

**REPORT
XXVIII MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SPECIAL FUND**

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

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Port of Spain: 2 October 2014

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)
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OF THE SPECIAL FUND**

ACS Secretariat, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: October 2, 2014

DRAFT REPORT

The XXVIII Meeting of The Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund of the ACS was held in Port of Spain on October 2nd, 2014. It was presided over by the Dominican Republic in the person of His Excellency, Mr. José Serulle Ramia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the ACS. He was accompanied by his Excellency, Giovanni Castillo, Ambassador of Guatemala and Vicepresident; Her Excellency, Sharon Saunders, High Commissioner of Jamaica and Vicepresident; Mr. Hector Celarié Landaverde, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of El Salvador, Rapporteur, as well as Secretary General, Ambassador Alfonso Múnera.

Delegations representing fourteen (14) Member States were present. The List of Participants is attached as *Annex I*.

The Meeting began with words of welcome by the President.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without amendment and is attached to this report as *Annex II*.

II. Presentation of the Progress Report of the Special Fund

The Manager of the Special Fund, Ms. Ingrid Jacobs, presented her Progress Report, detailing the actions that have been taken to reactivate the unit. The presentation also included The Special Fund Work Plan, Preliminary Strategy and Matrix of New Initiatives which already has twelve (12) project concepts to be presented at the Forum of Observer Countries and Organizations, Donor Institutions of the ACS and other interested Actors. The documents referenced were circulated in preparation for this Meeting.

III. Presentation of the Financial Report of the Special Fund

The Secretary General presented the Financial Report of the Special Fund describing the activities which had taken place and how funds designated to support activities of the Caribbean Sea Commission had been administered.

The meeting took note of some funds in the Special Fund account which had been designated to some initiatives which are not very costly.



At the same time, the delegation from Panama asked whether the status of the account could be further explained, recommending an accompanying narrative which would provide more information.

Likewise, mention was made of four (4) projects which the Secretariat leads with Mexico, with particular reference to the funds they assigned to each one.

The Secretary General took advantage of the opportunity to advise that eleven (11) island states of the ACS do not use the geospatial system because they do not have the necessary resources. Therefore, and to streamline the management by ACS, they have requested technical information. It is necessary to establish various details, for example, their individual equipment needs, training, and the costs in order to be able to advance with this important project.

IV. Forum of Observer Countries and Organizations of the ACS and Donor Institutions and Other Interested Actors

The Secretary General reported that the proposal for this Forum came as resonance from the recent summits of the Association. In fact, ambassadors from Canada, Korea, Finland, India, Turkey, Ecuador and Singapore had requested further information from the Secretariat on its projects and activities because they are interested in the possibility of strengthening a more active and dynamic relationship with the ACS.

Similarly, the Secretary General urged that it is necessary to change the methodology and mechanics of the Fund, in the sense of presenting initiatives to the membership to determine the possibilities of financing. Then you can proceed to turn them into projects according to the established procedure.

The delegation from Venezuela asked for greater clarity on the format and methodology of how this event would take place; if it would only be with Observer Countries and Donors or would it include all the Member and Associate Member Countries of the ACS.

The delegation from Guatemala suggested exploring the possibility of holding it in the context of the Intersessional Meeting of November 25th, in order to have greater attendance.

The Secretary General explained that it had been contemplated that said Forum be held only with the Observer Countries and Donor Institutions, but could gladly open it to the Member Countries. He informed that up to that moment, he considered holding it at the ACS headquarters.

V. Closure of the Meeting

The President thanked everyone for their kind attendance and participation in the deliberations which were fruitful.