

**DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF
TRADE FACILITATION**

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**** , Mexico: March **, 2014**

Agreement No. **/14

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The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the preamble to the Convention Establishing the ACS done in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 24, 1994, in which Member states declared their intention to promote, consolidate and strengthen the regional cooperation and integration process in the Caribbean Region in order to create an enhanced economic space that will contribute to its more competitive participation in international markets and facilitate active and coordinated participation by the region in various multilateral fora;

Acknowledging that the concept of trade facilitation is an important one for the Member States of the Greater Caribbean Region since it involves the entire trade chain;

Recognising that cooperation among authorities on customs matters is an important means of facilitating trade within the Greater Caribbean Region, shall, subject to their respective domestic laws and consistent with their own policies and procedures;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the XXVI and XXVII Meetings of the ACS Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations in 2011 and 2012, in which Member States agreed to establish working Groups of the Trade Committee on Trade Facilitation;

AGREES TO:

Encourage Member States and Associate Member States to;

1. share expertise on ways to streamline and simplify customs procedures;
2. exchange information on best practices relating to customs procedures, enforcement and risk management techniques with the exception of confidential information of;
3. facilitate cooperation and exchange of experiences in the application of information technology and improvement of monitoring and inspection systems in customs procedures and other authorities involved in the release of goods procedures; and
4. ensure, as they deem fit, that their customs laws and regulations are published and publicly available, and their customs procedures and release of goods procedures, where necessary, are exchanged among customs contact points.
5. shall, facilitate for future cooperative arrangements initiatives to enhance further the exchange of information on best practices in relation to customs procedures, and other authorities involved in the release of goods, including the application of risk management techniques.
6. move forward to inter operate information between countries using best practices from Member States in order to update and advance the system and the data models.