



Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part, referred to as the “**Samoa Agreement**”

.....: TEN POINTS TO UNDERSTAND
THE SAMOA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



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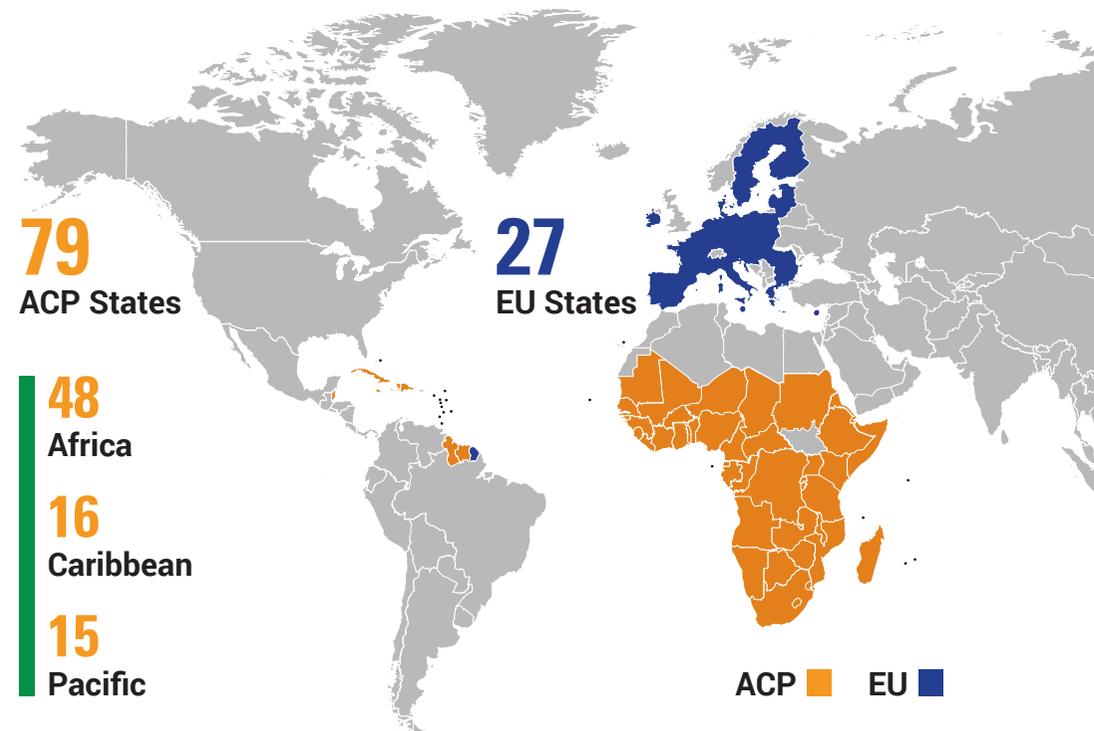


Historical Background of the OACPS-EU Partnership

The signing of the Georgetown Agreement on the 6th of June 1975 laid down the partnership relations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the European Union (EU). The partnership was established by the Yaounde conventions 1 and 2 of 1963 and 1969, and became the Organisation of ACP States (OACPS) following the revision of the Agreement in 2019. These were followed by the Lome Conventions in 1975 and the Cotonou Agreement in 2000. The new Agreement signed in Samoa on **November 15, 2023** for a period of **20 years** plus 5 years of tacit extension, is the continuation of the rich partnership between the OACPS and the EU Member States.

The Partnership Agreement between the Members of the OEACP on the one hand, and the EU and its Member States on the other, referred to as the “**Samoa Agreement**”, has been the general framework for relations between these historic partners since the 2th of January 2024.

Overall, the Samoa Agreement aims to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and those of the Paris Agreement. This goal, which is in line with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the joint Africa-European Union Strategy adopted in 2007, is also aligned with the regional development frameworks of the Caribbean and the Pacific.

