably benefit the society as a whole and ensure that illegal exploitation and trade do not contribute to causing and sustaining conflict.
3. The Parties recognize the importance of mutually respectful dialogue and consultation as a means of conflict resolution, involving local authorities and communities as well as civil society organisations. The Parties shall act in close cooperation with continental and regional organisations.

4. The Parties shall take all suitable action in a coordinated way to prevent an intensification of violence, to limit its territorial spread, and to facilitate a peaceful settlement of disputes. Particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that financial resources are used in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Agreement, and to preventing a diversion of funds for belligerent purposes. The Parties shall also take measures to prevent mercenary activities, address the problem of child soldiers and endeavour to set responsible limits to military expenditure.
5. The Parties shall take all suitable action in post conflict situations to stabilize the situation during the transition in order to facilitate the return to a nonviolent, stable and democratic situation. This may include supporting the disarmament and demobilisation as well as the return and sustainable reintegration of former combatants into the society. The Parties shall ensure the creation of the necessary links between emergency measures, rehabilitation and longer term development goals.
6. **[OACPS: The Parties reaffirm their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Parties reiterate that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Parties reaffirm their respect for all the principles of international law included in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, , including the principle that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.]**
7. The Parties shall promote the effective participation of women and young people in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, mediation, resolution and humanitarian response, as well as in crisis management, peacekeeping and peace support. The Parties consider it important to address the situation of women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence in conflicts, and the distinct problem of crime and violence against vulnerable people and people living with disabilities.

Article 2

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

1. The Parties acknowledge that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery, both to state and non-state actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international stability and security. The Parties therefore agree to cooperate in and contribute to countering the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery, in full compliance with and national implementation of their existing obligations under international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements as well as other relevant international obligations. The Parties agree that this provision constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.
2. The Parties furthermore agree to cooperate in countering the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, firstly through taking steps to sign, ratify or accede to, as appropriate, and fully implement and comply with all relevant international instruments; secondly through establishing and maintaining an effective system of national export controls, controlling the export as well as the transit of WMD-related goods, including a

WMD end-use control on dual-use technologies and containing effective sanctions for breaches of export controls; and thirdly through cooperating in multilateral fora with a view of achieving reduction and ultimate elimination and export control regimes.

3. The Parties agree to establish regular political dialogue that will complement and consolidate their cooperation in this area.
4. The Parties consider that chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks may have a highly disruptive effect on societies. They also recognise that these risks may stem from criminal activities, including illicit proliferation, trafficking, terrorism, accidents or natural hazards, such as pandemics. Consequently, they undertake to cooperate in order to reinforce institutional capacity to mitigate CBRN risks.

Article 3

Serious crimes of concern to the international community

1. **[The Parties agree to act together to prevent genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes by making use of appropriate bilateral and multilateral frameworks, in line with the principle of responsibility to protect.**
2. **The Parties reaffirm that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and that their fair and effective investigation and prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at domestic national, regional and international level, as appropriate.**
3. **The Parties consider that the establishment and effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitutes an important development for international peace and justice. [EU: The Parties shall promote the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute and safeguard its integrity by protecting its core principles, including by abstaining from entering into non-surrender agreements with third States and encouraging others to also abstain from doing so. The Parties, taking into account their legal and constitutional frameworks, agree to take steps towards ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute and related instruments, as appropriate.]**
4. **[EU: The Parties reiterate their commitment to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court and other national, regional and international criminal justice mechanisms. [OACPS: The Parties reiterate their commitment to fully cooperate with national, regional and international criminal justice mechanisms, which may include the International Criminal Court] in accordance with the Parties' laws and applicable international obligations and consistent with the principle of complementarity. [OACPS: Efforts shall be made to strengthen mechanisms and institutions at all levels in the fight against the crime of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.]]**

Article 4
Terrorism and Violent Extremism

1. The Parties reiterate their firm condemnation of all acts of terrorism and violent extremism and radicalisation and undertake to combat these acts through international cooperation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, relevant conventions and instruments. The Parties recognise that the fight against terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations is a shared priority, and agree to work together at all levels to prevent and combat terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation. They recognise the importance to tackle all factors contributing to violent extremism, including religious intolerance, hate speech, xenophobia, racism as well as other forms of intolerance. The Parties commit to oppose violent extremism and to foster religious tolerance and inter-religious dialogue.
2. The Parties agree that it is essential that the fight against terrorism be conducted with full respect for the rule of law and in full conformity with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, the principles of the UN Charter, relevant UNSC resolutions and statements and relevant international counter-terrorism related instruments.
3. The Parties commit to and shall cooperate on the protection of critical infrastructures, terrorism related challenges affecting borders as well as strengthening civil aviation security.

Article 5
Organised crime

1. The Parties acknowledge the negative political, economic, cultural and social implications related to organised criminal activities, and shall strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat such activities more effectively. They shall work together under an integrated approach to address root causes and provide alternatives to crime. In this regard, they shall address the links between organised crime and human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the illicit trafficking of weapons, hazardous materials, narcotics, precursors, wildlife, timber, cultural goods, and other illegal economic and financial activities.
2. The parties shall enhance efforts towards the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime. In this regard they shall strengthen the legal and administrative frameworks to fight money laundering and illicit financial flows, including fiscal fraud and public-procurement fraud, active and passive corruption in both the private and public sector, which can have a debilitating effect on domestic resource mobilisation.
3. The Parties shall promote citizen security with a particular focus on the strengthening of institutions and the rule of law, protection of human rights and the promotion of justice and security sector reforms. They shall promote multi-disciplinary programmes aimed at addressing vulnerable groups and support victims of violence, including gun violence, as well as mediation and other community based prevention and reconciliation solutions.

Article 6
Maritime Security

1. The Parties agree to the strengthening of maritime security, in particular, addressing different forms of crime committed at sea and illegal trafficking, countering piracy and armed robbery at sea, protecting critical maritime infrastructures, and promoting freedom of navigation, and the rule of law at sea, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
2. To this end, the Parties agree to strengthen efforts in maritime law enforcement to tackle maritime threats in countries most affected by these crimes, to reinforce investigation and prosecution processes as a way of countering crimes committed at sea and to promote the Implementation of Piracy Prosecution Models within the national jurisdiction as a regional criminal justice response and deterrent mechanism against crimes committed at sea such as piracy, armed robbery, marine and water pollution, smuggling of migrants, drugs and arms trafficking and shipping of nuclear waste. The parties agree to promote regional initiatives in the areas) of maritime security, the fight against piracy and protection against marine pollution.

Article 7
Illicit drugs

1. The Parties shall endeavour to ensure a comprehensive, balanced, integrated and evidenced-based approach towards preventing and addressing illicit trade in drugs and new psychoactive substances, as well as promoting drug demand reduction. To this end they shall address risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.
2. The Parties agree that drug policies and actions, including through the involvement of civil society, the scientific community and academia, shall be aimed at reinforcing structures for preventing and addressing effectively illicit drugs, reducing measurably the supply of, trafficking in, and demand for illicit drugs.
3. The Parties shall aim at reducing the adverse consequences of drug use for individuals and society as a whole, as well as effectively reduce the diversion of and illicit trafficking in scheduled and non-scheduled (including 'designer') precursors.
4. The Parties shall cooperate closely with each other and with the relevant international organisations with a view to maintaining coordinated efforts and actions against the illicit drug trade.

Article 8
Small arms and light weapons and other conventional weapons

1. The Parties acknowledge that proliferation of small arms and light weapons pose a grave threat to international peace and security.

2. The Parties agree to reinforce the fight against the illicit trade, excessive accumulation, and uncontrolled spread of small arms, light weapons and other conventional weapons and their ammunitions, including as a consequence of inadequately secured and improperly managed stocks and stockpiles in line with the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The Parties agree to promote intelligence-led tracking of trafficking networks to counter more effectively the risk that the large-scale outflow of state stocks continue to pose to regional stability, and shall work towards enhancing national capacities of competent law enforcement units or focal points to collect, seize, trace and analyse illicit firearms and related criminal justice data, to enhance understanding and monitor illicit trafficking flows, and to support information exchange and international cooperation.
3. The Parties recognise the importance of control on the international trade, including import and export, of conventional arms in line with existing international standards, including the Arms Trade Treaty and relevant UN resolutions. They shall endeavour to apply such controls in a responsible manner, as a contribution to international and regional peace, security and stability and to the reduction of human suffering, as well as preventing the diversion of conventional arms to unauthorised actors. The Parties also recognise the importance of domestic regulation and control of the legal acquisition and possession of firearms with a view to reducing armed violence.
4. The Parties shall cooperate with a view to clearing mines and explosive remnants of war, including improvised explosive devices.

Article 9 **Cyber security and cyber crime**

1. The Parties recognise the importance of an open, secure and stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment based on the norms, rules and principles for responsible State behaviour and the application of existing international law. To this end the Parties commit to strengthen cooperation to promote cyber security; to prevent and combat high technology cyber and electronic crimes, as well as social media abuse and to improve network security, through exchange of best practices initiatives that increase cyber resilience, including on the protection of critical infrastructure.
2. The Parties acknowledge the need to, prevent and tackle cybercrime, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, by cooperating and exchanging best practices to fight cybercrime offences in the context of existing international conventions, **[EU: including the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime which fosters international cooperation in tackling cybercrime.]**

Article 10 **Law enforcement cooperation**

1. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation among regional and international law-enforcement authorities, agencies and services with a view to disrupting and dismantling transnational crime and terrorist threats common to the Parties. Such cooperation shall contribute to crime prevention and shall comprise, inter alia, exchanges of views on legislative frameworks as well as administrative and technical assistance aimed at strengthening the institutional and operational capabilities of law-enforcement authorities and the exchange of information and measures related to investigations.

2. The Parties recognise the importance of secure borders and shall strive to manage existing and future challenges affecting their borders pursuing an integrated border management approach. They shall promote legitimate cross-sectoral responses aiming at preventing, detecting and where appropriate, repressing cross-border crime and other risks.

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TITLE III HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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1. The Parties reaffirm their determination to work together towards sustainable development and poverty eradication in all its forms, tackle inequalities and promote social cohesion. They also agree to cooperate to ensure that everyone has the necessary means to enjoy a life in dignity **under an adequate standard of living, with appropriate social protection systems and social services**. Special attention shall be paid to women and girls, youth, children, and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, in line with the principles of leaving no one behind, and of reaching the furthest behind first. They also agree to work together to address the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid population growth.

Chapter 1 Access to social services

Article 1 Education

1. The Parties shall support inclusive lifelong learning and equitable quality education at all levels. They shall work to ensure that all girls and boys complete free equitable and quality primary and secondary education and have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education with due regard to gender gap. They shall work to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. Special attention shall be given to investing in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and to promoting digital education and arts education, for all.
2. The Parties shall intensify efforts to ensure that everyone has the knowledge, skills, and capabilities to ensure improved quality of life, to be fully engaged in society, contribute to the social and economic well-being of their communities, and participate actively and equitably in democratic and cultural life.
3. The Parties shall promote safe schools and well-functioning education systems with adequate resources for planning, managing, and ensuring the effectiveness of education and training including through online and other non-conventional means, and they shall cooperate to establish and strengthen quality assurance systems, and the mutual recognition of qualifications **and facilitate the mobility of students, staff, and academics between the OACPS and EU and within the OACPS**.

Article 2 Health

1. The Parties recognise that health is central to people's lives and a key indicator of sustainable development. They reaffirm their commitment to protecting and promoting the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all.

2. The Parties shall strengthen national health systems, with sustainable health financing mechanisms and resources, operational infrastructures, skilled health workforce, including its recruitment and retention, and appropriate technologies, such as digital tools in support of mobile health development.
3. The Parties shall promote universal health coverage, equitable and universal access to comprehensive and quality health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent and address communicable diseases, and other major trans-boundary health threats, such as anti-microbial resistance, and to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases through better prevention and control. **They shall cooperate to address global public health emergencies through inter alia, the use of early warning systems for swift exchange of information, timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief, as well as accelerated delivery of essential and affordable medicines, vaccines and health equipment. They agree to strengthen international collaboration, promote the development of coherent multi-sectoral plans to enhance the capacity of health systems and mitigate the social and economic impacts caused by global health emergencies.**
5. The Parties shall support universal access to sexual and reproductive health commodities and healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

Article 3

Food Security and Improved Nutrition

1. The Parties recognise that food and nutrition insecurity constitutes major global challenges in the fight against poverty and growing inequality and therefore they agree to address their structural causes, including conflicts, crises, natural resource degradation and climate change.
2. The Parties shall promote resilient livelihoods, secure access to land, water and other resources, and promote inclusive and sustainable growth in agricultural production and productivity and efficient value chains.
3. The Parties shall promote actions on adaptation to climate change and variability throughout the food production value chains.
4. The Parties shall aim at providing access for all to affordable, safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, increasing the capacity for diversified food production, developing food security and nutrition policies, as well as social protection mechanisms for food security and improved nutrition that enhance resilience of the most vulnerable, particularly in countries facing recurrent crises.
5. The Parties shall strengthen coordinated, accelerated and cross-sectoral efforts to end hunger, address all forms of malnutrition and ensure that famine be avoided in all circumstances.

Article 4
Water, Sanitation services and Housing

1. The Parties shall promote universal access to adequate and safe drinking water, including through sustainable and integrated water resources and systems management, as well as more efficient use of water and water recycling.
2. The Parties shall aim at ensuring adequate and equitable access to sanitation services, including waste management and hygiene promotion for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
3. The Parties acknowledge that adequate, safe and affordable housing has a transformative impact on vulnerable and marginalised communities and significant impacts on the health of people and the socio-economic development of their communities. The Parties shall work towards ensuring access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all through the development of policies, strategies, planning and building codes, and to upgrading slums.
4. The Parties shall promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and well-established energy systems that support, inter alia water, sanitation and housing sectors.

Chapter 2
Inequality and Social Cohesion

Article 1
Social cohesion and protection

1. The Parties shall promote the enhancement of social cohesion by progressively achieving greater equality and social inclusiveness and ensuring that human and social development advances in parallel with economic development, leaving no one behind. Special attention shall be paid to those who are in disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised situations, including the elderly and the orphans, in line with the principles of solidarity and non-discrimination. In particular, they shall promote: (a) economic policies oriented to a more inclusive society allowing for a better distribution of income and value created; b) equitable and sound fiscal and wage policies, allowing for a better redistribution of wealth, ensuring adequate levels of social expenditure and reducing the informal economy; (c) effective social policies and equitable access to social services, social assistance and security, and justice; d) employment policies directed to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including young people and persons with disabilities, and to achieve equal pay for equal work.
2. The Parties shall promote the development and implementation policies and of systems of social protection and security in order to eradicate poverty and enhance social cohesion. They acknowledge the transformative role in societies of social protection policies and systems, fostering equity, promoting social inclusion and dialogue with social partners, and strengthening inclusive and equitable economic growth, and they commit to the building of progressively universal nationally-owned social protection systems, including the adoption of minimum social protection floors.

3. The Parties shall promote the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure their full inclusion in society and their equal participation in the labour market, taking into account their specific needs. They shall take concrete steps to sign, ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Article 2 Decent work

1. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities. To this effect, they shall promote the Decent Work Agenda, as set out in the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.
2. The Parties reaffirm their obligations as members of the ILO including making sustained and continuous efforts to ratify the relevant conventions, and their commitments under the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up. They reaffirm their commitment to the internationally recognised core labour standards, as defined by the relevant ILO Conventions and protocols on the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labour and ending of modern slavery and human trafficking, the elimination of child labour with priority given to the worst forms, minimum age at work, equal remuneration, and non-discrimination in respect to employment. They shall make sustained and continuous efforts to ratify these Conventions and protocols, if they have not yet done so.
3. The Parties shall promote safe and secure working environments for all workers. They shall adopt and implement measures and policies regarding occupational safety and health, both in the formal and informal economy, and work towards establishing and maintaining an effective labour inspection system, in line with international labour standards as defined by ILO.

Chapter 3 Population and Development

Article 1 Demography

1. The Parties acknowledge that demographic growth and demographic shifts can have significant impact on development gains and economic progress. They shall commit to working together towards an integrated approach that minimises the challenges and maximises the benefits of a demographic dividend. To this end, they shall aim to establish, support, maintain and sustain structural reforms and transformations in economic and social systems to create decent education, employment and livelihood opportunities for an emerging young population.
2. The Parties shall support inclusive policy dialogue processes and incorporate demographic trends and projections into all policies in order to: (i) empower and promote the full and active participation of children and young people in society; and (ii) empower and safeguard the needs of the elderly and to enable their active engagement.

3. The Parties shall enhance urbanisation that is inclusive and sustainable, through effective urban governance and planning, with a view to minimising any adverse impact on the environment and addressing any other negative social and economic consequences caused by rapid population growth in urban areas. They shall work to address effectively the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid urbanisation, including national urban policies, participatory integrated urban planning, municipal service delivery including waste management, financing of urban development and infrastructures, to create resilient and liveable cities and towns.

Article 2 Youth

1. The Parties agree to promote the active participation of young people in society, including in the development, implementation, and follow-up of policies affecting them. This shall include support in acquiring knowledge, skills, and capabilities to engage fully in society, including labour market-relevant skills, through education, vocational and technical training, and access to digital technologies. It shall further include the creation of decent employment opportunities, including through support to youth entrepreneurship, promotion of youth empowerment and responsible citizenship, by opening spaces for the youth active participation in political and cultural life, in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, also with a view to countering radicalisation and violent extremism.
2. The Parties further agree that providing a safe and nurturing environment for children is a vital element in fostering a healthy young population, able to reach its full potential, including physical, psychological, social and economic dimensions. They shall work to ensure that girls' and boys' rights and needs are recognised and realised, from birth and early childhood to adolescence and the transition into adulthood. They shall work to improve the protection of children, and their participation in decisions that concern them.

Article 3 Gender, equality and women and girls' empowerment

1. The Parties acknowledge that gender equality and women's economic empowerment are essential to achieve equitable sustainable development and inclusive growth.
2. The Parties shall undertake reforms, including through the creation and consolidation of legal frameworks, to give women equal rights to economic and financial resources, as well as access to, ownership and control over land and natural resources, inheritance, and other forms of property. They shall undertake actions to increase the full and effective participation of women in political life.
3. The Parties, in addition to equal access to employment and decent work conditions, shall promote the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibilities within the household and the family at large.
4. The Parties shall commit to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and shall commit to sexual and reproductive health and rights, in this context. **[EU: Having that in mind,**

the Parties shall [OACPS: in accordance with national context,] commit to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their ~~sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.~~ They shall further stress the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including [OACPS: age-appropriate] comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.]

5. The Parties acknowledge that menstrual health and management is important for women and girls' health, as well as for their dignity, mobility, and well-being, and they therefore agree to promote adequate and appropriate supporting measures.

Chapter 4 Culture

Article 1 Culture and sustainable development

1. The Parties reaffirm that culture is a key element of sustainable development and an integral component of its social, economic and environmental dimensions. They shall thus commit to the integration of a cultural perspective in their development policies and strategies, by taking into consideration cultural specificities, and local and indigenous knowledge systems.
2. The Parties shall strengthen the contribution of cultural actors to sustainable development through the participation in enhanced dialogue, professional networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Article 2 Cultural diversity and mutual understanding

1. The Parties recognize that all human beings have the right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community, consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and commit to protect and conserve cultural rights and freedom of artistic expression.
2. The Parties agree to promote a vision of human and social development that incorporates dialogue among cultures and the recognition of cultural diversity as common heritage of humanity. They commit to strengthening mutual understanding and knowledge of their respective cultures, with due respect for their diversity, universal values and human rights, by fostering the cultural dimension in education, as well as cultural exchanges and joint initiatives geared towards encouraging intercultural dialogue.

3. The Parties recognize the role that culture plays in the preservation of peace and national cohesion. They affirm that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are key towards establishing and maintaining peace and security and in reconciliation processes, as well as in restoring collective memory and the social linkages among communities. They will strengthen the role of culture in building resilience as well as achieving sustainable post-crisis recovery and reconstruction, particularly in urban development.

Article 3

Cultural heritage and creative sectors

1. The Parties shall promote the recognition of heritage as a unifying factor, which may reflect diverse identities and legacies, while nurturing the creation of shared values. They shall work to conserve, protect, safeguard, and develop both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, **in accordance with international standards and conventions** as a vehicle for social cohesion, creativity and innovation.
2. The Parties agree that the cultural and creative sectors are central to inclusive economic growth, diversification and the creation of job opportunities. To this end, they shall support cultural entrepreneurship and the long-term development of cultural and creative sectors.
3. **[OACPS: The Parties acknowledge the inalienability of heritage in the identity and cultural life of communities. They also resolve to address the return, restitution and conservation of cultural property through continuous dialogue, capacity building and collaboration among cultural heritage professionals, source communities, memory institutions and governments concerned.]**

TITLE IV
INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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1. The Parties recognise the importance of strengthening their economic relations in their mutual interest and for mutual benefit, with a view to achieving structural economic transformation through inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development in line with the SDGs, taking into account their respective levels of development. They shall pursue integrated strategies that incorporate the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. They shall take appropriate measures to generate decent jobs for all and support the transition to low-emission, resource-efficient economies and support the socio-economic empowerment of marginalised groups, women and youth.
2. The Parties shall support private sector development, attract and retain domestic and foreign investment, including investments from the diaspora. They shall bolster trade and cooperate on science, technology, innovation and research, aimed at establishing strong, competitive and diversified economies, deepening regional integration, and fostering the integration of ACP economies into regional and global value chains. They shall work towards improved macroeconomic and financial stability to generate increased investment and strengthen sustainable economic growth. They agree to enhance productive and regulatory capacities, strengthen entrepreneurship, and promote manufacturing and industrialisation, focusing on innovation and value addition in the productive and services sectors. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen capacities to facilitate structural economic transformation and enhancing sustainable trade.
3. The Parties shall promote public-private dialogue focusing on issues that positively impact their efforts on economic transformation and sustainable economic growth, and shall engage with all relevant stakeholders and ensure respect for and protection of human rights and core labour standards.

Chapter 1
Investment

Article 1
Mobilisation of Sustainable and Responsible Investment

1. The Parties undertake to mobilise sustainable and responsible investment with a view to enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. To that end, they shall establish a conducive investment climate, which attracts domestic and foreign investment, including investment from the diaspora, and maintains the right to regulate, through transparent, predictable, and efficient regulatory, administrative and policy frameworks.
2. The Parties agree to support the necessary economic and institutional reforms and policies that are grounded in a country's overall development strategy and that are coherent and synergistic at both the national, regional and international level, aiming at creating a conducive environment for sustainable investment and facilitating the development of a dynamic, viable and competitive private sector.

3. The Parties shall cooperate to establish sound financial systems to mobilise investment for sustainable projects. They shall support investment by increasing access to financing through technical assistance, grants, guarantees and innovative financial instruments to mitigate risk, boost investor confidence, and leverage private and public sources of finance. In doing so, they shall also take account of the need to address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations while ensuring additionality of investment that would not have taken place without these support measures. They shall pay special attention to the priority sectors laid out in Article Chapter II Article 2.5.
4. The Parties agree to improve the regulatory environment as well as the quality, availability and accessibility of financial and non-financial services, to support the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the context of domestic investment mobilisation.
5. The Parties understand and recognise the importance of Responsible Investment by the relevant actors as a means to achieving long-term sustainable economic, social and environmental value. In support of this objective, they shall therefore promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices and responsible business conduct (RBC), including internationally recognised implementation guidelines, standards and applicable instruments, that provide guidance to investors, governments and other actors on implementation of CSR and RBC, as a complement to national laws and other applicable legislation.

Article 2

Investment Facilitation and Protection

1. The Parties agree to facilitate investment through legislation, regulations and policies aimed at reducing regulatory and administrative barriers, enhancing transparency and avoiding harmful competition for investment. They agree that such measures shall be developed in a transparent manner, encouraging public-private dialogue and providing the opportunity for all stakeholders to participate, and shall be made publicly available.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to promote the effective utilisation of digital tools to facilitate investment.
3. In line with their respective strategies, the Parties agree on the importance of providing legal certainty and adequate protection to established investments whose treatment shall be non-discriminatory in nature and shall include effective dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms. In this regard, they reaffirm the importance of concluding international investment agreements, which fully preserve their sovereign right to regulate investment for legitimate public policy purposes.
4. The Parties shall strengthen the capacity of relevant public and private institutions to effectively promote and facilitate investment, and prevent and handle investment-related disputes.

Chapter 2
Economic growth, diversification, and industrialisation

Article 1
Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

1. The Parties agree on the importance of economic transformation, private sector development and industrial advancement for inclusive and sustainable growth. They shall promote full and productive employment and decent work for all through enhanced competitiveness, diversification, digitalisation, innovation, access to finance, value addition in manufacturing and services sectors, and linkages among sectors and industries. They shall pay particular attention to local micro, small and medium enterprises and the formalisation of informal economic activities.
2. The Parties shall promote the transition to a low-emission and resource efficient economy. They shall support sustainable consumption and production approaches, environmentally sound waste and chemicals management and measures reducing all forms of pollution. The Parties agree that well managed urbanisation is a critical element in advancing sustainable economic development. They shall therefore cooperate on effectively addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid urbanisation, support urban development and infrastructures and effective rural-urban linkages.
3. The Parties agree to cooperate in the area of employment and social affairs, in particular, to support the economic and social inclusion and empowerment of women, youth and the poorest and most vulnerable. They further agree to ensure respect for labour and social standards enshrined in the Conventions and Protocols of the International Labour Organisation and access to justice under due process including appropriate and effective remedies.

Article 2
Economic Transformation and Industrialisation

1. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation in the area of economic transformation, including industrialisation. They shall promote the transition from commodity dependence to diversified economies, and natural resources beneficiation, value-addition and the integration into regional and global value chains. The Parties agree on the important role that the services sector plays in economic transformation and industrialisation.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to support the development of productive capacities, improved productivity, diversification and competitiveness. They shall endeavour to overcoming supply-side constraints through, inter-alia, promoting technological enhancement and innovation, and dissemination, improved business and investment climates, strengthened regulatory capacities, macroeconomic stability as well as the development of efficient capital markets and sound financial systems for improved access to Finance particularly for the private sector. To this end, they affirm the importance of the digitalisation of the economy in accelerating productive capacity development. Focus shall be on sectors and industries with high-value adding and high decent job creation potential.

3. The Parties commit to improving macroeconomic and financial stability by pursuing sound and transparent fiscal and monetary policies, to promote economic and structural reforms so as to create a conducive environment for increased investments and foster private sector development. The Parties further recognise the importance of the independence of central banks in the setting of their policy objectives and in the conduct of monetary policies. They further agree to maintain dialogue and exchange information between their authorities, as appropriate, to improve the understanding of the fundamentals of the Parties' respective economies.
4. The Parties shall intensify efforts in technical and vocational education and training as well as in research and innovation, and link such measures more effectively to the opportunities and skill-needs of the labour market. They shall cooperate to leverage each other's experiences, including in the development of productive capacities through skills development and promotion of technology transfer, fostering linkages between ACP and EU firms, with an emphasis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
5. The Parties reaffirm the significant role of infrastructure in addressing supply side constraints and in the development of competitive regional and sub-regional value chains through the facilitation of efficient movement of goods, services and capital. They shall further cooperate to develop efficient and sustainable infrastructure – including transport (air, land and sea), energy, water, and digital connectivity with due regard to the diverse needs of the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Economies. Accordingly, they shall cooperate to mobilise public and private resources including through investment for infrastructure development.
6. The Parties, with commitment to pursue shared economic growth, agree to cooperate, inter alia, on the following areas regarded as priority sectors: Agriculture and Agribusiness, Livestock and Leather, Blue Economy, fisheries, Mining and Extractives Industries, Cultural and Creative Industries, sustainable Tourism, sustainable Energy, ICTs and Transport. The Parties underscore the significant role of these sectors in value addition, decent job creation, enhancing productive capacities and to the overall efforts on economic transformation. They shall accordingly cooperate in the identification of the drivers of growth for each sector, in mobilising investment and in addressing the constraints that undermine the establishment of backward and forward linkages.
7. [The Parties recognise the critical role played by agriculture and rural development in decent job creation and increase of revenues for the poorest communities. They therefore commit to increase sustainable and quality agricultural production, productivity, and processing with a view to enhancing food and nutrition security and improving value chains. To this end, they agree to cooperate to support mechanism/frameworks, at the appropriate levels, to promote dialogue in the agricultural sector, stimulate transfer of skills and technology, strengthen cooperation for cross-fertilisation of experiences and dissemination of best practices, with particular focus at the regional level.]

Article 3
Private Sector Development

1. The Parties, recognising the importance of private sector development for economic transformation and job creation, shall aim at promoting entrepreneurship and developing and improving the competitiveness of enterprises. A particular focus shall be given to micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including start-ups, promoting enabling legal, administrative and institutional frameworks, in view of their successful integration into sustainable supply and value chains. Attention shall also be paid to the informal sector and to upgrading informal economic activities into formal ones and to encouraging the integration of sustainability-related objectives in business models. The Parties further agree to support the development of entrepreneurship among women and youth in the context of their economic empowerment and promotion of inclusive development. They affirm the importance of building regional and national capacities in order to improve competitiveness in medium and high-tech manufacturing.
2. The Parties shall promote public- private sector dialogue and cooperation, including through Private Sector business fora. They shall strengthen cooperation for cross-fertilisation of experiences and dissemination of best practices that foster entrepreneurship, promote business-to-business dialogue and contacts, and stimulate transfers of skills and technology.
3. The Parties agree on the need to set up national strategies and the appropriate legislation to develop better financial inclusion policies and appropriate legislation, in order to improve access to finance, financial and non-financial services, including through innovative financing mechanisms, with particular attention to the provision of affordable credit for family farmers, smallholders, MSMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs.
4. The Parties acknowledge that both public and private sources of finance play a key role in supporting private sector development, particularly through tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships (PPP) and blended finance, and in stimulating investment across relevant sectors including infrastructure development. Accordingly, they shall cooperate to develop transparent and predictable frameworks and strategies for the use of PPPs including strengthening institutional capabilities to negotiate, implement and monitor projects under a PPP arrangement.

Chapter 3
Science, Technology Innovation and Research

Article 1
Science, Technology and Innovation

1. The Parties recognise the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in expanding the frontiers of knowledge, accelerating and leapfrogging transition to sustainable development through economic transformation, value-chain addition and inter-firm linkages, fostering knowledge development and human empowerment, particularly of women and youth, and supporting decision and policy makers in the pursuit of sustainable development.

2. The Parties shall work towards developing knowledge-based societies. They agree to invest in human capital, promote the adoption of coherent and comprehensive policy and regulatory frameworks, and develop infrastructure connectivity and digital tools.
3. The Parties shall enhance cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit, building on existing mechanisms while exploring new paths in funding STI, subject to appropriate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. They shall promote indigenous, traditional and local knowledge as a tool for bridging knowledge and technology gaps in relevant sectors.
4. The Parties shall encourage investment in the creation, diffusion and transfer of new technologies with particular attention to clean and innovative technologies that protect the environment. They shall promote renewable energy and cooperate in the development of productive and regulatory capacity.
5. The Parties shall address the potential impact of technologies on society, tackle cybersecurity and assure protection of personal data, and consider the effects of disruptive technology, including artificial intelligence and robotics.
6. The Parties recognise the role of space as an enabler for social and economic benefits, including in the areas of environment, climate change, ocean governance, transport, energy, agriculture, mining, and forestry. They shall cooperate on matters of common interest in the area of civil space activities, such as space research, Global Navigation Satellite Systems application and services, development of satellite augmentation systems, use of Earth Observation application and services and Earth Science.

Article 2

Research and Development

1. The Parties agree that research is critical to create economic prosperity and opportunities for decent work, and can make a pivotal contribution to the achievement of objectives of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall encourage the generation and dissemination of new knowledge, taking account of its potential impacts on the environment and society, including harmful effects. They shall support skills enhancement to keep pace with technological advances and innovation and mobility and training of researchers. They shall promote partnerships between industry, academia and the public sector as well as activities of the private sector aimed at gathering knowledge and testing ideas in view of generating new products with real commercial potential, paying special attention to women and youth as innovators.
3. The Parties shall promote investments in research and development especially in high added-value segments of value chains and shall endeavour to address societal challenges especially in the areas of environment, climate change, energy, food safety and security, and health.

Article 3 ICT and Digital Economy

1. The Parties shall cooperate to reduce the digital divide by promoting cooperation with regard to the development of the information society to benefit citizens and businesses through accessibility of information and communication technologies (ICT) adapted to local circumstances. They shall support measures that enable easy access to ICT through, amongst others, the use of affordable and renewable energy resources and the development and redeployment of low-cost wire-less networks. They shall work towards greater complementarity and harmonisation of communication systems and their adaptation to new technologies.
2. The Parties agree on the central role of the digital economy as an amplifier and accelerator for change that can drive significant economic diversification, create jobs, and enable leapfrog growth. They agree to advance digitalisation with a view to reducing transaction costs and lessening information asymmetries with the aim of improving productivity and sustainability.
3. The Parties shall promote and support digital entrepreneurship, particularly by women and youth, and digital transformation of MSMEs. They shall encourage the development of e-commerce to revamp supply chains and expand markets, the expansion of e-banking, including for reducing costs of remittances, and the deployment of e-governance solutions.
4. The Parties shall cooperate on developing and managing privacy and data protection policies, promote measures to facilitate data flows, and support regulatory framework to promote the production, sale and delivery of digital products.

Chapter 4 Trade Cooperation

Article 1 Trade and Sustainable Development

1. The Parties recognise that social and economic development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and reaffirm their commitment, with due regard to their respective levels of development, to enhance the integration of sustainable development, consisting of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in every aspect of their trade relations so as to promote sustainable growth. To that end, the Parties shall encourage in their trade relationships a high level of environmental, social and labour protection in particular those commitments specified in Article [X] and Chapters I to III of Title IV [Environment sustainability and climate change], and in Chapter 2 [Inequality and social cohesion] of Title II [Human and social development] in this Part of [Strategic priorities, to achieve the objectives of the agreed global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Parties further agree that environmental and social measures should not be used for protectionist purposes.

2. The Parties agree that it is inappropriate to encourage trade and investment by lowering or offering to lower the level of domestic protection afforded in environmental or labour laws, or their enforcement.
3. The Parties recognize their respective rights to determine sustainable development policy objectives and priorities and establish their own levels of domestic protection in the environmental, including climate change, and social and labour areas as they deem appropriate provided that the adopted laws and policies are not inconsistent with their commitments to internationally recognised protection standards and relevant agreements.
4. The Parties shall promote trade in products obtained through the sustainable management, conservation and efficient use of natural resources. The Parties shall also cooperate to promote trade and investment in goods and services of particular relevance for climate change mitigation, including in low-carbon manufactured and remanufactured products, renewable energy, and energy-efficient products and services in accordance with their international commitments.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between trade, labour and environmental policies, and shall strengthen dialogue, and exchange of information and best practices, on trade-related aspects of sustainable development, including with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. In that context, they further agree to cooperate to promote social responsibility (CSR) practices and responsible business conduct (RBC) including internationally recognised guidelines, standards and applicable instruments by incorporating these practices into trade and business activities. In addition, cooperation shall aim to address the challenges and opportunities posed by the trade-related aspects of private and public voluntary sustainable assurance schemes linked inter alia to labour, environment, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and management of forest resources and sustainable fishing practices and trade in sustainably managed fish products.
6. The Parties agree to maintain or establish, where appropriate, systems to support and monitor the effective implementation of the global framework of social, labour and environmental standards in the context of their trade relations, including by strengthening institutional capacities to adopt and enforce relevant legislation.

Article 2

Trade Arrangements

1. The Parties recognise the importance of building on the achievements of the Cotonou Agreement in the context of their trade relations. They underline the significance of trade in their overall relations and undertake to promote the intensification and diversification of trade flows to their mutual benefit in particular in view of the integration of ACP economies into the regional and global value chains.
2. The Parties agree that trade cooperation shall be conducted in accordance with the rules-based multilateral trading system with a view to enhancing free, fair, and open trade for achieving sustainable growth and development, especially in ACP States. To this end, cooperation shall be in compliance with the obligations assumed by both Parties within the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework, including provisions for Special and Differential treatment (S&D).

