



Republic of Botswana

TELEGRAMS: DEFA
TELEPHONE : 3600700
TELEX : 2414 BD
Fax : 3913366

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION
PRIVATE BAG 00368
Gaborone

PRESS STATEMENT

GABORONE, 4 June 2018: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that, Hon. Minister Vincent T. Seretse participated in the 107th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States Council of Ministers held in Lomé, Togo from 27th – 31st May 2018.

The purpose of the ACP Council of Ministers meeting was to prepare for the negotiations of a successor Cooperation Agreement between the ACP Group of States and the European Union (EU). The current Agreement (Cotonou Agreement) expires on 29th February 2020.

The major outcome of the ACP Council of Ministers' meeting was the adoption of a Negotiating Mandate for a Post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the EU. The adopted Mandate has three Pillars, namely:

1. Trade, Investment, Industrialisation and Services
2. Development Cooperation, Technology, Science Innovation and Research
3. Political Dialogue and Advocacy.

The primary objective of the ACP Group of States is to negotiate a new Agreement with the EU that can help them address the challenges of under-development, poverty, inequality and vulnerability. The negotiations with the EU are scheduled to begin in August 2018.

Botswana will actively participate in the negotiations as a Member of the Central Negotiating Group. As an Upper Middle Income economy, Botswana will advocate for an inclusion in the new Agreement of a provision for assistance to Middle Income Countries to address the Middle Income trap.

Another important milestone of the meeting was the decision to establish an Ad Hoc Ministerial Contact Group on tax matters to engage in dialogue with the EU, concerning the EU List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions for Tax Purposes. From the ACP's perspective, the dialogue should be comprehensive in relation to taxation issues, including compliance challenges and capacity constraints faced by developing countries in implementing tax policy.

The 79-Member ACP Group has a long-standing historic and mutually beneficial partnership with the EU dating back to 1975 with the signing of the Lomé I



