

JOINT DECLARATION

between the European Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories Greenland, New Caledonia and Dependencies, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena and Dependencies, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda on reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy

1. Acknowledging that sustainable energy has been identified by the Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the Union as a fundamental tool for the promotion of economic, social and environmental development;
2. Noting that the Overseas Countries and Territories Energy Ministers' Summit held in Brussels in June 2015 agreed on the Overseas Countries and Territories Association Sustainable Energy Roadmap, which outlines possible actions with a view to increasing the provision of modern, secure, competitive and sustainable energy services to the Overseas Countries and Territories;
3. Welcoming the results of this Overseas Countries and Territories Energy Ministers' Summit, including the definition of commonly shared policy priorities on sustainable energy, and noting that these priorities are based on key policy and strategy studies, with a detailed assessment of the situation, analysis of potential and role to be played by renewable sources in the future energy mix in the Overseas Countries and Territories, and, usually, with an indication of the means and resources to be mobilised to reach the targets and a provisional timeline for implementation;
4. Acknowledging the importance of supporting the Overseas Countries and Territories in their efforts to become less dependent on fossil fuels, with a view to reducing their vulnerability to fuels access and price volatility, thus making their economy more resilient and less vulnerable to external shocks. The Union could assist the Overseas Countries and Territories in the actions and measures they undertake for this purpose;
5. Taking into account the complementarity of the Union actions with those of other partners and the need to leverage more significant amounts of financing through limited public sector funds, and to put appropriate sustainable technologies to the benefit of as many citizens as possible;

6. Recognising that a reinforced cooperation between the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories, their neighbouring Countries and/or Outermost regions, where possible, can help create the necessary conditions for increased investment, prevent duplication and dispersion of funding and leverage greater efforts;
7. Confident that a reinforced cooperation can accelerate territorial energy objectives, significantly increase sustainable energy access, achieve reliable and cost-effective electricity generation and can help supply affordable and modern energy services to the population while improving the efficiency of energy infrastructure and use. This effort can contribute to revitalising Overseas Countries and Territories' economies by maximising economic, social and environmental benefits, and can contribute to increased resilience to crises and disasters;
8. Recognising and building upon previous and existing cooperation within the territorial and regional context.
9. The Union endeavours to support proposals from the Overseas Countries, notably aimed at:
 - a. The development, promotion, use and storage of sustainable energy from renewable energy sources;
 - b. The formulation of policies and adoption of regulations guaranteeing affordable and sustainable energy tariffs;
 - c. The development and introduction of energy efficiency standards and implementation of energy efficiency measures in different sectors (industrial, commercial, public and households), as well as accompanying education and awareness activities;
 - d. The development, promotion and use of more environmental-friendly public and private transport means;
 - e. The promotion and introduction of high environment quality standards and high energy performance in urban planning and construction; and
 - f. The promotion of energy self-sufficient (renewable energy-based) and/or green tourism infrastructures.
10. The Union aims to support:
 - a. Improved sector dialogue on energy;
 - b. The provision of technical assistance to Overseas Countries and Territories to promote and prepare relevant renewable and energy efficiency projects and provide the technical knowledge transfer between the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories;
 - c. The identification of potential energy projects that could be financed with the assistance of the Union in order to increase the access of the population to modern energy services;
 - d. The promotion of the mobilisation of the private sector and civil society in the field of energy, e.g. through the organisation of business fora, industrial secondment programs, and other strategic capacity building interventions to inform and attract the private sector and financing institutions towards sustainable energy investments in the Overseas Countries and Territories;

- e. The achievement by the Overseas Countries and Territories of sustainable energy development goals by considering capacity building where clear capacity constraints are present.

The Overseas Countries and Territories endeavour to:

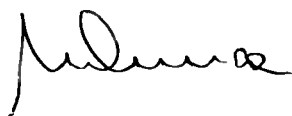
- a. Provide a regulatory and legislative environment that contributes to the development of a sustainable energy sector.
- b. Promote the use of sustainable energy technologies and solutions with a view to limiting the negative climate and environment related impacts of energy generation and use.
- c. Lead and coordinate the sector dialogue through programme steering on energy, ensuring transparency of information related to funding and project preparation in the sector.
- d. Promote private sector investment and engagement in the sector.

This Declaration does not, nor is it intended to create any binding, legal or financial obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

Done at Brussels, on 26 February 2016, in two original copies. Each signatory retains one copy.

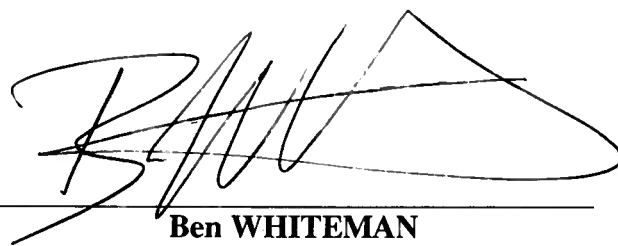
**ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION**

**FOR THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES
AND TERRITORIES**



Neven MIMICA

Commissioner for International Cooperation
and Development



Ben WHITEMAN

OCTA Chair,
Prime Minister of Curaçao

