

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS FOR  
THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

**XXVIII MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

**6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013, PORT OF SPAIN, REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF THE DIRECTORATE OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS FOR THE  
BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

## **I. FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE ACS PROGRAMME:**

- Implement activities that would allow the fulfilment of the mandates emanating from the V Summit of Heads of State and/or Government, contained in the Declaration of Petion Ville.
- Achieve the principal objectives of the Association, by promoting greater consultation and co-operation among Member States, taking into account the dynamism of the international agendas.
- Ensure the recognition of the Greater Caribbean as a special area in the context of sustainable development.
- Foster economic growth and regional integration by completing comprehensive and equitable agreements in the area of trade and on other economic matters and strengthen economic integration in the Greater Caribbean.
- Promote medium and long-term programmes that would consolidate efforts to acquire resources.
  
- Implement a culture of co-operation among the organisations of the Greater Caribbean that support the four areas of interest of the Association.

### **1) FOCAL POINT OF THE AGENDA:**

The Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations fosters cooperation and integration through the joint efforts of Member States and Associate Members of the ACS, the construction and consolidation of an enhanced economic space for trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean. In this regard, the Committee's Work Plan for the period 2014-2015 is based on the following four focal points:

- 1. Actions to further promote trade convergence and greater participation of ACS members, with special emphasis on the small economies of the Greater Caribbean.**
- 2. Develop actions to consolidate and promote the development and expansion of trade and investment: its facilitation, competitiveness and connectivity among the countries of the ACS Region.**
- 3. Integrate the ACS Region with other regional initiatives relating to the Business Convergence.**
- 4. Promote and encourage International Trade negotiations and training on Trade Issues.**

## **II. SPECIFIC GOALS BY AREA:**

### **3.2 TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

#### **3.2.1. Gradual Reduction and Elimination of Barriers to Trade and Investment in the Greater Caribbean.**

Promote initiatives and activities aimed at reducing obstacles to trade in the region (E-Regulations, Expedited Visas, Simplification of import procedures, establishment of e-consultation system for accessing information and import requirements).

#### **3.2.2. Promote the Deepening and Convergence of Trade within the Greater Caribbean through the development of new schemes and preferences.**

Promote convergence and intensifying trade through initiatives to the smaller economies of the Greater Caribbean.

#### **3.2.3 Promote and encourage trade relations in the Greater Caribbean and develop initiatives to integrate the ACS Region into other regional initiatives for trade convergence and infrastructure.**

Boost trade relations in the region, through forums in which the business community can explore new business opportunities (MSMEs Forum of the Greater Caribbean, Annual Business Forum of the Caribbean). Also, identify appropriate ways of integrating the ACS Region in activities taking place in other fora, in order to build spaces for commercial convergence and infrastructure.

#### **3.2.4. Promote and encourage international trade negotiations and training on trade issues.**

Strengthen trade capacities in negotiation, management, dispute resolution, and matters of regional priority in the Greater Caribbean through training sessions offered with the support international and regional partner organizations.

PROGRAMME AREAS AND GOALS	ACTIVITY NO.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	DURATION	PERSON AND / OR RESOURCES NEEDED	EXPECTED RESULTS
<b>3.2.1. Gradual Reduction and Elimination of Obstacles to Trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean</b>	3.2.1.1.	Standardize and harmonize procedures requirements for customs and facilitation of customs for members	<p>Hold Working Group Meetings on Customs Facilitation.</p> <p>Conduct Workshops and Training Seminars on relevant issues as it relations to customs facilitation. (e.g. Authorized Economic Operators)</p>	2013 - 2015	SCTD + DT	<p>Negotiation and signing by the ACS members of an agreement for simplification of customs procedures and other requirements for imports in the ACS region.</p> <p>Signing by the ACS members of a memorandum of understanding for the commencement of information sharing on customs procedures through the electronic transmission of data.</p>
	3.2.1.2.	Expedited Visas to business persons of the Greater Caribbean.	Hold Working Group Meeting on the Issuance of Business Visas between migration authorities to identify actions to facilitate the exchange of information and procedures of expedited visas for the entrance of business visitors from the Greater Caribbean.	2013 - 2015	SCTD + DT	<p>Facilitate the procedures for visa issuance for businesspersons.</p> <p>To promote the creation of a special visa for businesspersons in the Greater Caribbean.</p>

