



TWENTY-NINTH INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

DECISIONS



CHAIRMAN:

**His Excellency Jovenel Moïse
PRESIDENT
HAITI**

VENUE AND DATE:

**Port-au-Prince, HAITI
26-27 February 2018**

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INS/HGC/2018/29/2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Having considered INS/HGC/2018/29/2 entitled “Draft Agenda”;

Expressing concern at the length of its Agenda;

THE CONFERENCE:

Reiterated that the Agenda for the Conference should be limited to issues that were ready for consideration or determination by the Conference;

Also reiterated that Member States and the Secretary-General would adhere to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedures of the Conference as it pertained to preparation of the Agenda.

INS/HGC/2018/29/4 DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/4 entitled “Disaster Management and Recovery” and INS/HGC/2018/29/4 Add. entitled “Update on the Operations of CCRIF and the Case for Scaling Up”, as well as the presentations from the -

- (i) Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA);*
- (ii) Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF);*

Recognising -

- (i) that the vulnerability of CARICOM Member States to natural hazards and the effects of climate change remain key challenges to sustainable development and that new protocols were required in the era of superstorms;*
- (ii) that building the Community’s resilience involves the interaction of social, economic, and environmental policies while enhancing physical infrastructure and ensuring that systems and institutions established to help the Region respond to natural disasters are adequately resourced;*

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- (iii) *that strengthening infrastructure, particularly at the sectoral level, is a key component of building the Region's resilience, and that the implementation of building codes which seek to provide regulations and associated standards to ensure human safety and welfare, is still experiencing challenges in the Region;*
- (iv) *that the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) coordinated by CDEMA is valuable and relevant to the Caribbean Community but constrained by inadequate assets for logistics and also financial resources;*
- (v) *the contribution of Development Partners, Member States, Institutions and Associate Institutions of the Caribbean Community which provided commendable support to impacted Members States through the RRM;*
- (vi) *that the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) is still operating without an approved budget for the Financial Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, which causes severe constraints in its ability to fulfil its mandate;*
- (vii) *the challenges experienced by Member States with regard to the evacuation of nationals during the 2017 hurricane season and the imperative of articulating a comprehensive regional approach to addressing evacuation, consequent upon these and other catastrophic events;*
- (viii) *that the CDEMA CU in 2014 prepared a Model Evacuation Policy and Model Evacuation Plan for adaptation and adoption by countries and that these documents were endorsed by the CDEMA Council of Ministers in 2015 and have been recommended for adoption at the national level;*
- (ix) *that the full range of implications associated with "Evacuation by Force" must be determined;*
- (x) *that parametric insurance and risk transfer through the CCRIF will continue -*
 - (a) *as an integral component of a comprehensive risk financing strategy for Member States; and*
 - (b) *to play a key role in climate change adaptation towards advancing the Community's ambition of making the Caribbean the world's first climate resilient zone, in keeping with Agenda 2030 and the global ambition of 'leaving no one behind' in development;*

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- (xi) *that insurance should be viewed as one component of a country's disaster risk management strategy, and that a comprehensive approach to reducing risks, including developing sound disaster risk management financing strategies, is required;*

Acknowledging that -

- (i) *efforts are underway at the level of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to address the re-categorization of Small States which are currently disallowed from access to concessional financial resources because of their middle-income designation;*
- (ii) *the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) should play a larger role in mobilizing and intermediating financing required for building resilience in Member States;*
- (iii) *Member States should make every effort to access the concessional funding available under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for building resilience;*
- (iv) *the need for the strict application of the principles enshrined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness regarding, inter alia, national ownership, alignment with national strategies and priorities and streamlining of funding procedures;*

THE CONFERENCE:

Urged Member States to conduct the national reviews necessary to approve the CDEMA's budget for Financial Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 and to participate in an emergency meeting of the CDEMA Council of Ministers when convened;

Requested the CDEMA Council of Ministers to provide recommendations to the Conference on enhancing implementation of building codes as a mechanism to safeguard critical infrastructure;

