



## **DRAFT DECLARATION**

### **OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA) PARLIAMENTARIANS ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ESA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

**JULY, 2007**

**ADDIS ABABA**

We, the Parliamentarians for the Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESA), meeting at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from July 6-7, 2007 to assess the progress made in the EPA negotiations between ESA and EC and to formulate an appropriate regional strategy aimed at speeding up the negotiations with a view to concluding an agreement leading to sustainable socio-economic development and promote ESA regional economic integration, have agreed to make the following Declaration:

#### **Recalling**

- The objectives spelt out in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between ACP countries and EU signed on June 23, 2000:
- The Sixth WTO Ministerial Declaration adopted in Hong Kong on Doha Development Agenda (DDA) concerning particularly the development dimension of trade and financing of trade related activities, including Aid for Trade;
- The AU Declarations on EPAs and the need to coordinate negotiations among the different regional organizations in order to achieve the development objectives of EPAs

#### **Welcome**

- The EC offer on full duty free quota free market access under EPAs
- The EU MDG facility, especially the conclusions of the Council for "General Affairs and External Relations" on the five key areas, namely: a) speeding up the pace of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; b) development financing; c) trade and development; d) policy coherence for development and e) priority to Africa and;

- The decision of the Council for "General Affairs and External Relations" of the EU to i) provide additional support for adjustment under aid for trade as adjustment costs for developing countries will probably be high; ii) ensure coherence of EU policies for development, trade and agriculture and iii) earmark a substantial allocation as trade related aid.
- G 8 commitments for development support to Africa

**Considering that :**

- ESA has invested significantly in regional consensus building leading to the draft EPA text which is now the basis of negotiations together with proposals by EC.
- That there are draft joint text in three of the six clusters under negotiations yet the time remaining is not adequate to complete negotiations in all areas
- There is still need for clarifications on the position of both ESA and EU in several areas, including fisheries, agriculture and trade related issues
- EPA negotiations have made progress particularly with regard to comprehensive coverage of development in the EPA text, but that EU specific commitments are yet to be defined;
- EPA must be a tool for the promotion of regional integration as well as being WTO compatible, by ensuring special and differential treatment to preserve and strengthen the gains of Cotonou.

**Concerned that :**

- The progress of negotiations has lagged behind the time line specified in the ESA-EC road map towards concluding the EPA by 31 December 2007;
- The continued delay in the conclusion of the WTO negotiations in relation to the Doha Development Agenda has made it more difficult to conclude an EPA that is compatible with the expectations of developing countries, particularly LDCs;
- The current high speed of negotiations driven by the need to complete on time risks compromising the content of EPA to the detriment of ESA side.
- ESA parliamentarians are being brought into the process rather late

**Declare as follows :**

- Development must form the linchpin for EPA. The development aspect of EPA must entail clear commitments of additional resources and their availability, development indicators, safeguard measures in the field of

agriculture, inclusion of ESA's supply side requirements, and provision of an adequate transition period for the implementation of EPA;

- ESA and EC parliamentarians must be involved in the monitoring of EPA negotiations and implementation to ensure that EPA delivers on development and that the parties meet their commitment in this respect;
- The deadline for completion of negotiations in all six clusters cannot be met given the amount of work that remains to be done.
- Both parties should seek an extension of the deadline so negotiations in all areas are completed before signing the EPA

### **Call upon**

- Both parties to immediately start to take necessary transitional measures to ensure that there will be no disruption to mutual trade as from 1 January 2008 in the likely event that EPA negotiations are not concluded.
- institutionalize in the EPA the ESA/EC joint parliamentary forum charged with monitoring and evaluating impact of EPA implementation on development
- The EC to reduce substantially and simplify the rules and procedures governing disbursements and make EOF funds for development easily accessible;
- The EC to allow adequate flexibility and provide special and differential to ESA region which is largely LOCs.
- Review the date for the completion of the negotiations.
- Both sides to actively involve parliamentarians and NSA in the negotiations