



Declaration

Ministerial Meeting of the African Atlantic States

New York, 23 September 2022

1. The Ministers of the African Atlantic States, meeting in New York on 23 September 2022, on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, reaffirmed their common political commitment, as expressed in the Rabat Declaration of 08 June 2022, to make the African Atlantic space a zone of peace, stability and shared prosperity.
2. The Ministers insisted on the principle of setting up a progressive, collective and solidarity-based partnership between the African Atlantic States, aiming in the long term to deepen the ties of cooperation and integration in the African Atlantic space as well as in the entire South Atlantic region.
3. The Ministers welcomed the steps taken in the structuring of this partnership, in particular the development of the draft Programme of Action of the Process aiming to set its strategic priorities as well as to provide guidance to the collective actions of the African Atlantic States to meet common challenges and identify opportunities for cooperation.
4. The Ministers invited the Permanent Secretariat and the Focal Points to continue the work of coordination and consultation for the finalization of the Programme of Action, in order to submit its final draft to the next Ministerial Meeting for approval.
5. The Ministers stressed the importance of the participation of the African Atlantic States in the work of the three Thematic Groups created by the Rabat Declaration: i) political and security dialogue; (ii) blue economy, maritime connectivity and energy; and (iii) sustainable development and environment.
6. The Ministers thanked Nigeria, Cabo Verde and Gabon for assuming the role of Lead Partners of the three Thematic Groups respectively.
7. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Process, in Rabat (Morocco), in charge of the implementation of the decisions of the African Atlantic States, and underscored the crucial role of the Focal Points in preparing joint decisions based on a consensual and collaborative approach.
8. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the designation of the Focal Points in order to facilitate consultation and coordination among the members of the initiative.
9. The Ministers highlighted the need of energizing this partnership through concrete actions and cooperation initiatives that will benefit the stability and collective development in the African Atlantic space.
10. The Ministers recognized the importance of disseminating the vision, the objectives and the opportunities of the African Atlantic Partnership among the national actors of the Members of the Initiative as well as among the international actors.
11. The Ministers decided to hold two meetings each year. One of these meetings will be held on the margins of the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
12. The Ministers decided to hold their next Ministerial Meeting, in Rabat, in the first quarter of 2023.