

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

FIFTH SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND/OR GOVERNMENT OF THE ACS

Pétion-Ville, Haiti, 26th April, 2013

EXTRACT FROM THE PLAN OF ACTION OF PÉTION VILLE RELATED TO TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The tasks contained in the following Plan of Action of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) shall be completed within a two-year period for the years 2013 and 2014. The Secretariat shall present regular reports and recommendations on the implementation of this Plan of Action to the Ministerial Council and its subsidiary organs, which will decide on action to be taken and possible modifications to be made, bearing in mind changes in circumstances.

All Member States and Associate Members are urged to support the projects and activities identified herein.

2. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

2.1 Elimination and Reduction of Obstacles and Challenges to Trade Facilitation within the Greater Caribbean Region. This project will focus on holding Technical Meetings of the Working Groups on Customs Facilitation and the Issuance of Business Visas; and the promotion of the implementation of the UNCTAD E-Regulations Programme. The expected results would be the Signing of an Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding to govern the exchange, sharing, and interface of customs information and procedures, with particular reference to the advance electronic remission of merchandise declarations for export, and other areas of interest among Member States, as well as the creation of an information portal to facilitate access to information on the movement of Business Persons.

2.2 Convening of an Annual Business Forum of the Greater Caribbean, as well as the Forum of Trade Promotion Organizations.

With these two Fora, it is anticipated that trade, investment, and the exchange of knowledge will be promoted among businessmen, business-women and entrepreneurs of the Greater Caribbean. They will also encourage discussions on relevant topics on the Region's Trade Agenda aimed at expanding and strengthening trade relations.

2.3 The Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Greater Caribbean.

This project is designed mainly to create and expand job opportunities, and alleviate unemployment in the countries of the ACS. To this end, an annual seminar will be convened involving expert entities and MSMEs of the region, to discuss the importance of the sector and identify opportunities for development in ACS Member States. Based on the outcomes of this seminar, a document will be developed for the exchange of good practices.

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2.4 The Empowering of Women Through Trade through the holding of an Annual Seminar in order to promote from a gender perspective, the strengthening of capabilities of women entrepreneurs, their economic autonomy and provide the gender sensitive tools necessary to address matters related to the challenges and obstacles of managing MSMEs, resulting in the increased capacity and skills of women entrepreneurs and small business owners. By means of this Seminar, it is anticipated that knowledge will be acquired in respect of avenues for accessing finance, and new technologies.

2.5 Promotion of the convergence and deepening of Trade within the ACS through new schemes. Update the study on the actual and potential flow of trade in the ACS Region, and the identification, compilation and execution of existing and new related cooperation activities within the Region.

2.6 The strengthening of the Caribbean Development Bank (CARIBANK) to expand its participation and activities in all countries of the ACS. In this regard, Mexico is willing to collaborate with the Caribbean Bank to seek the necessary tools and/or mechanisms through the Yucatan Agreement for the financing of infrastructural plans or work in the Greater Caribbean.