3. The Parties acknowledge the importance of concluding trade arrangements, to achieve greater trade opportunities and foster their effective integration into the global economy. The Parties recognize their respective right to enter into regional or multilateral arrangements for reduction or elimination of non-tariff measures affecting trade in goods and services. The Parties further endeavour to limit possible negative impacts of their respective trade arrangements with third Parties on the competitive positions each Party enjoys in the others' home markets.
4. Bearing in mind the need of building on their existing preferential trade arrangements and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as instruments of their trade cooperation, the Parties recognise that cooperation shall primarily be strengthened to support concrete implementation of those existing instruments.
5. In doing so, the signatories to the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) reaffirm their commitments to take all necessary measures to ensure their full implementation, which should be conducive to their economic growth and development while contributing to the deepening of the regional integration processes within the ACP. The Parties recognize the importance of broadening the scope of EPAs and encouraging the accession of new member States. In that context, the Parties agree to maintain or establish, at appropriate levels, ACP-EU arrangements to monitor implementation of EPAs and assess their impact of EPA implementation on the development of ACP economies across ACP regions and on their regional integration processes.

[EU: The Parties to the Economic Partnership Agreements confirm that respect for human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law, as well as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as laid down in Articles [X] and [Y], respectively, constitute the essential elements and good governance, as laid down in Article [Z], the fundamental element of the Economic Partnership Agreements, and that the procedures of Article XX shall apply mutatis mutandis in case a Party considers that another Party has failed to fulfil its obligations prescribed in Articles [X] and [Y].]

6. The Parties further agree that their cooperation shall contribute to intensifying regional integration efforts and processes within Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific and further encouraging intra-ACP regional trade.
7. The Parties underline the importance of their active participation in the WTO as well as in other relevant international organisations by becoming members of these organisations, and closely following their agenda and activities. They agree to cooperate closely in identifying and furthering their common interests in international economic and trade cooperation in particular in the WTO. In this context, particular attention shall be paid to improve access to the EU and other markets for goods and services originating in the ACP countries.
8. The Parties also agree on the importance of flexibility in WTO rules to take account of the different levels of development of the ACP countries and regions as well of the difficulties faced in meeting their obligations. They therefore further agree to cooperate to develop the necessary and appropriate capacity to effectively implement their WTO commitments. The Parties also recognise the innovative approach to special and differential treatment inherent in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement that enables LDCs and developing countries to fully implement their commitments contingent on the delivery of the requisite trade support in conformity with their implementation notifications under the TFA.

9. The Parties recognize the importance of enhancing dialogue to address trade and trade-related issues of common interest. They agree to promote the involvement of civil society and the private sector in these dialogues.

[Article 3 Trade in Services]

1. The Parties agree that trade in services is a powerful engine for the growth and development of their economies and further reaffirm their respective rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In this regard, the Parties commit to cooperating and enhancing trade in services, especially in modes of supply of export interest to them including the movement of natural persons for business purposes, and in sectors that they consider as priorities including the information and communication technologies sector (ICT); tourism; transport; environmental services, financial services; cultural and creative industries, and sporting services.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to address barriers to trade in services with a view of facilitating access to market and enhancing trade. They further agree to strengthen their cooperation to support the development of domestic regulatory frameworks and capacities, improve the ability of service providers to comply with the EU and ACP regulations and standards at continental, regional, national, and sub-national levels, and encourage the establishment of mutual recognition agreements where appropriate in the identified service sectors of mutual interest in paragraph 1.
3. **[EU: The Parties acknowledge the importance of cost-effective and efficient maritime transport services as the main mode of transportation facilitating trade. They undertake to promote the liberalisation of maritime transport and to this end apply effectively the principle of unrestricted access to the international maritime transport market on a non-discriminatory and commercial basis. Each Party shall grant, inter alia, a treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own ships, for ships operated by nationals or companies of the other Party, and for ships registered in the territory of either Party, with respect to access to ports, the use of infrastructures and auxiliary maritime services of those ports as well as related fees and charges, custom facilities and the assignment of berths and facilities for loading and unloading.]**

Article 4 Trade-related Areas

1. The Parties acknowledge the growing importance of non-tariff measures (NTMs) in trade as tariff barriers fall. They therefore recognise the need for cooperating with a view to monitoring and removing unnecessary obstacles to trade thereby increasing and facilitating trade between EU and ACP States and amongst ACP States. In this respect, the Parties agree to maintain or establish, where appropriate arrangements to address NTMs that may negatively affect exports to the other side's market.
2. The Parties agree to enhance the cooperation in the field of standardization and certification of goods to prevent, identify and eliminate unnecessary technical barriers to trade within the scope of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (the "TBT

Agreement”) and shall endeavour to build on it by increasing and strengthening transparency. The Parties further agree to cooperate to establish and enhance technical capabilities and institutional infrastructure on matters concerning technical barriers to trade.

3. The Parties reaffirm the rights of each Party to adopt or to enforce sanitary and phytosanitary measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health in its territory while ensuring that such SPS measures adopted by each Party do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade, pursuant to the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (the “SPS Agreement”). To this end, the Parties agree to enhance their collaboration for the effective implementation of the principles and disciplines of the SPS Agreement while taking account of their respective levels of development. In this context, the Parties shall cooperate to address sanitary and phytosanitary issues, including management of anti-microbial resistance, and animal welfare matters, in order to strengthen the Parties’ capacities and improve access to the other Parties’ markets whilst safeguarding the appropriate level of protection of humans, animals and plants.
4. The Parties acknowledge that the intellectual property system is intended to promote economic, social and cultural progress by stimulating creative work and technological innovation; and especially between the EU and the ACP regions while contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive economy. In that context, the Parties reaffirm the importance of IP protection and enforcement, as stated in Article 7 of the TRIPS Agreement, that should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations. The Parties recognise the need to protect intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, topographies of integrated circuits, plant variety rights and patents. This protection shall also include protection against unfair competition as well as protection of undisclosed information. The Parties underline the importance, in this context, of adherence to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) of the WTO, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and conventions referred to in Part I of the TRIPS Agreement, in line with their level of development. The Parties further underline the importance of cooperation and technical assistance in the field of intellectual property for measures, procedures and remedies necessary to ensure the enforcement of these intellectual property rights with a view to achieving an effective level of protection especially in the ACP States.
5. The Parties reaffirm that the introduction and implementation of effective and sound competition policies and rules are of crucial importance in order to improve and secure an investment friendly climate, a sustainable industrialisation process and transparency in the access to markets. They therefore undertake to implement national or regional rules and policies to effectively tackle anti-competitive business practices including subsidies related to economic activities granted by the Parties, which have the potential to distort the proper functioning of markets and to negatively affect the trade interests of the other Parties. They undertake to ensure a level playing field between public and private market participants. The Parties also agree to reinforce cooperation in this area with a view to formulating and supporting effective competition policies with the appropriate national and regional authorities that progressively ensure the efficient

enforcement of competition rules. In this context, the Parties agree to cooperate to develop the adequate capacities with a view to establishing the appropriate legal framework for competition protection and its enforcement through appropriate competition agencies, in particular in the territory of ACP States.

6. The Parties agree to increase cooperation to ensure a better operation of international commodity markets and market transparency.
7. The Parties recognise the importance of transparent public procurement to promote economic development and industrialisation. The Parties agree on the importance of cooperation to enhance the mutual understanding of their respective public procurement systems. The Parties commit to the principles of and shall cooperate on transparency, competitiveness and predictability of procurement systems.

**[Article 5
Trade Facilitation]**

1. The Parties recognise the importance of reducing trade costs to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in their economies. They shall therefore cooperate to simplify import, export, transit and other customs procedures including digitalization of customs and clearance procedures as well as increase the transparency of customs and trade regulations and facilitate legitimate trade, building on their respective commitments under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). In line with the TFA provisions, the ACP States require adequate and predictable technical assistance to build their capacities to fully implement this agreement. The Parties further commit to provide this assistance based on the implementation needs of the ACP countries as notified under the TFA.

TITLE V
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chapeau

1. The Parties agree that environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and climate change pose a serious threat to the attainment of sustainable development and place at risk the lives, the quality of life and livelihoods of current and future generations. In this regard, they reaffirm the need for a high level of environmental protection and effective conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, including biological diversity, to agree on ambitious action to manage and reduce the negative effects of climate change, and to set their economies on sustainable, resilient, low-carbon growth paths, while contributing to the creation of decent jobs for all.
2. The Parties are committed to mainstreaming environmental sustainability, the fight against climate change and the pursuit of environmentally sustainable growth into all policies, plans and investments. They shall endeavour to build effective alliances in international settings on relevant issues with a view to driving global action forward, and ensuring constructive engagement with local authorities, civil society and the private sector. The Parties shall effectively implement the multilateral environmental agreements that they have ratified.
3. The Parties shall seek to build and strengthen resilience, particularly of vulnerable populations, in the face of environmental and climate change related challenges, natural and man-made disasters.
4. The Parties, in promoting environmental sustainability, tackling climate change and natural disasters, shall take into account: (i) the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and coastal populations including their efforts to adapt,; (ii) the exposure and vulnerability of countries to worsening droughts, floods, coastal erosion, water scarcity, land and forest degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation and desertification problems; (iii) the need to minimise, avert and address loss and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events such as sea level rise. (iv) the links between climate change strategies and disaster risk reduction, resilience and food security; (v) the crucial role of natural ecosystems for ensuring food security and nutrition, and fighting climate change; and (vi) the nexus between environmental degradation and climate change with displacement and migration. (vii) the negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace and security.

Chapter 1
Environmental Sustainability

Article 1
Environment and Natural Resources

1. The Parties shall work towards preserving, protecting, improving and rehabilitating the environment. To this end, they shall promote measures at national, regional and global level, including in the areas of high biodiversity value and protection of natural ecosystems, air quality, water quality, water scarcity and droughts, waste management, industrial pollution and industrial hazards, and chemicals management.

2. The Parties shall support the conservation and sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, water, forest, biodiversity and ecosystems. They shall promote action to end trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. The Parties shall promote the sustainable governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests.
3. The Parties shall promote legal instruments, integrated environment and development strategies, and good governance for the integration of biodiversity considerations in all relevant sectors in order to halt biodiversity loss and maintain the delivery of ecosystem services. They shall promote ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions to achieve environmental objectives. The Parties recognise the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity to address climate change and the conservation and restoration of all ecosystems, including aquatic and terrestrial. They shall also establish, manage and improve the governance of protected areas.
4. The Parties shall promote the conservation and restoration of all ecosystems, including forests. They recognise that natural ecosystems, in particular forests, offer habitats for animals and plants, and play a major role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, in biodiversity conservation and in preventing and combating desertification and land degradation. Forests, wetlands and savannahs also provide water and soil protection and protection from natural hazards, and deliver other environmental services.
5. The Parties shall pursue the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought, and strive to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and soil to bring about sustainable land management and achieve a land degradation-neutral environment. They shall reduce biodiversity loss, create employment opportunities and help enhance the provision of ecosystem services and functions, including by enhancing drought risk preparedness and resilience, as well as further reducing risks and the impact of sand and dust storms.
6. The Parties shall promote fair and equitable access and benefit sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.
7. The Parties shall support the promotion of circular economy approaches and sustainable consumption and production practices, and endeavour to make use of the investment opportunities offered by best available clean technologies.

Chapter 2

Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources

Article 1

Ocean governance

1. The Parties recognize the increasing human pressures and their cumulative impacts on seas and oceans and acknowledge their nature as interconnected common good, whose conservation, protection and governance is a shared responsibility that require the collective and coordinated actions of stakeholders. The Parties reaffirm the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine and maritime sector, **[OACPS: including maritime boundaries delimitation as well as investigation of sustainable and responsible options for future development of seabed mineral resources]**.

2. The Parties shall strengthen ocean governance and effectively address the increasing pressures on seas and oceans, which threaten marine ecosystems resilience and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
3. The Parties shall promote and improve the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources, including in areas beyond their respective jurisdiction with a view to achieving healthy and productive oceans. They shall promote sustainable fisheries management at national, regional and global levels, by cooperating with relevant regional fisheries management organisations and by combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. The Parties shall promote the conservation of endangered aquatic species and actions to control pollution and marine litters as well as address the impacts of climate change, including ocean acidification.
4. The Parties shall promote the sustainable development of a blue economy with the aim of securing oceans' contribution to food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, creating job opportunities, and ensuring social equity and cultural wellbeing for current and future generations.
5. The Parties shall support the implementation of blue growth policies and strategies to promote an integrated ocean management that restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems.

Chapter 3 Climate Change

Article 1 Climate Commitments

1. The Parties acknowledge that the adverse impacts of climate change and climate variability pose a threat to the lives and livelihoods of people. They confirm their commitment to take urgent action to prevent climate change, to address its impacts and to cooperate in an urgent and coordinated manner at the international, regional, inter-regional and national levels, to strengthen the global response to climate change.
2. The Parties shall effectively implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention.
3. The Parties are committed to meeting the overall goal of holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, enhancing the ability to adapt, reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience, making all investments and financial flows consistent with the Paris Agreement.

Article 2 Climate action

1. The Parties agree to undertake climate action to address adaptation, mitigation, as well as means of implementation and be focused on the most vulnerable countries including Small Island Developing States, Low-lying Coastal States Least Developed Countries and Land Locked Developing Countries.

2. The Parties agree to implement and track progress towards their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and, where appropriate, to formulate mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies in order to achieve the temperature goal agreed in the Paris Agreement, while taking into account different national circumstances and evolving economic realities and capabilities. They commit to enhance the linkages between NDCs, the 2030 Agenda and their national strategies.
3. The Parties agree to engage in adaptation planning, implementation and monitor progress in the implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other strategies. They commit to set up and strengthen effective governance structures for this purpose. They recognise the need to further strengthening the integration of NAPs and other adaptation strategies into national strategies and processes in order to achieve climate-resilient sustainable development.

Article 3
Climate Change and Security

1. The Parties shall address the security threat that climate change and environmental degradation pose, particularly in situations of fragility and on the most vulnerable countries. The Parties shall develop resilience strategies taking into account the security threat.

Chapter 4
Natural Disasters

Article 1
Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

1. The Parties recognise the negative impacts of natural disasters on sustainable development, including tsunamis, earthquake and volcanic eruptions, as well as the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related phenomena such as cyclones and hurricanes, flooding and droughts.
2. The Parties shall promote coherent policies and strategies at all levels to identify vulnerabilities and other drivers of risk. They shall cooperate to enhance disaster resilience to the short and long-term impacts of disasters and pay particular attention to coordination, complementarity and synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. The Parties shall undertake early warning and preventive action and improve risk reduction and preparedness, by strengthening grass root communication strategies, risk governance and effectively integrating disaster risk reduction into development strategies.
3. The Parties shall systematically integrate comprehensive risk assessment, management and resilience in their action, ensuring that individuals, communities, institutions and countries can better prepare for, withstand, adapt to, and quickly recover from shocks and aftershocks address any limitations to adaptive capacity - including when impacts exceed best efforts to adapt without compromising long-term development prospects.

4. The Parties shall address disaster risks taking an integrated multi-hazard approach, covering the understanding of disaster risk, the strengthening of its governance, and building institutional capacities for effective implementation of risk informed investments. They shall ensure inclusive and equitable outcomes to build resilience of the most vulnerable.
5. The Parties shall develop strategies to strengthen urban and rural resilience. to improve disaster risk management with particular attention to unplanned settlements.

Article 2
Disaster Response and Recovery

1. The Parties agree that early and coordinated response to natural disasters is critical for the rehabilitation and post disasters recovery. The Parties agree on the importance of coordinated needs assessments, enhanced disaster preparedness and capacity for local, early and effective responses that meet the needs of crisis-affected people, including through effective communication strategies.
2. The Parties agree that disaster response and recovery efforts shall prioritise, in the short term, emergency assistance and rehabilitation, including support for early recovery. They agree that post-emergency assistance shall aim at linking the short-term relief with longer term development, including reconstruction efforts. This entails enhanced coordination between humanitarian and development stakeholders from the crisis onset to properly building resilience of affected populations.

**[TITLE VI
MIGRATION AND MOBILITY]**

Chapeau

1. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to enhancing cooperation on migration and mobility, guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. They shall adopt a comprehensive, coherent, pragmatic and balanced approach, in full respect of international law, including international human rights law and, when applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and the sovereignty of participating states, taking into account EU and national legislations and competences. They recognise that migration and mobility can have positive impacts on sustainable development when well managed and acknowledge the need to address the negative impacts irregular migration can have on countries of origin, transit and destination. The parties agree to work on enhancing capacities with the aim of efficient and effective management of migration in all its aspects. They reiterate their commitment to ensuring respect for the dignity of all refugees and migrants and protection of their human rights. The Parties shall address all relevant aspects of migration and mobility referred to under this title in their regular partnership dialogue.

**Chapter 1
Legal [Regular] Migration and Mobility**

**Article 1
Legal Migration and Mobility**

1. The Parties shall seek to reap the dividends of safe, orderly and regular migration and mobility, in full respect of international law, EU and national competences. In this regard, they shall develop legal channels for migration, including labour migration and other mobility schemes, taking into account national priorities and labour market needs.
2. The Parties shall work to improve and implement transparent and effective requirements for admission and residence for the purpose of work, research, studies, training, and voluntary service with a view to facilitate circular migration and mobility. The Parties shall strengthen transparency of information available to third country nationals regarding applicable migration rules.
3. The Parties shall enhance efforts to promote circular migration as a mean to foster growth and development in countries of origin and destination. To this end, they shall consider schemes for circular migration, and shall implement and improve, as appropriate, the legal frameworks for facilitating the re-entry procedures of legally residing third country nationals and consider aspects of their reintegration in the countries of origin to ensure that their gained experience or qualifications can benefit the local labour market and community.
4. The Parties shall pursue an open dialogue on procedures guiding legal migration, including family reunification

The parties shall further pursue an open exchange on visa issues and on facilitating mobility and people-to-people contacts including in areas such as tourism, culture, sports, education, research and business, with a view to fostering mutual understanding and promoting shared values.

5. The Parties shall promote cooperation between relevant agencies and institutions, local authorities, civil society and social partners with a view to encouraging joint research projects, identification of skills gaps as well as investment and job opportunities and the evaluation of labour migration policies and strategies.
6. [The Parties shall cooperate to improve transparency and comparability of **[OACPS: all]** qualifications, with the aim of facilitating their recognition **[OACPS: for access to further learning]** as well as their acceptance in the labour market.]
7. The parties shall cooperate to improve and modernize civil status registry systems, in view of enhancing the security and the issuance of identity cards and passports.

Article 2 Integration and Non discrimination

1. The Parties shall pursue efforts to adopt effective integration policies for those who reside legally on their territories aimed at granting rights and obligations comparable to those of their citizens and to promote social cohesion. In this respect, the Parties shall support the development and implementation of strategies to integrate legally residing third country nationals into labour markets and host societies, supporting and strengthening cooperation and coordination of various actors working on integration at national, regional and local levels, including local government and civil society.
2. The Parties agree to ensure fair treatment of third country nationals who reside legally in their territories, enhancement of non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural life, as well as the development of measures against racism and xenophobia.
3. The Parties agree that the treatment accorded to legally residing third country nationals shall be free from any discrimination based on nationality as regards working conditions, remuneration and dismissal, relative to its own nationals. To this end, the parties shall cooperate to ensure that migration rules and recruitment mechanisms are guided by fair and ethical principles that ensure that all legally residing third country nationals are treated fairly and with dignity in the host countries and are protected against exploitation.

Chapter 2 Migration and Development

Article 1 Migration and Development

1. The Parties agree that well managed migration can be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development and further agree to cooperate and support countries of origin, inter alia, by boosting growth and employment opportunities, promoting investment, private sector development, trade and innovation, education and vocational training, health, social protection and security, especially for youth and women. They shall cooperate to create conditions that would limit the negative impact of the loss of skills on the development of the countries of origin.

Article 2 Diaspora and Development

1. The Parties acknowledge the meaningful role of Diaspora and the different forms of contributions that Diaspora members make to the development of their countries of origin, including through finance, investment, transfer of knowledge, expertise and technology, cultural linkages, networks and mechanisms, as well as in national reconciliation processes.
2. **[OACPS: The Parties shall, within the framework of bilateral agreements, cooperate to address issues related to the rights of inheritance and the transfer of money sourced from frozen financial accounts and pension funds of deceased migrants with legal status, to the accounts of any beneficiaries identified]. [EU: The parties shall work towards the [conclusion of social security agreements for the benefit of migrant workers which ensure the] portability of social rights and the facilitation of handling legal aspects related to succession matters of legally residing migrants, at the appropriate level, building on relevant international conventions.]**

Article 3 Remittances

1. The Parties shall seek to promote cheaper, more secure, and legally compliant, faster transfers of remittances and facilitate productive domestic investments, including through the use of new technologies and innovative instruments.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to reduce to less than 3 percent the transaction costs of remittances, eliminate remittances corridors with costs higher than 5 percent, in accordance with internationally agreed targets and improve regulatory frameworks for enhanced involvement of non-traditional players.

Article 4 South-South Migration

1. The Parties acknowledge the relevance of south-south migration both in terms of challenges and opportunities, including, the potential benefits of well-managed South-South migration for sustainable development of origin, transit and destination countries. To this end, the Parties shall support policies and actions to promote economic and social development in origin, transit and destination countries.
2. The Parties shall exchange experience and best practices on mitigating the social and economic impact of south-south migrations flows on countries of origin, transit and destination and shall enhance cooperation at national and regional levels.

Article 5
Natural Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

1. The Parties shall take into account the nexus between migration, including displacement and natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.
2. The Parties shall take action to address the needs of displaced persons through the adoption of strategies towards, mitigation, adaptation and resilience to natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, at all relevant levels, including inter-regional levels.

Chapter 3
Irregular Migration

[Article 1
Respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms]

1. **[The Parties reaffirm their commitment to respect and ensure the protection of the human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms of all migrants [including those in irregular situations residing in their territories], and to develop measures against all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Parties also agree to implement measures to protect those migrants from all forms of exploitation and abuse].**

Article 2
Root Causes of Irregular Migration

1. The Parties confirm the shared political commitment to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement and to develop adequate responses.
2. The Parties reaffirm their determination in stemming the flows of irregular migration, in full respect of international law and human rights. In this regard, they acknowledge the negative impacts of irregular migration on countries of origin, transit and destination, including related humanitarian and security challenges. The parties acknowledge the increased risk of migrants to experience human rights violations and to become victims of trafficking and abuse.

Article 3
Smuggling of Migrants

1. The Parties shall increase joint efforts to prevent cross-border crime of migrant smuggling, and jointly enhance efforts to end the impunity of criminal organisations through effective investigation and prosecution.
2. The Parties shall ensure that appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks are in place, in line with the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, in particular its Protocol on the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. They also commit to improve information sharing and to foster operational police and judicial cooperation.

Article 4 Trafficking in Human Beings

1. The Parties commit to increase efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the trafficking in persons and to support in drafting and implementing appropriate legislative and institutional framework, with particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations and to their specific needs, including women, children and unaccompanied minors. The Parties continue to uphold the standards of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.
2. **[OACPS: The Parties commit to strengthen policy dialogue to adopt specific development cooperation [capacity building] programs aiming at supporting joint transnational, gender and child sensitive strategies to counter illegal activities].**

Article 5 Integrated Border Management

1. The Parties promote and supported integrated border management, including border control; intelligence gathering and sharing, impeding the production and use of fraudulent documentation, **[OACPS: capacity building]**, operational police and judicial cooperation on investigations and criminal prosecutions.

Chapter 4 Return, Readmission and Reintegration

Article 1 Return and Readmission

1. [EU - The Parties reaffirm the legal obligation to readmit their own nationals illegally staying on the territory of another Party **[EU: without conditionality / OACPS subject to verification]**]:
2. Each Member State of the European Union shall accept the return of and readmission of any of its nationals who are illegally present on the territory of an ACP State, at that State's request and without further formalities.
3. Each of the ACP States shall accept the return of and readmission of any of its nationals who are illegally present on the territory of a Member State of the European Union, at that Member State's request and without further formalities.
4. In respect of the Member States of the European Union, the obligations in this paragraph apply only in respect of those persons who hold the nationality, as defined for Union purposes, of a Member State. In respect of ACP States, the obligations in this paragraph apply only in respect of those persons who are considered as their nationals in accordance with their respective legal system.
5. The parties will provide their nationals with appropriate identity documents for such purposes **[OACPS: when their identity has been officially recognized]**.

6. [EU: The Parties shall also readmit stateless persons who have their habitual residence at the territory of the requested Party.] [ACP: Where a “stateless person” defined as a person who is not considered as a national of any contracting state, finds him/herself in the territory of a contracting party to this agreement, the contracting party shall bear the responsibility of ensuring that such individual enjoys the rights granted to them in line with international law.]
2. [EU: To this end, the Parties further agree to respond swiftly to readmission requests of another Party, respecting the following provisions:
- (i) If the person to be readmitted is in possession of identity documents not suitable for travel purposes, or if the person’s identity has been confirmed as a result of a search carried out in the visa application records or any other official records of the requesting Party, the requested Party shall provide its nationals with appropriate travel documents for return purposes immediately after the request of the requesting Party, and at the latest within 7 days after such a request was made.
 - (ii) In other cases, if the nationality of the person to be readmitted needs to be verified, the requested Party shall carry out such verifications immediately after the request of the requesting Party, using the most appropriate and most efficient identification procedure. When available, the Parties commit to consult biometric registries of population. In any case, when requested to respond to a readmission request of one of its nationals, the requested Party shall respond at the latest within 30 days after such request was made, either by issuing the appropriate travel document for return purposes or by satisfying the requesting Party that the person concerned is not one of its nationals.
 - (iii) If travel documents for return purposes are not delivered within the deadlines referred to under (i) and (ii) above, the return of persons illegally present on the territory of another Party shall take place on the basis of the evidence used to support the application for travel document for return, or on the basis of the EU travel document for return.
- Return may take place by any means of transport. Return by air shall not be restricted to the use of scheduled flights.]
3. [EU: The Parties further agree to monitor the implementation of these commitments in the framework of the regular political dialogue between the Parties. In case one of the Parties has failed to fulfil any of its obligations under this Article, the other Party may take appropriate measures, as foreseen under Article XXX.]
4. [ACP: While the Parties recognise the right to return illegally residing third-country nationals, they] agree to give preference to voluntary return and shall ensure that the rights and dignity of individuals are fully protected and respected, including in any procedure initiated to return illegally staying migrants to their countries of origin, in an orderly manner (from 6).
5. [EU: The Parties agree that returns should follow mutually agreed procedures that are in line with international law. The Parties shall seek to develop such procedures through bilateral agreements based on the principles set out in this agreement under article X (1) and X (2) (the two points above).]

6. **Return decisions with respect to an unaccompanied minor should be done with the involvement of appropriate bodies other than the authorities enforcing return so as to ensure the best interest of the child. An unaccompanied minor can only be returned to a member of his or her family, a nominated guardian or other authorities provided for in the national laws of the third country".]**

Article 2 Reintegration

1. The Parties shall explore ways to cooperate in order to facilitate sustainable and productive reintegration of returned migrants. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of returning migrants in vulnerable situations, such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities and victims of trafficking.
2. **[OACPS: Parties agree to provide assistance for the sustainable reintegration of returnees through effective partnerships aimed at reintegrating migrants into community life by providing them with the necessary psychosocial assistance, vocational training, financial tools, and employment opportunities and decent work, to allow them to contribute to sustainable development in the country of origin upon return. Reintegration efforts should also ensure that individuals do not become displaced in their country of origin.]**

Chapter 5 Protection and Asylum

Article 1 Refugees and other displaced persons

1. **[ACP: The parties are committed to guaranteeing that fair and efficient asylum systems are in place which fully respect the principle of non-refoulement and]** to reinforcing the protection and dignity of refugees and other displaced persons in accordance with international law and international human rights law and when applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.
2. The Parties shall support the integration of refugees and other displaced persons in host countries as appropriate and strengthen capacities of first asylum, transit and destination countries. Parties shall cooperate to provide refugees, and displaced persons in transit and host countries, with security in refugee camps, access to justice, legal assistance, witness protection, medical and socio-psychological support.
3. The Parties shall pay particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations and to their specific needs, including women, children and unaccompanied minors, taking into account the principles of the best interest of the child.

PART III
GLOBAL ALLIANCES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Article 1

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance of cooperating at international levels with a view to promoting and defending their common interests and preserving and strengthening multilateralism. They commit to joining forces for a more peaceful, cooperative and just world which rests solidly on their common values – peace, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, gender equality, sustainable development, preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change. They agree on the importance of building and reinforcing global alliances to achieve an effective multilateral system that delivers results in tackling global challenges in view of a safer and better world for all.

Article 2

Multilateralism and global governance

1. The Parties are committed to the rules-based international order with multilateralism as its key principle, and the United Nations at its core. They shall promote international dialogue and seek multilateral solutions to drive global action forward.
2. The Parties shall take the necessary steps to the ratification, implementation and domestication of relevant international treaties and conventions.
3. The Parties shall endeavour to strengthen global governance and support necessary reforms and modernisation of multilateral institutions to make them more representative, responsive, effective, efficient, inclusive, transparent, democratic and accountable.
4. The Parties shall deepen their multi-stakeholder approach to multilateralism by more effectively engaging civil society, the private sector and social partners in developing responses to global challenges.

Article 3

Cooperation in international organisations and fora

1. The Parties shall strive to adopt joint resolutions, declarations and statements, coordinate positions and where appropriate voting, and take joint actions, based on a common interests and shared values, mutual respect and equality, so as to ensure enhanced presence and a stronger voice in international and regional organisations and fora.
2. The Parties shall establish appropriate operational modalities for effective cooperation and coordination at the international level, including through convening of ministerial meetings at ACP-EU level. They shall endeavour to identify on a regular basis, at both political and operational levels, common ground on a series of strategic themes and to join forces on issues of mutual and global interest to drive global action forward.
3. The Parties may actively seek to closely cooperate and establish strategic partnerships with third countries and groupings that share their values and interests with a view to maximising cooperative solutions to common challenges wherever possible.

Article 4
Areas of international action

1. The Parties agree to cooperate and undertake joint actions on issues related to the strategic priorities identified in Part II of this Agreement as well as in other areas of concern as they deem necessary.
2. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation and dialogue to secure international peace and security. They shall adopt an inclusive and integrated approach to prevent and address conflicts and crises, rooted in broad, deep and durable regional and international partnerships. They shall work at the national, regional and international level to enhance the effectiveness of multilateral engagement for sustainable peace and security through strengthened partnerships with the UN and regional and sub-regional actors. They shall address **[EU: serious crimes of concern to the international community and]** international security threats such as organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism, and shall cooperate to promote and strengthen the international arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, as well as enhance cyber-security and combat cyber-crimes.
3. The Parties shall engage in international fora to uphold international norms and agreements to promote and protect human rights for all, to achieve gender equality, and to enhance democracy and the rule of law. They shall cooperate with the UN's human rights bodies and mechanisms, and fully support the work of the Human Rights Council as the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. They shall establish cross-regional alliances to serve common values and interests, as appropriate.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to advance the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed roadmaps for the promotion of human and social development. They shall cooperate closely at the international level to end extreme poverty and hunger, address and respond to food insecurity, promote universal access to quality and affordable social services such as education, health, water, sanitation and housing, empower women and youth, protect the most vulnerable in society and facilitate their inclusion and contribution to economic, social and political life, leaving no-one behind. They shall cooperate to strengthen the coherence and consistency of the international financial and monetary system to secure enhanced access to development financing in support of sustainable development.
5. The Parties shall work together at the international level to achieve inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development through measures aimed at structural economic transformation, the creation of decent jobs for all, and the integration of the ACP States into the global economy, including through the promotion and support to regional and continental integration. They shall preserve and reinforce the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, in all its functions, to ensure that it can effectively address global trade challenges and harness the development potential of trade.
6. The Parties shall intensify cooperation to promote strong and decisive collective action on environmental sustainability and on climate change, raising global ambition and leading the way to reach the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and other relevant instruments. They shall uphold and advance international norms and agreements that provide global public goods and protect future generations, including efforts to strengthen international ocean governance.

7. The Parties shall work with partners around the world to pursue a comprehensive and holistic approach on all aspects related to migration and mobility, based on the principles of solidarity, shared responsibility, and partnership.

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PART IV
[OACPS: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION]/
[EU: MEANS OF COOPERATION]

Article 1
Effective and diversified means of cooperation

1. The Parties agree to mobilise both financial and non-financial resources in order to achieve the objectives set out in this Agreement on the basis of mutual interests, in the spirit of genuine partnership, and in line with the principle of “leaving no-one behind”. They underscore the importance of financing for development as key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
2. The Parties agree that means of cooperation shall be diversified, encompassing a range of policies and instruments, from all available sources and actors. They also agree that means of cooperation shall be tailored to reflect and be implemented on the basis of objectives, strategies and priorities **[EU: of different countries and regions’] [OACPS: established at national, regional and intra-ACP levels.]**
3. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to the development effectiveness principles, namely ownership of development priorities by partner countries, inclusive partnerships, focus on results, transparency, and mutual accountability. **[OACPS: and also on principles of joint decision-making, co-management, predictability and security of resources].**
4. **[OACPS: The Parties agree that the financial envelopes for the implementation of this Agreement and the detailed terms and conditions of the EU financing are provided for in Annex XX to this Agreement.]**

Article 2
International development cooperation

1. The [“EU Party”] reaffirm their political commitment to enhance development cooperation resources with a view to achieving sustainable development, particularly eradicating poverty and combating environmental degradation and climate change.
2. The Parties agree that, in the allocation of resources, priority shall be given to countries most in need, where such resources can have most impact, in particular least developed countries, low-income countries, countries in crisis and conflict, post-crisis and /or post-conflict fragile and vulnerable situations, including small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries. Due attention shall also be paid to the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, particularly in relation to inequality and social exclusion.
3. The Parties agree that cooperation may take different forms, such as sector policy support programmes, administrative and technical cooperation measures, capacity building, triangular arrangements, and may be provided through different types of

financing and procedures, including budget support, budgetary guarantees, and blending operations.

4. The Parties [**OACPS: shall promote the use of financial resources to foster domestic resource mobilisation**], provide humanitarian and emergency assistance, address unforeseen circumstances, new needs or emerging challenges, facilitate trade, and promote international initiatives or priorities.
5. The Parties agree that any decision to provide budget support shall be based on a clear set of eligibility criteria [**OACPS: as set out in Annex XX to this Agreement**] and a careful assessment of the risks and benefits: shall be based on country ownership, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values and principles; shall include reinforced policy dialogue; improved governance; complementing efforts to collect more and spend better; and shall be differentiated in such a way as to respond better to the political, economic and social context of the beneficiary country.

[OACPS: The Parties agree that the following entities or bodies shall be eligible for financial support under this Agreement:

- a) ACP States;
- b) regional or inter-State bodies to which one or more ACP States belong, including bodies with non-ACP State members, which are authorised by the ACP Group; and
- c) joint bodies set up by the ACP States and the European Union (EU) to pursue certain specific objectives.

The Parties agree that, subject to the agreement of the ACP State or ACP States concerned, the following shall also be eligible for financial support:

- a) national and/or regional public or semi-public agencies, and Ministries of ACP States, including Parliaments, and, in particular, financial institutions and development banks;
- b) companies, firms, and other private organisations and economic agents of ACP States;
- c) enterprises of a EU Member State, to enable them, in addition to their own contribution, to undertake productive projects in the territory of an ACP State;
- d) ACP or EU financial intermediaries providing, promoting, and financing private or public investments in ACP States;
- e) local decentralised authorities from ACP States and the European Union; and
- f) developing countries that are not part of the ACP Group, when they are participating in a joint initiative or regional organisation with ACP States, in keeping with the relevant provisions of this Agreement.

The Parties also agree that Non-State Actors from ACP States and the EU, which have a local character, shall be eligible for financial support under this Agreement, according to the modalities agreed in the national, regional and intra-ACP indicative programmes.]

