

International Cooperation Beyond 2015: How Fit For Purpose Is The ACP-EU Framework?

Biographies of speakers and discussants

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Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU
Avenue de Cortenbergh 75, 1000, Brussels

Session 1: The ACP-EU Partnership – Taking stock and putting Cotonou in a global perspective.

Mr. Simon Maxwell is Chair of the European Think Tanks Group, which brings together leading think tanks on international development from five European countries. He has had a long career in development, including ten years living overseas (in Kenya, India and Bolivia), fifteen years at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, and twelve years as Director of the Overseas Development Institute. He is a Past President of the Development Studies Association of the UK and Ireland, and in 2007 was awarded a CBE for services to international development. For further information see www.simonmaxwell.eu.

Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye is the Executive Director of the Centre africain pour le commerce, l'intégration et le développement (CACID) and the Editor-in-Chief of Passerelles (ENDA-CACIC), a publication on trade and sustainable development. Dr Dieye served as one of the experts of the Regional Negotiating Committee on the West Africa-EU Economic Partnership Agreements and is still involved in several ECOWAS technical committees. Dr Dieye also teaches at the University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD, Senegal), at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and at the Trade Capacity Building and Training Center In Africa (Tanzania). Prior to this, Dr Dieye worked as a programme coordinator on trade for the Dakar-based NGO Enda Tiers Monde and for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva.

Dr. Keith Nurse is Senior Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies and the WTO Chair at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados. He is the former Executive Director of the UWI Consulting Inc. and Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (UWI). He is also teaching at the Arthur Lok Jack School of Business, Trinidad and Tobago. He has published and served as a consultant on a broad range of topics including trade policy, aid for trade, diasporas, creative economy, tourism, innovation governance, global value chains and climate change. He has recently been appointed to the International Union of the Scientific Study of Populations panel on "Population and Development in Small Island Developing States" and to the "Committee for Development Policy", a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council which reviews the status of Least Developed Countries.

Ms. Gina Wharton is Advocacy Advisor of the European Network of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF EN). In her role as co-Chair of the CONCORD Cotonou Working Group, she has represented the voice of European CSOs in diverse fora on key topics of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership. Her thematic areas of expertise include: development policies and funding, the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), with a particular focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), social rights of vulnerable populations and gender equality. She has built an extensive experience in policy dialogue facilitation and capacity building of civil society organisations (CSOs) as a project coordinator and a member of the European Steering Committee of the JAES.

Session 2: Applying a political economy lens to the ACP-EU Partnership - Presentation of the preliminary findings of ECDPM's Political Economy Analysis on Rethinking the ACP-EU Partnership

Mr. Jean Bossuyt is the Head of Strategy at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). Focusing on ACP-EU cooperation, he has been involved in policy and practical work on issues related to democratisation and governance; civil society participation; decentralisation and decentralised cooperation; EU cooperation policies and reform processes. He did fieldwork in several ACP countries and published extensively on ACP-EU cooperation. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked at the Centre for Third World Studies at the University of Ghent, for the Brussels Delegation of the UNHCR and as a civil servant in the Belgian Parliament.

H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes is the Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States for the period 2015 - 2020. Prior to this, Dr. Gomes served as Guyana's Ambassador to Belgium and the EU and as Guyana's representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Dr. Gomes also served as Chair of the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group. He was the Dean of ACP Ambassadors in Brussels and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Sugar and previously served as Chair of the Committee of Ambassadors. Dr Gomes has also worked for the United Nations as a senior adviser in Human Resources Development at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has authored numerous publications in the areas of development and social policy analysis and served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of ECDPM.

H.E. Mrs. Mpeo Mahase-Moiloa is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the Benelux Countries and EU since 2013. She is the current President of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors. From 1991-2002, she served as a Magistrate in the Judiciary of the Kingdom of Lesotho. In 2002, she was elected to Parliament and subsequently appointed Assistant Minister of Law, Justice, Human Rights and the Correctional Services. In 2004, she was promoted to Minister of Employment and Labour. Following the elections in 2007, she was re-elected to Parliament and appointed Minister of Law, Justice, Human Rights and the Correctional Services. The position she held until 2012.

