

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF  
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Agreement No. 12/12**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO FACILITATE  
THE ADVANCEMENTS OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN CRUISE  
SHIP DESTINATIONS (ACCD-WG)**

**The Ministerial Council,**

**Recalling:**

The Panama Declaration reaffirming the commitment of the Heads of State and/or Governments to the development of the concept of sustainable tourism and their mandate that a meeting of Ministers of Tourism, Tourism High Level Officers be convened "to exchange experiences and examine proposals and alternatives regarding tourism public policies, especially those associated with cruise ships, so that the possibilities of this type of tourism providing a greater contribution to the sustainable development of the sector in countries within the zone can be evaluated";

**Acknowledging:**

That Cruise Ship Tourism extends to practically the entire Membership of the Association, representing an activity of utmost importance in the economy of our countries;

**Observing:**

That the consistency of the annual decline in percentage of the global market share of Caribbean Cruise Destinations may negatively affect the entire Regional Tourism Sector;

**Recalling:**

That one of the aims of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), as stated in Article 3 of its Convention, points to the strengthening of collective capabilities of its members in their different areas as well as the discussion on matters of interest for the purpose of facilitating active and coordinated participation by the region in the various multilateral fora;

**Bearing in mind:**

The decisions taken at the First and Second Meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the Greater Caribbean (TMM-1 and TMM-2) respectively held in Havana, Cuba on October 19, 2006 and Barranquilla, Colombia on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009:

“to consider the possibility of establishing an Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destination that will contribute to the exercise of greater leverage in discussions with the industry and will have the potential for having a positive impact, in terms of the benefits for ACS Member States and Associate Members, particularly through increased cruise travel”; as well as

“on convening the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Working Group to further the task of setting up the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (..)”;

**Following:**

Ministerial Council Agreements No. 4/10 and 3/11 endorsing the Recommendations of the First and Second Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD-WG-1 and 2) respectively held on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Managua, Nicaragua and September 2-3, 2010 in La Antigua, Guatemala;

**Acknowledging:**

The collaborative efforts of the Third Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD-WG-3) held on June 15-16, 2011 in Managua, Nicaragua, in relation to the review of the legal and operational framework of the ACCD and the decisions emanating from that meeting as indicated in Annex I of this Agreement;

**Considering:**

The report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism held on June 17-18, 2011 in Managua, Nicaragua, in relation to the considerations concerning the deliberations of the WG-ACCD-3 as indicated in Annex II of this Agreement;

**Determining:**

That greater quantitative participation of the ACS Membership and financing modalities are imperative factors in the effective execution of this initiative to establish the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD);

**Affirming:**

The sentiments of the Joint Declaration Following the Third Caricom-Sica Summit Of Heads Of State And Government, San Salvador, El Salvador, 19 August 2011 urging Member States:

“to continue working together to develop the competitiveness of the Cruise Industry in order to improve the Caribbean brand, which will generate benefits for the small and medium sized enterprises in the local community.”

**AGREES:**

- 1. To express** its gratitude to the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD- WG) for the efforts expended in facilitating the completion of their tasks.
- 2. To encourage** the Members and Associate Members to resolutely support the work of the ACCD-WG, by actively participating and where possible, financially contributing to this initiative, thereby enabling the Ad-Hoc

Working Group to have a budget corresponding to the mandates issued by the Member States;

**3. To request** the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations to continue the review of the provisions of the Draft Statutes, Strategic Operational Plan and and to formulate a practical and action-oriented work programme for the further development and implementation of this initiative;

**4. To urge** the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations to convene its next meeting as soon as possible, before June 2012;

**5. To encourage** the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations to complete its deliberations, in a timely manner, and report its recommendations and conclusions to the next Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism to consequently be submitted for the consideration of this Council;

**6. To mandate** the Secretariat to include this matter in its agenda of meetings as well as take the steps necessary to ensure full and effective implementation of this agreement, including the mobilisation of extra-budgetary resources.

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CREATION  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN CRUISE SHIP DESTINATIONS  
(ACCD-WG-1)**

**Managua, Nicaragua, December 10, 2009**

**RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT**

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**EXCERPT OF THE MAIN RECOMENDATIONS**

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**Conclusions of the Morning Session**

The following are the main conclusions and recommendations emanating from the first part of the Meeting:

Approval of the Formation of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Creation of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations, which was composed as follows:

Chairman: Nicaragua  
Vice Chairmen: Haiti and Mexico and Belize serving as  
Alternate Vice Chairman

Approval of the team of advisors for the Working Group, whose purpose will be to provide technical support in the creation of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations. This team would be composed as follows:

ACS: Technical Secretariat  
WTO, CTO and CCT (President Pro-Tempore)

Incorporation of Cuba into the Ad-Hoc Working Group.

Consideration of the potentiality of the Caribbean region with respect to cruise ship destinations and recognition of the importance of using the broad concept of the Caribbean based on the cultural and geographical diversity of the region.

Recognition of the importance that should be placed not only on the economic impact of cruise ship tourism, but also its social, cultural and environmental effects.

Recommendation of the following aspects to be taken into account for the Work Plan of the ACCD:

Promotion of the acquisition of products, goods and services in ports through local providers and/or Member States of the ACS.

Generation of on board employment for citizens of the Greater Caribbean.

Organisation of familiarisation trips for travel agents on cruise ships in coordination with the destinations visited, so as to encourage the promotion of such locations as destinations.

