31 Years On: The ACS, more relevant than ever



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The signing of the Convention Establishing the ACS in Cartagena on July 24, 1994, marked the birth of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)—a response to the aspirations of the Greater Caribbean to unite its shared geography, history, and potential for collective progress.

Today, that aspiration remains urgent. In a world marked by fragmentation, deepening inequalities, growing geopolitical tensions, and overlapping crises —from climate change to food insecurity and economic uncertainty— the ACS stands as a platform for dialogue, regional solidarity, and purposeful cooperation, an organization capable of building bridges.

For more than three decades, the ACS has served as the region's platform for dialogue, consultation, cooperation, concerted action, and joint efforts—bringing together 25 Member States and 10 Associate Members around a shared commitment to sustainable development.

Now, as the global landscape grows more complex, the ACS is evolving. The 31st Anniversary is more than a celebration; it marks a pivotal transition. It signals a renewed vision for a stronger, more resilient, and more connected Greater Caribbean, and a deeper determination to respond collectively to the challenges of our time.

As reaffirmed by the Member States during the 10th Summit of Heads of State and/or Government, the ACS is entering a new phase: one that calls for revitalized regional cooperation, deeper connections among nations, stronger protection of the Caribbean Sea, empowerment of our peoples, and concrete action in areas such as digital transformation and climate resilience.

This moment invites reflection not just on where we've been, but on what lies ahead. The ACS is committed to moving from the foundations laid over the past three decades toward shaping a future that reflects the needs and hopes of our people. A future built through:

- Advancing regional resilience and sustainability
- Protecting our shared sea as the heart of the Greater Caribbean
- Empowering communities and valuing cultural diversity

- Driving digital and physical connectivity
- Promoting inclusive and equitable sustainable development

The ACS stands ready to lead a new phase of regional strengthening by harnessing the diversity, creativity, and shared identity of our region. Now more than ever, the world needs a Greater Caribbean that is united, peaceful, and committed to well-being and sustainable development, for both people and planet.