

DECLARATION OF THE PAN AFRICAN EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION

(Tunis, 6 May 2000)

Noting the recognition of the private sector and trade as engines of growth and the development process in the context of the Cairo Declaration and the new ACP/EU Partnership Agreement.

Reiterating our strong will to reinforce our capacity so that the private sector can fully play its due role as the creator of wealth and employment.

Stressing the fact that the new agreement is a fundamental challenge for successful regional integration and contributes to a better understanding of the international trade system by the ACP countries.

Welcoming the proposal presented by the European Union aimed at providing support for the integration of ACP States in the international trade system within the framework of the World Trade Organisation.

We, Members of the Executive Council of the Pan African Employers' Confederation acting in the capacity of representatives of the private sector in Africa, declare that it is vital that the private sector benefits from substantial support for this initiative at least in the same proportion as the public sector, given the fact that the private sector is the main player in the international trade system and to whom the trade regulations apply.

