



# ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

{1994-2014}

20 YEARS PROMOTING  
COOPERATION IN  
THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



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{1994-2014}

20 YEARS PROMOTING  
COOPERATION IN  
THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



Association of Caribbean States  
Asociación de Estados del Caribe  
Association des États de la Caraïbe

SRE  
SECRETARÍA DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES



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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

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## NAVIGATION GUIDE Tap for...







# OUR PERSPECTIVE





# Foreword

**BY ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO**  
PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

In earlier times, the oceans were natural barriers that kept peoples apart. Today, the seas, especially the Caribbean, are valuable bridges connecting nations and facilitating trade, mobility, and cultural exchange.

On July 24, 1994, with the signing of the Treaty of Cartagena, 25 countries decided to avail ourselves of the vast potential of our shared sea and form the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The purpose was to identify common challenges and establish shared goals to create better conditions for the development of all peoples in the region.

Twenty years later, we meet in Mexico to celebrate our renewed bond. We have agreed on an agenda that includes issues of vital importance, such as tourism, transportation, trade, and management of natural disasters. Our goals are to promote priority economic activities, to strengthen connectivity, and to increase the competitiveness of the region.

This e-book presents an account of two decades of achievements by the ACS and reflects on the challenges we face today.

I congratulate the Association on this symbolic anniversary and acknowledge those who, with dedication, determination, and effort, make the Greater Caribbean a force for unification among our nations.





# Message from the Secretary-General of the ACS

**BY ALFONSO MÚNERA CAVADÍA**  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

In reviewing the performance and achievements of the Association of Caribbean States for the year 2013, there is much for us as citizens of the Greater Caribbean to recognise. After a long pause, we convened the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Pétionville, Haiti. The results were extremely positive: we approved an excellent Declaration in which the leaders reaffirmed their support for the Association and, after several months of arduous work, we drafted a Plan of Action that was ambitious yet realistic, with concrete and realisable projects in our priority areas of cooperation. Equally important is the fact that enthusiasm and a greater willingness to consolidate our institution abounded among the Member States. Our gratitude is due to the Government of Haiti and the Haitian people for what can only be described as a tremendously successful event, cognisant of the fact that this Summit occurred no less than 3 years after the major earthquake.

Under the chairmanship of the United Mexican States (as in the past under the chairmanship of the Republic of Panama) we

built upon the foundations laid and made significant progress in clearly defined goals and objectives. Most noteworthy of these achievements included the ratification of the Sustainable Tourism Zone and the work we have initiated on its implementation, as well as the ratification of the Convention on Disaster Risk Reduction; we revived the Special Fund and appointed a Project Manager; we approved the hiring of an expert consultant to steer the work of our Caribbean Sea Commission and approved the convening of a great symposium with participation from organisations specialising in Caribbean Sea matters, as well as donor countries; we launched the cooperation initiative in Education and Culture and all these activities have enabled us to conceptualize and begin work on projects that will contribute to the process of building the regional affinity and strengthening the common identity of the peoples of the Caribbean. All of this is notwithstanding the significant strides we have made in each of the other projects approved in our 2013-2015 Plan of Action.

As we navigate the global and regional challenges that face the economies of our Member States, I am happy to report that the ACS has stepped up favourably to pursue the mandate we are charged with in 2014. The Mexican Government, in its capacity as Chairman of the Ministerial Council, acted with deep conviction and demonstrated its enthusiasm as evidenced by the



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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ACS

ALFONSO MÚNERA CAVADÍA

THERE IS NO QUESTIONING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACS. ITS GOODNESS HAS ITS ORIGIN IN THE NATURE OF ITS OBJECTIVES, BOTH AMBITIOUS AND NOBLE: IT IS ABOUT NOTHING LESS THAN PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS PEOPLES OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN IN KEY AREAS OF THEIR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

fact that during the Summit in Pétionville, the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, offered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Mérida, Mexico, on April 30, in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ACS. This offer was unanimously accepted and we received with equal enthusiasm his proposal to develop, within the ACS, four major projects in the areas of Trade Facilitation and Disaster Risk Reduction. To date, we have worked fervently to bring the requisite efforts regarding these four projects to fruition, so that we could adopt them during proceeding of the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit for the benefit of the countries of the Greater Caribbean.

The ACS also heralded another event of great significance that took place during the course of this year which must be applauded. Our 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Trinidad and Tobago culminated with the admission of Martinique and Guadeloupe as Associate Members in their own right. Additionally Sint Maarten's participation as an Associate Member was also made official.

All of the foregoing is good news, but I am convinced that the best is yet to come. Our Summit in Mérida will provide an enormous step in the process of consolidating the ACS, and I am confident that we will come away from this historic gathering with tangible results and more importantly a renewed spirit. The convergence necessary to secure the interests of our Greater Caribbean citizens will receive new impetus and the

cooperation required to create a strengthened economic space among the Caribbean islands and Latin American will have finally found a favourable space for its realisation. In that respect, we will have brought to fruition four new macro projects on regional cooperation of tremendous significance, and, with the renewed enthusiasm of our Members, we aim to ensure that we advance steadily along the open road never to be closed again.

ACS Member Countries are home to approximately 300 million people, that is to say, almost 50 percent of the total population of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is often forgotten however, that beyond their borders, in locations very different from one another, there are at least an additional 20 million people, which by right we could refer to as the Greater Caribbean Diaspora. The importance of these Greater Caribbean migrants cannot and should not be underestimated. The value of their remittances and their tremendous potential for tourism (a major economic activity in most of our countries) and for the development of production projects are quite significant. Migration, investment and tourism should be favourable topics for promoting dialogue within the ACS, between nations and their Diaspora, without disregarding the profound significance of the fact that the Caribbean influence is expanding beyond its territories to shape a Caribbean culture whose most outstanding attribute is that of being an increasingly global culture.





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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ACS

ALFONSO MÚNERA CAVADÍA

THE ASSOCIATION IS A UNIQUE SPACE, CREATED TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ISLANDS AND THE CONTINENTAL LATIN AMERICAN CARIBBEAN. DESPITE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, THE ACS REMAINS A REMARKABLE TOOL FOR UNITING THE NATIONS OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN.

There is no questioning the importance of the ACS. Its goodness has its origin in the nature of its objectives, both ambitious and noble: it is about nothing less than promoting cooperation among the various peoples of the Greater Caribbean in key areas of their economic, cultural and spiritual growth. This diversity is expressed in the everydayness of their lives, in the languages they use collectively, in the religions they profess, in the heterogeneity of their populations, in the size of said populations and of the territories they inhabit and, in short, in the absence of mutual knowledge, the product of centuries of colonial life under the rule of different empires. Despite all of these differences, they share one identity based on their history and their belonging to a marine basin, which in many respects, has been decisive for their existence.

The Association is a unique space, created to serve as a bridge between the islands and the continental Latin American Caribbean. Despite ideological differences, the ACS remains a remarkable tool for uniting the nations of the Greater Caribbean in executing strategic projects not only for their economic wellbeing but also for their

survival. To draw a single example: cooperation is fundamental if we want to minimise the consequences of both climate change and the structural vulnerability of most of our countries. And that is also the case with respect to any effort made to overcome the current and profound crises being suffered by Caribbean economies.

No man is an Island and it falls to us to seize this opportunity to do all that is necessary to improve the collective benefits and future rewards that can redound to our Greater Caribbean citizens. It is our duty to strengthen this unique vehicle that is the Association of Caribbean States so that it could better fulfil its established objectives. The 6<sup>th</sup> Summit in Mérida will provide a strong foundation to facilitate our taking the necessary collaborative steps forward. It is thus only fitting to express our heartfelt thanks to the Mexican Government for its enthusiasm and effort in organising the event. This is also the opportunity to thank the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the invaluable support provided as Host Country of the Association over these twenty years, which it celebrates today.





# Mexico and the Association of Caribbean States

BY JOSÉ ANTONIO MEADE KURIBREÑA  
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO

**T**he creation of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in 1994 coincided with a moment in Mexican history at which a shift occurred in the nation's economic paradigm. In 1986, Mexico had concluded negotiations for joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which started a process of economic liberalization, deregulation, and increasing cooperation and integration with countries considered trade partners.

One element that guided this new vision was recognizing that the future of the world economy was increasingly dependent on international economic trade flows, which forced Mexico to establish spaces of integration in order to strengthen its productive base and gradually link it to international value chains. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which came into effect on January 1, 1994, marked the beginning of a new stage in economic development, and it led to the negotiation and signing of several similar agreements with other countries and regions.

This was the context of the initiative to create a space for greater regional cooperation presented by Member Countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, as well as Central American countries. This initiative aimed to deepen the relationship among the countries bordering the Caribbean Sea and to promote greater exchange and connectivity. The common interests of the countries that drove this project were immediately obvious: this was a geographically-linked region with a common history that was driven by the desire to consolidate an area of shared prosperity.

Mexico played an active role from the early days of the initiative, hosting one of the negotiation meetings for the Association Convention from June 3 to 5, 1994, during which the foundational text was written. This enabled the Cartagena Conference to be convened, where the Convention was finally adopted.

As a founding Member, Mexico signed the Cartagena Convention on July 24, 1994, and deposited its instrument of ratification on April 28, 1995, a few months before the ACS began operations. As further evidence of Mexico's strong interest in participating in this major initiative, Mexico was elected as the first president of the Ministerial Council for 1996. This was a period that clearly defined the institutional framework of the Association, including its first work





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## MEXICO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEADE KURIBREÑA

THIS YEAR, MEXICO IS THE HOST OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SUMMIT OF THE ASSOCIATION, THEREBY REINFORCING OUR INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR THE REGION, CONVINCED OF THE GREAT PROMISE IT HOLDS.

program, which has since identified the following priority issues: trade, transportation, tourism, and the preservation of the Caribbean Sea as a common heritage.

Subsequently, Mexico was again honored with the presidency of the Ministerial Council for the 2004 and 2013 periods.

During its 2013 presidency, Mexico made a major effort to encourage Member Countries to consider ambitious goals and achieve concrete results. To this end, at the beginning of its term in office, it established a work program based on the organization's priorities that was designed to encourage specific contributions in each area.

Such efforts included a workshop in Mexico City on the role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in resolving disputes relating to the Law of the Sea for the Caribbean. This forum provided information that was useful for the discussions of the ACS Caribbean Sea Commission.

Another accomplishment was the organization of the International Workshop on Integrated Natural Disaster Risk Management, a concern of paramount importance to the region. This workshop discussed aspects of disaster management, as well as the integration of geospatial data systems and structural vulnerability management. Special emphasis was placed on the need to share experiences of situations of risk and rapid response, civil protection strategies in the tourism industry, legal facilities for

sending and receiving humanitarian aid, and financial instruments for disaster risk management.

Furthermore, the Mexican presidency helped organize a campaign to promote the ratification of the convention establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean (STZC) and the Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters. These agreements entered into force in November 2013 and March 2014, respectively.

This year, Mexico is the host of the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Association, thereby reinforcing our interest and willingness to work for the region, convinced of the great promise it holds. In economic terms, the 25 countries that make up the ACS together comprise 5% of global GDP, according to figures from 2012. We received over US \$47 billion in direct foreign investment, and conducted trade valued at US \$1.3 billion.<sup>1</sup> These figures show what has been achieved so far and indicate what can be achieved if the region moves towards even greater integration with international trade flows.

This must be one of the goals that guides the Association in the coming years. Further efforts are required to make this a more competitive, open, and better-connected region. This will be achieved through cooperation and joint actions. With this in mind, Mexico will continue to work at the heart of the ACS. The four new cooperation

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Bank of Mexico, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).



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## MEXICO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEADE KURIBREÑA

THE FOUR NEW COOPERATION PROJECTS ON TRADE FACILITATION AND INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN WHICH THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES BECOMES A TRUE CATALYST FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.

projects on trade facilitation and integrated disaster risk management that have been proposed mark the beginning of a new era in which the Association of Caribbean States becomes a true catalyst for regional cooperation. We are united and encouraged by the aim of identifying regional issues and investing the will and resources necessary in a joint collaboration to develop solutions that make our shared prosperity a reality.

I invite Member States and Associate Members to join this effort by proposing

and promoting cooperation projects with concrete results and positive impacts for our peoples. I encourage you to consolidate our Caribbean identity and to make our region an actor that shares history and ambition, as well as a presence in the international economy. Not only is the Caribbean Sea a place of great innate value, but it should be a factor that brings us together, and motivates us to make a reality of the promise of integration and strength that we made in 1994.





# Trinidad and Tobago and the Association of Caribbean States

## *Past, present and future*

**BY WINSTON DOOKERAN**  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**F**rom its inception to present day, Trinidad and Tobago has been closely connected with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and played an important role in the formative processes, which catalyzed the genesis of the ACS.

How big is the Caribbean? There are several ways to measure the size of the Caribbean – by geography, history and economics. In a sense, there is also the notion of a Caribbean civilization as we embrace countries in Central America, the Caribbean Sea and mainland countries bordering the Caribbean Sea. This civilization is rich in terms of culture, language, heritage and history.

As the Caribbean region draws nearer to each other, speaking several languages, English, Spanish, Dutch, French and Hindi, a new frontier is being created. In economic terms, this allows for a deeper and larger space in which the people of the Caribbean interact.

A recent study published in the *Caribbean Journal*, revealed the following information:

*The economy of CARICOM Member States totals about \$77.4 billion, a number slightly bigger than that of Cuba, which would place the region 65<sup>th</sup> in the world if it were a single country.*

*Looking at the traditional Caribbean, meaning the definition including CARICOM Member States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, the British Overseas Territories, the French and Dutch Caribbean and Cuba, the region's economy swells to about \$352 billion which would put it in the top 33 countries in the world, or just below that of Colombia, according to UN data. Adding countries with Caribbean coastlines like Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala would put the region's total GDP at around \$1.23 trillion, or an economy bigger than that of Mexico and just behind that of Spain – or 14<sup>th</sup> largest in the world, according to UN data.*

This data alone spells out the potential of the ACS and emphasizes the challenge facing diplomacy in the years ahead.

### **The regional framework**

The creation of the ACS in 1994, took place at a time of a rapidly changing external environment featuring the emergence of global blocs, the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the pressure for trade liberalisation. The body was envisaged as



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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

WINSTON DOOKERAN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HOSTING THE SECRETARIAT OF ACS FOR THE ENTIRETY OF ITS TWENTY-YEAR EXISTENCE. WE ARE INDEED GRATIFIED WITH THE COMMENDABLE COMPENDIUM OF TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

a regional organisation for consultation, cooperation and concerted action in the Greater Caribbean to address these and other issues which remain significant for the countries of the Greater Caribbean region.

The ACS seeks to strengthen regional cooperation in order to achieve sustained cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological advancement; develop the potential of the Caribbean Sea; promote an enhanced economic space for trade and investment; and establish the necessary institutional structures and cooperative arrangements responsive to the various cultural identities and developmental needs within the region. Presently, these objectives remain relevant to the interests of the ACS Member States.

There are several Organizations in our region, such as: CARICOM, CELAC, UNASUR, OAS, OECS and SICA, to name a few, which have made such valuable contributions. However, Trinidad and Tobago continues to view the ACS as a crucial pillar in the apparatus of functional cooperation in the Greater Caribbean region.

Trinidad and Tobago has had the privilege of hosting the Secretariat of ACS for the entirety of its twenty-year existence. We are indeed gratified with the commendable compendium of tangible achievements of the Organization. We have always been

confident in the ability of the ACS to perform the role envisaged for it by its founding fathers, and to surpass their expectations as a vehicle for uniting the citizens of the Greater Caribbean region and as an instrument to sustainable well-being. On behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago I wish to express our unequivocal commitment to our duty as Host Country.

Cognizant of its role as Host Country, Trinidad and Tobago has adopted the responsibility of contributing to the well-being of the ACS and ensuring its sustained existence. This has conditioned our country's involvement with the Association's activities and participation in the work of several Special Committees and on the Executive Board of the Ministerial Council; most recently assuming the role of Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Council for the 2014-2015 biennium. Prior to this Trinidad and Tobago accepted the Chairmanship of the Ministerial Council in 2011. Additionally, this country has served as the Chair of the Special Committee for Transport for two terms.

Trinidad and Tobago's membership in the Organisation is predicated on its commitment to the principle of the sanctity of the sovereignty of states. It is a source of pride for this country, that the ACS has maintained its democratic nature with each Member State, irrespective of its individual circumstances, enjoying the same participatory rights as any other.



## OUR PERSPECTIVE

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

WINSTON DOOKERAN

ONE NOVEL ASPECT OF THE PROPOSED CONVERGENCE FRAMEWORK IS A NEW FORM OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITHIN AN 'ECONOMY OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA' BUILT ON PRODUCTION INTEGRATION, DISTRIBUTION AND COMPETITIVENESS.

### The pathway ahead: integration without borders

I have propounded the notion of a “Convergence re-orientation to integration” which I alluded to in my address to the Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Panama City in 2013. I believe that the ACS is an ideal vehicle to advance the process towards the convergence which is essential to cement a position of sustainability for all the economies in the region, large and small, in the global setting.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has encouraged cooperation that can unlock the synergies of different sub-regions and progress toward gradual convergence in a regional economic space. It can be viewed that the ACS has been placed to engender the cooperation to facilitate practical convergence, as opposed to traditional integration.

One novel aspect of the proposed convergence framework is a new form of public-private partnership within an “economy of the Caribbean Sea” built on production integration, distribution and competitiveness. In order to be sustainable, the Caribbean Sea Economy has to be built on the following four pillars:

1. *Inclusive and equitable development* includes widening of trade arrangements to facilitate a greatly enlarged market. Inclusive development also implies a

new partnership approach to include in the process all actors including the private sector and civil society which will ultimately improve the quality of life for all stakeholders.

2. *Endogenous growth* must be based on a regional space involving stakeholders at national and regional levels and should be predominantly private sector-driven. The requisite transformative endogenous growth will necessitate a redefinition of the role of development finance and equity in the Caribbean Sea space. Endogenous growth also implies that production, distribution and competition should be addressed at the same time.
3. *Entrepreneurial competitiveness* is critical. In the current global context, ICTs are central to efficiency and competitiveness. Competitiveness is driven by innovation in the areas of science and technology as well as entrepreneurship. Improving labour productivity and skills in the Caribbean Sea space is crucial. Access to finance, supporting environments for business and innovation, promotion of entrepreneurship and the private sector are other basic requirements for the desired outcomes.
4. *Adaptive and re-aligned institutions*, among which the ACS has paramount importance, will permit a re-orientation of policy imperatives towards the requisite convergence outcome.





## OUR PERSPECTIVE

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

WINSTON DOOKERAN

THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE NEW FRONTIER OF CARIBBEAN CONVERGENCE INCLUDES GLOBAL TRANSPORT LINKAGES, AERIAL LINKAGES AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY WITH CROSS-BORDER CAPABILITIES, BORDER MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY AND REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE.

These four broad convergence strategies have been identified to support the pillars of the Caribbean Sea Economy. These strategies revolve around finance, clustering, infrastructure and production, which are mutually interdependent and therefore need to be addressed together. The economic convergence process will have to allow for redesigning of the economic and financial architecture.

#### A practical mandate ahead

The infrastructure for the new frontier of Caribbean convergence includes global transport linkages, aerial linkages and communications technology with cross-border capabilities, border management and security and regulation of movement of people. Improved and low cost regional transport is absolutely critical to facilitate greater movement of goods and people within the region.

At the ACS Ministerial meeting held in Panama, on February 2013, discussions between Caribbean Airlines and Colombia's Avianca were opened on operating direct flights between Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, María Ángela Holguín Cuellar, this would indeed facilitate easier business and trade between the two countries.

The intricacies of the process require further elaboration but to establish a point of departure, four immediate priorities are essential for the initiation of the convergence movement.

We must emphasise that the development of transport and logistics is critical to achieving transformative endogenous growth and competitiveness in the economy of the Caribbean Sea.

We have to recognize that finance and capital mobility comprises the backbone for sustaining the pillars of convergence of the economy of the Caribbean Sea and ensures the existence of a fully integrated capital market and free flow of capital.

We need to re-affirm that energy and food security are essential for the convergence of the economy of the Caribbean Sea and ensure that these ideals are achievable.

We should agree that development finance institutions are isolated and compartmentalized into public sector and private sector in their *modus operandi*. To permit the operation of the desired public-private partnerships all the development finance institutions in the region (CDB, IDB, CAF and others) should be asked to re-design their lending paradigm in the region to deal with the current problems and support the convergence process.

This exposition provides only the preliminary framework for embarking on the road towards Convergence. Completing the journey will require our combined assiduous effort and the forum provided by the ACS is ideally placed to support this.





## OUR PERSPECTIVE

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

WINSTON DOOKERAN

TWENTY YEARS, WHILE A MERE SPECK OF SAND ON THE SHORE OF HUMAN HISTORY IS ALMOST AN ETERNITY FOR A YOUNG ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS HAD TO FORGE ITS IDENTITY IN AN UNPRECEDENTED ERA OF TURMOIL IN THE INTERNATIONAL SETTING.

**Happy twentieth anniversary**

Twenty years, while a mere speck of sand on the shore of human history is almost an eternity for a young organization, which has had to forge its identity in an unprecedented era of turmoil in the international setting. Trinidad and Tobago salutes firstly our fellow Member States for their sustained belief in and support for the ACS.

Our commendation must also go to all Secretary Generals, under whose stewardship the organisation has developed into an essential component in the machinery of Regional Integration. I wish to specially

mention Professor Norman Girvan for his invaluable contribution during a difficult time for the ACS. Special praise must be given to our current Secretary General, His Excellency Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, under whose leadership we have witnessed significant advances in the work and status of the Organisation and also to all the staff of the Secretariat throughout its history.

*Joyeux vingtième anniversaire!*

*Gelukkig twintigste verjaardag!*

*¡Feliz veinte aniversario!*

Happy twentieth anniversary!







# OUR REGION

## The Greater Caribbean





# The Greater Caribbean



In the Northern Hemisphere, east of where the two major American continents converge, a sea stretches almost 2.7 million square kilometers marking off an area of influence that is greater than the range of its turquoise colored waters.

The Greater Caribbean (a political concept created within the ACS) touches the shores of North, Central, and South America. It goes from the Yucatan Peninsula to the Guianas, circling the Greater and Lesser Antilles, and comprising the islands located in a place where the currents run into the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. It goes from The Bahamas through Trinidad.

Historical and cultural similarities are elements that shorten the distances that separate this great region, which is marked by physical dispersion, amalgamating a variety of peoples with beliefs, languages, and customs, which despite their differences, share the heritage of the Caribbean Sea and a history that connects the Member Countries.





## OUR REGION



**Bay of Terre-de-Haut,**  
on the Îles des Saintes  
in the archipelago  
of Guadeloupe.

## Location and geographic features

**T**he Caribbean Sea is located in the western part of the northern hemisphere between the latitudes 9° and 22°N and longitudes 89° and 60°W, enclosed between the continents of North and South America. It lies over five underwater basins known as the Yucatán, Cayman, Colombian, Venezuelan and Grenada basins; the deepest point is in the Cayman Trench of the coast of Jamaica, reaching a depth of 7.6 kilometers.

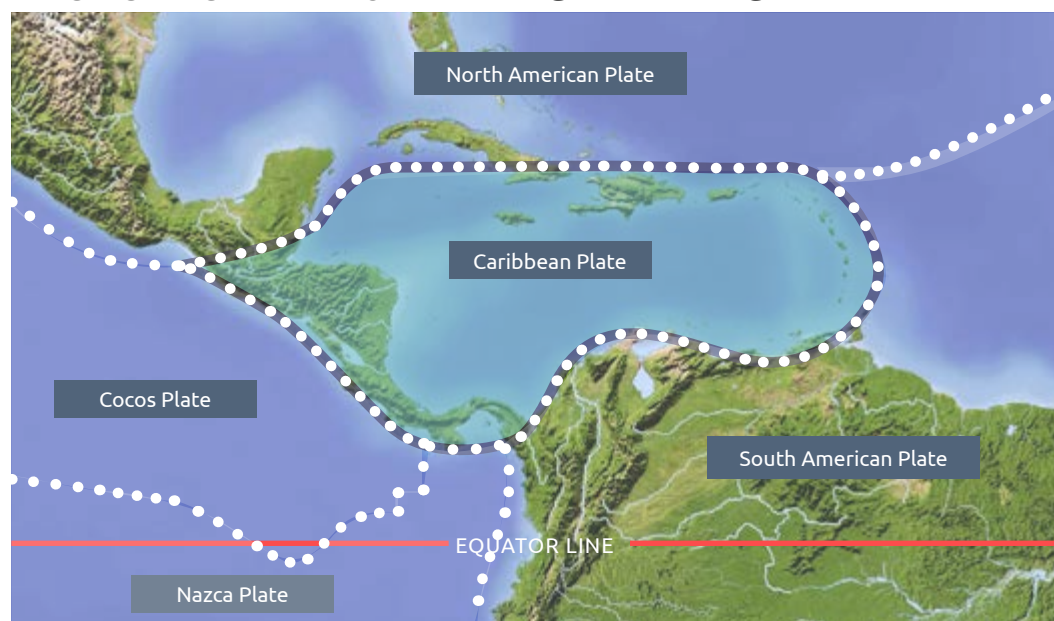
The arc formed by the Lesser Antilles, which is a chain of volcanic islands, marks

the area of contact where the North American tectonic plate is being forced beneath the Caribbean tectonic plate. The latter covers an area of 3.2 million square kilometers and includes part of continental Central America and the seabed of the Caribbean. The plate is moving in a south-easterly direction at a rate of about 10-20 millimeters a year.

The zone is marked by constant seismic activity together with scattered volcanoes. The largest islands in the north of the region (Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola) are mountainous, as is the north of Venezuela, recalling the period of convergence between the North American and South American plates. To the west, the Caribbean plate converges with the Cocos Plate along a volcanic belt that runs from Mexico to Northern Panama.

The Caribbean archipelago extends for almost 4,000 km in a curving arc that runs from Cabo de San Antonio in Cuba (200 km from the coast of Yucatan), to Trinidad (20 km from the coast of South America). It includes over 7,000 islands, cays and reefs.

### TECTONIC PLATES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN





## OUR REGION

Sunset on the beach in Barbados.

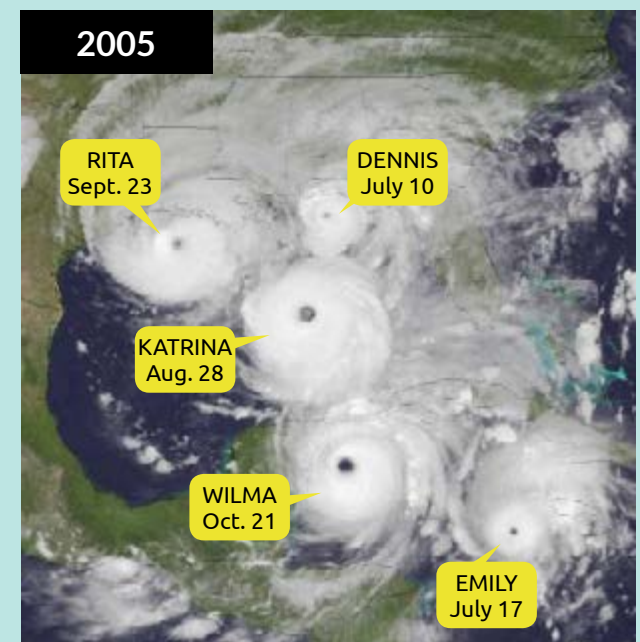


# Climate



The climate is generally tropical (warm and humid) though with significant local variation depending on mountain ranges, sea currents and winds, meaning the zone is a collection of microclimates. The average temperature for the Caribbean islands is 28°C in summer and 24°C in winter. The average temperature of the sea varies between 28°C and 26°C from summer to winter.

Rainfall varies from 25 centimeters per year on the island of Bonaire to 900 centimeters per year in some parts of Dominica. Similarly winds range from an average of 16 to 32 km/h, to tropical storms that reach wind speeds of over 120 km/h.



## THE HURRICANE SEASON

usually runs from June to November. These atmospheric phenomena frequently reach devastating magnitudes, and although there are on average eight hurricanes per year, in 2005 there were 15, four of which were category five with winds over 250 km/h: **Emily, Katrina, Rita** and **Wilma**.





## OUR REGION



**Marine wildlife**  
in the Caribbean  
coral reef.

## Biodiversity

**T**he varied topography of the Greater Caribbean is reflected in the diversity of ecosystems, including forests, tropical jungles, mangrove swamps, scrubland and beaches. These are home to a great diversity of flora, fungi and fauna. Animal species include fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and marine invertebrates.

Approximately 52,000 square kilometers of the Caribbean Sea comprises coral reefs, which together represent 9% of the world total. These reefs are threatened by intensive tourism, pollution and overfishing. An estimated 500,000 metric tons of marine products (a total of around 170 species) is extracted from the Caribbean basin each year, although it is believed a significant proportion of fishing activity is not included in official figures.