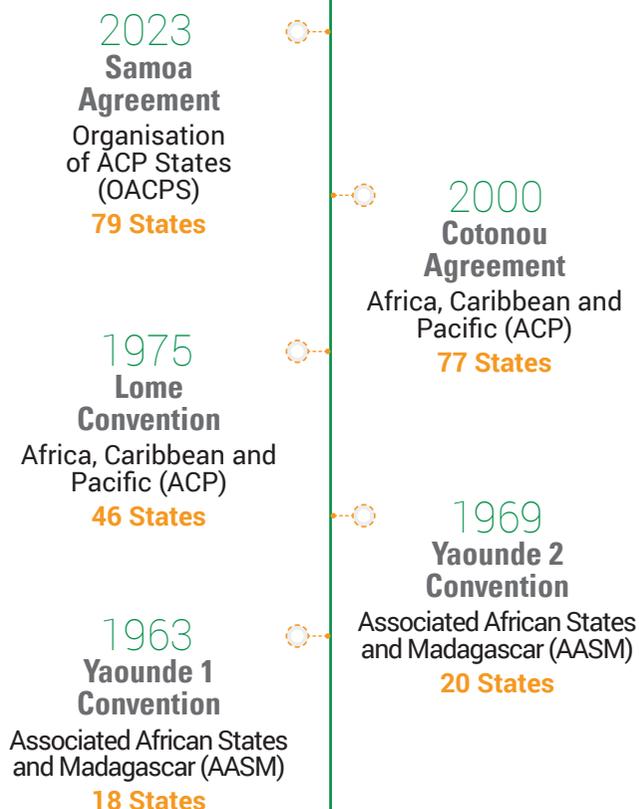


List of ACP States

Africa

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo (DRC)
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe





Caribbean

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

Pacific

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands

- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Objectives of the Samoa Agreement

Through this Agreement, the Member States of the OACPS and the EU undertake to achieve the following objectives:

- promote, protect and respect human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance;
- build peaceful and resilient States and societies by addressing threats to peace and security;
- promote human and social development;
- mobilise investment, support trade and promote private sector development;
- combat climate change, protect the environment and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources;
- implement a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration.

List of EU States

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden



Strategic Priority Areas of the Samoa Agreement



These priority areas are aligned with the four (4) pillars of the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS30), namely :

- (i) structural transformation of the national economy;
- (ii) development of human capital and well-being;
- (iii) promotion of employment and economic integration;
- (iv) governance, decentralisation and strategic management of the State.

They also consider the sectors selected in the first 2021-2027 programming cycle with the European Union, including :

- (i) structural change in the economy;
- (ii) industrialisation;
- (iii) vocational training and capacity building;
- (iv) improved governance.

Major Innovations Introduced by the Samoa Agreement

(i) A legally binding political agreement

The provisions of the Common Foundation are binding on all Parties, while those of the Regional Protocols are binding on the African, Caribbean and Pacific Parties, each as far as it is concerned, and the European Party.

(ii) Enhanced Regional Cooperation

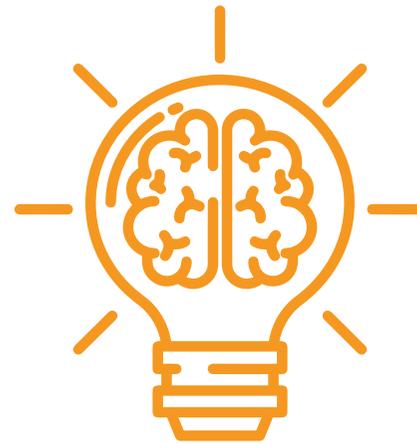
With the signing of the three regional Protocols, the Samoa Agreement gives pride of place to the strengthening of regional cooperation, with a key role entrusted to continental and regional organisations in the coordination and implementation of these regional Protocols.

(iii) Establishment of the Partnership Dialogue

The Partnership Dialogue is a political framework for exchanges on all aspects of the Agreement. It is held at regular intervals in a flexible, adapted, and appropriate format, at the most appropriate national, regional, or multi-national level, making full use of all channels, including regional and international bodies.

(iv) The multi-stakeholder approach

The Agreement broadens the dialogue on partnership and involves a greater number of actors in the implementation of cooperation actions, including Parliament, Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs), civil society, the private sector and the academia.



(v) Increased participation of the private sector

Parties to the Samoa Agreement encourage the private sector to participate, as partner, in the development process, and to invest in core areas for sustainable development.

(vi) Dissociation of the funding mechanism for the Agreement

Unlike the Cotonou Agreement whose funding instrument (the European Development Fund (EDF)) was part and parcel of the text, the Samoa Agreement does not feature a financial protocol.

(vii) Setting up of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) as the new cooperation mechanism distinct from the Agreement

In the absence of a funding mechanism embedded in the Samoa Agreement, the European Party undertakes to mobilise resources to support programmes in the ACP States, through the funding instrument referred to as the “Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe.” The NDICI has more substantial financing volumes than the defunct EDF, however it opens up countries in competition for access to resources.

Funding Mechanism

The indicative financial allocations provided for under the NDICI for the sub-regions of West Africa, East and Central Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean are as follows for the 2021-2027 period:

- A. West Africa: EUR 11,672,000,000 representing CFAF 7,656.330 billion ;**
- B. Eastern and Central Africa: EUR 11,381,000,000 representing CFAF 7,465.447 billion ;**
- C. Southern Africa and Indian Ocean: EUR 6,128,000,000 representing CFAF 4,019.705 billion.**

Under the 2021-2024 financial programming, **Cameroon's annual Multi Indicative Programme (MIP) is worth of EUR 178,000,000 representing CFAF 116.760 billion.** The 2025-2027 financial programming is in preparation. To this package any resources from regional and continental allocations will have to be added.

