MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2008

(2008/C 271/04)

(The sitting opened at 9.10 a.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs KINNOCK

Co-President

1. Substitutes

The Co-President announced the following substitutes: Attard-Montalto (for Grabowska), Bushill-Matthews (for Langendries), Gill (for Jöns), Hutchinson (for Ferreira), Isler Béguin (for Irujo Amezaga), Klaß (for López-Istúriz White), Leinen (for Gröner), Maldeikis (for Zaborska), Mauro (for Codoho), Peterle (for Ventre), Virrankoski (for Lehideux), Yañez-Barnuevo (for Gurmai) and Zaleski (for Herranz García).

2. Approval of the minutes of Tuesday afternoon, 18 March 2008, and of Wednesday morning, 19 March 2008

The minutes were approved.

The Co-Presidents expressed the condolences of the Assembly on the unexpected death of Dr Chosani Njobvu on 19 March, to be sent to his family and his parliamentary colleagues in Zambia.

3. Migration: debate without resolution

The Co-President introduced the subject.

Speakers: Attard-Montalto, Kaboré (Burkina Faso), Zaleski, Assarid (Mali), Borrell Fontelles, Cavuilati (Fiji), Isler Béguin, Cire Sall (Senegal), Hutchinson, Diallo (Guinée), Kgathi (Botswana), Yañez-Barnuevo, Naib (Eritrea), William (Seychelles), Gomes, Humphrey (Barbados) and Baum (European Commission).

4. Climate change and its social and environmental impact in ACP countries: debate without resolution

The Co-President introduced the subject.

Speakers: Bowis, Milebou Aubussou (Gabon), Peterle, Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Dekuek (Sudan), Isler Béguin, Klassou (Togo), De Sousa (Angola), Lahai (Sierra Leone), Sithole (Mozambique), Mahazaka (Madagascar), William (Seychelles) and Baum (European Commission).

5. Summary reports from the workshops

— Mrs Ljudmila Novak on the rehabilitation of the disabled in Slovenia;
— Mrs Bernadette Lahai (Sierra Leone) on rural tourism in Slovenia;
— Mr Olle Schmidt on Slovenian policy on minorities.

6. Vote on the motions for resolutions included in the reports submitted by the three standing committees

— Report on experiences from the European regional integration process relevant to ACP countries (ACP-EU/100.203/08/fin.) — Committee on Political Affairs. Co-rapporteurs: Mr Bornito De Sousa (Angola) and Mr Filip Kaczmarek

Amendment 1 was adopted.

The amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

— Report on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation (ACP-EU/100.205/08/fin.) — Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade. Co-rapporteurs: Mr Mohamed Ali (Ethiopia) and Mr Alain Hutchinson

Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4 were adopted.

The amended resolution was adopted with 1 vote against.

— Report on social and environmental consequences of structural adjustment programmes (ACP-EU/100.202/08/fin.) — Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment. Co-rapporteurs: Mr Alma Oumarou (Niger) and Mr Gay Mitchell

One oral amendment on amendment 3 was introduced by the ALDE group and was adopted.

A split vote on amendment 5 was requested by the ALDE group and the three parts were adopted.

A separate vote on Recital D was requested by EPP-ED group and was rejected.

A split vote on Recital N was requested by EPP-ED group and the first part was adopted while the second part was rejected.

Amendment 2 was rejected.

Amendments 1 and 4 were adopted.

The amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. Vote on urgent motions for resolutions

— Urgent motion for a resolution on the situation in Kenya (ACP-EU/100.269/08/comp.)

An oral amendment on paragraph 13 was introduced by Mr Van Hecke and was adopted.

An oral amendment on amendment 2 was introduced by the Uganda delegation and was adopted.

Amendments 1, 3 and 4 were adopted.

The amended resolution was adopted unanimously.
— Urgent motion for resolution on the situation in Chad (ACP-EU/100.270/08(comp.))

A vote by separate Houses on the resolution as a whole was requested.

The resolution was rejected (ACP vote: 14 in favour, 24 against and 3 abstentions; EU vote: unanimity in favour).

Speakers: Gahler, Assarid (Mali), Aubert, Martínez Martínez, Amon-Ago (Côte d’Ivoire), Gomes, Zaleski, Dekuek (Sudan), Leinen, Wieland, Oumarou (Niger) and Schröder.

Mrs Lulling made an explanation on the vote on the Resolution on Food Security.

8. Any other business

A written point of order was presented by Mr O. Schmidt on the intervention made by an Eritrean ACP member concerning the imprisoned Swedish journalist Mr Dawit Isaak.

(The sitting closed at 11.45 p.m.)

Wilkie RASMUSSEN and Glenys KINNOCK
Co- Presidents

Sir John KAPUTIN and Dietmar NICKEL
Co-Secretaries-General

The Co-President thanked the Slovenian authorities for their hospitality and for all their efforts in organising the 15th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Ljubljana and the accompanying social events.

The Co-President commented on the imminent retirement of Mme Annick Lefèvre, EU Secretariat, who had served the Joint Parliamentary Assembly for 34 years.

9. Date and place of the 16th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

The 16th session of the JPA would be held from 23 to 28 November 2008 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).
### ANNEX I

**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

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**COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

**ACP Members**

IBOVI (REPUBLIC OF CONGO), Co-Chairman
CHERON (HAITI), VC
AIMO (PAPUA NEW GUINEA), VC
DE SOUSA (ANGOLA)
BELIZE
DAYORI (BENIN)
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.
COOK ISLANDS
AMON-AGO (COTE D’IVOIRE)

**EP Members**

CALLANAN, Co-Chairman
JÖNS, VC
POLFER, VC
BIELAN
CARLOTTI
COELHO
DILLEN
GAHLER
GAUBERT
MUSA NAB (ERITREA) GOMES
TOGA (ETHIOPIA) GRABOWSKA
CAVUILATI (FIJI) GRÖNER
MILEBOU-AURUSSON (GABON) GURMAI
KUMI (GHANA) KACZMAREK
GRENA DA LÓPEZ ISTÚRIZ
GUYANA LOUIS
KAMAR (KENYA) MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ
KOLLIE (LIBERIA) MORILLON
NIUE SANZ PALACIO
STRAKER (SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES) SCHMIDT F.
SOUTH AFRICA VAN HECKE
MPOROGOMYI (TANZANIA) VENTRE
Klassen (TOGO) WIELAND
TUVALU ZANI
MANDIZHA (ZIMBABWE) ZIMMER

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

ACP Members

KGATHI (BOTSWANA), Co-Chairman
KUTEKALA (DEM. REP. OF CONGO), VC
WAZIRI (NIGERIA), VC
BARBADOS
MANIRAKIZA (BURUNDI)
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ALI (ETHIOPIA)
DALRYMPLE-PHILIBERT (JAMAICA)
TIHELI (LESOTHO)
ASSARID (MALI)
GUELAYE (MAURITANIA)
MICRONESIA (Federal States of)
MUSHELENGA (NAMIBIA)
PALAU
POLISI (RWANDA)
SAMOA
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE
SECK (SENEGAL)
WILLIAM (SEYCHELLES)
LAHAI (SIERRA LEONE)
ST KITT AND NEVIS
ST LUCIA
DEKUEK (SUDAN)
TONGA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MUGAMBE (UGANDA)
NJOBVU (ZAMBIA)