6. **[OACPS: The Parties agree that in considering the eligibility of middle-income OACPS countries for concessional development financing, the specific challenges they face, including limited access to financial markets, levels of indebtedness and poverty, fragile open economies, exposure to exogenous shocks and their vulnerability, shall be taken into account in order to adapt development cooperation to their identified needs and specific circumstances.]**
7. The Parties agree to promote **[OACPS: joint-decision-making, co-management and]** predictability and security of resource flows and step up efforts to further improve the way in which they manage and deliver development cooperation, notably through greater coordination and coherence and by taking into account their respective comparative advantages, including transition experiences.
8. **[OACPS: The Parties agree that within the framework of their priorities at national, regional and intra-ACP levels, support may be given to jointly agreed projects, programmes, and other types of operations contributing to the achievement of the objectives set out in this Agreement and in keeping with its provisions.]**
9. The Parties shall engage in dialogue on the programming of financial resources, including national, regional, **[OACPS: intra-ACP]** and local authorities and involving parliaments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders. They agree that, where appropriate, programming shall be synchronised with the strategy cycles of beneficiaries and commit to the use of their institutions, systems, and procedures. They also agree that programming shall provide a specific, tailor-made multi-annual framework with regard to resources for cooperation.
10. **[OACPS: The Parties acknowledge that the programming approach and principles set out in articles 10-13 of the NDICI Regulations shall guide the joint programming of EU resources as they apply to geographic and thematic multi-annual indicative programmes.]**
11. The ["EU Party" EU] and more advanced ACP States shall undertake to develop new forms of engagement, including innovative financial instruments and co-financing.
12. The Parties agree that cooperation with third countries and other actors, including South-South and triangular cooperation, shall be encouraged in case of a clear added value and proven comparative advantage.
13. **[EU: The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the sound use of financial resources. [OACPS: The modalities for monitoring reporting, evaluation and auditing are captioned in the Annex XX to this Agreement.]**

[OACPS: The Parties agree that ACP States undertaking reform programmes that are acknowledged and supported, at least by the principal multilateral donors, or that have been agreed on with such donors, but not necessarily financially supported by them, shall be deemed as having automatically satisfied the requirements for adjustment assistance.

The Parties agree that structural adjustment support shall be mobilised in a flexible manner and preferably in the form of budget support, or sectoral and general importation programmes.

The Parties agree that the preparation, appraisal, and financing decisions for structural adjustment programmes shall be carried out in keeping with the provisions on implementation procedures in this Agreement, with due regard to the quick disbursement features of structural adjustment programmes. On a case-by-case basis, retroactive financing of a limited amount of imports of ACP-EC origin may be authorised.]

Article 3 Domestic public resources

1. The Parties **[OACPS: shall support efforts by the OACP States to mobilise increased domestic resources]**. They shall promote environments to increase domestic private flows, boost trade as an engine for development, and tackle illicit financial flows. They shall support macroeconomic and fiscal stability frameworks, sound sector policies and reforms, comprehensive budgetary frameworks and sound public financial management systems.
2. **[OACPS: The Parties shall endeavour to enhance revenue collection through modernised, [OACPS: progressive] tax systems, improved tax policy, more efficient tax collection, strengthened and reformed tax administration. They shall work towards improving the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of their tax systems, including by broadening the tax base and continuing efforts to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy in line with country circumstances. They shall strengthen fiscal legitimacy by enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of their public expenditure]**.
3. **[OACPS: The Parties, agree to increase efforts to combat illicit financial flows (IFFs), with a view to eradicating them and to cooperate to accelerate the recovery of lost assets and capital, and their return to their countries of origin. They commit to carry out actions geared towards strengthening countries' capacities and the sharing of information. They also agree to exchange information in order to combat money laundering and terrorism financing in an effort to protect their respective financial systems.]**
4. **[OACPS: The Parties shall enhance and strengthen good financial and tax governance, transparency, and accountability and in this regard, commit to utilising political dialogue as a strategy to resolve any tax and/or money laundering matters and to avoid the taking actions that may be deemed unilateral, prejudicial, and harmful to any party of this agreement. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation within international organisations dealing with tax matters and money laundering in order to establish fair and inclusive international standards for tax matters and money laundering.]**

Article 4

Domestic and international private resources

1. The Parties acknowledge that private capital flows are vital complements to national development efforts. They shall develop policies and, where appropriate, strengthen regulatory frameworks and instruments to better align private sector incentives with public goals. They shall cooperate to mobilise sustainable and responsible investment and encourage the private sector to engage as partner in the development process and invest in areas critical to sustainable development.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to use blending of grants and loans as well as guarantees as levers to attract private finance and address market failures while limiting market distortions. They shall encourage the generation of innovative financial products and create incentives to strengthen the diaspora's contribution to development.
3. The Parties acknowledge that remittances are a key private source of financing for sustainable development. They shall ensure to put in place relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks to create a competitive and transparent market for cheaper, faster, and safer transfers of money through legal and official channels in both source and recipient countries, as well as the establishment of innovative and affordable transfer solutions. **[OACPS: The Parties commit to establish, through ACP-EU partnership, platforms for dialogue, which include all the major stakeholders in the market, to facilitate remittances and optimise their impact on development].**

Article 5

Debt and debt sustainability

1. The Parties commit to making debt sustainable in the long term through coordinated policies geared towards financing, mitigating, restructuring, or managing debt as appropriate. They agree to assist countries to build debt-management capacities and develop medium and long-term debt strategies.
2. [The Parties underscore the importance of debtors and creditors working together to prevent and resolve debt crises. They agree on the need to strengthen dialogue, information sharing, and transparency, so that debt sustainability assessments and analyses are based on comprehensive, objective, and reliable data.]
3. The Parties, given the **[EU: the negative impact of unsustainable]** debt on economic growth, commit to engaging policy dialogue and cooperation in the context of international discussions on the general problem of debt, without prejudice to specific discussions taking place in relevant fora.
4. **[OACPS: The Parties agree to use the resources provided under this Agreement, to contribute to internationally approved debt-relief initiatives for the benefit of countries in order to alleviate the debt-servicing burden of States, their balance of payment problems and to boost economic growth.]**

[OACPS: Taking countries' financing needs into consideration, the Parties recognise that borrowing gives public finance a counter-cyclical role and is a source of investment financing with regard to achieving the development objectives of this Agreement.]

The Parties recognise that many ACP countries, particularly LDCs, LICs, and SIDS, are still vulnerable to debt crises despite public debt-relief programmes including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). In order to prevent countries from defaulting on their debt payments, the Parties agree to support the implementation of a comprehensive, fair, predictable, and preventative international debt restructuring mechanism, as a sustainable public debt management solution.

The Parties agree that, in order to help service the debt resulting from loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources, special loans, and risk capital, ACP States may, in accordance with the arrangements to be made on a case-by-case basis with the Commission, use the available foreign currency referred to in this Agreement for such servicing, as and when debt repayment falls due and up to the amount required for payments in national currency.]

**[OACPS: Article 6
Scope and Nature of Financing]**

- 1. The EU shall align itself with the systems and procedures specific to each ACP country, monitor its budget support with the partner country, and support partner countries' efforts to strengthen domestic accountability, parliamentary oversight, audit capacities, and public information.**
- 2. The Parties also agree that the instruments of import programmes or budgetary support defined above can also be used to support eligible ACP States implementing reforms aimed at intra-regional, inter-regional and continental economic liberalisation, which generate net transitional costs.]**

PART V
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Article 1
Joint institutions

1. The Parties agree that the joint institutions of this Agreement at ACP-EU level are [the Summit of ACP-EU Heads of State or Government], the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the Ambassadorial Level Senior Officials Committee (ALSOC) **[OACPS: and the Joint Parliamentary Assembly]**. They hereby establish [a Summit], a Council of Ministers, a Joint Committee and a Parliamentary Committee as the joint institutions for each of the three Regional Protocols.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to ensure coordination and complementarity between the joint institutions of this Agreement and the joint institutions of other frameworks or agreements to which they are parties, including the Economic Partnership Agreements, without prejudice to relevant provisions therein.

[Article 2
[Summit of ACP-EU Heads of State or Government]

1. The Parties may meet at the level of Heads of State or Government, upon joint agreement, in an appropriate format, on the basis of a mutually agreed timetable and agenda.

Article 3
ACP-EU Council of Ministers

1. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall comprise, on the one hand, a representative of each ACP State at ministerial level and, on the other hand, representatives of the ["EU Party"] at ministerial level. It shall be co-chaired by the Chair nominated by the ACP Parties on the one hand and by the Chair nominated by the ["EU Party"] on the other hand.
2. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall meet **[EU: in principle every three years] / [OACPS: every two years]** and whenever it is deemed necessary on the initiative of the Co-Chairs, in a form and a composition appropriate to the issues to be addressed. Observers may take part in meetings as appropriate.
3. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers may set up committees and working groups to deal with specific issues more effectively and efficiently such as on trade and development finance issues. It may also delegate powers to the ACP-EU ALSOC.
4. The functions of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall be to:
 - a. provide strategic political guidance;
 - b. oversee the effective and consistent implementation of this Agreement;
 - c. adopt policy guidelines and take decisions to give effect to specific aspects necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.
 - d. adopt joint positions and agree on joint actions on international cooperation, and facilitate coordination in international organisations and fora.

5. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall adopt decisions, which shall be binding on all Parties unless otherwise specified, or make recommendations concerning any of its functions listed in paragraph 4 by common agreement of the Parties. Its proceedings shall be valid only if the representatives of the [EU Party] and two thirds of the members representing the governments of the ACP States are present. Any member of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers unable to attend may be represented. The representative shall exercise all the rights of that member. **[OACPS: The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall submit a report annually to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of this Agreement. It shall examine and take into consideration resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly].**
6. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers may take decisions or make recommendations by written procedure. The use of a written procedure may be proposed by any of the Parties and may be initiated following the agreement of the Co-Chairs. The rules laid down in paragraph 5 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the written procedure.
7. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall adopt its rules of procedure at its first meeting, but no later than six months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 4

ACP-EU Ambassadorial Level Senior Officials Committee (ALSOC)

1. The ACP-EU ALSOC shall comprise, on the one hand a representative of each ACP State at ambassadorial or senior official level and the **[OACPS: Secretary General of the ACP Group of States in an ex-officio capacity]** and, on the other hand, representatives of the EU Party at ambassadorial or senior official level. The ACP-EU ALSOC shall meet annually and in special sessions at the request of the co-chairs, in particular, to prepare for the joint Council sessions. It shall be co-chaired by the same Parties that hold the office of Co-Chairs of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. It shall take its decisions and make recommendations by common agreement of the Parties. Observers may take part in meetings as appropriate.
2. The ACP-EU ALSOC shall prepare the sessions of and assist the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in the fulfilment of its tasks and carry out any mandate entrusted to it by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.
3. The ACP-EU ALSOC shall adopt its rules of procedure at its first meeting, but no later than six months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

[Article 5

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly]

1. **[OACPS: The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall be composed of equal numbers of ACP and EU representatives. The members of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall be, on the one hand, members of parliament or, failing this, representatives designated by the parliament of each ACP State and, on the other members of the European Parliament. In the absence of a parliament, the attendance of a representative from the ACP State concerned shall be subject to the prior approval of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly.**

2. **The role of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as a consultative body, shall be to:**
 - (i) **promote democratic processes through dialogue and consultation;**
 - (ii) **facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the ACP States and those of the European Union and raise public awareness of development issues;**
 - (iii) **discuss issues pertaining to the ACP–EU Partnership, including Development Cooperation, Economic Partnership Agreements and other trading arrangements;**
 - (iv) **discuss the annual report of the Council of Ministers on the implementation of this Agreement, and adopt resolutions and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers with a view to achieving the objectives of this Agreement; and**
 - (v) **advocate for institutional development and capacity building of national parliaments to promote and sustain democracy, human dignity, social justice and pluralism with full respect for diversity within and among societies.**
3. **The Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall meet once a year in plenary session, alternately in an ACP State and in the European Union. With a view to strengthening regional integration and fostering cooperation between national parliaments, meetings between ACP and EU members of parliament shall be arranged at regional level. Such meetings at regional level will be organised in pursuance of the objectives laid down in Article 1(2).**
4. **The Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall adopt its rules of procedure within six months of the entry into force of this agreement.]**

**[Article 6
[Regional Summit]**

1. **The Parties to each Regional Protocol may decide to meet at the level of Heads of State or Government at intervals to be agreed upon by the respective Parties on the basis of a mutually agreed timetable and agenda.**

**Article 7
Regional Council of Ministers**

1. **The Parties hereby establish a Council of Ministers for each of the three Regional Protocols.**
 - (a) **The Africa-EU Council of Ministers shall consist of, on the one hand, representatives of the ["EU Party"] at ministerial level and, on the other hand, a representative of each State Party in Africa at ministerial level;**
 - (b) **The Caribbean-EU Council of Ministers shall consist of, on the one hand, representatives of the ["EU Party"] at ministerial level and, on the other hand, a representative of each State Party in the Caribbean at ministerial level;**
 - (c) **The Pacific-EU Council of Ministers shall consist of, on the one hand, representatives of the ["EU Party"] at ministerial level and, on the other hand, a representative of each State Party in the Pacific at ministerial level.**

2. Each Council of Ministers shall be co-chaired by the chair nominated by the ["EU Party"] on the one hand, and the chair nominated by the respective African, Caribbean or Pacific States Parties, on the other, according to their own procedures.
3. Each Council of Ministers shall meet at intervals to be agreed upon by the respective Parties, in a composition appropriate to the issues to be addressed and on the initiative of the Co-Chairs and shall take decisions by common agreement of the respective Parties.
2. The functions of each Regional Council of Ministers shall be to:
 - (a) set priorities and, as appropriate, establish plans of action in relation to the objectives of their respective Regional Protocol;
 - (b) adopt decisions and make recommendations to give effect to specific aspects of their respective Protocol, including decisions concerning the revision or amendment of the corresponding Regional Protocol, in accordance with paragraph [4] of Article ["Duration and revision"]. The decisions shall be binding on all the Parties to the respective Regional Protocol, unless otherwise specified;
 - (c) conduct dialogue and exchange views on any issues of common interest.
3. Each Regional Council of Ministers shall adopt decisions or recommendations by common agreement of the respective Parties. Its proceedings shall be valid only if the representatives of the ["EU Party"] and at least two thirds of the members representing the respective ACP regions are present. Any member of any Regional Council of Ministers unable to attend may be represented. The representative shall exercise all the rights of that member.
4. Each Regional Council of Ministers may adopt decisions or make recommendations by written procedure. The rules laid down in Article ["ACP-EU Council of Ministers"] shall apply mutatis mutandis to the written procedure of the Regional Council of Ministers.
5. Each Regional Council of Ministers may set up sub-committees and working groups to deal with specific issues more effectively and efficiently and may delegate powers to the respective Regional Joint Committee.
6. Each Regional Council of Ministers shall submit a report to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on the implementation of their respective protocols.
7. Each Regional Council of Ministers shall adopt its rules of procedure within six months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 8

Regional Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee for each of the three Regional Protocols which shall comprise, on the one hand, representatives of the ["EU Party"] at ambassadorial or senior official level and, on the other hand, a representative of each State Party in Africa for the Africa-EU Protocol, each State Party in the Caribbean for the Caribbean-EU Protocol, and each State Party in the Pacific for the Pacific-EU Protocol, at ambassadorial or senior official level.

2. Each Regional Joint Committee shall be co-chaired by the same Parties that hold the office of Co-Chairs of the respective Council of Ministers. When appropriate, it may decide to invite observers on proposal by any Party following the agreement of the Co-Chairs.
3. Each Regional Joint Committee shall prepare the sessions and assist their respective Council of Ministers in the fulfilment of its tasks and carry out any mandate entrusted to it by the respective Council of Ministers.
4. Each Regional Joint Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure at their first meeting, but not later than six months after the entry into force of this Agreement

[Article 9]
[Regional Parliamentary Committee]

1. Each regional protocol shall establish a parliamentary committee, which shall be co-chaired by a member of the European Parliament, on the one hand, and a member of the parliament from the respective African, Pacific, and Caribbean Parties, nominated as Chair, on the other hand, according to their own procedures.
 - (a) The Africa-EU Parliamentary Committee shall comprise, on the one hand, members of the European Parliament and, on the other hand, members of parliament of each State Party in Africa, in equal number.
 - (b) The Caribbean-EU Parliamentary Committee shall comprise, on the one hand, members of the European Parliament and, on the other hand, members of parliament of each State Party in the Caribbean, in equal number.
 - (c) The Pacific-EU Parliamentary Committee shall comprise, on the one hand, members of the European Parliament and, on the other hand, members of parliament of each State Party in the Pacific, in equal number.
2. Each parliamentary committee shall meet at intervals to be jointly agreed, and preferably in view of meetings of relevant Council of Ministers. In this regard, each parliamentary committee shall be supplied in a timely manner with the agenda of the relevant Council of Ministers, on which it may make recommendations to the relevant Council of Ministers, and shall be informed of the decisions and recommendations of the relevant Council of Ministers.
3. It shall also adopt resolutions and discuss any issues pertaining to this Agreement. Each parliamentary committee may promote democratic processes through dialogue and consultation and facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the European Union and those of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.
4. **[OACPS: It shall liaise with the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on issues pertaining to the ACP–EU Partnership, including Development Cooperation, Economic Partnership Agreements and other trading arrangements in order to ensure coordination, coherence and complementarity.]**
5. Each parliamentary committee shall adopt its rules of procedure within six months of the entry into force of this Agreement.]

Article 10
Engagement with stakeholders

1. The Parties agree that engagement with stakeholders, notably local authorities, civil society, and private sector representatives, is integral to well-informed decision-making and to furthering the objectives of this Partnership.
2. Stakeholders shall be informed in a timely manner, and be able to provide inputs into the broad process of dialogue, particularly in view of the meetings of the respective Councils of Ministers.
3. In order to promote such engagement open and transparent mechanisms for structured consultation with stakeholders shall be set up as appropriate.
4. The results of such consultations shall be communicated to the relevant Parliamentary Committee and Council of Ministers or Joint Committee (ALSOC) as appropriate.

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**PART VI
FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1
Territorial application**

1. This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union apply and under the conditions laid down in those Treaties, and, on the other hand, to the territories of the ACP States.

**Article 2
Other agreements or arrangements**

1. No treaty, convention, agreement or arrangement of any kind between one or more Member States of the European Union and one or more ACP States may impede the implementation of this Agreement.

**Article 3
Consent to be bound, Entry into force and provisional application**

1. **[This Agreement shall be ratified or approved by the signatory Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional rules and procedures].**
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the ["EU Party"] and at least two-thirds of the ACP States have completed their respective internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement and deposited their instruments expressing their consent to be bound with [the "EU Party" depositary], which shall send a certified copy to the ACP Secretariat.
3. An ACP signatory State that has not completed the procedures set out in paragraph 2 by the date on which this Agreement enters into force as provided for in paragraph 2 may do so only within 12 months following that date. For such states this Agreement shall become applicable on the first day of the second month following the deposit of their instruments expressing their consent to be bound with [the "EU Party" depositary] which shall send a certified copy to the ACP Secretariat. Such States shall recognise the validity of any measure taken to implement this Agreement after the date of its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 1.
4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3, the [Parties/Union and the ACP States] may apply this Agreement provisionally in whole or in part, pending its entry into force and in accordance with their respective internal procedures. The provisional application shall commence on the first day of the second month after the date on which the [Parties/Union and the ACP States] have notified [the "EU Party" depositary] the completion of their respective internal procedures necessary for such provisional application. The European Union shall indicate in its notification the parts of the Agreement that shall be provisionally applied.

Article 4

Duration and revision

1. This Agreement is concluded for an initial period of 20 years, [commencing on ...2020]. Three years prior to the end of the initial period of this Agreement, the Parties shall enter into dialogue with a view to re-examining what provisions shall subsequently govern their relations. The Agreement shall be tacitly extended for a single period of 5 years unless a decision on terminating or extending it is agreed upon by all Parties before the end of the initial period of 20 years.
2. The Parties may submit proposals for amendments to the Agreement to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers no later than six months prior to the meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. Any amendments shall be approved by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and be subject to the procedures laid down for the entry into force and provisional application of this Agreement.
3. Within six months of the expiry of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Parties shall enter into negotiations with a view to reviewing and revising the strategic priorities of this Agreement, including the Africa-EU Protocol, the Caribbean-EU Protocol and the Pacific-EU Protocol, and introducing any other necessary amendments. The amended Agreement shall enter into force according to the procedures laid down for the entry into force and provisional application of this Agreement.
4. The Parties may submit proposals for amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers no later than six months prior to the meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. Any amendments may be approved by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.
5. **[EU: The Parties to the Africa-EU Protocol, the Caribbean-EU Protocol and the Pacific-EU Protocol may submit proposals for amendment to their respective Regional Protocols, as well as related annexes, to their respective Regional Council of Ministers, no later than six months prior to the meeting of their respective Regional Council of Ministers. Any amendments may be approved by the respective Regional Council of Ministers and shall be immediately notified to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. The amended Regional Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following 60 days from the date of approval by the respective Regional Council of Ministers unless the ACP-EU Council of Ministers raises an objection within 60 days of the notification date. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers may only object to an amendment, which is deemed incompatible with this Agreement.]**
6. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers shall adopt any transitional measures that may be required in case a new Agreement is envisaged between the Parties and until such Agreement comes into force or is provisionally applied.

Article 5

Denunciation

1. This Agreement may be denounced by ["EU Party"] in respect of each ACP State and by each ACP State in respect of ["EU Party"]. The termination shall take effect six months after receipt by [the depositary] of written notification thereof.

**[Article 6
Fulfilment of obligations]**

- 1. [For the purposes of this Article, the term ‘Party’ refers to the [“EU Party”], on the one part, and each ACP State, on the other part.**
- 2. The Parties shall take any general or specific measures required to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement.**

If either Party considers that the other Party has failed to fulfil any of the obligations under this Agreement, it shall notify the other Party. The Parties shall hold structured and systematic bilateral consultations with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution.

- 3. Where they are unable to reach a mutually acceptable solution within [X] days from the commencement of consultations, and not later than [X] days from the date of the notification, the notifying Party may take appropriate measures.**
- 4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, if either Party considers that the other Party has failed to fulfil any of the obligations that are considered essential elements in Article [XX] and Article [XX], except in case of special urgency, or in serious cases of corruption as provided in Article [XX], it shall notify the other Party. The Parties shall hold structured and systematic consultations on a bilateral level with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution. Where they are unable to reach a mutually acceptable solution within [X] days from the commencement of consultations, and not later than [X] days from the date of the notification, the notifying Party may take appropriate measures.**
- 5. If either Party considers that the other Party has failed to fulfil any of the obligations under this agreement and that the failure constitutes a case of special urgency, it may take appropriate measures with immediate effect, without prior consultations. In such cases the Parties shall be under the obligation to urgently, but not later than [x] days start consultations at the appropriate level with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution.**
- 6. For the purposes of this Article, 'cases of special urgency' shall refer to exceptional cases of particularly serious and flagrant violation of one of the essential elements referred to in Article XX and Article XX.**
- 7. 'Appropriate measures' referred to in this Article shall be taken in full respect of international law and shall be proportionate to the failure to implement obligations under this Agreement. Priority must be given to those which least disturb the functioning of this Agreement. Appropriate measures may include the suspension, in part or in full, of this Agreement, as a measure of last resort. After taking the appropriate measures, at the request of either Party, consultations may be called in order to examine the situation thoroughly and, if possible, find solutions allowing the withdrawal of appropriate measures.]**

Article 7
Accession

1. Any independent state which subscribes to the objectives, principles and priorities of this Agreement may submit a request for accession to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. If the request is approved, the state concerned shall become a Party to this Agreement and shall enjoy the same rights and be subject to the same obligations as the other Parties.
2. Any request for accession to the Agreement made by an independent state whose structural characteristics and economic and social situation are comparable to those of the ACP States shall be presented to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. If the request is approved, the state concerned shall accede to this Agreement by depositing an act of accession with [the "EU Party" depositary], which shall send a certified copy to the ACP Secretariat and notify the Parties to this Agreement.
3. The Parties shall review the effects of the accession of new States on this Agreement.
4. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers may decide on any transitional or amending measures that might be necessary.

Article 8
Observer status

1. In the pursuit of the objectives of this Agreement, third actors, including regional organisations, may be granted the status of observer by a decision of the relevant Council of Ministers. The rights and obligations of observers shall be established in Annex [X].

Article 9
Authentic texts

1. This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, each text being equally authentic.

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ANNEXES

ANNEXE I
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY OACPS-EU COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS

1. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers, within the provisions of Article 3 (3) of Part V of this Agreement, shall set up Committees and Working Groups with delegated authority/powers to deal with specific issues essential to the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement.
2. The specific terms of reference and composition of each such body/organ shall be approved/endorsed by the Council of Ministers, on the recommendation of the ACP-EU Joint Committee, taking into account the nature and scope of the tasks to be completed and the relevant expertise required of the membership to execute its mandate in a timely and effective manner. The membership of such bodies/organs shall fully reflect the principles of equality and genuine partnership.
3. A report of the Committee/Working Group's findings, recommendation and/or decisions shall be submitted to the next regular session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers through the ACP-EU Joint Committee. The Committee concerned shall, during its deliberations, call upon relevant organisations and others it deemed appropriate, to assist and provide additional information in the successful execution of its mandate.

PROTOCOLS

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PART I STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

TITLE I INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development for mutual interest and benefit by fostering structural economic transformation and diversification creating quality jobs with decent work conditions, and advancing regional economic integration. They shall invest in human capital and skills, promote a sound macroeconomic framework, and create a business environment that is conducive to greater flows of investment and to private sector development. They shall take measures, and cooperate to strengthen capacities to minimise and mitigate climate and other environmental risks, supporting a paradigm shift in production and consumption, promoting climate resilient infrastructures, renewable energy and clean technologies, sound management of waste and chemicals, and integrated water management, with a view to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and enabling gradual transition to circular economies. They shall harness key sectors with high growth and high decent job creation potential, leading to integration into regional and global high-value chains. They shall endeavour to ensure that all people benefit from unlocked business opportunities, paying special attention to women and youth, and that core labour standards are respected and upheld, including through effective social dialogue.

Chapter 1 Economic transformation

Article 1 Economic governance

1. The Parties shall improve macroeconomic stability and promote structural reforms as well as appropriate economic fiscal and monetary Policies that create the much needed space for investment expansion, job creation, private sector development and strengthen resilience to economic shocks. They shall facilitate the process of economic reform by improving shared understanding and exchange of information on the fundamentals of their economies and the formulation and implementation of economic policies.
2. The Parties agree to support the principles of economic good governance, adopt measures to improve public finance management, work towards public debt sustainability, strengthen national and regional statistical systems as well as regional multilateral surveillance mechanisms, and promote transparent budget execution with public access to documents, effective control systems and a competitive, transparent and accountable public procurement system.

3. The Parties shall facilitate the process of economic reform by improving shared understanding and exchange of information on the fundamentals of their economies and the formulation and implementation of economic policies.

Article 2

Human capital and skills

1. The Parties shall strengthen human capital by investing in the areas of education, skill enhancement and capacity building with a view to matching the demands of the labour market and enhancing labour productivity, paying particular attention to the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. They shall ensure that national education systems and curricula are geared towards future employment requirements and deliver on national capacity needs.
2. The Parties shall promote demand-driven technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems, including by partnership with the private sector, adapted to the needs and opportunities of local and regional labour markets in particular in rural and remote areas.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to develop and implement policies that improve digital skills and literacy and integrate them into the education system.

Article 3

Business environment and investment climate

1. The Parties shall improve national and regional regulatory frameworks and simplify business regulations and processes, reduce and streamline administrative formalities, reinforce cooperation and build capacities to implement effective competition policies. They shall adopt **[EU: non-discriminatory / OACPS: open]**, transparent and clear regulatory frameworks for business and investment, with protection of property rights, Land Rights and intellectual property rights. They shall ensure effective, transparent and predictable tax systems and improve customs' role to facilitate trade while enforcing the rules in place to combat fraud and infringement. They shall promote policies that enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of labour market institutions, striking the right balance between flexibility and worker protection.
2. The Parties shall support financial sector reforms through measures that promote the improvement and increase of access to finance and financial services, especially for MSMEs; the development and interconnectivity of financial markets, and the integration of capital markets to ensure an efficient allocation of savings to productive investment and the private sector. They shall aim at fostering competition of financial service providers, developing viable banking and non-banking financial sectors and strengthening mobile and digital financial services in view of an increased access to finance especially for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. They shall also aim at enhancing their collaboration on the implementation of international standards and ensuring open markets, protection of consumers protection and other users and increased access to mobile services.

3. The Parties shall endeavour to provide business and investors with relevant and easily accessible information on business opportunities and on how to set up new businesses in Africa and the European Union. They shall support structured public-private dialogue and the networking of economic operators, and the development of business partnerships, to ensure that private sector perspectives are taken into account in efforts to reduce investment risks and addressing obstacles for sustainable investment and prioritising investment climate reform agendas.
4. The Parties shall support capacity building of public authorities to pursue policy improvements and regulatory reforms to the business environment and investment climate, including through trainings, expertise and knowledge transfers.
5. The Parties agree that business environment and investment climate related issues shall be appropriately reflected in their dialogue.

Article 4 Infrastructure

1. The Parties shall support sustainable and resilient development in key infrastructures such as energy, transport, and information and communications technology (ICT) and digital connectivity to facilitate transformation of their economies, taking into consideration the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).
2. The Parties shall cooperate in identifying, promoting and financing jointly, projects that are expected to facilitate the transformation of their economies. They shall cooperate to build and maintain well-targeted infrastructure, including industrial parks and export-processing zones, to support competitive industries and sectors linked to global markets.
3. The Parties shall improve the governance of the infrastructure sector. They shall mobilise investment, enhance domestic resource mobilisation, encourage public-private partnerships, harness private sector skills and innovation in the provision of infrastructure and related services.
4. The Parties agree to facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and maintenance through enhanced financial, technological and technical support, with particular attention to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

Article 5 Intellectual property

1. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation, including in the formulation of the regulatory framework for the promotion and protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, taking into account their underlying policy objectives.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen capacities to promote, protect and enforce intellectual property rights at domestic, regional and continental levels.

3. The Parties shall ensure that enforcement procedures are available under their law so as to enable right holders to take effective action against any act of infringement of intellectual property rights.
4. The Parties shall build capacities to promote the registration and protection of geographical indications (GIs) for both African and European agricultural and food products and undertake actions to support the implementation of the AU Continental Strategy on GIs, as well as support local communities to take full advantage of GIs to move up regional and global value chains.
5. **[OACPS: The Parties agree to support, as appropriate, the promotion and raise the value of traditional indigenous and local knowledge, cultural expressions and folklore. They shall promote the work of educational institutions, youth organisations and the media and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness, teach and inform young people about African traditional culture and indigenous knowledge, cultural expressions and folklore. The Parties agree to support the establishment of databases and geographic indications, as appropriate, on genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and cultural expressions and folklore, with a view to protecting them, and through increased promotion and marketing. raise the value of indigenous and local knowledge]- To be placed under “Culture”**

Article 6 Investment

1. The Parties undertake to work jointly to unlock sustainable and responsible investment from domestic and foreign, public and private sources. They shall pay particular attention to sectors that are essential for economic development, have a high potential for sustainable job creation particularly in adding-value sectors, and foster environmental sustainability.
2. The Parties agree to facilitate investment through legislation, regulations and policies, which shall be developed in a transparent manner, encouraging public-private dialogue and providing the opportunity for all stakeholders to participate.
3. The Parties shall boost efforts towards improving the investment climate and business environment. They shall support measures bridging the gap in knowledge of local investment conditions by foreign investors. They shall promote business contacts and information networks and facilitate joint investments and joint ventures.
4. The Parties shall promote effective and more strategic use of public investment to crowd in investment from the private sector through blending, guarantees and other innovative financial instruments in order to leverage additional resources from capital markets, de-risk investment and facilitate access to finance. The Parties shall take into account initiatives which contribute to the financing and promotion of private sector investment in Africa in order to ensure coherence.

5. The Parties shall promote corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct throughout the entire value chain, by providing supportive policy frameworks that encourage the uptake of relevant practices by businesses and by supporting the adherence, implementation, follow-up and dissemination of relevant international standards, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprise and Social Policy. They shall recognise the contribution to sustainability and corporate social responsibility of other voluntary initiatives, including industry self-regulation.

Article 7 Industrialisation

1. The Parties shall promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in Africa, through innovation and technological development with a focus on high-value added and labour intensive sectors.
2. They shall promote the Transformation of African Economies and their transition from commodity dependence to diversified economies through the treatment and processing of raw materials locally, manufacturing value-addition and the integration into regional and global value chains including by taking into consideration the Strategy for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa (AIDA).
3. The Parties shall work towards unlocking bottlenecks that hamper industrial development. They shall address supply-side constraints, promote productivity enhancement, encourage the use of advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) and artificial intelligence, and support digital transformation taking into account social, mobility, analytics and cloud (SMAC) technologies. They shall foster climate-smart and environmentally friendly practices and the use of clean and affordable energy.
4. The Parties shall seek to create industrial linkages through greater value addition for, inter alia, agriculture and resource-rich countries. They shall foster relations between smaller and larger industries within Africa. They shall develop the services sector to ensure that it efficiently contributes to industrialisation.
5. The Parties shall facilitate the development of Micro, Small and medium sized Enterprises in Africa, including by developing linkages within Africa as well as synergetic linkages with EU enterprises They shall support policies for development of entrepreneurship among youth and women in the context of their economic empowerment and promotion of inclusive development.

Article 8
Private sector development

1. The Parties shall promote and strengthen the role of the private sector as an effective driver of sustainable development based on corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct. They shall provide an enabling environment to unlock the potential of opportunity-driven entrepreneurship and better harness Africa's entrepreneurial base, combining a mix of tools such as financing, services and training, business culture and regulatory frameworks, as well as innovation and application of modern technologies. They shall pay particular attention to the informal sector and the formalisation of informal economic activities.
2. The Parties shall establish the right business framework and support micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups to seize growth opportunities, including by promoting initiatives for their internationalisation. They shall strengthen MSME support services by focussing on accompanying measures, market access, capacity building, and business upgrading. They shall promote and support innovation and entrepreneurship, especially among the youth, and women.
3. The Parties shall support structured dialogue between European and African private sectors and cooperation between African and European Union SMEs to help create an improved business environment enabling growth in all economic sectors.
4. The Parties shall promote private sector commitment and action on green business development and the circular economy, including through the development of social entrepreneurship and the facilitation of access to sustainable finance.
5. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate a wider use of their respective currencies in their international transactions.

[Article 9
Regional Integration

1. **[OACPS: The Parties shall support the development of economic cooperation and enhance African States' competitiveness through, inter alia, the build-up of larger markets, the free movement of persons, goods, services capital, labour and technology, in the context of the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty).]**
2. **[OACPS: Cooperation shall build on existing regional integration initiatives of both parties and cooperation shall be mutually reinforcing Cooperation. It shall address, in particular, supply and demand side constraints, notably interconnectivity of infrastructure, economic diversification and trade development measures as a means of enhancing African States' competitiveness. While doing so, The Parties shall leverage on applicable/relevant positive aspects of various regional and global agreements, which they ascribe to.]**

Article 10

Trade cooperation

1. The Parties, acknowledging the importance of trade as a major contributor to economic growth and development, shall bolster trade opportunities for their mutual benefit. They shall cooperate to build trade capacity and put in place the framework conditions and policies to facilitate increased trade flows between them.
2. The Parties agree that Trade cooperation shall be implemented in full conformity with the provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including special and differential treatment.
3. The Parties agree that trade cooperation shall primarily build on existing preferential trade arrangements and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).
4. Signatories to the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) shall support the implementation of these agreements, including the possibility for broadening the scope of EPAs and the accession of new members where appropriate.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to support, with their respective means, the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
6. The Parties agree that the implementation of the EPAs, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and other applicable trading arrangements, are complementary and mutually supportive as well as contributing to the deepening of the regional and continental Integration process under the African Union trade and structural transformation agenda.
7. The Parties agree to maintain or establish, at the appropriate levels, joint arrangements to monitor implementation of EPAs and discuss other applicable trading arrangements, and assess their impact on the development of African economies and on their regional and continental integration processes.
8. The Parties shall support regional economic integration processes, including through trade facilitation and regulatory harmonisation, promote intra-African trade and the integration of African countries into regional and global value chains. They also agree to facilitate and stimulate the creation and consolidation of regional markets for goods and services.
9. The Parties shall support initiatives that reduce and eliminate unnecessary technical barriers to trade within the scope of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). They shall cooperate to strengthen sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations and practices pursuant to the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures. In particular, the Parties shall cooperate to develop international standards at the relevant International Standards Bodies (ISBs), taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties. They shall also cooperate to enhance transparency in the development of regulatory measures and implementation of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures (e.g. testing, certification, calibration), and shall address among others, issues of metrology and accreditation, of laboratories. combined with an adequate market surveillance infrastructure.

