



ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN
STATES (ACS)

CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION
(CSC)

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Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago 24th November 2015

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) as host of the First Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) Symposium in the city of Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on 24th November 2015, is grateful for the high level of participation and pleased with the fruitful discussions and high quality of recommendations received from participants.

The Symposium has hosted a wide range of experts from eighteen (18) ACS countries consisting of; Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Furthermore we were pleased to welcome regional programmes and projects namely the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanism, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, SPAW Regional Activity Centre, International Maritime Organization and Organization of American States.

The following are the most relevant results of the First Symposium of the Caribbean Sea Commission:

1. The Participants presented in a detailed and systematic manner the uncontrolled increase of the invasive species, the sargassum seaweed and the coastal erosion of the Caribbean Sea and the serious and negative impacts it has on the people, the territory and the economy of the Greater Caribbean. Furthermore, they highlighted the intimate relationship it has with the deterioration of the coral reefs.
2. The Experts recommended to the Governments of the Member States and Associate Member States of the ACS to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination and centralization of actions, in order to address the serious problems that have adversely affected the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea.
3. Following this train of thought, it was suggested that the Caribbean Sea Commission of the ACS is assigned the mission of acting as a coordinating mechanism, to facilitate the cooperation among the nations of the Greater Caribbean. In this regard, the Secretariat of the ACS considered the coordination among the Subregional Organizations of integration to be of vital importance and welcomed with enthusiasm the proposal of the OECS representative to work with the ACS.
4. The Participants considered it essential to count on international financing to drive a wider investigation on the topics of the Symposium and that actions be taken on behalf of the Governments in order to establish mechanisms to centralize and disseminate scientific information which will be gathered. In this regard, the ACS Secretariat conveyed its intention to develop a databank to help with this function.

5. The Participants expressed the importance of using the CSC as a mechanism for transmitting knowledge provided by the scientific community with respect to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea to the political decision makers of the Member States and Associate Member States of the ACS.
6. The Republic of France proposed to develop a project in relation to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea and will present it to the ACS Secretariat in the upcoming months, as well as conduct a new conference on the Caribbean Sea in Guadeloupe in 2016. The ACS Secretariat expressed its gratitude toward the proposal of collaboration with the government of France.
7. The Secretariat of the ACS and its Caribbean Sea Commission will report to the next Ministerial Council of the ACS the recommendations outlined in this document, with the hope to eventually include those that are considered priority and achievable, in the ACS 2015-2016 Plan of Action which will be presented in the VII Summit of the Heads of States in La Habana in the upcoming year.

*The Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States
The Caribbean Sea Commission Programme Coordinating Unit
I Symposium of the Caribbean Sea Commission
27th November 2015*