

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU 3550/03/fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on research and sustainable development

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
 - having regard to the outcome of the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa),
 - having regard to the ACP Ministerial Forum and the ACP-EU Technical Meeting on Research for Sustainable Development, held in Cape Town (South Africa) on 28 July 2002 and 29-30 July 2002 respectively,
- A. whereas the poverty which plagues most ACP States is not just about the relative lack of material resources but is also due to inadequate and poor access to economic, technical and socio-political knowledge, thereby impeding sustainable development,
 - B. whereas cooperation with development partners, as well as intra-ACP cooperation, has made a positive contribution to the advances made in ACP States,
 - C. having regard to the people-centred approach promoted in the ACP Vision for Sustainable Development,
 - D. aware that increased appropriation of knowledge is a key element in re-establishing a fair balance in the global market economy,
 - E. having regard to the European Commission's communication 'Towards a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' (COM (2002)82), which emphasises the need for global partnerships,
 - F. aware that the widening gap between poor and rich countries is partly due to the inequalities in the way knowledge is produced and used,
 - G. noting the international cooperation component of the EC's Sixth Framework Programme for Research (FP6), which relates specifically to problems of third (including developing) countries,
 - H. acknowledging the commitment made by the ACP countries through their Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development of 28 July 2002,
 - I. mindful of the critical importance of new technologies such as information and communication technologies (ICTs) for increasing productivity and contributing to the Millennium Development Goals,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo)

1. Stresses the need for ACP countries, through their partnership with the EU, to turn their commitments as indicated in the Country Strategy Papers into progress guided by concerted political will, financial support and genuine development partnerships that link knowledge to innovation systems and skills development;
2. Calls on ACP countries to ensure that the results of sound research are transformed into effective development policies by adopting long-term integrative perspectives of the development process;
3. Calls on the EU to support the efforts of ACP countries in embracing new technologies through research collaboration and capacity-building as a means of exploiting the economic and social opportunities in the global market;
4. Urges ACP countries to implement the provisions of JPA Resolution ACP-EU 3228/A/01 on 'means of access to global communication for ACP countries adopted in Brussels on 1 November 2001, and urges the EU to provide the necessary support;
5. Calls on the European Commission to encourage institutions in ACP countries to participate in the new instruments of FP6, particularly the networks of excellence and the integrated projects, and to take advantage of the increased opportunities for the mobility and training of scientists;
6. Calls for increased research partnerships between the EU Member States and ACP partners in understanding the processes of environmental change and developing sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water resources, agricultural production, energy and transport;
7. Calls on the EU Member States to facilitate the attainment of the targets set out by ACP countries in their Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development of 28 July 2002, through the cooperation programmes;
8. Stresses the need for research collaboration between ACP countries and EU Member States to reinforce continuity of research efforts targeting universal access to quality health care in ACP countries;
9. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and the European Commission.