**The Caribbean flamingo**  
(*Phoenicopterus ruber*).



**Tropical flower**  
in the Balata  
Botanical Gardens.

**The white-faced capuchin monkey**  
(*Cebus capucinus*).





## OUR REGION

**Dominica**  
**Linen Market,**  
 Agostino  
 Brunias  
 (circa 1780).



## Population

**T**he total population of ACS Member Countries is 280 million inhabitants. If we only take into account the population of the Caribbean regions of Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, then over 120 million people live in the Caribbean basin (of which 44 million live on the islands).

This population is characterized by great ethnic and cultural diversity, combining indigenous origins, European colonialism (Spanish, English, French, Dutch and Portuguese), and various migrations, both forced and voluntary, of African, Amerindian, Asian (India, China and Java) and Middle Eastern (Syrian, Lebanese, Jewish) peoples.



**Wooden mask,**  
 Haiti.



**School students**  
 in Havana, Cuba.

## Languages

Linguistic diversity is a distinguishing characteristic. People in the Caribbean speak Spanish, French, English, Dutch, Creole languages of African origin, and indigenous languages.

Caribbean islanders in low income settings often speak Creole and their indigenous languages on a daily basis.





## OUR REGION

**A cargo ship**  
passes through  
the Panama Canal.



## Economy

**F**or over three centuries, Caribbean countries supplied Europe with highly-prized products such as nutmeg, cinnamon and cocoa beans. Above all they were the source of sugar, cotton and tobacco, as well as indigo for dye, and—in the twentieth century—bananas. Today agriculture remains a major economic sector in terms of the number of people it employs, and a number of agricultural products are among the region's main exports (coffee, tobacco, bananas, sugar and spices). However, agriculture has lost ground to other activities to the extent that countries seek to diversify their economies.

In the economic zone of the Greater Caribbean there are economies for which the production of oil and refined products, together with mineral extraction, play a leading role. Some countries have invested in the development of industrial products differentiated into heavy, light and assembly industries, while others have specialized in the development of financial services including “off-shore” financial zones, and free zones.

Several countries in the region obtain a large portion of their income from tourism. The most recent report from the United

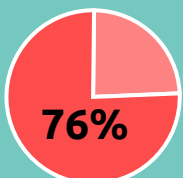
Nations World Tourism Organization indicates that in 2012 more than 21 million tourists visited the Caribbean and 9 million visited Central America, an increase on the previous year of 3.7% and 7.3% respectively. Of the international tourists who travel to the Caribbean and to Central America, 76% and 58% respectively do so for purposes of leisure and recreation.



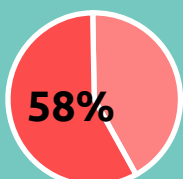
**A woman prepares tobacco leaves for drying in Honduras.**



Of the international tourists who travel to the Caribbean and to Central America, 76% and 58% respectively do so for purposes of leisure and recreation.



CARIBBEAN



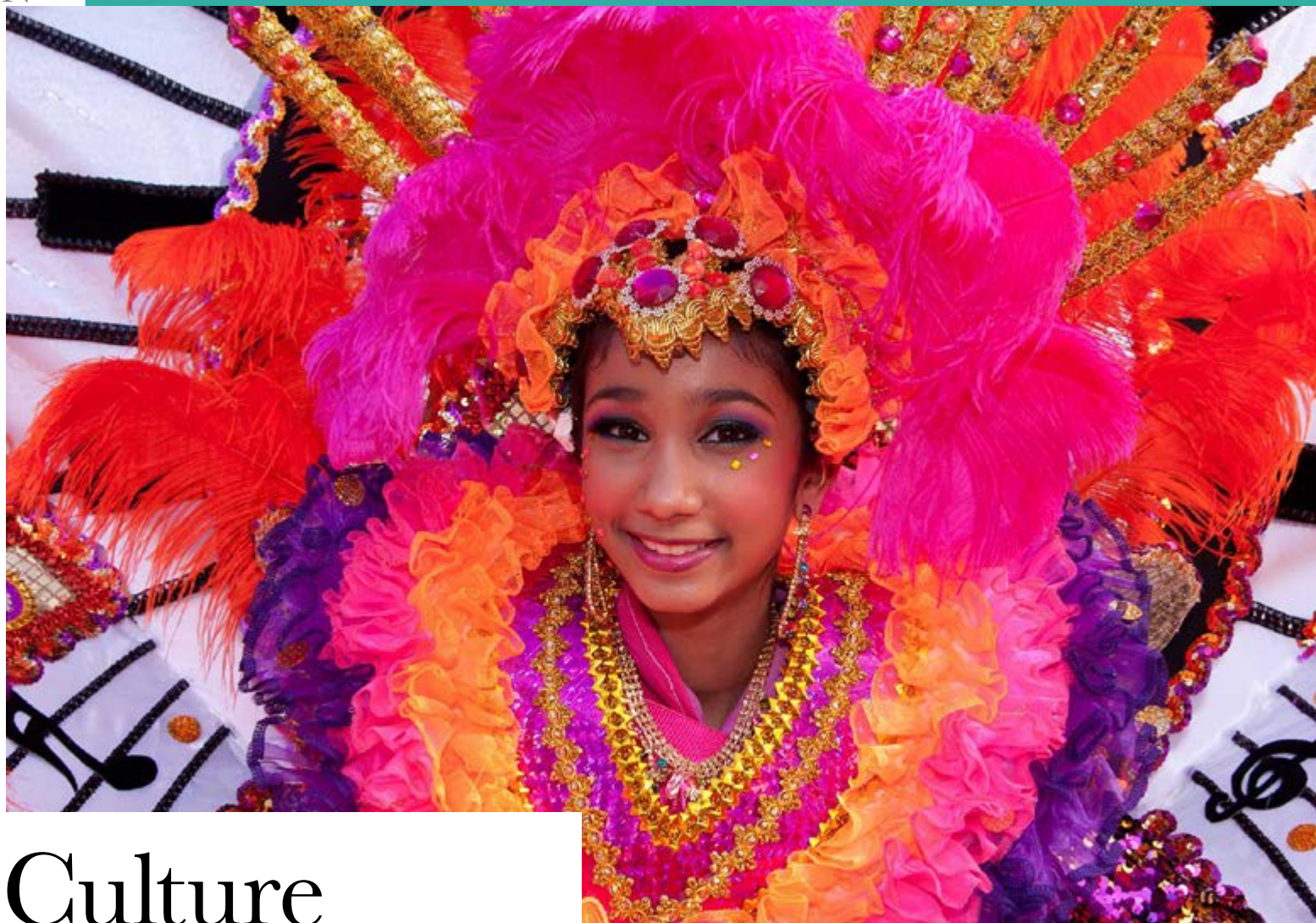
CENTRAL AMERICA





## OUR REGION

Girl dressed up to celebrate the **Trinidad and Tobago Carnival**.



**Djembe**, a percussion instrument originally from West Africa.

## Culture

**T**he Greater Caribbean is also a creative space for a rich and diverse range of cultural products. Several winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature and other authors have emerged here and been inspired by this region. Haitian painting has won international recognition in numerous European and American art galleries, while the region's cuisine has blossomed as a fusion of indigenous, Spanish, English, French, Dutch and African recipes and ingredients.

**East Indians** who migrated to Trinidad and Tobago, retained their traditions through music and song.



**Plate of saltfish and ackee** - the national fruit of Jamaica.



The region's music is the best-known cultural product and the one with the greatest popularity worldwide. The Caribbean is home to a variety of dance styles and rhythms: calypso, reggae, salsa, son, merengue and cumbia are some of the local creations that have achieved widespread international currency.

Festivals and carnivals are another deeply-rooted form of cultural expression in the Caribbean. They bring together music, dance, costumes and performance. The Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago is the best known, and is considered one of the most attractive cultural events in the region.







**PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**NEWS REPORT ACS Communique**

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD: Following a two-day summit in Port of Spain after a weekend of Association of Caribbean States (ACS) leaders...



# THE BEGINNING

**CERTIFICA:**

Que la presente reproducción es fiel fotocopia tomada del origen del "CONVENIO CONSTITUTIVO DE LA ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS DEL CARIBE que reposa en los archivos de la Oficina Juridica de este Ministerio.

Dada en Santafé de Bogotá, D. C., a los ocho (8) días del mes septiembre de mil novecientos noventa y cuatro (1994).

*Hector A. Sintura*  
**HECTOR ADOLFO SINTURA VARELA**  
 Jefe de la Oficina Jurídica

## Asociación de Estados del Caribe



### Regional leaders together at last

LESTER BRIND  
 Lester Brind, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, born February 21, 1926 in New York City. Married. Four daughters. Law degree, University of Michigan. First elected to parliament in the 1976 Pegasus election in 1994.

FIDEL CASTRO  
 Fidel Castro, President of Cuba since 1959 following the Cuban Revolution. President since 1962.

JOSE FIGUEROA JR.  
 Jose Figueres Jr., President of Costa Rica since 1953 and national hero, the late Jose Figueres, leader of 1948 revolution. Born December 24, 1904. Impoverished origins. Born in San Francisco, Harvard's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Married with two children.

ERNEST SAMPIER ROMANO  
 Ernest Sampiér Román, President of Colombia since August 7, 1994. Born August 5, 1891. Degree in economics and law, Universidad de Bogotá. Married with three children.

OSWALD ARTHUR  
 Oswald Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados. Born October 17, 1945 in Barbados.

MARCO ESQUIVEL  
 Marco Esquivel, Prime Minister of Belize. Born May 2, 1940 in Belmopan, Belize.

ANIBAL GARRISON SOLÍS  
 Anibal Garrón Solís, President of El Salvador since April 1, 1994. Born June 29, 1944. Lawyer. Director of the National Police.

**ACS SUMMIT**

**ERNESTO BOLLADO**  
 Ernesto Bollado, President of Mexico since December 1, 1988. Born December 27, 1951, in Mexico City. Undergraduate in studies in economics at the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City. Attended Yale on a doctorate scholarship. Married, five children. Violeta Chamorro, President of Nicaragua since August 22, 1990. In attendance at summit.

**VIOLETA CHAMORRO**  
 Violeta Chamorro, President of Nicaragua since August 22, 1990. Married. Pedro Joseph who was assassinated by Sandinista Front members. Four children. Compton, Jamaica. Prime Minister of St. Lucia. Born May 1926. Law degree. University of Wisconsin. Economics degree, London School of Economics. Married. Three children. Mitchell, Jamaica. Minister, St. Vincent.

**RAFAEL CALDERÓN**  
 Rafael Calderón, President of Costa Rica since August 8, 1990. Born June 19, 1919. Graduate, Middlebury College, Vermont.

**New era begins**

NOTE from Page 1

of the region, particularly the youths "who are anxious to have problems solved."

A five-page communique issued at the end of the summit, which dealt primarily with trade, tourism and transportation "took place in an atmosphere of..."

It added that such an era will be characterized by the strengthening of integration, consultation and "concerted action in order to ensure greater cultural, economic, political, scientific, social and technological co-operation among the...

# Association of Caribbean States (ACS) CONVENTION SIGNED

## ACS as trade booster

• SIGNED from Page 1 of the ACS in "a collaborative... nothing more and nothing less than a courageous effort to overcome the differences that have divided us, and rejoin these communities that bind us together."

CARTEGENA, COLOMBIA: Trinidad and Tobago was among 25 countries yesterday that signed the convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Prime Minister Patrick Manning signed on behalf of TT at the ceremony held at the Cartagena Convention Centre in Colombia. Manning returned to...

of production, making use of our natural resources through a strategy of sustainable development, and cooperating to overcome natural disasters.

"In addition, we must also focus the sustained fight against human trafficking and money laundering through, among other efforts, a greater exchange of information and judicial co-operation," President...





**Speech by Fidel Castro, President of Cuba**, during the Inaugural Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, August 15, 1995.

## A new era of regional cooperation is born: The birth of the Association of Caribbean States

**A**t the end of the 1980's, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government felt a growing exigency to forge closer relations with their neighbours in the Caribbean Basin. This desire to widen the integration process sought to embrace all those nations washed by the Caribbean Sea, including other Caribbean States, Central America and the littorals of South America. Against this backdrop, CARICOM agreed to establish The West Indian Commission (WIC), in July 1989 in Grenada, under the chairmanship of Sir Shridath Ramphal, to entrust an analysis of how to successfully create a mechanism for cooperation with their neighbours. A few years later in 1992, this independent body proposed in the report *'A Time for Action'* the creation of an Association of Caribbean States (ACS). This Association would potentially become the largest integration movement in the Caribbean, expanding through unprecedented geographical scope.

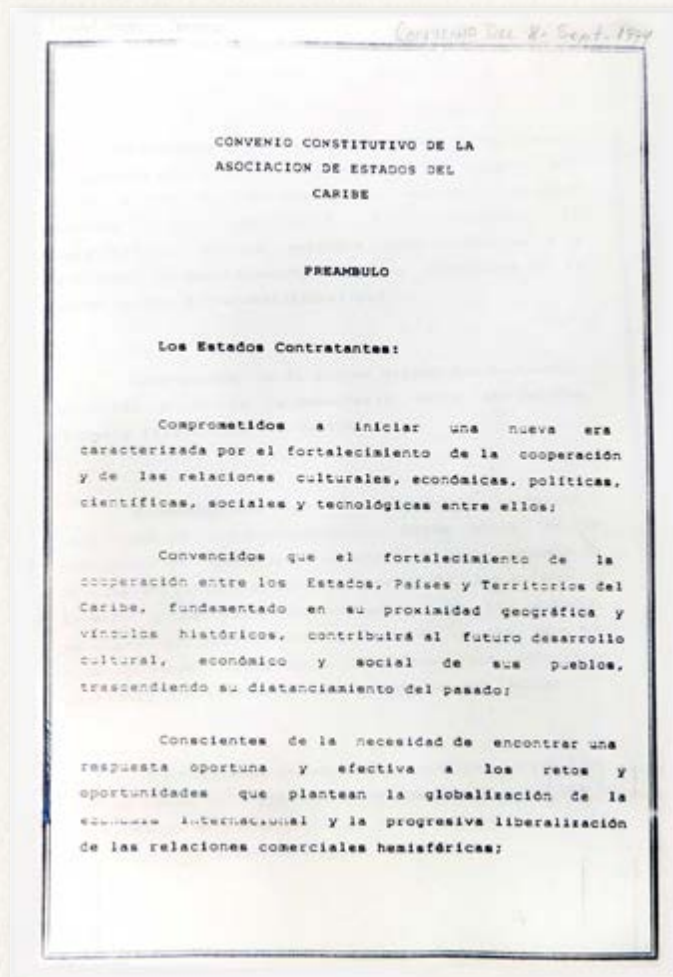
The proposal came on the heels of the need for CARICOM to pursue further cooperation and strengthen its bargaining power in the global economy by creating an enlarged economic space. Member Countries envisioned the potential of this new enterprise which would comprise 200 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

There was general unanimity at the First Special Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM in October 1992, where Heads of Government agreed to consult with other states on the recommendation of the WIC. Follow up discussions occurred when the CARICOM Bureau met with government representatives from Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela to discuss the proposal. These countries wholeheartedly welcomed the idea. Further diplomatic discourse continued at the CARICOM/Central American Meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.





## THE BEGINNING



Certified copy of the  
**Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States**

kept in the Genaro Estrada Historical Archive of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The timing of the proposal gained momentum following the negotiations to implement the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Union policies on trade. The fast changing international economic climate, coupled with the liberalisation measures adopted by Latin American and Caribbean countries, accelerated the indispensable appetite for integration and cooperation at the

regional level, and for the development of closer economic geographical linkages, particularly in the area of trade and investment to boost economic competitiveness.

During the CARICOM-Central American Ministerial Summit in Kingston, Jamaica, May 1993, the Ministers of the respective countries welcomed the proposal to create the ACS. Thereafter, significant advancements and forthright commitments were made during the Summit of Heads of State and Government of CARICOM, Suriname and the Group of Three (G3), (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 1993, where a timeline was set for the establishment of the ACS.

The negotiation of the Convention Establishing the ACS began in a workshop held in Kingston, Jamaica, in March 1994. Two meetings, one in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and a final one in Mexico City were convened. The main purpose was to agree on the nature, scope and objectives of the Association as well as the way in which countries, Overseas Caribbean Territories and non-governmental organizations would participate.

By July 1994, the growth of regional integration was steadily underway. At the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of



From left to right:  
**Noor Hassanali**,  
President of Trinidad and  
Tobago, **Patrick Manning**,  
Prime Minister of Trinidad  
and Tobago, and the first  
Secretary General of ACS,  
**Simon Molina Duarte**,  
at the First ACS Summit,  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and  
Tobago, August 15, 1995.







Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, July 4-7, 1994, Bridgetown, Barbados, Heads of Government expressed their eagerness to sign the Convention Establishing the ACS during that same month.

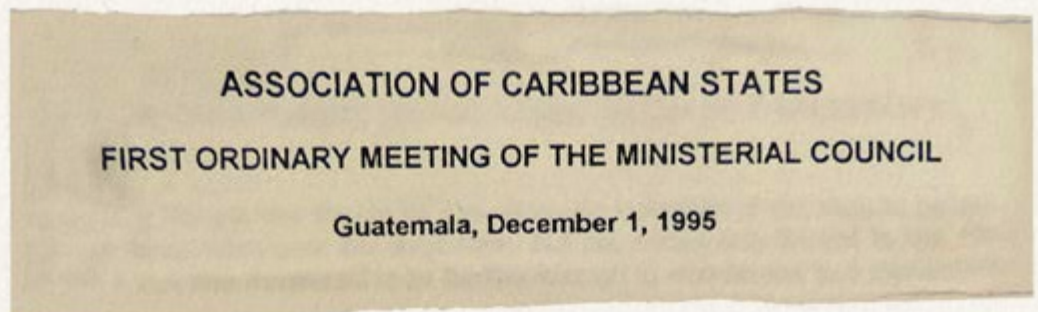
Against this backdrop of creating a new era of regional integration characterized by the strengthening of cooperation, the Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States was signed on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1994 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. As enshrined in this Convention, the Association is an organisation for consultation, cooperation and concerted action, whose purpose is to identify and promote the implementation of policies and programmes. The convention entered into force on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1995.



At the signing of the Convention, this organisation of the Wider Caribbean, comprised of 25 Members and 3 Associate Members was created as a vehicle for functional cooperation among the countries which shared a common patrimony, the Caribbean Sea. The areas of cooperation primarily included trade, transport and tourism. Other priority actions such as natural and environmental disasters, the Caribbean Sea and social, cultural, scientific and technological development issues were included in the Work Programme of the ACS at the First Ministerial Council Meeting held in Guatemala, December 1996.

No other mechanism for cooperation in the Wider Caribbean espoused such an expansive call. From the beginning, four regional

**Act of deposit of instrument** of ratification of the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States kept in the Genaro Estrada Historical Archive of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





## THE BEGINNING



**Diario de Monterrey,**  
August 20, 1995.

groups were distinguished: CARICOM, the Group of Three, Central America and the Non-Grouped (Cuba, Panama and Dominican Republic). The Overseas Territories were included as Associate Members. The creation of the ACS represented a strategic opportunity to develop new forms of regional cooperation.

In the months following the signing of the Convention, details of the finer workings of the Association were to be negotiated. Among the main issues: a Secretary General had to be appointed, a Host Country for the Headquarters had to be selected and a budget determined.

The First Summit of the ACS was convened on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1995 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. At this Meeting, Trinidad and Tobago was selected as the Headquarters of the Association, after the Dominican Republic and Venezuela previously withdrew their nominations. Dr. Simon Molina Duarte, of Venezuelan nationality, was at the helm of this organisation as the first Secretary General of the ACS, and the Council elected Mexico, as Chair of the Ministerial Council for a period of one year, under the chairmanship of Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, José Ángel Gurría.

In Guatemala on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> 1995, the Ministerial Council held its first regular meeting and adopted 12 agreements. Among those was the Work Programme of the ACS, the terms of participation of Associates Members, Observers and Social Actors, rules of procedure of the Ministerial Council and the Regulations of Secretariat.

This unique, supranational and expansive organisation in the Caribbean, charged with the optimism, vitality and support of their leaders, has demonstrated the will to frontally address the new challenges facing the hemisphere in a changing global village. Leaders of the day took a bold step and embarked on a journey to collectively create new opportunities for their territories. Today, after twenty years of existence, the ACS has survived many challenges and has emerged revitalized, continuing to promote functional cooperation among its Member States.

## Summit ends on positive note

By PETER RICHARDS

PRAISING the foresight and vision of "the legendary leaders" of the region, the summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) ended last night on a positive hope for future regional integration.

"The ACS is off to a flying start," host Prime Minister Patrick Manning told the closing ceremony, while Colombia said the ACS represented "the best instrument for facing common problems with the possibility of solving them with hope."

Jamaica's Prime Minister Percival Patterson

said the ACS fulfilled "the dreams of so many of our visionary and legendary leaders" for closer co-operation among the peoples of this hemisphere.

"We have discussed matters of considerable importance as we embark upon a new era of co-operation, as we seek to build peace and harmony within the entire hemisphere," Patterson said.

Guyana's President Dr Cheddi Jagan urged the ACS to "go forward with great confidence" to provide the opportunity for economic development for the people

Turn to NOTE on Page 6

**Trinidad Guardian,**  
August 17, 1995





Trinidad Guardian,  
August 17, 1995.

# Historic day for TT, ACS

HISTORY is being created in Port-of-Spain today with the opening of the first-ever summit of Caribbean and Latin American nations on three vital sectors — tourism, trade and transportation.

Today's event — a sharp and welcome contrast to the political turmoil of recent weeks — concludes tomorrow, on the eve of Carifesta VI, with specific proposals on how the 25-member Association of Caribbean States (ACS) can enhance co-operation for progress in the three identified sectors.

Some 13 years after ex-President Ronald Reagan launched his Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) with an East-West cold war prism, the ACS — an idea spawned by the Caribbean Community (Caricom) — becomes a functional reality. It constitutes a diversified market of approximately 200 million and combined gross domestic product (GDP) of some US\$500 billion.

The so-called ideological pariahs that were excluded from the CBI at the time of its inauguration — Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador — are among the 25 nations that have brought the ACS into force.

## Policy Change

Changes in government in Nicaragua (where the Sandinistas are perceived to be on the rebound) and El Salvador have resulted in them becoming CBI "beneficiary" countries.

The United States, however, continues its policy of hostility towards Cuba and its President, Fidel Castro, the only head of government to have been pointedly excluded from President Bill Clinton's Summit of the Americas last December in Miami.

But the Clinton administration is quite capable of learning how significantly attitudes and policies have changed across nations of the Western Hemisphere that, for all of Washington's influence and power, Castro is today in Port-of-Spain participating in the biggest gathering of Caribbean and Latin American States since that "Miami Summit".

Cuba, with which Caricom has a Joint Commission as a mechanism for pursuing technical, trade, economic, cultural and scientific co-operation, is today a member of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) — despite a concerted effort by Washington under two previous administrations to frustrate.

Even before the birth of the ACS, the powerful

## AS I SEE IT

By RICKEY SINGH



*"The presence of the great majority of heads of state and government of the ACS grouping for the two-day Summit on Tourism, Trade and Transportation is obviously an encouraging indication of the seriousness being placed on making this newest institutional mechanism in the Caribbean-Latin American region a success story."*



CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO



PRIME MINISTER PATRICK MANNING

and not so powerful nations of Latin America had ended the US-crafted isolation of this Caribbean nation whose geography and history cannot be obliterated by any American blockade.

With the European Union and Britain in particular playing key roles in fostering closer business relation with Cuba — amid all the fulminations of aging cold-war warriors like Senator Jesse Helms — "the Economist Conference", an internationally recognised initiative, is arranging to hold its Third Roundtable with the Government of Cuba from October 23-25.

The Government of Prime Minister Patrick Manning — caught up as it still is in a domestic battle with Speaker of Parliament, Ocah Seapaul, and now the combined opposition also — has not missed the significance of placing Trinidad and Tobago in a better position to do business with Cuba.

## Success Story

Consequently, its decision to permit the Cubans to establish a full-fledged embassy in this twin-island republic, just when arrangements are being made for the location of the headquarters of the ACS secretariat in this Caribbean island where Caricom was born some 22 years ago.

The presence of the great majority of heads of state and government of the ACS group-

ing for the two-day Summit on Tourism, Trade and Transportation is obviously an encouraging indication of the seriousness being placed on making this newest institutional mechanism in the Caribbean-Latin American region a success story.

Even if the more complex issue of tourism in the tri-sectoral agenda proves very challenging in shaping guidelines for future policies, the current summit is expected to come up with some very positive recommendations on maritime co-operation and trade initiatives.

The trade segment, to be pursued within the framework of decisions of the 1994 Summit of the Americas, and in particular the proposed creation of a hemisphere-wide free trade zone by the year 2005, encompasses such areas as:

Inter-sectoral linkages through regional trade; existing patterns of intra-ACS trade; possibilities of intra-ACS trade and impediments and ACS response to hemispheric and global trade trends.

The deliberation on sea and air transportation will focus on the proposals from their technocrats and ministers on the establishment of an ACS shipping line operating from Mexico — a member of the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) — to Brazil and including Miami.

Arising from the deci-

sions of the Summit on Tourism, Trade and Transportation, the ACS secretariat — being established under a Venezuelan economist, Simon Molina Duarte — as its first Secretary General, is expected to become quickly active in co-operating with the Secretariats of SELA, Caricom, SICA/SIECA and CAIC in advancing the co-operation programmes of the ACS countries.

## House Arrest

For Prime Minister Manning personally, this is a very important and memorable week. Perhaps as memorable, for different reasons, as the one when he had Port-of-Spain brought under a State of Emergency in order to place one person under house arrest — Speaker of Parliament Seapaul.

It is a rare occasion for a West Indian Prime Minister to play host to such a large and distinguished gathering of Caribbean and Latin American leaders and Ministers for an economic summit and immediately thereafter welcome them for an altogether different event — the Caribbean region's premier cultural festival — Carifesta.

No one should envy Mr Manning his moment of glory — whatever the political benefits resulting from statements by appointed spokespersons among his distinguished overseas guests, and the positive media coverage

of both the ACS tri-sectoral summit and Carifesta.

Manning has taken a lot of political beating these past weeks — not all unjustified — and especially from his once close colleague, ex-Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj, who may have committed a fatal political error in speaking on a platform of the opposition United National Congress (UNC), while still a PNM parliamentarian.

More about this at another time, as we await the forthcoming local government elections. For now, the Prime Minister needs and deserves a period of calm and co-operation on all sides as he hosts the "economic summit" and Carifesta.

Amid all the political bacchanal at the domestic level, the faithful and competent technocrats of the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service, officials of the Caricom, SELA, SICA/CIECA and CAIC secretariats have been working feverishly to make the summit on Trade, Tourism and Transportation a successful event.

It is to be hoped that the summit will indeed be regarded as productive and, consequently, successful.

Let us also look forward to Carifesta VI, which opens tomorrow, climaxing in two weeks time as an even more memorable event than the fifth such festival, the first of which was held in Guyana in 1972.





Trinidad Express,  
August 19, 1995.

# Summit ends on high note

**PRIME MINISTER** Patrick Manning believes the ACS is "off to a flying start" and his only regret about the two-day inaugural Summit is that two of the men responsible for its formation were not present.

Those men were Sir Shridath Ramphal, chairman of the West Indian Commission which proposed the ACS, and former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley, who liaised with the Spanish- and French-speaking ACS members to ensure their presence at the Summit.

"We have come to the end of history," Manning said in his closing address at the Summit at the Trinidad Hilton just after 6 p.m. yesterday.

He noted that all ACS members were represented at the Summit.

Manning said he was sure when people looked back on the inaugural Summit, they would come to the inescapable conclusion that it was time well-spent in the promotion of regional and, perhaps in time, world integration.

Manning was the last to sign the Communique issued by the ACS members and after he did this around 5.40 p.m., there was a lusty round of applause.

The five-page Communique stated that the Heads of State and Government at the Summit were "conscious that the prime objective of their efforts must be aimed at improving the standard of living of their people and particularly, at effectively combatting the critical state of poverty in which a large part of them exists, and commit themselves to promote the sustainable development of the region, as a viable strategy aimed at improving these conditions."

The Communique went on to deal with the broad views of the ACS member-countries on trade, tourism and transportation.

At a news conference immediately following the signing, Manning revealed that the Declaration of Principles on Trade, Tourism and Transportation agreed to by the ACS members, was amended to "take cognisance" of drug trafficking.

He said the ACS could not ignore drug trafficking if it was dealing with trade, tourism and transportation.

ACS Secretary-General Dr Simon Molina-Duarte has been mandated to, among other things, appoint a Task Force to work on the establishment of a Tourism Fund.

The ACS Budget, meanwhile, is supposed to be finalised at the next Council of Ministers meeting in Guatemala at the end of November.

Molina-Duarte said the political will demonstrated at the Summit would make it impossible for the ACS to fail.

Others who spoke at the closing session were Nicaragua President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Jamaica Prime

Minister P J Patterson, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo, and Guyana President Dr Cheddi Jagan.

Patterson said it was appropriate that the inaugural ACS Summit was held here since the Treaty establishing Caricom was signed here, and it was here too that Caricom agreed to establish the ACS.

He said the ACS must seek to build peace in the hemisphere, "excluding no nation and omitting no people."