Also urged Member States to undertake a national level review, adapt as necessary and adopt the Model Evacuation Policy and Model Evacuation Plan developed by CDEMA;

Mandated CDEMA to determine the full range of implications associated with "Evacuation by Force";

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Also mandated CDEMA CU to partner with the CCRIF in commissioning the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of the resource requirements (inclusive of risk insurance and funding of national and regional disaster response agencies) to operationalise an effective disaster risk management and mitigation strategy for the Community;

Agreed to the convening of an early meeting with the CDB, with a view to determining its role in the mobilisation of funding for resilience building;

Also agreed to the convening of a regional conference to determine a CARICOM definition of the term 'resilience' and the regional best practices against which to benchmark Member States resilience building efforts;

Referred the matter of the upscaling of the CCRIF through additional financing and capital injection to support growth, to the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) for consideration and advice.

INS/HGC/2018/29/5

CLIMATE CHANGE

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/5 entitled "Climate Change" and INS/HGC/2018/29/5 Add. entitled "Climate Change Financing" as well as the presentation from the representative of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC);

Noting that ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement is required in order to limit the most dangerous climate change impacts;

Also noting the importance of national and regional participation in the Talanoa Dialogue and the significance of ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;

Further noting the need for CARICOM Member States to participate in negotiations towards finalisation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme in an effective and coordinated manner, in order to support and supplement positions taken by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS);

Welcoming the information that –

- (i) the CCCCC had established a Project Development Unit to assist Member States in preparing projects for submission to the GCF;

DECISIONS

- (ii) three (3) projects from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Grenada were currently under consideration for approval by the GCF; and
- (iii) the CDB was making process and procedural changes such as the pre-qualification of project specialists in order to expedite the utilization of the considerable unused project balances;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that:

- (i) all countries that have not yet done so would take the necessary action to ratify the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, as a matter of urgency, in order to support more ambitious climate change action;
- (ii) all countries that have not yet done so, would take the necessary action to ratify the Paris Agreement, as a matter of urgency, in order to demonstrate commitment and support more ambitious climate change action;
- (iii) a renewed sense of urgency and ambition would be applied to the completion of a holistic and effective Paris Agreement Work Programme by COP 24;
- (iv) countries would take measures to strengthen nationally determined contributions, with a view to closing the mitigation ambition gap;
- (v) greater attention would be paid to the issue of loss and damage as an important pillar of the Paris Agreement package;
- (vi) Member States would continue to seek access to finance that would facilitate meaningful progress on loss and damage, consistent with the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for loss and damage, and that would further allow for the execution of impactful initiatives to be undertaken as part of the work plan of the Executive Committee of the WIM for loss and damage; and that additionally would allow countries to submit loss and damage proposals to the GCF; and
- (vii) Member States would ensure full regional participation in the Talanoa Dialogue, with the support of the CCCCC and the CARICOM Secretariat;

Also agreed that the Secretariat would engage with regional and international partners to build its capacity in climate change diplomacy;

DECISIONS

Committed to support regional preparations for participation in negotiations throughout the year, and at COP 24, to take place in Katowice, Poland from 3-14 December 2018;

Requested that an update be provided on progress in responding to climate change at the Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government to take place in July 2018.

INS/HGC/2018/29/6

SECURITY ISSUES

INS/HGC/2018/29/6.1

Counter Terrorism Strategy

Having considered in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/6 entitled “Security Issues” and Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/6.1 entitled “Counter Terrorism Strategy”;

Recalling the mandate of the Twenty-Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in February 2017 for the development of a CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy (the CT Strategy);

Expressing sincere gratitude to Member States, the CARICOM Standing Committee of Heads of Operations and other stakeholders, for contributing substantively and constructively throughout the consultation process and supporting the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) in finalising the CT Strategy; the first coherent Counter Terrorism Strategy in the Region;

Also expressing its gratitude to International Partners such as the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN), and the United States of America, Department of State, for their financial and technical assistance during this process;

Also recalling the model legislation on counter terrorism prepared by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC);

THE CONFERENCE:

Adopted the CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy (the CT Strategy);

DECISIONS

Encouraged Member States, and other appropriate cooperating and supporting states and organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to support the implementation of the CT Strategy;

Agreed that IMPACS, in consultation with its stakeholders and regional and international partners, should review the document biennially to consider updating it to respond to the evolving terrorism landscape;

Also agreed that an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Process should be put in place to determine the Region's success in addressing this critical matter;

Further agreed that Member States would table counter terrorism legislation in their respective Parliaments by 4 July 2018 to support this Strategy;

Reiterated the need for Member States that have not done so, to enact legislation related to the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) and Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) to assist counter terrorism efforts among other security matters and to share information on crime and violence among Member States in a more consistent manner.

INS/HGC/2018/29/6.2 **Crime and Violence**

Having considered in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/6.2 entitled "Crime and Violence";

Recalling the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (CCSS) approved by the Twenty-Fourth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference (July 2013, Haiti);

Reiterating the need for Member States to incorporate the Caribbean Community Social Development and Crime Prevention (CSDCP) Action Plan and the Caribbean Youth Development Action Plan into their national plans;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to strengthen the relevant inter-sectoral systems at the national and regional levels, to ensure efficient collaboration in planning and execution of relevant programmes to address the multifaceted issues with regard to crime and violence;

DECISIONS

Mandated the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) to create an intra-regional task force comprising experts in the field, to examine and suggest innovative regional solutions to combat the rise in crime and violence in Member States;

Also mandated the Secretariat to develop a Road Map/Action Plan for the development of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics.

INS/HGC/2018/29/7

CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY

INS/HGC/2018/29/7.1

Administrative Requirements in the Skills Certification Process – Requirements for a Police Clearance

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/7.1 entitled “CARICOM Single Market and Economy – Administrative Requirements in the Skills Certification Process – Requirement for a Police Certificate of Character”;

Noting the work that remains to be done by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC), the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) and the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED);

Also noting the proposal by the lead Head of Government for a continuous review of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the importance of sharing information on the review of the CSME with the public;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed -

- (i) to hold a Special Session on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) on the first day of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference, and that the second day would be devoted to other items on the Agenda;
- (ii) that the Secretariat would publish the Implementation Plan, the Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of the CSME (when completed), policy studies and Secretariat papers on the CSME;

DECISIONS

- (iii) to request the LAC to advise the COTED whether the requirement of a police certificate in the Skills application/verification process constitutes a breach of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC);
- (iv) to request the CONSLE to advise the COTED as to the national and regional security infrastructures to address Member States' security related concerns; and
- (v) that upon the advice of the LAC and the CONSLE, the COTED should make a recommendation to the Conference as to whether the requirement for a police certificate of character should be retained or removed.

INS/HGC/2018/29/7.2 *Procedures to which Member States would Adhere on the Refusal of Entry of CARICOM Nationals*

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/7.2 entitled "Procedures to which Member States would adhere on the Refusal of Entry of CARICOM Nationals";

Recalling the ruling of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in *Shanique Myrie v The State of Barbados*;

Taking into consideration the comments of Member States;

Noting the need for the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) to review the Procedure on the Refusal of Entry of CARICOM nationals in the framework of Community law;

Cognisant that there is additional work to be done with respect to refusals on the grounds of public health;

Also recalling the decisions taken at the Nineteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting and the Thirty-First Regular Meeting to waive visas for Haitian nationals who are holders of diplomatic and official passports as well as those who are business persons;

Recognising that Haiti is a party to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);

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THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that -

- (i) the LAC would:
 - (a) finalise the Procedure on the Refusal of Entry of CARICOM nationals, in light of *Shanique Myrie v The State of Barbados*, for the consideration of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference in July 2018;
 - (b) advise the Conference on whether Haitian nationals are entitled to an automatic stay of six months upon arrival in CARICOM Member States subject to the rights of CARICOM Member States to refuse undesirable persons entry and to prevent persons from becoming a charge on public funds;
- (ii) the review of the public health protocols and recommendations for best practices and any additional procedures need to be completed for consideration by the Conference, at its Thirtieth Inter-Sessional Meeting in 2019;

Called upon those Member States which have not yet implemented the decisions of the Conference on waivers of visas for Haitian nationals who are holders of diplomatic and official passports, or businesspersons who are holders of US, Canadian or Schengen visas, to immediately implement those decisions, inform the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and relevant airlines, and provide the Secretariat with the relevant documentation supporting the implementation by 30 March 2018.

**INS/HGC/2018/29/7.3 Foreign Exchange Difficulties Affecting Trade
between Member States**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/7.3 entitled “Foreign Exchange Difficulties Affecting Trade between Member States”;

Noting that the proposals for treating with currency convertibility and the activation of Article 43 of the Revised Treaty, subject to the advice of the Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG), will be further interrogated at the next meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) (Ministerial session) so that recommendations could be forwarded to Heads of Government;

DECISIONS

Recalling the decision of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Conference (Grenada, July 2017) when Heads of Government agreed –

- (i) that the next Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) should be held in October 2017 at the time of the Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank, preceded by a Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials in September 2017;
- (ii) to revert thereafter to its earlier decision that meetings of the COFAP would be held immediately prior to the regular meetings of the Conference;

Also noting -

- (i) that the matter of payments to Vincentian traders has been referred to the CCBG for advice;
- (ii) the request of the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that Trinidad and Tobago set aside foreign exchange for payments to Vincentian traders, since Trinidad and Tobago enjoyed a trade surplus with St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- (iii) the information from the Prime Minister of Barbados on the functioning of the existing network of bilateral arrangements for the settlement of intra-regional payments among Member States;

THE CONFERENCE:

Urged Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to resolve this matter bilaterally and report to the next Regular Meeting of the Conference;

Requested that the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) meet urgently to seek a solution to this matter.

INS/HGC/2018/29/8

AIR TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/8 entitled “Air Transportation Issues”;

Acknowledging the concerns raised by Member States with respect to the issue of a single security check for direct transit passengers on multi-stop intra-Community flights, and that, in addition to Essential Air Services and Subsidies, and after further technical consideration, the

DECISIONS

Built-in Agenda under Article 26-Undertaking of the Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) has been expanded to include “the conditions for a single security check for direct transit passengers on multi-stop intra-Community flights”;

Recognising that approval has been given by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) at its Twenty-Fourth Meeting for the Agreement on the MASA to be opened for signature by Heads of Government at the Twenty-Ninth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference;

Also recognising the importance of taking the necessary next steps to give effect to and derive benefits from the MASA;

Noting the efforts being undertaken by the Secretariat to engage International Development Partners (IDPs) for the mobilization of the resources to enable the continuation of the work of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTRC);

Also acknowledging the efforts of the Government-owned airlines in the 2017 hurricane relief efforts;

Recalling the decision on the Caribbean Air Navigation and Advisory Services (CANAS), taken at the Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of the Conference (July 2017, Grenada), in which it called on the affected parties to engage in bilateral meetings to chart the course for addressing the unresolved issues;

THE CONFERENCE:

With respect to the MASA,

Urged Member States to immediately take steps towards the implementation of the MASA;

With respect to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTRC),

Also urged Member States to actively participate in providing in-kind support for the implementation of the Transport Work Programme, by collaborating with the Secretariat in the undertaking and preparation of position/strategic papers pertaining to the transformative development projects and programmes, as agreed through the Commission;

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With respect to Regional Air Services,

Commended and expressed appreciation to the Government-owned airlines, namely Caribbean Airlines, LIAT, Suriname Airways and Bahamas Air, and other carriers, for their humanitarian efforts and exemplary performance following Hurricanes Jose, Irma and Maria, in rendering assistance in the regional co-ordination and national mobilisation of relief personnel, passengers, goods and supplies.

