

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, February 10, 2012

**Agreement No. 14/12**

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT TO FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CENTRE FOR THE PROMOTION OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURE AND TO  
FACILITATE LANGUAGE LEARNING INITIATIVES**

**The Ministerial Council,**

**Pursuant to:**

Article III of the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States; the Panama Declaration reaffirming the commitment of the Heads of State and Government to the development of sustainable tourism;

**Acknowledging:**

The Declarations of the First and Second Meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the Greater Caribbean, convened in Havana, Cuba in 2006 and Barranquilla, Colombia in 2009 respectively;

**Considering:**

Agreements 12/07 and 03/09 in facilitating the establishment of the Centre for the Promotion of Languages and Culture and to facilitate language learning initiatives;

**Acknowledging:**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACS and the Government of Panama signed in 2008, to host the Centre for the Promotion of Languages and Cultures of the Greater Caribbean (CPLC); as well as the

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACS and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus signed 2010, formalizing the technical cooperation for the Centre of Excellence for English language component of the CPLC;

**Mindful of:**

The importance of policy initiatives to broaden expertise in the official languages of the Association, and of facilitating the adoption of relevant measures to promote multi-lingualism and culture in the Greater Caribbean region which will contribute to a favourable environment for industry and trade;

**Observing:**

The current context of the global economy and in order to guarantee effective participation in a rapidly expanding tourism sector, linguistic diversity is an asset that can enhance both business and Destination Competitiveness, as well as further facilitate better collaboration among the Member States of the ACS;

**Conscious:**

Of the relevance of the project to establish the Centre for the Promotion of Languages and Culture (CPLC) in recognition of the benefits of language and the understanding of cultures to regional dialogue, cooperation and concerted efforts in sustainable tourism, trade , disaster risk reduction and transport;

**Aware of:**

The continuing efforts of the ACS Secretariat to identify the required financial, technical and human resources to continue and sustain the ACS Foreign Language Initiative;

**AGREES:**

1. **To commend** the Government of Panama as the Coordination Centre of the CPLC for the advancements concerning the appointment of staff and identification of physical space, registration, furnishings and equipment to house the Centre;
2. **To acknowledge** with satisfaction the advancements made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in consolidating the University College Hotel School of the Venezuelan Andes (Colegio Universitario Hotel Escuela

de los Andes Venezolanos - CUHELAV) as the Centre of Excellence for the Spanish Component of the CPLC and as the Satellite or Support Centre, the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), School of Modern Languages (Escuela de Idiomas Modernos). In the same manner, the commitment by the French Region of Guadeloupe in consolidating CIGAREL (Centre Internationale de Guadeloupe pour une Approche Régionale des Langues) as Centre of Excellence for the French language;

3. **To recognise** the recommendation to form an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Centres of Excellence of the CPLC emanating from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism convened in Managua, Nicaragua in June 2011;
4. **To urge** the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the Centres of Excellence of the CPLC to convene a meeting, preferably before mid March 2012 in addition to formalizing pending technical cooperation agreements;
5. **To mandate** the ACS Secretariat to procure that which is necessary and in so doing ensure that funding is obtained and that agreements with key partners at the national and international level are secured in order to attain the objectives contained herein;
6. **To encourage** the Members and Associate Members to support the efforts in advancing the establishment of the CPLC, this may include among others language training technical assistance, study grants, scholarship programmes or internships.