

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

24TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (SCST-24) AND 2ND PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE 3RD MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TOURISM OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 16-17, 2013

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

Considering that the World Tourism Organisation (hereinafter referred to as «the WTO»), represented by its Secretary General, Taleb Rifai, is a specialised body of the United Nations and the main public international organisation in the field of tourism, and which comprises 162 countries and territories, as well as more than 400 Affiliate Members that represent the private sector, teaching institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

Considering that the Association of Caribbean States (hereinafter referred to as «the ACS»), represented by its Secretary General, Alfonso Múnera Cavadía, is a regional intergovernmental organisation for consultation, concerted action and co-operation, whose mandate is to identify and promote the implementation of policies and programmes designed to harness, utilise and develop the collective capabilities of the Caribbean to achieve sustained cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological advancement;

Taking into account that in the Plan of Action agreed upon during the First Summit of ACS Heads of State and Government, convened in the city of Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on August 17-18, 1995, it was declared that the tourism industry is one of the common economic activities shared by the Members of the ACS, thus constituting one of the economic sectors that are priority for all Members;

Taking into account that the General Co-operation Agreement between the World Tourism Organisation and the Association of Caribbean States signed on October 15th 1997 in Istanbul, Turkey and September 30th, 1997 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago respectively, in which they express their interest in providing mutual technical co-operation and in coordinating actions pertaining to projects of common interest, in accordance with their respective general objectives and programmes of activities

Considering that the parties acknowledge the importance of pooling efforts in order to achieve closer relations in seeking collaboration and the use of the facilities of both organisations and given that they are willing to work together to expand the economic importance of tourism in the Caribbean region.

The parties agree to the following:

Article I. Co-operation objectives

1.1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to improve co-operation between the WTO and the ACS and to define areas of common interest with a view to:

- Harmonising the official statistics of member countries by sub-region.

- Providing training and developing strategies related to sustainable tourism in the region
- Training member states in evaluating and reducing the risks that affect tourism, directly or indirectly, in order to minimise their impact.
- Facilitating inter-institutional exchanges related to research, consultation and the implementation of projects and programmes.

Article II. Areas of co-operation

- 2.1. The WTO and the ACS shall co-operate in the execution of projects that include any of the following areas:
- National and sub-regional tourism satellite accounts
 - Sustainable tourism
 - Risk and crisis management
 - Exchange of information, experiences and best-practises
- 2.2. The parties shall convene regular meetings among the designated focal points or their representatives, to examine the effects of their co-operation and other matters, so as to reach agreement on priorities and the aspects of their next joint effort and to define new areas of collaboration.
- 2.3. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall constitute a financial commitment, nor shall it have financial implications for any of the parties.

Article III. Methods of co-operation

- 3.1. In developing and executing any specific project pertaining to any of the abovementioned areas of common interest, the parties may work together with other partners when deemed appropriate.
- 3.2. The objectives, expected results, commitments and methods for executing the specific projects that shall be carried out under the umbrella of this Memorandum of Understanding, shall be agreed upon between the WTO and the ACS in the specific documents of the projects and shall be approved through the conclusion of the corresponding co-operation agreement between the parties.
- 3.3. In executing the activities covered by this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties shall act in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and policies.
- 3.4. The parties shall do their utmost to report mutually on all matters that may affect the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding and the activities that must be undertaken.
- 3.5. When applicable, and based on the conditions that may be agreed to, each of the parties shall invite the other to participate in meetings organised by one of the parties in which the other party has expressed an interest and which address matters of common interest, included among them the areas of collaboration set forth in paragraph 2.1 above.

Article IV. Use of name, acronym, flag and logo

4.1. Any use of the name, acronym and logo of each organisation shall be subject to their respective rules and procedures. Any use of the signs of the WTO and the ACS respectively (name, logo, flag or acronym) shall be subject to prior written authorisation from the Secretariat and to the terms and conditions established by each individual organisation.

Article V. Entry into force, amendment and termination

5.1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signature by both parties and shall be in force until December 31, 2015, unless rescinded by either or both parties, having advised the other party in writing, six months in advance. Said termination shall not affect the contractual obligations already assumed by any of the parties in this Memorandum. This Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed through written agreement by the parties before December 31, 2015.

5.2. Any amendment to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be made by consensus between the parties through an appropriate exchange of letters. Instruments containing said amendments shall be attached as Annexes hereto and shall be read as being integral to this Agreement.

Article VI. Privileges and immunities

6.1. Each of the parties recognises in respect of the other the privileges and immunities which they enjoy under the general principles of International law and the relevant agreements on privileges and immunities.

6.2. This Memorandum of Understanding replaces the previous one signed in 1997 between the World Tourism Organisation and the Association of Caribbean States.

The signing and acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding are expressed through the signature of the duly authorised representatives of the parties.

Done in [place] on [date] in triplicate in the English, Spanish and French languages, each text being of equal validity, with a copy retained by each of the signatories.

On behalf of the WTO

On behalf of [acronym]

[Signature]
[name and position]
[date]

[Signature]
[name and position]
[date]