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THE DECLARATION OF MANAGUA

8TH SUMMIT

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

Olof Palme Convention Centre, Managua, Nicaragua
29th March 2019

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DECLARATION OF MANAGUA
Uniting Efforts in the Caribbean to face Climate Change.

The Eighth Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), assembled in Managua, Nicaragua on 29th March 2019.

1. **Reaffirms** the validity and relevance of the principles and goals set out in the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and the importance of the ACS as an organization for consultation, concerted action and cooperation to advance the unification and integration of the Greater Caribbean.
2. **Celebrates** enthusiastically the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), on 24th July 2019.
3. **Reaffirms** what was agreed by the Heads of State and /or Government of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) at earlier Summits, the content, spirit and text of which remain relevant on this 25th Anniversary and highlights the revitalisation process of the ACS that began with the Declaration of Havana in 2016.
4. **Reiterates** the vital importance of the Caribbean Sea as the common heritage of our peoples and the unifying role it has played in our history and identity.
5. **Welcomes** the adoption on 20th December, 2018 of the Resolution A/Res/73/229, "Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for Present and Future Generations" by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
6. **Recognises that** the Small Island Developing States and the Coastal Areas of the Greater Caribbean and the Central American Isthmus constitute one of the most vulnerable regions on the planet to the negative effects of global climate change.
7. **Reiterates** the vital importance of the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Impacts of Global Warming at 1.5°C instead of 2°C*, as scientific evidence that global warming higher than 1.5°C will give rise to catastrophic effects on the fragile ecosystems of the Greater Caribbean.

8. **Agrees** to unite efforts to face global climate change with a view to positioning the countries of the Greater Caribbean at the forefront of international efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
9. **Recognises** the agreements reached by the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to increase capacity to adapt to the negative effects of climate change and to promote climate resilience
10. **Welcomes** the political will and commitment shown by some developed countries that have assumed the responsibility of doubling their contribution to the Green Climate Fund; and urges developed countries to assume a leadership role in respect of more ambitious commitments to mitigation and adaptation and to providing resources, technology transfers and capacity building to developing countries to mitigate against the negative effects of climate change and recover from losses and damages caused by same.
11. **Recognises** the urgent need to strengthen the processes of formulating public policies and resource management for sustainable projects in adaptation, mitigation and losses and damage caused by climate change as well as strengthening the resilience of countries including through the execution of regional projects that will allow access to global funding mechanisms.
12. **Recognises** the need to pay special attention to the comprehensive management of disaster reduction and the emergency response to disasters, with a focus on prevention, and highlights the growing solidarity and cooperation shown among the peoples and governments of the Greater Caribbean with communities affected by climate change.
13. **Unites** efforts to accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework Agreement to build resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.
14. **Recognises** the importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other types of financing for sustainable development, recalling the target established by the United Nations for developed countries to allocate 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product to this effort.
15. **Welcomes** the Second High Level Conference of the United Nations on South - South Cooperation (PABA+40), which approved the

“Outcomes Document” that recognises the need to advance toward a multidimensional measurement of sustainable development.

16. **Recognises** that South - South Cooperation is a complement to and not substitute for North South cooperation and should be based on solidarity amongst equals, guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, equality and non-interference in internal affairs, and should be without conditionalities and be mutually beneficial.
17. **Recognises** the multifaceted and stratified threats that the Greater Caribbean faces, especially, the Small Island Developing States and Low Lying Coastal States, to achieve sustainable development, and the imperative to strengthen coordination and cooperation within the ACS to deal with vulnerabilities regarding intra and interregional trade and transport as well as the unilateral listing of uncooperative fiscal jurisdictions and the practice by banks in developed countries to engage in risk reduction activities (de-risking) that result in the decline in relations with correspondent banks for the countries of the Greater Caribbean.
18. **Recognises** the importance of ongoing initiatives geared towards strengthening the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean (STZC), to develop the offer and demand of tourist products and services of the Greater Caribbean, promoting multi-destination, sustainable, responsible, accessible tourism; also making the most of the region’s comparative advantages which are the proximity of our countries to each other, our peoples’ cultural wealth and hospitality, biological diversity, scenic beauty, human talent and abundant natural resources.
19. **Reaffirms** support and commitment to the strengthening of a rules based multilateral system of trade, that is open, transparent, predictable, inclusive and non-discriminatory, in the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), including special and differential treatment for developing countries, which will allow for the reduction of existing imbalances among countries and will contribute to sustainable development.
20. **Recognises** the importance of strengthening local capacities in investment promotion and facilitation and the need to hold exchanges among national investment promotion agencies (IPA), in an effort to share experiences and best practices can help improve the business climate, as well as attract direct foreign investment that will generate quality jobs and contribute to sustainable development that is in harmony with the environment.

