



**FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT
OF THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(CARICOM)**



DECISIONS



CHAIRMAN:

**Hon. Allen Chastanet
Prime Minister
SAINT LUCIA**

VENUE AND DATE:

**Gros Islet
SAINT LUCIA

3-5 July 2019**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
Turkeyen

P.O. Box 10827 Georgetown

Guyana

Tel: (592) 222 0001-0006

Fax: (592) 222 0170/71

E-mail: documentation.centre@caricom.org

URL: <http://www.caricom.org>

ISBN 978-976-600-457-6 E-book

© 2020 Caribbean Community Secretariat

*Permission is granted for the reprinting of any material in
this manual subject to due acknowledgement of the source.*

Printed in Guyana

DECISIONS

Table of Contents

HGC/2019/40/DEC.5	CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN APPROVED AT THE EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT – (DECEMBER 2018, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO).....	1
HGC/2019/40/DEC.6	INTERIM REPORT FROM CARICOM COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMY	7
HGC/2019/40/DEC.7	ENGAGEMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LABOUR AND CIVIL SOCIETY	8
HGC/2019/40/DEC.8	BLACKLISTING	9
HGC/2019/40/DEC.9	SECURITY (CAUCUS)	10
HGC/2019/40/DEC.10	SITUATION IN VENEZUELA (CAUCUS)	12
HGC/2019/40/DEC.11	BORDER ISSUES (CAUCUS)	13
➤	Belize-Guatemala Relations	13
➤	Guyana-Venezuela Relations	13
HGC/2019/40/DEC.12	SIDS RESILIENCE FOUNDATION.....	14
HGC/2019/40/DEC.13	ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST – HER EXCELLENCY ERNA SOLBERG, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY	14
HGC/2019/40/DEC.14	INTEGRATING CARIBBEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES.....	15
HGC/2019/40/DEC.15	PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT AFRICA-BRAZIL-CARIBBEAN DIASPORA COMMISSION (ABCD COMMISSION)	16
HGC/2019/40/DEC.16	SUPPORT FOR THE ST. JOHN’S DECLARATION.....	16
HGC/2019/40/DEC.17	UNITED NATIONS (UN) HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS - 74th SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA), 23–27 SEPTEMBER 2019.....	19
HGC/2019/40/DEC.18	SITUATION IN HAITI	20
HGC/2019/40/DEC.19	TRANSPORTATION (CAUCUS)	20
HGC/2019/40/DEC.20	DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, FEBRUARY 2020, BARBADOS.....	21
HGC/2019/40/DEC.21	ANY OTHER BUSINESS.....	21
HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.1.	Florida-Caribbean Conference (Caucus)	21
HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.2	Update on External Negotiations by the Community.....	21

**Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the
Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 3-5 July 2019**

DECISIONS

HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.4	UNCTAD XV	22
----------------------	-----------------	----

DECISIONS

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.5 CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY:
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN
APPROVED AT THE EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT – (DECEMBER 2018,
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/5 entitled “CARICOM Single Market and Economy: Implementation Plan and Implementation Work Plan Approved at the Eighteenth Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (December 2018, Trinidad and Tobago)”;

Noting the Report on the status of the Work Plan and the issues presented from the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Implementation Meetings;

Also noting the issues that continued to exist in Member States regarding capacity constraints and the need to review the capacity at the national level;

Expressing concern at the persistent slow pace and low level of implementation;

Also expressing concern at the lack of urgency exhibited by some Member States in enacting the necessary legislation and putting in place the necessary administrative measures to implement the CSME;

Further noting that the virtual private network for the sharing of information on each Member States’ legislation and draft bills is no longer operational;

Recognising the need to pursue strategies to alleviate the capacity constraints at the national level;

Underscoring the importance of consultations and the need for regular meetings of the Organs and Bodies and their preparatory bodies, in particular the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) and Senior Officials, to push the agenda forward;

Noting the inability of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) to advance –

DECISIONS

- (i) *the adoption of the CARICOM Financial Services Agreement (CFSA) as a result of inordinate meetings of the LAC;*
- (ii) *Community policies with respect to the regional investment policy framework and incentives regime, credit reporting, deposit insurance, and the development of a regional securities market;*