INS/HGC/2018/29/9

**TOURISM IN THE REGION: BUILDING A
CARIBBEAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
MARKETING INITIATIVE**

Having considered Paper INS HGC/2018/29/9 entitled “Tourism in the Region: Building a Caribbean Tourism Development and Marketing Initiative”, in particular the Report provided and the critical issues identified;

Taking into consideration the comments by Member States;

Also considering the proposal for a transportation levy for implementation in 2018 for the funding of a Marketing Campaign;

Noting that the Caribbean Tourism Organisation/Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CTO/CHTA) has recommended a levy on air transportation of US\$1 to US\$2.00 on overseas passengers that will generate a sum of US\$20 million annually to implement a sustained effort which would allow the Region to begin to proactively build the Caribbean brand, and to be ready to protect the brand in times of crisis through a prepared plan;

Also noting that some Member States were not now in a position to consider the imposition of a levy;

Recognizing that those Member States, which are willing and able to do so, would proceed to undertake coordinated marketing arrangements, as proposed;

Acknowledging the importance of security to Member States for the sustainability of regional tourism and the need for appropriate financing;

Recalling the earlier consideration of the funding for both the marketing of tourism and for security utilizing the application of a special levy;

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THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the issue of security was important in the marketing of tourism and this ought to be considered;

Also agreed for consideration, the funding of a new regional marketing campaign to be derived from a levy on air transportation of US\$1 to US\$2 per passenger traveling from outside the region to participating countries;

Mandated the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Tourism and the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) to consider the proposal and submit recommendations to the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting in July 2018.

INS/HGC/2018/29/10

BLACKLISTING AND DE-RISKING

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/10 entitled - "Blacklisting and De-risking" as well as its Attachments, which -

- (i) outlined the elements of a preliminary CARICOM Strategy to initially address the EU listing initiative;*
- (ii) updated Member States on the Strategy and Action Plan to address the loss of Correspondent Banking Relationships which is currently under the purview of the Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG); and*
- (iii) provided a brief to Member States on the listing/labelling processes currently underway within the context of the range of global tax cooperation and related initiatives impacting the global economic environment;*

Acknowledging the significant reputational damage inflicted on Member States from their inclusion in the list of 'non-cooperative tax jurisdictions' published by the EU Council in December 2017; as well as other unilateral processes which label Member States as 'tax havens';

DECISIONS

Noting the current process by the European Commission (EC) to compile an EU AML blacklist for publication in **December 2018** which already includes two (2) CARICOM Member States and therefore the need to monitor this process within the context of ensuring that jurisdictions are in compliance with their commitments under the existing international mechanism on AML issues, namely the CFATF/FATF;

Also noting the G-20/OECD process to list non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and the likely publication of a new list by **July 2018** and therefore Member States will need to continue to make progress in their implementation of both the updated EOIR standard as well as the AEOI standard in order to avoid being listed at the 2018 G-20 Summit;

Recognising that -

- (i) *this current threat to the economic progress of CARICOM States is inextricably linked to the ongoing north-south divide with the global standard setting processes as a sophisticated method of economic exclusion perpetuated by the North Atlantic countries;*
- (ii) *there is need for a broader communication and engagement strategy that seeks to address the narrative that underlies many of these initiatives and proposals and to build consensus by forging links with similarly targeted States outside of CARICOM;*
- (iii) *the engagement strategy with the European Union (EU) be representative of the prevailing dynamics in the European decision-making fora and should therefore be multidimensional by targeting relevant bodies such as the European Parliament in addition to the Council of the EU and the Code of Conduct Group;*