Mr. Koen Doens is the Director for East and Southern Africa and ACP Coordination of the Directorate-General for International cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). Prior to joining DG DEVCO, he was appointed as Head of the Spokespersons' Service for the European Commission. Previously, he had successively served as Deputy Head and Head of Cabinet for the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid and as. Prior to his European experience, Mr Doens worked as a Member of the Cabinet for the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Christian Leffler is the Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues at the European External Action Service (EEAS). Prior to this, he successively served as Head of Cabinet of Commission Vice President Wallström, Deputy Director-General for the Directorate-General International cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), and Managing Director for Americas at the EEAS. Previously, he had served as Head of Unit and Director for various European departments. Prior to his European experience, he worked for the Swedish Foreign Service in Cairo and Paris and then for the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry in Stockholm.

Session 3: Exploring the building blocks of a future partnership relation

Dr. Daniel C. Bach is a Director of research (Emeritus) of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) at the Emile Durkheim Centre - Comparative Political Science and Sociology, University of Bordeaux. He is also a professor at Sciences Po Bordeaux and has previously taught in various universities in Nigeria, Canada, Portugal, UK, Japan and Italy. A former Director of Centre d'Etude d'Afrique noire of Bordeaux, he was a Deakin Fellow at St Antony's College (Oxford University), a Fulbright scholar (Boston University) and a Fellow of the Indian Council for Social Studies Research (Jawaharlal Nehru University). His latest book on Regionalism in Africa. Genealogies, institutions and trans-state networks is due to be published with Routledge in January 2016.

Dr. Mehari Taddele Maru is a Lead Member of the African Union High Advisory Group and the Chief Strategist for Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He was former Programme Coordinator at African Union Commission, Programme Head for Conflict Prevention and Risk Analysis of Institute for Security Studies, and Director for University Reform at Addis Ababa University. Adjunct Assistant Professor at Addis Ababa University, a specialist in human rights and humanitarian law, Dr. iur. Mehari lectures at UN Institute for Economic Development and Planning (Senegal), and African Center for Strategic Studies (USA) and NATO Defense College (NDC). An expert in Public Policy and Administration, Management and Peace & Security as well as Migration, he serves as freelance strategist on peace and security, political and migration issues.

Ms. Shada Islam is the Director of Policy at Friends of Europe and is also responsible for the Asia Programme and for the Development Policy Forum. Prior to joining Friends of Europe, Ms Islam has been the Europe correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review and has previously worked on Asian and Development policy issues at the European Policy Centre. As a journalist, she also worked extensively on development questions including relations between the EU and ACP states as well as on world trade, including the Doha Round.

H.E. Fatumanava III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru is the Ambassador of Samoa in Brussels. Previously, he was Samoa's Trade Commissioner to New Zealand. From 2000 to 2005, he was Assistant Secretary-General of the ACP Group, Political Affairs and Human Development in Brussels. Dr Luteru held various positions leading Pacific-EU matters in the design and facilitation of projects for Pacific ACP member states under the Lome IV Convention. He also held several academic positions at the University of the South Pacific including Director of Planning and Development and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Islands and Oceans. Dr Luteru holds a PhD (Flinders University, Australia) specializing in Development Economics, Strategic Planning, Management, and Aid Policies.

Mr. David Jessop is the former Managing Director of the Caribbean Council and of Britain's Cuba Initiative, the bi-lateral UK-Cuba investment and trade body. He has worked on Caribbean issues for over forty years. During that time he has provided high level support and advice to industries, associations, governments and companies on investment, trade policy and political issues in the Caribbean, the UK and continental Europe. He also worked as advisor to the Caribbean Britain Business Council and as publisher of Caribbean Insight and Cuba Briefing. Previously, Mr Jessop worked with a wide range of publications in the Caribbean and Central America as a journalist and Editor.

Mr. Koos Richelle is the former Director-General of DG AIDCO and DG Development (2001-10) and of DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (2011-14). He currently serves as a member of the Supervisory Board of SNV, the Board of Trustees of Friends of Europe and the Advisory Council for International Affairs (AIV). Previously, he has worked for various ministries in the Netherlands, serving successively in various functions for the Ministry of Education and Sciences, as Director General for the Ministry of Welfare & Health, as DG for International Cooperation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as Project DG for the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour.