

**BEYOND CONDITIONALITY : HUMAN RIGHTS IN
EU DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

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ABSTRACT

Respect for human rights has become a regular feature of EU development agreements with developing countries. However, there appears to be a disagreement as to whether such a human rights clause is merely a conditionality to be observed only by the developing countries or whether it creates reciprocal obligations for the parties. This paper argues that the human rights clause creates reciprocal obligations for both developing and developed nations at least within the context of their trade relations. It further contends that reference to human rights in the ACP-EU partnership should be seen as more than a mechanism for the imposition of restrictive measures, particularly sanctions, by the European Union. Rather it should be interpreted as reinforcing the notion of international assistance and cooperation which is geared towards furthering the goal of economic social and cultural development to which the ACP countries aspire.

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