Further noting that with respect to De-Risking -

- (i) *there appears to have been a deceleration of the rate of erosion of access to Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBRs) but the further loss of such services remains as a significant risk to Member States;*
- (ii) *Member States have been pursuing national initiatives under their respective country-specific strategy and action plan, particularly in respect to the regulatory strengthening of the AML/CFT compliance regimes; capacity building; and stakeholder engagement;*
- (iii) *the CCBG had stressed the importance of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) becoming more engaged to achieve the effective coordination of activity at the level of Member States' Ministries, through which broader policies directing non-central bank regulators may have to be implemented within the context of the Community's Strategy and Action Plan to Address the Withdrawal of Correspondent Banking Relationships;*

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- (iv) *the initiatives being undertaken by the IMF as well as the IADB-MIF (in partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and other partners) to respectively devise shared solutions to the de-risking challenge and to build capacity in the financial sector in Member States;*

THE CONFERENCE:

Welcomed the decision of the Forty-First Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers to establish a Working Group to advise Member States on a coordinated approach to address the blacklisting challenge;

Received the proposals on a preliminary CARICOM Strategy on a coordinated approach to blacklisting and called for an early meeting between Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors to review the proposals on a preliminary CARICOM Strategy on a coordinated approach to blacklisting which have been prepared by the CARICOM Technical Working Group (TWG) and to formulate appropriate solutions to overcome this egregious challenge;

Commended the CCBG for advancing the CARICOM Strategy and Action Plan and **endorsed** the importance of the COFAP becoming more engaged to achieve the effective coordination of activities at the level of Ministries through which broader policies directing non-Central Bank regulators may have to be implemented;

Mandated the early convening of a CARICOM intensive technical event on the Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) minimum standards which would be jointly hosted by a Member State and the CARICOM Secretariat and in collaboration with the OECD BEPS Secretariat;

Agreed that this matter would be addressed at the technical and political levels.

INS/HGC/2018/29/11

CLICO/BAICO

Having received in Caucus a request from the Honourable Prime Minister of St. Vincent and Grenadines on behalf of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) with respect to a commitment from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to contribute US\$100 million to the ECCU BAICO Resolution Strategy;

DECISIONS

Noting the request for an indication of the timeline for the receipt of the remaining funds (US\$64 million) committed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with respect to the financing of the ECCU BAICO Resolution Strategy;

Also noting the re-affirmation by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago of the commitment to contribute to the ECCU BAICO Resolution Strategy and the update provided to wit -

- (i) CL Financial was currently under receivership which may lead to the recovery of assets which would be liquidated to offset some of the company's liabilities;
- (ii) the liquidation process is complex and therefore it is not possible to identify a timeframe for the recovery of the assets; and
- (iii) his preference that the matter should be pursued bilaterally;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the issue would be resolved bilaterally but that it would receive periodic updates on the matter.

INS/HGC/2018/29/12

**COST OF INTERPRETATION INTO FRENCH
AND DUTCH AT MEETINGS OF THE ORGANS
OF THE COMMUNITY**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/12 entitled "**Cost of Interpretation into French and Dutch at Meetings of the Organs of the Community**";

Noting the reluctance of development partners to fund the costs associated with providing simultaneous interpretation;

Also noting the financial difficulties facing Member States at this time;

Recognising fully the multilingual nature of the Community and the need to find creative ways of providing interpretation for the principal Organs of the Community;

Reiterating that English remains the official language of the Community;

DECISIONS

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the Secretariat would continue to work on identifying ways in which the costs of providing simultaneous interpretation for all the Organs of the Community could be realised.

**INS/HGC/2018/29/13 ENLARGEMENT POLICY FOR THE
COMMUNITY**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/13 entitled “Enlargement Policy for the Community”, and having noted the recommendations submitted by the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA) through the Community Council of Ministers on the Enlargement Policy, and the elements that would constitute this Policy;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the Community proceed, in the first instance, with the applications for Associate Membership by the Dutch territories;

Mandated the Secretary-General to begin the process of negotiations on Associate Membership with the Dutch Territories in order to better determine their expectations of Associate Membership, as well as what benefits this relationship could yield for the Community;

Also agreed that further consideration would be given to the applications from the French Overseas territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana;

Further agreed to continue to examine the larger issue of an Enlargement Policy for the Community.

DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2018/29/14 WEST INDIES CRICKET

Having considered in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/14 entitled “West Indies Cricket” and its Attachment entitled “Draft Summary Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Cricket”;

THE CONFERENCE:

In relation to Cricket as a Public Good,

Declared that West Indies Cricket is a regional public good;

Agreed to move towards the development of a legislative framework for the governance of cricket which would be consistent with international best practice and with the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) principles on governance;

Reiterated that the Conference has no intention to manage the operations of cricket;

Also agreed that –

- (i) Member States would, where necessary, hold broad-based consultations with stakeholders on the matter;
- (ii) as a follow-up to the letter of 14 March 2016 from the then Chairman of the Conference, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize, to the then Chairman of the ICC, Mr. Shashank Manohar, there would be further communication with the ICC advising of the declared course of action of the Community; and
- (iii) the members of the PMSC on Cricket would endeavour to meet with the ICC in London in April 2018;

In relation to “Nomination by CARICOM of a Non-Member Director on the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Board”,

Considered the request from Cricket West Indies for a nomination for the post of CARICOM Non-Member Director on the CWI Board;

Noted that Jamaica proposed a nominee;

DECISIONS

Further agreed to defer the consideration of the appointment of a Non-Member Director to the Board at this time;

In relation to the composition of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Cricket,

Agreed that the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago would be a member of the PMSC on Cricket.

**INS/HGC/2018/29/15 PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING SUMMITS
AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR POST-COTONOU
AND POST-BREXIT**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/15 entitled “Preparation for Upcoming Summits and Negotiations for Post-Cotonou and Post-Brexit”;

Noting that the main theme for the Eighth Summit of the Americas, 13-14 April 2018, Lima, Peru is “**Democratic Governance against Corruption**”;

Also noting the political developments which may impair the tenor of that Summit;

Further noting the essential issues on the Agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the need for the Region to adequately prepare for that Meeting;

Noting the status of consultations to date, between CARIFORUM and the United Kingdom (UK) on the roll-over trade arrangement post-Brexit;

Also noting the regional preparations underway for the commencement of the post-Cotonou Agreement Negotiations; and the advancement of the preparations of the EU-side for the post-Cotonou Agreement Negotiations;

THE CONFERENCE:

With regard to Preparation for Upcoming Summits,

Agreed to indicate to the Secretariat as soon as possible, which CARICOM Heads of State and Government would be attending the Eighth Summit of the Americas, Lima, Peru, 13-14 April 2018;

DECISIONS

Also agreed on the need for the fullest possible participation at CHOGM 2018 and to facilitate the determination of which Heads would speak on issues of strategic interest to the Community during the executive sessions of CHOGM;

Further agreed to provide an early indication to the Secretariat with which third states and/or groups of states CARICOM Heads may wish to seek audience during these Summits;

Recommended the convening of a working session to prepare pointed statements for these Summits;

With regard to Future Trade Relations with the United Kingdom – Post-Brexit,

Mandated the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) to examine and make recommendations on whether the UK-Caribbean Forum, which includes the Dominican Republic and Cuba was the most appropriate mechanism to address issues of strategic importance to CARICOM with respect to advancing its relations with the United Kingdom once it leaves the European Union (EU);

With regard to Post Cotonou Agreement Negotiations,

Urged the full participation of CARICOM Member States in the regional preparatory process underway in order to take a decision on a regional negotiating brief;

With regard to the candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council,

Endorsed the candidature of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at elections to be held at the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2019.

INS/HGC/2018/29/16

BORDER ISSUES

➤ ***Belize-Guatemala Relations***

Having considered in Caucus the presentation from the Government of Belize on its border issue with Guatemala;

Noting Belize's appreciation for the continued support of CARICOM on this issue;

DECISIONS

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to include an appropriate reference regarding this matter in the Communiqué emanating from this Twenty-Ninth Inter-Sessional Meeting.