10. The Parties shall cooperate in the area of trade facilitation, building on their respective commitments under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. They shall adopt measures, including technical assistance, to implement the WTO TBT SPS and TF Agreements and support compliance with international standards through appropriate capacity building.
11. The Parties shall stimulate market development through infrastructure linkages and prioritise the removal of unnecessary barriers and constraints facing exports between Africa and the EU.
12. The Parties commit, according to their levels of development and priorities, to enhancing market access for goods to African and EU markets in order to maximize the benefits of existing trade agreements.

Chapter 2 Key sectors

Article 1 Agriculture

1. The Parties shall cooperate to increase sustainable and quality agricultural production, productivity, and processing with a view to enhancing food and nutrition security, improving livelihoods, creating decent jobs, improving value chains, and expanding incomes. They shall strengthen climate resilient practices, promote sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystem services, eliminate incentives that generate unsustainable production patterns, and utilise the most sustainable energy efficient and low-carbon technologies. They shall ensure the transition towards sustainable food systems by pay attention to all dimensions of sustainability and shall strengthen the resilience of the agri-food systems to climate and environmental risks and exogenous shocks.
2. They Parties shall cooperate with a view to boosting public and private investments and better linking European and African businesses in the Agri-food sector and to exchanging best practises and bringing together European and African Expertise for Agricultural development. They Parties shall support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
3. The Parties shall bolster investment, putting in place investor-friendly rules and regulations to promote responsible private investment and make such investment thrive in the agri-food sector. They shall support the development of sustainable agri-food value chains, through amongst others, improved rural infrastructures, enhanced vocational training and education, agriculture research and technologies, and facilitated access to finance and markets.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to improve opportunities for agriculture producers, processors and exporters to access markets at national, regional and global levels. They shall promote capacity building in the area of sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, fair trade schemes for agro-processing, access to services and agricultural advice, and

appropriate technologies, with a special focus on the capacity of young farmers, women, smallholders and family farmers. They shall build the capacities of family farming organisations, MSMEs, in production and processing techniques, by establishing empowerment policies particularly for young people and women.

5. The Parties shall cooperate on agriculture sector governance, notably through support measures for information and early warning systems to prevent crises, through inclusive policy-making, and through building the capacities of professional organisations at the national, regional, and continental levels. They shall facilitate access to agricultural land and inheritance rights, including for family farmers, young people, and women.

Article 2 Livestock and leather

1. The Parties shall cooperate to improve sustainable livestock production, improve pastoralism and cross-border transhumance, develop livestock value chains, including by enhancing the capacity of professional organisations, and support the processing, conservation, trade and development of animal products such as leather, milk, and meat in view of environmentally sustainable, climate resilient, socio-economic development and inclusive growth. They shall also cooperate to modernise infrastructure for processing and marketing livestock and livestock products with a view to facilitate access to markets and strengthen inter-regional markets in Africa.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to develop and modernise the livestock sector in keeping with the objectives of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), taking into consideration the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).
3. The Parties shall cooperate to improve animal health, enhance veterinary services, and ensure the sustainable management of agro-pastoral resources. They shall encourage the establishment of the appropriate national and regional regulatory frameworks, as well as to strengthen the veterinary research capabilities. They shall cooperate to address the risks emerging from Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) by strengthening monitoring mechanisms and cross-border epidemiological cooperation.

Article 3 Blue economy and Fisheries

1. The Parties shall support the blue economy, reconciling sustainable economic growth with improved livelihoods, social equity, conservation of marine and inland ecosystems and their biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and strengthening food security and transparent, reliable and secure food systems.
2. The Parties agree to promote sustainable and responsible investment in the blue economy and support targeted interventions to stimulate greater private sector investment. They shall promote integrated watershed management and marine spatial planning to reconcile multiple use demands and environmental protection. They shall further promote technology development and transfer, the sharing of knowledge, innovations, best practices and lessons learned on a sustainable blue economy.

3. The Parties shall promote sustainable marine and inland fisheries for job creation, income generation, the fight against poverty, and enhanced food security and improved nutrition. They shall facilitate joint ventures, promote value addition, and address post-harvest losses through appropriate measures and foster improved access to markets. They shall also enhance the social and economic benefits of small-scale fisheries including artisanal fisheries by building sustainable fisheries value chains, strengthening investments and local capacities while paying attention to the participation of vulnerable and marginalized persons.
4. The Parties shall ensure the conservation and sustainable management and use of marine and inland fisheries resources in order to maintain fish stocks at sustainable levels, avoid overfishing, support the implementation of climate smart policies and minimize the negative impacts of fishing on the natural environment. They shall also promote regional cooperation and foster best practices in fisheries management, including promoting the collection and reporting of fisheries data and statistics.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to develop sustainable marine and inland aquaculture, through effective spatial planning, an ecosystem based approach, better access to finance, and enhanced level playing field for investors, ensuring that it meets the concerns of local communities.
6. The Parties shall promote the sustainable development of coastal and maritime tourism that generates revenue and create jobs with due consideration to the environmental and social dimensions.
7. **[OACPS: The Parties shall improve competitiveness of [African] maritime industries by strengthening sustainable infrastructure and equipment of [African] port facilities.] They shall explore the possibility of creating green ports]**.
8. The Parties shall explore the potential of innovative, new and emerging sustainable maritime activities including tidal energy. They shall set up the necessary regulatory and policy frameworks for their future development, supporting research and reducing technical bottlenecks to facilitate access for investors whilst avoiding risks to the marine environment.
9. The Parties shall support the implementation of blue economy strategies and action plans. They shall facilitate the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of a sustainable blue economy. They shall give due attention to the development of small island developing states, recognising their dependence on the ocean.

Article 4

Extractive industries and processing

1. The Parties shall promote the extractive industries sector to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development and the transformation of African economies. The Parties shall encourage investments in extractive industries and processing, taking into account the principle of countries' sovereignty over natural resources. They shall promote greater integration between African and European value chains.

2. In this context, the Parties shall promote fair and responsible and **[EU: undistorted]/ [ACP: equitable]** access to extractive resources, fully respecting the sovereignty of countries over their natural resources and foster their sustainable trade between ACP and EU operators and upholding the rights of affected communities. They shall support the development, harmonisation and implementation of coherent policies and robust regulatory and legal frameworks on exploration, exploitation, handling, licensing, contracting, taxation, processing, and exporting of extractive resources. They shall encourage the participation of local economic operators in the investment chain and contribute to promote their competitiveness of local economic operators through the transfer of skills and technology in and become full actors in the value chains.
3. The Parties shall promote good governance in the extractive sector for socioeconomic development. They shall strengthen national legislation to ensure compliance with internationally recognised principles and guidelines, taking into consideration regional strategies as appropriate. They shall combat tax fraud and tax evasion and ensure that all operators pay the requisite taxes, fees and royalties due to host countries. They shall fight the illegal exploitation and trade of mineral resources through national, regional and international legal means.
4. The Parties shall support national, regional, and international initiatives to achieve greater transparency and accountability in the use and management of the extractive resources, including through the promotion of the Kimberley Process and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) and other relevant initiatives on responsible and sustainable extraction and sourcing of minerals such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.
5. The Parties shall support the development of appropriate legislation and mechanisms, taking into account the needs of and fostering the engagement of artisanal and small scale miners, local communities, civil society to ensure inclusive and sustainable exploitation of extractive resources. They shall promote environmental sustainability, climate-smart practices, decent work conditions, health and safety of local communities, and respect for human rights in line with international obligations and commitments. They shall cooperate to build the productive capacities of local entrepreneurs in the extractive value chains, and artisanal and small-scale miners, and shall encourage social partnerships between mining companies, local communities, and other relevant stakeholders. They shall promote national and regional mapping and exploration activities to improve the quality of geological information and geo-data management systems in Africa.

Article 5 Manufacturing

1. The Parties shall cooperate to foster sustainable manufacturing in Africa, developing tailored-made strategies aimed at reducing dependency on low-end primary production and creating value addition at local and regional level.
2. The Parties shall develop policies to attract more domestic and foreign direct investment into the manufacturing sector. They shall cooperate to support capacity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). They shall promote innovation and advanced manufacturing clusters, networks and partnerships.

3. The Parties shall endeavour to increase the proportion of labour-intensive manufacturing. They shall cooperate to assimilate new and emerging technologies with a view to transforming supply chains and modernising production.
4. The Parties shall support efforts in increasing trade of manufactured goods through linkages to markets, trade facilitation including for enhanced quality standards, and infrastructures. They shall strengthen regional integration to unlock Africa's manufacturing potential and improve its competitiveness on global markets.

Article 6 Services

1. The Parties, shall take measures that support the development of a vibrant and robust services sector so as to pave the way for increased service exports, investments and strengthened regional integration and inter-regional cooperation.
2. The Parties shall develop sector-specific policies and measures to address regulatory hurdles, improve the institutional and regulatory frameworks and strengthen capacity in the supply of services. They shall support the implementation of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), deepen regional cooperation and reduce fragmentation of the services markets in Africa, strengthen generation and analysis of data for trade in services, and support the monitoring of services integration and the impact of reforms on lowering trade costs.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to enhance trade in services, including the movement of natural persons for business purposes between Africa and the EU, with particular focus on key sectors for their economic growth and development, such as information and communication technologies, health, financial services, distribution, tourism, construction and related engineering services, culture and creative industries in line with existing international agreements.

Article 7 Transport

1. The Parties shall cooperate towards achieving modern, safe, secure and sustainable transport systems, enhancing interconnectivity within Africa as well as between Africa and the European Union.
2. The Parties shall improve the overall governance of the transport sector, developing and implementing efficient regulations allowing fair competition within and between transport modes. They shall aim at reducing the environmental impact of transport modes by promoting clean energy through improved fuel standards and energy efficient technologies.
3. The Parties shall bolster investment to support the further development of transport infrastructures and networks (i.e. road, air, water, rail), paying particular attention to missing-link infrastructures and their maintenance, taking into account the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). They shall improve the access to basic infrastructures for rural and remote communities in order to enhance their socio-economic development.

4. (The Parties shall promote dialogue and cooperation towards the goals of unrestricted access to international maritime markets and trade based on fair competition on a commercial basis. Each Party shall grant, inter alia, a treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own ships, for ships operated by nationals or companies of the other Party, and for ships registered in the territory of either Party, with respect to access to ports, the use of infrastructures and auxiliary maritime services of those ports as well as related fees and charges, custom facilities and the assignment of berths and facilities for loading and unloading).
5. The Parties shall cooperate in the aviation sector, including by supporting the establishment and strengthening of the Single African Air Transport Market. They shall bolster investment, broaden and deepen regulatory cooperation, and enhance safety and security, as well as airspace surveillance, including their capability to respond to related threats and risks.

Article 8 **Sustainable energy**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to accelerate access to sustainable and affordable energy, develop resilient energy infrastructures, particularly in rural areas, and promote the development of renewable energy and efficient energy use. They shall promote the use of the most efficient energy and low-carbon technologies in all sectors particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, extractive industries and tourism.
2. The Parties shall promote energy security and establish and reinforce effective energy interconnections within Africa and between Europe and Africa to ensure reliable and affordable energy supply. They shall address regulatory, economic, societal and other challenges related to the development of strategic sustainable energy corridors.
3. The Parties shall facilitate open, transparent, competitive and functioning energy markets by adopting legal and regulatory frameworks that drive investment in sustainable energy, energy storage and energy efficiency. They shall phase out environmental harmful fossil fuel subsidies. They undertake to strengthen the partnership between European and African private sectors, as well as the engagement of their public and private sectors, in order to boost investment in sustainable energy generation, energy efficiency and energy access. They shall mobilise investment in a diversified and clean energy mix for electricity, favouring renewable resources. They shall support the successful implementation of relevant national and regional energy initiatives in Africa, including through contributing to the objectives of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI).
4. The Parties shall promote energy efficiency and energy savings at all stages of the energy chain, from generation to consumption. They agree to work towards increasing sustainable energy generation and storage capacity, and to improve transmission and distribution infrastructure with the promotion of solutions that are safe and sustainable, resource efficient, climate smart and contribute more effectively to poverty eradication.

5. The Parties shall support the development and uptake of clean, diverse, cost-effective and sustainable energy technologies, with a focus on renewable and low emission energy technologies and energy efficiency and energy savings measures, through strengthening capacities and favouring Africa-Europe partnerships, linkages and joint ventures between economic operators. They shall promote Joint Research and innovation networks in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
6. The Parties shall support sector reforms and the development of appropriate regulatory and policy frameworks to ensure regional interconnectivity and cooperation in the area of energy. They shall strengthen regional power pools as a vehicle for integrated cross-border energy markets and trading.

Article 9

Information and Communication Technologies and digital economy

1. The Parties shall increase access to open, affordable and secure information and communication technologies, including by supporting private and public investments. They shall endeavour to establish the necessary regulatory institutions to licence service providers, promote competitive behaviour, and ensure fair treatment of consumers as well as data and consumer protection.
2. The Parties shall improve access to digital technologies and services and establish affordable digital connectivity, including by creating a conducive policy and regulatory framework. They shall improve the business environment and facilitate access to finance and business support services to foster digitally enabled entrepreneurship and mainstream digitalisation to increase efficiency and effectiveness of interventions in all economic sectors with the objective of achieving inclusive economic growth and transformation.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to create an enabling environment, specifically through the establishment and adaptation of appropriate, legal, and institutional frameworks, to unlock the potential of the digital economy, including e-commerce, in the creation of jobs and economic development, with a particular focus on women and youth.
4. The Parties shall support the transition towards knowledge-based economies.

Article 10

Tourism

1. The Parties shall cooperate to create an enabling environment for a balanced and sustainable development of tourism, which fosters economic development, generates employment, and promotes the integration of environmental, cultural and social considerations including addressing challenges particular to the tourism industry.
2. The Parties shall bolster investment in the promotion and development of tourism products, with due regard to the competitive position of the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). They shall strengthen linkages between the tourism sector and other relevant economic sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, transport, the blue economy, cultural industries and heritage, with a view to optimising the socio-economic benefits of tourism.

3. The Parties shall enhance the protection and promotion of cultural patrimony and natural resources, paying particular attention to environmental and wildlife protection. They shall respect the integrity and interests of local communities and maximise their involvement in the process of tourism development, in particular rural and community tourism and ecotourism.
4. The Parties shall develop initiatives that promote sustainable tourism flows and improve service standards. They shall promote training and exchanges of experiences, and share information and statistics of mutual interest in the tourism sector.

Chapter 3

Science, technology development, research and innovation

Article 1

Science and technology development

1. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation in the areas of science and technology for mutual benefit with the aim of promoting social and economic development, tackling global societal challenges, and improving regional competitiveness.

Article 2

Research and innovation

1. The Parties agree to mobilize resources to foster research and innovation activities aimed at supporting inclusive economic growth and development and the transition towards knowledge-based societies and economies.
2. The Parties shall encourage the development of research infrastructures and facilities. They shall foster basic and applied research, including in the areas of engineering and artificial intelligence, and encourage open data in pursuit of mutually beneficial scientific excellence. They shall promote research undertaken in African universities, institutes, and research centres, with special attention to capacity building as well as the transfer of technology and know-how. They shall enhance participation in global research, technology development and transfer, innovation and knowledge production.
3. The Parties shall promote and support innovative mobility and training schemes for students, academics and researchers and build capacity of higher education institutions to network effectively in research and innovation. They shall encourage dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration between the academic community, researchers and innovators, and the private sector with a view The Parties shall support innovation to enhancing productivity and competitiveness and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Article 3

Space and geospatial technology

1. The Parties shall harness the potential benefits of space science, technology, innovation and applications on matters of common interests in the area of civil space activities, such as space research, Global Navigation Satellite Systems application and services, development of satellite augmentation systems and Earth Observation and Earth Science, particularly on the use of early warning and surveillance. They shall cooperate to develop a sustainable and responsible space market and industry that promotes and responds to the needs of African and European regions.

2. The Parties shall cooperate to conduct activities that exploit space technologies and applications for sustainable development and improvement of the welfare of the people and addressing Africa's socio-economic opportunities and challenges taking into consideration the African Space Policy Strategy. They shall improve access to space-derived data, information, services and products.

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TITLE II: HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall work towards eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030, combatting inequality, achieving gender equality, and creating the conditions to enable everyone to enjoy a life in dignity, participate in democratic life and make an active contribution to sustainable economic growth. They shall foster social protection with a view to eradicating poverty and fighting inequalities and as a means to create a self-strengthening cycle towards inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development. They shall invest in human capital as an integral part of human and social development, as well as way to increase the employability of young people for enhanced productivity and entrepreneurship.

Chapter 1 Human development

Article 1 Education

1. The Parties shall aim at achieving universal, inclusive and equitable access to quality education at all levels, from pre-school to higher education including improved enrolment and retention rates. They shall enhance the quality of formal education and non-formal learning, cooperate in curriculum development and improve infrastructure and equipment of existing education centres. Particular attention shall be given to the specific needs of women and girls, as well as the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, and in situations of emergency and fragility.
2. The Parties shall promote the expanded delivery and application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and arts, for all. They shall promote the use of accessible and affordable digital technologies and the development of digital skills and literacy for all.
3. The Parties shall endeavour to boost enrolments and quality in tertiary education, technical and vocational training education, and work-based and adult learning, to ensure the constitution of a critical mass of skilled innovation workers and highly educated people and to respond effectively to specific economic needs.
4. The Parties shall work together to encourage recognition and transparency of qualifications and improved quality assurance and relevance. They shall increase support for concrete initiatives to facilitate mobility of students, staff and academics/researchers between Europe and Africa and across Africa. They shall foster partnerships between institutions and promote development and transfer of knowledge.

Article 2 Health

1. The Parties shall aim at achieving universal health coverage and equitable access to quality essential health services, including through strengthened national health systems and functioning modern health care facilities.

2. The Parties shall cooperate to eliminate preventable maternal, child and neo-natal mortality and morbidity. **[OACPS: The Parties shall aim at delivering comprehensive health services, including access to sexual and reproductive health, respecting national laws and the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.]**
3. The Parties shall cooperate to address the growing incidence and burden of non-communicable diseases.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to tackle communicable diseases and vector borne diseases, including neglected tropical diseases. They shall cooperate to address health pandemics such as HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria and reduce substantially the proportion of death attributable to these diseases. They shall support access to safe and affordable essential medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, including universal access to anti-retroviral treatment for persons with HIV/AIDS.
5. The Parties shall strengthen capacity for emergency preparedness and response to detect, prevent and respond to disease outbreaks and other health threats such as antimicrobial resistance taking a one-health approach. They agree to scale up support to national and regional health prevention, surveillance and monitoring systems.
6. **[(EU: The Parties shall commit to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and shall commit to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in this context. Having that in mind, the Parties shall, in accordance with national context, commit to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of women every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their ~~sexuality and~~ sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. They shall further stress the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.)]**
7. The Parties shall cooperate in the promotion of local knowledge and regulation of traditional medicine in public health activities.

Article 3

Water, sanitation, and housing

1. The Parties shall work towards ensuring that everyone has access to modern and liveable habitats with quality basic services.
2. The Parties shall promote access to affordable and decent housing to all in sustainable human settlements, taking into account effective and territorial planning and land tenure, use and management systems when enacting housing policies. They shall work towards reducing the proportion of people living in slums and shall cooperate to upgrade slums and informal settlements.
3. The Parties shall foster universal access to sufficient, safe, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use, including through sustainable and integrated water resources and systems management, as well as a more efficient use of water and water recycling.

4. The Parties shall boost physical, affordable and acceptable access to sanitation for all, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.
5. The Parties shall increase access to sustainable energy services for all and support efficiency in energy usage by households.

Article 4

Food security and improved nutrition

1. The Parties shall enhance access to safe and nutritious food, with a view to achieving the zero hunger target and eradicating famines and other types of food crises. They shall support the establishment of adequate systems of food supply and storage.
2. The Parties shall fight all forms of malnutrition, including through improved food production and distribution and better sanitation and environmental conditions. They shall support sustainable agricultural production and productivity and small-scale fisheries to unleash their full potential as critical sources for food and nutrition security, including through improved access to finance for small producers and developed irrigation, storage and transport infrastructure to facilitate market access and ensure food product safety and quality.
3. The Parties shall build resilience to food-related shocks of the most vulnerable populations through strengthened social safety nets. They shall enhance coordination between development and humanitarian action so as to better anticipate, prevent and prepare for famines and other types of food crises, and ensure timely action for making food available locally.

Chapter 2

Inequality and social cohesion

Article 1

Inequality and social protection

1. The Parties shall promote the development and implementation of policies and systems of social protection and security in order to eradicate poverty, fight inequalities and enhance social cohesion.
2. They Parties shall support the transformative role of social protection policies and systems, fostering equity, promoting social inclusion and dialogue with social partners, and strengthening inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth. They shall aim at building progressively universal, nationally owned social protection systems, including through the adoption of minimum social protection floors, particularly for persons in vulnerable situations.
3. The Parties shall cooperate in support of attaining and sustaining income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.
4. The Parties shall endeavour to ensure that all persons working in the formal sector are provided with social security and to boost the number of people in the informal sector and rural economy that have access to social security, with the goal of progressively reaching universality.

5. The Parties shall develop initiatives to support the transition from the informal to the formal economy, including access to credit and micro-finance and strengthened social protection measures.
6. The Parties shall promote and facilitate dialogue between employers' and workers' organisations' in the formal and informal economy, as well as civil society organisations, including through capacity building.

Article 2 Decent work

1. The Parties shall support the development and implementation of macroeconomic, employment and social policies that focus on the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly for youth, women, as well as vulnerable persons and groups.
2. The Parties shall develop and maintain inclusive and well-functioning labour markets and adopt measures that address the informal economy and prevent unfair labour practices.
3. The Parties shall support measures that ensure equal employment opportunities and remuneration for work of equal value and guarantee adequate paid parental leave in both the public and private sectors. They shall adopt prevention and protection measures against all forms of discrimination in the workplace, ensure respect for fundamental rights at work and enhance healthy and safe conditions for workers.
4. The Parties shall work towards the elimination of child labour with priority given to the worst forms.

Article 3 Persons with disabilities

1. The Parties shall promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities, in view of the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
2. The Parties shall take measures to ensure the full inclusion in society of persons with disabilities and their participation in all spheres of public and private life, including in democratic and political affairs and decision-making processes. They shall prevent, combat and eliminate any harmful practice, all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse or discrimination against persons with disabilities and protect relatives, caregivers or intermediaries from discrimination on the basis of their association with persons with disabilities.
3. The Parties shall promote equal and barrier-free access to social services, transportation and other physical infrastructures and to recreational and cultural activities for persons with disabilities, and shall support alternative methods of communication, where appropriate, to enable their full inclusion in society.

4. The Parties shall promote equal access to labour markets prohibiting any discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all forms and conditions of employment. They shall support the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector through targeted policies and incentive measures, including for self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Article 4

Culture, sports and people-to-people contacts

1. The Parties shall support culture as an engine for sustainable and economic development. They shall create an enabling environment for cultural innovation, diversity and development as well as for the creation, protection, production and distribution of cultural works. They shall encourage the use of new information and communication technologies to promote their culture.
2. The Parties shall enhance the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as the diversity of cultural expressions, with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and fostering balanced cultural exchanges.
3. The Parties shall endeavour to promote the mobility of culture professionals and the circulation of works of art and carry out joint initiatives in various cultural and creative sectors. They shall encourage intercultural exchanges and dialogue among youth organisations and civil society from Africa and Europe.
4. The Parties shall support the development of creative industries. They shall work towards putting in place an appropriate institutional framework and support measures with a view to stimulating artistic creation and facilitating exchange of artistic expression. **[OACPS: The Parties shall take appropriate measures for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights related to the expression of cultural diversity. They shall enact national and regional laws and regulations guaranteeing the protection of copyright; and set up authors' associations and copyright offices for, inter alia, protecting the material and moral interests of producers of cultural goods and services)].**
5. **[OACPS: The Parties shall cooperate to fight illicit trafficking of African cultural property and ensure that such cultural property is returned to their countries of origin; in the case where the cultural properties cannot be returned to their countries of origin, the host country shall share the income generated through the exploitation of these properties with the concerned country of origin. They shall ensure that archives and other historical records, which have been illicitly removed from Africa are returned to African Governments in order that they may have complete archives concerning the history of their country. The Parties shall provide appropriate physical and environmental conditions to safeguard and protect returned archives and historical records.]**
6. The Parties shall promote sport as a driver for sustainable development, social inclusion, non-discrimination and advance on human rights. They shall endeavour to develop adequate facilities and encourage people's participation in sporting and other physical education activities. They shall also support sport as a means for intercultural dialogue and cooperation between nations, prevention of conflict and violence, and post-conflict reconciliation.

Chapter 3 Population and development

Article 1 Demography

1. The Parties shall acknowledge the need for managing the opportunities and challenges of demographic change in order to better meet the aspirations and hopes of future African and European generations.
2. The Parties shall ensure the systematic collection, analysis storage and dissemination of national statistics and data on all the population in accordance with ethical, confidentiality and privacy standards and shall take data and trends into account in their development plans.
3. The Parties shall empower and invest in youth and women, acknowledging their critical role in demographic processes. They shall promote their human rights and provide them with the education and skills they need. They shall mobilise investment and unlock economic opportunities, so as to harness the potential of large youth populations.

Article 2 Gender equality and empowerment of women

1. The Parties agree to strengthen cooperation aimed at improving and expanding equal participation and opportunities for all, in all sectors of political, economic, social and cultural life. They shall ensure that the gender perspective is systematically mainstreamed across all policies and programmes.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to promote the human and social development of women and girls. They shall endeavour to remove all barriers in the area of health and education to eliminate gender disparities. They shall work towards universal and equal access to formal and vocational education in order to reach their full potential and realise their aspirations. They shall ensure that learning materials and teaching methods are gender-responsive and encourage girls and women to undertake studies in the STEM disciplines.
3. The Parties shall facilitate equal access by women to economic opportunities, employment, credit and financial services, and the control over and use of land and other productive assets. They shall cooperate to support women entrepreneurs, to eliminate the gender pay gap, and to remove discriminatory regulations and practices. They shall take effective measures to identify and take action against acts of sexism and address root causes of gender inequality such as negative social norms and gender stereotypes including in mass media.
4. The Parties shall strengthen girls' and women's voice and participation in political life through measures to achieve gender parity in electoral, policy and governance processes, senior government positions, including constitutional bodies and state-owned businesses, and shall promote their active role in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts.

5. The Parties shall enact and enforce legislation that protects girls and women from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and trafficking.
6. **[EU: The Parties shall commit to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and shall commit to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in this context. Having that in mind, the Parties shall, in accordance with national context, commit to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of women every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. They shall further stress the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.]**

Article 3 Youth

1. The Parties shall support youth entrepreneurship and shall undertake to secure decent employment for young people, including by supporting them in acquiring labour market-relevant skills through education, vocational and technical training, enhanced access to digital technologies, and facilitated access to land and credit. They shall establish youth-friendly employment services to connect young people to employment opportunities in areas where these are available or are growing.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to empower young people and work to open space for their active inclusion in decision-making processes and participation in democratic and political life as well as in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts. They shall promote policies and programmes for marginalised youth, including youth advocacy programmes, to offer them the opportunity and motivation to re-integrate into society.
3. The Parties shall support initiatives aimed at ensuring access to quality basic services for all children, preventing the recruitment and use of children in conflict situations, ending all forms of violence and harmful practices against children, including child, early, and forced marriage, child labour, child abuse and corporal punishment, with a special focus on children in situations of vulnerability.

Article 4 Sustainable urbanisation and rural development

1. The Parties shall boost the potential of cities as hubs for sustainable and inclusive growth and innovation.
2. The Parties shall promote sustainable land use planning, equitable management of land markets paying particular attention to transparent and regulated land acquisitions and property rights, sustainable urban mobility and smart, safe cities that make use of opportunities from digitalisation and technologies. They shall integrate sustainable energy production and energy efficiency solutions, encourage productive use of energy, improve management of waste, and address all forms of pollution. They shall enhance

urban mobility solutions and ensure that services and infrastructure provisions are designed to be climate- and environment-friendly and resources are used efficiently. They shall build cities' resilience to shocks and harness opportunities for a low-emission and climate-resilient economy.

3. The Parties shall promote a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities, with a special focus on employment and income generation. They shall accelerate rural diversification through adding value to local products and exploiting natural and cultural resources.
4. The Parties shall promote inclusive, balanced, integrated territorial and urban policies, and multi-level governmental coordination actively engaging local authorities and communities, forging stronger links between rural and urban areas.

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TITLE III: ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall take ambitious action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, protect and improve the quality of the environment, and manage natural resources sustainably, with a view to stopping and reversing climate change and environmental degradation, and attaining sustainable development. They shall adopt concrete measures to reduce and prevent loss of biodiversity, maintain and restore ecosystems, protect and fight illegal trade of wildlife, promote the sustainable management of water, land and other natural resources, strengthen ocean governance, combat all forms of pollution, promote sound waste management, and build resilience to natural disasters. They shall work together to prevent climate change impacts and environmental degradation from continuing to act as a threat multiplier with serious implications for peace and security. They shall accelerate the transition to greener pathways for development in key economic sectors, promote circular economies and resource efficiency, support clean and sustainable energy and low-carbon technologies, ensuring that economic growth goes hand in hand with low-emission transition and environmental sustainability. They shall endeavour to build effective alliances in international settings with a view to driving global action forward. They shall build capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements to which they are parties and shall mainstream environmental sustainability, climate change objectives, and the pursuit of environmentally sustainable growth into national and local policies, plans and investments. They shall promote the constructive engagement of local authorities, civil society and the private sector and respect for the rights of all, including indigenous peoples and local communities.

Chapter 1

Environmental sustainability and natural resources management

Article 1

Biodiversity and ecosystems

1. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystems are preserved, protected, and restored so that the significant economic, social and cultural services they provide continue to support human well-being and economic growth. They shall develop and implement national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols.
2. The Parties shall enact legislation and adopt integrated strategies for the incorporation of biodiversity considerations in all relevant sectors. They shall support innovative options, such as nature-based solutions or agro-ecology, as well as valuing ecosystems services, in maximising mainstreaming of biodiversity.
3. The Parties shall take an inclusive approach to address key drivers of habitat loss such as land use change, the expansion of subsistence agriculture, and the development of commercial agriculture, urban areas and energy infrastructures. They shall take measures to control forest exploitation, land clearing for cultivation, fires, grazing by animals and invasive species. They shall protect, conserve and promote the sustainable use and rehabilitation of forests, woodlands, rangelands, wetlands and other areas with vegetation cover. They shall maintain and enhance species and genetic diversity of plants and animals whether terrestrial, fresh-water or marine.

4. The Parties shall enhance efforts in establishing, effectively managing and improving the governance of protected areas for biodiversity conservation.
5. The Parties shall strengthen the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the conservation of ecosystems, including through the promotion of environment-friendly and sustainable tourism and the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities.

Article 2

Circular economy

1. The Parties shall prevent or minimise the generation of waste at source, as well as improve product reusability, recyclability and resource efficiency in order to adapt production and consumption towards the achievement of a circular economy, including through adequate waste collection and sorting, services and environmentally sound recycling initiatives and facilities. They undertake to adopt policies on the circular economy in order to protect the environment and human health, make products more energy- and resource- efficient and broaden consumer choice, as well as improve waste management.
2. The Parties shall establish the necessary national regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste and for the implementation of the relevant multilateral agreements. They shall take the necessary measures to combat dumping and illegal trade in hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, chemical and organic waste, in conformity with the provisions of Basel Convention and taking into consideration the provisions of the Bamako Convention. They shall prevent or minimise hazardous substances in material cycles and manage chemicals in products throughout their lifecycle, and support informed decision making on appropriate measures to protect the environment and human health, including against pollution resulting from inappropriately managed wastes, and remediate associated environmental damage.
3. The Parties shall effectively address all forms of pollution. They shall take measures aimed at the detection, prevention and reporting of pollution. They shall increase efforts to prevent plastic pollution and to remove plastics and micro-plastics from the environment. They shall explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on combatting air pollution. They shall raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach campaigns.

Article 3

Ocean governance

1. The Parties shall strengthen ocean governance to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans, reducing the pressures on oceans and seas and promoting the sustainable development of the blue economy as well as strengthening ocean knowledge.
2. The Parties shall ensure the conservation and sustainable management and use of living marine resources at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, particularly in the context

of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

3. The Parties shall maintain or adopt initiatives to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including where appropriate, the implementation of policies and measures to exclude IUU products from trade flows. They shall ban subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and IUU fishing. They shall promote and effectively implement and enforce monitoring, control and surveillance measures, such as observer schemes, vessel-monitoring systems, fishing licences and authorisations, catch recording and reporting, transshipment control, inspections and port state control and associated measures to ensure compliance, including sanctions according to national regulations, aimed at the conservation of fish stocks and the prevention of overfishing.
4. The Parties agree to take necessary steps to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing such new subsidies, **[EU: recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.] / [OACPS: while recognizing effective special and differential treatment for African developing and least developed countries.]**
5. The Parties shall reduce the pressures on the oceans through the protection, preservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems, the valorisation of marine and coastal natural capital and the fight against marine pollution, including oil spills, destruction of seabed, noise pollution, marine litter, including plastics and micro-plastics from land-based sources and from sea-based sources. They shall support and strive for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions reductions from ships, actively support the urgent implementation of the initial International Maritime Organisation (IMO) strategy on reduction of Green House Gas emissions from ships. They shall scale-up ocean and coastal clean-up operations, paying particular attention to accumulation zones in ocean gyres.
6. The Parties shall take actions related to oceans that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
7. The Parties shall develop measures related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity based on the best available scientific information.

Article 4

Land management and land degradation

1. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent land degradation and develop long-term integrated strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of land.
2. The Parties shall promote integrated approaches and adopt measures for the conservation and improvement of the soil, and combat soil erosion and degradation, and the deterioration of its physical, chemical and biological properties. They shall address pollution caused specifically by agricultural activities, including aquaculture and animal husbandry. They shall ensure sustainable and equitable land rights and tenure,

sustainable land, water and forest resource management, and create sustainable economic opportunities for people living in rural areas. They shall ensure that non-agricultural forms of land use, including but not limited to public works, mining and the disposal of wastes, do not result in erosion, pollution, or any other form of land degradation.

3. The Parties shall take measures to effective land-use planning and infrastructure to strengthen resilience in hazard-prone countries, whilst enhancing disaster response capabilities. They shall plan and implement mitigation and rehabilitation measures based on best practices and best scientific knowledge, as well as local knowledge and experience in areas affected by land degradation.

Article 5 Forests

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable forest management and use of forest resources, halt deforestation and forest degradation, combat illegal logging and associated trade.
2. The Parties shall support forest landscape restoration initiatives to reverse deforestation, establish forest reserves, restore degraded forest landscapes, carry out afforestation programmes where necessary and limit forest grazing to season and intensities that will allow forest regeneration.
3. The Parties shall promote sustainable value chains of agriculture and forest commodities prioritising the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities in the conservation of ecosystems.
4. The Parties shall support the implementation of the EU FLEGT (forest law enforcement, governance and trade) Action Plan, including by concluding and implementing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), and strengthen coherence and positive interactions at country level between FLEGT and the UN programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).
5. The Parties shall strengthen the involvement of local authorities and communities in forest protection. They shall increase public awareness about deforestation at all levels and encourage the consumption of resource- and energy-efficient products from sustainably managed forests. They shall promote and support the use of alternative and sustainable cooking fuel for local populations.

