

The “Samoa Agreement”:

A renewed partnership between the European Union and countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific region.

The partnership between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is one of the oldest and most comprehensive cooperation frameworks between the EU and its partner countries.

The previous legal frameworks, the Lomé Convention and the Cotonou Agreement, were signed respectively in 1975 and in 2000.

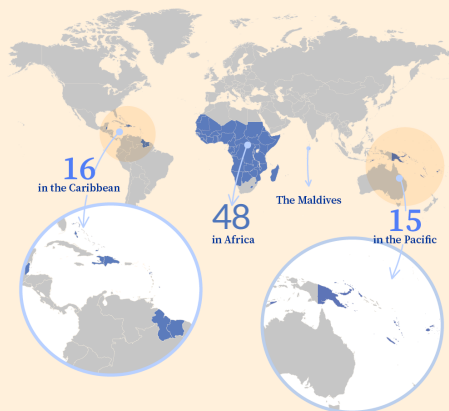
The “Samoa Agreement” signed on 15th November 2023 serves as the new legal framework for EU relations with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, including 48 African countries, 16 countries from the Caribbean and 15 Pacific countries, benefitting around 2 billion people.

The Agreement provisionally entered into force on 1st January 2024 and will last for an initial period of 20 years.

EU relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

The Samoa Agreement is the EU's framework for cooperation with

→ **79**
countries



+ 2
billion people
covered by the agreement



Thanks to the Cotonou Agreement trade between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries grew by almost 60% over the last decade.

The new Samoa Agreement elevates the partnership to a new level, providing a modern framework to address new important challenges such as climate change and migration.

Placing new emphasis on gender equity, inclusivity, and pluralism, **the agreement covers six priority areas** with the aim of boosting joint commitments to human rights, democracy, and good governance and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

6 priority areas:



human rights and
democracy



peace and security



development



economic growth



climate change



migration and mobility



To support the implementation of the Samoa Agreement, the EU will work closely with its Member States through **Team Europe Initiatives** and will continue supporting development programmes in ACP partner countries through the **EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI)**. Just some examples are given below.

In Africa, the **“Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package”** will provide 150 billion euros to projects aiming at accelerating the digital and green transition, supporting the development of more sustainable agri-food systems and creating a conducive and transparent policy environment for sustainable private investments. For example, the **Team Europe Initiative “Investing in Young Businesses in Africa”** will contribute to the creation of decent jobs and resilient economies in a number of sub-Saharan countries.

In the Caribbean region, the **“Latin America and Caribbean Investment Facility”** has supported the installation of solar panels increasing the sustainability of the electricity service in Suriname and benefiting 1,410 households.

Finally, in close collaboration with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Team Europe Initiative **“Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific”** will support the development of the Qaliwana and Vatutokotoko cascade hydropower scheme. This will significantly increase the production of renewable electricity in Fiji (between 94 and 167 GWh/year additional) and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



"I am satisfied that our long journey has come to a successful end with the signature of the Samoa Agreement. It will provide a modernised framework to revitalize our relations with the largest grouping of partner countries to provide a platform for dialogue and coordination to face the challenges of our times together. We will do everything to harness the collective power of our four regions. The EU and its Member States – as Team Europe – have launched ambitious investment packages under Global Gateway across all three regions and we push forward to implement these packages."

Jutta Urpilainen,

Commissioner for International Partnerships



"This agreement is a landmark for EU's external relations. The Samoa agreement brings together more than half of the UN members, from four continents, around shared priorities and interests. We are definitely moving away from the old paradigms and instruments that linked the EU to most of those countries into win-win partnerships that are fit for the current world. At a moment in time where multilateralism is in danger, the fact so many countries can come together and agree on joining forces to face global challenges opens a door for optimism."

Josep Borrell,

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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