

- (ii) Strengthen partnerships at national and regional level.

ANNEX V

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PARTIES ON THE OBJECTIVES AND ESSENTIAL AND FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF THIS AGREEMENT

1. Advancing economic development is an essential part of how the UK is helping to make the global economy work for all. As set out in the UK's Economic Development Strategy 2017, the UK is focused on trade as an engine for poverty reduction; the UK is committed to building the potential for developing countries to trade more with the UK and the rest of the world.

2. As the UK leaves the EU, it is seeking to maintain the effects of all existing EU trade agreements and preferential arrangements, including the EU's Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. This will ensure that the UK maintains the greatest amount of certainty, continuity and stability in its trade and investment relationships for our businesses, citizens and trading partners.

3. As the UK leaves the EU, the Signatory ESA States seek continuity in their preferential trade market access to the UK market as it currently exists under the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between the Eastern and Southern African States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part through a new agreement. This will ensure that there is no trade disruption between the ESA States and the UK and promote further trade opportunities and development between the Parties.

4. In light of this, the Parties agree that the following principles and procedures shall apply to this Agreement.

Objectives and Essential and Fundamental Elements of this Agreement

5. The UK will continue to promote the economic and social development of its EPA partners. This Agreement shall be centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty in a way that is consistent with the objectives of sustainable development.

6. Respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, and full compliance with and national implementation of existing obligations under international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties shall underpin the domestic and international policies of the UK and of the Signatory ESA States, and constitute the essential elements of this Agreement. Good governance shall also underpin the domestic and international policies of the UK and the Signatory ESA States and constitutes a fundamental element of this Agreement.

Political dialogue

7. The UK and the Signatory ESA States shall support regular engagement through comprehensive and balanced political dialogue to facilitate their shared agendas.

8. If the UK or a Signatory ESA State considers the other to be failing to fulfil an obligation stemming from respect for the essential and fundamental elements of this Agreement, they shall attempt to address this as part of their regular dialogue. If issues persist, they shall share information required for examining the situation, and if necessary hold consultations focused on measures to remedy the situation.

9. Those consultations, which shall begin within 30 days of any invitation to hold them, shall continue for a period established by mutual agreement, though lasting no longer than 120 days.

10. If this process does not lead to an acceptable solution for both the UK and the Signatory ESA State, if consultations are refused, or in exceptional cases of particularly serious and flagrant violation of the essential or fundamental elements of this Agreement, requiring an immediate reaction, appropriate measures may be taken.

11. Such measures would be taken in accordance with international law, and proportional to the violation, with priority given to those measures which least disrupt the application of this Agreement. Suspension of this Agreement would be a measure of last resort.

Development cooperation

12. The UK and the Signatory ESA States place great importance on the successful implementation of this Agreement, and on the continuing trade and development relationship between them. The UK already holds a productive relationship with its EPA partners, and looks forward to developing further these relationships as it leaves the EU.

13. Any UK development cooperation in support of these agreements shall continue to be primarily guided by the principles of the internationally agreed aid effectiveness agenda and the UK Partnership Principles, and aims to reduce poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.