Article 6 Wildlife

1. The Parties shall support in situ conservation of Africa's key landscapes for biodiversity conservation, particularly trans-border protected areas that are habitats for key wildlife species, and enabling adequate connectivity to allow for wildlife migration and species range adaptation to climate change. They shall also strengthen agencies responsible for protected areas and promote involvement of rural communities in the sustainable management of wildlife and woodlands.
2. The Parties shall combat wildlife trafficking by supporting the making and the enforcement of policies and laws to make wildlife trafficking a serious crime,

strengthening anti-poaching measures and law enforcement monitoring, and promoting international coordination in the context of the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC), including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other relevant international frameworks. They shall increase public awareness, educating and influencing consumers, destroying stockpiles, and promoting high profile diplomacy and advocacy.

3. The Parties shall support efforts to promote sustainable consumption of bush-meat, while developing affordable alternative sources of protein and developing sustainable livelihoods.

Article 7 Water

1. The Parties shall manage their water resources in a sustainable manner, with a view to maintaining high quantitative and qualitative levels. They shall promote integrated water resources management, and implement policies for the planning, conservation, management, utilization and development of underground and surface water, as well as the harvesting and use of rainwater. They shall protect and restore water sources and ecosystems, prevent water pollution, collect and treat wastewater, and enable environmental sound urban development. They shall optimise the contribution of the water sector to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
2. The Parties shall promote cooperation for transboundary water resource management with a view to achieving freshwater sustainability, preventing land degradation and desertification, building resilience to water-related hazards (e.g. floods, droughts and pollution) including through water collection and storage systems, and preventing the risks of conflicts.
3. The Parties shall support sustainable water management and good water governance at all levels. They shall strengthen dialogue and encourage partnerships between public authorities, the private sector and civil society.

Chapter 2 Climate change and natural disasters

Article 1 Climate action

1. The Parties shall pursue the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, being guiding by its principles and shall enact comprehensive and inclusive domestic climate policies and programs to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
2. The Parties shall formulate, communicate and maintain successive and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), develop and implement ambitious National Adaptations Plans (NAPs), as appropriate, and develop long-term visions towards low emissions and climate resilient development, and invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation capacities. They shall commit to developing Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as evaluation systems to track progress on climate action.

3. The Parties shall design long term strategies to reduce emissions arising from the transport sector (road, aviation and maritime). They shall promote smart urban mobility and foster the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from unsustainable land management, deforestation and forest degradation. They shall engage in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency and encourage countries to engage in energy transition. They shall phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities. They shall strengthen international cooperation to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases.
4. The Parties shall promote an ambitious phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol through the ratification of the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol and shall work towards ensuring its swift implementation to achieve an ambitious global phase-down of HFC production and consumption.
5. The Parties shall recognise and act on the threat that climate change and environmental degradation pose to peace and security, particularly in situations of fragility and on the most vulnerable countries. They shall take measures and work together strengthening adaptation and resilience measures to ensure conflict prevention through early warning systems taking into account the security challenges linked to adverse effects of climate change and environmental risk factors and strengthen the link between early warning and early action across policy areas, including through risk and impact assessments.
6. The Parties shall aim at averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, in their domestic and international efforts, and in this context, recognize the important role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.
7. The Parties shall take action to align finance flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.
8. The Parties shall aim at enhancing knowledge and capacity on policy options and instruments and best practices to improve resource efficiency along the entire life-cycle of natural resources and products. They shall work together towards strengthening scientific, technical, human and institutional capacity for climate action and environmental management and monitoring at all relevant levels with particular attention to most vulnerable countries. They shall promote the use of space technologies and information systems.
9. The Parties shall strengthen coordination across all levels of governance to encourage and enable local authorities to make and implement ambitious climate and energy commitments. They shall promote synergies between public administration, civil society organisations and private business and foster participation of the private sector towards a low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient economy, including through joint research. They shall promote existing initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and should support the implementation of their action plans.

Article 2
Drought and desertification

1. The Parties shall combat desertification through improvement in land governance, land degradation and the sustainable management of land and water. They shall accelerate progress towards the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s National Action Plans, its Land Degradation Neutrality targets and other relevant international and regional initiatives, including the Great Green Wall initiative.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to prepare for and respond to emergencies caused by drought and work to increase resilience to environmental degradation, desertification, related health threats and humanitarian crises, by addressing factors that cause vulnerability.

Article 3
Resilience to natural disasters

1. The Parties shall cooperate to build resilience of people, societies and infrastructures to natural disasters, taking into account the impact of climate change. They shall promote exchange of information and good practices on the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through national and local integrated strategies.
2. The Parties shall promote disaster risk management, including comprehensive assessment of risks, implementation of risk reduction plans at all levels, strengthening the link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, collection and use of disaster statistics and loss data, and the development of a culture of risk prevention and financial protection, including through appropriate and innovative tools such as risk transfer mechanisms.
3. The Parties shall prepare for and respond to emergencies caused by extreme weather events and natural disasters such as floods and rising sea levels, and coastal erosion and silting. They shall cooperate to assess and alleviate the impact of extreme weather events and natural disasters.
4. The Parties shall strengthen capacity for regional disaster and emergency response, including civil protection mechanisms, as well as capacity of local communities and institutions, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalised households and groups.
5. The Parties shall support the use of space technologies and information systems to improve prevention, preparedness, response and recovery measures.

TITLE IV PEACE AND SECURITY

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall foster cooperation and coordination at the regional, inter-regional, continental and global level in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa and Europe. They shall buttress joint efforts and mechanisms to secure peace, prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism, address all forms of organised crime and security threats, and enhance maritime security, taking account of the complexity of all these challenges and the need to address their root causes. They shall cooperate on ensuring sustainable financing for all peace and security activities.

Article 1 Regional and multilateral cooperation

1. The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and institutional cooperation to address peace and security challenges. They shall strengthen support towards a more efficient operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as envisioned by the AU's Agenda 2063. They shall encourage synergies between the APSA and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) in line with the AU's reform agenda.
2. The Parties shall support efforts of the AU and the regional economic communities/regional mechanisms and other regional security cooperation arrangements in achieving peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies. They shall strengthen trilateral EU-AU-UN cooperation, and multilateral cooperation with other relevant international and organisations and third countries, as appropriate.
3. The Parties shall promote local ownership, inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability of all actions, engaging with national and local authorities, communities and civil society.

Article 2 Conflicts and crises

1. The Parties shall work towards ensuring the peaceful resolution of all inter- and intra-state conflicts in Africa. They shall implement an integrated approach to conflicts and crises compliant with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, deepening their strategic cooperation and enhancing joint action in all phases of the conflict cycle, from prevention and early-warning to lasting peace-building, through mediation, crisis management, stabilisation, as well as security sector reform.
2. They shall support initiatives and mechanisms to prevent conflicts and avoid endangering peace and security. The Parties shall take coordinated action to address the root causes of conflicts and crises, tackle the risks of emerging, escalating violent conflicts, and reinforce support to diplomatic initiatives and mediation efforts and multi-party dialogue to resolve disputes and conflicts by peaceful means. To this end, they shall support the full operationalisation of the Continental Early Warning System (CWS).
3. The Parties shall cooperate in the areas of crisis management and peaceful resolution of conflicts, including through cooperation between African-led peace support operations (PSOs), EU crisis management operations and UN peace keeping operations, where deployed in the same zone.

4. The Parties shall cooperate in relation to post-conflict stabilisation, consolidate and support the implementation of crisis settlement processes, accompany constitutional and electoral processes, and promote transitional justice, reconciliation processes and reintegration measures for victims of armed conflicts and wars. They shall support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas devastated by war.
5. The Parties shall promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas and shall strengthen the active role of youth and women in peace and security, from early warning, mediation, resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, in line with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, notably UNSCR 1325 and 2250, as well as AU and EU policies and decisions.

[Article 3: Serious crimes of concern to the international community

1. **The Parties shall reject impunity for serious crimes of concern to the international community and reiterate their commitment to fighting it at the national, regional and international levels. They shall enhance political dialogue on the application of international criminal justice, including the issue of universal jurisdiction.**
2. **The Parties shall recognize the International Criminal Jurisdiction of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights for all cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, the unconstitutional change of government, piracy, terrorism, mercenarism, corruption, money laundering, trafficking in persons, trafficking in drugs, trafficking in hazardous wastes, illicit exploitation of natural resources, and the acts of aggression. They shall enhance the human and institutional capacity of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights as well as that of national and regional competent courts and tribunals.]**

Article 4

Terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation

1. The Parties shall prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms, addressing those factors that may create an environment conducive to violent extremism and radicalisation, including through fostered religious tolerance and inter-religious dialogue, and responding to the challenges posed by the links between terrorism and transnational organised crime, in full respect of the rule of law, international law, including human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.
2. The Parties shall enhance cooperation to enable individuals and communities to prevent and to increase resilience against acts of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation. They shall endeavour to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including youth, religious leaders and civil society, to promote mutual understanding, diversity and inter-faith dialogue, to identify tailor-made interventions, and to counter online and offline recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts. They shall cooperate on enhanced support for the victims of terrorism.
3. The Parties shall cooperate towards the sustainable implementation of all relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, including UNSCR 2396 and UNSCR 2462 and General Assembly, international conventions and instruments, including the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

4. The Parties shall intensify efforts in exchanging information and expertise on terrorist groups and their support networks, fully respecting the rule of law and international human rights law. They shall support initiatives for law enforcement cooperation and strengthen capacity to fight terrorism in a human right compliant manner, including through training and professionalization of security forces. They shall cooperate to suppress the financing of terrorism, identifying, detecting, confiscating and freezing or seizing any funds and any other assets used or allocated for the purpose of committing a terrorist act.
5. The Parties shall prevent perpetrators of terrorist acts and violent extremism from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Article 5 Organised crime

1. The Parties shall tackle all forms of organised crime, in particular, trafficking in human beings, small arms and light weapons, illicit drugs, hazardous material, cultural goods and wildlife, as well as environmental crime, through enhanced border control management, information and data gathering and sharing, and the exchange of expertise and technical assistance. They shall adopt legislative and other measures in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols.
2. The Parties shall appropriately address trafficking in human beings, in line with the standards of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. They shall prevent trafficking in persons by strengthening law enforcement and judicial cooperation, to counter impunity for all perpetrators involved in the trafficking chain, and by discouraging the demand, that fosters all forms of exploitation. They shall ensure appropriate protection of victims, taking into account the gender specificity of the crime, with women and girls disproportionately targeted and mainly for sexual exploitation.
3. The Parties shall adopt legislative and other measures to prevent and combat migrant smuggling by strengthening law enforcement and judicial cooperation to investigate and prosecute the smuggling of migrants and related crimes in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols, including the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
4. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation with a view to preventing and combating the use of their financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions to finance terrorism and launder the proceeds of criminal activities, including corruption. They shall exchange information and enforce the proper measures to fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. They shall support the establishment of national asset recovery legislation and bodies, confiscation of criminal assets and their mobilisation for public benefit purposes extending criminal liability of crime perpetrators and facilitators, and ensuring the disruption of illicit financial flows, depriving criminals from profits.

5. The Parties shall enact legislation and develop initiatives to tackle crime, including urban crime and violence. They shall promote firearms control with a view to preventing and reducing the negative effects of armed violence on society and people and create a safe environment for sustainable development. They shall combat all forms of violence and shall support victims of violence.

Article 6 **Small arms and light weapons**

1. The Parties shall promote the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Firearms Protocol, as well as support the Action Plan for the Implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
2. The Parties shall cooperate against the illicit proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons that sustains armed conflict and terrorism, and fuels armed crime such as cattle rustling and poaching, including through improved stockpile management, destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition, marking, record-keeping and tracing, export and import controls.

Article 7 **Cyber-security and cyber-crime**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to develop and implement legislation and measures to uphold an open, free, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology (ICT) environment. They shall work to promote the development and implementation, within the framework of the UN, of internationally accepted norms of responsible behaviour in cyberspace, in full compliance with international human rights obligations.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent and combat cyber-crime and the distribution of illegal content online. **[OACPS: They shall pursue regional harmonization of legislative measures and/or regulations adopted to fight against cybercrime.]** They shall exchange information in the fields of education and training of cybercrime investigators, investigation of cybercrime and digital forensic science, while ensuring a high level of data protection. They shall promote the culture of cybersecurity and they shall cooperate to prevent and fight cybercrime building on **[EU: the Budapest Convention on cybercrime as well as promote regional coordination measures as appropriate]**.

Article 8 **Illicit drugs**

1. The Parties shall strengthen the balanced, integrated and evidence- based approach of their drug policies. They shall endeavour to prevent and counter the cultivation, production and trafficking of illicit drugs and psychoactive/psychotropic substances, including by adopting more effective drug-related crime prevention and law enforcement measures, in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations.

2. The Parties shall intensify and accelerate efforts on the demand side, engage in prevention and education programmes, take the necessary measures to address the health and social impacts of drugs. They shall foster dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community and academia in order to effectively address illicit drugs.

Article 9

Maritime security

1. The Parties shall take initiatives at national, regional and continental level contributing to the advancement of maritime security, notably in the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea. They shall foster cooperation between the EU, the UN and the AU, as well as with regional and sub-regional organisations, encouraging complementarity of efforts.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to combat transnational organised crimes at sea of all kinds, including trafficking in human beings, small arms and light weapons, illicit drugs, wildlife, and smuggling of migrants. They shall deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea including thefts of oil and gas with a view to ensuring secure and open trade routes.
3. The Parties shall increase multi-lateral efforts to effectively respond to maritime crimes affecting international waters. They shall develop measures to enhance law enforcement capacity and ownership of coastal states and regional organisations, promote regional coordination and exchange of information to tackle maritime threats and counter different forms of crimes committed at sea.
4. The Parties shall develop and enhance inter-regional information sharing mechanisms, encourage maritime surveillance and domain awareness and cooperation between coast guards and navies of coastal states.
5. The Parties shall promote and respect the freedom of the high seas, freedom of navigation and other principles, rights and obligations foreseen by international law, while promoting the universal application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as other relevant international legal instruments

Article 10

Law enforcement cooperation

1. The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and cooperation on law enforcement, including through strategic cooperation between AU bodies such as Aripol and EU bodies such as Europol, to facilitate the prevention, detection and investigation **[and prosecution]** of activities of transnational organised criminal and terrorist networks in Africa and in Europe.
2. The parties shall cooperate in the area of search and rescue, as well as in other emergency situations and encourage states to conclude bilateral agreements.

3. The Parties shall enhance cooperation on integrated border management, and improve information and data gathering and sharing.
4. The Parties agree to work on enhancing police capacities including through targeted police training programs at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, adapted to the realities of the African context.

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TITLE V
HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall promote resilient sustainable and inclusive societies rooted in accountable, effective and transparent institutions and decision-making processes at all levels, where human rights, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and democratic principles are respected, promoted and fulfilled. They shall work to accelerate progress towards gender equality. They shall ensure an open and enabling space for individuals and civil society to voice their aspirations and concerns, express their opinions or make contributions to all political, economic, social and cultural matters, contributing to increasing confidence in public institutions.

Article 1
Human rights

1. The Parties shall enact and implement legislation that contributes to the protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights, whether they are civil, political, economic, social or cultural. They shall support the ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as the African Governance Architecture (AGA) instruments.
2. The Parties shall apply in full the principle of non-discrimination with regard to sex, race, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age, **[EU: sexual orientation and gender identity]**, putting a priority at adopting comprehensive equality and anti-discrimination law. They shall undertake steps to achieve the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls and their empowerment, including by encouraging the signing and ratifying, where still needed, and implementing the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women. They shall make every effort to promote and protect the rights of the child, including by encouraging the signing and ratifying, where still needed, and implementing the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. They shall adopt measures to promote the full enjoyment of human rights by persons belonging to minorities, persons with disabilities and persons with albinism, as well as indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
3. The Parties shall effectively fight against impunity for perpetrators, ensuring the rule of law and the independent, impartial and effective functioning of the justice system, and guarantee the rights of victims and survivors to adequate, effective and prompt reparation.
4. The Parties shall support the African human rights system, notably the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, in guiding African states to comply with international human rights law obligations. They shall observe and preserve the integrity and independence of these bodies and shall ensure that all African states respect the judgements of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.
5. **[OACPS: The Parties shall legally recognise and strengthen the capacity of civil society and protect human rights defenders acting at national, regional and continental level.]** They shall cooperate to raise awareness on human rights, including through cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions, education systems and the media.

Article 2

Gender equality

1. The Parties shall ensure equality before the law, and equal access to justice, protection and benefit of the law for all. They shall take measures aimed at ensuring, improving and expanding equal participation and opportunities, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. They shall ensure that the gender perspective is systematically mainstreamed across all policies and programmes.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent and eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination, harassment, as well as domestic violence and shall combat trafficking in human beings. They shall undertake all necessary measures to mobilise a concerted drive to end child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and cutting, and other harmful practises that discriminate against women and girls. They shall provide support to victims and survivors of all forms of violence. The Parties are committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as its optional Protocol.
3. The Parties shall ensure that girls' and women's social rights are respected and promoted, notably by removing all barriers in the area of quality education and health and eliminating gender disparities. They shall reinforce the economic rights of women and girls.
4. The Parties shall ensure that the legislation in place recognises girls' and women's right to fully participate in all domains of public life and create conditions and opportunities for women to taking up equal positions, including in political leadership and decision-making. They shall strengthen the role of women and advance their participation at all levels in the field of peace and security, as well as prevention and resolution of conflicts, violence and extremism.

Article 3

Democracy

1. The Parties shall promote and strengthen universal values and principles of democracy. They shall protect the separation of powers, promote Political Pluralism and strengthen transparency, participation and confidence in democratic processes as well as trust between political leaders and the people, including by supporting the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.
2. The Parties shall ensure the integrity of electoral processes by guaranteeing inclusive, transparent and credible elections respecting electoral cycles and constitutional provisions in due respect for sovereignty. They shall promote international and regional standards and best practices in the management of elections as well as strengthen independent and impartial election commissions, ensuring a level playing field between all political parties and candidates. They shall enhance cooperation on electoral observation, including follow-up on electoral observation recommendations, as appropriate, and strengthen cooperation with the AU and the Regional Economic Communities. They shall strengthen national mechanisms that redress in a timely manner election-related disputes.
3. The Parties shall strengthen the capacity of elected national parliaments to perform their legislative, budgetary and oversight roles, respecting the prerogatives of all their members.

4. The Parties shall enact domestic laws and regulations recognising different levels of government with the mandate to exercise their competencies in accordance with delegated powers. They shall strengthen local administration and decentralise power to democratically elected local authorities as provided in national laws.
5. The Parties shall promote inclusive and pluralistic societies. They shall remove any restrictions to freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. They shall preserve and broaden an enabling space for civil society in advocacy and policy shaping and ensuring free and independent media to hold governments to the highest levels of transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs and to foster constructive state-citizen relations. They shall raise awareness on democratic principles and human rights, including through education systems and the media.

Article 4 **Rule of law and justice**

1. The Parties shall cooperate in the consolidation of the rule of law and in the strengthening of institutions at all levels in the administration of justice. They shall uphold the independence of the judiciary and shall aim at ensuring independent, impartial and effective functioning of the justice system and at enhancing citizens' effective and equitable access to justice and legal aid.
2. **[EU: The Parties shall cooperate towards the universal abolition of the death penalty, including by supporting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and People's Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, and conducting awareness-raising and educational campaigns. They shall ensure that those countries still applying the death penalty consider introducing as a first step a moratorium on executions, shall encourage states where a moratorium is in place to take steps towards the full abolition, shall promote alternative sentences which recognise each person's ability to make amends, and shall support adherence to international minimum standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.]**
3. The Parties shall prevent, condemn and eradicate all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment by state and non-state actors in all contexts, including in the contexts of terrorism, crisis management and migration, supporting the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention against Torture and its optional Protocol.
4. The Parties shall ensure that violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law, **[EU: including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide]**, as well as the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual and gender- and identity-based violence are properly investigated and prosecuted. They shall strengthen domestic legislation and domestic judicial systems, including through effective inter-state cooperation and mutual legal assistance for states wishing to conduct domestic prosecutions on the most serious international crimes. **[EU: They shall take further steps to strengthen the cooperation of all states with the International Criminal Court.]**

5. The Parties shall facilitate justice reforms, ensuring modernized, transparent, and efficient court systems and procedures, providing adequate training and improving access to legislation, case-law and other legal information, modernising penitentiary systems and maximising their rehabilitation role and tackling abuses by security forces.

Article 5

Good governance

1. The Parties shall support efforts to consolidate good governance by promoting democratic culture and practices, building and strengthening accountable, transparent and responsive governance institutions at all levels, and inculcating political pluralism, transparency and tolerance. They shall support the full implementation of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) instruments and encouraging effective coordination and harmonization of governance policies among African States.
2. The Parties shall enhance the ability of governments at all levels to deliver quality public services, ensure effective, transparent, accountable and inclusive public administration, promote the impartiality and effectiveness of law-enforcement bodies, foster citizen participation and access to public information.
3. The Parties shall support the use of digital technologies and accelerate the deployment of user-friendly and simplified e-governance solutions as a means to enhance access to and availability of public information and services, improve transparency and accountability while preventing abuse and promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 6

Public administration, statistics and personal data

1. The Parties shall build capacities for policy design and implementation, develop a professional and efficient civil service, improve legislative and governance mechanisms and strengthen the ability of governments to deliver quality public services.
2. The Parties shall ensure impartiality, fairness, due process, and continuity in the delivery of public services, and support institutions that are accountable, inclusive and transparent with respect to delivering effective and efficient public services, including by promoting the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration.
3. The Parties shall support the production, storage, management and dissemination of statistical data and information at national, regional and continental levels, including by promoting the African Charter on Statistics as the policy framework for statistics development in Africa. They shall develop robust, secure and inclusive identification systems to ensure the provision of legal identity of every citizen, including through strengthening the system of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS).
4. The Parties shall ensure a high level of protection of every individual's right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data, in accordance with existing multilateral standards and international legal instruments and practices. They shall endeavour to maintain strong data protection regimes and ensure their effective enforcement through independent supervisory authorities.

Article 7 Corruption

1. The Parties shall establish and strengthen legislation, institutions and other measures to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms, fraud, financial corporate crimes and related offences in the public and private sectors, including by implementing and promoting relevant international standards and instruments, notably the United Nations Convention against Corruption. They shall adopt legislative and other measures that are required to prevent corruption as well as ensure that corruption legislation is effectively enforced and that impartial investigations and prosecutions are conducted and effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for corruption and corruption-related crimes are applied. They shall adopt legislative and other measures to provide effective protection from potential retaliation, including in the work-related context, and from intimidation to whistle-blowers who report on corruption and related offences and for witnesses who give testimony about such offences, including protection of their identities.
2. The Parties shall promote transparent management of public resources and accountability and encourage actions that support the values of a culture of transparency, integrity, legality and a change in people's attitudes to corrupt practices. The Parties shall strengthen the capacity and expertise of public administration and fighting corruption. They shall promote the establishment of specialised bodies in the field of anticorruption.
3. The Parties shall adopt legislative measures to enable the freezing and confiscation of proceeds and instrumentalities, or other property, the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds and instrumentalities, derived from acts of corruption and related offences. They shall cooperate to recover such proceeds and instrumentalities and return them to their prior legitimate owners in the country of origin in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. They shall adopt legislative and other measures to combat the laundering of the proceeds of corruption.
4. The Parties shall cooperate in the investigations of acts of corruption and related offences, including when committed in international business transactions.

Article 8 Financial governance

1. The Parties shall promote sound public financial management, including effective and transparent domestic revenue mobilisation, budget management and use of public revenues in line with the principles of the Addis Tax Initiative. They shall promote sustainable public debt management, sustainable procurement systems, and support for national oversight bodies.
2. The Parties shall improve governance and revenue management of natural resources, enabling communities and societies to thrive from their use, including through compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Kimberley process.

3. The Parties shall combat tax fraud, tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows and strengthen asset recovery, and shall work towards ensuring the efficiency, effectiveness, certainty, transparency, and fairness of tax systems.
4. The Parties shall take concrete measures, including through enacting legislation, and strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms to implement the principles of good governance in the tax area.

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TITLE VI
MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Chapeau

1. The Parties shall adopt a comprehensive, ~~and~~ balanced **[OACPS: and joint multilateral]** approach to address migration. They reaffirm their commitment to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants and shall address migration in a spirit of solidarity, genuine partnership and shared responsibility, and in full respect of national competences, international law, including international human rights law. **[OACPS: They recognize that most migration takes place within the African continent itself.]** They acknowledge that African and European interests on migration are intertwined and that, when well-managed, migration and mobility can be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development. They shall dialogue and cooperate on all aspects linked to legal and irregular migration, including by taking concrete measures on legal migration, stemming irregular migration and tackling its root causes, preventing and combatting smuggling of migrants, as well as addressing trafficking in human beings, saving lives and ensuring protection, strengthening diaspora engagement **[OACPS: and investment for sustainable development]**, maximising the impact of remittances, enhancing cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration of returnees, as well as paying particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations, particularly women, children and unaccompanied minors, and to their specific needs. The Parties agree to cooperate in pursuing an integrated border management approach to facilitate legitimate movement of people across the borders and stemming irregular migration. **[New OACPS Proposal: The Parties shall address the needs of displaced persons through the adoption of strategies that take into account the nexus between migration and natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation]**. They shall deepen cooperation and dialogue building on existing initiatives, notably the follow up to the Joint Valletta Action Plan, the Rabat and Khartoum Processes, as well as AU-EU continent-to-continent dialogue on migration and mobility. The Parties shall encourage triangular cooperation between sub-Saharan countries, Mediterranean countries and European countries on migration-related issues. (They will raise awareness on the risks related to irregular migration as well as on the possibilities related to legal migration.) The Parties shall foster dialogue in addressing all migration issues.

Article 1
Legal migration and mobility

1. The Parties shall endeavour to increase knowledge transfer and sharing and enhance mobility schemes that facilitate academic exchanges for students, researchers, academic professionals and institutions.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to facilitate visits for business and investment purposes.
3. The Parties shall aim to develop pathways in accordance with their respective competences and towards an effective management of labour migration and mobility, including appropriate social protection measures and the fight against all forms of exploitation.

4. The Parties shall cooperate to improve transparency and comparability of qualifications, with the aim of facilitating their recognition as well as their acceptance in the labour market.
5. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation on the portability of social rights for legally residing migrant workers.
6. The Parties shall cooperate on awareness creation campaigns related to legal migration in order to inform the decisions of migrants of possibilities regarding safe and legal migration pathways. They will also make available information about possibilities of change of status in their respective legal orders.
7. The Parties shall work to improve and implement transparent and effective requirements for admission and residence for the purpose of [ACP: work,] research, studies, training, and voluntary service with a view to facilitate circular migration and mobility.
8. The Parties shall facilitate access to procedures for family reunification for migrants taking into account the best interest of the child.
9. [The Parties shall cooperate to improve and modernise national registration systems and issue biometric travel documents based on the specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization, including efforts to combat identity frauds and document forgery.]

**[Article 2
Intra-African mobility]**

1. The Parties acknowledge the relevance of Intra-African mobility and its potential and significant benefits to regional integration and the sustainable development of host countries and countries of origin.
2. The Parties commit to further support intra and inter sub-regional cooperation to manage migration, taking into consideration the AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa. **[OACPS: in order to provide more channels for legal migration and contribute to the reduction of irregular migration.]**

Article 3

[OACPS: Diaspora, Remittances and Investments for Sustainable Development]

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[EU: Diaspora and remittances and other migration-related issues]

1. The Parties shall encourage diaspora engagement in the sustainable development of their countries of origin. They shall cooperate to promote and facilitate diaspora investment and business creation as a means to boost local development and entrepreneurship in countries of origin as well as to transfer knowledge, experience and technology.
2. The Parties shall aim to significantly reduce the transaction costs of remittances to less than 3 percent, especially to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) and eliminate remittances corridors with costs higher than 5 percent in accordance with internationally agreed targets, [cooperate to] increase access points for remittances services, particularly in rural areas, promote financial inclusion via innovative financial instruments

and new technologies and improve regulatory frameworks for enhanced involvement of non-traditional players.

3. The Parties shall support the work of institutions that assist in implementation of strategies and instruments for use of diaspora remittances and investments for sustainable development.

Article 4

Irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings

1. The Parties shall cooperate to address and develop adequate responses to the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. They shall cooperate to stem irregular migration by supporting countries of origin with appropriate strategies including with the aim to promote economic growth and sustainable development.
2. The Parties undertake to stem irregular migration through enhanced cooperation on integrated border management, improved information and data gathering and sharing, and fostered police and judicial cooperation, with particular reference to countries of origin and transit of migratory flows. They shall cooperate to develop and maintain, where appropriate, communication networks to support maritime surveillance and save lives at sea.
3. The Parties shall establish and implement legislation, strengthen institutions and shall increase collaborative efforts to address trafficking of persons, including protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and prevent and combat smuggling of migrants in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols, notably the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to monitor irregular migration routes, step up national, regional and cross-regional actions, and enhance joint efforts to dismantle criminal networks for smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. They shall cooperate to share information on trafficking and smuggling routes and criminal networks, including as concerns modus operandi and financial transactions, improve data collection, strengthen analysis and dissemination strategies. They shall ensure effective implementation of relevant legislation and measures against those who exploit irregular migrants. They shall intensify efforts on investigations and criminal prosecutions of perpetrators.
5. The Parties shall support awareness campaigns on the risks related to irregular migration, using all available means at regional, national and local levels in line with relevant strategies and programs.
6. **[New OACPS Proposal: The Parties shall address the challenges faced by climate and environmentally induced migration leading to forced displacement, and shall collaborate on planned relocation options, in cases where adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible.]**

Article 5

[Voluntary and forced/non-voluntary] Return, readmission and reintegration

1. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation to facilitate the return, readmission and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants. They shall prioritise assisted voluntary return and reintegration, as a means of preventing return irregular migration. They shall comply with the legal obligation under international law to readmit their **[OACPS: verified]** nationals illegally staying on the territory of another Party at the latter's request **[EU: and without further formalities.]** They shall establish mechanisms to facilitate, monitor and ensure implementation of said legal obligation. They reaffirm that all returns must be carried out in full respect of human rights and human dignity.
2. The Parties shall respond to readmission requests, in particular through identification of their nationals using the most appropriate and most efficient identification procedures such as consultation of biometric registry of population or as necessary an identification interview. They shall then provide their nationals with appropriate travel documents for return purposes after the confirmation of nationality, **[EU: or accept the EU travel documents for return]** and ensure response on formalities of return operations where travel documents for return are not delivered after the request of the demanding Party.
3. The Parties shall ensure that any detention of third country nationals illegally staying on their territory **[OACPS: follows due process and]** take place in accordance with relevant international and national law and in full respect with fundamental rights. **[OACPS: follows due process, is non-arbitrary, is based on law, necessity, proportionality and individual assessments is carried out by authorized officials and is for the shortest possible period of time, irrespective of whether detention occurs at the moment of entry, in transit or in proceedings of return, and regardless of the type of place where the detention occurs. They shall prioritize non-custodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and to and take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only.]**
4. **[OACPS: The Parties shall ensure that all third country nationals in detention are informed about the reasons for their detention, in a language they understand [EU: or may reasonably presumed to understand]. They shall allow third country nationals in detention [to facilitate the exercise of their rights], to [EU: establish in due time contact] communicate with the respective consular or diplomatic missions without delay, legal representatives and family members, in accordance with international law and due process guarantees.]**
5. The Parties shall pay special attention to unaccompanied minors taking into account the principle of the best interest of the child **[OACPS: while in countries of origin, transit and destination]**. To facilitate the return of unaccompanied minors **[EU: in their cultural and social environment,]** they shall support child protection systems **[OACPS: in countries of origin and transit]** so as to offer a safe environment for vulnerable children including unaccompanied minors upon their return.
6. **[OACPS: The Parties shall strengthen cooperation during the pre-return and post-return periods to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees by means of comprehensive packages, including psychological support and vocational training, where appropriate, in order to promote voluntary return.]**

Article 6
Protection and asylum

1. The Parties undertake to secure a high level of protection and assistance to forcibly displaced persons, including refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, in full compliance with international law, international human rights law and, where applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulement.
2. The Parties shall recognize that refugee camps should be the exception and, to the extent possible, a temporary measure in response to an emergency and that sustainable integration of refugees should be preferred. They shall strengthen cooperation to facilitate sustainable integration of refugees in host communities and their countries of asylum. They shall support the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF).
3. The Parties shall ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services, in line with international obligations.
4. The Parties shall uphold the best interests of the child at all times, and shall grant full access to the education system in safe learning environments for all refugee children. They shall apply a gender-responsive approach in addressing vulnerabilities of children and ensure that children not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their refugee status or that of their parents.
5. **[OACPS: The Parties shall cooperate to facilitate the identification and subsequent recovery of the mortal remains, ensuring that the remains of deceased migrants are treated in a dignified, respectful and proper manner.]**

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROTOCOL

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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROTOCOL

PART I BASIS FOR [EU: ENGAGEMENT / CAR: COOPERATION]

Chapter 1 Nature and scope

Article 1 [Genuine partnership]

1. For the purposes of this Protocol, "Parties" shall mean the relevant Parties bound by this Protocol pursuant to Article ["Part I on Structure"].
2. The Parties relations shall be governed by the provisions laid down in the General Part of this Agreement and by the aims set out in this Protocol, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing, in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Article "ACP-EU Council of Ministers", Part V.
3. The Parties agree that this Protocol shall be implemented, with complementary responsibilities at national, regional, and international levels, based on mutual respect and accountability, equality of partners and shared ownership, and by engaging all relevant stakeholders.
4. The Parties shall support regional integration and cooperation processes, intensify efforts in support of multilateralism and the rules-based global order, develop and implement multi-dimensional and coherent policies and measures, taking into consideration their respective policy frameworks and relevant international agreements.
5. **[CAR: They agree also agree to implement their partnership in a manner that builds on and renews the deep political, economic and cultural ties with both Africa and the Pacific.]**
6. **[CAR: The Parties shall reaffirm their respect for the sovereign equality of all States and the implementation of this Protocol shall therefore be based on their respective national laws and applicable international agreements. They shall also refrain from the use of coercive and unilateral measures.]**

Article 2 Strategic Priorities

1. The Parties reaffirm the broad and comprehensive nature of the Caribbean-EU Partnership and agree that the strategic priorities of this Protocol are, inter alia, to:
 - a) strengthen their political partnership, underpinned by regular and effective dialogue and the promotion of common interests;
 - b) deepen economic relations, promote transformation and diversification, and support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development through trade, investment and private sector development and sustainable industrialisation;

- c) improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience and, pursue sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthen disaster management;
 - d) build inclusive, peaceful and secure societies, with a special attention to advancing human rights, gender equality, justice and governance, including financial governance, and citizen security;
 - e) invest in human and social development, addressing poverty and growing inequalities, **[EU: harnessing migration and promoting people-to-people contacts, and ensuring that nobody is left behind];**
 - f) **[CAR: harness the positive impact of well-managed migration through the development of mobility schemes and leveraging of the diaspora's knowledge, entrepreneurial skills and investment.]**
2. The Parties shall accord special attention to Haiti as the only least developed country in the Caribbean, with a view to addressing its structural weaknesses while supporting the consolidation of its institutions, improving governance and reducing poverty and social inequalities.

Article 3 Multilateralism and alliance building

1. The Parties reaffirm their strong commitment to multilateralism. They shall enhance cooperation and, where appropriate, establish common positions in the framework of the United Nations and other international and regional organisations and fora (EU: and align actions at bilateral, regional and international levels).
2. The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and consultations to build strategic alliances on global issues of common concern, including climate change, ocean governance, sustainable development, human and social development, human rights and issues related to peace and security, conflict prevention and resolution. They shall cooperate to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS within relevant global policy frameworks.
3. The Parties undertake to sign, ratify and implement key relevant and applicable international treaties and conventions.

Article 4 Regional integration and cooperation

1. The Parties shall promote regional integration and cooperation in the Caribbean as an important means to achieve peace and prosperity, build sustainable and resilient economies and societies and increase competitiveness in international markets. They shall support the establishment and strengthening of complementary domestic policies and capacity, thereby contributing to fostering Caribbean regional stability, cohesion and prosperity.
2. The Parties agree to advance the universal recognition of the Caribbean as a zone of peace. They shall also promote the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea in light of its role as enabler of Caribbean regional integration and cooperation.