➤ ***Guyana-Venezuela Relations***

Having considered in Caucus the presentation from the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the border controversy with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Acknowledging the decision of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as “*the means that is now to be used for the solution to the controversy*”;

Expressing full confidence in the decision of the United Nations Secretary-General;

Noting Guyana’s appreciation for the continued support of CARICOM on this issue;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to include a statement regarding this matter in the Communiqué emanating from this Twenty-Ninth Inter-Sessional Meeting.

INS/HGC/2018/29/17

**LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR ADOPTION AND
SIGNATURE**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/17 entitled “*Legal Instruments for Adoption and Signature*”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Adopted and **opened for signature** -

- (i) The Revised Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC);
- (ii) The Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA).

DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2018/29/18 **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO REVIEW
JAMAICA'S RELATIONS WITHIN THE
CARICOM AND CARIFORUM FRAMEWORKS**

Having received in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/18 entitled "Report of the Commission to Review Jamaica's Relations within the CARICOM and CARIFORUM Frameworks";

Having noted that the Report was now before the Parliament of Jamaica for debate and decisions;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to the proposal from the Prime Minister of Jamaica that the Report of the Commission to Review Jamaica's Relations within the CARICOM and CARIFORUM Frameworks be discussed at the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 4-6 July 2018.

INS/HGC/2018/29/19 **MATTERS RELATED TO THE CARIBBEAN
COURT OF JUSTICE (CCJ)**

INS/HGC/2018/29/19.1 *Recommendation for Appointment to Position of
President, Caribbean Court of Justice*

Having considered in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/19.1 entitled "Matters Related to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ): Recommendation for Appointment to Position of President, Caribbean Court of Justice";

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to appoint the Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders as the new President of the Caribbean Court of Justice with effect from 4 July 2018.

DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2018/29/19.2 **Caribbean Court of Justice Judges' Pensions Rules
2017**

Having considered in Caucus Paper INS/HGC/2018/29/19.2 entitled "Caribbean Court of Justice Judges' Pensions Rules 2017";

Noting that Member States need further time to review the Caribbean Court of Justice Judges' Pensions Rule 2017;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to defer consideration of the Caribbean Court of Justice Judges' Pensions Rules 2017 to the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government, July 2018.

INS/HGC/2018/29/20 **FUNDING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST
INDIES (THE UWI)**

Having considered Paper INS HGC/2018/29/20 entitled "Funding the University of the West Indies";

Taking into account the presentation from the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor which outlined the dire financial challenges facing the University as a consequence of the volatility in the timing and payment of the amounts due from contributing countries;

Noting the three options proposed for addressing the debt owed to the University by Member States in the short term viz -

- (i) swap of debt for physical assets;
- (ii) use of the value of receivables as collateral for a long-term funding arrangement with a syndicate of financial institutions;
- (iii) partial sale of receivables to private financial institutions;

Recognising that a revised long-term financing model is currently being developed;

DECISIONS

THE CONFERENCE:

Requested that the Lead Head for Human Resource Development (HRD), the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris, work with the University of the West Indies (The UWI) and the relevant governments to discuss the three options above, in order to identify appropriate solutions for these Member States;

Called for urgent action over the next six weeks in order to stabilise the financial situation of the University.

INS/HGC/2018/29/21

DATE OF THE THIRTY-NINTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM (JULY
2018)

Noting the Rules of Procedure adopted by Heads of Government at their Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting (July 2016, Guyana), regarding the dates of the regular meetings of the Conference;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference would be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica as follows:

- **Wednesday, 4 July:** Opening Ceremony for the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference;
- **Thursday, 5 - Friday, 6 July:** Working Sessions of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference.

INS/HGC/2018/29/23

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

➤ **Suriname Statement**

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted Suriname's statement on maintaining the CARICOM Region as a zone of peace and agreed that it be included in the full Report of the proceedings of the Meeting.