To ensure effective development, new forms of cooperation will be introduced, including innovative financial instruments and co-financing through public and private resources.



MIP 2021-2024
EUR 178,000,000
CFAF 116.760 billion

Infrastructure Funding Strategy



In its “**Global Gateway**” strategy, the European Party undertakes to support infrastructure funding.

The financial mechanism for implementing the strategy is a combination of the following:

- Grants (via Global Europe);
- Subsidized loans (reduced rate, repayment spread over a long period to avoid over-indebtedness of partner countries);
- Guarantees (to protect private investors who take risks).

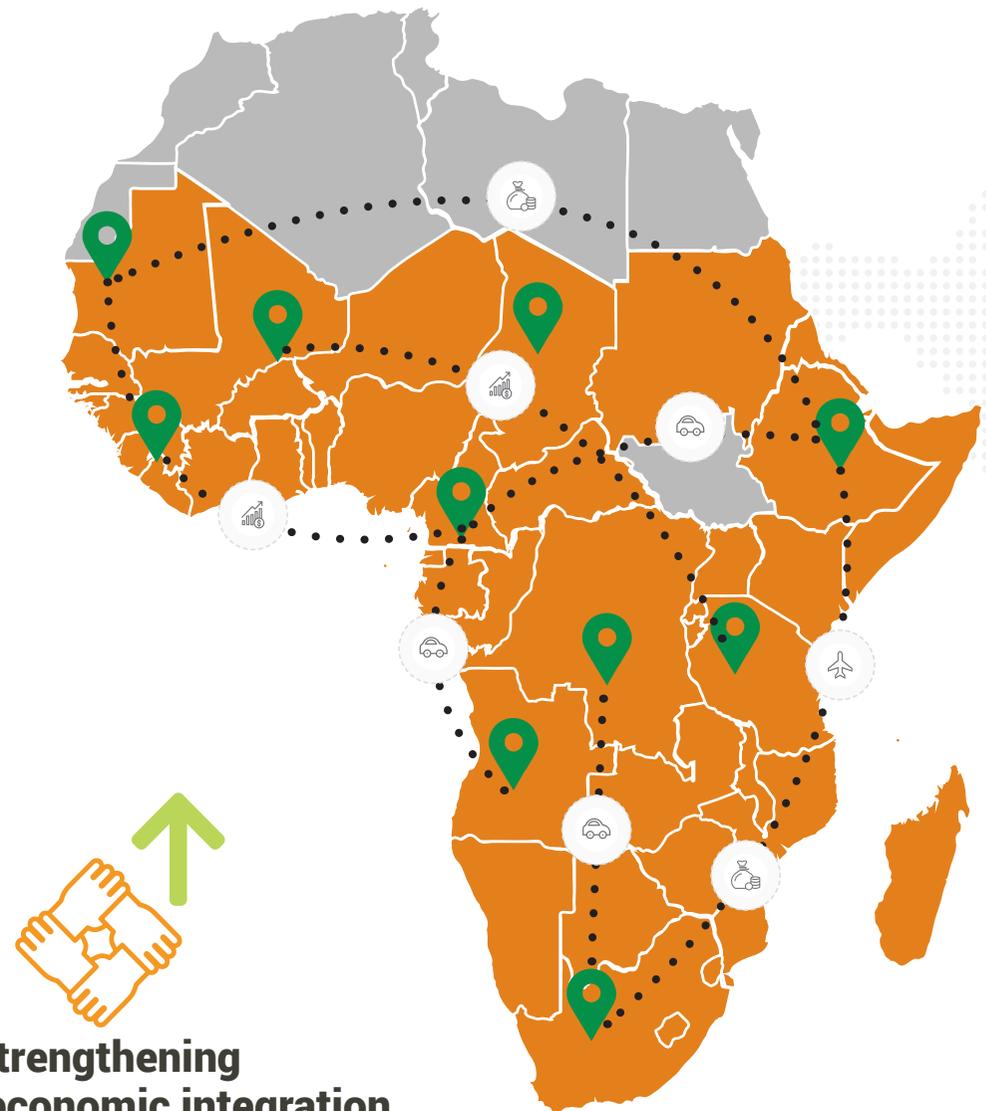
The “**Global Gateway**” plans to mobilise **EUR 150 billion for Africa, representing CFAF 98,393.550 billion** to finance sustainable, high-quality infrastructure projects. It will be implemented as part of a “Team Europe” approach.

