Consultation Background

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) has been pursuing the Caribbean Sea initiative since 1998 through the promotion of the UN Resolution ‘Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations’ at the UN General Assembly. An outcome of this process was the establishment of the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) in 2008 as a body to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. Since its establishment the ACS and CSC have been working towards developing appropriate structures and arrangements for the work of the CSC.

The CSC comprises a number of national representatives and expert members. It reports directly to the ACS Council of Ministers. Barbados is the current Chair of the CSC and Guatemala is Vice Chair. The operation of the CSC is supported by three Sub-commissions:

- Scientific and Technical Subcommission;
- Governance, Outreach and Public Information Subcommission;
- Legal Subcommission.

The key function of the Subcommissions is to acquire and synthesize of information relevant to ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean Region (ACS region) and based on this to provide policy advice to the CSC for review and onward communication to the Council of Ministers.

The current challenge is to develop and operationalise the mechanism by which (1) the Sub-commissions will be able to fulfill their function, and (2) the CSC proper will review the information provided, transform it into advice for the ACS Council and facilitate feedback from the council through the Sub-commissions to stakeholders in the region.

The next steps are to operationalise these arrangements. This is envisaged as being initiated through a first phase of four years duration with a focus on living marine resources of the Wider Caribbean Region, including their linkages with productive sectors such as fisheries and tourism, and with reference to the threats posed by climate change.

The Expert Consultation on ‘Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission – Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean,’ is being held to carry forward the process of establishing the CSC and its functions.
WELCOME ADDRESS
Dr. Eudine Barriteau
Professor of Gender and Public Policy
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OPENING REMARKS
Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Falla
Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

MESSAGE
Dr. Angela Cropper
Deputy Executive Director, United Nation Environment Program (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya

REMARKS
Ambassador Mikko Pyhälä
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland and Representative for Finland to CARICOM and the OECS

REMARKS
Hon. Christopher Sinckler
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

CLOSING
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Master of Ceremonies
Dr. Robin Mahon
Professor of Marine Affairs and Director of CERMES,
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