Pardo, whose country declared a State of Emergency this week to deal with escalating violence, noted that Colombia was "living through difficult times."

He said he felt the ACS was the best instrument to help his country face its problems and solve them.

He added that while there might have been some "confusion" during this first Summit, the important point was that the Summit would generate work for the future.

## A CHANCE TO MEET JAGAN

GUYANESE nationals who are interested in meeting with President Cheddi Jagan can do so today from 9 a.m. at the Scarlet Ibis Room at the Trinidad Hilton.

Assoc. of Caribbean States

Page 4 NEWSDAY Saturday August 19, 1995

NEWS

# ACS Summit ends and now... it's time for action

BY CLIRTIS WILLIAMS

THE first ever Heads of Government Conference of the Association of Caribbean States came to end yesterday with the member countries committing themselves to working together in an effort to combat the changing world economic environment.

It was also a conference in which the Communist state of Cuba was accepted as an integral part of the ACS and was embraced by the member countries.

In fact in a news conference held after the signing of the joint communique, Chairman of the Conference, Prime Minister Patrick Manning, made the point that Cuba was an integral part of the region and the problems which other countries may have with the Caribbean island was a political one.

The Prime Minister noted that Cuba was not invited to the recent Summit of the Americas and was not a part of



CUBAN PRESIDENT Fidel Castro, ACS embraces his country.

that agreement.

Manning said it was for this reason he suggested a Free Trade Agreement be reached by the member countries of the ACS before the time came for negotiations so that Cuba would not be left behind.

President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo told journalists that his country did not feel that its relations with the United States would be strained because it has embraced Cuba.

He said the fact was that Mexico was diversifying its foreign policy and looking to new partners.

Zedillo said Mexico was committed to the ACS of which Cuba is a part and wanted closer collaboration with its neighbours. Manning said the job of the ACS Secretariat would be to implement the plan of action and the declaration of principles which was adopted by the heads.

Among the agreements reached by

the leaders was the need to promote the region as one tourist destination and to work out a system for getting the money to pay for the promotional effort.

The conference recognised the importance of tourism to all the member countries and noted the need to protect the environment in order to preserve the region's competitive advantage.

There were also agreements on

Trade and Transportation.

Manning said the leaders recognised that there was little trading within the region and admitted that the countries found themselves in a Catch 22 situation since they had little to trade with each other and could not offer each other more goods because they had no means of transporting the goods.

In the end, a five-page communique was issued.

## Communique on ACS signing

**GEORGETOWN, GUYANA:** Following is the text of a communique issued here yesterday by the Caribbean Community Secretariat on the recent signing of the Association of Caribbean States convention in Colombia:

"On the occasion of the observance of the birthday of the liberator Simon Bolivar, July 24, 1994, the Heads of State and Government, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the representatives of: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, met in Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia, for the purpose of signing the Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

The Heads of State and Government welcomed the fact that this initiative, which has its origin in the decision adopted by the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) at its special meeting held in October 1992 and advanced by the second Caricom/Central America Ministerial Conference, as well as by the Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community and the Group of Three and the Vice-President of Suriname, had permitted the establishment of a global framework for the

adoption of common positions among the States, Countries and Territories of the Caribbean.

The Heads of State and Government emphasised the universal character which will guide their new organisation both with respect to its composition as well as to its operation.

They stressed the importance of the Association of Caribbean States as a Forum for consultation, concerted action and co-operation among the States, Countries and Territories of the Caribbean Basin.

The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction with the timely establishment of the ACS, whose objectives are economic integration, the creation of an enhanced space of free trade and co-operation among the countries of the Caribbean which will enable the Region to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities arising from the globalisation of the international economy and the progressive liberalisation of hemispheric trade relations.

The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their conviction that the Conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) within the GATT represented a positive development, and that the Caribbean Region needed to secure the maximum benefit offered by the establishment of the World Trade Organisation.

"In this regard, the Heads of State and Government emphasised that one of the major benefits of the ACS will

be to promote the interests of our Region in international economic and trade fora.

In this connection, they expressed the hope that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organisation would contribute to ensuring the greatest benefits for the members of the ACS.

The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that a Member State of the Association, Mexico, has presented the candidacy of its distinguished President, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, for the position of Director-General of the new world Trade Organisation.

### Single Candidature

They agreed that it would be highly desirable for the entire Caribbean to co-ordinate their efforts and present a single candidature so that the interests of the entire Region may be duly promoted.

The Heads of State and Government congratulated the member countries of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on the signing of the agreement on Trade, Economic and Technical Co-operation between these two parties - an agreement which takes its place among other free trade agreements concluded among different states of the ACS and which will facilitate the process towards the creation of a Caribbean Free Trade Area. The Heads of State and Govern-

ment reaffirmed the shared responsibility for the preservation of the environment and of the environmental integrity of the Caribbean Sea. They agreed on the necessity of deploying the collective capabilities of the Region in developing and exploiting its resources in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner in order to enhance the quality of life of present and future generations of their peoples.

The Heads of State and Government expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Government of the Republic of Colombia, the local authorities and the people of Cartagena de Indias."

(CARNA)

Trinidad Newsday  
August 19, 1995.

Trinidad Newsday,  
August 28, 1994.





# Regional leaders together at last

CUBA'S Fidel Castro may be the headline grabber, but the first summit of the ACS will showcase a battery of the leaders of the region. Following are pen-portraits of some of the leaders who are attending:



LESTER BIRD

Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, born February 21, 1938 in New York City. Married. Four daughters. Law degree, University of Michigan. First elected to parliament in the 1970s. Prime Minister in 1994.



FIDEL CASTRO

Fidel Castro, President of Cuba since 1959 following the Cuban Revolution. Premier



JOSE FIGUERES JR.

Jose Figueres Jr., President of Costa Rica. Son of former president and national hero, the late Jose Pepe Figueres, leader of 1948 revolution. Born December 24, 1954. Engineering degree from West Point; Master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Married with two children.



DR CHEDDI JAGAN

social sciences from the University of El Salvador. Married, three children. Dr Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana since October 1992. US-trained dentist. Premier of pre-independence British Guiana from 1957 to 1964. Eldest of 11 children. Born March 22, 1915 on a Guyanese sugar estate. Attended Howard University in Washington, graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago.



PERCIVAL J PATTERSON

Percival J Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, since 1992 when he assumed office to finish the term of Michael Manley who retired for health reasons. Born April 10, 1953, in Jamaica. Attorney-at-law. B.A. in English literature, UWI, Mona and law degree from the University of London. Divorced. Two children. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister, Grenada. Elected 1995.



ERNEST SAMPER PIZANO

Ernest Samper Pizano, President of Colombia since August 7, 1994. Born August 3, 1950. Degree in economics and law, Javeriana University of Bogota. Married with three children.



ARMANDO CALDERON SOL

Armando Calderon Sol, President of El Salvador since April 1, 1994. Born June 24, 1948. Attorney-at-law. Doctorate in jurisprudence and

Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados. Born October 17, 1949. Master's degree, UWI, Mona. Married. No children. Free-market economist. Elected Prime Minister September 6, 1994.

Manuel Esquivel, Prime Minister of Belize. Born May 2, 1940 in Belize City. B.Sc, Loyola University. Married with three children. Elected in 1993.

# ACS SUMMIT



ERNESTO ZEDILLO

Ernesto Zedillo, President of Mexico since December 1, 1994. Born December 27, 1951, in Mexico City. Undergraduate studies in economics at the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City. Attended Yale on a doctoral scholarship. Married, four children.



VIOLETA CHAMORRO

Violeta Chamorro, President of Nicaragua since 1990 as a consensus candidate of forces opposing the ruling Sandinista Front. Born in Nicaragua October 18, 1929 to a wealthy family. Attended Roman Catholic schools in the United States. In 1950, married Pedro Joaquin who was assassinated by Sandinista Front members. Four children. John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia. Born May 1926. Law degree, University of Wales; Economics degree, London School of Economics. Married, three children. James Mitchell, Prime Minister, St Vincent and the Grenadines, 63. Current term in office started in 1994. Born May 15, 1931. Pursued agronomy studies at UWI; BSc. University of



RAFAEL CALDERA

Rafael Caldera, President, Venezuela. Born January 24, 1916. Law degree from Central University of Venezuela. Married, six children. Served in Venezuelan Congress until 1948 military coup. Forced into one-year exile in 1957. Re-elected president in 1993. First presidential term ended in 1974. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister, St Kitts/Nevis, elected 1995.

gree in mathematics and physics from University of Leiden in Netherlands. Married, four children. Ronald Venetiaan, President, Suriname. Born June 18, 1936. Graduate of Algemene Middlebare School in Suriname. Doctoral de-

Trinidad Guardian, August 17, 1995.

# ACS technical meeting adopts Plan of Action

FOLLOWING is the conclusion of the full text of the Plan of Action on Trade, Transportation and Tourism for the 25-member group of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) at a two-day technical meeting here, obtained by CANA:

- (iii) promote the development of intermodal transportation in the region which will bring new possibilities for maritime investments to make this service more efficient and competitive;
- (iv) encourage the shipping lines to work together to expand the range of on-carriage arrangements among themselves and to make these more widely known to potential shippers;
- (v) examine novel approaches to providing regular intra-ACS commercial services, including the Venezuelan initiative of using a navy ship to transport commercial cargo to the small ports of the Eastern Caribbean.

### PORT SERVICES

"With respect to the provision of port services, we are conscious that a major effort needs to be made to reform and restructure labour and management systems, and in some instances to modernise ports in our states, countries and territories.

"We also recognise that documentation requirements and processes need to be streamlined and in some cases simplified, and the turn around time for aircraft and ships improved. In this context, we resolve to:

- (i) encourage and assist our port authorities and worker organisations to address the issue of port costs and efficiency through, inter alia, modernising payments and reward systems, training and re-employment of labour and the reduction of unnecessary bureaucratic requirements. We call on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and



CONFERENCE August 17-18, 1995 at the Trinidad Hilton

Development (UNCTAD) to assist us in this process;

- (ii) examine the future scope and role of the public and private sector in the provision of port services, with a view to ensuring the adoption of the most efficient and cost effective arrangements;

(iii) assist our port authorities to co-operate and collaborate more actively among themselves in the existing institutional arrangements, such as the Inter-American Ports and Harbours Conference (IAPH), the Port Management Association of Eastern Caribbean States (PMAECS), the Central American Maritime Commission (COCSTRAM), the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) and the permanent technical committee on ports of the Organisation of American States (OAS). As a priority, we urge them to focus attention on:

- (a) the simplification and streamlining of documentation requirements in our various ports to facilitate the movement of goods, services and people by sea, with specific reference to the provisions of the International Convention on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic 1965, as amended;
- (b) the identification of areas of cooperation to reduce costs and improve efficiency, particularly in minimising the time and costs to shippers and ship operators. In this context, we encourage them to explore the possibilities of

joint ventures and other forms of economic association in areas such as training, port facilities development and utilisation;

- (c) the establishment of an appropriate Electronic Data Inter-change (EDI) information system to link ports, shippers and shipping lines in the ACS region.

### AIR TRANSPORTATION

"We recognise that lower costs structure, effective schedule integration, improved air access and enhanced corporate relations programmes are important elements for the success and survival of the airlines in the ACS states, countries and territories.

"We also recognise that airline management needs to be an integral part of this process and to be firmly committed to the goal of closer intra-ACS collaboration.

"We the Governments of the ACS states, countries and territories resolve to:

- (i) examine the regulatory and operational framework which exists within the ACS states, countries and territories, including the nature and context of our bilateral air transport agreements, our obligations to our air carriers and the overall attitude of ACS states, countries and territories on contemporary significant air transport policy matters, as well as the need for adequate safeguards and safety nets for the protection of the ACS members as developing states, countries and territories.

(ii) evaluate the potential air access benefits which could arise from the negotiation of certain air services agreements on a group basis, using the Community of Interest principle of ICAO;

(iii) where feasible, give favourable consideration to the use of the Community of Interest principle as a means of improving both intra and extra regional air access arrangements;

(iv) sensitise the authorities and management of airports to the economic benefits and convenience of improving facilitation by implementing the standards and recommended practices of Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention and other initiatives and to urge them to become more pro-active in this area;

• ACS continues on Page 17



Trinidad Newsday,  
August 22, 1995.

NEWS REPORT

# ACS Communique

PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD: Following is the text of the communique issued in Port-of-Spain after a summit of Association of Caribbean States (ACS) leaders:

"The Inaugural Summit of Heads of State and Government and Representatives of the states, countries and territories of the Association met in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 17-18 August, 1995. It was preceded by the meeting of officials held on 14-15 August, 1995 and a ministerial meeting on 16-17 August, 1995.

All these meetings took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, collaboration and mutual understanding.

This meeting was attended by the Hon Lester Bird, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; the Hon Owen Arthur, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados; the Rt Hon Manuel Esquivel, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Belize; H E Dr Fidel Castro, President of the Republic of Cuba; the Hon Edison James, Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of Grenada; H E Dr Cheddi Jagan; President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana; the Rt Hon Percival J Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica; H E Mr Ernesto Zedillo, President of the Republic of Mexico; the Hon Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, President of the Republic of Nicaragua; the Hon Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis; the Rt Hon John Compton, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning and Development of St Lucia; the Rt Hon Sir James Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of St Vincent and the Grenadines; H E Dr Runaldo R Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname; Hon Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; H E Dr Rafael Caldera, President of the Republic of Venezuela.

In addition to the Heads of State and Government, other Representatives were the Hon. Hubert Hughes, Chief Minister of Anguilla; Hon R Croes, Vice Minister of Aruba; the Hon C A Smith, Minister of Public Safety and Immigration of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas; the Hon Roderigo Pardo, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Colombia; Hon Fernando Naranjo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica; the Hon Carlos Morales Troncoso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic; the Hon Victor Manuel Lagos Pizatti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador; the Hon. Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala; the Hon Claudette Werleigh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Haiti, General Walter Lopez Reyes, Vice President of the Republic of Honduras; HE Mr Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama; Hon Lucette Michaux Chevry, President of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe; Captain IAL Chance, Minister of Transport, Netherlands Antilles and the Hon Derel Taylor, Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

At this historic and path-breaking Summit, the Heads of State and Government adopted a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action which emphasised a commitment to the initiation of a new era in the wider Caribbean region characterised by the strengthening of integration, consultation and concerted action in order to ensure greater cultural, economic, political, scientific, social and technological co-operation among the



AS orderly as they entered, these members of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment band marched out of the Hilton Ballroom with their instruments after performing at the inaugural meeting of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). After hours of practice the band played a number of the region's anthems in honour of the many visiting Heads of State. Photo by KRISHNA MAHARAJ.



peoples, governments and countries of the Association of Caribbean States.

The Heads of State and Government commit themselves to work in a climate of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their states, the right of their peoples to self-determination, the rule of law, the adherence to democratic principles, human rights and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

### Fundamental Needs

Of fundamental importance is the shared perception with respect to the need to create a more competitive and viable economic space and to strengthen the capacity of the ACS membership to implement commitments in the domains and to advance the general development and prosperity of the peoples of the ACS while confronting the challenges and opportunities presented by the globalisation of the world economy, increased trade liberalisation and the need for co-operation in order to promote investment and wider markets in the region.

"The Heads of State and Government were conscious that the prime objective of their efforts must be aimed at improving the standard of living of their people and particularly at effectively combating the critical state of poverty in which a large part of them exist, and commit themselves to promote the sustainable development of the region, as a viable strategy aimed at improving these conditions.

The Heads of State and Government recognised that the historical and cultural diversity of the states, countries and territories of the Association provide a solid basis for developing their efforts at co-operation and concerted action within the Association of Caribbean States in the areas, inter alia of tourism, trade and

transportation as well as for contributing to overcoming the separateness of the past, to the benefit of their peoples and countries.

In the area of tourism, the Heads of State and Government recognised the strategic importance of that industry and the need to develop a regional tourism strategy that draws strength from co-operation without sacrificing the interest of individual states, countries and territories or the appeal of individual national tourism products, stressing diversity and economies of scale as key aspects of the Association of Caribbean States tourism product.

The difficulties involved in harmonising the rules and disciplines of trade services and investment are recognised and in that context the Heads of State and Government have instructed the Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States to execute a number of specific measures to ensure progress in the areas of trade liberalisation; trade and investment promotion and facilitation; inter-institutional co-operation and the overall follow up and implementation of the Plan of Action.

"Concerning transportation, the Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the principles of easy access and equal opportunity to affordable air and maritime transportation as indispensable factors in the economic integration of the states, countries and territories of the Association of Caribbean States.

In this regard, the ultimate goal is articulated to be the provision of sustainable, efficient, profitable, readily differentiated and significantly higher quality service to the travelling and cargo shipping communities at reasonable rates.

The Heads of State and Government have adopted the Plan of Action as a collection of integrated and closely related measures to advance the development of the Association of Caribbean States membership to its timely and effective implementation.

The first Ministerial Council of the Association of Caribbean States met on the morning of 17 August 1995 and selected Trinidad and Tobago as the Headquarters of the Association. At that meeting, Dr Simon Molina Duarte, from Venezuela, was elected Secretary General. The Council elected Mexico as its Chairman for a period of one year. Guatemala will be host of the next Ministerial Council Meeting which is scheduled to take place in late November 1995.

The Heads of State and Government have expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the excellent arrangements made for the hosting of this most important Meeting." (CANA)







# THE ACS ON THE MOVE





**2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of  
the Council of Ministers**  
in Havana, Cuba,  
December 13, 1996.



## The first two decades: 1994-2014

It has been almost 20 years since the Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was signed in July 1994 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. While the ACS has faced many challenges since then, and much remains to be done, it has also made significant strides in achieving the goals for which it was created.

The first task was to institute an operating legal and administrative entity. The formation of the ACS was supported by the many agencies that provided technical and logistical support to the General Secretariat while the permanent offices were being prepared. The location of the institution's headquarters was formalized on August 27, 1997, when the ACS signed the agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to establish its head office in the city of Port of Spain. The Association also had to resolve operational, structural, and organizational aspects, to ensure its optimal performance.

Twenty years later, the Association is firmly established as a well-known and recognized intergovernmental organization, with a fixed government structure, continuous

funding, and a well-designed ministry comprised of professional and capable personnel who come from individual Member States and Associate Members of the ACS.



**Declaration of Santo Domingo**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government on Margarita Island, Venezuela (December 11, 2001).





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE



**15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Panama City, Panama,  
November 27, 2003.

This institutional framework has been the basis for achieving the goals of promoting consultation, cooperation, and concerted action in matters of common interest in the Greater Caribbean, and for creating a tradition of dialogue and exchange of ideas between the region's countries.

Since its foundation, six summits have been held by Heads of State and/or Government. The leaders have met in Port of Spain (1995), Santo Domingo (1999), Margarita Island (2001), Panama City (2005), Pétienville (2013), and Mérida (2014). The Ministerial Council has met annually since 1995, for a total of 19 Ordinary Meetings. Meanwhile, the Special Committees have



**Norman Girvan,**  
Secretary General  
of the ACS, with the  
President of France,  
**Jacques Chirac.**



From left to right: **Rubén Silié**, Secretary General of the ACS; **Denis Watson**, ACS Political Adviser; and **Francisco Lainez**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, April 10, 2007.

held 95 meetings in the last two decades to discuss and identify activities and functional cooperation projects on matters of interest to Members and Associate Members.

Another challenge has consisted of defining priorities. While the mandate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit was to establish three main areas (tourism, transportation, and trade), by 1999, the ACS had created Special Committees to address a broader range of issues, such as natural resources, health, and technology. There was then a concern about the availability of human and financial resources to meet its growing Work Program. The Mem-





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE



**4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government** in Panama City, Panama, July 29, 2005.

ber States agreed to streamline and refocus the ACS's program into fewer lines of work. The Declaration of Margarita (December 2001) established the following as ACS priorities: Trade, Sustainable Tourism, Transportation, and Natural Disasters. The Caribbean Sea was added to this list in 2005. The consensus on these areas of focus has been preserved to date.

**Vanessa Rubio, Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico during the 16<sup>th</sup> Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the Council of Ministers, November 26, 2013.

The road traveled also served so that the Association could specify the purpose and the primary role of the organization. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government on Margarita Island (the central theme of which consisted of consolidating the Greater Caribbean), the ACS established a functional Zone of Cooperation as its first commitment (an objective which remains in effect). This concept led to the incorporation of a group of countries



**Alfonso Múnera**, Secretary General of the ACS, during an official visit to the President of Trinidad and Tobago, **George Maxwell**, March 11, 2012.

that share a common geographic space and have decided to cooperate based on the interests and goals resulting therefrom. The idea of adopting the concept of functional cooperation showed the Members' resolve to set the course of the ACS as an organization focused on achieving results through agreements and participation.

As a leading example of this process of consultation, five statutory instruments (besides the Convention) have been developed, in which Member States agreed to commitments, strategies, and mechanisms in some of the priority areas of work for the ACS, such as disasters, tourism and air transportation. Three of these instruments have been implemented to date: the Air Transportation Agreement, the Convention Establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean and the Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters.





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE

**5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads  
of State and/or  
Government**  
in Pétionville, Haiti,  
April 26, 2013.



The ACS has had to face many challenges in these first 20 years; some of an external nature (natural disasters and international economic shocks), and others that are internal (various negotiation agendas, the disparity in the size and economic structure of the countries, different degrees of participation in ACS activities, and a long pause between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Summits of Heads of State and/or Government).

In 2005, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of the ACS, the leaders felt it was the right time to analyze the evolution of the Association, its achievements in the

first decade, and its limitations and challenges. At that time, they committed to providing it with a new impetus and a new vision to achieve greater progress and overcome the challenges facing the region.

Similarly, the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the ACS again presents an excellent opportunity to look back over the path taken thus far, and to revitalize the Association with a view to consolidating and maintaining its relevance as an entity for consultation, functional cooperation, and concerted action in the Greater Caribbean.

From left to right: **Alfonso Múnera**, Secretary General of the ACS; **Patricia Archbold**, Ambassador of Colombia in Trinidad and Tobago; **Winston Dookeran**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and **Carlos Arturo Morales López**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, February 14, 2014





## TIMELINE

# Significant events in the history of the ACS

- **Signing of the Convention in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia,** that established the Association of Caribbean States (July 24)



- **Signing of the Agreement on the location of the ACS headquarters** with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (August 27)

- Proposal that the Caribbean Sea be internationally recognized as a **“special area in the context of sustainable development.”**



1995

1994

- **Inaugural Summit of Heads of State and/or Government** in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (August 17-18)

- Election of **Simón Molina Duarte** as Secretary General of the ACS



- **1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council** in Guatemala City, Guatemala (December 1)

1997

- **Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters** (April 17)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government** in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (April 16-17)

1998

- **Creation of the Special Committee on Natural Disasters** (December 12)

- **Protocol on Privileges and Immunities** (December 13)

1999

- Beginning of the program titled **“Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea”** (December 13)

- Adoption of resolution A/RES/54/225 **“Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development”** by the UN General Assembly (December 22)





- **Election of Norman Girvan** as Secretary General of the ACS



**Norman Girvan**, Secretary General of the ACS, during an official visit to the Prime Minister of Jamaica, **Percival James Patterson**, February 5-10, 2003.

- **1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Greater Caribbean Business Forum** (October 19-20)

- **Protocol to the Convention Establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean** (February 12)

- **Transportation Agreement between the ACS Member States and Associate Members** (February 12)

- **Election of Rubén Arturo Valdez Silié** as Secretary General of the ACS



Inauguration of the third Secretary General of the ACS, **Rubén Silié**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, January 3, 2004.

- **Declaration of Principles and Guidelines for Special and Differential Treatment for Small Economies in the Context of the FTAA** (September 5)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government** on Margarita Island, Venezuela (December 11-12)



- **Convention Establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean** (December 12)

- **4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government** in Panama City, Panama (July 29)

- **Creation of the Caribbean Sea Commission**

- Beginning of project **"Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean"**
- **High-Level Conference on Disaster Reduction** in Saint-Marc, Republic of Haiti (November 14-16)

2000

2001

2004

2005

2006

2007





- **Election of Luis Fernando Andrade Falla** as Secretary General of the ACS



Luis Fernando Andrade Falla, Secretary General of the ACS, during an official visit to the President of Trinidad and Tobago, **George Maxwell Richards**, March 20, 2008.

- **Implementation of the Air Transportation Agreement between the Member States and Associate Members of the ACS** (September 19)

- Adoption of resolution A/RES/61/197: "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" by the UN General Assembly (December 19)

- **5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Pétionville, Republic of Haiti** (April 26)



**Michel Martelly**, President of Haiti, and the President of Mexico, **Enrique Peña Nieto**, during the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Pétionville, Haiti, April 26, 2013.

- **Implementation of the Convention Establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean** (November 6, during Mexico's *pro tempore* presidency)



2008

- **Startup of the project Strengthening Hydrometeorological Operations and Services in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) of the Caribbean (SHOCS)**

- **Election of Alfonso Múnera Cavadía** as Secretary General of the ACS



Inauguration of the fifth Secretary General of the ACS, **Alfonso Múnera Cavadía**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, April 13, 2012.

2013

- **Dialogue to identify existing trade opportunities between Member States of the Greater Caribbean Region** (July 11-12)

2014

- **Implementation of the Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters** (March 31. This agreement was promoted by Mexico during its presidency of the Ministerial Council for the 2013 period)
- **6<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Mérida, Mexico** (April 30)





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE



**18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Panama City, Panama, February 22, 2013.

## High Level Meetings and Secretaries General, 1994-2014

### SUMMITS OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE ACS, 1995-2014

Number	Venue	Date	Outcome/Goals
<u>I</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	08/17-18/1995	Priorities were identified to promote regional cooperation and coordination between ACS Member States and Associate Members.
<u>II</u>	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	04/16-17/1999	Progress between the Port of Spain and Santo Domingo Summits was analyzed, and the projection of the Caribbean region to the 21 <sup>st</sup> century was determined.
<u>III</u>	Margarita Island, Venezuela	12/11-12/2001	Consolidation of the Greater Caribbean identity was promoted to strengthen the ACS as a forum for consultation, cooperation, and concerted action.
<u>IV</u>	Panama City, Panama	07/29/2005	Reflection on the evolution of the ACS, its achievements, and challenges during its 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
<u>V</u>	Pétionville, Haiti	04/26/2013	Discussion of the measures used to strengthen and revitalize the ACS, and maintain its relevance.
<u>VI</u>	Mérida, Mexico	04/30/2014	Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the ACS and a debate of new initiatives to benefit the Greater Caribbean.

Source: The Association of Caribbean States, 2014.





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE

**15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Cartagena, Colombia, January 22, 2010.

**ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 1995-2014**

Number	Place	Date	Chaired by
<u>I</u>	Guatemala City, Guatemala	12/01/1995	Mexico
<u>II</u>	Havana, Cuba	12/13/1996	Mexico
<u>III</u>	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	11/28/1997	Grenada
<u>IV</u>	Bridgetown, Barbados	12/09/1998	Guatemala
<u>V</u>	Panama City, Panama	12/12/1999	Haiti
<u>VI</u>	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	12/08/2000	Venezuela
<u>VII</u>	Margarita Island, Venezuela	12/10/2001	Barbados
<u>VIII</u>	Belize City, Belize	11/29/2002	Honduras
<u>IX</u>	Panama City, Panama	11/27/2003	Dominican Republic
<u>X</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	12/15/2004	Jamaica
<u>XI</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	03/28/2006	Mexico
<u>XII</u>	Guatemala City, Guatemala	01/26/2007	Guatemala
<u>XIII</u>	Panama City, Panama	01/25/2008	Panama
<u>XIV</u>	Port au Prince, Haiti	01/30/2009	Haiti
<u>XV</u>	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	01/22/2010	Colombia
<u>XVI</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	01/28/2011	Nicaragua
<u>XVII</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	02/10/2012	Trinidad and Tobago
<u>XVIII</u>	Panama City, Panama	02/22/2013	Panama
<u>XIX</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	02/14/2014	Mexico

Source: The Association of Caribbean States, 2014.



**Simón Molina Duarte,**  
first Secretary General  
of the ACS (1995-2000)

**SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE ACS, 1995-2014**

Period	Secretary General	Country
1995-2000	Simón Molina Duarte	Venezuela
2000-2004	Norman Girvan	Jamaica
2004-2008	Rubén Arturo Silié Valdez	Dominican Republic
2008-2012	Luis Fernando Andrade Falla	Guatemala
2012-2016	Alfonso Múnera Cavadía	Colombia

Source: The Association of Caribbean States, 2014.





## THE ACS ON THE MOVE



**Pierre Richard Casimir,**  
Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Haiti, during  
the 6<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary  
Meeting of the Council  
of Ministers, Haiti,  
April 23, 2013.

## LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

## ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE ACS

## CONVENTION ESTABLISHING THE ACS

- > **Date of draft:**  
July 24, 1994
- > **Date effective:**  
August 4, 1995

AGREEMENT ABOUT THE  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ACS

- > The Agreement between the Association of Caribbean States and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Headquarters of the Association of Caribbean States and its Privileges and Immunities was signed on August 27, 1997 and is currently in force, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago having complied with the requirements set forth in Article 46.

AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL  
COOPERATION ON NATURAL DISASTERS

- > **Date of draft:**  
April 17, 1999
- > **Date effective:** March 14, 2014. According to Article 18 it shall enter into force when two thirds (17) of the Member States shall deposit the instrument of ratification.  
Ratifications to date by Member States: **17**

PROTOCOL ON PRIVILEGES AND  
IMMUNITIES

- > **Date of draft:**  
December 13, 1999
- > **Date effective:** It has not yet entered into force. According to Article 25, it shall enter into force when 15 of the States, Countries, or Territories shall deposit the instrument of ratification.  
Ratifications to date: **11**  
Number of ratifications necessary to take effect: **four**

CONVENTION ESTABLISHING THE  
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ZONE OF THE  
CARIBBEAN (STZC)

- > **Date of draft:**  
December 12, 2001
- > **Date effective:** November 6, 2013. According to Article 9, it shall enter into force when 15 of the States, Countries, or Territories shall deposit the instrument of ratification.  
Ratifications to date: **16**

PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION FOR  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STZC

- > **Date of draft:**  
February 12, 2004
- > **Date effective:** It has not yet entered into force. According to Article 8, it shall enter into force upon the signatures of 15 states to ratify the Convention for the Establishment of the STZC.  
Signatures to date: **eight** by the Contracting States

AIR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN ACS MEMBER STATES AND  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- > **Date of draft:**  
February 12, 2004
- > **Date effective:** September 19, 2008  
Ratifications to date: **12**  
**Observations:** Mexico did not sign this agreement because Mexican policies do not allow for multilateral agreements in this sphere, while the French Government, responsible for French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, stated that it was unable to join the agreement, given its existing international obligations.





## LEGAL INSTRUMENTS SIGNED AND RATIFIED BY MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE ACS (PART 1)

	Country	Convention Establishing the ACS		Agreement for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters		Protocol on Privileges and Immunities	
		Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
CARICOM	Antigua and Barbuda	07/24/94	06/12/95 (DOD) <sup>1</sup>	04/17/99			
	Bahamas	07/24/94	05/24/95 06/29/95 (DOD)	04/17/99			
	Barbados	07/24/94	04/19/95 04/28/95 (DOD)	04/17/99			
	Belize	07/24/94	04/10/95 06/06/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	05/14/01 06/19/01 (DOD)	06/19/01	
	Dominica	07/24/94	11/25/94 01/11/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	03/31/14		
	Grenada	07/24/94	03/01/95 03/27/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	03/28/14	12/13/99	
	Guyana	07/24/94	03/01/95 04/04/95 (DOD)	04/17/99			
	Haiti	07/24/94	12/03/98 12/07/98 (DOD)	04/17/99	04/06/09 07/13/09 (DOD)	12/13/99	
	Jamaica	07/24/94	09/20/94 10/14/94 (DOD)	04/17/99		08/08/07	11/26/07 02/12/08 (DOD)
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	07/24/94	02/03/95 03/03/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	05/08/01 06/10/01 (DOD)		
	Saint Lucia	07/24/94	03/07/95 04/04/95 (DOD)	04/17/99			
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	07/24/94	05/03/95 06/06/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	09/10/09 09/30/09 (DOD)		
	Suriname	07/24/94	07/20/95 07/25/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	09/10/09 09/30/09 (DOD)		
	Trinidad and Tobago	07/24/94	09/05/94 09/21/94 (DOD)	04/17/99		09/15/00	07/21/06 08/08/06 (DOD)
G3	Colombia	07/24/94	08/30/96 10/02/96 (DOD)	04/17/99		12/13/99 <sup>2</sup>	01/08/03 (DOD)
	Mexico	07/24/94	03/06/95 04/28/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	02/21/01 (DOD)	08/30/00 <sup>3</sup>	07/03/02
	Venezuela	07/24/94	07/21/95 08/02/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	04/02/02 06/26/02 (DOD)	12/13/99	04/02/02 06/26/02 (DOD)
MCCM	Costa Rica	07/24/94	01/14/99 02/17/99 (DOD)	04/17/99	12/20/10 03/01/11 (DOD)	13/12/99	
	El Salvador	03/24/95	05/22/96 05/28/96 (DOD)	04/17/99	03/04/03 (DOD)	13/12/99	09/28/00 01/21/03 (DOD)
	Guatemala	07/24/94	03/19/96 05/24/96 (DOD)	04/17/99	05/27/05 07/29/05 (DOD)	13/12/99	11/30/01 04/29/02 (DOD)
	Honduras	07/24/94	07/06/95 08/04/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	06/21/13		
	Nicaragua	07/24/94	12/02/98 01/25/99 (DOD)	04/17/99	11/09/01 11/29/01 (DOD)	05/05/00	07/07/05 11/21/05 (DOD)
NON-GROUPED	Cuba	07/24/94	05/19/95 07/05/95 (DOD)	04/17/99	06/17/02 12/19/02 (DOD)	12/13/99	10/24/02 10/18/05 (DOD)
	Dominican Republic	07/24/94	01/04/96 01/16/96 (DOD)	04/17/99	02/11/08 02/17/09 (DOD)	12/13/99	06/16/01 02/06/02 (DOD)
	Panama	07/24/94	01/19/96 04/18/96 (DOD)	04/17/99	02/19/04 06/30/04 (DOD)	12/13/99	02/09/01 01/28/02 (DOD)
ASSOCIATES	Aruba	12/11/98	09/25/01 (DOD)				
	France (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique)	05/24/96	01/23/98 02/18/98 (DOD)	04/17/99	07/11/03 08/21/03 (DOD)		
	Netherlands Antilles	11/27/97	06/21/01 09/25/01 (DOD)	04/17/99	04/21/06 (DOD)		
	Montserrat	05/24/96					





## LEGAL INSTRUMENTS SIGNED AND RATIFIED BY ACS MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (PART 2)

	Country	Convention for the Establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean		Protocol for the Convention for the Establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean	Air Transportation Agreement between the ACS Member States and Associate Members	
		Signature	Ratification	Signature	Signature	Ratification
CARICOM	Antigua and Barbuda	12/12/01				
	Bahamas	12/12/01	07/04/07			
	Barbados	12/12/01	10/07/13	02/12/04	02/12/04	11/26/04 (DOD)
	Belize	12/12/01			12/15/04	03/15/05
	Dominica	12/12/01				07/28/05 (DOD)
	Grenada	12/12/01	07/08/02 08/22/02 (DOD)			
	Guyana	12/12/01	12/19/13			
	Haiti	12/12/01		02/12/04	02/12/04	
	Jamaica	12/12/01		07/27/04	27/07/04	04/06/09 07/13/09 (DOD)
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	12/12/01				07/21/05 07/28/05 (DOD)
	Saint Lucia	07/28/05		02/12/04		
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12/12/01	03/04/09			
	Suriname	12/12/01		02/12/04	02/12/04	
	Trinidad and Tobago	07/27/04	10/26/06 11/13/06 (DOD)	07/27/04	07/27/04	04/16/08 07/22/08 (DOD)
G3	Colombia	12/12/01				
	Mexico	12/12/01	11/11/03	02/12/04		
	Venezuela	12/12/01	06/17/13 (DOD)		02/12/04	09/05/07 10/24/07 (DOD)
MCCM	Costa Rica	12/12/01	01/28/11 03/01/11 (DOD)	12/15/04	15/12/04	
	El Salvador	12/12/01 <sup>4</sup>	06/23/05 09/05/05 (DOD)	11/14/07 <sup>4</sup>		
	Guatemala	12/12/01 <sup>4</sup>	01/30/08 04/09/08 (DOD)	12/15/04	12/15/04	06/19/08 09/03/08 (DOD)
	Honduras	12/12/01	02/08/13			
	Nicaragua	12/12/01 <sup>4</sup>	05/03/07 10/23/07 (DOD)	02/12/04	12/02/04	05/05/11 07/12/11 (DOD)
NON-GROUPED	Cuba	12/12/01	08/16/05 10/18/05 (DOD)	02/12/04	02/12/04	07/20/07 09/10/07 (DOD)
	Dominican Republic	12/12/01	01/03/13 06/05/12 (DOD)	02/12/04	02/11/04	
	Panama	12/12/01	02/19/04 06/30/04 (DOD)	02/12/04	02/12/04	07/14/05 (DOD)
ASSOCIATES	Aruba				06/29/04	04/21/06 (DOD)
	France (Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique)	12/12/01	10/09/02 (DOD)			
	Netherlands Antilles	12/12/01			02/23/05	04/21/06 (DOD)

1 DOD: Date of Deposit of instrument of ratification or signature.

2 Colombia's signing of the Protocol is subject to confirmation. It deposited the Instrument of Countersignature of Signing February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

3 Mexico signed the Protocol ad referendum.

4 With reservation.



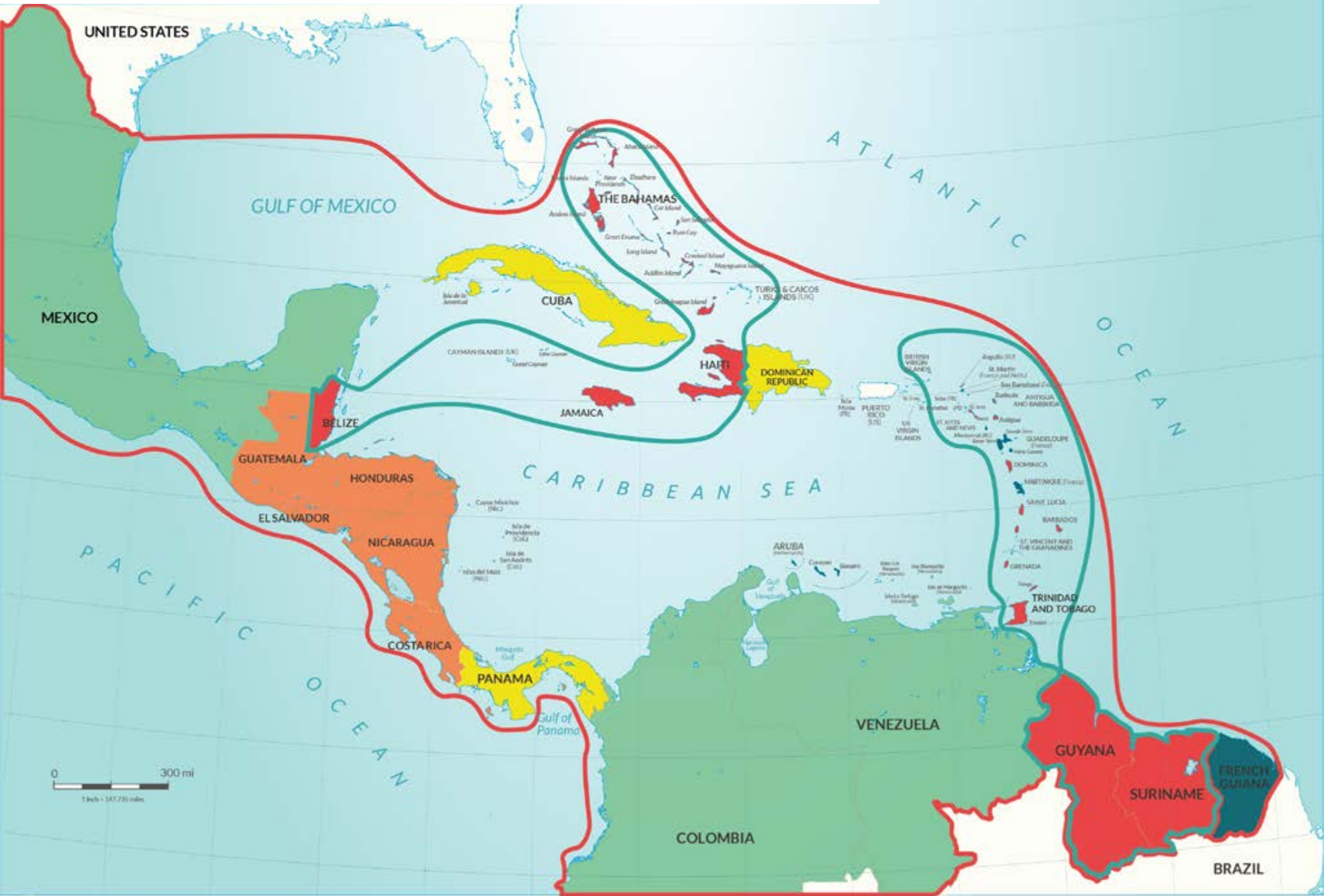








# MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATION





# OUR MEMBERS



-  ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES
-  Members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
-  Members of the Central American Common Market (CACM)
-  Members of the Group of Three (G3)
-  Non-grouped Members
-  Associate Members



Headquarters of the Association of Caribbean States





## OUR MEMBERS



**5<sup>th</sup> Summit of  
Heads of State  
and/or Government,**  
Pétionville, Haiti,  
April 26, 2013.

**T**he Association of Caribbean States is comprised of 25 Member States and seven Associate Members. ACS Members are a testimony to efforts to work together within diversity. The Association brings together countries with territories of over one million square kilometers and tens of millions of inhabitants, and island nations of less than 300 km<sup>2</sup> and a population in the tens of thousands.

Geographic and demographic characteristics are only two aspects of diversity in the Greater Caribbean. The region is a microcosm of the political systems of the world. It is home to a communist republic, constitutional and parliamentary monarchies,<sup>1</sup> independent republics of different types and overseas territories that depend on a European metropolis.

The region is also a linguistic kaleidoscope. The official languages of Members include four international languages (Spanish, English, French and Dutch) together with

<sup>1</sup> In parliamentary monarchies the monarch acts as head of state, under the control of the legislature (parliament), while in constitutional monarchies the monarch retains sovereign power and enjoys greater power and functions.

regional languages such as Creole and the indigenous languages of the original peoples. In the economic sphere there are a great range of currencies, different levels of development and variation in income levels.

The formation of the ACS seeks to avail of the experience and coming together of existing organizations for sub regional cooperation such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Group of Three (G3). The system of organization by blocs is useful within ACS when assigning functions and responsibilities, to ensure that each of the groups of countries is represented.

The following pages present key information about the Member and Associate States of the ACS. The Members are presented in accordance with the sub-regional organization they belong to. Each profile includes information on surface area, estimated population for 2013, system of government, and official or major languages.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Sources: [Association of Caribbean States](#) (2014) and [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (2013).







## Members of the Caribbean Community

CARICOM is an organization set up to promote regional unity and coordinate economic and foreign policy in the Caribbean. It was created in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, replacing the Caribbean Free Trade Association, founded in 1965. Its principal activities include supporting economic integration and cooperation among Members, and ensuring that the benefits of integration are fairly distributed.



### Antigua and Barbuda

**Capital:** Saint John  
**Surface area:** 442 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 90,000  
**Government:** Constitutional monarchy  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** East Caribbean dollar



### Belize

**Capital:** Belmopan  
**Surface area:** 22,966 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 332,000  
**Government:** Parliamentary monarchy  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** Belize dollar



### Bahamas (The)

**Capital:** Nassau  
**Surface area:** 13,934 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 377,000  
**Government:** Parliamentary monarchy  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** Bahamas dollar



### Dominica

**Capital:** Roseau  
**Surface area:** 751 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 72,000  
**Government:** Parliamentary Republic  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** East Caribbean dollar



### Barbados

**Capital:** Bridgetown  
**Surface area:** 430 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 285,000  
**Government:** Constitutional monarchy  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** Barbados dollar



### Grenada

**Capital:** Saint George's  
**Surface area:** 344 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 106,000  
**Government:** Parliamentary monarchy  
**Official language:** English  
**Currency:** East Caribbean dollar





## OUR MEMBERS

**Guyana**

Capital: Georgetown  
 Surface area: 214,969 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 800,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: Guyana dollar

**Haiti**

Capital: Port-au-Prince  
 Surface area: 27,750 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 10,261,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official languages: Haitian Creole and French  
 Currency: Gourde

**Jamaica**

Capital: Kingston  
 Surface area: 10,991 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 2,784,000  
 Government: Parliamentary monarchy  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: Jamaica dollar

**Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Capital: Basseterre  
 Surface area: 261 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 54,000  
 Government: Federal constitutional monarchy  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: East Caribbean dollar

**Saint Lucia**

Capital: Castries  
 Surface area: 616 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 182,000  
 Government: Constitutional monarchy  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: East Caribbean dollar

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

Capital: Kingstown  
 Surface area: 389 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 109,000  
 Government: Constitutional monarchy  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: East Caribbean dollar

**Suriname**

Capital: Paramaribo  
 Surface area: 163,820 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 539,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Dutch  
 Currency: Surinamese dollar

**Trinidad and Tobago**

Capital: Port of Spain  
 Surface area: 5,130 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 1,341,000  
 Government: Parliamentary Republic  
 Official language: English  
 Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar







## Members of the Central American Common Market

The CACM is a regional organization created by the Treaty of Managua of 1960 to bring about economic integration between Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica (the latter signed the treaty in 1962). The guiding aim of the General Treaty is to establish a common market and customs union.



### Costa Rica

Capital: San Jose  
 Surface area: 51,100 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 4,860,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Spanish  
 Currency: Costa Rica Colon



### Honduras

Capital: Tegucigalpa  
 Surface area: 112,492 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 8,075,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Spanish  
 Currency: Lempira



### El Salvador

Capital: San Salvador  
 Surface area: 21,041 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 6,326,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Spanish  
 Currency: Colon and US dollar



### Nicaragua

Capital: Managua  
 Surface area: 130,373 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 6,066,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Spanish  
 Currency: Cordoba



### Guatemala

Capital: Guatemala  
 Surface area: 108,889 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 15,419,000  
 Government: Presidential Republic  
 Official language: Spanish  
 Currency: Quetzal







## Members of the Group of Three

The G3 was the name given to the regional economic bloc formed by Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, which aimed to create a free trade zone among the Member States. The treaty was signed on June 13, 1994 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and entered into force on January 1, 1995. In May 2006 Venezuela officially left the G3 to join the Southern Common Market (Mercosur).



### Colombia

Capital: Bogota

Surface area: 1,141,748 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 48,374,000

Government: Presidential Republic

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Colombian Peso



### Mexico

Capital: Mexico City

Surface area: 1,964,375 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 119,321,000

Government: Presidential Federal Republic

Official language: Spanish and indigenous languages

Currency: Mexican Peso



### Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

Capital: Caracas

Surface area: 912,050 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 30,390,000

Government: Presidential Federal Republic

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Bolivar







## Non-grouped Members

They are Member Countries of the ACS that do not belong to any other sub regional group and see the Association as an opportunity for dialogue and functional cooperation with neighbouring countries in a multilateral framework of ideological and political pluralism.



### Cuba

Capital: Havana

Surface area: 109,884 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 11,291,000

Government: Communist Republic

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Cuban Peso



### Dominican Republic

Capital: Santo Domingo

Surface area: 48,671 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 10,291,000

Government: Presidential Republic

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Dominican Peso



### Panama

Capital: Panama

Surface area: 75,417 km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants: 3,864,000

Government: Presidential Republic

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Balboa







## Associate Members

The Associate Members according to the ACS agreement are States, Countries and Caribbean territories that have the right to intervene in discussions and vote in the meetings of the Ministerial Council and of the Special Committee on matters which affect them directly, falling within their constitutional competence. The Ministerial Council shall conclude agreements with the respective State, Country or Territory in which they establish terms and conditions so that Associate Members could participate and vote in meetings.



### Aruba

**Capital:** Oranjestad  
**Surface area:** 180 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 103,000  
**Government:** Constitutional monarchy  
**Official languages:** Dutch and Papiamentu  
**Currency:** Aruban florin



### Curaçao

**Capital:** Willemstad  
**Surface area:** 444 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 159,000  
**Government:** Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
**Official languages:** Dutch and Papiamentu  
**Currency:** Dutch Antilles florin



### Gouadeloupe

**Capital:** Basse-Terre  
**Surface area:** 1,704 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 466,000  
**Government:** Overseas department of France  
**Official language:** French  
**Currency:** Euro



### Martinique

**Capital:** Fort-de-France  
**Surface area:** 1,128 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 432,900  
**Government:** Overseas department of France  
**Official language:** French  
**Currency:** Euro



### Sint Maarten

**Capital:** Philipsburg  
**Surface area:** 34 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 45,000  
**Government:** Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
**Official languages:** Dutch and English  
**Currency:** Dutch Antilles florin



### France on behalf of overseas territories



### French Guiana

**Capital:** Cayenne  
**Surface area:** 83,846 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 260,000  
**Government:** Overseas department of France  
**Official language:** French  
**Currency:** Euro



### Saint Barthélemy

**Capital:** Gustavia  
**Surface area:** 24 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Inhabitants:** 8,938  
**Government:** Overseas department of France  
**Official language:** French  
**Currency:** Euro





## OUR MEMBERS



## Saint Martin

Capital: Marigot  
 Surface area: 53.2 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 36,979  
 Government: Overseas collectivity of France  
 Official language: French  
 Currency: Euro



## The Netherlands on behalf of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius

Capital: Amsterdam  
 Surface area: 41,526 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 16,788,973  
 Government: Constitutional monarchy  
 Official language: Dutch  
 Currency: Euro



## Bonaire

Capital: Kralendijk  
 Surface area: 294 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 16,541  
 Government: Special municipality  
 Official language: Dutch  
 Currency: US dollar



## Saba

Capital: The Bottom  
 Surface area: 13 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 1,424  
 Government: Special municipality  
 Official language: Dutch  
 Currency: US dollar



## Sint Eustatius

Capital: Oranjestad  
 Surface area: 21 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Inhabitants: 3,300  
 Government: Special municipality  
 Official language: Dutch  
 Currency: US dollar







**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and  
Tobago, February 14, 2013.

## Our structure and organization

**T**he Association of Caribbean States comprises a structure of standing bodies aimed at promoting, consolidating and strengthening regional cooperation. The main Association bodies are the Council of Ministers and the General Secretariat.

The ACS works through Directorates and Special Committees to address issues that Member Countries have identified as priorities for the region (Sustainable Tourism, Trade Development and External Economic Relations, Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction), along with other bodies, such as the Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund and the Caribbean Sea Commission. The Committees and the Commission also comprise working groups and subcommittees.

### **Council of Ministers**

This is the main governing body of the ACS, which sets out the policies to be provided for in the Articles establishing the ACS and in the Declarations of the Heads of State. Its

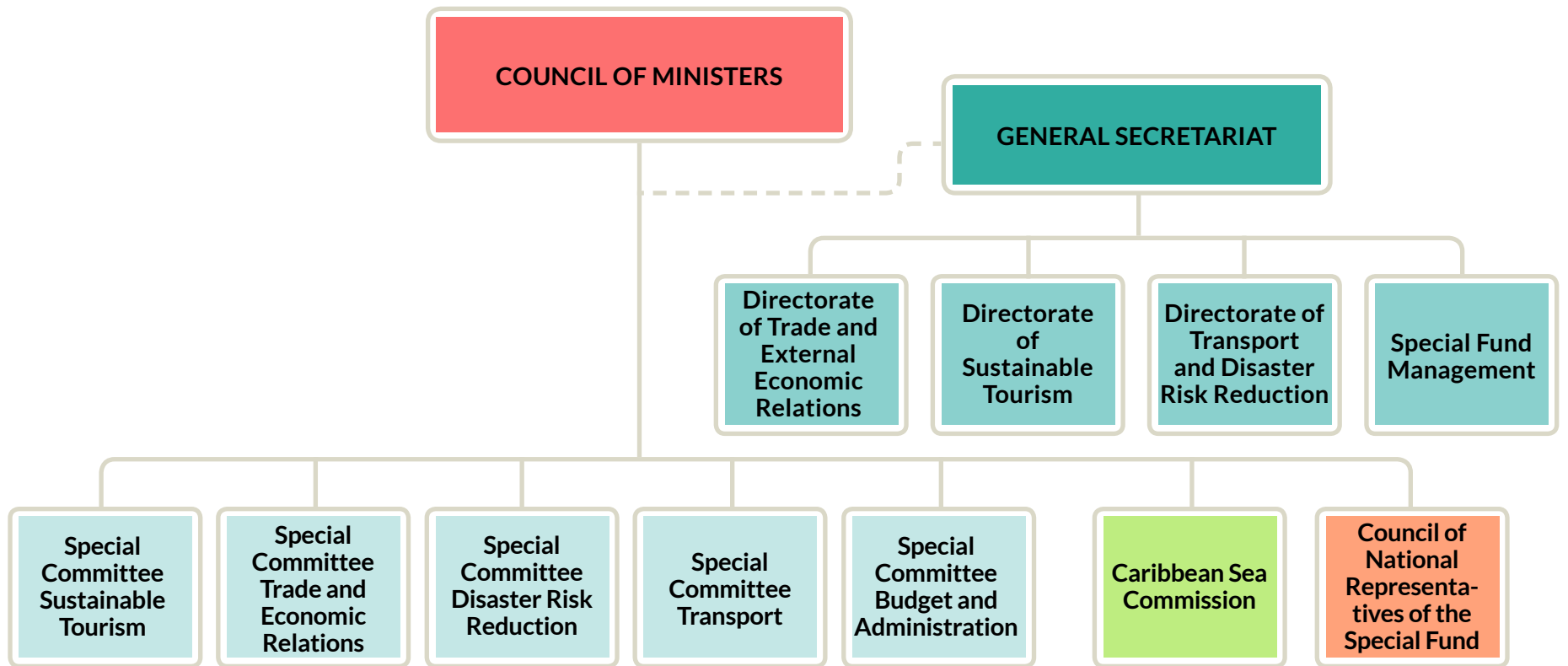
functions include monitoring the operation of the General Secretariat; appointing the Secretary General; forming Special Committees; deciding on matters of membership; calling Summits, and approving work plans and budgets, among others. It holds an Annual Ordinary Meeting and a follow-up Intersessional Meeting. The Board (consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur) guides and monitors the implementation of the work program.

### **General Secretariat**

The role of the General Secretariat is to implement the mandates arising from the meetings of the Council of Ministers. The Secretary General is nominated by the Council of Ministers from among the main groups that integrate the ACS, for a period of four years. The Secretary General deals with developing and maintaining political relations and cooperation with Member Countries, observers and third parties, and is responsible for ensuring the operation of the Association and its financial management, among other activities.







The Secretariat is headquartered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and has a staff of 30 people. The operation comprises three Directorates, a Legal Unit, a Political Unit, a Communications Unit and a Unit for administration of the Special Fund for regional cooperation projects.

**DIRECTORATES** > They are the operative areas responsible for implementing programs and projects approved in the work plans for issues that have been identified as priorities for the region. There are three in total: the Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations, the

Directorate of Sustainable Tourism and the Directorate of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction.

**LEGAL AFFAIRS OFFICE** >

Provides legal advice for administration of ACS affairs. Its objectives include supporting Members in signing and ratification of legal instruments emanating from the ACS and monitoring their compliance with international law.

**POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICE** >

Provides advice and analysis to the Association on its activities and on regional political conditions. Supports the Secretary General in relation to Members and other organizations, is also involved in the coordination and documentation of meetings of the Council and Summit.

**COMMUNICATIONS UNIT** >

Department in charge of communication strategies, promotion and recognition of the Association to strengthen the cooperation platform in the Greater Caribbean area. Its activities include circulation of press releases and publications, management of the document and photograph archive, the website and logistical support.

**16<sup>th</sup> Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Mexico City, Mexico,  
November 26, 2013.





**The Secretary General, Alfonso Múnera** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Summit of Mayors and Presidents of African Descent, Cartagena, Colombia, September 16-18, 2013.



**SPECIAL FUND MANAGEMENT** > The General Secretariat oversees this unit, which was established in 2013, and is responsible for the international cooperation, mobilization of funds for projects to be financed through the Special Fund.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM** > Aims to ensure the attractiveness of tourist destinations of the Greater Caribbean and facilitate the development of best practices in environmental protection. It is divided into four working groups: Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Area; promotion of multi-destination tourism; promotion of the language and cultures of the Greater Caribbean; and safety and security of tourists.

**Alfonso Múnera, with teachers during the ACS "Book Drive",** June 12, 2013. To the right, Communications Officer Michelle García.



**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS** > Encourages the creation and consolidation of an expanded economic area in the Greater Caribbean through the gradual reduction and elimination of barriers to trade and investment. The committee has two working groups: business visas and customs facilitation. It meets twice a year.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION** > Promotes actions to prevent risks and plan assistance in the event of natural disasters, and contributes to the institutional strengthening of regional organizations for the prevention and mitigation of emergencies. Works on a project basis and meets twice a year.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT** > Promotes actions in response to the main challenges of air and sea transport in the Greater Caribbean. It meets once a year and works with specific projects: maps of maritime trade routes in the Greater Caribbean, maritime-port strategy and regional cooperation between airlines.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION** > Responsible for overseeing the administrative and financial matters of the Association.







**22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport,** October 25, 2013.

**CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION** > Established in 2006 to encourage and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. The Commission is divided into four subcommittees (legal, scientific, governance and public information, and budget) and has met twelve times.

**COUNCIL OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPECIAL FUND** > This is an intergovernmental agency comprised of senior officials from ACS Member States and Associate Members. The Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund works with the Ministerial Council to monitor, assess and approve projects in priority areas financed through the Special Fund, which was created in 1996.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Pétionville Summit it was agreed to work on promotion of Education and Culture. The Secretary General will be responsible for this initiative.