Urging Senior Officials of the COFAP and the LAC to finalise outstanding instruments;

THE CONFERENCE:

With respect to Implementation,

Agreed –

- (i) that the Member States participating in the CSME should undertake, as a matter of priority, the necessary action at the national level to ensure the urgent implementation of the CSME, as agreed in the Implementation Plan;
- (ii) to the revised implementation timelines for the Work Plan as follows:

1. Agree on the process for addressing Agriculture Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) matters	February 2020
2. Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) made operational	December 2019
3. Protocol on Contingent Rights	December 2019
4. Previously agreed categories for Free Movement of Persons legislated	Immediate
5. Administratively implement the decisions on the movement of agricultural workers and security guards	December 2019
6. Legislatively implement the decisions on the movement of agricultural workers and security guards	July 2020
7. Report on Private Sector action to increase production including for cross-border production to reduce the food import bill and increase exports	15 September 2019

**Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the
Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 3-5 July 2019**

DECISIONS

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 8. Adoption by the Conference of the macro-economic instruments agreed at its July 2018 Meeting – completion of the Investment Code; and Incentives Regime and the Integrated Capital Market starting with model Securities Legislation | February 2020 |
| 9. Simplified administrative processes for free movement of Persons approved by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED | 31 December 2019 |
| 10. Mutual recognition for companies agreed | 31 December 2019 |
| 11. Model Legislation for Trade Marks and Harmonisation of Business Names completed | 31 December 2019 |
| 12. Programme developed and financing identified for strengthening the operation of Chapter Seven of the Revised Treaty including support for and from the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) | December 2019 |
| 13. Amendments to the constituent instruments to enable certain Institutions such as the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and the CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC) to act as both a national and regional body | July 2020 |
| 14. Expedite the full implementation of the Results Based Management (RBM) system by all Community Organs, Bodies, the CARICOM Secretariat and Regional Institutions | February 2020 |
| 15. Promote greater use of the dispute settlement system | Immediate |
| 16. Undertake a more robust public outreach on the CSME, including on the CARICOM Complaints procedures | Immediate |
| 17. Ensure that the procedures to facilitate the free movement of Community nationals are implemented at the border | Immediate |

DECISIONS

Also agreed that Member States would provide greater support to the CSME Focal Points through the strengthening or establishment of CSME Units within the Ministries responsible for CSME Implementation with a focus on:

- (i) CSME implementation in accordance with the agreed timelines and timely reporting on implementation action and challenges;
- (ii) CSME Public Education and outreach;
- (iii) Timely investigation, responses and reports to Complaints by Community Nationals and remedial action to correct the practices or policies where necessary;

Further agreed –

- (i) to the establishment of a Regional Law Reform Commission comprising eminent legal minds to work on legislation in relation to the CSME and other matters and **welcomed** the commitment of the Prime Minister of Barbados to work to raise funding from donors to support the work of the Commission;
- (ii) to resuscitate the cross-border sharing of laws and bills among Member States by way of the Virtual Private Network to enhance capacity and aid in the preparation of Bills;
- (iii) to meet more frequently through the use of technology and that the first meeting would take place in September 2019 and would consider the issues related to household domestics and security guards;

Welcomed the generous offer of the Cayman Islands to have the Cayman Islands Law Reform Commission liaise with CARICOM on matters relating to Law Reform.

With respect to the matters under consideration by the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP),

THE CONFERENCE:

Requested Member States to ensure that the appropriate level officials participate in meetings to resolve all outstanding technical issues on the draft policies and the CARICOM Financial Services Agreement (CFSA);

DECISIONS

Urged the LAC to meet at the earliest opportunity so that the revised timelines are met for the adoption of the CFSA.

With respect to the designation of regional organisations representing private sector and labour as Associate Institutions,

Recalling its decision at the Eighteenth Special Meeting (December 2018, Trinidad and Tobago) to designate as Associate Institutions of the Community, regional representative bodies of the Private Sector and of Labour;

Noting the information presented by representatives of the private sector and the move towards establishing a Caribbean Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) at this point rather than the Caribbean Business Council (CBC) that had been anticipated;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to designate the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) as an Associate Institution of the Community;

Welcomed the submission from the private sector representative on the progress towards the establishment of a regional private sector body.