EP Members

SCHLYTER, Co-Chairman
DOMBROVSKIS, VC
RIBEIRO E CASTRO, VC
AGNOLETTO
BEREND
BULLMANN
BUSK
CORNILLET
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LEHIDEUX
LULLING
MAYER
McAVAN
PLEGUEZUELOS AGUILAR
ROSATI
SCHRÖDER
SPERONI
STURDY
VAN LANCKER
de VILLIERS
ZÍLE
### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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### RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AT THE SESSION FROM 17 TO 20 MARCH IN LJUBLJANA (SLOVENIA)

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APULI

ZAMBIA
MULENGA

CUBA — Marichal

ACP-EU COUNCIL
ŠTER (State Secretary for Development (Slovenia), President-in-Office of the EU Council)
ASSOWEH (Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and Planning, with responsibility for privatisation (Djibouti), President-in-Office of the ACP Council

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
MICHEL. Member of the Commission with responsibility for Development and Humanitarian Aid

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DIARIKTE
NHAMAMO
GARBA
MIFOUTAOU

UN HABITAT
BAKOLE
ANNEX III

ANNEX OF THE SITTING OF MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2008

Accreditation of non-parliamentary representatives

BARBADOS
H.E. Mr Errol HUMPHREY,
Ambassador, Embassy of Barbados, Brussels

COOK ISLANDS
Mr Michael C. MITCHELL,
Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Government of the Cook Islands

FIJI
H.E. Mr Ratu Seremaia Tuinausori CAVUILATI,
Ambassador, Embassy of Fiji, Brussels

GHANA
H.E. Mrs Nana BEMA KUMI,
Ambassador, Embassy of Ghana, Brussels

LESOTHO
H.E. Ms Mamoruti A. TIHELI
Ambassador, Embassy of Lesotho, Brussels

ZIMBABWE
Mr Leonard MANDIZHA
Counsellor, Embassy of Zimbabwe, Brussels
ANNEX IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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— on experiences from European regional integration process to ACP countries (ACP-EU/100.203/08/fin.) 27

— on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation (ACP-EU/100.205/087/fin.) 32

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RESOLUTION (1)

on the social and environmental consequences of structural adjustment programmes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
— having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to Articles 177 to 181a of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
— having regard to the European Parliament resolution on more and better cooperation: the 2006 EU aid effectiveness package (2006/2208(INI)) (2),
— having regard to the European Parliament resolution on the strategic review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2005/2121(INI)) (3),
— having regard to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach initiated by the IMF and the World Bank in 1999,
— having regard to the Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
— having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of 22 March 2002 of the International Conference on Financing for Development,
— having regard to the Washington Consensus,
— having regard to the Rome Declaration on Harmonisation, adopted on 25 February 2003, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted on 2 March 2005 following the High Level Forum on Harmonisation and Alignment for Aid Effectiveness (hereinafter referred to as the 'Paris Declaration'),
— having regard to the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative launched in 1996 by the IMF and World Bank with the aim of ensuring that no poor country faces a debt burden it cannot manage,
— having regard to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) launched in June 2005 by the G-8,

(1) Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia).
having regard to the Debt Sustainability Framework of the World Bank and the IMF (2005),


— having regard to the 2005 World Bank Review of Conditionality (2),

— having regard to the IMF Guide on Resource Revenue Transparency adopted in June 2005 (3),

— having regard to the 2004 World Bank Extractive Industries Review,

— having regard to the June 2003 Performance Measurement Framework of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Programme (PEFA),

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (ACP-EU/100.202/08),

A. whereas the main objective of a structural adjustment programme (SAP) is the promotion of sustainable economic growth, and SAPs broadly cover the set of conditions, technical assistance and policy advice for a developing country, usually as part of its lending programme,

B. whereas SAPs have often failed in the countries in which they have been implemented, because of overly restrictive conditions imposed by the creditor; whereas in 2004 the World Bank replaced its SAPs by a new Development Policy Lending instrument (DPL),

C. whereas stable macroeconomic conditions, improved public expenditure, sound fiscal planning and debt management, effective public financial management and budgetary systems, and market-based interest and exchange rates are fundamental to growth and development,

D. whereas SAPs have sought to reduce government budget deficits, leading in many cases to a reduction in the budget for the social sectors, despite the fact that social investments such as in the areas of education and health care are needed for sustainable economic growth,

E. whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have often implemented SAPs without taking the specific conditions of recipient countries into due consideration; whereas such programmes should be tailored to address the specific needs of the countries concerned,

F. whereas, after implementing SAPs, countries are often worse off than before, and in cases where there has been macroeconomic improvement the negative consequences in the microeconomic field are often not mentioned,

G. whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have played the leading role in structural adjustment over the past three decades; whereas the Bretton Woods Institutions have major influence over lending and development aid as most donors and financial institutions rely on their eligibility criteria,

H. whereas the cuts in civil service staff and salaries in ACP countries and the scaling down of administrations’ operating resources have led to under-administration in those countries and to a decrease in the effectiveness of their administrative machinery,

I. whereas donors and lenders rely on conditionality, given their duty and legitimate interest to ensure that money provided is managed correctly and used for its intended purposes,

J. whereas economic policy conditionality has often resulted in the blocking of loans and grants from the IMF and the World Bank, which can lead to policies that are inappropriate to national conditions or even contradictory to achieving the MDGs,

K. whereas the abolition of agricultural subsidies in ACP countries under SAPs has led to a decrease in yields and agricultural production, resulting in an increase in the import of food products, thereby affecting their food independence and security, and a decrease in the export of cash crops, including the drastic reduction in the ACP guaranteed price for ACP sugar on the EU market, thereby causing a preference erosion and a deterioration of ACP countries’ terms of trade and balance of payments,

L. whereas the IMF and World Bank have different priorities,

M. whereas the austerity required under SAPs has affected the social climate and has at times led to political instability,

N. whereas privatisations and the liberalisation of economies have been effected by the IMF and the World Bank in an ideological manner; whereas regarding Development Policy Lending the World Bank states that ‘reflecting the mixed record of adjustment lending, the policy no longer contains any policy prescriptions — such as directives for privatisation and trade liberalisation policies’ (1),

O. whereas the austerity policy pursued under SAPs has reduced demand, restrained growth and increased unemployment, particularly among young graduates,

P. whereas the increase in unemployment has fuelled the rural exodus and the migration flows from ACP countries to wealthy countries,

Q. whereas SAPs have tackled the symptoms of under-development and not its deep-seated causes, i.e. unequal trade, debt and the domination of multinationals, and the persistence of those causes, despite the increase in Official Development Assistance, has resulted in negative net flows for ACP countries,

R. whereas poor political governance (democratic deficit) and economic governance are an obstacle to economic and social development,

S. whereas the declared aims of the IMF are ‘to promote international monetary cooperation, facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, to contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high levels of employment and real income, promote exchange stability, improve the degree of disequilibrium in international balances of payments and provide financial assistance to ease balance of payments adjustments’,

