

## **Tonga Signs the Revised Georgetown Agreement of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Group of States**

Her Excellency, the Honourable Titilupe Fanetupouvava'u Tu'ivakano, Tonga's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom was authorised through the instrument of delegation, to sign the revised Georgetown Agreement on behalf of Tonga.

The signing was completed on 7 April, 2021 at the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACPS) Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

One of the significant changes in the Agreement include the change in the name of the organization from the ACP Group of States to the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACPS).

Tonga has been a member of the ACP since its inception in 1975 and has also signed the founding agreement of the group, the Georgetown Agreement. The Georgetown Agreement of the ACP Group of States was revised after more than forty years of its operation and endorsed by the ACP Summit. This was to enable its modernisation to consider the current geopolitical context and to succinctly transform the Group into an independent and multilateral organisation, well equipped with the structure and leadership to address issues of concern and ensuring that it has the financial resources to do so.

Tonga has benefited from the ACP/EU Cooperation through development cooperation provided by the European Union under the European Development Fund arrangement.

In ratifying the Agreement, Tonga reaffirms its commitment and support to further solidarity among the Member States of the OACPS especially during these trying times with COVID-19. Tonga supports the need to strengthen cooperation amongst member states, to successfully take full advantage of the global economy.

ENDS



Her Excellency Hon Fanetupouvava' u Tu'ivakano, Legal Counsel OACPS, Dr.E.Opoku Awuku and Secretary Major S.K.Kaho.