With respect to legislating the categories for free movement agreed to prior to December 2018,

Recalling the Community's commitment to the goal of free movement of Community nationals enshrined in Article 45 of the Revised Treaty;

Also recalling that the movement of skills represents the first step towards full free movement, consistent with Article 46;

Acknowledging that the Eighteenth Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (December 2018, Trinidad and Tobago), *inter alia*, **mandated** Member States to give legislative effect to the ten categories for Free Movement agreed to prior to December 2018, by February 2019;

Further recalling that the Eighteenth Special Meeting of the Conference also agreed to expand the categories of Community nationals eligible for free movement under Article 46 to include Agricultural Workers and Security Guards;

DECISIONS

Noting that, consistent with the mandate of the Thirtieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference (February 2019, St. Kitts and Nevis), the Twenty-Third Special Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) (Labour) was convened on 8 May 2019 to further consider the definition of agricultural workers and security guards and that this Meeting was inquorate and that the COHSOD has been unable to arrive at recommendations for the consideration of the Conference;

Recognising with concern that several Member States have not implemented the necessary legislation for the ten categories of Skilled nationals approved for movement under the Skills Regime prior to December 2018;

THE CONFERENCE:

Reiterated its call for Member States to immediately become compliant with the decisions of the Conference to implement the necessary administrative requirements and legislation to give full effect to the free movement of the ten categories of skilled nationals which were agreed prior to December 2018;

Agreed to give further consideration to the inclusion of elderly care and child care workers among the categories of nationals entitled to move pursuant to Article 46, at the next Special Meeting of Heads of Government.

With respect to the movement of Agricultural Workers and Security Guards under the CSME Skills Regime,

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the definition of *agricultural workers* would not include fisheries workers and forestry workers;

Also agreed that the movement of Agricultural Workers and Security Guards under the CSME Skills Regime shall be –

- (i) facilitated administratively by December 2019 subject to the urgent finalisation of the definition and qualification criteria by the COHSOD; and
- (ii) implemented legislatively by July 2020;

DECISIONS

Reiterated its mandate to the COHSOD to complete consideration of the free movement of agricultural workers and security guards and that this must be concluded by the end of the third quarter of 2019 so that Member States could complete their administrative and legislative processes by December 2019 and July 2020, respectively.

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.6 INTERIM REPORT FROM CARICOM
COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMY**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/6 entitled “Interim Report from the CARICOM Commission on the Economy”;

Noting that the Report had been reviewed by the Council of Finance and Planning (COFAP) at its Nineteenth Meeting, 3 July 2019 in Saint Lucia;

THE CONFERENCE:

Welcomed the presentation of the Interim Report from the Chairman of the CARICOM Commission on the Economy, Professor Avinash Persaud;

Accepted that the critical task ahead was to return CARICOM States to stronger, more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable development as proposed by the Commission;

Acknowledged that the Commission had reached consensus on the desirable path of movement for the Community, and its future deliberations would develop and refine implementable initiatives with respect to the following –

- (i) A People-centric versus production-based development model;
- (ii) Education, skills and innovation with a regional dimension;
- (iii) Public sector reform, fiscal incentives and predictability;
- (iv) Intra-regional transportation, freight as well as people;

- (v) Countering economic insecurity through wider ownership and new instruments;
- (vi) The evolving State, with rising social capital; and
- (vii) Improving financial and economic access, with a regional dimension.