T. whereas the declared aims of the World Bank are to reduce global poverty and improve living standards through two development institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which is focused on middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries, and the International Development Association (IDA), which works with low-income countries,

U. whereas international financial institutions can play a positive role in favour of more equitable globalisation, but this requires developing differentiated and non-conditional approaches, based on ownership and tailored to specific country circumstances, to issues such as trade liberalisation, privatisation and labour market deregulation,

V. whereas there is marginal ACP representation on the Executive Boards of the IMF and the World Bank,

W. whereas sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs,

X. whereas an increase in poverty, massive unemployment, diminishing productivity and falling export earnings could be some of the consequences of development strategies that fail to take into account the social reality of the country concerned and the situation of its natural resources, which are fundamental for its economy,

Y. whereas implementation of SAPs has had detrimental effects on public investment in social services, particularly in the field of health and education, on the growth of family salaries and incomes, on employment and on living conditions; and whereas governments have also been encouraged or forced to scale down their intervention in many sectors of the economy through the privatisation of public enterprises and the liberalisation and opening-up of markets to foreign competition, including in the field of health and education,

Z. whereas the adverse impact of SAPs is recognised in the post-Washington-Consensus approach, under which facilitating increased investment in the social sphere is also recommended,

1. Recommends that the IMF and the World Bank scrap the negative conditions under SAPs and tackle the issues of unequal trade in connection with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), debt and limiting multinational intervention in ACP countries; considers that, in accordance with the MDGs, education (including higher education and research), health, water, agriculture (with a view to eradicating hunger) and the environment must be priorities for all the programmes;

2. Calls in this context on the World Bank Group and the IMF to refrain from economic policy conditionality in their lending, to increase transparency of conditionality, to give a true meaning to the principle of ownership by ensuring that policies are country-selected, and to focus on outcome-based, anti-poverty conditionality in their programmes;

3. Considers that there should be fairer trade between ACP countries and wealthy countries, and that liberalisation of markets must not leave the weakest economies at the mercy of the strongest economies;

4. Considers that the endeavours to cancel or alleviate debt should not be limited solely to low-income countries, but should apply to all overindebted ACP countries, including middle income countries where appropriate;

5. Considers that intervention by multinationals in ACP countries must be limited; considers, in particular, that the setting-up of semi-public companies can enable states to increase their control over the exploitation of their national resources;

6. Welcomes, in this context, the support given by the World Bank Group, the IMF and the Africa Development Bank to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which ‘sets a global standard for companies to publish what they pay and for governments to disclose what they receive’; calls for their continued support for the EITI and calls on public and private extractive industry companies to comply with the EITI;

7. Considers that the IMF must help the ACP countries to develop and implement economic growth policies in line with its initial mandate; considers that the World Bank, for its part, should revert to its initial mandate, which is to help create the right conditions for development and hence to eradicate poverty; considers that the IMF and the World Bank must, in particular, put aside all ideological considerations when addressing the issues of privatisation, liberalisation and agricultural subsidies in ACP countries;

8. Welcomes the move by the IMF to make poverty reduction a priority in its programmes, and welcomes the fact that poverty reduction is the overarching goal of the World Bank;

9. Considers that unsustainable debt levels, bad macroeconomic planning and poor policies seriously harm a country’s development and that financial instability can have repercussions on the economy, affecting growth, jobs and economic and social well-being;
10. Notes that Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are intended to be country-owned strategies specifically adapted to countries’ development needs; is adamant that national ownership creates important responsibilities for governments in terms of the proper use of aid, good governance and a firm commitment to a development agenda;

11. Welcomes the recent positive economic performance of many developing countries, including those in sub-Saharan Africa, which has resulted from a number of factors, namely debt relief, multilateral development assistance, improvements made by donors and, most importantly, the policies carried out by developing countries;

12. Welcomes the World Bank finding that, between 1999 and 2005, countries receiving debt relief under the HIPC Initiative more than doubled their expenditure on poverty reduction plans; recalls that at least 60 countries need all of their debts to be cancelled if they are to have any chance of achieving the MDGs and that there are yet more countries that require further debt relief;

13. Stresses that whereas economic growth is extremely important it does not automatically lead to poverty reduction, and underlines the importance of equitable development policies and pro-poor growth strategies resulting in social and economic benefits for society at large and, in particular, strategies focusing on the achievement of the MDGs;

14. Stresses the need for full political and operational cooperation with UN institutions, especially the ILO, in order to assess the real consequences of SAPs and possible solutions;

15. Believes that sustainable development should be a central priority of reforms and considers that sustainable development includes good governance, human rights and environmental aspects; recalls that macroeconomic reforms can have a sustainable effect only when they fully embrace the objectives of human and social development;

16. Recognises the need for immediate action to deal with environmental problems; underlines the fact that the burden of responsibility for fighting climate change cannot be shifted to the developing world; takes the view, in particular, that the growing demand for biofuel in the developed world has to be balanced so as not to jeopardise food security and so as not to increase deforestation in the developing world;

17. Notes that the IMF has strict macroeconomic rules in terms of reserve thresholds and inflation targeting that determine its guidelines on the use of aid; regrets that the IMF has blocked the use of available aid to sub-Saharan Africa in some cases; encourages the IMF to be less restrictive in situations that permit a more ambitious development strategy and to take into account all available resources, particularly aid; notes that fiscal policy restrictions on these programmes might lead to difficulties in engaging health and education personnel;

18. Regrets that the potential of aid has not been fully realised in the internationally supported national reform programmes;

19. Recognises the considerable assistance provided by the EU to the ACP countries to mitigate the harmful effects of the transitional phase and negative conditions under SAPs as proof of its commitment to helping those countries; takes the view that the EU, and rich countries in general, must nevertheless endeavour to increase their aid to 0,71 % of GDP; is of the opinion that the ACP countries and the EU must frame a sound partnership agreement with a view to promoting genuine development in the ACP countries;

20. Calls on the EU Member States and the Commission to take into account the autonomous economic reform programmes being implemented by ACP countries in the provision of aid under their respective Aid for Trade programmes in order to enable the ACP countries concerned to successfully address adjustment-related costs, including in the context of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) or wider liberalisation programmes;
21. Welcomes the IMF’s and the World Bank’s HIPC Initiative; considers that onerous debt obligations have prevented countries developing, but calls on the IMF and the World Bank, along with developing countries, to prevent the recurrence of unsustainable debt situations; underlines the fact that debt reduction will have a significant effect only if an indebted country carries out policies that prevent recurrence of an unsustainable debt situation;

22. Considers sound public financial management to be essential to the reform agenda and calls for greater support to be given to supreme audit institutions; welcomes the PEFA international performance measurement framework for assessing a country’s public financial management and calls on the Bretton Woods Institutions and other donors to apply it rigorously;

23. Is worried about the situation of fragile, conflict and post-conflict states and underscores the need for the rule of law, a democratic political system, in particular respect for the outcome of elections, and a peaceful and stable political climate for a country to embark on a positive development path;