**Observers and social actors**

Participation in the Association by sub-regional organizations for integration and other social actors contributes effectively to promote, consolidate and strengthen regional cooperation.

**FOUNDER OBSERVERS**

- Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)
- Central American Integration System (SICA)



**Alicia Barcena Ibarra, ECLAC Executive Secretary with Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, Secretary General of the ACS,** in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, July 12, 2013.

- General Secretariat of the CARICOM
- Latin American Economic System (SELA)
- Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**OBSERVERS**

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Finland
- India
- Italy
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Peru
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- South Korea
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom







# TODAY AN INTO THE FUTURE... Priority areas







4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers, Bridgetown, Barbados, December 11, 1998.

# An expanded economic area for trade and investment

## The Financial and Commercial Context in the Greater Caribbean

Since the formation of the Association of Caribbean States, ACS Member Countries have established functional cooperation on trade and investment to achieve sustainable economic growth and regional equality as one of their priorities, aimed at resolving the social issues associated with development.

Upon the creation of the ACS in 1994, the Member Countries' foreign trade was distinguished by a reliance on a few export products; by commercial links with markets in a few developed countries; and a low level of trade among the ACS countries (6% of total exports). This complicated situation explains the shared desire among the different sub-regions of the ACS to expand economic relations within the Greater Caribbean in order to further leverage the Member States' geographical proximity and similarities in their levels of development.

However, this involved formidable challenges since the opportunities to achieve it depended on a large number of variables.

In the 1990s, international multilateral flows of free trade and the opening of markets were reflected in the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, and the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This initiative was strengthened with the commencement of negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement, in which the 34 democracies in the region agreed to negotiate to progressively remove barriers to trade and investment, however, this was never brought to fruition. Furthermore, there was a surge of initiatives and bilateral and plurilateral agreements in the region aimed at establishing limited Free Trade Agreements or Preferential Trade Agreements. Finally, there were also various trade negotiation perspectives derived from the levels of development and disparity in the size and composition of the foreign trade of Mem-





**The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, María Ángela Holguín,** during the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers, February 10, 2012.

ber Countries. This process generated parallel multidimensional and diverse agendas, creating a complex mosaic of interests that were hard to articulate.

In the case of the FTAA, the extensive rounds of negotiations were concluded in 2002 without achieving consensus on the region's primary desire to enter into an expanded free trade area, of a multi-regional nature, to facilitate trade, and to provide an incentive for cumulative inter-regional trade and investment.

On the other hand, the ACS has decided to concentrate its attention on actively supporting the promotion of agreements between Member Countries to fulfill their potential within the region and to identify areas where concerted efforts could produce a stronger impact. For example, the ACS has been paying more attention to non-tariff barriers to trade, such as customs procedures, regulations, and standards, supply chains, and information among others.

## Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations

The Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations (DTDEER) is the functional area of the General Secretariat of the ACS that implements projects and programs aimed at promoting cooperation and consultation in order to build and consolidate an enhanced economic space for trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean.

The DTDEER's work plan aims to address the following issues:

1. Promote trade convergence and greater participation by ACS Members.
2. Consolidate, promote and facilitate the development and expansion of trade, investment, competitiveness, and connectivity between the countries of the ACS.
3. Integrate the ACS region with other regional trade initiatives and infrastructure.
4. Promote and encourage international trade negotiations and training on trade-issues.

Over the 20 years that the ACS has been in existence, the DTDEER has become a valuable forum in the Greater Caribbean for the promotion of trade, investment, and the exchange of successful financial practices. It organizes a variety of activities, events, workshops, and seminars, the most notable of which are described as follows:

The Deputy Minister of Guatemala, **Carlos Raúl Morales Moscoso,** at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers, February 14, 2014. To his left, **Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkette,** Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana.







**27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee**  
For Trade and Economic Relations,  
July 12, 2012.

### Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations

This Special Committee is the entity responsible for setting the agenda and priorities for regional trade within the ACS region, and approving the projects and programs the DTDEER must follow in the biennial work programme. It meets annually and has held 28 meetings since the ACS was founded. It is an intergovernmental organ involving trade officials and the region's technical experts on trade and investment.

### Activities to promote and strengthen trade relations

The DTDEER recognizes that access to markets is not enough to improve trade within the region; it is also necessary to create a complementary business culture. Therefore, the DTDEER has promoted the following activities for meetings, exchanges, and cooperation:

#### **BUSINESS FORUM OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN >**

This forum is a biennial event held to promote trade, investment, and experience exchanges among business persons in the

region. It also organizes and promotes seminars, business meetings, and activities to facilitate business contacts and partnerships. The inaugural Forum was held in October 2000 on the island of Margarita, Venezuela and was attended by 380 participants. To date, the Business Forum has held a total of ten sessions.

#### **FORUM FOR TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS**

> The goal of this Forum is to facilitate collaboration and collective actions between the different trade promotion organizations and to stimulate discussions on relevant issues on the trade agenda in the region. This Forum has held ten sessions in total.

#### **TEXTILE AND FASHION FORUM OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN >**

This project is aimed at strengthening business ties and exchange of experiences and knowledge between buyers and designers in the Greater Caribbean. The first Forum was held in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Barranquilla, in March 2010, with a second in March 2011; both in Barranquilla, Colombia. These events generated US \$1.86 million and US \$3.45 million in sales, respectively.

#### **PROMOTION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES) >**

SMES represent a vital step in the economic growth of the countries in the ACS. Through courses and seminars, ACS Member Countries seek to identify the obstacles and constraints facing these businesses, and to strengthen their skills and improve their business strategies.



**Meeting of Experts**  
on Debt Burden in the Caribbean Region,  
February 24, 2014.





**2<sup>nd</sup> Textile and Fashion Forum in the Greater Caribbean,** Barranquilla, Colombia, March 26, 2010.



**Activities to promote consultation, cooperation, and concerted action**

**DIALOGUE FOR IDENTIFYING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE WIDER CARIBBEAN**

> The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee on Trade Development was an event which hosted representatives of regional and international organizations, such as SELA, CARICOM, OECO, UNCTAD, the European Union, and the International Trade Center (ITC), in order to identify areas of cooperation and achievable initiatives to promote trade and investment.

**Regional Technical Consultation on “Overcoming Hunger and Malnutrition in the Countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) through Equitable Social Development,”** Panama, May 19, 2005.



**Activities to improve sources of information**

The DTDEER recognizes the importance of market information mechanisms that serve the diverse stakeholders in the region. Its tasks include the collection and exchange of trade statistics, as well as maintaining an inventory of studies conducted by other agencies, including the following highlights, among others:

*Major trends in trade, trade policy, and integration in the Greater Caribbean.* This book, published in 2003 in collaboration with the ECLA, presents an analysis of the foreign trade situation in the countries of the Wider Caribbean.

*Trade flows in the ACS region and opportunities for increased trade and investment.* In collaboration with the regional ECLAC office, the DTDEER prepared this study to analyze existing and potential intra-regional trade flows within the ACS.

**Activities to facilitate trade and investment, and reduce barriers**

Facilitating trade and gradually eliminating barriers to trade are key elements in promoting the growth of trade within the Greater Caribbean. In consideration of this, two working groups were established, one of which focuses on business visas while the other focuses on customs procedures.







**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Facilitation, January 23, 2013.**

**WORKING GROUP FOR CUSTOMS PROCEDURES >**

The goal of this working group is to promote the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures. This working group has met twice, and its main achievement thus far is the Agreement for Cooperation in the Area of Trade Facilitation, which was adopted during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers in February 2014.

**WORKING GROUP FOR BUSINESS VISAS >** The goal of this working group is to identify options to harmonize the requirements for a business visa. During its second meeting, the group agreed to develop a guideline document with recommendations for reforms to the immigration policies of the Member Countries, in order to facilitate mobility for business persons.

The DTDEER has started to work on two major projects, proposed and supported by the government of Mexico. The purpose of these projects is to analyze and help overcome the obstacles faced at



**The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maxine Mc Clean, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Council of Ministers, April 25, 2013.**

major ports that receive goods, and interactions at ports with fewer cargo movements (Interconnectivity for Improved Trade Facilitation and Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Greater Caribbean Project), and to facilitate connections between the customs authorities of the countries (International Transit of Goods Project) to reduce processing times and customs clearance of goods.

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Business Visas, January 25, 2013.**





# TRADE AND ECONOMY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



**Lighthouse in Paradise Island, Nassau, Bahamas.**

**T**he Greater Caribbean's economic area is one of significant natural, human, and productive resources. It comprises 282 million people in an area of 5.1 million square kilometers. In 2013, the Greater Caribbean generated a gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.46 trillion USD. This represents 42% of the GDP of Latin America and 3.4% of global GDP.

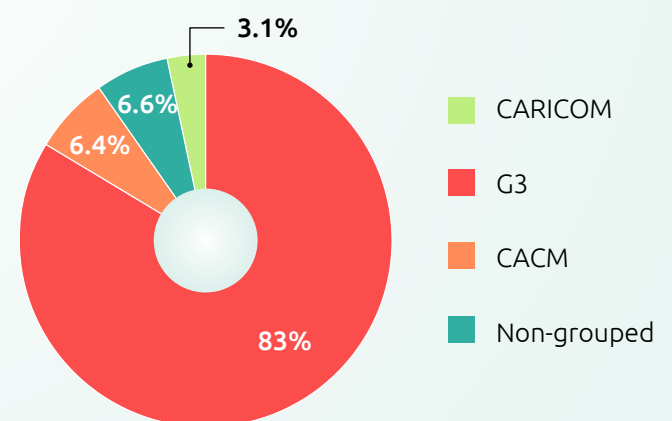
**El Palito oil refinery, Venezuela.**



As with other aspects, ACS' economies show a high degree of variation in size, production capacities, levels of development, and contributions to GDP. These differences are reflected in different levels of resource availability, domestic markets, diversification, economies of scale, and economic vulnerability to natural hazards and external factors, which in turn results in differing approaches to addressing major challenges and economic problems.

At one end of the scale are the three largest countries, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, which are distinguished by the size of their

## PARTICIPATION IN THE ACS GDP 2013



Source: International Monetary Fund, [World Economic Outlook Database](#), 2014.

territories, population, and GDP. At the other extreme are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, all island territories of a relatively small size in terms of geography, population, and economy. Between these two extremes, there are other countries that qualify as medium-sized.

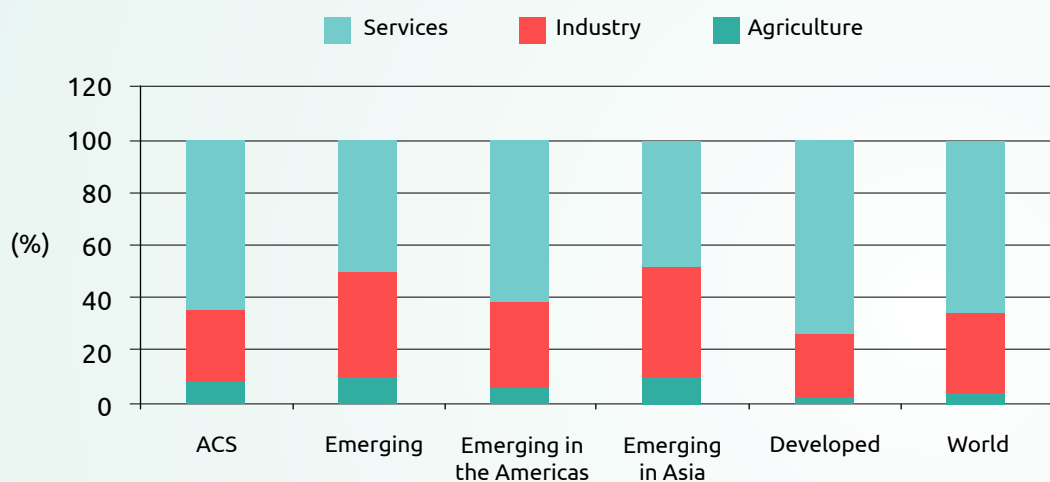


# TRADE AND ECONOMY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



**Banana factory**  
near Sainte Marie,  
Martinique.

## GDP BY ACTIVITY SECTOR, 2011



Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, [UNCTADSTAT](#) (2014).

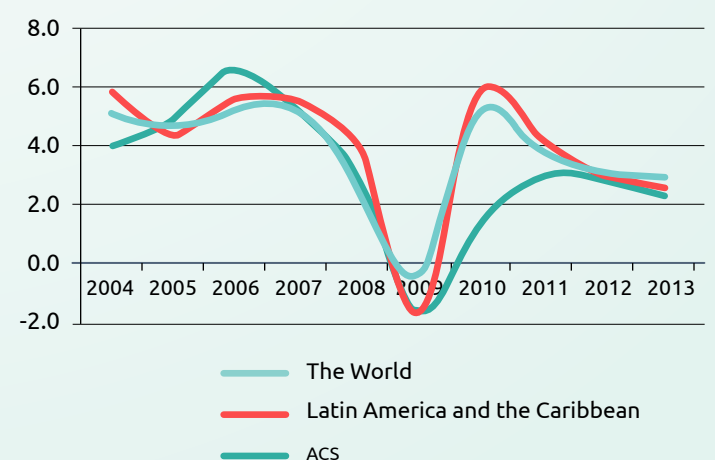
With respect to the contribution of various economic activities to GDP, the most important productive sector for the region is services with 65% of the total, followed by industry with 27.1%. Compared to other regions of the world, the degree of industrialization is low. While agriculture has been decreasing its contribution to GDP, it still holds important weight in terms of jobs.

It is important to clarify that contributions by sector vary between countries. Agriculture in Nicaragua represents up to 20.5% of GDP. In Trinidad and Tobago, industry accounts for 56% and in Barbados and Bahamas, services contribute over 80%. Some countries have specialized in specific activities, such as the manufacture of electrical components, petrochemicals, international financial services, telematics, and tourism.

In terms of economic performance, the annual average growth rate has maintained an upward trend of 3.2% per year, slightly below the world average and that of Latin America. In this respect, there is an important relationship between the economies of the region and the global economy. The 2008-2009 global financial crisis had a powerful impact on the ACS countries, interrupting growth in GDP and foreign trade.

Finally, levels of development also vary significantly among Members in terms of per capita income (from \$800 USD - \$23,500 USD), although in general terms, according to the Human Development Index of the United Nations, the Greater Caribbean region is considered to have an intermediate level of development, with eight Member Countries already in the high human development group.

## ANNUAL CHANGE OF GDP, 2004-2013 (%)



Source: Based on data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [ECLACSTAT](#) (2014) for Latin America and the Caribbean and ACS; and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, [UNCTADSTAT](#) (2014), for growth figures of GDP in the world.



# TRADE AND ECONOMY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



Container ship,  
Panama Canal.

## Foreign trade

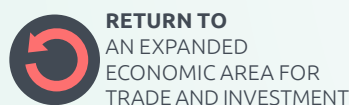
Over the last two decades, there has been a general movement in ACS countries towards greater participation in global trade flows of both goods and services. The external sector is crucial as an engine of economic growth, foreign exchange sources, supply of goods and services, and as a means of addressing the challenges posed by the limitations of

domestic markets and a poorly diversified production structure.

For all countries in the ACS region, foreign trade expansion began in 2003, and was then interrupted by the 2008-2009 crisis, which drastically decreased exports and imports. However, as of 2010, trade started to recover and increase its participation in the region's economy.

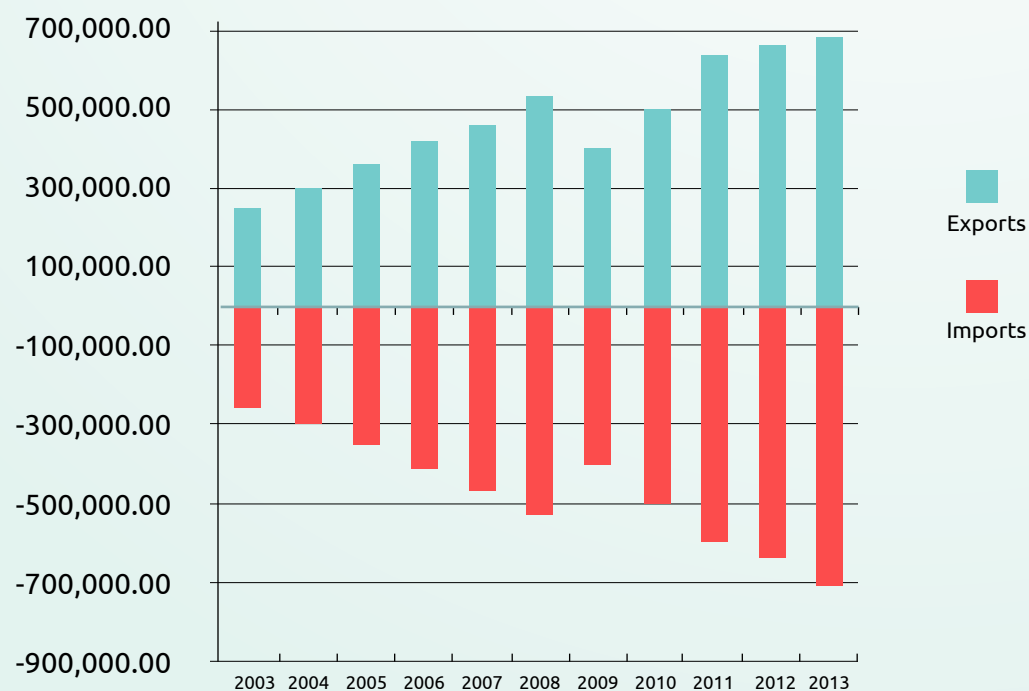
The foreign trade coefficient (which expresses the sum of exports and imports as a percentage of GDP) serves to measure a country's level of openness to external markets. This indicator shows that in the ACS area, 18 of 25 economies are highly oriented outwards with greater than 70% co-efficiency ratios.

In terms of volume, exports in 2013 amounted to \$685 billion USD compared to \$706 billion USD of imports, a share of 5.7% in world trade. Most ACS countries accumulate a deficit in their balance of trade. To balance their external accounts, they rely on foreign financial cooperation: remittances, foreign direct investment, and loans (which in turn are reflected in a high level of gross public debt with respect to GDP).



RETURN TO  
AN EXPANDED  
ECONOMIC AREA FOR  
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE ACS, 2003-2012 (IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, [ECLACSTAT](#), 2014.



TRADE AND ECONOMY  
IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

EXPORT DESTINATIONS, 2012



Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2014) and Atlas Caribbean (2011).



# TRADE AND ECONOMY

IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



With regard to the destinations of exported goods, the initial goal of the ACS countries was to obtain broad, secure access to major world markets. In the 2011-2012 period, 90.4% of goods exports were to countries outside the region, and 9.6% to ACS Member Countries. The United States remains the main destination for exports (64%) and is the main trading partner for 16 of the 25 countries in the region, although its share has decreased from 1999 when it received 76% of the goods exported. The second most important market is the European Union with 7.7% of exports. For 10 ACS countries, it is the second most important partner.

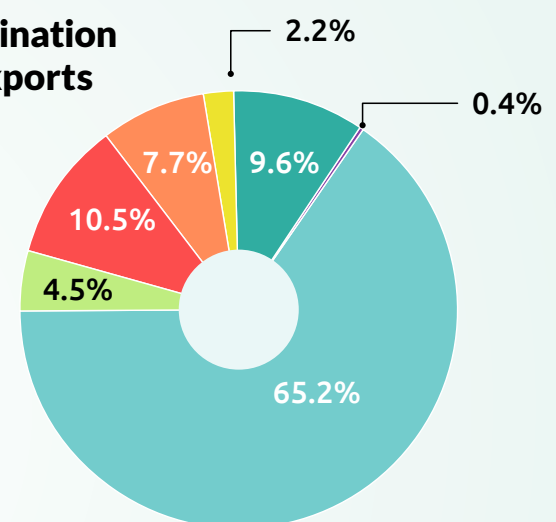
The pattern is similar in terms of imports, as most imports come from the United States (42%). The European Union plays an important role with 10.7%. However, there is a strong presence of the Southeast Asia market, particularly due to the growth of imports from China.

There is also a clear difference among ACS countries in terms of the composition of their exports. Several countries export significant volumes of agricultural products; others like Mexico have high quotas of manufactured goods, while countries such as Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela continue to rely heavily on products such as hydrocarbons.

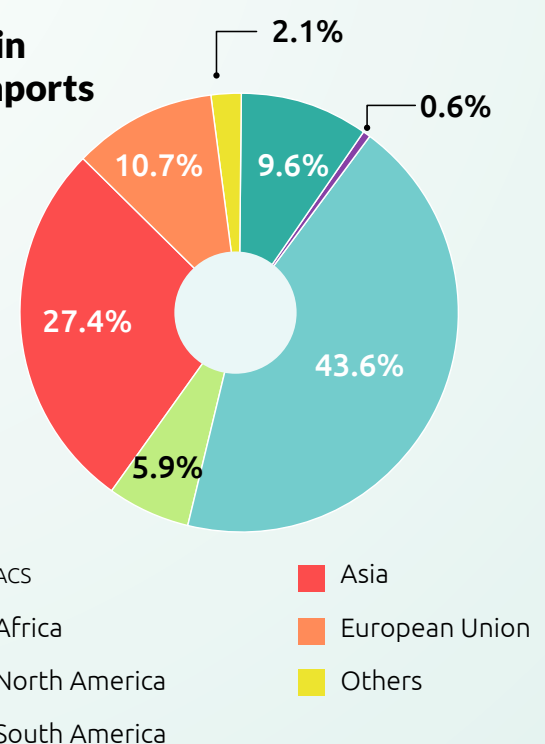
It is important to note that while exports of goods account for over 95% of the total, there are other countries that have specialized in the export of services, including several

## DESTINATION OF EXPORTS AND ORIGIN OF IMPORTS OF THE ACS, 2011-2012

### Destination of exports



### Origin of imports



Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTADSTAT (2014).

countries in the Caribbean islands with a high share of tourism and travel, as well as Panama with strong financial, trade, and logistics activity derived from the Panama Canal.



**TRADE AND ECONOMY**  
IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

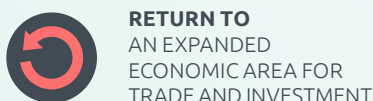


Group of fishermen, west coast of Martinique.

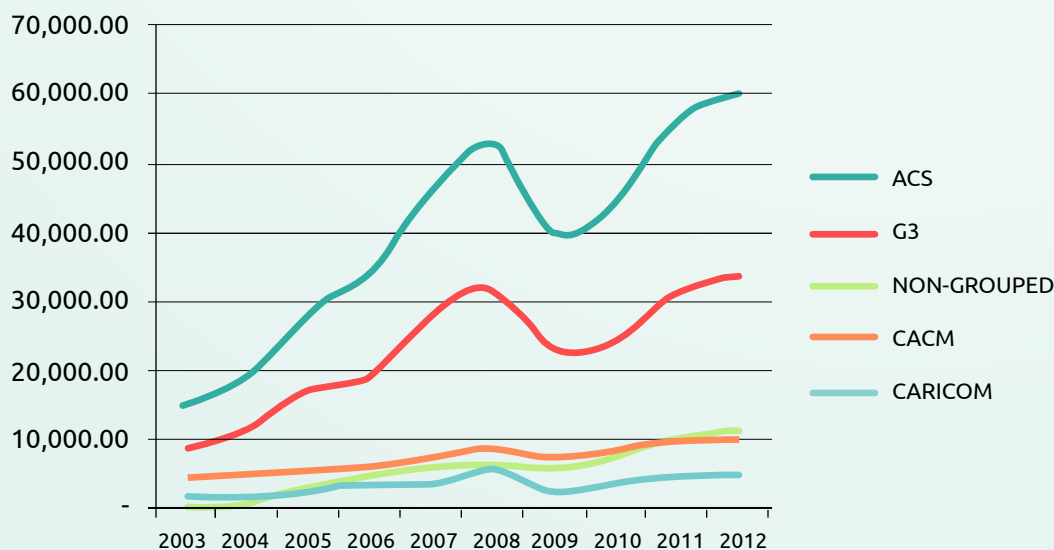
## Intraregional trade

Since its founding, the Association of Caribbean States has aimed to increase the amount and quality of the exchange of goods and services within the region as a means to accelerate growth, increase employment, and strengthen integration.

Historically, the intraregional trade of the ACS was characterized by a relatively low value in proportion to regional GDP and its share of the total trade of Members. Although this pattern of trade generally remains stable, in recent years intraregional exports have grown both in terms of volume and share in regional trade.



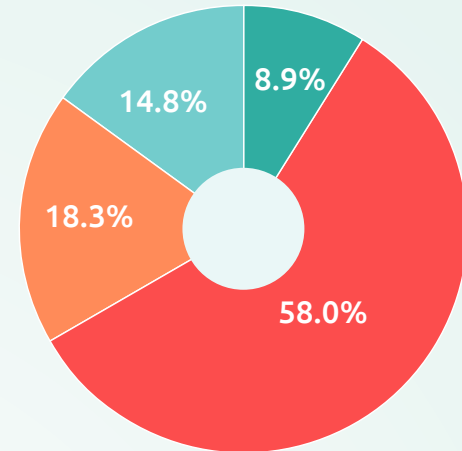
### INTRAREGIONAL EXPORTS, 2003-2012 (MILLIONS OF USD)



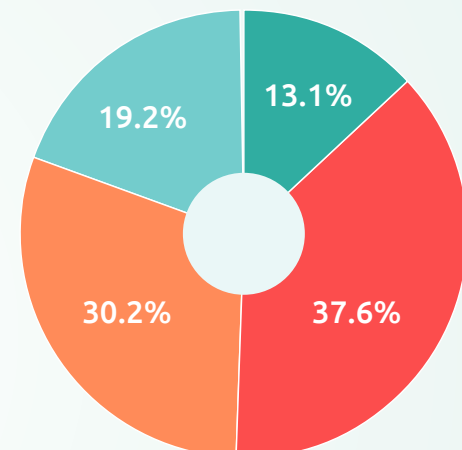
Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTADSTAT (2014).

### PARTICIPATION IN INTRAREGIONAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, 2003-2012

#### Exports



#### Imports



CARICOM CACM G3 NON-GROUPED

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTADSTAT (2014).

Despite the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, intraregional trade between 2004 and 2013 grew at a rapid pace. Exports of goods between ACS Member Countries went from \$15,368 million in current USD in 2004 to \$59,742 million USD for 2013. In this sense, the non-grouped ACS countries were those that showed the highest growth rates.

As a result of this upward trend, the share of intraregional trade over total trade increased from 6.2% in 2004 to 9.0% in 2012. However, this trade represents only 2.6% of regional GDP, with a ratio of six to seven percent for the countries of CARICOM, the CACM, and the non-grouped Members, and only 1.6% for the G3.





# TRADE AND ECONOMY

IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

Regarding the participation of sub-groupings in exports, this is influenced by the size of the countries involved. Between 2003 and 2012 nearly 60% were accounted for by the G3 countries, followed by the countries grouped around the Central American Common Market, the non-grouped countries, and finally CARICOM.

The larger size and dynamism of intra-regional exports of the G3 countries, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago meant they showed a positive balance of trade in intraregional trade, while other countries recorded a deficit in the intraregional balance of trade.

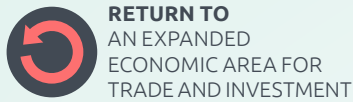
## INTRAREGIONAL EXPORTS, 2003-2012 (MILLIONS OF USD)

Exporter Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Antigua and Barbuda	1	3	3	6	4	5	1	2	2	4
Bahamas	44	41	32	29	37	40	66	131	120	147
Barbados	129	171	161	179	271	188	139	148	178	329
Belize	38	31	27	44	63	19	22	63	50	60
Dominica	25	25	25	26	24	25	20	25	21	29
Grenada	9	11	12	10	9	10	10	9	10	12
Guyana	81	97	104	109	135	148	137	160	199	243
Haiti	2	4	37	62	59	50	63	63	83	36
Jamaica	73	77	63	78	79	96	95	84	93	122
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	3
Saint Lucia	20	26	13	14	28	55	52	69	52	51
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8	4	6	5	11	8	7	11	18	27
Suriname	66	53	94	125	98	238	131	236	332	325
Trinidad and Tobago	1,186	1,307	2,303	2,960	3,068	4,726	1,979	2,607	3,532	3,054
<b>CARICOM</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>3,887</b>	<b>5,611</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>3,609</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>4,441</b>
Colombia	2,212	3,526	4,521	5,088	7,711	9,371	6,628	5,273	8,530	9,404
Mexico	3,655	3,968	6,656	8,396	10,790	11,829	8,709	11,298	14,677	15,436
Venezuela, RB	2,953	4,278	5,695	5,968	9,923	10,467	7,650	7,602	8,108	9,209
<b>G3</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>11,772</b>	<b>16,871</b>	<b>19,453</b>	<b>28,424</b>	<b>31,667</b>	<b>22,987</b>	<b>24,173</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>34,049</b>
Costa Rica	1,051	1,185	1,416	1,425	1,713	2,000	1,644	1,677	1,996	1,843
El Salvador	1,002	1,094	1,187	1,287	1,540	1,884	1,584	1,829	2,053	2,195
Guatemala	1,415	1,701	1,740	2,138	2,661	3,102	2,744	3,255	3,659	3,667
Honduras	535	675	787	860	1,215	1,185	1,006	1,240	1,583	1,613
Nicaragua	184	210	259	248	353	440	455	536	549	680
<b>CACM</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>5,388</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>7,481</b>	<b>8,610</b>	<b>7,433</b>	<b>8,537</b>	<b>9,840</b>	<b>9,999</b>
Cuba	259	287	321	353	318	471	591	777	1,073	1,179
Dominican Republic	181	201	370	558	900	1,088	1,071	1,651	2,081	2,210
Panama	238	300	2,638	4,288	5,141	5,046	4,814	5,101	7,215	7,865
<b>NON-GROUPED</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>6,360</b>	<b>6,605</b>	<b>6,476</b>	<b>7,529</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>11,253</b>
<b>ACS</b>	<b>15,369</b>	<b>19,276</b>	<b>28,471</b>	<b>34,259</b>	<b>46,152</b>	<b>52,493</b>	<b>39,621</b>	<b>43,847</b>	<b>56,218</b>	<b>59,743</b>
<b>WORLD</b>	<b>247,165</b>	<b>297,474</b>	<b>358,227</b>	<b>416,336</b>	<b>459,426</b>	<b>531,675</b>	<b>399,830</b>	<b>499,434</b>	<b>626,198</b>	<b>661,620</b>

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, [UNCTADSTAT](#) (2014).



