

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Third Ordinary Session
6 – 8 July 2004
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

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Revised Version

DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS

**DECLARATION ON THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE EU COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY (CAP) AND ITS IMPACT ON TRADE IN COMMODITIES
WITH ACP COUNTRIES**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July, 2004:

Recalling the Kigali Declaration on the Doha Work Programme and the Kigali consensus on the Post-Cancun Doha Work Programme adopted by the 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Kigali from 24 to 28 May 2004, and endorsed by this Assembly;

Having taken note of the ongoing review process of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);

Considering the crucial role played by agriculture in sustaining the socio-economic fabric of developing, least-developed, land-locked and Small Island Developing States;

Conscious that the development of these countries is heavily dependent on the preferential EU-ACP arrangements governing the access, at guaranteed prices of commodities, in particular banana, rice and sugar to the EU market;

Cognizant of the fact that there is a direct correlation between commodity dependence and poverty levels especially in circumstances of perennial declining prices;

Express great concern at the sharp decline and fluctuation of prices of commodities which has created a crisis in most African commodity exporting countries, the majority of whom are either least-developed countries and/or heavily indebted African countries;

Support the Maputo Declaration adopted by the 4th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government on 21 June 2004 and in particular the relevant paragraphs on trade in commodities;

Call on our long-standing development partners of the EU to ensure that the reform of the CAP including the review of the EC sugar regimes does not adversely affect the vital interests of the ACP countries, in particular of those Member States of the African Union;

Request the AU Commission to continuously monitor developments relating to the CAP reform process and periodically report to the Assembly.