24. Is concerned by the finding of the IMF’s Independent Evaluation Office that there are differences of views among members of the Executive Board about the IMF’s role and policies in low-income countries; considers therefore that the IMF should be reformed with a view to making it more democratic, not least through better representation of the ACP countries on its Executive Board;

25. Is disappointed by the finding that the IMF’s aspirations with regard to the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) have not materialised in practice, and that there is a disconnect between poverty reduction initiatives and the actual policies implemented;

26. Is concerned by the IMF’s operational shortcomings and in particular the diffusion and implementation of policy and institutional cohesion;

27. Encourages the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO, along with the UN and other multinational and bilateral donors, to cooperate to the greatest extent possible so as to better understand and assist the ACP countries subjected to SAPs and to help them achieve the MDGs;

28. Considers that maximum country ownership of, and commitment to, policy reforms is fundamental to their success; stresses the need for an integrated approach to decent work (employment, social protection, social dialogue, rights at work and gender mainstreaming) for the effective uptake of employment and social policy at national level;

29. Calls on the relevant international bodies to create mechanisms for the exchange of experiences which can serve as tools for those countries in which the process of economic restructuring has not succeeded, or in which it is due to be launched;

30. Urges those countries with economic restructuring programmes to submit regular reports to it on the functioning and development of those programmes and the relevant agreements, so that best practices can be acquired for the benefit of the other members;

31. Considers it essential that governments be held accountable to their citizens with regard to the management of public revenue and expenditure, and in particular revenues earned from extractive industries, and calls on the World Bank, the IMF, the EU and other donors to demand that public revenues be managed in a transparent fashion; regards it as essential that democracy and the rule of law be strengthened in the ACP countries; also considers it vital to strengthen the machinery of state by equipping it with substantial human and operating resources; stresses the importance of creating a culture of accountability which fully involves parliaments and the audit institutions;
32. Considers that the funds embezzled by dictators must be repatriated to ACP countries; considers that the EU must, to this end, bring all its influence to bear on the banks in which those funds have been deposited; welcomes in this context the launch, on 17 September 2007, of the joint UN-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, which aims to stop asset theft by strengthening accountability institutions in developing countries;

33. Regrets that the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office has found that representatives of the IMF in countries in which it operates are stretched and do not adequately engage with local players;

34. Considers that reform programmes should be drawn up and implemented in such a way as to increase democratic legitimacy through the involvement of parliaments and through the consultation of other actors, namely the social partners and civil society, in particular employers' and workers' organisations;

35. Underlines the fact that policies that encourage private-sector growth, including promotion of foreign direct investment, open and well functioning financial services, economic diversification, encouragement of a spirit of enterprise and private land ownership, are prerequisites for economic development and should therefore be reflected in the programmes; encourages, in this context, public-private partnerships;

36. Considers that the state has a role to play, not least in managing the economy and in all sectors where private initiative is wanting; at the same time considers that the private sector has a role to play in sectors where the public sector fails, but that this role has to be well regulated to promote sustainable development of the country, poverty reduction as well as maximum access for the majority of citizens;

37. Is worried about the dependence of some ACP countries on one main export, which is usually a basic commodity, and in this regard considers that the encouragement of industrial development and economic diversification strategies is essential for sustainable growth;

38. Considers that, for development to be sustainable, it is necessary to promote, at international level (including via the WTO), the laying down of rules on fair trade, to set prices for products from developing countries which afford those countries sufficient revenue to guarantee workers there fair and decent pay, to guarantee the right to food security for all, and to cancel developing countries' debts where it is shown that such cancellation is likely to enhance significantly the living conditions of the inhabitants of those countries and not just of their leaders;

39. Considers that, prior to any privatisation in sectors of the economy, it is imperative to assess objectively and impartially the economic and social effects that this will engender, that privatisation can therefore only be undertaken when the living conditions of the whole population stand to improve, and that it is essential to have binding international rules in this field, particularly in order to monitor the activities of local and foreign companies as regards compliance with acceptable social and environmental standards;

40. Considers that privatisation as a borrowing condition is not an effective way to implement change and that countries should have maximum ownership of these crucial policy decisions;

41. Welcomes the fact that the World Bank’s narrow focus on privatisation and liberalisation has been replaced by a broader view regarding institutional reform and complementary policies;

42. Welcomes the more targeted and pragmatic policy focus of the World Bank that allows for greater flexibility focused on medium-term reforms;

43. Welcomes the IMF's review of conditionality and calls for the immediate implementation of its conclusions, which place greater emphasis on country ownership, harmonisation of policies across sectors, stakeholder consultation, implementation of essential, tailored policies, predictability and transparency; stresses that conditionality should not undermine national autonomy and independence in policy-making, and that conditions should be limited to ensuring that assistance is used for its intended purposes, such as combating corruption, and to preventing assistance to governments that do not respect human and democratic rights and undermine countries' efforts to achieve the MDGs;
44. Welcomes the increased sense of national ownership of programmes, but reiterates that a strong commitment to necessary development reforms is a prerequisite for this;

45. Calls on donors to step up coordination of their activities, but is concerned about the impact this may have on country ownership, and considers it crucial that national policy ownership be upheld at all times and that developing countries can decide on their development strategies;

46. Stresses that environmental conservation and protection tasks cannot be undertaken by government alone; calls for the development of partnerships with local and foreign agencies (World Bank/IMF, UN agencies, World Wildlife Fund and universities);

47. Calls on the EU and ACP representatives to coordinate their positions better on the boards of the World Bank and the IMF in line with development objectives of the EU and ACP countries and to ensure that EU funds are used solely for these objectives;

48. Welcomes the recent adjustments to the voting quotas in favour of some countries, but calls on the IMF and the World Bank, in the interests of their own legitimacy, to make further improvements in the decision-making mechanisms to be more transparent and give appropriate weight to developing countries;

49. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the World Bank and the IMF.

RESOLUTION (1)

on experiences from the European regional integration process relevant to ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
— having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005, and in particular Articles 1, 11 and 28 to 30 thereof,
— having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular Chapter VIII on regional arrangements,
— having regard to the joint statement of 20 December 2003 by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: ‘The European Consensus’, and in particular Articles 72 to 74 thereof,
— having regard to the Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome, adopted in Berlin on 25 March 2007,
— having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, signed on 13 December 2007,
— having regard to the Kigali Declaration on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007,
— having regard to the resolution on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security, adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Vienna (Austria) from 19 to 22 June 2006,

(1) Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia).
— having regard to the ACP Committee of Ambassadors’ report on the future of the ACP Group as adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers at its 86th session held from 10 to 14 December 2007 in Brussels, Belgium,

— having regard to the ACP Secretariat’s project to develop indicators to measure and monitor regional integration processes in the six ACP regions,

— having regard to the report by the Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/100.203/08/fn.),

A. whereas regional integration has become a dominant feature in the ACP world, with all ACP countries being members of at least one regional organisation and around twenty regional integration arrangements including ACP countries (1),

B. whereas the joint exercise of sovereignty in regional integration frameworks may lead to an enhanced capacity of governments to protect the interests of their citizens, rather than a loss of sovereignty,