3. The Parties shall enhance cooperation with regional integration organisations and countries and territories that share the same values and are willing and able to promote common goals, contributing to the economic, social and political development of the Caribbean region as a whole. They shall support, where appropriate, the development of regional approaches including with the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

Chapter II Actors and processes

Article 5 Institutional provisions

1. The institutions of the Caribbean-EU Protocol, whose composition and functions are defined in the General Part of this Agreement, are as follows:
 - a. Caribbean-EU Council of Ministers;
 - b. Caribbean-EU Joint Committee; and
 - c. Caribbean-EU Parliamentary Committee.
2. The Parties may decide to meet at the level of Heads of State or Government to provide strategic political steering and oversight to this Partnership.

Article 6 Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions in the Caribbean region

1. The Parties shall strengthen the close and historic economic, cultural and people-based ties between Caribbean States and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) associated with the EU and the EU Outermost Regions (ORs). They shall facilitate the participation of these entities' role in regional integration and cooperation processes, as well as regional organizations, where appropriate, especially in the areas of trade, investment and economic cooperation; private sector development; energy; connectivity and digitalisation; human and social development; climate resilience, environmental sustainability, sustainable management of natural resources and tourism.
2. The Parties agree that the OCTs in the Caribbean region shall be granted the role of observers in the institutions of the Caribbean-EU Protocol.

Article 7 Consultation with stakeholders

1. The Parties shall establish and develop consultation and dialogue mechanisms with all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, representatives of civil society and private sector to inform, advise, consult and secure inputs for political processes and implementation of this Protocol. Consultation and dialogue shall take place with a view to providing inputs to the meetings of the Caribbean-EU Council of Ministers.

Article 8
Implementation and monitoring

1. The Parties shall implement the relevant commitments at the most appropriate level, in accordance with the respective policy frameworks. They shall develop and apply measures to maximise the impact of the Protocol's implementation and reinforce the involvement of all interested stakeholders.
2. The Parties shall monitor the Caribbean-EU to ensure that implementation fully subscribes to the general provisions and strategic priorities. They may review **[EU: it on a regular basis and as appropriate and may / CAR: the Protocol every five years or at the request of either Party and as is mutually agreed]** expand its scope, notably into new areas of engagement, according to the procedure laid out in **[Article XX]** of the General Part of this Agreement. **[CAR: They shall also take remedial action to mitigate any negative impact on stakeholders and societies, where deemed necessary.]**

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PART II

TITLE I

INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Article 1

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development through economic transformation and diversification, reinforced economic resilience, advanced regional integration and cooperation, strengthened economic and trade relations, and improved transition towards full employment and decent work for all. They shall cooperate to facilitate greater flows of trade and investment, by improving macroeconomic and financial stability and the business environment, to promote digital transformation, advance private sector development and industrialisation, and promote low-emission and climate-resilient economies, ensuring that all people benefit from unlocked business opportunities. They shall respect and protect human rights and core labour standards, including through social dialogue, promote environmental sustainability and foster shared prosperity. They agree to concentrate efforts on key and emerging economic sectors, with a multiplier effect on sustainable growth, value addition, job creation and poverty eradication.

Chapter 1

Overall economic framework

Article 1

Enablers of economic development

1. The Parties shall improve macroeconomic and financial stability, strengthen public finance management and work towards public debt sustainability. They shall support Caribbean regional economic integration and cooperation to enable countries to benefit from deeper integration into regional and global value chains. They shall harmonise and simplify business regulations and processes, adopt sound competition policies, including transparency as regards public subsidies, and ensure effective and predictable tax systems, including at intra-regional level.
2. They shall create an enabling legal environment, strengthen the efficiency of public administrations and judicial systems, improve the business climate through reform of regulatory requirements, enhance access to finance, and ensure the protection of land and property rights as well as intellectual property rights.
3. The Parties shall promote policies that enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of labour markets and support labour mobility, including its intra-regional dimension. They shall promote quality education, skills development and shall develop appropriate technical and vocational education and training (TVET). They shall ensure that progress in human capital is adapted to the needs and opportunities of labour markets and is enhanced by private sector involvement.
4. The Parties shall support the development of key infrastructure such as energy, transport, water and sanitation and digital connectivity. They shall cooperate to exploit opportunities arising from technological advancement and in the digital economy, including in the area of artificial intelligence.

5. The Parties shall cooperate to improve access to finance, especially for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, including through regulated banking and non-banking services. They shall develop and strengthen digital financial services, including through enhanced cooperation on the implementation of agreed international standards and ensuring efficient and reliable markets, consumer protection and increased access to mobile-based financial services.
6. The Parties shall address all forms of pollution resulting from economic activities, including through a clear definition and attribution of responsibilities to the industry and business operators throughout the supply chain on the basis of extended producer responsibility and polluter pays principles. They shall support green growth initiatives and shall support increased resource-use efficiency and the adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.
7. The Parties shall develop the circular economy by promoting the sustainable consumption and production of resources, including through strengthened scientific and technological capacity, standards, exchange of best practice and the rationalization of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Article 2 Investment

1. The Parties undertake to bolster public and private investment, especially in value-added sectors with a high potential for sustainable job creation and high economic growth.
2. The Parties shall harmonise and streamline rules, procedures and requirements related to investment. In this pursuit, the Parties shall also prioritise the specific needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. They shall support the development of regional investment policies, strategies and tools.
3. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate investment in the Caribbean, including by strengthening business facilitation measures. They shall also support investment by enhancing transparency, information and awareness by investors of business opportunities and investment conditions and procedures. They shall facilitate the strengthening of technical analysis and skills on economic trends and risk management for investment.
4. The Parties shall make strategic use of public finance to strengthen investment mechanisms and instruments and to leverage additional public and private investment, including through blending, guarantees and other innovative financial instruments, taking account of debt sustainability.

Article 3 Private sector development and industrialisation

1. The Parties shall support private sector development and sustainable industrialisation, shall design policies to enhance entrepreneurship, diversification and productivity, and shall increase the competitiveness of enterprises, through inter alia strengthened compliance capacity to apply relevant international standards, enhanced innovation

measures and improved access to innovative financing. They shall promote institutional capacity to contribute to trade and economic policy making.

2. The Parties shall also prioritise the development of women and youth entrepreneurship, in particular by developing targeted business support and training, access to affordable and reliable technology and finance.
3. The Parties shall support the growth and competitiveness of micro, small and medium-size enterprises, promote regional business development, and facilitate business-to-business contacts between economic operators in the Caribbean and the European Union.
4. The Parties shall pay special attention to the informal sector and to upgrading informal economic activities into formal ones, including through targeted business development support.
5. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate the establishment and strengthening of regional private sector trade and professional bodies, through, inter alia, enhanced technical, research, policy advocacy and institutional capacity.
6. The Parties shall boost digitalisation and shall promote research, development and innovation initiatives in key economic sectors, including bolstering linkages between industry, research and academic institutions, to improve the volume of high-value products, enhance competitiveness and develop new markets.
7. The Parties shall promote increased public-private partnerships as means of mobilising domestic and foreign capital.
8. The Parties shall support increased resource-use efficiency and the adoption of cleaner and more environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.
9. The Parties shall promote industrial development, in view of the achievement of sustainable economic growth. They shall adopt targeted policies aimed at facilitating industrial growth and opportunities, notably through the creation of linkages and value-adding activities. They shall develop and implement sustainable national and regional industrial policies to enhance private sector competitiveness, particularly in medium-and high-tech manufacturing and exports. They shall encourage and facilitate the development of appropriate technologies to advance the diversification into high-value industrial products.
10. **[EU: The Parties shall encourage and consider facilitate a wider use of their respective currencies, in international transactions.][CAR: The Parties consider a wider use of their respective currencies in international transactions].**

Article 4 Trade Cooperation

1. The Parties shall advance regional integration and cooperation processes in the Caribbean, including through strengthened trade facilitation and regulatory harmonisation to enable countries and economic operators to take advantage of trading with their neighbours and foster their integration into key regional and global value

chains. They shall take concrete steps to support the development of both the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the OECS Economic Union.

2. The Parties shall support the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to reinforce its effectiveness as a tool to promote sustainable development and to ensure its commercial relevance. (In this pursuit, special emphasis shall be accorded to the needs of Haiti.) To this end, they shall cooperate to strengthen mechanisms, procedures and institutions to enhance national and regional productive and regulatory capacities. They shall also cooperate to institute appropriate support policies to facilitate greater trade flows, including through strengthened production and entrepreneurship, quality infrastructure, enhanced digital support frameworks, and increased investment in value-adding sectors and the development of effective e-commerce.
3. The Parties shall foster trade within the wider Caribbean region including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) associated with the EU and other territories, as a means to promote inclusive and sustainable development.
4. **[CAR: The Parties shall apply the principle of policy coherence by ensuring that no injury to the pursuit of sustainable development is caused by any policy intervention. They shall establish inclusive institutional mechanisms to secure policy coherence and improve effectiveness of measures in support of sustainable development. They shall also regularly monitor policies and measures and urgently undertake remedial action, where required.]**
5. The Parties shall support the implementation of WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement and facilitate trade through, inter alia, adopting support measures to reduce both trade costs and financial cum regulatory burden of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
6. The Parties shall pursue innovative special and differential treatment for new multilateral or bilateral trade agreements where applicable, for instance, by ensuring that flexibilities in trade commitments reflect demonstrated implementation capacity needs.

Chapter 2 Prioritised Economic Sectors

Article 1 Services

1. The Parties shall enhance the regulatory and productive capacity of key services subsectors through, inter alia, the development of sectoral policies, legislative frameworks and national and regional regulation capacity to enable service suppliers to seize market opportunities available under the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, the CSME, the OECS, and other intra-Caribbean regional integration arrangements. They shall pay particular attention to professional, convention, data processing, recreational, cultural and creative industries, sporting, educational, financial, communication, audio-visual, transport, environmental, and tourism services.
2. The Parties shall develop strategies and appropriate policies to improve access to trade finance and financial services. They shall also enhance capacity to collect, store, disseminate and analyse services trade data and statistics.

3. The Parties shall cooperate to promote and strengthen the role of services in trade competitiveness and deepen value chains through, inter alia, fostering innovation in services-related manufacturing and enhancing the role of services as inputs into the production of goods.
4. The Parties shall support the enhanced capacity of regional professional bodies to contribute to the negotiation and effective promotion of Mutual Recognition Agreements.

Article 2

Blue Economy

1. The Parties shall promote the development of sustainable and innovative blue economies, balancing economic growth and creation of decent jobs with enhanced food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, social equity and strengthened ocean ecosystems, while reducing environmental risks and negative ecological impacts. They shall support the application of precautionary and science-based approaches to the conservation and protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. They shall promote domestic and foreign investment, and develop the necessary regulatory framework and infrastructure to promote blue economy activities. They shall also promote collaboration at the bilateral and multilateral levels to support the development of sustainable and innovative blue economies.
2. The Parties shall enhance sustainable fisheries development, by promoting sustainable fisheries value chains, building capacities to locally process fisheries products and meet regulatory requirements of international markets, taking into consideration the needs of artisanal fisheries and ensuring safe, healthy and decent working conditions for fishers and workers.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to develop sustainable aquaculture, including mariculture, through effective spatial planning, an ecosystem-based approach and enhanced level playing field for investors, and ensuring that it meets the concerns of local communities.
4. The Parties shall seize opportunities in marine biotechnology, through inter alia, supporting research, fostering collaboration among academics, economic operators and policymakers, promoting technological transfer and reducing technical bottlenecks to facilitate access for investors while avoiding risks to the marine environment.
5. **[CAR: The Parties shall support the development of seabed mining and bio-prospecting in areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction and in areas beyond national jurisdiction in accordance with international law while fully respecting the sovereignty of each country over its natural resources and the rights of local communities, including indigenous peoples, and promoting environmentally sound practices.]**

Article 3 Agriculture

1. The Parties shall cooperate to increase and diversify sustainable agricultural production and productivity with a view to enhancing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, creating decent jobs and expanding incomes by accessing regional and international markets. They shall strengthen climate-resilient farming practices, especially in small-holdings, promote sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources and ecosystem services, and eliminate incentives that generate unsustainable production.
2. The Parties shall strengthen national and regional research, training, science and innovation in smart agriculture.
3. The Parties shall bolster investment in and develop the agri-food sector, and institute investment-supportive rules and regulations. They shall cooperate to improve opportunity for producers, processors and exporters to access markets and capture greater value in local, regional and global value chains, including by promoting the increased use of technology and innovation, bolstering the capacity to comply with non-tariff barriers, notably technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and promoting fair trade schemes and organic schemes to create added value in agro-processing.
4. The Parties shall ensure equal land and inheritance rights for women, enhance their access to finance and markets, as well as to services and agricultural advice. They shall also support youth entrepreneurship, including through the provision of targeted extension services, technology and financing.

Article 4 Extractive industries

1. The Parties shall promote fair and non-discriminatory access to the sustainable extraction and trade of raw materials, fully respecting the sovereignty of countries over their natural resources and upholding the rights of affected communities. They shall promote the equitable sharing of resources and fight the illegal exploitation of mineral resources through national, regional and international legal means.
2. The Parties shall promote transparency, accountability and responsible management of extractive industries, in compliance with the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) and other relevant regional and international commitments.
3. The Parties shall strengthen corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct throughout the entire value chain, including through the development and implementation of relevant legislation, where appropriate, taking into account relevant international standards.

Article 5

Sustainable energy

1. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen energy security, secure access to sustainable energy for all, including for the most vulnerable consumers and key economic sectors, and to build resilience of energy infrastructure to improve accessibility, durability and affordability of clean energy.
2. The Parties shall facilitate open, transparent and functioning energy markets that drive inclusive and sustainable investment, especially in renewable energy generation and co-generation, transmission and distribution and in energy efficiency by also enhancing entrepreneurship in this sector.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to increase public and private investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts paying attention to the development and implementation of relevant national and regional energy initiatives and supportive quality infrastructure systems.
4. The Parties shall promote energy efficiency and energy savings at all stages of the energy chain, from generation to consumption.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to establish and reinforce effective energy interconnections and promote the energy transition of the Caribbean region through the development and use of clean, diverse, cost-effective and sustainable energy technologies, including renewable and low-emission energy technologies, promote the transfer of technology, and develop human and technical capacity and research and innovation.

Article 6

Connectivity

1. The Parties shall strengthen sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based intra-regional connectivity. They shall cooperate to improve transport links and information and communication technologies and digital infrastructure in a resilient and sustainable manner. They shall pursue economic opportunities, through inter alia, strengthening the technical and human capacity of key actors.
2. The Parties shall cooperate towards the development of quality and sustainable transport and related infrastructure systems, facilitating and improving the movement of people, including those with reduced mobility, and of goods. They shall aim at providing improved access to rural, urban, air, maritime, inland-waterway, rail and road transport facilities, including through the development and promotion of intra-regional cooperation throughout the Caribbean region.
3. The Parties shall bolster investment and improve the overall governance of the transport sector, including by eliminating capacity constraints, and developing and implementing efficient regulations enabling fair competition within and between transport modes.
4. **[EU: The Parties undertake to promote the liberalisation of maritime transport and to this end apply effectively the principle of unrestricted access to the international maritime transport market on a non-discriminatory and commercial**

basis. Each Party shall grant, inter alia, a treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own ships, for ships operated by nationals or companies of the other Party, and for ships registered in the territory of either Party, with respect to access to ports, the use of infrastructures and auxiliary maritime services of those ports as well as related fees and charges, custom facilities and the assignment of berths and facilities for loading and unloading].

5. The Parties shall increase access to open, affordable and secure information and communication technologies for all, including by supporting targeted investment. They shall develop the necessary legislative frameworks and regulatory institutions to licence service providers, promote competitive behaviour, and ensure fair treatment of consumers as well as support data and consumer protection.
6. The Parties shall enhance access to open, affordable, secure and reliable broadband connectivity for all and developing digital infrastructure, including through improved undersea cables and other modern transmission technologies. They shall develop policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the effective licensing of service providers, promote competitive behaviour and fair treatment and protection of consumers, and ensure the confidentiality of communications and the rights of persons with regard to the processing of personal data.
7. The Parties shall promote the establishment of the regional digital economy to generate decent jobs and economic development, through the creation of a supportive regulatory framework to promote digital entrepreneurship, mobilise investment, and facilitate private sector boosting of digitalization. They shall cooperate to eliminate unnecessary barriers, develop e-trust and e-signature platforms to promote increased trade, foster the emergence of new products, promote the development and use of relevant international standards, open data and advance protection of consumers and personal data.

Article 7 Tourism

1. The Parties shall cooperate to promote the balanced and sustainable development of tourism to foster inclusive economic development and ensure the integration of environmental, cultural and social considerations and the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and other natural resources in tourism policy planning and development.
2. The Parties shall bolster investment to promote and develop tourism products and services and thereby generate decent jobs, by forging innovative partnerships with key economic operators, investing in human capital development and marketing and facilitating business-to-business contacts to boost competitiveness and improve service standards. In these pursuits, the Parties agree to pay special attention to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
3. The Parties shall strengthen linkages between the tourism sector and other relevant economic sectors, in particular agriculture, manufacturing, the blue economy, and transport, and shall mobilise investment in sustainable energy, basic infrastructure and services, digital technologies, statistics and human development in order to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism industry.

4. The Parties shall engender the strongest socio-economic benefits of tourism. They shall enhance the preservation and promotion of cultural patrimony and of natural resources and promote all innovative forms of tourism, while respecting the integrity and interests of local and indigenous communities and maximizing their involvement in the process of tourism development.

Article 8

Research, innovation and technology

1. The Parties shall cooperate on science, research, innovation and technological development, with a view to supporting economic diversification, promoting social and economic development, improving regional competitiveness and facilitating the emergence of an inclusive digital economy. They shall develop the interconnection and interoperability of research networks, computing and scientific data infrastructure and services, and promote such development within their regional context.
2. The Parties shall promote the development of research capacity, infrastructure and facilities, publications, and scientific data. They shall promote and support innovative training and mobility schemes for academics and researchers. They shall enhance the capacity of higher education institutions to effectively collaborate in research, scientific and technological innovation, including through access to academic exchange schemes. The Parties shall also facilitate collaboration among public administrations, academic institutions and enterprises. They shall promote open data and innovation to advance economic progress and pursue mutually beneficial scientific excellence.
3. The Parties shall support the development of knowledge-based economies and inclusive digital societies, promote the preservation and use of traditional knowledge and biodiversity and sustainable management of other natural resources, as well as to promote the transfer of technology and expertise.
4. The Parties shall cooperate on matters of common interests in the area of civil space activities, such as space research, Global Navigation Satellite Systems application and services, development of satellite augmentation systems and Earth Observation and Earth Science, particularly on the use of early warning and surveillance mechanisms.

Article 9

Culture and creative industries

1. The Parties shall promote culture and the creative industries as drivers of sustainable social and economic development and decent jobs. They shall adopt measures, inter alia, in support of creative development and digitalisation, artistic performances and production, and shall exchange best practices in the promotion of cultural development and entrepreneurship.
2. The Parties shall promote sustainable development through strengthened cultural exchanges, promotion of co-productions and joint cultural and creative initiatives, and enhanced mobility of cultural and creative professionals and allied educational practitioners. They shall also support the circulation of works of art in full observance of established international conventions.

3. They shall support intercultural dialogue between youth, civil society organisations as well as individuals from the European Union and the Caribbean region.

Article 10 Manufacturing

1. The Parties shall cooperate to foster sustainable manufacturing with a view to deepening value addition, especially in the export of high technology products, facilitating increased diversification, and maximising its potential for backward linkages with key economic sectors such as agriculture, blue economy, extractive industries and services.
2. The Parties shall develop policies to attract domestic and foreign direct investment into the manufacturing sector. The Parties shall promote business facilitation to advance peer-to-peer collaboration, deepen commercial partnerships and develop industrial hubs, ecosystems and networks.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to develop measures to increase the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by improving production capacity and addressing constraints such as skilled labour shortages, logistics and infrastructure deficits, and limited access to finance and market analysis. They shall support research and innovation, promote the development and application of key enabling technologies, strengthen linkages between industries and research and academic institutions.
4. The Parties shall support enhancing trade in manufactured goods through, inter alia, improved linkages to export markets, enhanced trade regulatory capacity, trade facilitation, and strengthened compliance capacity to apply relevant labour and environmental international standards.

Article 11

[CAR: Taxation], International Business and Financial Services

1. **[CAR: The Parties acknowledge the important economic contribution made by international business and financial services which shall be governed by predictable and commonly shared legal frameworks. They shall promote the development of Caribbean international business and financial services, through, inter alia, developing sectoral policies, strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing skills development, updating technological use and digitalisation, fostering regional regulatory convergence, and exchanging best practices.]**
2. (The Parties also reaffirm the principles of fair taxation, transparency and effective consultations. The Parties shall refrain from applying measures to the international business and financial services that are anti-competitive in effect.)
3. The Parties shall promote cooperation through inter alia, collaborating in the framework of the United Nations and at other relevant global tax governance bodies, enhancing capacity to deepen compliance with international standards, and developing policy frameworks to increase tax revenues.)

TITLE II
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Article 1

1. The Parties, recognizing the existential threat to affected countries and impact on livelihoods posed by the long-term nature of the climate and environmental sustainability challenges, shall take ambitious action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, protect and improve the quality of the environment, and pursue sustainable use and management of natural resources, to build resilience to climate change and reverse environmental degradation. They shall adopt concrete measures to address the loss of biodiversity, maintain and restore ecosystems, promote ocean governance, reverse deforestation, prevent and respond to natural disasters and anthropogenic hazards including through climate finance, promotion of technology transfer and capacity building, as appropriate. They shall invest in green growth, promote circular economies and shall support the transition towards climate-resilient and low-emissions development, ensuring that economic growth fully complements environmental sustainability. They shall also cooperate at the level of the wider Caribbean region and pursue South-South and triangular cooperation.

Article 2
Climate Action

1. The Parties shall develop comprehensive and inclusive domestic climate policies and programmes and implement concrete actions to accelerate the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement and sustain multilateral action on climate change.
2. The Parties shall promote the integration of climate change policies and measures for mitigation and adaptation into national and regional strategies and plans and policy dialogues. They shall cooperate to promote adaptation action, including averting, minimizing and addressing the loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. They shall develop monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) as well as evaluation systems to track progress on climate action.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to prepare, communicate and update progressively ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs), pursue the national and regional mitigation measures to achieve the objectives of such contributions and develop long-term strategies towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development.
4. The Parties shall develop and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) and national and regional strategies. They shall integrate adaptation measures across all key vulnerable sectors, including infrastructures, and shall develop an effective governance system to implement adaptation actions and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices on climate change at the national and regional levels.
5. The Parties shall act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including from aviation and shipping activities, consistent with their international commitments and obligations, including those arising under the Paris Agreement.

6. The Parties, considering the threats that climate change poses to peace and security and the wellbeing of people and communities, shall cooperate to strengthen adaptation and mitigation capacities and promote measures to build resilience to address vulnerability.
7. The Parties shall promote an ambitious phase-out of the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol by cooperating to support the ratification of the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol and ensuring its swift implementation.
8. The Parties shall rationalise and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and minimize the possible adverse impacts in a manner that protects the poor and vulnerable communities. They shall promote switching to renewable and cleaner energy sources in line with actions identified under NDCs.
9. The Parties shall cooperate to advance low-carbon economies and climate resilience by strengthening green growth in key and emerging economic sectors, including through the adoption of eco-innovation, promotion of technology transfer, development of standards and exchange of best practices.
10. They shall develop innovative financing tools and align financial flows with a pathway towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development, with a focus on inclusive climate finance that targets the poorest and most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. They shall promote economic policy instruments supportive of climate change action, such as carbon pricing, market-based instruments and carbon taxes, as appropriate.
11. The Parties shall promote strengthened coordination across all levels to implement ambitious climate and energy commitments. They shall also encourage and empower local authorities and promote initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy [CAR: and SIDSDOCK] and support the implementation of their action plans.
12. The Parties shall work together to strengthen scientific and technical human and institutional capacity for climate action and environmental management and monitoring, including through the use of space technologies and information systems and for the provision of comprehensive climate services, in particular to vulnerable stakeholders.

Article 3

Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources

1. The Parties shall support the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems, including with a view to improving the livelihoods for local and indigenous communities and the delivery of ecosystem services and enabling the sustainable development of countries. They shall protect, restore and enhance biodiversity and shall take measures to accelerate the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. They shall collaborate in multilateral negotiations on preserving natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity. They recognize that the Caribbean Sea includes fragile ecosystems and unique biodiversity and shall therefore cooperate to support their protection. They shall take measures to avoid or reduce the

impact of invasive alien species on local species and ecosystems on people's livelihoods.

2. The Parties shall promote sustainable integrated water management systems, preserving and protecting water sources and ecosystems, collecting and treating waste water addressing land degradation and pollution of water and groundwater resources, and tackling the uncertainty water availability through collection and storage systems.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to sustainably manage and protect soils with a view to preserving their critical role in inter alia, agriculture, housing and infrastructure as well in mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts and serving as natural reservoirs of rainwater.
4. The Parties shall protect wildlife and shall combat wildlife trafficking by supporting the adoption and enforcement of policies and laws to make wildlife trafficking a serious crime, strengthening anti-poaching measures and law enforcement monitoring, and promoting international coordination in the context of the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC), including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other relevant international frameworks. They shall increase public awareness, educating and influencing consumers, destroying stockpiles, enhancing the role of local communities, and promoting high profile diplomacy and advocacy.
5. The Parties shall work towards establishing and updating the necessary regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to improve management of all waste and hazardous substances. They shall collaborate to prevent or minimise the generation of waste at source, as well as improving product reusability, recyclability and resource efficiency including through efficient collection systems, and effective recycling in order to adapt production and consumption towards the achievement of a circular economy. They shall take measures to prevent or minimise hazardous substances in material cycles and manage chemicals in products throughout their lifecycle. They shall cooperate to enhance the proper management of hazardous substances and end their illicit transboundary movement through the Caribbean Sea.
6. The Parties shall address all forms of pollution and shall raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach campaigns.
7. The Parties shall work to develop frameworks to protect fragile ecosystems and biodiversity, including by supporting measures to combat environmental crimes. They shall cooperate to research, conserve, and sustainably use biodiversity, including by establishing knowledge hubs and research partnerships. They shall promote the use of internationally recognised environmental management systems as a means to minimize any negative impact on the environment. They shall strengthen the involvement of local and indigenous communities in the conservation of ecosystems, prioritizing the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities.

Article 4 Forests

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable management and use of forestry resources. They shall cooperate to reverse deforestation, support reforestation and halt forest degradation and reinstall the functions of forest to provide ecosystem services.
2. The Parties shall promote sustainable value chains of forest products, prioritizing the creation of jobs and harnessing of economic opportunities in the conservation of ecosystems. They shall combat illegal logging and associated trade and shall promote responsible mining operations.
3. The Parties shall support the implementation of sustainability mechanisms, such as the EU's enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, including by concluding and/or implementing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). They shall strengthen coherence and positive interactions at country level between sustainability mechanisms and the Warsaw Framework on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).
4. The Parties shall strengthen the involvement of local authorities and communities in the sustainable management of forests. They shall increase public awareness about deforestation at all levels and encourage the production and consumption of resource- and energy-efficient products from sustainably managed forests.

Article 5 Ocean Governance

1. The Parties shall strengthen ocean governance to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans, reducing the pressures on oceans and seas and promoting the sustainable development of the blue economy. They shall cooperate to strengthen national and regional capacities to responsibly and accountably manage oceanic and coastal resources, develop measures for the sustainable use, management and conservation of marine biological diversity of areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, promote knowledge and research, and facilitate technology transfer on ocean governance. They shall take action related to oceans that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the conservation and sustainable management and use of living marine resources at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).
3. The Parties shall promote the sustainable development and management of fisheries resources through, inter alia, the adoption of the necessary regulatory frameworks, enhanced management capacities, compliance, enforcement, improved access to finance, promotion of best practices and transfer of technology. They shall maintain or adopt initiatives to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including where appropriate, the implementation of traceability systems and measures to exclude IUU products from trade flows. They shall promote and effectively implement monitoring, control and surveillance measures, and related enforcement measures to ensure compliance, aimed at the conservation of fish stocks and the prevention of overfishing, in accordance with the international law of the sea.

4. The Parties agree to take necessary steps to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing such new subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiations and any subsequent agreement that might arise.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to preserve and restore coastal and marine ecosystems and their biodiversity, and promote the valorisation of marine and coastal natural capital. They shall develop measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity ecosystems, including coral reefs, the sustainability of fisheries and the livelihood of coastal communities depending on marine resources.
6. The Parties shall tackle marine pollution, including noise pollution, and reduce marine debris, especially plastics and micro-plastics and shall target the root causes of marine litter, including through waste prevention and management policies and measures. They shall scale-up ocean and coastal clean-up operations, paying particular attention to accumulation zones in ocean gyres.
7. The Parties shall support the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions reductions related to the maritime industry, and actively support the urgent implementation of the initial International Maritime Organisation strategy on reduction of emissions.
8. The Parties shall develop area-based conservation measures and management tools to protect and restore coastal and marine areas and resources, including marine protected areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information and knowledge of local communities.

Article 6

Resilience to natural disasters and comprehensive disaster management

1. The Parties shall cooperate to build resilience of people, societies and infrastructure to natural disasters, and increase monitoring, early-warning and risk assessment capacities to improve prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. The Parties shall strengthen resilience through investment in disaster risk prevention and preparedness, integration of risk reduction efforts in recovery actions and promotion of financial risk insurance and affordable risk transfer solutions. They shall promote the collection and use of disaster statistics and loss data, comprehensive assessment of risk and implementation of risk reduction plans at all levels.
3. They shall adopt measures to strengthening the link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and promote the exchange of information and best practices on the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. They shall prioritise climate and natural hazard resilience at the core of all reconstruction and recovery efforts, including by implementing a “building back better” approach.

4. The Parties shall cooperate to address the impact of natural disasters and anthropogenic hazards through the timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief.
5. The Parties shall strengthen inclusive risk governance at all levels. They shall also increase monitoring, early warning and risk assessment capacities and improve domestic and regional prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures, including civil protection mechanisms to strengthen capacity for national and regional disaster risk reduction and climate innovation centres of excellence. They shall promote the involvement of affected communities, civil society, and local authorities in devising and implementing policy responses, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalised households and groups.
6. The Parties shall enhance environmental resilience, through, inter alia, supporting the use of ICT and space technologies to accelerate disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery processes. They shall foster opportunities to bolster research and disseminate best practices on disaster risk management.

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TITLE III
HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Article 1

1. The Parties shall foster dialogue and cooperation with the aim of strengthening security in all its dimensions and achieving peaceful and resilient societies. They shall promote and fully protect human rights, human dignity, fundamental freedoms and democratic principles, build accountable and transparent institutions, strengthen governance and justice systems and **[CAR: taking into account relevant national contexts], guarantee adequate space to individuals and groups to express their aspirations and shape policies. In this pursuit, the Parties shall pay special attention to promoting the rights of the young, women and girls, indigenous [EU: peoples]/[CAR: peoples and persons], older persons and persons with disabilities.** They shall intensify efforts to promote citizen security and prevent and combat organised crime, with emphasis on illicit drugs, maritime security, cybersecurity, money laundering, and border management, fight against corruption, and all forms of trafficking, and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.
2. **[CAR: The Parties shall respect the sovereign equality of all States, territorial integrity and political independence, and subscribe to the principles of non-interference and non-intervention. They shall also commit to the resolution of disputes in a manner consistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter.]**

Chapter 1

Human rights, justice and governance

Article 1

Human rights

1. The Parties shall promote and contribute to the universal ratification and implementation of the international human rights instruments [CAR: to which they subscribe] and shall contribute to the protection, promotion and advancement of human rights in compliance with international law. They shall apply in full the non-discrimination principle as set out in Part X, Title X, Art. XX, placing a priority on adopting and implementing comprehensive equality and anti-discrimination laws, **[CAR: while fully respecting the sovereignty of states.]**
- [CAR 1bis: The Parties shall continue to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to fulfil their obligations stemming from international human rights covenants and conventions which they have ratified.]**
2. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen legal protection to ensure accountability for human rights violations and abuses and fostering access to justice, and [CAR: taking into account relevant national contexts, provide] adequate and effective remedies for victims and survivors of such violations and abuses.
 3. The Parties shall advance efforts to attain gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls and their empowerment.

4. The Parties shall promote and protect the rights of the child, fight against child labour and child abuse and combat all forms of exploitation.
5. The Parties shall promote the rights of persons with disabilities and take stronger measures to ensure their full inclusion in society.
6. The Parties shall continue to develop and support human rights monitoring mechanisms, including their reporting obligations. They shall recognise and observe the independence of national human rights institutions, and [EU: ensure]/[CAR: foster] a safe and enabling environment where human rights defenders can operate freely and have access to relevant **[EU: international monitoring mechanisms, as necessary] [CAR: monitoring mechanisms, as set out in international agreements they have ratified]**. They shall promote the participation of national human rights institutions and human rights defenders in consultative structures and processes. They shall recognise the role of traditional knowledge and concerns of local and indigenous communities, ensuring their effective participation in decision-making affecting their rights.
7. The Parties shall cooperate to increase awareness of human rights and democracy, including through education systems and the media.

Article 2

Rule of law and justice

1. The Parties shall cooperate to enhance effective and equitable access to justice by all and shall cooperate in the consolidation of the rule of law and in the strengthening of institutions at all levels in the areas of law enforcement and administration of justice. In that pursuit, the Parties shall enhance access to legal services by persons in vulnerable situations.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the independence, accountability and impartiality of the judiciary. They shall pursue modernized and efficient court systems and procedures, including through the sharing of best practices, improve the capacity to deliver justice in an expeditious and fair manner, develop the use of legal alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, reduce backlogs and excessive pre-trial detention, provide adequate training and improve access by legal practitioners and the public to legislation, case-law and other legal information.
3. **[EU: The Parties shall foster dialogue and cooperation on the abolition of the death penalty. They shall also oppose and condemn torture and ill-treatment.]** They shall prevent and address violations by security forces, enhancing respect for the rule of law along the security and judiciary chains, including through ethics training. They shall strengthen the fight against impunity, or denial of victims' right to justice and redress, with a particular emphasis on bringing perpetrators of human rights violations to justice.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to modernise penitentiary systems and maximise their rehabilitation role, including by improving respect for prisoners' rights, implementing rehabilitation and education programmes, increasing the rate of social reintegration of inmates, supporting the care for prisoners, working towards the eradication of overcrowding, improving prison management, administration and conditions in line with international best practices and standards, and providing alternatives to imprisonment for lesser crimes.

Article 3 Governance

1. The Parties shall take concrete measures to build inclusive, accountable and transparent public institutions. They shall strengthen capacity for policy design and implementation, develop an accountable, efficient, transparent and professional civil service, strengthen the delivery of quality public services, improve legislative and governance mechanisms and promote the impartiality and effectiveness of law-enforcement bodies.
2. The Parties shall strengthen capacities of national parliaments, local, municipal, national and regional institutions to ensure and enhance respect for democratic principles and practices.
3. The Parties shall promote respect for freedom of expression and media independence and pluralism, and preserve and broaden an enabling space for civil society with a view to improving democratic accountability.
4. The Parties shall accelerate the wider use of e-governance and digital services infrastructure as a means to enhance access to, and availability of public services and thereby support the development of accountable and transparent public institutions.
5. The Parties shall develop and strengthen institutions, legislation and mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption, bribery, fraud and corporate crimes, including on confiscation and return of recovered assets. They shall ensure that anti-corruption legislation is effectively enforced and that impartial investigations and prosecutions are conducted and effective, proportionate sanctions and penalties for corruption and corruption-related crimes are applied. They shall promote and implement relevant international standards and instruments, notably the United Nations Convention against Corruption, acknowledging that corruption is a transnational issue, linked to other forms of transnational and economic crime, requiring joint and multi-disciplinary efforts also at international levels.