21. **Reiterates** our commitment and unconditional respect for the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of International Law, to maintain international peace and security, the promotion of friendly relations between states, international cooperation in solving problems, the Sovereign Equality of States, the fulfilment, in good faith, of contracted obligations; the peaceful resolution of disputes, the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state and the non-interference in their domestic affairs, essential requirements for preserving the Greater Caribbean as a zone of peace and cooperation, in accordance with the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.
22. **Rejects** the application of coercive unilateral measures that are contrary to international law, and that harm the peace and prosperity of the Greater Caribbean.
23. **Reaffirms** the appeal to the government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, trade and financial embargo it imposes on Cuba, and to repeal the Helms-Burton Act and stop its extraterritorial enforcement.
24. **Applauds** the responsibility taken on by our States to build democratic societies that are just, equitable, safe, free of discrimination in any of its forms, that promote gender equality, are family-centred, respectful of human rights and aware of the difficulties faced by persons in vulnerable situations.
25. **Recognises** that terrorism, the worldwide drug problem, transnational organised crime, corruption, human trafficking and cybercrime present challenges for the countries of the Greater Caribbean, and reiterate its commitment to combatting these threats together.
26. **Reaffirms** our deep commitment to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, promoting the defence and effective exercise of the Human Rights of all migrants regardless of their migratory status in countries of origin, transit and destination; pointing out also the need for progress towards the formulation of a Common Agenda for Migration for the Greater Caribbean which expresses our shared and unified vision on this topic.
27. **Celebrates** the excellence and capabilities of the Greater Caribbean in the areas of culture and education, encouraging continuous development in these fields through cultural exchange, reconnecting the

diaspora and salvaging the shared history, best practices and traditions of our peoples.

28. **Supports** the 10-point Action Plan of the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and applauds this Commission's efforts to correct injustices resulting from the genocide of the native people of the Caribbean and the Transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans and slavery, which are counted amongst the most atrocious crimes against humanity, and reaffirming, in turn, the urgent need to request efficient measures for reparation, compensation, indemnification or other in kind measures at a national, regional and international level.
29. **Recognises** the encouraging results of the revitalization and restructuring process of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) achieved since the 23rd Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and which has contributed to the clarification of priorities, revitalization of processes and rationalization of ACS resources.
30. **Recognises** with gratitude the technical and financial resources offered by the Member States, Associate Members, Founding Observers, Observer States, Observer Organizations, Social Actors and other partners in supporting the ACS Action Plan for the triennium 2016-2018 and relies on their support for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Triennium 2019-2021
31. **Thanks** the Republic of Nicaragua for serving as the Chair of the Ministerial Council of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and the Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for making up the Executive Board during the period 2018-2019, and for contributing to strengthening the role of the ACS as a regional and international point of reference for cooperation among the Peoples and Governments of the Greater Caribbean.
32. **Also thanks** the Secretariat led by Her Excellency Dr. June Soomer, Secretary General.
33. **Extends** a warm welcome to the newest Associate Member of the ACS, the British Virgin Islands, here represented by its Premier, the Honorable Andrew A. Fahie.
34. **Adopts** the Action Plan for the Triennium 2019-2021 and instructs the Ministerial Council, in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), to oversee it and

assess it at the next Ordinary Meeting, for the purpose of guaranteeing its effective implementation.

35. **Highlights** the contribution of the 3rd International Conference held in Managua, focused on the topic "*A United Caribbean Region against the Consequences of Climate Change*".
36. **Welcomes** the new Chair of the Ministerial Council of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) for the period 2019-2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, the Honorable Dr. Jerome Walcott, J.P, and extends our best wishes to him for a successful period at the helm of the Association.