C. whereas, in connection with regional integration, it must also be ensured that no loss of transparency and democratic accountability in decision-making takes place and that increased crime through the abolition of border controls and negative social repercussions through hasty liberalisation and wage competition are prevented,

D. whereas major progress has been made in recent years in the field of regional economic and political integration among ACP countries, and regional organisations play an increasingly prominent role in conflict prevention and peace-keeping; whereas the fight against poverty and for sustainable development has been, and remains, a major objective for regional integration in most ACP countries,

E. whereas the strong political will of all partners to lay down and carry through common objectives and projects is the basis for successful integration,

F. whereas several regional organisations including ACP countries have established a customs union or are planning to do so in the coming years, and monetary unions are already in effect in some regional groupings; whereas some regional organisations have established solidarity mechanisms for reducing disparities or for offsetting polarisation effects from trade liberalisation within the region,

G. whereas many ACP regional organisations have indirectly elected parliamentary institutions, which may develop democratic oversight functions and legislative powers in parallel with the deepening of integration,

H. whereas regional initiatives like NEPAD or the Pacific Plan may further enhance regional cooperation with a view to meeting development and good governance challenges,

I. whereas overlapping membership in different organisations with similar functional objectives is a serious problem in Africa, as recognised by the African Union at its 7th Summit in Banjul in July 2006,

J. whereas the lack of cross-border infrastructure, e.g. transport routes, makes regional integration more difficult,

K. whereas some ACP subregions and states have entered into interim EPA arrangements in a way that may split ACP regional economic groupings and could undermine their integration process,

(1) Among the regional integration organisations incorporating ACP countries are: African Union (AU), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OEC), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Indian Ocean Commission (OIC) and Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).
L. whereas all integration processes must be transparent to the population concerned and require democratic oversight over all political levels through the involvement of parliamentary bodies and civil society,

M. whereas EPAs must have a strong development content to ensure that the ACP states become trade-competitive and to foster the smooth and gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy,

N. whereas no model of regional integration can be laid down since any integration strategy has to be adapted to particular interests and circumstances, but nonetheless general features can be identified which impede or foster integration processes; whereas the study of Europe’s experiences with regard to the ACP regional integration processes can therefore be instructive, and can also deliver new insights for the EU itself,

O. whereas European integration dynamics have partly stemmed from the existence of strong joint institutions, in particular the European Commission, which has considerable autonomy and the right of initiative, and from the existence of a European Parliament, directly elected by citizens, with ever increasing competences,

P. whereas, in the European case, solidarity between countries and societies has been one of the key factors for successful integration, as both richer and poorer countries have gained from internal development and cohesion policies,

Q. whereas Europe’s integration process benefited, particularly in its early phases, from territorial continuity and proximity, an advantage neither the island states in the Caribbean and Pacific regions nor the African continent with its large land mass share,

R. whereas economic development and reconstruction in Europe after the war also benefited greatly from external aid, in particular the US-funded European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan),

S. whereas the European economic integration process has not been based on liberalisation alone, but has been complemented by regulatory and budgetary policies for supporting and protecting certain sectors, as well as cooperation for the promotion of sustainable development,

T. whereas compliance with common principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law has been essential for successful integration in Europe, and the EU has recognised their central role by adopting a mechanism for suspending membership rights in the event of serious violations of these principles,

U. whereas a similar level of development and prosperity among Member States has proven not to be a precondition for regional integration in Europe and its experience suggests that regional organisations can be an effective framework for diminishing economic and social disparities; noting that nonetheless significant income inequalities remain, both between and within EU Member States,

V. whereas the European Communities/European Union has also experienced major crises and difficult phases because of diverging interests among Member States and as a result of reservations among citizens inter alia as regards the speed and depth of regional integration; whereas those crises could always be overcome because of the readiness of all parties to accept compromises and the political will to uphold the overall objective of European integration,

W. whereas integration in Europe has not prevented separatist movements and tendencies to disintegrate, but has helped to prevent or diminish violent conflicts,

X. whereas the increasing number of EU Member States has led to more flexible integration mechanisms, with some Member States entering into enhanced cooperation structures; stressing that these pioneering agreements have always been non-exclusive, remain open to all other members and do not touch on the core areas of integration,
Reconciliation and conflict prevention

1. Underlines the fact that stabilisation of peace and institutionalisation of peaceful means of resolving conflicts constitute one of the major achievements of the European integration process, resulting from the lessons learned in Europe from devastating wars;

2. Welcomes the fact that regional and subregional ACP organisations play an increasingly important role in conflict management, peace-keeping and peace-building, and are important partners of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security; welcomes the creation of regional early warning and early response mechanisms, e.g. by ECOWAS and IGAD, and calls for further strengthening of such mechanisms; calls on the international community to support capacity-building for regional organisations active in the field of peace and security, in particular as regards conflict prevention, management and resolution;

3. Believes that regional organisations can play an important role in tackling the root causes of conflicts within and between Member States; believes that the promotion and protection of human rights at regional level and the joint fight against impunity represent a major step towards preventing conflict and permitting reconciliation between conflicting parties;

4. Calls — realising that education is an important factor for tolerance and understanding — for the setting up of regional commissions to reach agreement on school and university curricula resulting in a breaking down of concepts of the enemy, in mutual respect and in the elimination of discrimination, meetings between teaching staff, pupils and students being important fora for bringing people in conflict-ridden regions closer together as neighbours;

5. Notes that, as a rule, women and children are affected most by war, conflicts, violence, hunger and expulsions and that women must therefore be appropriately involved in all development and decision-taking processes;

6. Calls on the ACP countries to step up regional actions for joint exploration, regulation and control of natural resources, in order to promote reconciliation and interdependence;

Institutions and integration agendas in ACP regions

7. Underlines the fact that strong joint institutions, representing regional rather than national interests, are needed to push the integration process forward and ensure compliance with jointly agreed standards; calls on the ACP regional organisations to ensure the necessary autonomy, proper funding and selection of qualified staff for joint institutions; invites the Commission to support capacity building for regional institutions, both with know-how and the necessary funding;

8. Stresses the need for regional institutions to mitigate power differences among Member States;

9. Calls on the regional organisations to define priorities, realistic common objectives and clear benchmarks to allow joint institutions, governments, parliaments and civil society to measure progress and success;

10. Invites the ACP governments to agree to the joint exercise of sovereignty in selected sectors where long-term joint interests exist and cross-border problems need to be solved;

11. Underlines the fact that regional integration processes must be built on tolerance and mutual respect for national and cultural differences;

12. Encourages the ACP Secretariat to expedite the development of the proposed regional integration monitoring system and calls on the European Commission to provide financial and technical support required for implementation of this system for the benefit of ACP regional integration organisations;
Interregional cooperation

13. Invites the African Union to support and steer a process of rationalisation of the regional organisation framework in Africa where competing integration agendas exist; notes that the European example shows that overlapping membership is not a major obstacle where close coordination and cooperation are ensured between regional organisations or functional differentiation is agreed upon;

14. Calls on the ACP Group to consider, with the EU’s support, transforming the existing periodic meetings between the ACP Secretariat and the heads of ACP regional organisations into an institutionalised Coordination Forum in order to facilitate dialogue, cooperation and coordination; calls on the ACP regional organisations to coordinate their positions in international negotiations to enhance their positions and influence;