The Regional Economic Integration Dimension

By establishing Regional Protocols (for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific), the Samoa Agreement give pride of place to strengthening regional economic integration.

Through the African Regional Protocol, the Samoa Agreement will promote the development of intra-African trade and the economic integration of the African continent through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to better integrate the continent into the global market. Other useful instruments such as the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) could help to achieve this objectives.

In terms of trade-related capacity building, the European Union should mobilise to support activities related to science, technology, research, innovation, and digital transformation in the member States of the OACPS.



**Strengthening
regional economic integration**



The Political and Diplomatic Scope of the Samoa Agreement

The Samoa Agreement strengthens among others:

(i) International cooperation

The Agreement provides the Parties with a large platform for international cooperation with a view to:

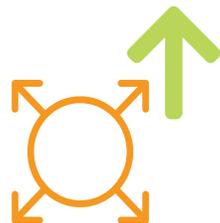
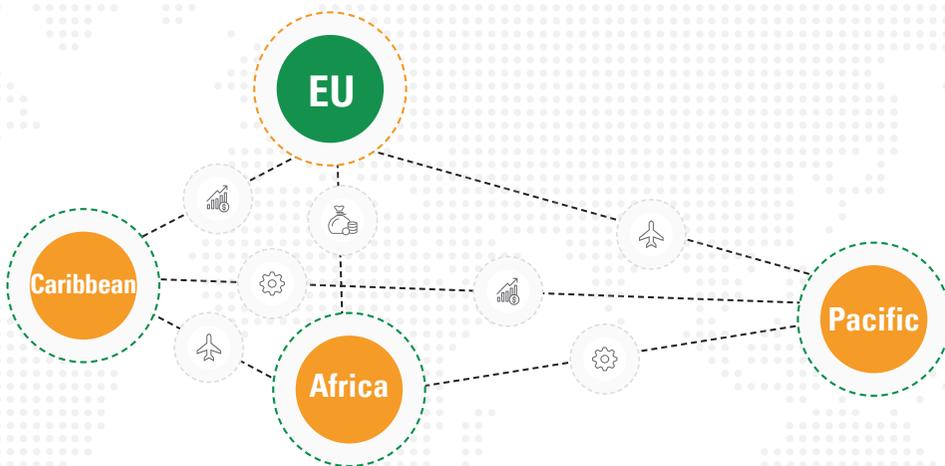
- promoting and defending their common interests;
- joining forces for a more peaceful, cooperative and just world, firmly based on shared values;
- building and strengthening global alliances for an effective multilateral system to address global challenges, with the prospect of a safer and better world for all.

(ii) Multilateralism

In addition to preserving and strengthening multilateralism, the Samoa Agreement addresses the issue of international order, a major concern of the OACPS. This **Agreement brings together 79 OACPS countries and 27 EU countries**, for a total of 106 countries. It thus represents a significant multilateral framework with the potential to influence global governance.



Strengthening international cooperation



Strengthening multilateralism

The Importance of Signing and Ratifying the Samoa Agreement

Through the signing and ratification of the Samoa Agreement, Cameroon reaffirms its attachment to the values of multilateralism, expresses its pride in belonging to a great community of nations and demonstrates its solidarity within the framework of the OACPS.

Moreover, the Samoa Agreement offers greater opportunities for Cameroon :



Securing obtained funds



Mobilising new funds for its development



Attracting investments



Proceeding with the execution of funds granted by the European Investment Bank (EIB)



Strengthening parliamentary diplomacy through the Joint Parliamentary Assemblies



Promoting Cameroon's influence in joint OACPS-EU bodies and at regional level



Strengthening the role of non-government actors including the private sector, civil society and the academia

Governance Institutions of the New Cooperation Framework between the OACPS and the European Union

The Samoa Agreement provides for the following joint institutions :



**Summit of Heads of State
and Government
OACPS- EU**



**Joint
OACPS-EU
Council of Ministers**



**Joint
OACPS-EU Committee
of Ambassadors**



**OACPS-EU
Joint Parliamentary
Assembly**

At regional level, notably at the level of the African Regional Protocol, the Agreement establishes, in addition to the Summit of Heads of States of the African Union and the EU, a Regional Council of AU-EU Ministers, a Regional Parliamentary Committee for AU-EU Ambassadors, and a Regional Joint AU-EU Parliamentary Committee.

These institutions meet at agreed intervals based on a mutually agreed timetable and programme.



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The Inter-ministerial Working Group Charged with Preparing Cameroon's Position in the Negotiations of the Post-Cotonou ACP-EU Partnership Agreement

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October 2024

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