Article 4 Public finance and financial governance

1. The Parties shall promote sound public financial management, including effective mobilisation and use of public revenues, sustainable public debt management, sustainable procurement systems, and support for national oversight bodies. They shall promote greater accountability, transparency, fairness, legality and integrity in the management of public resources.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen public finances, through, inter alia, enhancing capacity to comply with international standards, developing policy frameworks and measures to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and fairness of tax systems, and collaborating in the framework of the United Nations and other relevant global public finance bodies. They shall support measures to build effective, equitable and transparent public expenditure systems.

[CAR: 2.b. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and its effective use in pursuit of sustainable development and enhanced economic resilience. They shall enhance domestic resource mobilisation policies and strategies through, inter alia, the development of coherent and multi-sectoral initiatives to assist in addressing the finance and development challenges facing SIDS.]

3. **[CAR: The Parties shall cooperate]** to combat tax fraud, tax evasion, **[EU: tax avoidance]**, and illicit financial flows based **[CAR: on inclusive and consultative dialogue in bilateral and multilateral bodies]**. **[CAR: They shall also cooperate to take measures to reduce tax avoidance]**. The Parties shall apply **[EU: the principles of good governance in the tax area]/[CAR: common principles of fair taxation]** in, inter alia, enacting legislation, developing comprehensive policies, adopting concrete measures and strengthening relevant institutions and mechanisms.]

Chapter 2 Crime and Security

Article 1 Human and citizen security

1. The Parties shall pursue an integrated approach aimed at preventing and reducing risks of crime and promoting reconciliation, rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives.
2. The Parties shall prosecute, combat and seek to prevent all forms of violence, including sexual, gender-based and domestic. They shall further aim at supporting, assisting and empowering victims and survivors and adopting measures to counter marginalisation, victimisation and stigmatisation.
3. The Parties shall address gang violence through comprehensive risk-reduction, prevention and education measures, the provision of adequate social services, and community-based actions for breaking the cycle of violence, and the generation of alternative livelihood opportunities for youth and vulnerable people. They shall address the access and use of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition with a view to preventing and reducing the negative effects of armed violence on society and people.
4. The Parties shall tackle the social and security problems created by **[CAR: deportees]/ [EU: the deportation of foreign criminals and individuals, who have served their sentences, (CAR: and others) and will strive to cooperate on including by], [CAR: including by]** facilitating their rehabilitation and reintegration into society and minimising the rate of recidivism. **[CAR: They shall notify each other in advance of any deportation, and shall promote the conclusion of protocols or relevant agreements to facilitate the exchange of relevant information]. / [EU: They shall ensure the exchange of relevant information on deportation through the appropriate channels in accordance with applicable agreements of administrative or judicial cooperation.]**

Article 2 Organised crime

1. The Parties shall tackle all forms of organised crime, including through collaboration at national, regional and international levels, and by adopting legislative and other measures in compliance with the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementary protocols. The Parties shall cooperate to increase their ability to comply with international reporting requirements. The Parties shall fight migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, illicit drugs, (CAR endangered) wild animals and plants and hazardous substances and waste. The Parties shall also address

environmental crimes including illegal logging and its associated trade. The Parties shall also cooperate to combat trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, other conventional weapons and dual-use items. In doing so, the Parties shall cooperate, inter alia, to strengthen the detection of illegal small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, tracing their origins, support their destruction, enhance capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute gun-related crimes and share best practices.

2. The Parties shall enhance the protection of victims of trafficking in persons, advance the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, collaborate to prevent and identify cases of trafficking in persons and develop effective measures for reintegration of victims into their societies. The Parties shall ensure that all victims have access to their rights, taking into account the particular vulnerability of women and children. The Parties shall promote exchange of information, including criminal intelligence, and strengthen capacities to develop policies and implement actions to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent and combat the use of their financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions to finance terrorism and launder the proceeds of criminal activities. The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, **[CAR: expertise and relevant technology]/[EU: and cooperation, including capacity building and other forms of technical assistance]**, and enforce measures to fight money laundering, terrorism financing and to disrupt illicit financial flows, thereby depriving criminals of profits, and to ensure the effective and full implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. The Parties shall support the establishment and strengthening of national asset recovery legislation and bodies, the confiscation of criminal assets, their return and mobilisation for public benefit purposes, extending criminal liability of crime perpetrators and facilitators.
4. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat high-technology, cyber- and electronic crimes and the distribution of illegal content online. They shall strengthen capacity to address cybercrime through, inter alia, pooling and training of human resources and fostering collaboration among policymakers, economic operators and researchers, and shall exchange information in the fields of education and training of cybercrime investigators, investigation of cybercrime and digital forensic science. **[EU: They shall promote the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as the global standard against cybercrime at all appropriate level]**.
5. The Parties shall take measures to enhance resilience of individuals and communities to terrorism and violent extremism. They shall intensify efforts to exchange information and expertise on terrorist groups and their support networks, fully respecting the rule of law, human rights, and the right to privacy. They shall cooperate to bring to justice perpetrators of terrorism and shall adopt measures to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of their nationals that have been radicalised.

Article 3 Illicit drugs

1. The Parties shall cooperate to mitigate the challenges including as regards security and health, posed by the cultivation, production, trafficking, transit and consumption of illicit drugs and psychoactive/psychotropic substances through their territories. Such cooperation shall be on bilateral, regional, multilateral and triangular level as appropriate.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to reduce both drugs supply and demand based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, and on an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to improve judicial and law enforcement capacities, including their reporting capabilities. They shall identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational organised criminal groups through strengthened information exchange mechanisms and drug-related criminal intelligence while promoting joint investigations and operations, including with neighbouring countries.
4. The Parties shall address risk factors related to drug abuse affecting individuals, communities and societies. They shall strengthen the rule of law, build accountable, effective and inclusive institutions and public services to combat drug-related violence.
5. The Parties shall adopt measures to support alternative developmental activities to replace illegal drug cultivation and production in rural and urban areas to enhance the economic welfare of affected vulnerable populations while simultaneously fostering social inclusion at the community level and the wider society.
6. The Parties shall intensify and accelerate efforts to reduce the demand side and take the necessary measures to address the health and social impacts of drugs. They shall take age- and gender-appropriate measures, tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable groups through, inter alia, prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, and social reintegration programmes.
7. The Parties shall address new and emerging threats related to the illegal production and use, and abuse of synthetic substances including opioids as well as develop and enhance programmes and improve reporting mechanisms to address the illicit use of precursor chemicals.

Article 4 Law enforcement cooperation and integrated border management

1. The Parties shall foster dialogue and cooperation on law enforcement, as well as strategic judicial cooperation. They shall promote cooperation between law enforcement agencies to exchange information and criminal intelligence in a timely manner, encourage sharing of best practices and develop capacities.
2. The Parties shall support regional security cooperation through the strengthening of integrated border management, information and intelligence sharing and data gathering and analysis while respecting relevant legal frameworks on protection of personal data. The Parties shall promote the peaceful resolution of border disputes and controversies in line with international law. The Parties shall support confidence building measures and specific development strategies, where appropriate, to increase trust and reduce possible border tensions.

Article 5
Maritime and Aviation Security

1. The Parties shall develop cooperation on maritime and aviation matters with a view to improving maritime and aviation safety and security and enhance, inter alia, the targeting and management of high-risk cargo, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions.
2. The Parties shall enhance maritime security, responding to threats to ships and critical maritime installations and assets, improving monitoring and enforcing relevant laws and regulations. They shall take action against piracy and armed robbery, as well as all forms of organised crime at sea, including through the use of space technologies.
3. [CAR: Placeholder]

[Article 6
Caribbean as a Zone of Peace]

1. **[CAR: Placeholder. The Parties shall reaffirm the Caribbean as a zone of peace and shall cooperate to ensure that it is not used for the transit and transshipment of nuclear material and toxic waste and urge countries that produce and transport them to urgently implement appropriate measures to end such activities.]**

**TITLE IV
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION**

Article 1

1. The Parties are determined to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030, effectively tackle inequality, achieve gender equality, empower women and youth to ensure that everyone has the necessary means to enjoy a life in dignity, promote social cohesion, and create the conditions for the effective participation of people in democratic life and their active contribution to sustainable economic growth. They shall pay special attention to persons in vulnerable situations including women, children, elderly, indigenous **(CAR: peoples)** and communities and persons with disabilities. They shall take concrete measures to promote social protection as a fundamental investment for poverty eradication and fighting inequality, and as an important means to create a self-strengthening cycle towards inclusive and sustainable economic development, by reinvesting economic gains more broadly into society and people and increasing social resilience.

**Chapter 1
Social services**

**Article 1
Education**

1. The Parties shall consolidate and promote inclusive, affordable and equitable access to and enhance the quality of education at all levels, including through strengthened and inclusive national education systems, improved infrastructure and equipment, with particular attention to persons with disabilities. The Parties shall support the advancement of gender equality, to develop an enabling environment for boys and girls alike to have equal educational opportunities and comparable educational attainment.
2. The Parties shall support the expanded delivery and application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and arts at all levels of the educational system.
3. The Parties shall promote the use of accessible and affordable innovative technologies for educational purposes and the development of digital skills and literacy for all.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to reinforce enrolment and quality in tertiary education, technical and vocational training, non-formal, work-based and life-long learning, with a view to increasing the number of highly educated persons and skilled workers.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen academic development, promote the mutual recognition of qualifications and facilitate the mobility of students, staff and academics between the Caribbean, **[CAR: the ACP]** and the European Union.
6. The Parties shall cooperate to promote academic research, development and innovation, through inter alia, enhancing collaboration among key institutions and advancing the use of scientific research and analysis in pursuit of mutually beneficial academic excellence.

Article 2 Health

1. The Parties shall promote universal and affordable health coverage and equitable access to health services, including through strengthened national health systems, the development of sustainable quality infrastructure and access to safe and affordable essential medicines, vaccines and diagnostics.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to address the growing incidence and burden of non-communicable diseases, taking steps towards prevention and control, including through the promotion of healthy diets, lifestyles, the use of digital tools and health education.
3. The Parties shall strengthen national and regional capacity to detect and respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks of communicable diseases and other health emergencies of national and international concern, following a One Health approach that encompasses human health, animal health, plants and ecosystems.
4. (They shall collaborate to address public health emergencies through inter alia, the use of early warning systems for swift exchange of information, timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief, development of coherent and multisectoral plans to enhance the capacity of health systems and revive economic activity, accelerated delivery of essential and affordable medicines, vaccines and health equipment, and strengthened international collaboration to mitigate the impact of global public emergencies/pandemics.)
5. **[EU: The Parties shall strengthen national and regional capacity to detect and respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks of communicable diseases and other health emergencies of national and international concern, following a One Health approach that encompasses human health, animal health, plants and ecosystems. They shall cooperate to address public health emergencies through inter alia, the use of early warning systems for swift exchange of information, development of coherent and multi-sectoral plans to enhance the capacity of health systems, where appropriate, provision of essential and affordable medicines, vaccines and health equipment, including diagnostics, and delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief. They shall strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the impact of global public health emergencies.]**
6. The Parties shall promote [EU: and support] research and sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices in the health sector.

Article 3 Housing, water and sanitation

1. The Parties shall support universal access to decent, safe, and affordable housing with special emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized communities, including indigenous (communities and) peoples, in order to generate positive impact on the health of people, advance the socio-economic development of their communities and address the inequalities between urban and rural households. They shall promote climate-smart housing and infrastructure, through, inter alia, the design and enforcement of building codes.

2. The Parties shall enhance access to safe, affordable and sustainable water supply including through the development of sustainable and integrated water resources management, solid waste management and the promotion of water recycling measures.
3. The Parties shall promote adequate, equitable and affordable access to sanitation and hygiene services for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
4. The Parties shall promote universal and improved access to affordable electricity and increase efficient and sustainable energy usage for all.

Article 4
Sustainable urbanisation and rural development

1. The Parties shall promote an enabling environment for sustainable rural and urban development. They shall foster sustainable land use planning, paying particular attention to transparent and regulated land acquisitions and property rights, sustainable urban mobility and smart and safe cities.
2. The Parties shall promote a balanced development of rural economies and communities, with a special focus on employment and income generation. They shall accelerate rural diversification through adding value to local production and harness natural and cultural resources.
3. The Parties shall promote inclusive, balanced, integrated urban and rural policies, and multi-level governmental coordination, actively engaging local authorities and communities, forging stronger links between rural and urban areas.

Article 5
Food security and improved nutrition

1. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure that all have access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food, with a view to ending all forms of malnutrition and averting food crises. In this pursuit, the Parties shall pay special attention to the most vulnerable countries, including those affected by disasters and persons in vulnerable situations.
2. The Parties, acknowledging the negative impact of reduced agricultural output, high reliance on imported food items and overexploitation of fish stock on food security and nutrition, shall support the sustainable development of local agriculture, fisheries and food production.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to address the impact of food crises and ensure timely action for making food available locally, by developing policy interventions and infrastructure including investing in climate-resilient transportation and storage systems. In this pursuit, the Parties shall address the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Chapter 2 Social Cohesion

Article 1 Equality, social protection and decent work

1. The Parties shall promote equality by adopting policies in support of progressively attaining and sustaining income growth of the poorest members of the population at a rate higher than the national average.
2. The Parties shall promote equitable and sound fiscal, economic and social policies oriented towards more inclusive societies with an improved income distribution to reduce inequality and inequity.
3. The Parties shall work towards the extension of social protection coverage, especially for persons in vulnerable situations, with the aim of progressively reaching universality, through social safety nets, basic income security and adequate and shock-responsive social protection systems. They shall promote research and sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices on social protection.
4. The Parties shall promote the creation of inclusive and well-functioning labour markets and employment policies directed towards achieving international standards for decent work for all, and fair wages that provide for a decent standard of living, including enhancing health and safety conditions for workers. They shall combat all forms of exploitation, including sexual and work exploitation, in both formal and informal sectors.
5. The Parties shall address issues related to the informal economy, including innovative access to financial services, credit and micro-finance and strengthened social protection measures, with a view to facilitating a smooth transition to the formal economy.
6. The Parties shall take concrete measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities with a view to advancing the effective implementation of relevant international agreements, promoting their full inclusion in society without discrimination of any kind and their equal access to social services and labour markets.
7. The Parties shall promote social cohesion through, inter alia protecting and enhancing tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as the diversity of cultural expressions.

Article 2 Gender equality and empowerment of girls and women

1. The Parties shall strengthen policies, programmes, and mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality and ensuring and improving equal opportunities for participation in all sectors of political, economic, social and cultural life. They shall also ensure that the gender perspective is systematically mainstreamed across all policies, including through the creation and consolidation of legal frameworks.

2. The Parties shall ensure the physical and psychological integrity of women and girls, by adopting legislative and policy measures to end child, early and forced marriages, and eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence against women and men, trafficking in persons, all forms of sexual and work exploitation, and all forms of harassment in both public and private spheres. They shall facilitate access to justice and promote prevention and awareness campaign initiatives to advance behavioural change to advance gender equality and empower women and girls.
3. The Parties shall support the effective implementation of all relevant international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and encouraging the ratification of its Optional Protocol.
4. The Parties shall ensure that the rights of women and girls are respected and promoted. They shall strengthen the social rights of women and girls, notably in the areas of health and education, including access to family planning services, [in accordance with national laws]. They shall reinforce the economic rights of women, including by facilitating their access to, economic opportunities, financial services, enabling technology and employment, the control and use of land and other productive assets. They shall support women entrepreneurs, reduce the gender pay gap, and remove other discriminatory regulations and practices.
5. The Parties shall strengthen the participation and voice of women and girls in political life, including through enhanced access to electoral, policy, and governance processes and positions and in community-building efforts.
6. The Parties shall empower women and girls' organisations and strengthen national and regional institutions to address issues related to violence against women and girls, including prevention and protection from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, develop harassment investigation and accountability mechanisms, and provide care and support to victims and promotion of conditions of safety and security for women and girls.
7. **[EU: Placeholder for text on SRHR - The Parties shall commit to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and shall commit to sexual and reproductive health and rights, in this context. [Having that in mind, the Parties shall [in accordance with the national context,] commit to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. They shall further stress the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including [age-appropriate] comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.]**

Article 3 Youth

1. The Parties shall develop targeted policies to promote youth empowerment and facilitate their engagement in political, social, civic and economic life.

2. The Parties shall support youth entrepreneurship and promote the creation of sustainable jobs in all sectors with decent working conditions for young people, including by supporting them in acquiring labour market-relevant skills through education, technical and vocational training, , enhanced access to technologies and by supporting employment services to connect young people to employment opportunities and access to financial services and partnerships for start-ups.
3. The Parties shall establish governance structures to promote responsible youth citizenship, increase the influence of young people in decision-making processes and foster their active participation in political life and in community-building efforts. They shall promote increased participation of youth in environmental action, particularly climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes.
4. The Parties shall undertake measures to improve the access to justice and strengthen child protection systems. They shall take all appropriate measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.
5. The Parties shall promote social and justice programmes for prevention of juvenile delinquency and the integration of youth into economic and social life. They shall support institutions, such as schools, social and faith-based organizations and youth groups, that contribute to building resilience in at-risk youth and vulnerable communities.

Article 4 Sports

1. The Parties shall promote sports and physical education as a driver for sustainable development, health and wellness, social inclusion, non-discrimination and human rights advancement. They shall collaborate to harness the economic, cultural and social power of sports by, inter alia, developing adequate facilities, promoting participation in sporting and other physical education activities and exchanging best practices. They shall promote the mobility of sports persons and associated professionals as a means to strengthen intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

**[CAR: TITLE V
MOBILITY AND MIGRATION] /**

**[EU: Article
Migration, Mobility and Development]**

1. The Parties acknowledge the contribution of legally residing third country nationals (and diaspora) to the economic, social, political and cultural life of their host countries. They shall support the integration of legally residing third country nationals (and diaspora). In this pursuit, special emphasis shall be placed on promoting entrepreneurship, business support and skills development. They shall strengthen cooperation on the portability of social rights for legally residing migrant workers (and diaspora).
2. **[CAR: The Parties shall foster mutual understanding, promote shared values and generate direct economic benefits through, inter alia, the establishment and enhancement of reciprocal visa waiver agreements for short-term stays of Caribbean and EU nationals. The Parties shall cooperate to facilitate mobility between Caribbean States and EU OCTs and ORs through, inter alia, visa-free travel in recognition of their physical proximity, close cultural ties and other areas of functional cooperation].**
3. They shall **[EU: consider] [CAR: develop]** schemes for circular migration, and shall implement and improve, as appropriate, the legal frameworks for facilitating the re-entry procedures of legally residing third country nationals. **[CAR: They shall address critical skills shortages by inter alia, adopting a coherent approach to advance the training of select professionals in the Caribbean that includes expanding training facilities, promoting the enrolment of EU nationals, developing skills partnership schemes and facilitating the negotiation of mutual recognition agreements].** They shall consider aspects of reintegration of legally residing third country nationals in the countries of origin to ensure that their gained experience or qualifications can benefit the local labour market and community. They shall cooperate to reduce the negative impact of loss of skills on the development of the countries.
4. The Parties, recognising the importance of remittances as a source for inclusive and sustainable development if properly managed, shall aim to reduce the transaction costs of remittances to less than 3 percent, eliminate remittances corridors with costs higher than 5 percent by 2030, promote financial inclusion via innovative financial instruments and new technologies, and improve regulatory frameworks for enhanced involvement of non-traditional economic actors. The Parties shall enhance diaspora contribution in the sustainable development of their countries of origin, by promoting and facilitating diaspora investment, and business creation as a means to boost local development and entrepreneurship in countries of origin as well as to transfer knowledge, experience and technology.
5. **[CAR: The Parties shall develop measures to harness the benefits of South-South migration and mitigate any negative impact through enhanced legal and institutional mechanisms, based on the principles of solidarity, shared partnership and responsibility.]**
6. The Parties shall promote the exchange of best practices of Caribbean-EU and intra-regional mobility schemes, including free movement of persons in regional integration processes.

PACIFIC REGIONAL PROTOCOL

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PACIFIC REGIONAL PROTOCOL

PART I BASIS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Chapter 1 Principles and objectives

Article 1 Genuine partnership

1. For the purposes of this Protocol, “Parties” shall mean the relevant Parties bound by this Protocol pursuant to Article [**Part I on Structure**].
2. The relations between the Parties shall be governed by the provisions laid down in the Foundation Agreement and by the specific aims set out in this Protocol, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing, in accordance with **[paragraph 6 of Article “ACP-EU Council of Ministers”, Part V]**.
3. The Parties agree to strengthen their relations and intensify cooperation with a view to promoting shared values, common interests, responsibilities and obligations. This genuine partnership shall be implemented in the spirit of mutual respect and accountability, equality, and shared ownership.

Article 2 Principles

1. The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and cooperation, support regional integration, and intensify efforts in support of multilateralism and the rules-based global order.
2. The Parties shall endeavour, through appropriate partnership dialogue, to build strategic coalitions on a number of global issues, in particular as regards climate change, ocean governance, biodiversity, and inclusive and sustainable economic development, human rights and issues related to peace and security. Where appropriate, they shall coordinate their positions in the frameworks of the United Nations and other international and regional organisations and fora. They shall undertake to take concrete measures to sign, ratify and implement key international treaties and conventions.
3. The Parties agree that the content of the Protocol shall be anchored in and be consistent with the principles agreed to at the Foundation level of this Agreement.

Article 3 Objectives

1. The Parties reaffirm the broad and comprehensive nature of the Pacific-EU Protocol and agree that its aims are, inter alia, to:
 - a. strengthen their political partnership, underpinned by regular dialogue and the promotion of common interests;

- b. improve environmental and climate resilience and pursue sustainable management of natural resources;
- c. build democratic, peaceful and rights-based societies, based on the rule of law and good governance, and make progress on gender equality and financial governance;
- d. support inclusive and sustainable economic growth through bolstered investment and private sector development, with special attention to the blue economy and enhanced connectivity;
- e. support concrete measures aimed at strengthening ocean governance and the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources including fisheries **[PACP: as well as deep sea mining]**; and
- f. invest in human and social development, addressing inequalities and ensuring that nobody is left behind, with special attention to the promotion of youth and to women's and girls' economic, social and political empowerment.

Article 4

Regional integration and cooperation

1. The Parties shall support the process of regional integration and cooperation in the Pacific as a way to managing cross-country challenges and facilitating the implementation of this Protocol in order to reap full benefits from it, taking into consideration their relevant policy frameworks, including the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.
2. The Parties agree to step up cooperation with those regional organisations, countries, and territories that share the same values and are willing and able to promote and address common goals, contributing to the political, economic, and social development of the Pacific region as a whole.
3. The Parties shall promote and support Triangular and South-South Cooperation as means of strengthening cooperation at the regional level.

Chapter 2

[Indicative skeleton: Processes and Implementation Modalities]

[EU: Actors and processes]

Article 5

Institutional provisions

1. The institutions of the Pacific-EU Protocol, as defined in the General Part of this Agreement, including their composition and functions, are the:
 - a. Pacific-EU Council of Ministers;
 - b. Pacific-EU Joint Committee;
 - c. Pacific-EU Parliamentary Committee.
2. **[PACP: Each joint institution shall determine and agree its rules of procedures and composition including level of representation.]**

3. **[EU: The Parties may decide to meet at the level of Heads of State or Governments to provide strategic political steering to this [[EU: Partnership] OR [PACP: Regional Protocol within the powers conferred on it as set out in Article X of the General Part of this Agreement.]]**
4. **[PACP: The Parties shall take measures, including financial support, to ensure that appropriate institutional arrangements are in place to provide support for the effective discharge of the roles and functions of the joint institutions.]**

Article 6

EU Overseas Countries and Territories in the Pacific region

1. The Parties agree to strengthen the links between the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) associated with the EU in the Pacific region and the Pacific ACP States.
2. They shall endeavour to involve the OCTs in regional integration, cooperation, and organisations, as appropriate, especially in the areas of climate change, environmental sustainability, sustainable management of natural resources, connectivity, and trade and investment.
3. The Parties agree that the OCTs in the Pacific region shall be granted the role of observers in the EU-Pacific Protocol.

Article 7

Mechanisms for consultation and engagement with stakeholders

1. The Parties shall foresee consultation and dialogue mechanisms with all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, representatives of civil society, and the private sector in order to keep them informed of, and gather inputs for the effective implementation of the Pacific –EU Protocol, including in view of the Pacific-EU Council of Ministers.

[PACP: Article 7bis Capacity building]

1. **[(PACP: The Parties shall provide capacity building to relevant regional implementing institutions, private sector and, civil society entities, and other relevant stakeholders aimed at the effective, efficient and timely achievement of the objectives of this Regional Protocol.)]**

Article 8

Implementation and monitoring [PACP: and evaluation]

1. **[PACP: The Parties shall put in place mechanisms for the effective and timely delivery and management of projects and programmes funded under this Protocol and to facilitate wider Pacific-EU cooperation and relations on issues of mutual interest and within the overall ACP-EU framework.]**

2. **[PACP:** In addition to the annual reviews, a mid-term and end-of-term reviews shall be undertaken of the regional indicative programmes to adapt it to evolving circumstances and to ensure that they are implemented effectively and efficiently. The outcome of such reviews would inform decisions relating to resource re-allocation where appropriate.]
3. **[EU: The Parties, when implementing actions for each area of engagement, shall, in accordance with the legal framework set up by this Agreement, take into consideration their respective strategic and policy frameworks, including regional strategies adopted by Pacific [PACP: ACP] States as appropriate. They shall take action and implement measures at the most appropriate level. They shall seek to maximise the impact on and reinforce the involvement of all interested stakeholders.]**
4. **[The Parties shall monitor the EU-Pacific Partnership [PACP: Pacific-EU Regional Protocol] to ensure that implementation is on track, including through a multi-stakeholder approach. They may review it as appropriate, [PACP: at regular intervals] and may expand its scope with a view to enhancing the level of cooperation in existing and new areas of engagement, according to the procedure laid out in [Article XX] of the General Part of this Agreement.]**
5. **[PACP:** In exceptional circumstances, a review can be undertaken at the request of either Party and agreed by both. The findings can assist reorienting the regional programme and/or increase in resource allocation.]
6. The Parties shall conduct regular independent monitoring and evaluation assessments of the activities foreseen under the key areas of engagement of this Protocol.

**[PACP: Article 8bis
Programming Exercise]**

1. **[PACP:** The Parties shall undertake programming as a shared responsibility and in accordance with the principles of ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity and in full respect of the integrity of genuine partnership reflecting joint decision making, co-management, transparency and accountability.]
2. **[PACP:** The Parties recognise that the outcome of the programming exercise is the product of extensive consultation between the EU and the Pacific ACP states including the Regional Authorising Officer. Where appropriate, programming may include exchange of views with civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.]

PART II
KEY AREAS FOR ENGAGEMENT

TITLE I
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Article 1

1. The Parties, acknowledging the serious threat posed by climate change, sea level rise, and environmental degradation to the achievement of sustainable development and the lives of people, and recognising the significant risk for Small Island Developing States, shall build resilience to climate change and reverse environmental degradation. They shall take ambitious action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to avert, minimize and address the risks of loss and damage, to protect and improve the quality of the environment, and to support the sustainable management of natural resources. They shall adopt measures to tackle biodiversity loss, maintain and restore ecosystems, promote ocean governance, and prevent and respond to disasters. They shall invest in green growth, circular economies, renewable energy, ensuring that economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental sustainability.

Article 2
Climate action

1. The Parties, recalling the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, adopted under the Convention, and stressing the need to step up the global efforts to tackle climate change in light of the findings of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, agree to contribute to global emission reduction, consistent with keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit global warming to a 1.5 degree Celsius pathway. They recognise the importance of reaching net zero global anthropogenic emissions as soon as possible. They commit, to this end, to successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that will represent a progression beyond their current NDCs and reflect their highest possible ambition, in light of different national circumstances, and reaffirm their objective of each achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
2. The Parties shall develop comprehensive and inclusive domestic climate policies and programmes, including through legislative and governance frameworks, and carry out concrete actions to scale up the implementation of the Paris Agreement. They shall develop monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) as well as evaluation systems to track progress on climate action.
3. The Parties shall accelerate and intensify efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including by developing and implementing, ambitious National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). They shall develop and implement policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental sectors.

4. The Parties, recognising that fossil fuel energy and transport sector contribute significantly to carbon emissions, undertake to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions and to further reduce or offset carbon emissions from land, aviation and maritime transport sectors, and they shall strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer. They shall also aim at rationalising and phasing-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and at minimizing the possible adverse impacts, in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.
5. The Parties shall apply integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches to addressing climate change and its impacts, also taking into account the vulnerability of small islands developing states, and taking into consideration their relevant policy frameworks, including the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).
6. The Parties shall support action to align finance flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. They shall cooperate to mobilise climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels to support the development and implementation of NAPs and NDCs beyond current levels in line with the Paris Agreement.
7. The Parties shall promote an ambitious phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol. They shall encourage all the Parties to the Protocol to ratify and ensure the swift implementation of the Amendment.
8. The Parties shall strengthen coordination across all levels of governance and shall take action that is based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, indigenous and local knowledge systems. They shall encourage and enable local authorities to make and implement ambitious climate and energy commitments. They shall promote existing initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and should support the implementation of their action plans.
9. The Parties shall work together towards developing knowledge networks for climate adaptation and response and strengthening scientific and technical, human and institutional capacity for climate action and environmental management and monitoring, including through space technologies and information systems.

Article 3

Environment and sustainable management of natural resources

1. The Parties shall support the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems and the services they provide linking biodiversity to livelihoods. They shall protect, restore and enhance biodiversity, in line with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. They shall support the development of long-term strategies focused on mainstreaming biodiversity into national and regional frameworks in the Pacific, ensuring coordination and coherence across institutions, and generating evidence to inform decision-making.

2. The Parties shall promote an integrated approach to and strengthen enforcement mechanisms for the sustainable management and use of natural resources and the environment at all levels, including the development of circular and green economy, taking into account the needs of current and future generations and, where appropriate, indigenous, traditional and customary practices.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the sustainable management of their forest and other tree resources, reduce and reverse deforestation, combat illegal logging and trade of illegal wood and wood-based products, reinstall the functions of natural forests, including to provide ecosystem services, and promote responsible mining, taking into account demands for sustainable development, including the economic, social and environmental needs of their growing populations.
4. The Parties shall promote sustainable integrated water management systems, preserving and protecting water sources and ecosystems, collecting and treating wastewater, addressing land degradation and pollution of water and groundwater resources, and coping with uncertainties of water availability through water collection and storage systems.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to combat the threat of invasive alien species on local species' extinctions, biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, on people's livelihoods and resilience, and on trade and economic development.
6. The Parties shall effectively address all forms of pollution. They shall work towards establishing the necessary regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms for the sound management of chemicals and waste. They shall aim to prevent or minimise the generation of waste at source, as well as improve product reusability, recyclability and resource efficiency in order to adapt production and consumption towards the achievement of a circular economy. They shall take measures to prevent or minimise hazardous substances in material cycles and manage chemicals in products throughout their lifecycle.

Article 4 **Disaster resilience**

1. The Parties shall cooperate to build the resilience of people, societies, institutions and infrastructure to disaster events. They shall take into account the strong links between disasters and climate change and the impacts of disasters on human and social development, the livelihoods of people, especially of vulnerable groups and individuals, cultural heritage, environmental integrity, economic development and human security. They shall endeavour to implement and monitor the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction including through exchange of information and best practices, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).
2. The Parties shall promote a holistic approach to disaster risk reduction, including taking into consideration the FRDP, investing in risk prevention and preparedness, integration of risk reduction efforts in recovery actions, and promotion of financial risk insurance. They shall support resilience of public services, infrastructure, food security, and water security, ensuring that investments consider and respond to a realistic understanding of future risks. They shall put climate resilience at the core of all reconstruction and recovery efforts, including by taking a "building back better" approach.

3. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen access to, transfer of, and systematic use of relevant technologies for resilience building. They shall invest in collection and use of disaster statistics and loss data, comprehensive assessment of risk, implementation of risk reduction plans at all levels and strengthening the link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. They shall support the use of space technologies and information to improve prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery measures.
4. The Parties shall work towards strengthening inclusive risk governance at all levels, including capacity development for national and regional disaster risk reduction and climate innovation centres of excellence. They shall work towards increasing monitoring, early warning and risk assessment capacities, improving domestic and regional capacity and capability for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures, including civil protection mechanisms, as well as capacity of local communities and institutions, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalised households and groups.
5. The Parties shall monitor and evaluate disaster risk and climate risk-management priorities and objectives against international best practice.

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TITLE II
INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Article 1

1. The Parties shall pursue integrated strategies and implement reforms to build resilient and diversified economies, promote economic growth and transformation, strengthen business and trade relations, and support the transition towards full and quality employment. They undertake to create a business environment that is conducive to greater flows of investment and to private sector development. They shall strengthen and deepen intra-regional economic cooperation, including the mobility of goods and services. They shall encourage and facilitate a wider use of their respective currencies in international transactions.
2. The Parties shall promote measures in support of the transformative nature of science, technology, innovation and research. They shall work towards achieving circular, low-emission and climate resilient economies and ensuring that all people benefit from unlocked business opportunities, that core labour standards are respected and upheld, including through social dialogue, and that the socio-economic empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable people, women and youth is promoted, also through appropriate social protection measures. They agree to concentrate efforts on key sectors with a multiplier effect on sustainable growth, job creation and poverty eradication, including the possibility of cooperating on new economic areas.

Chapter 1

Economic growth and diversification

Article 1

Enablers of economic development

1. The Parties shall pursue measures that support the attainment of higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, as a priority, as well as measures that improve macroeconomic and financial sector stability, simplify and harmonise business regulations and processes, strengthen effective and predictable tax systems, increase the efficiency of public administration and judicial systems, adopt sound competition policies, and ensure the protection of land and property rights as well as intellectual property rights.
2. The Parties agree to promote sound business facilitation legislation, regulations and policies aimed at reducing regulatory and administrative barriers and enhancing transparency while developing entrepreneurial skills and business culture aimed at increasing investment and private sector development. They shall also promote corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct, including environmental considerations.
3. The Parties agree to address and enhance human capital development, in particular through investment in and support for the creation of a highly educated, trained, skilled, qualified and efficient workforce sufficiently trained to access decent employment, including in new dynamic growth sectors, matching the demands of labour markets and enhancing private sector involvement. They shall place particular emphasis on enhancing digital literacy, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and other tertiary.

4. The Parties shall promote policies that enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of labour market institutions. They shall promote intra-regional labour mobility in support of the development needs of the Pacific states and to respond positively to the needs of the private sector and to contribute to improved economic integration, greater investment, and enhanced business productivity.
5. The Parties shall support development of key infrastructures such as energy, transport, water, as well as ICT services and digital connectivity.
6. The Parties shall promote the development of rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy, including by strengthening linkages between resilient infrastructures, tourism, agriculture and industry.
7. The Parties shall support measures to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of insurance, financial and non-financial services to private enterprises, both in the formal and informal sectors. They shall improve access to affordable finance, including by developing viable banking and non-banking systems and strengthening digital financial services that facilitates value-addition by integration of firms, particularly micro-small-medium enterprises (MSMEs) into regional and global value chains, through enhanced production, trade regulatory capacity, entrepreneurship, improved business facilitation, diversification of products and export destination, technological enhancement and innovation, inclusive of e-commerce platforms.

Article 2 Investment

1. The Parties commit to encouraging, creating and maintaining a conducive environment for responsible investment for mutual benefit. They shall streamline and accelerate administrative procedures and requirements, and support measures that create a predictable and secure investment climate, facilitate partnerships and promote private sector dialogue.
2. The Parties agree to attract and retain sustainable and responsible public and private investment, including foreign direct investment, through blending, guarantees, and other innovative financial instruments to boost investor confidence. They shall endeavour to provide investors with adequate and easily accessible information on business opportunities in both the European Union and the Pacific region.
3. They undertake to cooperate in facilitating investments through appropriate intervention mix, with particular attention to youth and women.

Article 3 Private sector development

1. The Parties shall support the development of a dynamic, competitive and responsible private sector, including through the adoption of the necessary legislative economic and institutional reforms and policies at national and/or regional level. They shall take measures to strengthen and improve private sector productivity and efficiency. They shall pay special attention to the growth and improved competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), business incubators, as well as the development of cottage industry.