DECISIONS

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.7 ENGAGEMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LABOUR AND CIVIL
SOCIETY**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/7 entitled “Engagement with Representatives of the Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society”;

Having also considered the “Note on the Establishment of a Representative Regional Private Sector Organization in the Caribbean Community”;

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the private sector since the Eighteenth Special Meeting of the Conference (December 2018, Trinidad and Tobago) to establish a regional private sector organization whose specific purpose would be to cooperate with Member States of the Caribbean Community in advancing the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);

Also noting the proposal for the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Caribbean Community and the representational regional private sector organization (when constituted);

Recalling the previous efforts of the Community to place the relationship with the private sector on a more structured basis through the establishment of the Caribbean Business Council (CBC);

Further noting the proposal from the representatives of the private sector for the creation of a CARICOM “Fast Track” mechanism for the identification of high priority/strategic trans-CARICOM investment projects and that a list of such projects will be submitted for consideration;

Looking forward to the final proposal including the constitution for the regional private sector organization;

THE CONFERENCE:

Welcomed the submission from the private sector representatives on the progress towards the establishment of the proposed CARICOM Private Sector Organisation;

Agreed that the conditions for the use of the name “CARICOM” in the title of the Organisation would be determined by the Secretary-General;

DECISIONS

Requested the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) to consider and advise on the designation of the proposed CARICOM Private Sector Organisation, once constituted, as an Associate Institution of the Community in accordance with Article 22 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;

Authorised the Secretary-General to negotiate a MOU between the Caribbean Community and the proposed CARICOM Private Sector Organisation concerning cooperation towards the further implementation of the CSME and, subject to review by the LAC and approval of the Conference, to sign the said MOU on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.8 BLACKLISTING

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/8 entitled “Blacklisting” which updated Member States on developments in respect of the European Union’s tax governance strategy and related processes as they relate to high risk Anti-Money Laundering / Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) jurisdictions and investor citizenship and residence schemes;

Acknowledging the need for Member States to continue their vigilance with regard to the various processes underway in the European Union (EU) in order to protect their national interests;

Expressing regret at the continued inclusion of CARICOM States on the list of Major Money Laundering Jurisdictions contained in the United States International Control Strategy Report (INCSR);

Noting the status of CARICOM Member States in respect of the Financial Action Task Force/ Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (FATF/CFATF) Fourth Mutual Evaluation Round and the steps that should be considered to secure compliance of their AML/CFT regimes with global standards;

Having reviewed the referenced elements of the CARICOM Strategy on Blacklisting in respect of the conduct of the Community’s advocacy programme;

DECISIONS

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to expand the CARICOM Strategy on Blacklisting to include the United States in light of the continual listing of CARICOM Member States as Major Money Laundering Jurisdictions ...;

Also agreed that Member States' Ambassadors in Brussels and Washington DC (with support from the CARICOM Technical Working Group (TWG) on Tax Transparency, Accountability and Cooperation) would be the primary advocates and would advise on the timing of interventions from capitals;

...

Agreed to limit the recruitment of the international lawyer to specific time bound activities aimed at achieving specific deliverables such as legal opinions on the infringement of Member States rights as sovereign States as a consequence of the EU blacklisting strategy;

Acknowledged the initial proposal for services of an international lawyer/legal firm which had provided professional advice to several Member States and which had an estimated cost of US\$225,000 plus travel-related expenses;

Also agreed that all Member States and Associate Members would share the professional fees and expenses of the lawyer who would also be required to provide advice and services in relation to the EU's listing processes targeted at CARICOM jurisdictions with allegedly high risk AML/CFT regimes and investor citizenship and residence programmes;

Concurred with the decision of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) to invite the CFATF to provide a brief on regional policy initiatives to enhance Member States' AML/CFT regimes.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.9 SECURITY (CAUCUS)

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/9 entitled "Security" in Caucus;

Having also considered the recommendations of the Sixth Special Meeting of the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) on the following issues;

DECISIONS

- (i) *Establishment of a Regional Security and Law Enforcement Rapid Response Mechanism (RSRM);and*
- (ii) *Vetting Policy;*

Having also received a Paper entitled “Priority Actions to Strengthen Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation and Coordination among Caribbean States: A Caribbean Framework for Cooperation”:

THE CONFERENCE:

With respect to the Establishment of a Regional Security and Law Enforcement Rapid Response Mechanism (RSRM),

Agreed that Option 3 - Establishment of Mobile Response Team – would be the most feasible option since it would allow for –

- (i) greater development of capacity at the national level;
- (ii) development of a regional register;
- (iii) ongoing training and exercises;
- (iv) personnel called out upon request; and
- (v) financing is the responsibility of the requesting State;

