



# **FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



## **DECISIONS**



### **CHAIRMAN**

**Honourable Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister and Minister of  
Finance Corporate Governance  
and Public Private Partnerships  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

### **DATE AND VENUE**

**5-6 July 2021**

**Videoconference**

**Forty-Second Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government  
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - Videoconference, 5-6 July 2021**

**DECISIONS**

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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](mailto:documentation.centre@caricom.org)  
URL: <http://www.caricom.org>

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HGC/2021/42/4

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN HAITI (*Caucus*)

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/4 entitled “The Political Situation in Haiti” in Caucus;*

THE CONFERENCE:

**Took note** of the Report of the Haiti Expert Group and its update on the situation in Haiti;

**Expressed** grave concern over the untenable situation brought about by the political, constitutional, humanitarian and security crisis;

**Agreed** to issue the following statement on the situation in Haiti:

**Statement by  
Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community**

**Situation in Haiti**

Taking into account the Report of the Haiti Expert Group and its update on the situation, Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) expressed their grave concern over the untenable situation in Haiti which is in the throes of a protracted political, constitutional and humanitarian crisis. They were particularly alarmed by the precipitous deterioration of security calling into question the state’s ability to protect the people of the country.

Heads of Government condemn the escalating violence, the wanton killings and the ravages of the armed gangs seeking to expand their territory and influence. Heads of Government are deeply disturbed by the resulting internal displacement in the capital in particular of thousands of persons, including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and by the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of these crimes.

The Heads of Government view as unacceptable, the breakdown of law and order, the shrinking of good governance and the range of developments adversely affecting the well-

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being of the Haitian people that are contrary to the principles enshrined in the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society, the normative moorings of the Community.

These principles give life to good governance - respect for the constitution and the rule of law; the effective administration of justice and maintenance of its independence and impartiality; enjoyment by the people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right to assemble and to demonstrate peacefully and to select their representatives through free, fair and secure elections at the appointed time; the complementary roles of government, the social partners and the citizenry; and morality in public affairs.

Heads of Government express their support for dialogue between the contending parties, an approach that has become more acute as the overall situation deteriorates, and reiterated the Community's willingness to extend its good offices in attaining a Haitian-led peaceful resolution to the current impasse.

The Heads of Government underlined the importance of creating the enabling conditions without which there can be no transparent, inclusive and secure elections by curbing insecurity; enhancing transparency, impartiality and popular confidence in the conduct of the scheduled electoral process; eliminating voter disenfranchisement; and avoiding the controversial referendum.

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**HGC/2021/42/5 REGIONAL DISASTERS: UPDATE ON THE ERUPTION OF LA SOUFRIERE VOLCANO, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES; FLOODING IN GUYANA AND SURINAME AND THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE ELSA ON MEMBER STATES**

*Having reviewed Paper HGC/2021/42/5 entitled “Regional Disasters: Eruption of La Soufriere Volcano, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and flooding in Guyana and Suriname” and having received reports from the Member States affected by Hurricane Elsa;*

*Reiterating* resilience as a central theme for Member States in view of the Region’s complex multi-hazard environment;

*Ever conscious* that the 2021 hurricane season has already commenced with an expected eighteen named storms of which eight are forecast to become hurricanes and four major hurricanes;

*Recognising* the critical role that regional institutions have played and continue to play in the response to regional emergency events;

*Reflecting* on the implications of the dependence of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) on mobilising support from external partners since this potentially undermines the reason for the establishment of the Regional Response Mechanism;

*Noting* that in accordance with Article XXVIII Clause 2 of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the CDEMA CU is, with the support of its Governance Organs, articulating a scale of assessment to guide Member States on Contributions to the Emergency Assistance Fund;

*Also recognising* that the CDEMA CU is leveraging the soon to be launched Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility in support of the impacted Member States;

*Further recognising* the sterling work of the Seismic Research Centre of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) in providing timely and accurate scientific advice to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

