

Statement in response to the ACP Declaration of 28 September 2010

In light of the “Declaration of the 21st session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly on the peaceful co-existence of religions and the importance given to the phenomenon of homosexuality in the ACP-EU partnership” adopted by the ACP States on 28 September, the EU Members of the JPA ACP-EU of the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens and GUE Parliamentary Groups agree with the call to reinforce the vigilance and to take, individually and collectively, all the necessary measures to push back inter-religious intolerance which is an obstacle to the harmonious development of individuals and societies and to promote peaceful co-existence and mutual respect among all religious communities.

However, the EU Members of the JPA ACP-EU of the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens and GUE Parliamentary Groups declare the principle that human rights clauses are non-negotiable and should be reinforced.

The European Parliament has reiterated most recently on 23 November in its annual report on the work of the EU-ACP JPA *“the principle of the universality of human rights and non-discrimination as the basis upon which to enhance legitimate democratic governance and the political dialogue at the JPA”*. This House also called last year for negotiations on the second revision of the Cotonou to *“reinforce the principle of non-negotiable human rights clauses and sanctions for failure to respect such clauses, inter alia with regard to discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and towards people living with HIV/AIDS.”*

Therefore, the EU Members of the JPA ACP-EU of the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens and GUE Parliamentary Groups reassert that the principle of non-discrimination, inter alia including on the basis of sexual orientation, will not be compromised in the ACP-EU partnership.