Recognition of the Declaration of Cozumel on cruise ship tourism policies for Mexico and Central America.

With support from the ACS Secretariat, entrust the Ad-Hoc Group with the task of preparing the legal documentation, operating plan and schedule to be followed for the creation of the ACCD.

Charge the Ad-Hoc Group with the responsibility of preparing a proposal on the FCCA's participation, for the consideration of ACS countries.

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## **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations for the Creation of the Proposed Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations. Date and Venue of the next Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group**

The Chairman, in collaboration with the STD, presented a compilation of the main topics discussed regarding the draft Concept Document presented, as well as the conclusions and recommendations concerning the next steps to be taken toward the establishment of the proposed Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations, agreeing to the following:

Approval of the Draft Concept Document on the Objectives, Composition, Functions and Other Institutional Aspects of the Proposed Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations, so as to allow the ACCD-WG to commence the responsibility assigned.

Presentation of the recommendations of the ACCD-WG-1 to the ACS Ministerial Council at its upcoming meeting scheduled to take place in Cartagena, Colombia, on January 21, 2010, for recognition as a Ministerial Agreement.

Presentation by the ACCD-WG of its first proposal on the Plan for the Functioning of the ACCD by no later than February 15, 2010, for its

subsequent distribution and consideration among the Member States and Associate Members of the ACS, with a view to the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SCST carded for the end of March or early April 2010. This first document must include the proposal regarding the participation of the FCCA.

Solicit technical advice from the WTO for the preparation of the Plan for the Functioning of the ACCD, by assigning a consultant specialising in this area.

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**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM**

**Managua, Nicaragua, 17-18 June 2011**

**FINAL RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT**

**EXCERPT OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN  
CRUISE SHIP DESTINATIONS (ACCD)**

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**IV. Presentation and Discussion on the advances and way forward  
concerning the Establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise  
Ship Destinations (ACCD)**

The meeting considered the presentation of the Vice Minister of Nicaragua, Mrs Mayra Salinas who represented the Chairman of the Ad-hoc Working Group for the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD-WG), on the process and progress towards the establishment of an Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD).

The Chair informed the meeting that at the ACS Second Meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the Greater Caribbean (TMM-2), in Colombia, regional tourism leaders agreed to consider the possibility of establishing an Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD). As mandated in this regard, one of the most important actions included the creation of an Ad-Hoc Working Group to further develop the concept of an Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations. The Ad-Hoc Working Group comprising three sub-committees was tasked to advance on the concept and framework for the institutionalization of the ACCD through the preparation of legal documentation, an operating plan and an outline of strategies for interaction with the Cruise Industry.

The Chair informed that there have been three meetings of the Ad-Hoc Working group to date. Additionally, financial support received from the Republic of Turkey facilitated the development of a consultancy to develop the formative documents as follows: the Statutes, the Strategic Operational Plan, Financing plan and the Marketing plan among others. She continued that at the recently concluded Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (ACCD WG-3), June 15-16, 2011, the draft Statutes and other operational documents were reviewed as



well as feedback received from Member States with the aim of finalising these documents. As it relates to the next steps, the Chair outlined the main conclusions of this meeting highlighting the importance given to the convening of a meeting with the Cruise Industry, indicating that it was envisioned that there would be two follow-up meetings of the Ad-Hoc Working Group this year. The Chair further asked for the continued participation and support of the various Ministers of Tourism to realise the establishment of the ACCD, currently targeted for December 2011.

The Secretary General read the comment from the Representative of St. Lucia to the meeting and also shared his review of the ACCD-WG-3. The representative from the Secretariat for Tourism Integration of Central America (SITCA) informed the meeting of the proposal from Panama to house the headquarters of the ACCD. Attached as **Annex E** is the correspondence received from the Central American Tourism Council's Pro-tempore President reflecting said offer of Panama as well as the Declaration of the Central American Tourism Council on the Cruise Industry. It was also discussed that the ACCD membership fees required further review and consultation, as well as the role and requirements of Member Countries and Observers.

Various Delegations supported the premise that the ACCD will not be established as a new regional organization, but as an initiative within the parameters of the ACS, and that it was in the interest of all member states that the institutionalisation of the ACCD is done expeditiously.

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#### **V. Wrap up session of the discussion on the advances and way forward concerning the establishment of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destinations (ACCD)**

The meeting considered the main issues regarding the establishment of the ACCD as follows:

- Rationale of the organization: There was consensus on the purpose of the organization and it was agreed that it will be an association linked to the ACS and include other non-ACS member countries and/or territories.
- Name: The meeting was asked to consider the suggestion to change the name of the Association to include reference to Central America in the Title. It was agreed that the name would remain unchanged and that the Ad-Hoc Working group would consider the possibility of changing the name to make it more reflective of the 'Greater Caribbean Region'.

- Headquarters: Panama's offer to host the headquarters of the ACCD was welcomed.
- Timeframe for establishment: The Meeting emphasized the need to expedite the process to establish the ACCD, bearing in mind that the intention is for the ACCD to be operational by year's end.
- ACCD AD Hoc Working Group: Concerning including countries that are not members of the ACS as well as the inclusion of the private sector in the tourism industry for membership, it was agreed that the Ad Hoc Working group would be tasked to come up with a creative way to address this issue and other related organizational aspects. The meeting also approved the offer of El Salvador to host the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the margins of the Inter-American Tourism Congress, hosted by the OAS, September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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