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THE CONFERENCE:

**Expressed** continued solidarity with the Government and People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and Suriname as well as the Member States affected by Hurricane Elsa;

**Also expressed** appreciation to the development partners for the financial and technical support which has been and continues to be provided to the Regional Response Mechanism in support of Member States;

**Agreed** to consider how their Governments as Participating States could provide further support to impacted Member States at this time;

**Also agreed** that in the interim, CDEMA Participating States which have not already done so, **Replenish** as a matter of urgency, the depleted Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) to the minimum amount of US\$13,000 per Participating State to offset the cost of response efforts;

**Further agreed** to lobby development partners for continued support to humanitarian and recovery actions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in view of the ongoing humanitarian response and the requirements for recovery going forward;

**Agreed** to support The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (The UWISRC) in resource mobilisation efforts to upgrade the regional seismic/volcanic surveillance system, in order to achieve a robust network capable of providing reliable forecasting of volcanic activity and detection and reporting of seismic unrest.



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**HGC/2021/42/6**

**COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON THE REGION**

*Having reviewed Paper HGC/2021/42/6 entitled “COVID-19 and Its Impact on the Region”;*

*Having also received an Update on the Region’s response to vaccines from the Executive Director, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA);*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

*With respect to ‘Update on CARPHA’s COVID-19 Response’,*

**Agreed** to continue providing leadership for the all-of-society health-focused return to economic activity in the CARICOM Region;

**Mandated** the CARICOM Secretariat, in collaboration with CARPHA and other relevant regional institutions, to convene a high-level meeting with cruise lines to agree on a common policy with minimum health and safety requirements for resuming cruise ship sailing in the Caribbean;

**Endorsed** the Proactive Measures recommended for safe return to Tourism from the regional Tourism and Health program;

**Expressed appreciation** to Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, CARPHA and the CARICOM Secretariat for the work undertaken in the preparation for the donation of the vaccines from the United States of America.

*With respect to COVID-19 Vaccines Accessed, Procured, Distributed and Administered in CARICOM Member States (CMS) and Vaccine Hesitancy Amongst Health Care Workers,*

**Mandated** the CARICOM Secretariat, in collaboration with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), CARPHA, regional nursing, medical and allied health professional bodies and institutions, to identify strategies and policy guidelines to address vaccine hesitancy among health care workers, using an evidence-based approach;

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**Also mandated** the CARICOM Secretariat to mobilise resources to support the implementation of communication and other initiatives to address vaccine hesitancy at the regional and national levels;

**Further mandated** the CARICOM Secretariat, in collaboration with CARPHA and other key institutions and stakeholders, to draft a regional policy with guidelines addressing the obligations of employers and employees in maintaining a healthy working environment, taking into consideration established Public Health recommendations, especially in a pandemic situation, and the constitutional rights of individuals and groups;

**Agreed** on the need for a Community-based strategy, for purposes of intra-regional travel, to manage and control COVID-19 spread, including *inter alia*:

- (i) that, in the case of CARICOM nationals, CARICOM Member States recognise immunisation using any COVID-19 vaccine approved by a Member State or any regional regulatory body (not limited to WHO) for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) within its borders for travel purposes among the Member States. Trinidad and Tobago entered a reservation on this decision;
- (ii) that persons who are fully vaccinated should be incentivised by a reduction or elimination of the quarantine period upon receiving a negative PCR test result after arrival in the Member State;

**Also agreed** that equity of access to COVID-19 vaccines is still of the utmost importance to CARICOM Member States and as such efforts to achieve same should be pursued with PAHO/WHO, Third States, and the Facilitation Council for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to address this matter;

**Expressed appreciation** to PAHO, CARPHA, COVAX and the African Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) team for their continued support to CARICOM Member States for accessing COVID-19 Vaccines;

**Also expressed appreciation** to the Governments of Third States and the community of International Development Partners (IDPs) for their financial support and donations of vaccines to the Caribbean Community.