Mandated the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Regional Security System (RSS) to fully develop logistics, manpower, training and development plans, as well as a resource mobilisation plan, in collaboration with the Standing Committees of Commissioners of Police and Military Chiefs as well as Intelligence Chiefs, and submit that information through the CONSLE to the Conference, at its Thirty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting in February 2020;

With respect to the Vetting Policy,

Approved the Vetting Policy for Law Enforcement Personnel at the National and Regional levels as recommended by the CONSLE, as a minimum standard for law enforcement personnel and civilians engaged in the security sector; together with its Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs);

DECISIONS

With respect to Funding for Security Institutions and the Security Architecture,

Mandated the CONSLE to further develop proposals relating to the financing for the RSRM and the upgrading of the regional radar system for presentation to the Conference, at the proposed virtual meeting of the Conference in September 2019;

With respect to the Resource Mobilisation Efforts,

Reiterated its mandate to IMPACS to undertake a comprehensive resource mobilisation effort which would include a costing of assets required, for submission through the CONSLE to the Conference;

With respect to the Paper tabled by IMPACS entitled “Priority Actions to Strengthen Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation and Coordination among Caribbean States: A Caribbean Framework for Cooperation”;

Agreed that the Paper must be submitted to the CONSLE for consideration;

With respect to the Periodicity of Meetings of the CONSLE;

Mandated the CONSLE to amend its Rules of Procedure to rotate its Chairmanship every six months in alphabetical order.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.10 SITUATION IN VENEZUELA (CAUCUS)

Having considered in Caucus Paper HGC/2019/40/11 entitled “Situation in Venezuela”;

Noting with concern the update on the present deteriorating situation in the country and the increasingly geopolitical dimension of the crisis;

Also noting CARICOM’s mediation-related activities carried out by the CARICOM High-Level Representatives;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to have the mediation-related activities continue to be pursued by the Prime Ministers (St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and, Trinidad and Tobago) designated by the Conference at its Thirtieth Inter-Sessional Meeting (February 2019, St. Kitts and Nevis);

DECISIONS

Expressed support for the facilitation process being carried out by Norway with both sides of the Venezuela dispute.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.11 BORDER ISSUES (CAUCUS)

➤ ***Belize-Guatemala Relations***

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

Noting that Belize held its referendum on 8 May 2019 and that fifty-five percent voted “yes” that Guatemala’s claim should be adjudicated by the International Court of Justice (ICJ);

Also noting the invaluable role played by the Organisation of American States (OAS), supported by a Group of Friends, in helping to find a definitive resolution, in reducing and avoiding tensions as well as in maintaining peace and security along the border between the two countries;

Further noting Belize’s appreciation for the continued support of CARICOM on the issue;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to include an appropriate reference regarding this matter in the Communiqué emanating from its Fortieth Regular 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;

Noting the update from the Foreign Secretary of Guyana on the status of the referral of the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ);

Expressing support for the judicial process underway which is intended to bring a peaceful and definitive end to the long standing controversy between the two countries;

Also noting Guyana’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 its Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Conference.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.12 SIDS RESILIENCE FOUNDATION

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/12 entitled “SIDS Resilience Foundation”;

Noting the presentation on the proposal for the establishment of a SIDS Resilience Foundation to encourage development for resiliency by addressing the barriers between the needs of SIDS and capital;

Also noting the Meeting which will be convened by Prince Andrew, Duke of York and the Project Lodge in the margin of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2019;

THE CONFERENCE:

Requested further details on the proposed SIDS Resilience Foundation and Project Lodge which would be given consideration;

Thanked Prince Andrew and the Project Lodge for the initiative.