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	3.2.1.3.	Implement Programmes within the ACS countries to promote transparency and efficiency in a timely manner for the formalities related to business.	Realization of seminar on trade facilitation projects in the region, using the tools provided by the specialized international agencies (UNCTAD, OMA, etc.) and initiatives of Member States; to promote transparency and streamline procedures and formalities of business.	2014 - 2015	SCTD + DT + DTDEER, UNCTAD, WCO, Member States	Establish, in as many countries as possible in a program of improving the processes of trade facilitation from 2014
<b>3.2.2 Promote the deepening and convergence of Trade within the ACS Region through the development of new schemes and preferences.</b>	3.2.2.1.	Geographical Indications- Champion Products of the Greater Caribbean: Opportunities for the Caribbean to Capitalise on Regional Branding [Original concept presented by the Government of the Republic of Haiti at the XXVII Meeting of the SCT]	Phase 1: Conduct a regional assessment in order to identify/select potential products for geographical indications and regional branding to be the proposed "Champions Products." Results from this assessment will be presented in a special ACS meeting, which will approve proposals. During meeting technical assistance could indicate new trade possibilities that would arise after GI procedure.	2011- 2013	SCTD, DTDEER, Member States.	Increase in national production for selected products; Job creation in sectors producing Champion Products; Reduction in the trade deficit of countries that were traditionally weak exporters; Reduction in production costs through the local sourcing process;

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			<p>Phase 2: Implement internal and/or regional consultation with producers and private sector organizations, in order to proceed to next step of each GI selected by Member States. ACS could invite Member States to meetings that would be needed, in order to facilitate procedure. WIPO will guide ACS and countries through entire process.</p> <p>Phase 3: Formalization of GI registration an regional / international level. WIPO and its specialized consultants will guide ACS and countries through entire process.</p> <p>Phase 4: Presentation of new GI proposal to each potential market, in order to receive preferential treatments in terms of tariffs, promotion and facilitation of distribution</p>			<p>Champion Product" Fairs become an international reference in promoting the Greater Caribbean from a commercial, economic and cultural perspective; Strengthened cooperation between the private and public sectors</p>

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			on a reciprocal basis. With assistance from the WIPO, the ACS may promote the development of geographical indications in the region furthering innovative practices and new economic possibilities.			
	3.2.2.2	ACS Trade and Economic Review of the Greater Caribbean	<p>I. Establishment of and Economic Intelligence Unit.</p> <p>II. Update the study on the actual and potential flow of trade in the ACS Region.</p> <p>III. Conduct strategic analysis and publish Economic Forecasts of the Greater Caribbean Countries</p>	2014 - 2015	UNECLAC , DTDEER	
	3.2.2.3	Addressing Trade Priority Needs within the Greater Caribbean.	<p>Develop Trade Priorities Survey, to be Circulated to member States.</p> <p>Conduct Analysis of Results.</p> <p>Consolidate and Prepare Official Report.</p>	2014 - 2015		Raise awareness of the needs of different countries, with trade issues, for the purposes of use as inputs to propose specific actions to the Heads of State and Government at the next Summit of the ACS.

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<b>3.2.3. Promote and enhance trade relations in the Greater Caribbean.</b>	3.2.3.1.	Greater Caribbean Business Forum	Conduct business forums for the interaction of the business community and promote business.	2014 - 2015	SCTD + DT, DTDEER	Expand and strengthen trade relations within the ACS, recognizing the need to promote a more entrepreneurial culture in the Greater Caribbean, contributing to increased trade among its Member States and Associate Members, generating more interest.
	3.2.3.2.	Promotion of the Development of MSMEs in the Greater Caribbean Region.	An annual seminar on the importance of MSMEs and existent opportunities in the region.	2014 - 2015	DTDEER, SCTD	a) Raise awareness about the role of MSMEs for economic and social development in the region. b) Raise awareness of the banks and government support and other resources that exist in the region for the opening, development and consolidation of MSMEs. c) To promote entrepreneurship and business development in the region.
			Empower women through Trade Training seminars focusing on equal participation by women in economic and social			The increased capacity and skills of women entrepreneurs and small business owners, men and women alike.