# TRADE AND ECONOMY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



City center skyline,  
Panama City.

## INTRAREGIONAL IMPORTS, 2003-2012 (MILLIONS OF USD)

Importer Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Antigua and Barbuda	56	44	58	79	61	61	50	40	56	44
Bahamas	63	70	69	117	396	451	357	260	63	70
Barbados	324	360	521	527	527	633	396	440	324	360
Belize	161	161	179	229	277	281	216	241	161	161
Dominica	46	50	60	62	77	87	79	81	46	50
Grenada	69	73	108	87	136	151	110	126	69	73
Guyana	188	212	316	352	358	618	471	626	188	212
Haiti	105	108	117	129	134	185	170	251	105	108
Jamaica	802	1,038	1,438	1,561	2,162	3,123	1,668	1,904	802	1,038
Saint Kitts and Nevis	40	39	45	52	54	66	47	39	40	39
Saint Lucia	126	132	153	222	110	60	77	88	126	132
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	42	43	53	58	75	76	71	84	42	43
Suriname	185	174	251	284	289	374	381	445	185	174
Trinidad and Tobago	557	410	872	904	1,237	1,338	1,079	947	557	410
<b>CARICOM</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>7,506</b>	<b>5,170</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,913</b>
Colombia	1,788	2,109	3,702	4,701	4,999	4,939	3,306	4,918	1,788	2,109
Mexico	2,053	3,168	3,404	3,789	4,168	4,886	3,286	4,843	2,053	3,168
Venezuela, RB	1,711	3,078	4,527	6,008	9,316	10,134	7,649	5,250	1,711	3,078
<b>G3</b>	<b>5,552</b>	<b>8,355</b>	<b>11,634</b>	<b>14,498</b>	<b>18,483</b>	<b>19,959</b>	<b>14,242</b>	<b>15,010</b>	<b>5,552</b>	<b>8,355</b>
Costa Rica	1,289	1,432	1,636	1,957	2,648	3,141	2,195	2,759	1,289	1,432
El Salvador	1,743	1,973	2,155	2,265	2,817	3,315	2,630	3,022	1,743	1,973
Guatemala	2,125	2,438	2,273	2,080	3,362	3,856	2,677	4,038	2,125	2,438
Honduras	1,217	1,421	1,904	1,930	2,541	2,934	2,516	2,631	1,217	1,421
Nicaragua	811	987	1,021	985	1,443	1,745	1,695	2,007	811	987
<b>CACM</b>	<b>7,185</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>8,988</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>12,811</b>	<b>14,991</b>	<b>11,713</b>	<b>14,456</b>	<b>7,185</b>	<b>8,250</b>
Cuba	754	1,640	2,505	2,564	3,643	5,547	3,625	4,636	754	1,640
Dominican Republic	1,361	1,660	2,407	2,972	3,244	4,056	2,907	3,743	1,361	1,660
Panama	254	185	721	793	922	1,044	903	1,112	254	185
<b>NON-GROUPED</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>5,633</b>	<b>6,328</b>	<b>7,809</b>	<b>10,646</b>	<b>7,435</b>	<b>9,490</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>3,485</b>
<b>ACS</b>	<b>17,870</b>	<b>23,004</b>	<b>30,493</b>	<b>34,706</b>	<b>44,995</b>	<b>53,101</b>	<b>38,559</b>	<b>44,529</b>	<b>17,870</b>	<b>23,004</b>
<b>WORLD</b>	<b>253,517</b>	<b>296,639</b>	<b>348,397</b>	<b>409,302</b>	<b>468,159</b>	<b>529,049</b>	<b>406,296</b>	<b>498,878</b>	<b>253,517</b>	<b>296,639</b>

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, [UNCTADSTAT](#) (2014).





**10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers,**  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and  
Tobago, December 15, 2004.

## Reducing disaster risks

**T**he Convention that founded the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) recognized from the outset that its Member States were particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. Thus, disaster risk management has become a focal area of the work done by the organization.

During its 20 years of existence, ACS has placed particular emphasis on; 1) the importance of regional cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction 2) supporting national, regional, and international organizations dedicated to disaster risk reduction, particularly the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and 3) strengthening the response capacity of Members with coaching and training.

The Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction is an operational area of the Secretary General of the Association that is responsible

for implementing projects and programs aimed at strengthening cooperation between the organizations in charge of planning and executing disaster relief in the Greater Caribbean, as well as providing information on prevention, mitigation, education and planning.

### **Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The agency for dealing with natural disasters in the ACS is the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was established in 1999 during the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Panama City, Panama (it was originally known as the Special Committee for Natural Disasters). The Committee meets twice a year and seeks to promote cooperation between countries and specialized entities in the field, and the development of regional strategies to establish a response to natural disasters. The Special Committee has held 21 meetings to date.





**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Experts**  
on Trade, Transport and  
Disaster Risk Reduction,  
April 3, 2014.

## Mandates

In recognition of the importance and urgency of the matter, and in the context of the formation of the Special Committee for Natural Disasters in 1999, Member States established the Agreement for Regional Cooperation in Natural Disasters, which must be ratified by each country. Subsequently, political criteria have been established to address the issue of disasters regionally. Finally, the Declaration of Panama (arising from the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government held in Panama City, Panama, in July 2005) outlined the guiding principles and mandates for the Association on the matter of natural disasters.

In order to meet these mandates, a High-Level Conference on Disaster Reduction was convened in the town of Saint-Marc, Haiti in November 2007, where the Plan of Action of Saint-Marc, a document that identified 27 objectives, was adopted to guide the work of the Association on disaster risk reduction for the 2007-2012 period.

The conference provided a noticeable strengthening of institutional relations in the region and was attended by leading organizations such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, the United



**21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the  
Special Committee on  
Disaster Risk Reduction,**  
October 2, 2013.





**International Workshop** on Disaster Risk Management Associated with Natural Phenomena, Mexico City, Nov. 25, 2013.



Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), along with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

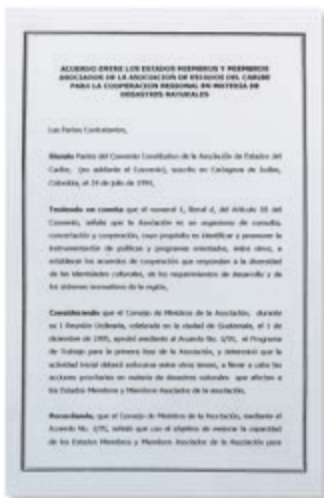
This event marked a fundamental change in strategy with regard to natural disasters. In 1999, the Special Committee for Natural Disasters changed its name to the Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction which reflects the change in the overall approach to management prior to the disaster as opposed to an approach focused on the response after the occurrence of the event.

While the Saint-Marc Plan of Action is the foundation on which the work of the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction is built, it has been reinforced and enhanced by the Declaration of Pétienville and its corresponding Plan of Action that was issued during the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit in Pétienville, Haiti, 2013.

**Projects**

The Association of Caribbean States, as a result of several memorandums of understanding among different organizations (listed at the end of this section), is developing a project called Strengthening Hydro-meteorological Operations and Services in the SIDS of the Caribbean (SHOCS) with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This project is valued at \$1.2 million USD and is the largest project ever undertaken by the Association.

Moreover, the ACS and the International Federation of the Red Cross work together to strengthen the legal framework in the area of disasters and are developing projects like Urban Risk and Green Response. They have also conducted joint work with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) to support



**Agreement on** Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters.



**Final SHOCS Workshop,** November 21, 2012.



**Alfonso Múnera,**  
Secretary General  
of the ACS, during  
the Meeting for  
Strengthening  
Legal Preparedness  
for International  
Disaster Assistance  
in ACS countries,  
April 22, 2013.



the development of a “bill of law for the domestic facilitation and regulation of disaster relief and initial recovery assistance,” following the rules of International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL).

The Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction of the ACS remains the primary forum within the Greater Caribbean to ex-

change experiences, lessons learned, and best practices. To date, it has served as a guide providing the governments of the Member States with the task of strengthening national legal frameworks. It should be mentioned that the Agreement for Regional Disaster Cooperation has entered into force as of March 31, 2014 after its ratification by two more countries.

**Tadateru Konoe,**  
President of the  
International  
Federation of Red  
Cross and Red  
Crescent Societies,  
during a visit to the  
ACS headquarters.



**Signing of  
Memorandum of  
Understanding**  
with the Finnish  
Meteorological  
Institute,  
March 4, 2011.



## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AGREEMENTS

The ACS is working together with other regional and international agencies to uphold the mandates on disasters outlined by the Plans of Action of Saint-Marc and Pétionville. The memoranda of understanding include those established with:

- The Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America in Guatemala (2002)
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2004)
- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), now CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency) (2004)
- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which is the Secretariat of the International Strategy of Disaster Reduction and Disaster Risk Reduction (2004)
- The Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (2005)
- The Organization of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban (2005)
- The White Helmets Commission of the Republic of Argentina (2007)
- The International Monetary Fund (2011)
- The Finnish Meteorological Institute (2011)





# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



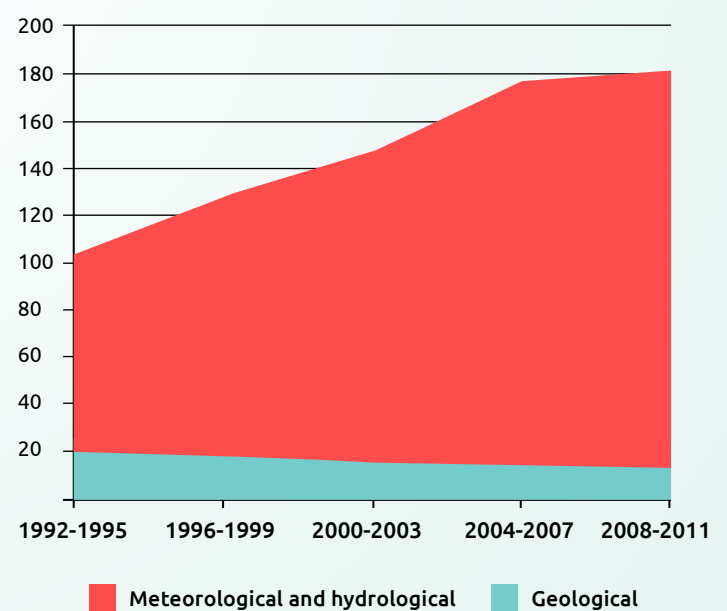
**T**he Greater Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters due its geographic situation (location, geology, tectonic context and topography), population distribution, infrastructure and available resources.

A large number of Member Countries of the Association of Caribbean States are exposed to meteorological and hydrological events (hurricanes, floods and landslides), others to geological events (earthquakes and volcanoes) and some several kinds of risks, meaning they are considered critically vulnerable countries.

In the past 30 years natural disasters in the region have followed a relentless annual cycle that displays an upward trend, both in number of events and of people affected.

Between 1990 and 2013 a total of 817 natural disasters occurred in ACS countries, causing the deaths of 297,000 persons and affecting the lives of 68.2 million. Storms and floods were the most frequent events (73%) and those affecting most people, while

## GEOLOGICAL AND CLIMATOLOGICAL DISASTERS IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN REGION, 1992-2011\*



\* Geological events include earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides, while meteorological and hydrological events include hurricanes, floods, mudslides, high temperatures, droughts and wildfires.  
Source: ECLAC, [Databases and Statistical Publications](#), 2014.

earthquakes were the most lethal, such as the earthquake that shook Haiti in 2010. Disasters caused serious damage to countries large and small across the region. The number of events varies depending on location, size, topography and other natural characteristics.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## IMPACT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF DISASTER IN ACS COUNTRIES, 1990-2013

Country	Geological*			Meteorological and hydrological			Climatological		
	E	HL	PA	E	HL	PA	E	HL	PA
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	7	6	42,484	-	-	-
Bahamas	-	-	-	14	20	32,200	-	-	-
Barbados	1	-	1	4	1	5,380	1	-	-
Belize	-	-	-	12	64	213,170	1	-	-
Colombia	24	1,654	1,334,810	74	2,773	9,513,410	4	-	100,200
Costa Rica	12	94	155,663	31	182	1,396,410	3	-	1,200
Cuba	1	-	5,869	40	142	11,671,658	5	-	820,000
Dominica	1	-	100	6	7	13,661	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	1	3	2,015	39	1,382	1,482,164	1	-	-
El Salvador	5	1,162	1,609,771	25	1,010	585,843	5	1	400,000
Grenada	-	-	-	4	40	62,860	1	-	-
Guatemala	14	128	1,368,435	35	2,599	1,911,023	8	47	2,884,574
Guyana	-	-	-	5	44	447,774	2	-	607,200
Haiti	1	222,570	3,700,000	62	8,241	3,103,109	3	-	1,035,000
Honduras	2	7	52,019	34	15,601	3,507,094	9	-	585,625
Jamaica	-	-	-	20	99	1,204,278	1	-	-
Mexico	21	166	593,457	114	2,941	11,194,865	20	1,125	2,701,000
Nicaragua	8	187	331,664	32	3,874	1,835,961	7	-	569,000
Panama	4	32	21,511	29	116	169,062	2	-	1,436
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	4	5	12,980	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	1	-	-	7	15	4,125	1	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	7	7	8,209	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	2	5	31,548	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	2	-	217	7	8	2,970	1	-	-
Venezuela, BR	1	80	4,183	28	30,383	865,081	1	-	-
<b>ACS (Members)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>226,083</b>	<b>9,179,715</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>69,565</b>	<b>49,317,319</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>9,705,235</b>
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>227,931</b>	<b>13,967,272</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>77,571</b>	<b>66,256,472</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2,933</b>	<b>32,907,867</b>

E: events / HL: human losses / PA: persons affected.

\* Geological events include earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides, while meteorological and hydrological events include hurricanes, floods, mudslides, high temperatures, droughts and wildfires.

Source: ECLAC, [Databases and Statistical Publications](#), 2014.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



**Devastation after  
Hurricane Mitch,**  
Central America, 1998.



Disasters have a serious impact on the economy and infrastructure of ACS countries. Over the last 30 years losses are calculated at 16% of regional GDP. The agricultural and tourism sectors, which several countries depend on, are exposed to high risk from natural disasters, while the poorest sectors of the population are those who suffer the most severe consequences and costs.



## Storms, floods and mudslides

Hurricanes are a constant danger to the region through the months of June to November, with the highest level of activity occurring between August and October. From year to year the number of events varies greatly, though there is evidence of an upwards trend over the years. The 2005 season was the most active in recorded history with 28 tropical storms and 15 hurricanes. In 1998 hurricane Mitch struck several countries in Central America and was one of the most devastating, causing the death of almost 19,000 people, together with damage calculated at almost 4 billion dollars.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



## MAJOR HURRICANES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 1995-2013

YEAR	HURRICANE	COUNTRIES AFFECTED	DEATHS	COST*
1995	Allison (TS)	Cuba and Honduras	18	800
1995	Opal	Guatemala and Mexico	59	–
1996	Cesar and Douglas	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua	107	200
1997	Pauline (TS)	Mexico	230	448
1998	Mitch	Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama	18,820	3794
1999	Lenny	Saint Kitts and Nevis, Santa Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada and Anguilla	17	41
2000	Keith	Belize, Mexico, Nicaragua and El Salvador	39	319
2001	Michelle	Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Cuba, Jamaica and Bahamas	37	2,000
2002	Isidore	Cuba, Jamaica, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador and Nicaragua	18	641
2003	Marty	Mexico	2	100
2004	Iván	Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti	52	3,000
2005	Wilma	Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Belize and Honduras	11	5,000
2007	Dean	Saint Lucia, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, Belize, Dominica and Dominican Republic	9	615
2008	Gustav	Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba	112	4,300
2009	Ida	Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico	281	939
2010	Tomas	Barbados, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Haiti	–	741
2011	Irene	Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Haiti	47	830
2012	Sandy	Cuba, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica	54	254
2013	Manuel	Mexico	102	4,200

TS: tropical storm. \* Millions of dollars.

Source: ACS with information from [EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database](#), 2014.

Another climate-related factor resulting from hurricanes and lengthy periods of rain are floods, which are considered a frequent threat that requires priority attention. Floods are the second most frequent cause of deaths in natural disasters, and the second in terms of the number of people affected, as well as causing serious damage to socio-econom-

ic development and to the environment in the region. The climate and the presence of mountains close to the coasts are contributing factors to mudslides. Demographic pressure and deforestations leave the soil unprotected and increase surface run-off of rainwater, leading to mudslides.



NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

TROPICAL CYCLONES

CATEGORY 4 AND 5 HURRICANES (1995 -2013)



Source: National Hurricane Center, NOAA, 2011.





# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



**Earthquake in Haiti**  
in 2010.



## Earthquakes and volcanoes

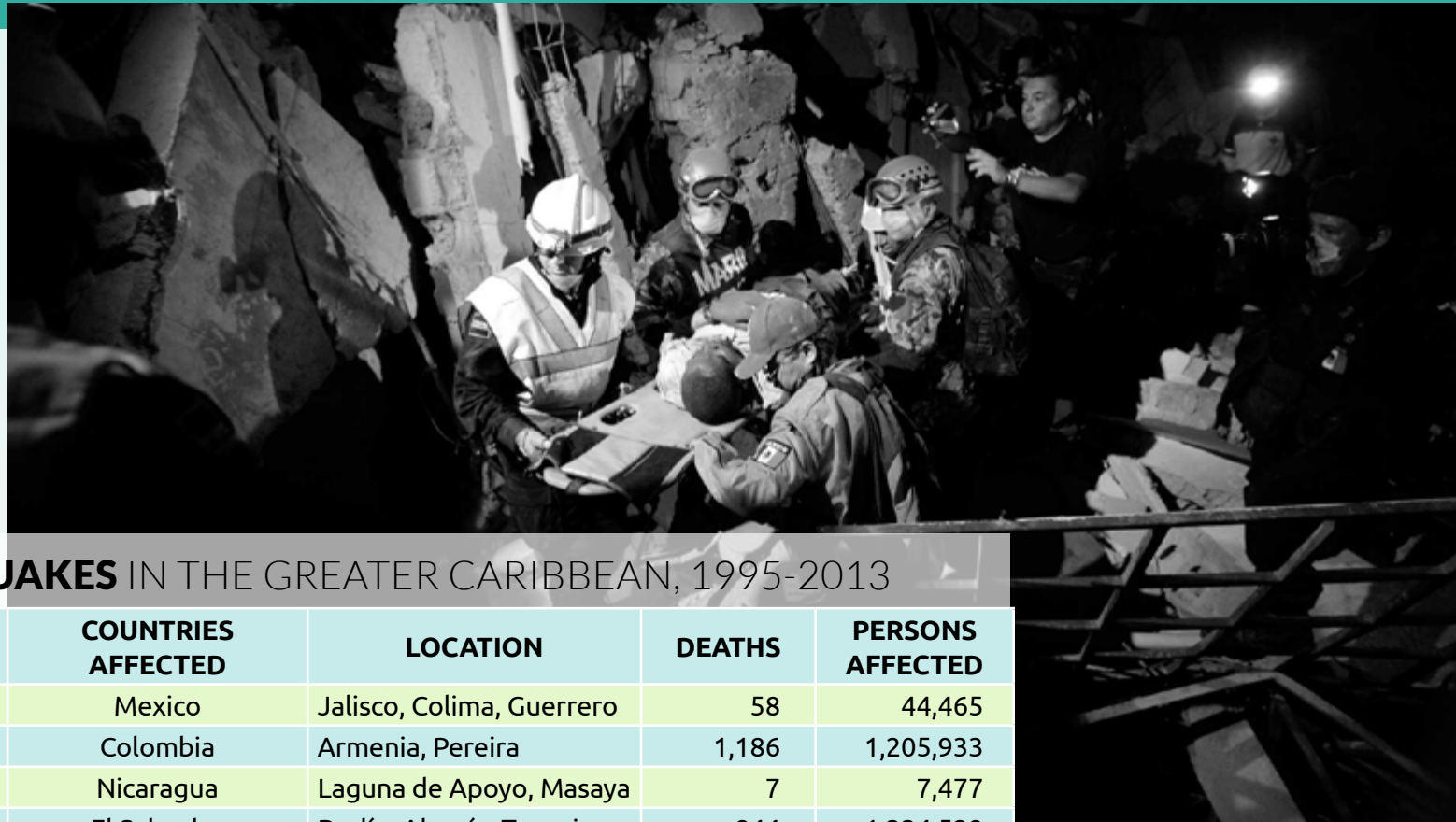
Among the many natural hazards that threaten the Greater Caribbean region, earthquakes are noted for their destructive violence. Collisions between the North American and Cocos tectonic plates with the Caribbean plate are the source of strong earthquakes that have devastated several major cities in the region. In the last 30 years this area has registered about 25 earthquakes of high magnitude. The deadliest occurred in Haiti in 2010 with the loss of over 220 thousand people and damages of more than 2,300 million dollars.



**Volcano Pacaya**  
in Guatemala.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



Rescue teams, in Haiti, 2010.

## MAJOR EARTHQUAKES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 1995-2013

YEAR	MAGNITUDE (RICHTER)	COUNTRIES AFFECTED	LOCATION	DEATHS	PERSONS AFFECTED
1995	8.0	Mexico	Jalisco, Colima, Guerrero	58	44,465
1999	6.1	Colombia	Armenia, Pereira	1,186	1,205,933
2000	5.4	Nicaragua	Laguna de Apoyo, Masaya	7	7,477
2001	7.7	El Salvador	Berlín, Alegría, Tecapin	844	1,334,529
2003	6.3	Dominican Republic	Puerto Plata	3	2,015
2004	7.2	Colombia	Litoral de San Juan, Bajo	–	8,036
2005	5.0	El Salvador	Apaneca, Juayúa	1	751
2006	5.7	El Salvador	San Lorenzo, Atiquizaya	–	16,470
2008	5.7	Colombia	Meta, Quetame	11	1,754
2009	7.3	Honduras	Roatan, Guanaja	7	50,136
2009	6.1	Costa Rica	Barva, Santa Bárbara	31	128,618
2010	7.0	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	222,570	370,000
2011	5.8	Guatemala	Santa Rosa	3	400
2012	7.4	Guatemala	San Marcos, Quetzaltenango	44	1,321,742
2013	6.9	Colombia	Nariño, Cauca, Risaralda	–	12,015

Source: ACS with information from [EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database](#), 2014.

## MOST LETHAL EARTHQUAKES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 1970-2013

DATE	COUNTRY	MAIN DAMAGE	MAGNITUDE (RICHTER)	DEATHS
23/12/1972	Nicaragua	Managua	6.2	10,000
04/02/1976	Guatemala	Guatemala City	7.5	23,000
19/09/1985	Mexico	Mexico City	8.1	10,000
10/10/1986	El Salvador	San Salvador	7.5	1,500
25/01/1999	Colombia	Armenia & Pereira	6.4	1,185
12/01/2010	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	7.0	222,570

Source: ACS with information from [EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database](#), 2014.



Earthquake in Mexico City in 1985.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



**Volcano on the**  
island of Montserrat.

The Greater Caribbean is also a zone of volcanic activity. This is focused on a number of islands in the Caribbean, on the Trans-Mexican volcanic belt in the center and west of

Mexico, and above all in the geographic zone covering Guatemala and Nicaragua. An eruption can cause major damage, as well as often being accompanied by landslides.

## MAJOR VOLCANIC EVENTS IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 1995-2013

YEAR	COUNTRY	LOCATION	NAME	DEATHS	PERSONS AFFECTED
1995	Nicaragua	León	Cerro Negro	–	12,000
1996	Guatemala	Near Guatemala City	Pacaya	–	743
1997	Montserrat	Plymouth	Soufrière	32	4,000
1997	Trinidad and Tobago	Piparo	Adatará	–	200
1998	Guatemala	Near Guatemala City	Pacaya	–	600
1999	Nicaragua	La Bosla, La Mora	San Cristóbal	–	3,500
2000	Guatemala	El Caracol, El Patrocinio	Pacaya	–	800
2005	El Salvador	Sonsonate, La Libertad	Santa Ana	2	2,000
2006	Colombia	Pasto, Nariño, La Florida	Galeras	–	8,500
2007	Colombia	Huila, Cauca	Nevado del Huila	–	3,000
2008	Colombia	Miranda, Toribio, Páez	Nevado del Huila	–	14,201
2010	Guatemala	Escuintla, Guatemala	Pacaya	–	1,800
2012	Guatemala	Sacatepéquez	Volcán de Fuego	–	10,000

Source: ACS with information from [EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database](#), 2014.



# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

MAJOR OR MOST LETHAL EVENTS IN THE GREAT CARIBBEAN (1970 -2013)

**SYMBOLY FOR EARTHQUAKES:**

Date  
Country  
Main damage

Magnitude (Richter)

Deaths

**VOLCANIC EVENTS**  
Persons affected




- COLOMBIA**
  - ① ▲ Galeras 2006: 8,500
  - ② ▲ Nevado del Huila 2007: 3,000 2008: 14,201
- EL SALVADOR**
  - ③ ▲ Santa Ana 2005: 2,000
- GUATEMALA**
  - ④ ▲ Pacaya 1996: 743 1998: 600 2000: 800 2010: 1,800
  - ⑤ ▲ Volcán de Fuego 2012: 10,000
- MONTSERRAT**
  - ⑥ ▲ Soufrière 1997: 4,000
- NICARAGUA**
  - ⑦ ▲ Cerro Negro 1995: 12,000
  - ⑧ ▲ San Cristóbal 1999: 3,500
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**
  - ⑨ ▲ Adatará 1997: 200

09/19/1985  
**MEXICO**  
Mexico City  
**8.1**  
10,000

02/04/1976  
**GUATEMALA**  
Guatemala City  
**7.5**  
23,000

10/10/1986  
**EL SALVADOR**  
San Salvador  
**7.5**  
1,500

12/23/1972  
**NICARAGUA**  
Managua  
**6.2**  
10,000

01/25/1999  
**COLOMBIA**  
Armenia and Pereira  
**6.4**  
1,185

12/01/2010  
**HAITI**  
Port-au-Prince  
**7.0**  
222,570





# NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN



**Flooded area in**  
San Juan La Laguna,  
Guatemala, 2013.

## Climate change

In the Greater Caribbean zone the increasing frequency of storms, floods, extreme temperatures and droughts are linked to global warming and the associated climate change. The consequences of these phenomena may be substantial.

It is considered likely that over the next 40 years the Caribbean will see an increase in temperatures of between 0.5°C and 1.9°C, together with major variations in rainfall levels, depending on the region. These variables, together with atmospheric pressure and the winds, are the leading factors in the formation and strength of hurricanes. Combined, it is possible that an increase in the frequency of storms and intensity of rainfall will occur.

At the same time, more droughts are expected, which combined with the growth of human settlements, deforestation and soil erosion, would increase the risk of floods and devastating landslides during the rainy season.



As a consequence of climate change, the ecosystem of the Caribbean Sea will also be at risk from increasing water temperatures, which together with water pollution, lead to the death of coral reefs and sources of nutrition for numerous marine species. Combined with this, the rise in sea levels caused by loss of polar and glacier ice will also contribute to the destruction of coral reefs and will place coastal buildings, port areas and tourist infrastructure at risk.

It is worth noting that although the outlook may not look good, cooperation between ACS Member Countries can mitigate major impacts on the population and the economy through prevention programs and monitoring of weather conditions in the region.





From left to right:  
**Julio Orozco**, Director  
of Sustainable Tourism  
of the ACS; **Guisela  
Godinez Sazo**,  
Ambassador of  
Guatemala in Trinidad  
and Tobago; and **Luis  
Fernando Carrera**,  
Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Guatemala,  
August 13, 2013.