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.13 ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST – HER
EXCELLENCY ERNA SOLBERG, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/16 entitled “Engagement with Special Guest – Her Excellency Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway”;

Having received the presentation made by the Special Guest, Her Excellency Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway;

Noting with interest the contents of the presentation which highlighted a number of shared interests on climate change, more ambitious global climate action, building resilience, sustainable development, ocean management, marine litter and pollution, and facilitation to help resolve the Venezuela political stalemate;

DECISIONS

Also noting her country's supportive position on climate financing and climate adaptation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the access of SIDS to Overseas Development Aid (ODA) following disasters;

Further noting her attentiveness to the Community's arguments with regard to the need to take into account the concept of vulnerability and not just Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in their accessing concessional resources to build resilience prior to disasters and for post-disaster rebuilding;

THE CONFERENCE:

Expressed appreciation for the engagement with the Prime Minister, the strengthening of the relationship, and for Norway's willingness to advocate on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a number of concerns of priority interest;

Also expressed support for the facilitation process being carried out by Norway with both sides of the Venezuela dispute.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.14	INTEGRATING CARIBBEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES
---------------------------	--

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/14 entitled "Integrating Caribbean Science and Technology Institutional Capabilities";

THE CONFERENCE:

Endorsed the establishment of a small Committee on Caribbean Science and Technology Integration to develop project proposals and spearhead resource mobilization;

Agreed that the Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Science and Technology, the Prime Minister of Grenada, would provide oversight for this Committee.

DECISIONS

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.15 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT
AFRICA-BRAZIL-CARIBBEAN DIASPORA
COMMISSION (ABCD COMMISSION)**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/15 entitled “Proposal to Establish a Permanent Africa-Brazil-Caribbean Diaspora Commission (ABCD Commission);

THE CONFERENCE:

Accepted in principle, the idea of establishing the ABCD Commission;

Established a small technical group of CARICOM under the guidance of a three-member Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) to be chaired by the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and including the Prime Minister of Barbados and the President of the Republic of Suriname, to explore the establishment of the ABCD Commission to assess various modalities; and to reach out to the African Union (AU), Brazil and the other Diaspora;

Agreed that a preliminary Report from this PMSC should be made to the Thirty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in February/March 2020.

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.16 SUPPORT FOR THE ST. JOHN’S
DECLARATION**

Having considered Paper HGC/2019/40/16 entitled “Support for the St. John’s Declaration”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Endorsed the St. John’s Declaration (**set out overleaf**), to bring attention to the global anti-plastic pollution campaign.

DECISIONS

**DRAFT
ST. JOHN'S DECLARATION**

Conference of Heads of Government at its Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Saint Lucia adopted the St John's Declaration.

Heads of Government:

1. Remain concerned with the high levels of plastics and microplastics within the Caribbean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and their adverse effect on our human health, marine environment, our ecosystems and on our overall economies.
2. Recall the various CARICOM declarations on the Environment, Climate Change and Oceans.
3. Welcome the steps taken by many of our Member States to reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastics and other similar packaging materials and encourage those Member States that have not yet introduced such measures to reduce and/or eliminate the use of single use plastics to take the necessary steps to do so.
4. Commit to address the damage to our ecosystems caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of plastic products, including by significantly reducing single-use plastic products by 2030 and to work with the private sector to find affordable, sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives.
5. Reiterate our commitment to the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular to, Goal 14 "*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*" and its target to reduce significantly all forms of marine pollution by 2025.
6. Emphasize that prevention and reduction of plastic litter and microplastics in the environment from both land and sea-based sources constitute an essential contribution to achieving the SDGs for Member States and the long-term ambition of elimination of pollution of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
7. Recognize that effective implementation of these actions requires enabling and coherent policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, good governance and effective enforcement at the global, regional, national and local levels.
8. Encourage development partners and the private sector to contribute financial and technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives including the transfer of technology in order to enable Member States to address the whole lifecycle of plastics in order to prevent plastic litter from land- and sea-based sources from entering the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and to enable a holistic approach to solid waste and plastics management.