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			development through entrepreneurship and the growth of micro-business and small and medium enterprises.			
	3.2.3.3	Cruise Tourism and Entrepreneurial Strengthening in the Greater Caribbean: Opportunities for women	<p>Phase 1: Study on the role and contribution of women in the Tourism Sector in Greater Caribbean and Training Program Curriculum developed to strengthen the capacities of women entrepreneurs with MSMEs.</p> <p>Phase 2: Regional Training Workshop and Symposium.</p> <p>Phase 3: Sub-Regional Training of Trainers and Mentoring Program.</p> <p>Phase 4: National Capacity Building Exercises.</p>		DTDEER +DST	Increased knowledge of avenues for accessing finance, and new technologies trade agreements and product business development.
	3.2.3.4.	Participation of ACS Region in the activities taking place in other initiatives related to trade integration	a. Identify appropriate ways of integrating the ACS Region in the activities taking place at other forums to build	2013 - 2015	DTDEER and Regional and International Organisation Partners and Donor Agencies	Incorporate the ACS Region into existing initiatives that promote regional convergence schemes and regional projects of infrastructure development,

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		matters.	<p>commercial spaces and infrastructure convergence.</p> <p>b. To request international organizations to consider the ACS region in initiatives that promote regional convergence schemes and regional projects of infrastructure development.</p> <p>Promotion of Institutional Cooperation through the Holding of Special Secretary Generals' Meeting SICA-CARICOM-ACS.</p> <p>SICA-CARICOM-ACS Technical Institutional Cooperation Dialogue.</p> <p>Donor Outreach Programme</p>			to avoid gaps in regional competitiveness.
	3.2.3.5	The strengthening of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB/CARIBANK)	Hold a Symposium of Development Bank of the Region.			To expand the participation and activities of the CDB of the countries of the ACS.

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<b>3.2.4. Promote and encourage international trade relations and training on trade issues.</b>	3.2.4.1.	Promote capacity building in trade negotiations, and other relevant Trade issues, taking into account the commercial characteristics of the members of the ACS, with a focus on small economies.	Consolidate the offers of regional cooperation for the strengthening of the institutional capacities of countries in negotiation, implementation, and dispute resolution matters from existing commercial instruments.  Offering of webinars on Specific Trade Issues.	2011 - 2013	SCTD + DTDEER, IDB, Compete Caribbean.	Strengthening the Institutional capacities of ACS countries on trade negotiations, administration and dispute resolution
<b>ACS Meetings: Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations</b>						
<b>3.2.5 Coordination of work of the Special Committee on Trade and External Economic Relations.</b>		Hold annual meetings of the Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations		2014 - 2015	SCTD + DTDEER	1. Presentation of initiatives and obtaining approval of the activities and work plan proposed by the Chair of the Special Committee.  2. Monitoring the implementation of the Work Plan and conduct meetings.

## **NOMENCLATURE:**

DTDEER	Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations
DST	Directorate of Sustainable Tourism
DT	Director of Trade
TA	Trade Advisor
PS	Private Sector
SCTD	Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
WCO	World Customs Organization

## **NUMERICAL KEY:**

The first two digits (3.2) indicate the area: Trade Development and External Economic Relations.

The third digit indicates the number of the Programme.

The fourth digit indicates the number of the project within the programme.

In regard to 3.2.5 this refers exclusively to the Special Committee Meeting on Trade Development and External Relations

**Example:** Code 3.2.2.4 refers to:

3.2- Trade and Development and External Economic Relations.

2 – The number of the Programme.

4 – The number of the project within the Programme.