**PROJECT: Institutional Strengthening of the Association of Caribbean States**

Overall project objective is to strengthen the operational and administrative capacity of the Association’s secretariat to enable the fulfillment of its mandate and functions as it seeks to achieve the development goals of Member States and Associate Members.

Main focus however, is to strengthen the capacity building of the Association to encourage co-operation in several main thematic areas – Trade, Tourism, Transport, Disaster Risk Reduction, Economic Development, Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Education and Culture.

Properly implemented, this project would result in a greatly strengthened, integrated ACS Secretariat, one structured to provide services and guidance to Member States through sound and efficient management principles and clearly identified priorities of Member Statesand Associate Members**.**

New communication and technology information systems (hardware and software), would also lead to improved liaison, communications and networking with Member States, development partners, private sector partners, civil society and other international organizations. Arguably, these improvements would require increased funding for their sustainability and continuity, which would be generated from increased financial contributions to the ACS Secretariat from Member States.

Another important component of the project, since we now live in the digital age, the ACS cannot allow itself to be left behind. So there is need to digitalize all information and archives of the Association and then the best storage system has to be sourced to ensure preservation for posterity.

***Overall objective:*** *The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity building of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), in implementing cooperation in main thematic areas such of Trade, Tourism, Transport, Disaster Risk Reduction, Economic Development, Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Education and Culture.*

***Specific Objetives:***

*• A more efficient and effective Secretariat ready to provide leadership and coordination of initiatives and projects of strategic interest for the Association*

*• Strengthening technical capacity in strategic areas of the association - Trade, Tourism, Transportation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Economic Development, Renewable Energy, Education and Culture.*

*• Adoption of ICT as a key factor for the modernization of the Organization*