2. The Parties shall seize the opportunities of technological progress and the digital economy. They shall endeavour to mobilise investment in support of research and innovation, as well as the digital economy and encourage the private sector to boost digitalisation, in particular in terms of investments, innovation, market knowledge, access and expertise.
3. The Parties shall promote industrial development, in view of the achievement of sustainable economic growth. They shall adopt targeted policies aimed at facilitating industrial growth and opportunities, notably through the creation of linkages and value-adding activities, including small-scale industries. They shall encourage the development of appropriate technologies, processes, and diversification of niche products. They shall develop and implement strategies that build regional and national capacity for competitiveness in medium- and high-tech manufacturing and exports.
4. The Parties shall support increased resource-use efficiency and the adoption of cleaner and more environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. They shall effectively address all forms of pollution resulting from economic activities, including through a clear definition and attribution of responsibilities to the industry and business operators throughout the supply chain, on the basis of extended producer responsibility and polluter pays principles.

Article 4

Science, technology, innovation and research

1. The Parties shall cooperate in scientific research, technological development and innovation, with the aim of promoting social and economic development, tackling societal challenges, and improving regional competitiveness. They shall develop the interconnection and interoperability of research networks, computing and scientific data infrastructures and services, and promoting such development within their regional context.
2. The Parties shall facilitate, as appropriate, access to each other's science, technology and innovation programmes, research infrastructures and facilities, publications, and scientific data in areas of relevance, including climate change and oceans.
3. The Parties shall cooperate on matters of common interest in the area of civil space activities, such as space research, Global Navigation Satellite System applications and services, development of satellite augmentation systems, Earth observation and Earth science, particularly on the use of early warning and surveillance.

Article 5

Remittances

1. The Parties, recognising the importance of remittances as a major source for inclusive and sustainable development, shall endeavour to reduce the transaction costs of remittances to less than 3 percent and eliminate remittances corridors with costs higher than 5 percent by 2030, promote financial literacy awareness and financial inclusion via innovative financial instruments and improve regulatory frameworks for enhanced involvement of non-traditional players, including through the use of new technologies.

Chapter 2
Trade cooperation

Article 1
Trade integration

1. The Parties undertake to boost trade opportunities to their mutual advantage as well as with the wider region including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) associated with the EU. They shall aim to foster the smooth and gradual integration of the Pacific States into the world economy, especially by making full use of the potential of regional integration and trade with other regions.
2. The Parties support the implementation and functioning of the existing Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Pacific States, encouraging the accession of interested countries and where appropriate broadening the scope of the EPA.
3. The Parties shall support regional economic integration processes in the Pacific, including trade facilitation and regulatory harmonization, to enable countries to take advantage of trading with their neighbours and foster their integration into regional and global value chains.

Article 2
Trade capacity

1. The Parties shall cooperate in building trade capacity, including through strengthened production and entrepreneurship and increased investment in value-adding sectors, and ensure that the framework conditions and the right domestic policies are in place to facilitate greater trade flows.
2. The Parties shall cooperate in the area of trade facilitation, building on their respective commitments under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Such cooperation shall take into account the specific needs of Pacific States, including those related to geographic constraints, technology, trade finance and connectivity. They shall endeavour to reduce trade costs, related to imports, exports, transit and other custom procedures on the movement of goods and services, including the automation of customs procedures.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent, identify and eliminate un-necessary technical barriers to trade as well as unnecessary non-tariff barriers restricting their exports. In particular, they shall cooperate to ensure compliance with international standards through appropriate capacity building support, and improved quality control mechanism and certification laboratories.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations and practices, including through institutional and regulatory mechanisms and adequate information systems and infrastructures.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to implement administrative cooperation and verification arrangements in their trade relations.

6. The Parties, recognising the contribution of digital technology to trade facilitation, agree to cooperate towards appropriate Pacific regional digital platforms for national and cross-border trade.

Article 3 Services

1. The Parties shall support the development of a robust and vibrant services sector, acknowledging its importance in terms of contribution to economic growth and job creation as well as in providing inputs to all economic activities and facilitating transformative production and export processes.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen capacity in the supply of services. Particular attention shall be paid to services related to movement of people for business purposes, financial and other business services, tourism, cultural and creative industries, construction and related engineering services.
3. The Parties agree to encourage the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) where appropriate, including with a view to facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications. They shall cooperate to address barriers in trade in services aimed at fostering competition, creating employment, spurring growth and development and improving the quality of their services sector.

Chapter 3 Key Sectors

Article 1 Blue economy

1. The Parties shall promote a blue economy that is well managed, sustainable, and aims at reconciling sustainable economic growth with employment creation, improved livelihoods and social equity, fair economic benefits, and strengthened food security, based on the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to develop sustainable aquaculture through effective spatial planning, an ecosystem-based approach, and enhanced level playing field for investors, ensuring that it meets the concerns of local communities.
3. The Parties shall enhance sustainable fisheries development, including artisanal fisheries, by promoting sustainable value chains through enhanced investment in productivity and local processing capacities, whilst ensuring sustainability of fisheries resources and improved food security and safety.
4. The Parties shall seize opportunities in the area of marine biotechnology, supporting research and reducing technical bottlenecks to facilitate access for investors whilst avoiding risks to the marine environment.

5. The Parties shall promote research, innovation, sharing of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned on blue economy including strengthening spatial planning and sound investment decision making.
6. The Parties shall promote marine renewable energy with a view to accelerating the clean energy transition on all islands.

Article 2 Agriculture

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable agriculture and support agro-ecological practices and actions to build climate-resilient agriculture and ensure value addition and diversification to improve livelihoods, expand incomes and create decent employment.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to increase opportunities for producers, processors and exporters, particularly smallholders, to access markets at national, regional and global levels, including through improved agricultural extension support, rural infrastructures and access to finance, and ensure compliance with internationally accepted practices and standards, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Pacific Agricultural Development Strategy.
3. The Parties shall promote food security by developing inclusive and biodiverse nutrition sensitive value chains, including through local value addition and processing and enhanced capacities of value chain agents. They shall also engage in the registration and protection of geographical indications (GIs) for Pacific and European agricultural and food products.
4. The Parties shall also cooperate to combat pests, diseases, and invasive species affecting Pacific agriculture.

Article 3 Tourism

1. The Parties undertake to ensure a balanced and sustainable development of tourism, maximising its potential for economic growth, decent jobs creation and increased government revenues while ensuring the integration of environmental, cultural and social dimensions.
2. The Parties shall enhance the protection and promotion of cultural heritage and of natural resources and strengthen linkages between the tourism sector and other relevant economic sectors, in particular transport, agriculture, and the blue economy.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to promote sustainable development practices and shall aim to optimise the socio-economic benefits of tourism, protecting lands, oceans, people and cultures, respecting the integrity and interests of local communities, and supporting their involvement in the process of tourism development, in particular rural and community tourism and eco-tourism. They shall encourage investment in new technology for research and statistical development, climate and disaster resilience, biodiversity, waste management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water and food security, and community livelihoods and participation.

4. The Parties shall bolster investment in the promotion and development of tourism products and services. They shall promote the development of innovative partnerships with relevant airlines and cruise operators and invest in human capital development, tourism training and capacity building, marketing, including digital marketing, and encourage business contacts and exchanges of skilled personnel, with a view to boosting competitiveness, improving service standards and for the further development of the tourism sector.

Article 4 Sustainable energy

1. The Parties recognise the importance of the energy sector for economic prosperity, as well as human and social development and human security, and the need for a smooth transition to a low-carbon economy. They shall endeavour to strengthen energy security and the resilience of energy infrastructures to improve accessibility and affordability of clean energy.
2. The Parties agree to support energy reforms in the Pacific that contribute to reducing carbon intensity of its development processes, increasing the efficiency of the supply and end-use energy consumption, enhancing the resilience of energy infrastructure, and decreasing net greenhouse gas emissions, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific and the Framework for Resilient Development Program (FRDP).
3. The Parties shall facilitate open, transparent and functioning energy markets that drive inclusive and sustainable investment in responsible generation, transmission and distribution and energy efficiency.
4. The Parties shall promote energy efficiency and energy savings at all stages of the energy chain, from generation to consumption and strengthen, improve and transform power production, generation and distribution facilities, including strengthening and expanding urban and rural power distribution grids.
5. The Parties shall promote the energy transition of the Pacific region through the development and uptake of clean, diverse, cost-effective and sustainable energy technologies, including renewable and low-emission energy technologies.

Article 5 Connectivity

1. The Parties, recognizing the geographical constraints faced by Pacific Island states, shall strengthen connectivity across the Pacific region, ensuring that it is sustainable, comprehensive, and rules-based, and that fosters investment and a level playing field for businesses. They shall endeavour to build resilient transport links, by air, land and sea, and digital networks, from mobile to fixed, from the internet backbone to the last mile, from cable to satellites. They undertake to work towards energy connectivity, with the aim of fostering modern, efficient and clean solutions and to promote people-to-people contacts.

2. The Parties undertake to restructure, strengthen and improve transport and related infrastructure systems, facilitating and improving the movement of passengers, including those with reduced mobility, and of goods and providing cost-effective and sustainable access to reliable and effective urban, air, maritime, inland-waterway, rail and road-transport services. They shall improve the overall governance of the transport sector, by developing and implementing efficient regulations to facilitate harmonization across the Pacific region, allow fair competition and interoperability within and between transport modes, as well as activate and promote the participation of the private sector in transport projects, including on maintenance, the elimination of capacity constraints and of missing-link infrastructures.
3. The Parties acknowledge the importance of cost-effective and efficient maritime transport services as the main mode of transportation facilitating trade. **[EU: They undertake to promote the liberalisation of maritime transport and to this end apply effectively the principle of unrestricted access to the international maritime market on a non-discriminatory and commercial basis. Each Party shall grant, inter alia, a treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own ships, for ships operated by nationals or companies of the other Party, and for ships registered in the territory of either Party, with respect to access to ports, the use of infrastructure and auxiliary maritime services of those ports, as well as related fees and charges, customs facilities and the assignment of berths and facilities for loading and unloading.]**
4. The Parties shall cooperate in the aviation sector, including considering an increase in routes and frequency of air services into the Pacific region. They shall further cooperate to strengthen and improve aviation safety and security, as well as airspace surveillance, including their capability to respond to related threats and risks. They agree to also strengthen and improve on air and sea travel navigational aid facilities, including air traffic control and cartography.
5. The Parties shall aim at boosting access to open, affordable and secure broadband connectivity and digital infrastructures, including through improved undersea cables. They shall take measures to facilitate easy access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and support the appropriate utilization of artificial intelligence and Internet of Things and the deployment of extensive low-cost wireless networks, adapted to local circumstances. They shall endeavour to establish the necessary regulatory institutions to license service providers, promote competitive behaviour, and ensure consumer welfare and protection, strengthening regional cooperation, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP).

Article 6

Extractive industries

1. The Parties, acknowledging the contribution of extractive industries to economic development, shall facilitate sustainable and responsible investment through appropriate legislation, policies and regulatory frameworks consistent with international best practices. They shall aim to ensure fair and undistorted access to extractive resources, fully respecting the national laws and sovereignty of countries over their natural resources and upholding the rights of affected local communities.

2. The Parties agree to promote responsible management of extractive resources, including the development of legislative frameworks and taking into account its environmental impacts. They shall promote transparency and accountability, in lines with the principles set out in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).
3. The Parties shall promote the utilisation of relevant technologies to facilitate sustainable and responsible exploration and exploitation of extractive resources.

Article 7 Forestry

1. The Parties shall promote sustainable forest management and use of forest resources, reduce and halt deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forest biodiversity and ecosystems, combat illegal logging and associated trade, and promote resource- and energy-efficient products from sustainably managed forests.
2. The Parties shall promote sustainable value chains of agro-industries and forest commodities and products, prioritizing the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities in the conservation of ecosystems. They shall cooperate in the sustainable management of forests, including for the legal and sustainable provision of products for commercial gains and the sustainable commercialisation of forest flora and fauna, in full respect of international best practices and standards and relevant international agreements. They shall collaborate and promote the use of appropriate technology and methods to identify and develop herbs and other forest-based materials that would contribute to medicinal products, while ensuring no loss of biodiversity is incurred, that no ecosystem imbalance is created, and that access to medicinal products is not hindered.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to improve the governance and sustainability of forests, including by taking into consideration the FLEGT Action Plan and encouraging the development of Voluntary Partnerships Agreements (VPAs). They shall strive to strengthen coherence and positive interactions at country level between FLEGT and climate action in the forest and land use sector, including in the context of other international initiatives, particularly the Warsaw Framework on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). They shall further engage in the development and review of policies, legislations, regulations, strategies and plans for climate action in the forest and land use sector, in line with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions. They shall take steps to improve the quality of inventories for emissions and removals from the forest sector.
4. The Parties shall support the development of forest adaptation and forest conservation strategies and initiatives to enhance forest health, reverse deforestation, restore degraded forest landscapes, enhance resilience to climate change and re-establish forest cover. Recognising the importance of natural and virgin forests in providing ecosystems, climate and cultural services our societies depend upon, they shall cooperate to develop and implement suitable approaches and positive incentives for their adaptation and conservation.

5. The Parties shall support institutional strengthening and capacity building of regional, sub-regional and national institutions and agencies responsible for the sustainable management of forests. They shall increase public awareness about deforestation at all levels and encourage the consumption of resource- and energy-efficient products from sustainably managed forests. They shall promote and support the use of alternative, sustainable, and clean cooking fuel for local communities. The Parties shall strengthen involvement of local authorities and communities in forest protection.

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**TITLE III
OCEANS, SEAS AND FISHERIES**

Article 1

1. The Parties acknowledge the essential role of oceans for life on earth, sustainable development and people livelihoods. They agree to step up efforts to protect the oceans and seas from the adverse consequences and impact of different pressures, such as climate change, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, over-exploitation, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other destructive and unsustainable activities. They shall promote the sustainable development of the blue economy, protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce pollution of all kinds and deploy climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

**Chapter 1
Ocean governance**

**Article 1
Sustainable oceans**

1. The Parties acknowledge the effort already undertaken by both Parties towards an improved integrated oceans governance, strengthened regional and sub-regional fisheries conservation and management measures, monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries and other region-specific strategies, and instruments for the effective management of the ocean.
2. The Parties shall take the necessary steps to implement relevant international and regional treaties, conventions and agreements on ocean governance to which they are Parties, and the conservation and management of resources therein.
3. The Parties shall strengthen governance of the oceans for their sustainable use and conservation including by promoting an integrated management approach, taking into account social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to mitigate and alleviate pressure on the oceans and their resources, for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans, as well as strengthen ocean knowledge. They shall cooperate on the protection, preservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems.
5. The Parties shall cooperate to prevent and reduce marine pollution and fight against noise pollution and marine litter, including plastics and micro-plastics, oil spills and nuclear contaminants. They shall support and strive for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions reductions from ships, actively supporting the urgent implementation of the International Maritime Organisation strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships, and enact legislation and regulations governing the discharge of harmful waste and litter, including imposing penalties for violation.
6. The Parties agree to take their decisions based on the best available science, to give due regard to the principles of the ecosystems-based approach and the precautionary principle and taking into account the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge.

7. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation on research, design and implementation of conservation and management measures, marine spatial planning, and the establishment of marine protected areas and marine sanctuaries, consistent with international law and based on the best available science and taking into account indigenous and local communities knowledge.
8. The Parties shall cooperate to build capacity and expertise in the conduct of marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology.

Article 2
Biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

1. The Parties shall cooperate, including through competent international and regional organisations and arrangements, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, based on the best available science.
2. The Parties shall promote capacity building and transfer of marine technology for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through international cooperation.

[Article 3]
[PACP: Jurisdictional rights and maritime claims]

1. **[PACP: The Parties commit to respecting the existing maritime boundaries, delineated maritime zones, continental shelf claims and the exercise of jurisdiction and sovereign rights in the maritime zones, claimed, and established pursuant to the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, without prejudice to the right of the parties to raise disputes concerning such matters and to seek their settlement through peaceful means, including through the procedures provided for in Part XV of that Convention.]**
2. **[PACP: The Parties agree to cooperate in international fora to ensure that the Parties claims established pursuant to the Convention are not in any way undermined by the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise.]**

Chapter 2 Fisheries

Article 1

Sustainable conservation and management of fisheries resources

1. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the conservation and sustainable management and use of fisheries resources at bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels, as appropriate.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure that fisheries resources are conserved and managed effectively, harvested sustainably, and social and economic returns are optimized.
3. The Parties agree to promote transparent and science-based conservation and management measures in line with international law, in particular the rules and principles set out in the UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and respecting conservation and management measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, where applicable.
4. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the sustainable economic development of coastal fisheries through effective policies, laws and regulations. They shall promote access to fisheries resources by local communities, and small-scale and artisanal fishers, and promote food security and inter-generational and intra-generational equity.

Article 2

Illegal unreported and unregulated fishing activities

1. The Parties in accordance with international obligations shall maintain or adopt initiatives to combat, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in their respective jurisdictions, in other jurisdictions, and on the high seas, recognizing that such activities constitute a serious threat to the effective conservation, management and sustainable exploitation of fisheries.
2. The Parties shall implement policies and measures to exclude IUU products from trade flows. They shall implement and enforce monitoring, control and surveillance measures, such as observer schemes, vessel-monitoring systems, fishing licences and authorisations, catch recording and reporting, transshipment control, inspections and port state control and associated measures, to ensure compliance, including enforcement action and sanctions according to national regulations, with the aim of conserving fish stocks, preventing overfishing and promoting sustainable fisheries.
3. The Parties, in accordance with their obligations under existing national laws, sub-regional, regional and international instruments, agree not to grant entry to, deny service to, or to expel from their ports, vessels of Parties found to have engaged in IUU fishing activities in other jurisdictions and on the high seas, or that have a history of IUU fishing activity.

4. The Parties shall endeavour to ratify relevant international agreements in relation to IUU fishing, notably the Agreement on Port State Measures and shall promote complementarity and consistency between international and regional measures and strategies to combat IUU fishing activities.

Article 3
Harmful fisheries subsidies

1. The Parties agree to take necessary steps to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing such new subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed Pacific States should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

[Article 4]
[PACP: Deep-sea Mining]

1. **[PACP: The Parties recognise the potential, and the challenges, associated with deep-sea mining and shall cooperate, in accordance with relevant national and international laws, in areas of mutual interests in order to investigate the responsible development of deep seabed mineral resources, where appropriate.]**

TITLE IV
SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Article 1

1. The Parties shall cooperate towards achieving peaceful and resilient societies, protect, promote and fulfil human rights, and shall strengthen democratic principles and good governance. They shall support accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and take concrete steps on tax good governance, the fight against corruption, fraud, and money laundering. They shall address new or expanding threats to security, including terrorism, and all forms of transnational organised crime, particularly in relation to maritime security, cyber-crime, human security, and environmental security, while safeguarding human rights, including through regional cooperation, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the principles set out in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and relevant EU Common Foreign and Security Policy strategies.

Chapter 1
Security

Article 1
Peace and security

1. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure peace, security and justice, through the protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights, good governance, strengthened human security, environmental security, and conflict prevention and peace building.
2. The Parties shall address all forms of identity-based violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, inter-communal, ethnic and religious violence, and they shall support reconciliation processes through transitional justice mechanisms, including traditional or customary practices, where and when these are not incompatible with internationally recognised human rights. They shall provide support to all victims of violence.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to enhance maritime security by sharing information, responding to threats to ships and maritime installations and assets, and enforcing relevant laws and regulations. They shall cooperate to address security issues that arise from transnational crime such as illicit drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea, forced labour, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, including through the use of space technologies.
4. The Parties shall endeavour to develop new initiatives to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms in full respect of the rule of law and international law addressing those factors that may create an environment conducive to violent extremism and radicalisation. They shall develop new or strengthen existing legislation and national strategies and cooperate to combat and counter terrorism and terrorist financing and associated threats as appropriate, in full conformity with international law, whenever applicable. They shall cooperate towards the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, including UNSCR 2396 and UNSCR 2462, and of the General Assembly. They shall refrain from providing any form of support to State and non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport,

transfer or use nuclear, chemical, biological, or any other weapons and their means of delivery, for terrorist purposes. They shall enhance cooperation to enable individuals and communities to prevent and to increase resilience against acts of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation.

5. The Parties reaffirm that climate change is an existential threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of peoples and communities and commit to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and shall promote the global recognition of climate change as a security risk. They shall work together to prevent climate change impacts from continuing to act as a threat multiplier, such as threats from rising sea levels and extreme weather events, with serious implications for peace and security. They shall recognise and act on the threat of climate change to peace and security by strengthening adaptation and resilience measures as well as early warning systems. **[PACP: The Parties shall work together towards securing the sovereignty and territorial integrity in perpetual notwithstanding the impacts of climate change on their respective established terrestrial of maritime boundaries.]**

Article 2 Organised crime

1. The Parties shall strengthen and implement legislation and strategies to combat transnational organised crime, including, but not limited to trafficking in human beings, illicit drugs, small arms, and light weapons, illegal logging and associated trade, illegal trade of endangered species including endangered marine species, wild animals and plants, as well as derived products, and other illegal economic and financial activities.
2. The Parties shall cooperate with a view to maintaining coordinated efforts to prevent and combat the use of their financial systems to finance criminal activities. They shall exchange information and enforce appropriate measures to fight against money laundering, terrorism financing, and illicit financial flows, in line with relevant international standards and frameworks, notably the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations.
3. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation to promote cyber-security, prevent and combat cyber-crimes and cyber-enabled crimes, including acts of cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property and cooperate to share best practices on how to protect more effectively national and regional critical infrastructures from cyber-attacks. They shall promote multi-stakeholder internet governance and address issues relating to the distribution of illicit or harmful materials online. They shall exchange information in the fields of the education and training of cybersecurity technical experts, cybercrime investigators, the investigation of cybercrime and digital forensic science. They shall strengthen international cooperation to promote security and stability in cyberspace. **[EU: They recognise that cybercrime is a global problem and the Council of Europe 'Convention on Cybercrime' (Budapest Convention) provides a solid basis to use an effective legal standard for the different national legislation and for international cooperation addressing cybercrime.]**
4. The Parties shall strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the area of law enforcement with the aim of combating the activities of transnational organised criminal and terrorist networks. They shall improve coordination between existing national and regional security mechanisms through open dialogue and exchange of strategic information in support of early warning and cooperation with relevant international organisations, partners and stakeholders.

Chapter 2
Human rights, democracy and governance

Article 1
Human rights

1. The Parties recognise that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and agree to respect, protect, fulfil and promote all human rights, be they civil, political, economic, social and cultural. They shall take necessary steps in accordance with relevant international treaties to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of thought, religion and belief. They shall address and fight all forms of racism, discrimination, gender-based discrimination, including their manifestation through gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, with women and girls being especially targeted for sexual exploitation, hate speech and hate crimes, xenophobia and related intolerance.
2. The Parties shall intensify efforts to achieve gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls and their empowerment. They shall promote, protect and fulfill the rights of the child.
3. The Parties shall promote the rights of persons belonging to minorities and advance the rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
4. The Parties shall support measures for the enhancement of the rights-based approach to development encompassing all human rights and take the necessary steps to ensure, inter alia, equality and non-discrimination for all in the enjoyment of human rights, including access to and control over resources and services essential for the right to an adequate standard of living. These include, but are not limited to, the rights to education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, food, drinking water and sanitation, adequate housing, work and justice. The steps to be taken for the realisation of these rights shall include accessible services addressing the causes and adverse impacts of climate change and the promotion of fair and equitable distribution of resources.
5. The Parties shall cooperate towards the realisation of human rights in the Pacific region, including through the establishment and strengthening of independent national and regional human rights mechanisms and through active engagement of civil society, human rights defenders, and other stakeholders. The Parties shall cooperate towards the realisation of human rights in the Pacific region, including through the establishment and strengthening of independent national and regional human rights mechanisms and institutions, and through the strengthening of an enabling and safe environment for the active engagement of civil society, human rights defenders, and other relevant stakeholders, including through their capacity building and access to regional and international human rights mechanisms.

Article 2

Democracy and governance

1. The Parties shall uphold democratic processes and institutions in accordance with internationally recognised principles and national legal frameworks, including accountable governments elected through peaceful, inclusive, transparent and credible elections, the acceptance of election results and the ensuing government transition and the individual's right to participate in the public affairs of the society they live in.
2. The Parties shall enhance the role of national parliaments, promote media independence and pluralism, and preserve and broaden an enabling space for civil society with a view to improving democratic accountability. They shall strengthen national, regional and decentralised capacities to ensure respect for democratic principles and practices.
3. The Parties shall promote the principles of good governance. They shall take concrete measures to build inclusive, accountable and transparent public institutions. They shall support capacities for policy design and implementation, develop an accountable, efficient, transparent and professional civil service, and strengthen the delivery of quality public services.
4. The Parties shall accelerate the deployment of e-governance services and digital services infrastructure as a means to enhance access to and availability of public services, improve democratic practices and governance, and promote, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms.
5. The Parties shall establish or strengthen mechanisms and institutions to combat corruption, bribery, fraud, and corporate financial crimes, including by implementing and promoting relevant international standards and instruments, notably the United Nations Convention against Corruption. They shall promote transparent management of public resources and accountability, encourage actions that support the values of a culture of transparency, legality, and behaviour change with regard to corruption, and further develop legislation to facilitate recovery of assets.
6. The Parties shall strengthen governance systems to stem irregular migration and to combat smuggling of migrants and related criminal networks, as well as trafficking in human beings, with a specific focus on victim protection.
7. **[EU: The Parties confirm their legal obligation to readmit their nationals irregularly present on the territory of another party at the latter's request and without conditionality.]**

Article 3

Rule of law and justice

1. The Parties shall promote respect for the law and cooperate to consolidate the rule of law. They shall aim at ensuring an independent, impartial and effective judiciary and strengthening institutions in the administration of justice. They shall take the necessary steps to provide access to justice for all under due process.

2. **[EU: The Parties shall foster dialogue and cooperation on the abolition of the death penalty.]** They shall oppose and condemn all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by state and non-state actors in all contexts, including by supporting the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention against Torture and its optional Protocols.
3. The Parties shall promote justice reforms, ensuring efficient court systems and procedures and modernising penitentiary systems. They shall cooperate to enhance the capacities of key actors in the judiciary and legislative bodies.

Article 4 Financial governance

1. The Parties shall promote sound public financial management, including effective mobilisation and use of public revenues, sustainable public debt management, sustainable procurement systems, and support for national oversight bodies.
2. The Parties shall enact legislation, take concrete measures and strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms to implement the principles of good governance in the tax area.
3. The Parties shall cooperate to combat tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows as well as ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and fairness of tax systems.

TITLE V
HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Article 1

1. The Parties are determined to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030, foster human and social development through inclusive and equitable access to social services and enhanced food security, tackle inequality effectively, promote gender equality and women and youth empowerment, to ensure that everyone has the necessary means to enjoy a life in dignity, and to create the conditions for the effective participation of people in democratic life and their active contribution to sustainable economic growth. They shall take concrete measures to promote social cohesion and social protection as a fundamental investment for poverty eradication and fighting inequality, and as an important means to reinvest economic gains more broadly into society and people. They shall nurture culture and sport as drivers for sustainable human and social development and inclusive economic growth, as well as for social inclusion and peaceful societies.

Chapter 1
Social services

Article 1
Education

1. The Parties shall support inclusive and equitable access to quality education at primary, secondary, tertiary levels, as well as early childhood care, technical and vocational education and training, taking into consideration their relevant policy frameworks, including the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF). They shall promote the development of digital literacy and skills. They shall pay special attention to women and girls, marginalised and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
2. The Parties shall take measures to improve the quality of formal and non-formal learning, support skills development through technical and vocational education and training, with a view to increasing the number of highly educated and skilled workers matching labour market needs and opportunities.
3. The Parties shall promote initiatives that encourage and enable the development and wider use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
4. The Parties shall endeavour to improve infrastructure and equipment of education centres. They shall improve the quality of education through evidence-based policies, curriculum development and enhanced quality of teacher training and professional development.

Article 2

Health

1. The Parties shall aim at achieving universal health coverage and equitable access to healthcare services, including through strengthened national health systems, modernised facilities and equipment, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines.
2. The Parties shall take measures towards strengthening prevention and control of non-communicable diseases with a view to reducing their incidence, including increase investments for health promotion, primary and secondary prevention strategies, and take into consideration their relevant policy frameworks that promote the prevention and control of NCDs. The Parties shall address the challenges associated with mental health, through the development of healthcare and community-based services, including addressing psychosocial disorders.
3. The Parties shall strengthen national and regional surveillance and monitoring systems to detect and respond rapidly and effectively to communicable diseases and other health emergencies of national, regional and international concern, including infections with pandemic potential such as influenza. They shall also cooperate to implement a One Health approach to address antimicrobial resistance and its consequences for both human and animal health.

Article 3

Water and sanitation

1. The Parties shall strengthen efforts to foster access to sufficient, safe, and affordable water for personal and domestic use, paying special attention to people in vulnerable situations. They shall promote actions to strengthen water security against the impacts of population growth, climate variability and climate change, including through improved water-use efficiency, drinking water safety, and the sustainable utilisation of water resources, and the development of national water catchment and storage systems.
2. The Parties shall boost physical and affordable access to sanitation for all, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity. The Parties shall support and strengthen the participation of local communities in establishing, managing and maintaining facilities and hygiene practices at households, schools and healthcare facilities, particularly in areas facing difficult challenges such as rural and remote areas, small islands, and informal urban settlements.
3. The Parties acknowledge the importance of shared knowledge and technology, including capacity building required to plan, deliver and maintain quality water and sanitation systems and infrastructure.

Article 4 Housing

1. The Parties shall strengthen efforts to secure equitable access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all, including those in vulnerable situations, and address the issue of inequalities between urban households and rural areas, as well as between remote and main islands. They shall promote sharing of best practices with a view to enhancing environmental resilience and achieving climate-smart housing, including on building codes.
2. The Parties shall work towards achieving universal access to sustainable energy services for all, improving access to electricity, and supporting efficiency in energy usage by households.

Article 5 Food security and improved nutrition

1. The Parties shall aim to ensure that all are able to access sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food, including by promoting local nutritious food and investing in climate-resilient transportation and storage systems. Particular attention shall be paid to ensure that adequate sources of emergency food are available during disaster recovery.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to end all forms of malnutrition and address the underlying causes of food and nutrition insecurity.
3. The Parties shall support agricultural diversification and local food production, for both subsistence and commercial purposes. They shall aim at strengthening resilient farming systems and resource-efficient agriculture by using resilient and high-yield nutritional crop varieties. They shall address overexploitation of fisheries resources, considering that fish is a critical source for food and nutrition security.
4. The Parties shall promote healthy diets, reducing reliance on imported food items with low nutritional value, strengthening nutrition-labelling regulation, fostering education and public awareness programmes on nutrition and healthy diet practices, and promoting production and consumption of local healthy food.

Chapter 2 Inequality, social cohesion and social protection

Article 1 Social protection

1. The Parties shall promote the creation of inclusive and well-functioning labour markets and employment policies directed towards decent work for all, including enhancing health and safety conditions for workers. They shall address issues related to the informal economy, including access to credit and micro-finance and strengthened social protection measures, with a view to facilitating a smoother transition to the formal economy. They shall combat all forms of exploitation for profits, including sexual and work exploitation, in both formal and informal economies.

2. The Parties shall work towards extending social protection coverage, especially for people in a situation of vulnerability and marginalized groups as well as those who are formally and informally employed, with the goal of progressively reaching universality, through basic income security and adequate and shock-responsive social protection systems.

Article 2

Gender equality, and women and girls' empowerment

1. The Parties shall strengthen policies, programmes, and mechanisms aimed at ensuring, improving and expanding the equal participation and opportunities for men and women in all sectors of political, economic, social and cultural life. They shall encourage the ratification and support the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as its optional protocol. They shall also ensure that the gender perspective is systematically mainstreamed across all policies. They shall take into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Pacific regional architecture for gender equality.
2. The Parties shall support women's economic empowerment and identify economic opportunities for women and shall ensure that their economic and social rights are respected and promoted. They shall facilitate women's access to financial services and employment, control and use of land and other productive assets, and shall take measures to support women entrepreneurs, cut the gender pay gap, and remove other discriminatory regulations and practises. They shall work towards building women's resilience to climate change impacts and shall sustain their livelihood in agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and cultural industries. They shall strengthen the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of accessible statistical data on women's economic empowerment.
3. The Parties undertake to adopt the necessary legislative and policy measures to end child, early and forced marriage, eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, all forms of sexual and work exploitation, and all forms of harassment in both public and private spheres, including through awareness campaign initiatives for behavioural change.
4. The Parties shall take measures to enhance the participation and voice of women and girls in public and political life, including in electoral, policy, governance and development processes, local governments, traditional customary mechanisms, leadership, constitutional bodies, state-owned enterprises, and in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts.
5. The Parties shall strengthen national and regional institutions to address and handle issues related to all forms of violence against women and girls, including prevention and protection against all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, harassment investigation and accountability mechanisms, care and support to victims. They shall endeavour to align national legislation and regulations, and regional frameworks to the relevant international Conventions and regional frameworks.

6. The Parties shall commit to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and shall commit to sexual and reproductive health and rights, in this context. **[EU: Having that in mind, the Parties shall [OACPS: in accordance with the national context,] commit to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. They shall further stress the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including [OACPS: age-appropriate] comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services].**

Article 3 Youth

1. The Parties shall establish governance structures to capitalise on the youth dividend and empower young people, increase their influence in decision-making processes and their active participation in political life, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts. They shall promote increased participation of young people in environmental action, particularly climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes.
2. The Parties shall support youth entrepreneurship and decent employment for young people, paying particular attention to youth in education, employment or training, to assist them to acquire labour market-relevant skills for employment.
3. The Parties shall foster social and justice programmes for prevention of juvenile delinquency and integration into economic and social life. They shall support institutions such as schools, faith-based organisations, and youth groups, which may contribute to building resilience in vulnerable communities and with youth at risk.
4. The Parties shall take measures to improve and strengthen child protection systems and safeguards. They shall support measures to end child labour and abuse, early and forced marriage, and corporal punishment.

Article 4 Persons with disabilities

1. The Parties shall promote, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind and shall take concrete measures to ensure their full inclusion in society through equal access to social services, including education and health, and effective participation in labour markets and other economic opportunities.
2. The Parties shall support the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), taking into consideration their relevant policy frameworks.

Article 5
Culture, sport, and people-to-people contacts

1. The Parties shall promote the protection and enhancement of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as the diversity of cultural expressions with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and fostering balanced cultural exchanges. They shall cooperate and promote investment to support the preservation and promotion of traditional arts and culture, indigenous knowledge, and cultural diversity.
2. The Parties shall promote creative and cultural industries and cultural tourism as drivers for jobs and sustainable growth. They shall endeavour to promote the mobility of culture and creative professionals and the circulation of works of art and carry out joint initiatives in various cultural and creative spheres. They shall encourage economic empowerment of women and youth through culture value chains, strengthening of public-private partnerships for cultural production, and mainstreaming of culture, taking into consideration the relevant policy frameworks of the Parties, including the Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy.
3. The Parties shall promote creativity and innovation, knowledge sharing, and international and regional co-creation, and market access opportunities for cultural goods and services and develop sector-specific regulatory frameworks and institutional support that, inter alia, protects intellectual property rights for creative works.
4. The Parties shall promote exchanges in the cultural sector, including exchanges amongst institutions such as museums and conservatories, and shall encourage intercultural dialogue between people as well as relevant stakeholders. They shall support mobility of young people and youth workers as means of promoting intercultural dialogue and the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences outside the formal educational systems. They shall endeavour to implement relevant initiatives in the field of higher education mobility, with a view to promoting cooperation and modernisation in higher education, and encouraging learner and academic mobility.
5. The Parties shall promote sport as a driver for sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, social inclusion, non-discrimination and the advancement of human rights. They shall endeavour to build capacities, develop adequate facilities, and encourage people's increased participation in sporting and other physical education activities, with particular emphasis on youth and women. They shall also support sport as a means for intercultural dialogue and cooperation between nations, prevention of conflict and violence, and post-conflict reconciliation.

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