# The first Sustainable Tourism Zone in the world

**T**he Association of Caribbean States (ACS) established itself as one of the priority areas in which Sustainable Tourism could work. This was based on the importance and impact tourism produces for all countries in the region as an economic activity and tool for strengthening and valuing cultures, manifesting their syncretism and ethnic diversity without neglecting the natural heritage that makes the Caribbean one of the world's most biologically diverse regions.

The ACS decided to focus on Sustainable Tourism, following the global trend that agrees this is the best way to achieve medium and long-term conservation of natural and cultural resources. The ACS also needed to determine the best method to encourage the participation of host communities, as the leading tourism stakeholders and beneficiaries, while simultaneously being involved in developing the public and private sector in terms of employment, innovation, generating investment, and ensuring the well-being of the population.

Through the Sustainable Tourism Directorate, the ACS implemented a series of actions in the tourism sector based on sustainability that have positively impacted the region. Listed below are the most important of these actions.

## **The Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism**

For over 10 years, the ACS has been facilitating dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the region through the creation of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism. This Committee has thus far held 25 meetings, which have brought together senior officials from the tourism sector, as well as the region's experts and technicians, in order to have an impact on the sustainable development of tourism by recommending development projects and specific actions, which are outlined in the annual work plans that are approved by consensus.





The Secretary General,  
**Alfonso Múnera**,  
with **Stephen Cadiz**,  
Minister of Tourism of  
Trinidad and Tobago.  
Accompanied by ACS  
officials, July 18, 2013.

### Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean

In 2001, the ACS submitted the proposal to institute the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean to the Member States and Associate Members of the ACS. The Zone was created through the signing and ratification of the Agreement and Protocol, which are tools that allow countries to initiate management of the development of responsible tourism, which means maximizing resources through sustainable practices based on indicators (economic, social and environmental) that were presented as a comprehensive part of these documents.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the  
Special Committee on  
Sustainable Tourism**,  
June 28, 2012.



On November 6, 2013 the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean was ratified and entered into force, making the Greater Caribbean the first Sustainable Tourism Zone in the world. With this achievement, the Member States of the ACS will have the opportunity to select destinations in which to implement the above mentioned indicators, thus generating a supply of sustainable tourism products that have a strong marketing potential due to the demands of the international market.

The following projects and activities have been implemented in support of this work program:

#### REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ZONE >

In June 2013, the regional cooperation mechanism was implemented for a two-year period with the help from the Regional Council of Martinique in an effort to assist Member States in the selection of tourist destinations and in developing different tools to fulfill the Sustainable Tourism Indicators, which were created by the ACS. This project began in March 2014.





**Meeting of  
Regional Sustainable  
Tourism Agencies,**  
February 18, 2013.



**Protocol to the  
Convention**  
Establishing the  
Sustainable Tourism  
Zone of the Caribbean.

**TECHNICAL TRAINING MANUAL FOR TRAINERS AND THE SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DESTINATIONS >**

These tools were created to allow countries to select and evaluate locations in order to implement the Sustainable Tourism Indicators.

**Working Group on Regional Agencies of Sustainable Tourism**

In 2013, this group held its first workshop in Nicaragua. During this workshop, the priority topics for the region's tourism and cooperation issues were resolved, resulting in a joint Regional Agenda for Sustainable Tourism. The workshop brought together leading international and Greater Caribbean agencies, including the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), CARIBSAVE (a sustainable development organization),

the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat (SITCA), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

**Strategic alliances with international organizations**

As part of efforts to strengthen cooperation networks, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the UNWTO and the ACS in February 2014. Another MOU is in the process of being signed with the German organization Fair Travel, which promotes internationally sustainable locations. This was presented to Members at the last meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism in June 2013.

Furthermore, plans are being made to sign another MOU with the Pan-American Confederation of Hospitality and Tourism, whose Vice President will participate in the next meeting of the Special Committee in May 2014 in the city of Antigua, Guatemala. This alliance will serve to train the region's human resource, and incorporate training centers into the academic sector in the region to strengthen ties with the tourism sector.

**The Secretary General,  
Alfonso Múnera,**  
during the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting of the  
Special Committee on  
Sustainable Tourism,  
July 16, 2013.







Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the WTO and the ACS, February 19, 2013. From left to right: **Taleb Rifai**, Secretary General of the WTO; **Julio Orozco**, Director of Sustainable Tourism of the ACS; and **Hugh Riley**, Secretary General of the CTO.

### Study on technical and vocational training on tourism in the region

As an initiative of the ACS, and with the support of the French Agency for Development (AFD), as of March 2014, a diagnosis is being made of the condition of the technical and vocational training in tourism in the Greater Caribbean region, in order to identify gaps and propose solutions to raise the level of performance of human resources in the countries.

### “In the Zone” Newsletter

The Sustainable Tourism Directorate publishes the electronic newsletter “In the Zone” as a way to circulate relevant information on actions, results, and initiatives that the ACS is carrying out in the field of Sustainable Tourism. The report also provides Member States and Associate Members of the ACS with a channel to report on their achievements and actions for the sector. They have published seven newsletters to date.



“In the Zone”  
Newsletter.



“The Greater Caribbean,” Art exhibition, 2007.



1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Caribbean Carnivals, August 1, 2013.

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The ACS has promoted other cooperation agreements in the field of Sustainable Tourism, including the following, among others:

- MOU with the Association of Caribbean Police Commissioners (2007)
- MOU with the Government of Panama to establish the Center for the Promotion of Languages and Cultures of the Wider Caribbean (2008)
- MOU with the Language Center of the University of the West Indies (2010)
- Formalization of the action plan and framework for collaboration with the CTO and the SITCA (2012)

It has organized the following events:

- Regional Symposium on Protection and Tourist Safety (2003)
- Meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the Greater Caribbean (2006 and 2009)
- Executives’ Meeting of Tourism and Transportation in the Caribbean Region and Latin America (2013)





# THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

**Chichen Itza**  
in the Yucatan  
peninsula, Mexico.



**T**he Greater Caribbean, with its fusion of different cultures and amazing natural resources, is unique among the regions of the world because of the diversity of its natural, cultural, and historical attractions.

First, there is the sun, sea, and beaches. There are dozens of pristine white and gold beaches (and even some with pink and black sand) surrounded by calm turquoise waters, running from the Yucatan peninsula across the entire Caribbean all the way to Trinidad and Tobago. Meanwhile, the geological complexity of the basin offers a variety of natural areas (rainforests, rivers, mountain ranges, and volcanoes) with an extraordinary wealth of flora and fauna, particularly in Central America and the insular Caribbean.

Other attractions include the architectural richness of the region's different countries. Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico all have Mayan archaeological sites. The cities of Antigua, Cartagena, Havana, San Juan, and Santo Domingo, among others, are home to Spanish colonial architectural treasures. They also feature rich cultural manifestations reflected in their music, carnivals and dances



that have become one of the most precious cultural assets among Caribbean people.

UNESCO's declaration of over 50 sites in the Caribbean Sea region as World Heritage Sites is clear testament to the exceptional value and attraction of the area. Many of them, including national parks, nature reserves, biosphere reserves, and conservation areas, are outstanding natural spaces, while others were created by ancient civilizations and colonial societies.

When we consider this rich and varied panoply of sites, it is not hard to understand why the region is one of the world's main tourist destinations.





THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST  
DESTINATION**

**WORLD  
HERITAGE SITES  
IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 2014**

**BARBADOS**

1. Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison

**BELIZE**

2. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System

**COLOMBIA**

3. Port, Fortresses, and Group of Monuments, Cartagena
4. Los Katíos National Park
5. Historic Center of Santa Cruz de Mompox
6. San Agustín Archeological Park
7. National Archeological Park of Tierradentro
8. Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary
9. Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia

**COSTA RICA**

10. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (shared with Panama)
11. Cocos Island National Park
12. Guanacaste Conservation Area

**CUBA**

13. Old Havana and its Fortification System
14. Trinidad and the Valley de los Ingenios
15. San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago de Cuba
16. Landing at the Granma National Park
17. Viñales Valley
18. Archeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the Southeast of Cuba
19. Alejandro de Humboldt National Park
20. Historic Center of Cienfuegos
21. Historic Center of Camagüey

**CURAÇAO**

22. Historic Center and Port of Willemstad

**DOMINICA**

23. Morne Trois Pitons National Park

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

24. Colonial City of Santo Domingo

**EL SALVADOR**

25. Joya de Cerén Archeological Site

**GUATEMALA**

26. Antigua Guatemala
27. Tikal National Park
28. Archeological Park and Ruins of Quirigua

**HAITI**

29. National History Park Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers

**HONDURAS**

30. Mayan Site of Copan
31. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve

**MEXICO\***

32. Pre-Hispanic City and National Park of Palenque
33. Sian Ka'an
34. Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen Itza
35. Pre-Hispanic City of Uxmal
36. Historic Fortified Town of Campeche
37. Ancient Maya City of Calakmul (Campeche)

**NICARAGUA**

38. Ruins of León Viejo
39. León Cathedral

**PANAMA**

40. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo
41. Darien National Park
42. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (shared with Costa Rica)
43. Archeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá
44. Coiba National Park and its Special Marine Protection Zone

**PUERTO RICO**

45. La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

46. Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park

**SAINT LUCIA**

47. Pitons Management Area

**SURINAME**

48. Central Suriname Nature Reserve
49. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo

**VENEZUELA**

50. Coro and its port
51. Canaima National Park
52. Caracas University City

Sources: UNESCO and Caribbean Atlas, 2014.

\* The List of World Heritage Sites includes 31 sites in Mexico. This map shows only those located on the Yucatan Peninsula.



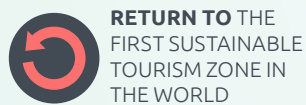
THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST  
DESTINATION**



**The crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean** and its beaches attract millions of tourists from around the world.

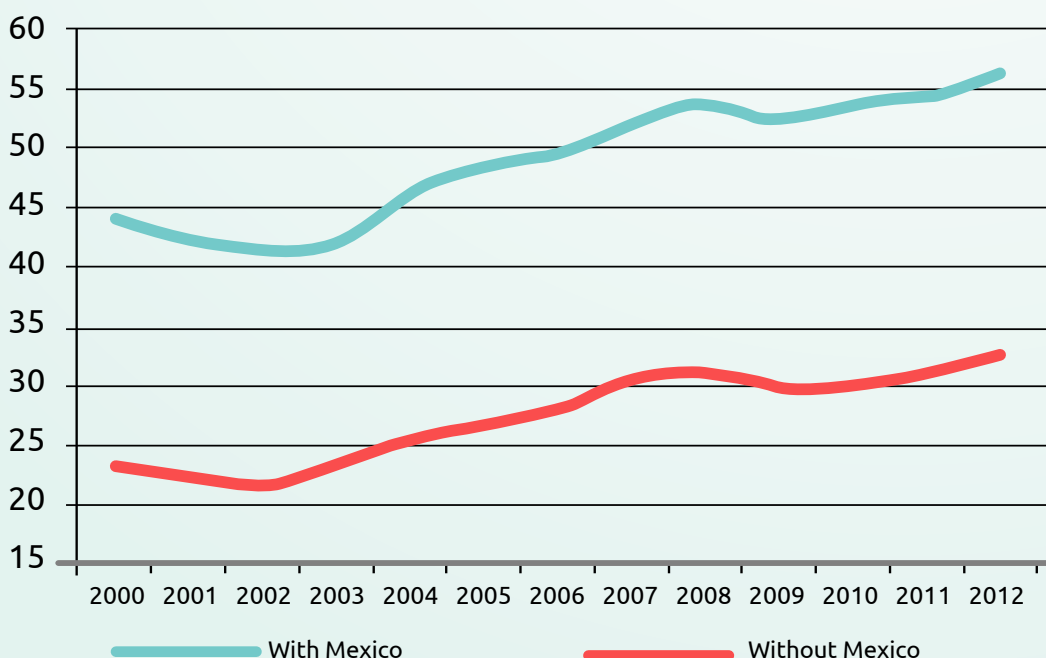
## Visitors to the Caribbean

The latest report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization noted that 2012 saw a new world record with 1,035 million international tourists (visitors who



RETURN TO THE  
FIRST SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM ZONE IN  
THE WORLD

### INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS TO THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 2000-2012 (MILLIONS)



Source: [World Tourism Organization](#), 2014.

stay for at least one night in a country, and not including those on day trips). Of these, 163 million visited the American continent. Of these, 21 million visited the Caribbean islands, nine million went to Central America, 3.2 million visited the Caribbean coasts of South America, and 23.4 million went to Mexico.

Growth in the number of international tourists in the last 15 years has been considerable, although the rate has slowed over the last five years. By region, Central America reported a 7.3% growth rate (the highest in the continent), while the Caribbean islands reported a 3.7% growth rate. This progress has been interrupted twice: once after the September 11, 2001 attacks, and again after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, which in addition to reducing the number of tourists visiting the region seriously affected both income and employment rates in several countries.

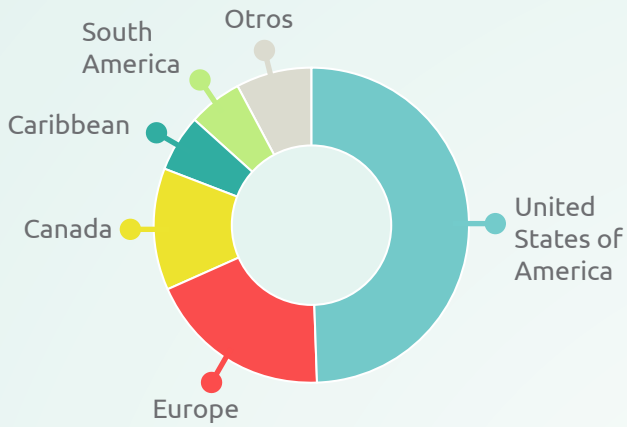
In 2012, the top four destinations in the Greater Caribbean were the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Costa Rica



THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST DESTINATION**

**ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL**

TOURISTS TO THE CARIBBEAN, 2012\*



\* Includes the states and territories of the insular Caribbean region, as well as the Caribbean coast of Mexico.  
Source: [Caribbean Tourism Organization](#), 2014.



**Red-eyed frog**  
(*Agalychnis callydrias*),  
Costa Rica.

while March was the busiest month of the year. In 2012, 76% of the tourists who traveled to the Caribbean did so for leisure and recreation, 14% came to visit family and relatives, and 10% visited the region for business. Of the tourists who traveled to the Caribbean from Central America, 58% were leisure visitors, 19% visited family and relatives, and business travel accounted for 19%. Hotel occupancy rates were reported at 66.5% for the Caribbean, and 57.4% for Central America, while average daily rates for hotel rooms were US \$176 and US \$114, respectively. The largest number of visitors come from the United States (50% on average for the last five years), while a smaller number come from Europe.



**The Copan**  
archeological  
site in  
Honduras.




**Cathedral of**  
Havana, Cuba.



**Coral reef**  
in the Caribbean Sea.



**The Carnival in**  
Trinidad and Tobago  
is one of the most  
representative of  
Caribbean identity.

 **RETURN TO THE**  
FIRST SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM ZONE IN  
THE WORLD





THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST  
DESTINATION**

**TOURISM INDICATORS** IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 2012

Country	International tourists*		Tourist revenues (Millions of \$ USD)	Tourism contribution to GDP		Contribution of tourism to employment**			
	Arrivals (thousands)	Annual variation (%)		Direct (%)	Direct and indirect (%)	Direct jobs	%	Direct and indirect jobs	%
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	247	2.3	319	18.5	77.4	5,000	18.8	20,000	71.5
<b>Netherlands Antilles</b>	1,324	5.1	1,947	10.7	32.4	7,500	12.4	21,000	35.2
<b>Bahamas</b>	1,422	5.6	2,393	22.0	48.4	52,000	30.6	97,000	57.4
<b>Barbados</b>	536	-5.5	916	11.9	39.4	15,000	12.1	49,000	38.8
<b>Belize</b>	277	10.7	299	12.5	34.2	15,500	11.3	42,500	31.0
<b>Colombia</b>	2,175	6.4	2,354	1.7	5.3	436,000	2.2	1,110,500	5.5
<b>Costa Rica</b>	2,343	6.9	2,299	4.8	12.3	92,000	4.5	234,500	11.4
<b>Cuba</b>	2,815	4.7	2,326	2.7	11.0	125,500	2.5	500,500	10.1
<b>Dominica</b>	78	3.4	110	9.5	30.0	3,000	8.8	9,500	27.7
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	4,563	5.9	4,736	4.7	15.2	174,500	4.4	562,000	14.1
<b>El Salvador</b>	1,255	5.9	544	3.0	8.0	68,000	2.7	181,000	7.1
<b>Grenada</b>	112	-5.1	110	6.4	21.8	2,500	5.9	9,500	20.2
<b>Guadeloupe**</b>	418	6.5	583	2.2	14.9	4,000	2.9	20,000	15.3
<b>Guatemala</b>	1,305	6.5	1,419	3.2	8.4	157,500	2.8	419,000	7.5
<b>Guyana</b>	177	12.6	64	4.1	10.1	10,500	3.6	25,500	9.0
<b>Haiti**</b>	349	36.9	170	1.9	5.7	56,500	1.6	177,000	4.9
<b>Honduras</b>	895	2.7	661	5.9	15.3	153,000	5.1	406,500	13.5
<b>Jamaica</b>	1,986	1.8	2,070	8.4	27.4	89,500	7.8	292,000	25.4
<b>Mexico</b>	23,403	0.0	12,739	5.8	12.5	3,196,000	6.6	6,713,000	13.9
<b>Nicaragua</b>	1,180	11.3	422	4.8	10.7	95,000	4.1	216,000	9.3
<b>Panama</b>	1,606	9.1	2,262	5.2	13.1	80,500	5.0	197,500	12.4
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	104	2.5	94	7.5	25.9	2,000	7.3	6,000	24.6
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	307	-1.8	335	13.3	39.0	13,500	5.5	8,500	19.9
<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	74	0.7	93	6.0	21.8	2,500			
<b>Suriname</b>	240	8.9	71	1.2	3.1	2,000	1.1	5,000	2.8
<b>Trinidad and Tobago**</b>	402	3.7	472	4.4	8.4	38,000	6.2	68,000	11.2
<b>Venezuela</b>	710	19.3	844	3.1	8.6	340,500	2.7	914,500	7.4

\* Tourists who stay in the country; does not include day visitors.

\*\* 2011 figures.

Source: World Tourism Organization (2013), [Tourism in the Americas](#), and the [World Travel and Tourism Council](#), 2014.



THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST  
DESTINATION**



**Bon Bini** means "welcome" in Papiamentu in Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire.

## Economy and Tourism

Ever since the ACS was founded, tourism has been regarded as vitally important to development. Tourism is the new industry of the Greater Caribbean and it determines the growth of many economies, particularly in the English-speaking island countries of the Caribbean.

In 2012, tourism revenues in the Caribbean Basin stood at US \$40.65 billion, representing 4.7% of total global revenues and 19.1% of revenues in the Americas. Between 2011 and 2012 the rate of growth of income in this sector stood at 4.8%.

Tourism is the primary economic activity in terms of contribution to GDP for many countries. In Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Belize, and Dominica, tourism is directly or indirectly linked to over 30% of all economic activity. In 11 Member Countries, revenue obtained from this sector accounts for over 25% of their current



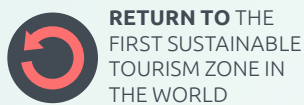
**Ecotourism** in the jungles of Costa Rica.

accounts and over 30% of the total value of exports of goods and services.

Intensive tourism, however, poses a serious threat to the environment. Meanwhile, the heavy reliance of economies on tourism makes them vulnerable to natural and human disasters and to economic and social weaknesses. Hence, the development of sustainable tourism at the regional level is of the utmost importance to ensure the optimal use of the environmental resources that constitute a key component of tourism development; and to ensure that economic activities are viable in the long-term and lead to well-distributed socio-economic benefits.



THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AS A  
**TOURIST  
DESTINATION**



RETURN TO THE  
FIRST SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM ZONE IN  
THE WORLD



Cruise ship in  
Philipsburg,  
Sint Maarten.

**NUMBER OF CRUISE SHIP TOURISTS BY DESTINATION,**  
2011-2013

Destination	2011	2012	2013
Antigua and Barbuda	606,485	383,625	379,291
Aruba	599,893	582,309	688,568
Bahamas	4,161,269	4,434,161	4,709,236
Barbados	619,054	517,436	570,263
Belize	724,544	640,734	677,350
Bermuda	415,958	378,260	320,090
Bonaire	–	108,468	96,818
British Virgin Islands	484,715	390,579	367,362
Cayman Islands	1,401,495	1,507,370	1,375,872
Curaçao	400,918	431,555	610,186
Dominica	341,503	266,178	230,587
Dominican Republic	347,914	338,170	423,910
Grenada	309,574	170,393	133,165
Haiti	596,562	609,930	643,634
Jamaica	1,125,481	1,320,083	1,288,184
Martinique	41,142	93,515	103,770
Mexico*	2,871,097	2,739,709	2,751,178
Puerto Rico	1,124,441	1,051,719	1,176,343
Saint Lucia	630,304	571,894	594,118
Saint Martin	1,656,159	1,753,215	1,779,384
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	88,925	76,996	82,974
Trinidad and Tobago	60,277	49,109	–
Turks and Caicos Islands	–	676,647	778,920
U.S. Virgin Islands	2,008,991	1,904,468	1,998,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,618,712</b>	<b>20,998,535</b>	<b>21,781,795</b>

## The World's Leading Cruise Ship Destination

Cruise ship tourism is another activity that has grown significantly in the last 20 years. The Caribbean Basin is ideal for this type of tourism because of the relatively short distances between islands that allow for navigating at night combined with day tours of different islands. December through March is the high season for visitors from the U.S. and Europe who want to escape the winter weather, while avoiding the hurricane season.

According to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the Caribbean was the world's main cruise ship destination in 2013, accounting for 45.3% of all cruise ship travel. The number of cruise ship tourists (considered as a special category of day visitors to the region) reached 21.8 million in 2013. The principal destinations visited in 2013, in order of number of visitors, were: the Bahamas, Cozumel (Mexico), the U.S. Virgin Islands, Saint Martin, and the Cayman Islands. However, the number of visitors to a given destination can fluctuate greatly from one year to another.

\* Data for the Port of Cozumel.

Source: [Caribbean Tourism Organization](#), 2014.





Center: **Norman Girvan**,  
Secretary General of  
the ACS during the  
period 2000-2004.

# Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea

**A**ware of the connectivity challenges faced by the region, the Association of Caribbean States decided to launch the program 'Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea' in 1999. This program aims to ensure the establishment of a coherent, inclusive, efficient, and secure air and sea transport system. The transportation sector is an essential factor in the development of the Greater Caribbean, not only in terms of trade, but also in facilitating the movement of people, thereby promoting regional cooperation.

The Transport Directorate serves as the operations team for the General Secretariat of the ACS. It is responsible for implementing the projects designed to address the key challenges faced by maritime and air transportation within the framework of the **Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea** program. The agency's main activities are the following:

## Special Committee for Transport

Created in 1997, the Special Committee of Transport is an intergovernmental technical agency that assembles representatives of ACS Member States and various regional agencies specialized in transportation projects to discuss issues related to the development of the transportation sector in the Greater Caribbean. The Committee meets once a year, and has held 22 meetings since its formation. Strategic transportation goals are established in these meetings, and the corresponding action plans are developed for approval by the Council of Ministers.

## Air transportation

The fragmentation of regional air transportation and a lack of connectivity has been a matter of concern since the early years of the Association, hence the need for a general aviation policy for the Greater Caribbean to create a legal framework for cooperation and provide additional air travel options.





**14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting** of the Council of Ministers, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 30, 2009.

In February 2004, the Air Transportation Agreement<sup>1</sup> was signed for the following purposes:

- To create the framework needed to establish the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean
- To allow airlines to offer a variety of air cargo and passenger services
- To ensure the highest level of operational safety and security of international civil aviation

The Air Transportation Agreement was signed on September 19, 2008, and it facilitated the entry of the Copa Airlines Group into regional markets to which it did not have access, among other results.

**21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee** on Transport, September 20, 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Mexico did not sign this agreement because Mexican policies do not allow for multilateral agreements in this sphere, while the French Government, responsible for French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, stated that it was unable to join the agreement, given its existing international obligations.



Despite the ratification of the Air Transportation Agreement, the ACS has continued working to address the longstanding problem of connectivity in the region by promoting partnerships and alliances for business cooperation between the airlines of different countries and the Association. These initiatives seek to promote the creation, development, and promotion of policies aimed at facilitating the creation of operating agreements that will increase route networks and connections within the Greater Caribbean.

### **Forum for Airline Executives and Regional Tourism Managers to Promote Multi-Destination Tourism in the Greater Caribbean**

Since 2005, the Directorate of Sustainable Tourism has promoted this forum in an effort to gather airline executives and tourist industry managers in the region to facilitate dialogue and cooperation among the regional stakeholders in the tourism and transport sectors.

In collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association (ALTA) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), it holds two Caribbean Aviation Day events per year to address connectivity, its related issues, and the possible actions that could be implemented to improve the situation.







**22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**  
of the Special  
Committee  
on Transport,  
October 25, 2013.

### Maritime transport

This sector is vital to the region since 90% of goods are transported by boat in the Greater Caribbean. Consequently, policies aimed at improving the efficiency of the maritime sector can produce tangible results in a shorter period. For this reason, the ACS has implemented the following projects.

**MAP OF THE MARITIME ROUTES OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN** > This is a database intended to facilitate and promote trade in the Greater Caribbean by bringing shippers, exporters, and importers together with key stakeholders in the region's maritime sector, and providing information on existing services with their relative frequencies, routes, and

locations provided by the different shipping line agents. The interactive map is updated regularly and has a [web page](#). The project is implemented in collaboration with the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), the Ministry of Transportation of Cuba (MITRANS), and the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP).

**PORT AND MARITIME STRATEGY OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN** > Caribbean ports have sufficient capacity and operators to meet current port needs. However, the high costs of the shipping industry in the Greater Caribbean are closely related to port efficiency and the fact that a considerable portion of transportation between islands is done through an informal sector whose services are unknown to many potential users.



**The Secretary General, Luis Fernando Andrade Falla**, accompanied by other ACS officials, at the inaugural flight of Copa Airlines, March 10, 2008.







**Website for the project**

“Map of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean.”

Within this context, the Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean project was implemented to establish a competitive maritime sector that is able to meet the needs of foreign trade. This project seeks to inform the Member States and Associate

Members of the ACS on policies to increase efficiency and to develop port infrastructure that can handle the increased traffic expected with the expansion of the Panama Canal in 2015.



**Newsletter**  
“On The Route.”



**Edwin Carrington**, Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to CARICOM, and **Alfonso Múnera Cavadía**, Secretary General of the ACS, during a courtesy visit, April 16, 2013.

**TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS**

The Association of Caribbean States has promoted understanding and cooperation agreements with organizations specialized in transportation. These agreements have facilitated the development and implementation of projects, including the following, among others:

- Cooperation Agreement with the Caribbean Shipping Association (2001)
- Cooperation Agreement with the Caribbean Maritime Institute (2002)
- Cooperation Agreement with the International Maritime Organization (2004)
- Cooperation Framework Agreement (2004) and Memorandum of Understanding with COCATRAM (2007)
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Azienda Nazionale Autonoma delle Strade (2005)
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (2008)



**Alfonso Múnera**, Secretary General of the ACS; **César Dargam**, Deputy Minister of the Dominican Republic; and **José Antonio Meade**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, during the 16<sup>th</sup> Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the Council of Ministers, November 26, 2013.





# TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



**Panama**  
Canal.

**California**  
lighthouse, Aruba.



**T**he transportation sector plays a key role in developing and strengthening regional ties, especially in the areas of trade and tourism, two focal areas of work for the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

From a geographical point of view, the Greater Caribbean is in a privileged location in relation to trade and tourism centers in North America and Western Europe. It is at the center of the American continent, close to the Panama Canal, and to North America, one of the most important commercial areas of the world. The Caribbean is also strategically located for tourism from Western Europe, which can arrive nonstop by air and in an acceptable time frame by sea. This advantageous geographical location favors the arrival of international passengers and goods to the Caribbean region that gives it an advantage over other countries that would have to create their own transporta-



tion links with fewer resources, especially by air, because they are located far from both tourist-generating countries and from international freight routes.

This geographic advantage, however, has come at a cost because, as with other developing countries, the evolution of transportation (especially by air) has revolved around connecting each country in the region individually to the economic and financial centers of the countries of North America (especially the United States) and Europe. Meanwhile, intra-regional transportation is fragmented, and has not reached its full potential according to the needs of countries in the region.



## TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN



**Container ships**  
in port in Bahamas.

## Maritime Shipping

Due to its strategic geographical location the Greater Caribbean has been a center of port facilities for goods since colonial times. This historical heritage and the common area of the Caribbean Sea explain the importance the region attaches to maritime transportation for trade.

