



**Association Cotonnière Africaine  
African Cotton Association**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Douala Declaration: African Cotton Companies Call for Action to Preserve a Strategic Pillar of the Continent**

Douala, Cameroon – 13 February 2026

On 12 and 13 February 2026, Top Executives of cotton companies in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Chad held an extraordinary executive committee meeting in Douala under the auspices of the African Cotton Association (ACA) to discuss the situation of the African cotton sector and its prospects.

At the end of their deliberations, the participants adopted the Douala Declaration, emphasising the essential role of cotton in African economies and calling for collective action to ensure the stability and sustainability of this strategic sector.

In producing countries, cotton is a major pillar of rural development, a catalyst for job creation, an important source of foreign exchange and a key factor in social stability. More than 30 million people in sub-Saharan Africa depend directly or indirectly on this sector for their livelihoods. Cotton also contributes to shaping regions, financing local economies and strengthening food security.

African cotton companies are facing a particularly difficult international environment, marked by exogenous shocks, extreme volatility and growing distortions in the global market, which are undermining the competitiveness of African cotton.

For more than three seasons, world prices have been falling steadily, fuelled by economic tensions, high stocks, heavily subsidised competition and an unfavourable euro-dollar exchange rate. In this context, there is no credible option in sight to foresee a lasting recovery.

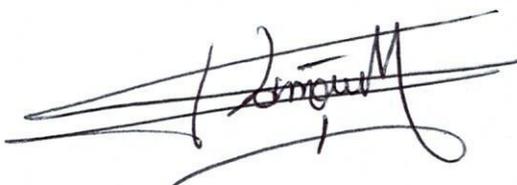
The discussions within ACA confirm widespread financial fragility: recurring deficits, cash flow problems, difficulties in accessing credit and the risk of bankruptcy in several countries.

Participants emphasised that preserving the cotton industry is a major challenge not only for economic development, but also for social stability and the resilience of rural areas. The Douala Declaration therefore calls for collective action by the African governments concerned to ensure a sustainable future for this sector, which is essential for Africa.

The African Cotton Association and its members reaffirm their determination to work closely with governments, producer organisations and technical and financial partners to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the African cotton sector.

**Done in Douala, 13 February 2026**

**The President of African Cotton Association (A.C.A.)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Zingou', is written over several horizontal lines. The signature is stylized and somewhat obscured by the lines.