15. Welcomes the fact that the organisation of meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly at regional or subregional level pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Cotonou Agreement will enter the implementation phase and looks forward to the outcomes of the first regional meeting of the JPA in Windhoek (Namibia);

Democracy and good governance

16. Underlines the fact that a culture of freedom, openness and inclusion within the Member States of regional organisations is a precondition for successful regional integration; calls on all regional organisations in the ACP region which have not done so to define clear political criteria for membership, based on human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and to develop constructive mechanisms for helping member countries to comply with these criteria; invites the ACP countries to consider effective mechanisms for suspending membership rights in the event of serious violations of these principles;

17. Calls on the EU to support regional initiatives for promoting democracy, human rights and good governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and regional election observation mechanisms, and to bring its governance initiatives into line with the existing regional mechanisms;

18. Calls on the EU and the ACP Group to step up their support for the parliamentary structures of regional organisations; stresses that direct election of representatives of Member States in regional parliamentary assemblies contributes greatly to the legitimacy of the integration process and is the prerequisite for securing it on a lasting basis;

19. Believes that civil society organisations — in particular their transnational activities — play a major role for pushing regional integration processes forward and ensuring democratic accountability of regional institutions;

20. Calls on the EU and the ACP countries to ensure that the parliamentary organs of the regional organisations are consulted on the EDF Regional Strategy Papers and their implementation;

Economics and trade

21. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to ensure that the EPAs are consistent with and contribute to the strengthening of ACP regional integration initiatives; notes that many ACP countries fear that the current trend in the EPA negotiations and the adoption of agreements by subregions may undermine regional integration efforts; insists that any agreements adopted by subregions must be open to other members of their respective regional organisation;

22. Stresses that trade barriers between ACP regions should be reduced in order to enhance South-South trade, and calls for harmonisation policies to ensure a level playing field for trans-border commercial activities;
23. Calls on the ACP regional organisations to establish or further develop regional cohesion mechanisms and solidarity funds for helping weaker Member States to bear adjustment costs from trade liberalisation and to ensure proper financing; considers that the EU should support these mechanisms with both expertise and funding; points to the EU experience that strong and independent anti-fraud mechanisms must be developed to limit the risk of misuse of structural and solidarity funds;

24. Calls on the EU and ACP countries to enhance targeted investment in regional infrastructure networks to permit cross-border economic activities;

Functional cooperation

25. Underlines the fact that trade liberalisation alone is not sufficient to engender regional understanding and integration dynamics, and that regional programmes and projects in selected priority sectors must accompany economic cooperation;

26. Welcomes the many functional cooperation efforts in the ACP region; calls on ACP countries to intensify regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as health and education, food security, infrastructure, environment and migration and to ensure adequate financing; points out that the EU budget for joint policies is composed both of external trade revenues and direct contributions from Member States’ budgets;

27. Underlines the fact that the EDF Regional Strategy Papers not only must focus on trade liberalisation and integration into the world market, but also need to put more emphasis on regional institution-building, on capacity-building and human resource development in regional integration, on functional cooperation, and on support for redistributive and regulatory policy-making within the regions;

28. Recommends the extension of exchange programmes for schools, universities and research institutions in the ACP regions to enhance transnational understanding and the forging of a transnational civil society;

29. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency and the ACP regional organisations.

RESOLUTION (1)

on food security issues in ACP countries and the role of ACP-EU cooperation

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 17 to 20 March 2008,
— having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the conclusions of the 1996 World Food Summit and the objective of reducing by half the number of people on Earth suffering from hunger by 2015,
— having regard to the United Nations statement on the Millennium Development Goals and its commitment to halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger and living on less than one US dollar a day,
— having regard to the objectives of the ACP-EU partnership agreements signed in Lomé and subsequently in Cotonou concerning development and trade,
— having regard to the UN report of 25 October 2007 drafted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Food,

(1) Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March in Ljubljana (Slovenia).
— having regard to its Kigali Declaration of 22 November 2007 for development-friendly Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs),

— having regard to the conclusions of the EU-Africa Summit of December 2007 and the First Action Plan,

— having regard to the conclusions of the 2007 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report,

— having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.205/08/fm),

Importance of the agriculture sector to the economies of ACP countries

A. whereas the international community has undertaken to halve extreme poverty and hunger in the world by 2015 (pursuant to the first Millennium Development Goal), and whereas food insecurity affects almost one-third of the inhabitants of ACP countries,

B. whereas in 1996 the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation defined food security as 'access for all people at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy, active life',

C. whereas the repercussions of hunger are more pronounced in rural areas (which are home to up to 60% of the population which is directly dependent upon agriculture or agriculture-related rural activities), and whereas agriculture is the ACP countries’ main economic sector (20% of GDP and two-thirds of employment),

D. whereas, despite the proven importance of the agriculture sector to ACP countries, neither national governments nor EU development cooperation policies give priority to this key sector, in addition to which small farmers are becoming increasingly marginalised,

ACP-EU cooperation and food security

E. whereas the objective of promoting the integration of the ACP countries into the global economy, as provided for in the Lomé and Cotonou Agreements, has yet to be attained and whereas, despite the privileged access to the European market that products from ACP countries enjoy, their share of imports to the EU has continued to decrease,

F. whereas a hasty opening up to European exports of ACP countries’ markets would expose the economies of those countries to major upheaval and would weaken them,

G. whereas only four of the 78 ACP countries made agriculture a priority sector under the 9th EDF, while 15 chose rural development, and whereas only 7% of the 9th EDF’s budget has been allocated to rural development and 1.1% to activities specifically linked to agriculture,

H. whereas, by subsidising the export of its agricultural products, the European Union is practising dumping on the markets of the ACP countries, with serious consequences for the local producers, who are unable to compete with European products which sometimes sell for a third of the price of their own products,

Challenges associated with food security in ACP countries

I. whereas 60% of the world’s ecosystems, including freshwater and fisheries resources, have been degraded or misused, and the first people to suffer from this will be the very poor; whereas the greatest risks are linked to water, agriculture, human health, biodiversity and the rise in sea levels,

J. whereas increasing food production is of key importance to reducing food insecurity in so far as it helps to bring down food prices and to increasing producers’ incomes,
K. whereas irrigation can, to a significant extent, increase, and ensure, the sustainability of agricultural production,

L. having regard to drinking water’s importance to food security and the difficulty of accessing it in ACP countries, with the health problems which this entails,

M. whereas the ACP countries must enjoy effective public services, with particular regard to access to water, which is a key aspect of food security,

N. noting the environmental benefit of agrifuels, while highlighting the challenges their production represents in terms of availability of arable land, food prices and hunger eradication in the context of the Millennium Development Goals,

O. having regard to the frequency of disasters affecting the agriculture sector, coupled with the decrease in the resources allocated to food aid before and after such disasters in ACP countries,

P. whereas the ACP countries are dependent on exports of commodities, which account for over 50% of their foreign currency revenue,

Q. whereas the role of women in ACP countries is of crucial importance to development, particularly as regards food security and health, and whereas inequality between the sexes reduces women’s ability to play that role,