DECISIONS

9. Recall the relevant United Nations (UN) Resolutions on pollution, plastics, microplastics, and marine litter, and reiterate our commitment to support its implementation.
10. Reaffirms the need to improve national resource management strategies in order to achieve resource-efficient and low-carbon economies, as well as advance sustainable consumption and production patterns.
11. Encourage other regional and sub regional groups of countries to take similar measures to eliminate discharge of plastic litter and microplastics to wells, rivers, seas and oceans.
12. Recognize Norway's global leadership on this issue and its commitment to addressing plastic and microplastics pollution of the marine environment. We therefore welcome further collaboration between Norway and CARICOM that can further strengthen protection of the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean from plastics and microplastics pollution.
13. Emphasise that this is a global issue and global action is urgently needed to prevent further plastics pollution, and its damage to human health and marine life.
14. Underscore the urgent need for a global agreement to address plastics and microplastic pollution and, in this regard, recall Resolution 3/7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Kenya in March 2019 and the long-term ambition to eliminate discharges of litter and microplastics to the oceans.
15. Welcome the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 4/7 on "Marine Litter and Microplastics" including the extension of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group to examine options to combat marine plastics litter and microplastics from all sources, and through global legally binding mechanisms and commit to engage actively in the Expert Group.
16. Call upon governments and other actors at local, national, regional and international levels, private sector, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders to address the problem of marine litter and microplastics, prioritising resource efficiency building on appropriate existing initiatives and instruments, and supported by and grounded in science, international cooperation, and multi-stakeholder engagement.
17. Commit ourselves to continue to be global advocates on the harmful effects of marine plastics litter and microplastics.

***DONE AT GROS ISLET, SAINT LUCIA
5 JULY 2019***

DECISIONS

**HGC/2019/40/DEC.17 UNITED NATIONS (UN) HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS
- 74th SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY (UNGA), 23–27 SEPTEMBER
2019**

Having reviewed Paper HGC/2019/40/17 entitled “United Nations (UN) High - Level Events - 74th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), 23–27 September 2019”;

Also having reviewed “The Castries Call for Collective Commitment and Action on Sustainable Development”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Emphasised the need for participation of Member States, at the highest political level, at the upcoming High-Level Events at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 74) and **called on** CARICOM Member State Representatives in New York to work towards ensuring effective participation of High-Level Representatives from the Region on the various fora;

Agreed that Member States should focus on updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by the agreed deadline of 2020 and to pledge as such at the upcoming UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit;

Also agreed that Member States should aim at improving the submission of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) with the assistance of the CARICOM Secretariat and Regional Institutions in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) System;

Requested Member States to participate in regional and sub-regional mechanisms established to keep the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review, particularly the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC);

Instructed Member State representatives in New York to formulate a CARICOM position ahead of UNGA 74 to articulate the Region’s case for a successor to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

Further agreed to issue the Declaration entitled “**The Castries Call for Collective Commitment and Action on Sustainable Development**”.

DECISIONS

HGC/2019/40/DEC.18 SITUATION IN HAITI

Having received a Presentation by the Government of Haiti on the situation in Haiti;

Noting the correspondence received from Members of the United States Congress and Danny Glover;

Also noting the invitation issued by the President of Haiti for a CARICOM delegation to visit Haiti;

THE CONFERENCE:

Decided to respond favourably to the invitation from the President of Haiti for a CARICOM delegation comprised of the Prime Ministers of Saint Lucia, Chairman of the Conference, The Bahamas and Jamaica to visit the Republic of Haiti to inform the Community on the situation in the country.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.19 TRANSPORTATION (CAUCUS)

Having received in Caucus an update on approaches to some Member States by a foreign air carrier to request a subsidy for its flights to the Region;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that Member States approached would exchange information and coordinate a response to these requests.

DECISIONS

HGC/2019/40/DEC.20 **DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, FEBRUARY 2020, BARBADOS**

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that its Thirty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting would be held in Barbados on Tuesday, 18 and Wednesday, 19 February 2020.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.21 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.1. ***Florida-Caribbean Conference (Caucus)***

Having considered in Caucus the oral presentation by the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia on the proposed Florida-Caribbean Conference;

Noting that the initiative would facilitate contacts at the political, business and institutional levels;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia could pursue the initiative towards the holding of a Florida-Caribbean Conference in December 2019.

HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.2 ***Update on External Negotiations by the Community***

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to the convening of a Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on External Negotiations prior to the Thirty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference in February 2020.

DECISIONS

HGC/2019/40/DEC.21.4 UNCTAD XV

Noting that the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has agreed to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that Barbados host the XV Session of UNCTAD in October 2020;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that the Member States of the Caribbean Community would support Barbados in its bid to host UNCTAD XV.

XXXXXXXX