In 2012, according to ECLAC figures on 80 ports in Latin America, a total of 41.3 million

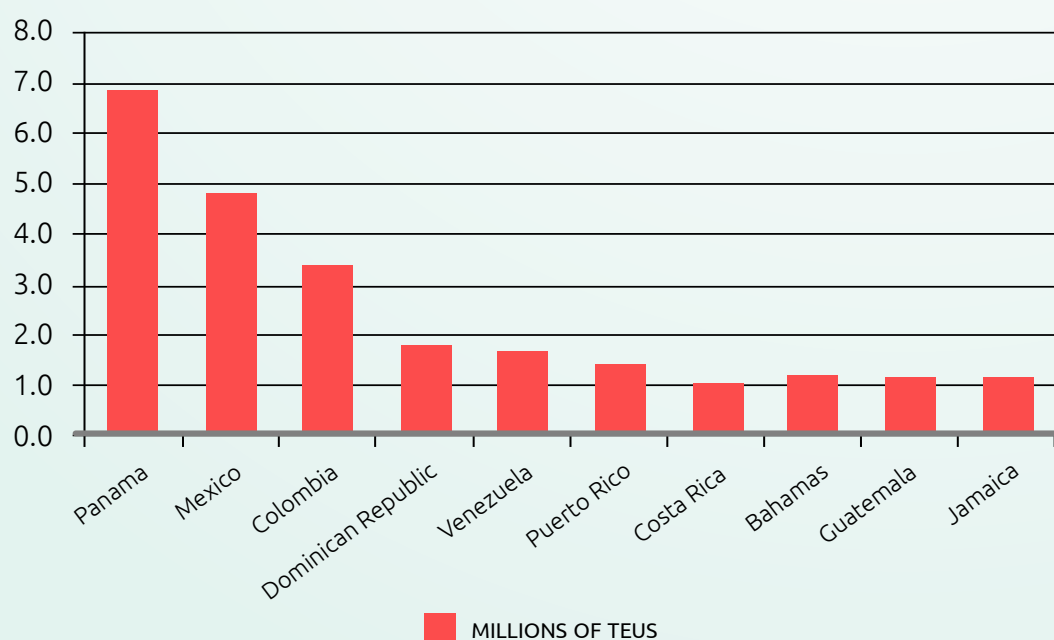
units equivalent to a 20-foot container were mobilized (*Twenty-foot Equivalent Units, TEU*), representing about 8% of the world's total. The 45 ports belonging to Member Countries of the ACS totaled 25.6 million TEU (62% of Latin America's total), mainly through load transfers from one ship to another. In the Greater Caribbean region, Panama took the lead in container transportation, with 26.6% of mobilized TEUs. Mexico came in second with 18.7%, and Colombia was third with 13.1%.

The major ports in the Greater Caribbean region were historically those located at the mouth of the Panama Canal—Puerto Colón and Puerto de Balboa—that provided the links between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In these major ports, free trade zones exist to ensure access to diverse products and services. Next in importance after these is Puerto de Cartagena in Colombia, while the following nuclei for distributing goods are located at the entrance of the region with proximity to major ocean shipping routes; the Port of San Juan (Puerto Rico), the Port of Freeport (Bahamas), Puerto Caucedo (Dominican Republic) and the Port of Kingston (Jamaica).



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CARIBBEAN  
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### PORT MOVEMENTS IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 2012



Source: Source: ECLAC, [Infrastructure Services Unit](#), 2014.



**MAJOR PORTS OF ACS MEMBERS, 2010**

Port	Country	2010 (TEU)	2011 (TEU)	2012 (TEU)	Var. % 2012/11
Colón	Panama	2,810,657	3,371,714	3,518,672	4.4
Balboa	Panama	2,758,506	3,232,265	3,304,599	2.2
Cartagena	Colombia	1,581,401	1,853,342	2,205,948	19.0
Manzanillo	Mexico	1,511,378	1,762,508	1,930,893	9.6
Lázaro Cárdenas	Mexico	796,023	953,497	1,242,777	30.3
Freeport	Bahamas	1,125,000	1,116,272	1,202,000	7.7
Caucedo	Dominican Republic	1,004,901	993,561	1,153,787	16.1
Kingston	Jamaica	1,891,770	1,756,832	1,139,418	-35.1
Limon-Moin	Costa Rica	858,176	901,330	1,045,215	16.0
Buenaventura	Colombia	662,821	748,305	850,385	13.6
Puerto Cabello	Venezuela	629,895	721,500	845,917	17.2
Veracruz	Mexico	662,537	729,622	799,389	9.6
Altamira	Mexico	488,013	547,612	578,685	5.7
Puerto Cortes	Honduras	538,853	576,752	573,322	-0.6
La Guaira	Venezuela	328,447	467,300	542,710	16.1
Santo Tomás de Castilla	Guatemala	431,002	494,908	468,734	-5.3
Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago	388,960	379,837	–	–
Haina	Dominican Republic	288,417	352,340	379,632	7.7
Puerto Barrios	Guatemala	326,833	317,804	365,242	14.9
Puerto Quetzal	Guatemala	251,034	363,684	324,506	-10.8
Havana	Cuba	228,346	246,773	240,000	-2.7
Puerto Plata	Dominican Republic	44,147	211,452	228,231	7.9
Jarry	Gouadeloupe	150,534	165,093	211,412	28.1
Caldera	Costa Rica	155,307	168,039	184,315	9.7
Barranquilla	Colombia	103,869	148,093	179,652	21.3
Point Lisas	Trinidad and Tobago	184,257	170,581	–	–
Oranjestad	Aruba	49,558	169,719	167,948	-1.0
Acajutla	El Salvador	145,774	160,069	159,879	-0.1
Ensenada	Mexico	135,606	132,727	140,468	5.8
Santa Marta	Colombia	91,161	87,320	117,772	34.9
Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic	21,654	34,382	117,355	241.3
Nieuwe Haven	Suriname	59,583	97,000	–	–
Puerto Castilla	Honduras	81,014	85,892	90,586	5.5
Willemstad	Curaçao	93,603	–	–	–
Corinto	Nicaragua	64,816	80,075	89,537	11.8
Philipsburg	Sint Maarten	70,862	76,701	–	–
Maracaibo	Venezuela	41,974	58,300	75,728	29.9
Bridgetown	Barbados	80,430	77,051	72,163	-6.3
Guanta	Venezuela	42,039	58,500	70,794	21.0
Georgetown	Guyana	59,850	–	66,000	–
Progreso	Mexico	56,434	61,925	64,229	3.7
Vieux Fort	Saint Lucia	21,830	33,047	51,408	55.6
George Town	Cayman Islands	45,649	44,766	45,400	1.4
Mazatlán	Mexico	25,795	22,744	39,263	72.6
Castries	Saint Lucia	30,625	29,550	37,672	27.5

Source: ECLAC, [Infrastructure Services Unit](#), 2014.



## TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

**Container ship**  
in the port of  
Manzanillo, Mexico.



Although the maritime and port sector has shown a growth trend in recent years, it must be noted that the quantity of maritime cargo transported is significantly lower than other regions, particularly those focused on extra-regional trade such as U.S. ports in Florida, which are major transshipment ports for the Greater Caribbean. These extra-regional trade hubs reduce the use of Caribbean ports and increase the average cost of intra-regional transportation.

The sector also faces obstacles in meeting the needs and growing demand for port services in the ACS zone. The port sector is highly competitive internationally. Ports must be

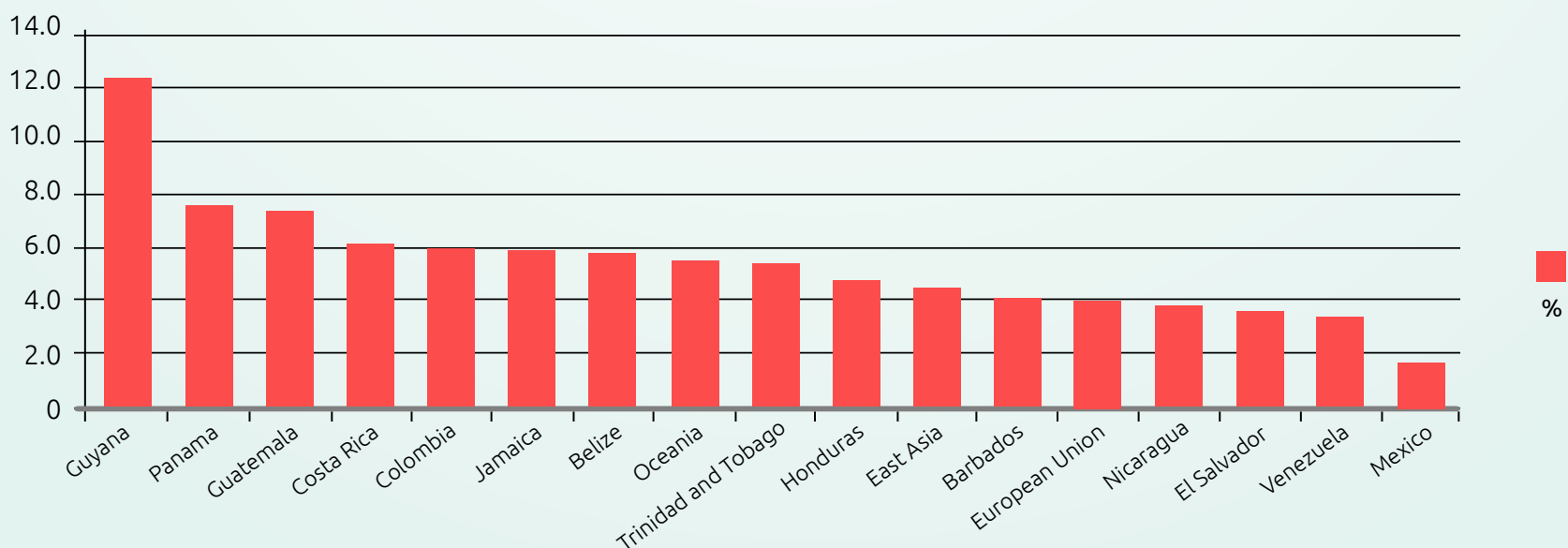
equipped with security features, adequate channels for larger ships with ever-larger tonnages and draughts, and terminal services and infrastructure to ensure maximum efficiency in transfers.

Maritime transportation in the region shows setbacks in performance indicators compared to other areas of the world. In several ACS countries, freight rates remain high. For example, the cost of transportation, in proportion to the cost of imports and exports to the United States is, in some countries, up to double the cost compared to the countries of East Asia and Europe, despite having the advantage of geographical proximity.



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### FREIGHT EXPENDITURE IN PROPORTION TO EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, 2010



Source: ECLAC, *Bridging integration gaps: scenarios and policy recommendations to promote physical infrastructure and reduce intra-regional trade costs*, 2011.



## THE PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION



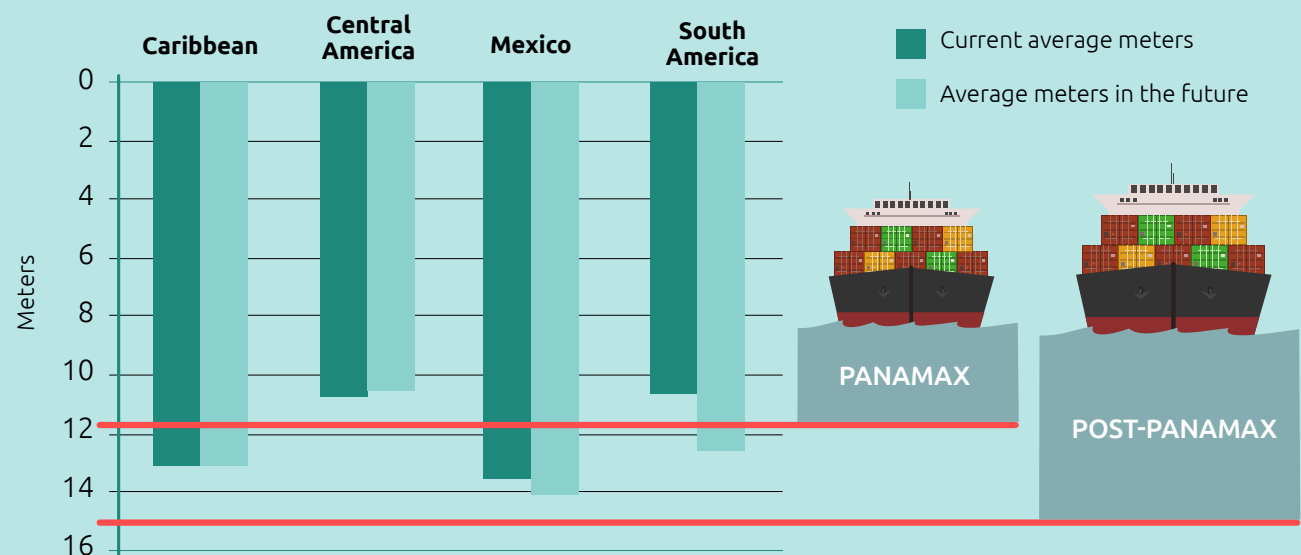
The Panama Canal has a strategic location in the Western Hemisphere and the world. It is one of the great waterways of the world for maritime traffic that drives more than 5% of international trade. The saturation of the facilities and the increasing size of ships led Panamanian authorities to begin working on the Canal's expansion, expecting completion by April 2015.

The Canal's enlargement is a matter of great interest in the Greater Caribbean, as are its implications for potential trade and development in the region. Foreign trade is expected to grow vigorously, driven by the new capacity of mega-ships for up to 18,000 containers, which is double the capacity of existing vessels that currently ply the route. Pacific-Atlantic trade is ex-

pected to increase by 50% during the ten years following the opening of the new locks, which in turn will benefit the Caribbean ports by providing a greater amount of goods, reduced costs, and decreased crossing times.

The ACS countries will have to implement new strategies in several key areas in order to leverage the opportunities offered by the Canal expansion, including improved access to maritime ports that are presently unable to receive large vessels; investment in new terminals, cranes and storage facilities; and the establishment of environmental management requirements to mitigate the impact of the growing maritime and port activities.

### DEPTH OF CURRENT AND PLANNED PORT TERMINALS IN LATIN AMERICA, 2010



\* The Panamax ships are those designed to fit the maximum size allowed for transit through the Panama Canal before its expansion. Source: ECLAC, *Bridging Integration Gaps: Scenarios and Policy Recommendations to Promote Physical Infrastructure and Reduce Intra-Regional Trade Costs*, 2011.



## TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

**Airplane lands  
over Maho beach,  
Sint Maarten.**



## Air transportation

**T**he Caribbean is an area particularly suited to air transportation given the many scattered islands that share a common past and feature small populations and territories separated by the sea. The airplane became a privileged means of transportation and is sometimes the only connection between the islands and the rest of the world.

Currently, air operations are essential to economic development. In recent years, the growth of international tourism (one of the main economic engines of the region), the development of improved standards of living, and historical and commercial ties with the United States and Europe have allowed for considerable growth of air services in the Caribbean.

In ACS countries, there are over 150 international and domestic airports of various

sizes, ranging from hubs representing certain airports in the region to small airports with a presence in almost all of the islands. In relation to its population, the Caribbean Basin is one of the busiest airspaces in the world.

It is estimated that annually, more than 170 million people use airports in the region, both in commercial or private flights, and in different types of aircraft, from large jets to light airplanes and helicopters. Of these, about 80 million people were transported by commercial carriers registered in ACS countries. Air operations of airlines from ACS countries totaled about 1.1 million departures, in addition to 1,470 million tons of cargo transported per kilometer. Among Members of the Association the busiest airport is Mexico City, followed by Bogota, Colombia, and Cancun, Mexico.



**AIR OPERATIONS IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN, 2012**

	Passengers transported*		Departures	Cargo**
	Served in Airports (2010)	Country Civil Aviation authorities	Operations	Millions of tons-km
Antigua and Barbuda	919,748	1,310,276	33,606	0.6
Bahamas	3,081,420	1,048,391	30,640	0.1
Barbados	1,939,059	–	–	–
Belize	–	448,016	59,089	0.1
Bermuda	805,802	–	–	–
Cayman Islands	991,375	–	–	–
Colombia	29,643,285	20,944,967	245,793	1,042.4
Costa Rica	3,001,182	1,904,674	26,877	18.3
Cuba	6,632,862	654,256	8,303	–
Dominican Republic	9,202,834	28,442	2,303	–
El Salvador	1,494,383	2,523,296	26,622	17.1
Grenada	358,355	–	–	–
Guatemala	–	288,014	8,091	3.7
Guyana	438,532	247,780	8,625	0.9
Honduras	1,503,981	420,937	16,680	2.0
Jamaica	4,689,083	–	–	–
Mexico	76,537,016	32,916,139	410,584	282.4
Nicaragua	1,108,933	–	–	..
Panama	4,748,623	5,212,562	83,209	54.4
Puerto Rico	8,308,490	–	–	–
Suriname	368,856	240,525	2,418	24.8
Trinidad and Tobago	3,261,149	2,625,056	36,648	17.6
Venezuela, BR	8,969,820	7,822,110	79,203	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>168,004,788</b>	<b>78,635,441</b>	<b>1,078,691</b>	<b>1,470.2</b>

\* Passengers handled at airports include all users of commercial or private flights (including helicopter flights) at their points of origin, destination and intermediate points, while figures reported by civil aviation authorities are passengers carried on flights operated by commercial airlines registered in the country to domestic and foreign destinations.

\*\* Cargo carried by locally registered airlines.

Source: World Bank, [Data Bank](#), 2014, Airports Council International, [ACI Airports Statistics](#), 2014.

**Boeing 767-300,**  
Avianca.







**El Dorado**  
International Airport,  
Bogotá, Colombia.

### MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN ACS COUNTRIES, 2012

Airport	City	Country	Passengers*
<b>Benito Juárez</b>	Mexico City	Mexico	29,491,553
<b>El Dorado</b>	Bogotá	Colombia	22,525,873
<b>Cancún</b>	Cancún	Mexico	14,463,435
<b>Simón Bolívar</b>	Maiquetía	Venezuela	10,430,243
<b>Luis Muñoz Marín</b>	San Juan	Puerto Rico	8,448,172
<b>Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla</b>	Guadalajara	Mexico	7,436,400
<b>Tocumen</b>	Panama City	Panama	6,962,608
<b>Mariano Escobedo</b>	Monterrey	Mexico	6,105,910
<b>Punta Cana</b>	Punta Cana	Dominican Republic	5,194,172
<b>José Martí</b>	Havana	Cuba	4,067,980
<b>Juan Santamaría</b>	San José	Costa Rica	3,872,467

\* Passengers transported include persons mobilized and registered at airports at their points of origin, destination and intermediate points.

Source: Airports Council International, [ACI Airports Statistics](#), 2014 and [Wikipedia](#), 2014.

Despite these figures, and the continued growth in air traffic, the sector has not achieved real stability and continues to lack coherence. The development of air networks was not planned around regional integration.

The Caribbean is also known for its outbound traffic, with flows out of the region well above the movements that occur within it. In fact,

a significant part of its regular traffic comes from Miami in the United States, followed by San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the major hubs for the Greater Caribbean, and the Caribbean network tends to be treated as an extension of the domestic United States network.

The vast majority of intra-regional connections are provided by small public and private



## TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

**A Boeing 747**  
landing at  
Princess Juliana  
Airport, Sint Maarten.



**Small plane**  
at St. Barths airport.

companies operating in limited networks with low-capacity aircraft. There is not one company that serves the region comprehensively. Hence, users are forced to resort to connecting flights among several carriers, with long waiting times and high costs among countries and territories within close geographic proximity.

It is important to note that some progress has been made in building regional connections by establishing a network of low-cost flights in the coastal area of the Greater Caribbean, which is a predominantly Spanish-speaking region that runs from Mexico through Central America and into northern South American countries. However, connections towards the

eastern zone of the Greater Caribbean are still limited.

National and international regulatory issues must be added to this status, in addition to the divergent interests of the different stakeholders involved in the aeronautical sector, which adopt different air service strategies.

On the one hand, the nature of the market has led to the creation of alliances between different Latin American airlines seeking to benefit from economies of scale and reduce the cost of providing new destinations. Examples are the formation of the Avianca-Taca Group, the Copa Airlines Group, and the LAN Group.

Moreover, in light of their geographical location and the structure of their economies, other countries have chosen to retain state airlines to protect air bridges to their territories in support of tourism.

The result has been that airlines that serve the regional market and the island market have remained separate, with little cooperation between them.





**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Caribbean Sea Commission,**  
November 6, 2013.

# The Evolution of the Caribbean Sea Commission

## The first decade: the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development

**T**he Convention establishing the ACS acknowledges the Caribbean Sea as a “common asset of the peoples” of the region. The need for cooperation to develop the potential and utilize the resources of the Caribbean Sea, while at the same time protecting and preserving this patrimony, was described thus in the Preamble:

[The Contracting States] are convinced of the critical importance of preserving the environment of the region and, in particular, their shared responsibility for the preservation of the ecological integrity of the Caribbean Sea, by deploying the collective capabilities of their peoples in developing and exploiting its resources on an environmentally sound and sustainable basis, in order to enhance the quality of life of present and future generations of Caribbean peoples.

With this in mind, three years later during the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing

States (held in Barbados in 1997), a proposal was submitted to have the Caribbean Sea internationally recognized as a “**special area in the context of sustainable development.**” Consequently, the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the ACS were requested to commence efforts towards achieving this goal, with the support of the Governments concerned and the relevant regional and international non-governmental agencies and organizations.

In 1998, the Ministerial Council of the Association included as a primary goal of the proposed environmental strategy that the Caribbean Sea be internationally recognized as a “special area in the context of sustainable development.” The leaders of the Member Countries reaffirmed their commitment the following year, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of ACS Heads of State and/or Government in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic.

The first achievement on the international level was reached in December 1999, when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution





The Secretary General of ACS, **Luis Fernando Andrade Falla**, meets with the Secretary General of the United Nations, **Ban Ki-moon**, March 8, 2011.



A/RES/54/225 titled “Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development,” recognizing the importance of the issue. The resolution also calls on the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of the world to develop an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area.

Between December 2000 and December 2004, three other resolutions were made under the same name (see table) addressing the issue of the Caribbean. These expanded the scope of the first resolution, while recognizing the work of the ACS and other organizations to conserve natural resources in the region.

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN ON THE CARIBBEAN SEA, 1999-2012

Resolution	Name	Date
A/RES/54/225	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development	12/22/1999
A/RES/55/203	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development	12/20/2000
A/RES/57/261	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development	12/20/2002
A/RES/59/230	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development	12/22/2004
A/RES/61/197	Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations	12/19/2008
A/RES/63/214	Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations	12/20/2010
A/RES/65/155	Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations	06/07/2011
A/RES/67/205	Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations	12/21/2012

Source: United Nations, [Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly](#), 2014.





### The second decade: Caribbean Sea Commission activities begin

In 2005, during the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Government in Panama City, Panama, the Ministerial Council was instructed to “permanently include in its agenda” the subject of the Caribbean Sea.

To fulfill this mandate, it was decided to dedicate a structured mechanism within the ACS, with the aim that the Caribbean Sea be recognized internationally as a special area in the context of sustainable development. Therefore, in 2006, the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Sea Initiative was created through Agreement 6/06.

The Monitoring Committee held its first meeting in April and the second in September 2006. At the last meeting, members of the first Board were chosen, and it was agreed that the Commission would take the name of the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC).

**Natasha George,**  
Legal Advisor of  
the ACS, during the  
Workshop on the Role  
of the International  
Tribunal for the Law of  
the Sea in Mexico City,  
Mexico, June 7, 2013.

The first steps of the CSC focused on defining the central structure of government (executive board, sub-commissions, and committees), organization, and mechanics of operation. To this end, the Operating Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Ca-



**XII Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo de Ministros,**  
Guatemala, enero 26 de 2007.

ibbean Sea Commission came into effect in 2007. Two years later, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Caribbean Sea Commission (October 2009), the institutionalization of the sub-commissions addressing issues of legal, scientific-technical, government, and public communication was agreed upon.

The following year in July, the Expert Consultation on the Operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission was held in Cave Hill, Barbados. It had the following goals: 1) exchange information on the work plan and operational status of the CSC; 2) obtain feedback on the viability of the proposals, and 3) build a consensus on the best way to cooperate to achieve the main objective of establishing effective maritime governance in the Greater Caribbean.

In parallel fashion in the international arena, on December 19, 2008, the General Assembly of the UN adopted resolution A/RES/61/197: “**Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations,**” in which, besides acknowledging the vulnerability of the region, the action plan of the Caribbean Sea Commission was welcomed, and the international community was invited







**Luis Fernando Andrade Falla, and Professor Nigel E. Harris,** representing the uwi, during the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two organizations, April 13, 2011.

to support actions that contribute to the conservation of the region. Three other resolutions were approved by the General Assembly under this name from 2010 to 2011 (see table).

In 2013, the CSC held its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in which it elected a new executive Board. In April of this year, the mandate of the Caribbean Sea Commission was discussed during the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and/or Governments, which reaffirmed the importance of the Caribbean Sea as a common heritage that is “a resource for economic development and welfare of our people.” They also expressed their intention to continue supporting all ACS efforts

to develop and implement regional initiatives for the protection and preservation of this heritage and to obtain recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of sustainable development.

In this regard, as part of the Plan of Action of the Declaration of Pétionville, the following activities were proposed:

- Hiring of experts to analyze the legal, economic, and financial implications of the concept of Special Area;
- Facilitate the work of the CSC with greater access to financial, human, and technical resources of the region, particularly through collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and other research and development institutions in the Greater Caribbean;
- Integrate a team of specialists to develop the CSC Report for the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- And promote greater participation in the work of the CSC through relevant regional institutions, with the prior approval of Member States.

**Students of the University of Suriname** visiting the offices of the ACS, June 1, 2009.







Secretary General,  
**Alfonso Múnera  
Cavadía**, and the  
Representative of  
Mexico to the ACS,  
**Mario Arriola Woog**,  
April 18, 2012.

### 2014: upcoming Caribbean Sea Commission activities

In February 2014, during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Ministerial Decree 11/14 approved the Caribbean Sea Commission initiatives for 2014, including the following:

**SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUNCTION AND ROLE OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION** > This event will be a continuation of the work of the consultants on the implications of the Special Area designation. Its purpose is to promote commitment and support by major players in the field for the CSC and of the important role played by the Commission in order to ensure the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea. Participants will include accredited ACS representatives, officials of intergovernmental organizations, and specialized

agencies in matters of the sea, the fisheries sector, organizations, universities, and research centers, among others.

**REPORT TO THE 69<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS** > The Secretary General of the ACS, by mandate of the 67<sup>TH</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, will present a report to the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2014 on the status of the implementation of Resolution A/RES/67/205 “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations.” The CSC will be responsible for preparing this report.

**DATABASE** > It is proposed that the CSC operate a database to collect specialized information, projects, and data from institutions related to the Caribbean Sea.







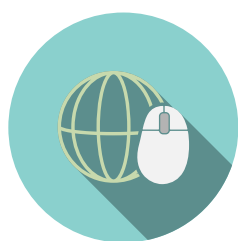
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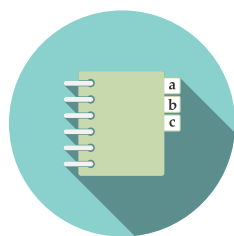


## Web Resources

- › Association of Caribbean States (official site): [www.acs-aec.org](http://www.acs-aec.org)
- › Atlas Caribe: [atlas-caraibe.certic.unicaen.fr](http://atlas-caraibe.certic.unicaen.fr)
- › Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, databases and statistical publications: [statistics.eclac.org](http://statistics.eclac.org)
- › EM-DAT, The International Disaster Database: [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be)
- › Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, Caribbean Sea: [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)
- › International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
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- › World Bank, Data Bank: [databank.worldbank.org](http://databank.worldbank.org)







## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ACI</b>	Airports Council International
<b>ACS-AEC</b>	Association of Caribbean States
<b>AFD</b>	French Development Agency
<b>AMP</b>	Panama Maritime Authority
<b>CACM</b>	Central American Common Market
<b>CARICOM</b>	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
<b>CELAC</b>	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
<b>CEPREDENAC</b>	Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
<b>COCATRAM</b>	Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation
<b>CSC</b>	Caribbean Sea Commission
<b>CTO</b>	Caribbean Tourism Organization
<b>DOD</b>	Date of Deposit for the Instrument of Ratification
<b>DTDEER</b>	Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>FTAA</b>	Free Trade Area of the Americas
<b>G3</b>	Group of three countries (Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela) free trade agreement
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IDRL</b>	International Disaster Response Laws, Rules, and Principles
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IPU</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Center
<b>ITLOS</b>	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
<b>MITRANS</b>	Ministry of Transportation of Cuba





## ... Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>N/A</b>	Not Available
<b>NAFTA</b>	North American Free Trade Agreement
<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OECS</b>	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>SELA</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
<b>SHOCS</b>	Strengthening Hydrometeorological Operations and Services in the Caribbean
<b>SICA</b>	Central American Integration System
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>SIECA</b>	Central American Economic Integration Secretariat
<b>SITCA</b>	Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SRE</b>	Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>STZC</b>	Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean
<b>TEU</b>	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNASUR</b>	Union of South American Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNISDR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNWTO</b>	United Nations World Tourism Organization
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>WIC</b>	West India Committee
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization







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