R. whereas a direct link exists between women’s access to, and control over, household resources and an improvement in their households’ food security,

S. whereas, according to FAO estimates, seven million agricultural workers have died of HIV/AIDS since 1985 and the pandemic is set to claim 16 million more victims over the next two decades in the 25 African countries worst affected,

T. whereas HIV/AIDS mainly affects the productive labour force, reducing not only the amount of work done but also the quality of that work,

Responses to the challenges associated with food security in ACP countries

U. whereas increased access to modern information technologies is essential to enhancing capacities and better informing farmers on practices, prices and access to factors of production,

1. Stresses the essential nature of the right to food; reminds the EU and the ACP countries that they have undertaken to help halve the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger by 2015, and calls upon the Commission, the EU Council and the ACP countries to adopt — and properly finance — whatever measures are needed in order to enable that commitment to be honoured;

2. Calls for adequate recognition of the importance of research — extension services — farmer linkages in pursuing food-security objectives; stresses the need for ACP countries to adopt affordable technologies that have proved to be effective and innovative for achieving food security;

3. Points out that, in order to strengthen food security in the ACP countries, the most effective method for sustainable exploitation of agricultural land must first be identified and policies which foster the use of that method must then be devised;

4. Considers it essential to give fresh impetus to the EU-ACP partnership by negotiating fair and balanced EPAs which are genuinely geared towards development and not purely confined to trade considerations;

5. Takes the view that imposing the liberalisation of services on ACP countries has a negative influence on the development of promising new sectors and deprives the public authorities in those countries of the power to manage key public services which are more in accordance with the realities of the societies concerned;
6. Stresses that it is essential for the discussions on the implementation of the 10th EDF to take far greater
account of the needs of populations in terms of agricultural food production than has previously been
the case;

7. Calls on the EU to include in its 10th EDF a specific priority programme of agricultural development
for each of the ACP countries, and for that programme to include clear and ambitious targets as well as
concrete measures to be established and applied within precise time limits, in close consultation with
farmers' organisations and civil society;

8. Calls on the EU Commission and Council to give priority, in close consultation with the ACP countries,
to the issue of the impact on ACP countries of Europe subsidising the export of its agricultural
products, and to pledge to provide concrete solutions for the prevention of dumping, in line with the
commitments made in connection with the Millennium Development Goals;

9. Urges the EU Member States and the international community to assist the WFP in facing up to new
challenges in the fight against hunger, with soaring global food and oil prices, increasingly severe
weather shocks due in part to climate change, and declining global food stocks;

10. Calls for efficient planning of water supply for irrigation in ACP countries, so as to permit significant
growth in agricultural production; stresses that water and water-related services (which are essential to
food security) cannot be regarded as a commodity or as commercial services and calls for the EU and
the ACP countries to have the right to water formally recognised as a universal, indivisible, inalienable
and imprescriptible human right stemming from the right to life for all;

11. Calls upon the EU and the ACP countries to back a comprehensive movement in support of public-
private water-access partnership programmes launched by and involving North-South, South-South and
North-North local communities;

12. Calls on the EU to factor into its development policy the short-term needs and constraints to which
men and women living in rural areas are subject, be they social, economic, judicial or technological, in
order to guarantee the success of agricultural and rural development projects and programmes in
general and, in particular, programmes relating to food security; stresses, in this connection, the impor-
tance of investing in educational programmes for all people living in rural areas;

13. Urges the ACP countries and the European Union to lay emphasis on gender equality in general and to
recognise and promote the multi-dimensional role of women in seeking to achieve food security, parti-
cularly in connection with regard to access to and acquisition of land, in order to allow sustainable
growth in this sector;

14. Calls upon the EU and the ACP countries to recognise the vital economic role played by women in the
agricultural sector and the importance of increasing women's productivity and their contribution to
food systems; calls upon them to incorporate, as a major concern in their food-security policies and
programmes, the direct link between women's access to, and control over, household resources and an
improvement in their households' food security; calls upon the EU Commission and Council and the
ACP countries to make micro-credit programmes accessible to women in rural areas;

15. Urges the ACP countries and the European Union to release the additional resources to which they
committed with a view to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the third goal
('Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education enrolments preferably by 2005, and at
all levels by 2015'), since proper nutrition for entire families depends to a large extent on women;

16. Expresses concern at the fact that HIV/AIDS constitutes a risk for the economic and social development
of ACP countries, owing to the decrease in size of the workforce, and also in the quality of the work
done, and calls for the issue of HIV/AIDS also to be considered from the viewpoint of food security and
its impact on nutrition;
17. Urges EU and ACP governments to address the problem of land-tenure arrangements for HIV/AIDS-affected households and individuals in areas where there is land pressure/land scarcity and calls on them to address the impact of changes on land-tenure systems (including patterns of ownership, inheritance, access and rights) caused by HIV/AIDS, with a focus on women and children;

18. Recommends that agricultural and rural development be promoted and that investments be made which, as a priority, lead to opportunities for the very poor to improve their livelihoods;

19. Urges increased investment in information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to improve capacities and better inform farmers about production factors, and to facilitate market access; believes that a special effort is needed to ensure that the poorest people in ACP countries can access ICTs, which means putting in place policies to address computer illiteracy and the high cost and lack of access to computer equipment;

20. Recommends that support be provided for training and for the exchange, development and adoption of sound agricultural practices in the ACP countries, in order to ensure that the poor have immediate access to food; calls upon the EU Council and Commission and each of the Member States to support research into bio-fuels produced from agricultural waste and those produced from inedible plants grown on arid or semi-arid land;

21. Calls upon ACP countries and the EU to promote the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a moratorium on plant production intended for conversion into fuel;

22. Emphasises the need for the EU and the ACP countries to have effective, well-thought-out plans for dealing with emergency situations arising from disasters in the agricultural sector;

23. Recommends that studies be carried out into environmental problems such as soil deterioration, damage to the biodiversity of agricultural areas and the effects of climate change on agriculture, and that relevant action be taken in order to enable environmental resources to be properly managed (one example being the regeneration and conservation of soil);

24. Calls upon the ACP countries to bolster their government procedures for budget implementation and management, particularly with a view to facilitating the financing of all specific actions and measures designed to combat food insecurity;

25. Calls on the EU Member States and Commission to increase ODA, in particular for the least developed ACP states and the net-food-importing ACP states, so as to enable them to mitigate the adverse effects they are experiencing following the significant rises in food prices which are increasingly exacerbating their balance of payments problems;

26. Deplores the inadequate coordination, particularly at national level but also within the international development community, of the efforts made in the context of programmes which are a burden on human and financial resources;

27. Calls for pinpointing of the areas in which the integration of policies is particularly poor, and for development of the means to enable that integration at every level;

28. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.
RESOLUTION (1)

on the situation in Kenya

The ACP EU-Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

— having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the valuable role Kenya has played in promoting peace in the region,
— having regard to the African Charter of Human and People's Rights guidelines on the conduct of democratic elections,
— having regard to the African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002),
— having regard to the Decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the situation in Kenya following the presidential election of 27 December 2007, at its meeting in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008 (10th Ordinary Session),
— having regard to the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region, signed on 16 December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Heads of State and Government of the countries in the Great Lakes Region,
— having regard to the Preliminary Statement of 1 January 2008 of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) in Kenya and to the European Parliament resolution of 17 January 2008 on Kenya,
— 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 (the 'Cotonou Agreement') and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005, in particular Articles 8 and 9 thereof,
— having regard to the valuable efforts made by the United Nations to find a solution to the crisis,

A. whereas the people of Kenya in exercise of their democratic rights turned out in large numbers on 27 December 2007 to choose their presidential, parliamentary and civic leaders, in which nine parties fielded presidential candidates, including President Mwai Kibaki of the Party of National Unity (PNU) and Raila Odinga of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM),

B. whereas the whole campaign period and the elections were peaceful and freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly were broadly respected; whereas, however, the campaign was also marked by ethno-political divisions, which contributed to the volatile situation in the run up to the elections,

C. whereas the two major parties, the PNU and the ODM, and their affiliate parties won 103 and 104 seats respectively out of 210 seats in the national parliament,

D. whereas international and domestic observers concluded that, overall, the election process prior to tabulation was well managed and that the parliamentary elections could be deemed largely successful, but that the presidential election tallying lacked credibility, and therefore expressed doubts as to the accuracy of the results,

E. whereas the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK), in general, managed the electoral process well, but did not demonstrate at the counting stage in the presidential election the impartiality, transparency, confidentiality and, above all, autonomy necessary for organising credible elections,

(1) Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 20 March 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia).
F. whereas the resulting tense atmosphere brought about by the announcement of the presidential election results triggered violence and arson with ethnic undertones, leaving over 1 000 dead, more than 300 000 internally displaced and about 10 000 seeking refuge in Uganda, thus causing an enormous humanitarian crisis,

G. whereas the violence was extremely intense in some areas, not only threatening the safety of hundreds of thousand of Kenyans, but also jeopardising various aspects of daily life, including economic transactions, education and health,

H. whereas the temporary turmoil in Kenya affected economic activities in the region, with devastating effects on land-locked neighbours; whereas the prices of people’s basic necessities are increasing and many employees have lost their jobs,

I. whereas the efforts of the then African Union Chairman, President of the Republic of Ghana John Kufuor built ground for facilitation of dialogue undertaken by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, assisted by Graça Machel and former president Benjamin Mkapa, to resolve the dispute,

J. whereas the Government of Kenya and the Orange Democratic Movement embarked on Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation talks under the facilitation of Kofi Annan, culminating in a National Accord to create a grand coalition government,

1. Hails the maturity of the people of Kenya for embracing democracy, as demonstrated by the peaceful elections conducted on 27 December 2007;

2. Deeply deplores the loss of innocent lives and the critical humanitarian situation brought about by the post-election violence;

3. Condemns all acts of violence that have taken place, for which there can be no impunity, and underlines the need to protect the human rights of all in Kenya, to stop the abuses and gender-related violence and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law;

4. Deeply regrets the death of Melitus Were and David Kimutai Too, two newly elected Members of Parliament, and expresses solidarity with the Kenyan Parliament on the loss of colleagues;

5. Calls for all acts of violence to be urgently and thoroughly investigated through appropriate means and in a way that helps to restore the trust of the Kenyan people in democracy;

6. Also calls on the Government of Kenya to ensure that offences under the Electoral Offences Act are impartially and rigorously investigated and perpetrators held accountable for their actions, and in this regard commends the creation of the Election Inquiry Commission;

7. Further calls on the Kenyan authorities to ensure adequate protection and assistance for all displaced persons, wherever they are, without ethnic discrimination, and to meet their obligations regarding the social and economic rights of those displaced (access to food, health and education services), resettlement and land disputes;

8. Calls on all parties to put in place, and to promote, a sequence of confidence-building measures in order to encourage the safe return and resettlement of the refugees and internally displaced persons;

9. Is deeply concerned at the repercussions of the political crisis, its detrimental effect on the country’s socioeconomic development and the economic consequences for neighbouring countries, which depend to a large extent on Kenya’s infrastructure and whose humanitarian situation is being undermined by the crisis;

10. Strongly condemns the increase in sexual violence that has occurred as a result of the political turmoil, and is particularly concerned by the plight of women and girls in refugee camps; calls, in this respect, on the Kenyan authorities to ensure appropriate medical care for victims and calls for the police to encourage them to report crimes and to take all reports of sexual violence seriously;
11. Commends the Government of Kenya and the Orange Democratic Movement for embarking on a peaceful search for a solution to the political crisis arising out of the presidential elections of 27 December 2007;

12. Welcomes the National Accord between the Government and the Orange Democratic Movement on power sharing; encourages its ongoing implementation and calls for accelerated assistance in order to consolidate peace and security;

13. Supports the Parliament of Kenya for initiating the legal and constitutional instruments necessary for operationalising the Accord; congratulates it for unanimously approving, on 18 March 2008, the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and the National Accord and Reconciliation Bill, to give effect to the power-sharing agreement;

14. Notes the efforts by both parties to return the country to normality through respect for of the rule of law, which is necessary for securing calm and security in all parts of the country, and respect for human life and private property;

15. Commends the international community, in particular the ACP-EU institutions, the EU, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC) and the Panel of Eminent African Persons including former heads of state, for their great concern and the positive contribution they made during the search for peace;

16. Stresses that their response reflected the internationally agreed and fundamental principle of the responsibility to protect;

17. Welcomes the humanitarian aid provided by the international community;

18. Commends the Government, the people and the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, for welcoming and providing security and humanitarian assistance for the Kenyan refugees; also appreciates the efforts by Yoweri Museveni in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting;

19. Hails the efforts of Kofi Annan and the Panel of Eminent African Persons in assisting Kenya to resolve the political dispute; also appreciates the critical intervention by the current African Union Chairman, Jakaya M. Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

20. Calls for concrete measures to establish a truly impartial electoral commission which will be better able to conduct free and fair elections in the future and to undertake the necessary judicial, constitutional and institutional reforms;

21. Urges that all national law reviews address the pre-election, election and post-election periods, to allow for credible and effective mechanisms for redress of election complaints;

22. Is concerned at the trend of political pluralism towards ethnicisation within democratisation processes, and calls for a serious study into the issue;

23. Further urges all parties to live up to their responsibilities by engaging constructively and fully in the reconciliation process, working jointly through dialogue on all issues, including electoral, constitutional and gender-sensitive reforms, and to agree on a sustainable and consensual political solution to the crisis;

24. Calls upon Kenyan civil society, religious organisations and the people of Kenya to support and promote the process of reconciliation;

25. Calls upon the international community to render adequate assistance for reconstruction of the affected areas, including the urgent resettlement of displaced persons, with special focus on rural areas and slums;

26. Urges the Kenyan authorities to address the economic disparity between the rich and the poor in order to pave the way for a more balanced distribution of wealth in the country; urges them also to address the underlying issues, such as land ownership, that have undermined governance in the country;

27. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the IGAD, the EAC, the EAC Legislative Assembly and the Government and Parliament of Kenya.