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**HGC/2021/42/7**      **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP** *(Requested by the Prime Minister of Barbados)*

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/7 entitled “Antimicrobial Resistance Global Leaders Group”;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** that CARICOM Member States should:

- (i) Develop, strengthen and implement fully funded **multisectoral AMR national action** plans based on a One Health approach and domestic financing;
- (ii) Ensure integrated **AMR surveillance systems** across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors;
- (iii) Maintain or strengthen **regulations for responsible and sustainable access and use of antimicrobials** across the human health, animal health, food, plant and environmental sectors;
- (iv) Make **tackling AMR an integral part of plans and programmes** addressing pandemic recovery and preparedness, universal health coverage, the environment, infection prevention and control, animal welfare and promotion of sustainable food systems; and
- (v) **Champion AMR (as CARICOM) in global and regional fora** to help mobilize greater global commitment and external resources, particularly to support country action and address the dual threat of climate change and AMR;

**Mandated** the Secretariat to coordinate the Region’s efforts on AMR.

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**HGC/2021/42/8**                      **CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY  
(CSME)**

**HGC/2021/42/8.1**                      **Implementation of the CSME**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/8.1 entitled “Implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy”; and documentation and recommendations from the Eleventh Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on the CSME held on 25 June 2021;*

*Recognising that the implementation of the CSME requires the commitment of each Member State;*

*Also recognising the importance of the internal mechanisms including strengthened governance and accountability structures in Member States for effective implementation;*

*Noting the decision of the Fifty-Second Meeting of the COTED to convene a Special Meeting of the COTED on the CSME;*

*Also noting that the Eighth Special Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) April 2021 approved the policies on Credit Reporting and Deposit Insurance;*

*Further noting the proposal of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda that the Conference issue a formal declaration of recommitment on the CSME;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Endorsed** the Decision on the Agenda Item entitled “*Implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)*” of the Fifty-Second Meeting of the COTED;

**Agreed** to issue a formal Declaration on the CSME (attached) whereby all Member States recommit to implementation of the CSME, especially in light of the vastly different economic environment that is currently prevailing;

**Also agreed** that all Member States would commit to enhanced public education programmes to better inform stakeholders of the benefits of the CSME;

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**Urged** Member States to place on the agenda of their Cabinet Meetings, a standing item on “**Outstanding Matters Pertaining to CSME Implementation**”;

**Mandated** that the relevant Organs, Bodies and Officials meet more frequently in the effort to enable greater progress in implementation of the CSME;

**Requested** that the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) meet urgently to consider the outstanding policy issues supportive of the CSME;

**Welcomed** the selection of Dr. Wendell Samuel as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CARICOM Development Fund.

**DECLARATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF CARICOM  
ON  
REDEDICATION TO CSME IMPLEMENTATION**

**WE, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, meeting virtually on 5-6 July 2021 for the Forty-Second Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM;

Recognising that the commitments made in our 2018 **ST ANN’S DECLARATION ON THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)** to, *inter alia*, take action at the national level to advance the regional integration agenda, have for the most part not materialised;

Reiterating our conviction that CARICOM integration and particularly the CSME continue to be important for the growth and development of the Member States of CARICOM especially in the face of the debilitating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which has absorbed the focus of Member States over the past fifteen months and more;

Conscious of the vastly different economic environment that is currently prevailing;

**DECLARE:**

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We have all, individually and collectively, recommitted to take all action necessary to ensure timely and effective implementation of the CSME, especially in light of the challenges of the current demanding environment.

We have agreed that achieving full implementation of the CSME would require immediate specific action by the Organs and Bodies of the Community, Cabinets and Ministries of Member States, stakeholders (particularly the private sector) and the CARICOM Secretariat.

We have agreed to have regular inclusion of the CSME as an item on the Agenda of Cabinet meetings.

We have also agreed to give specific and focused attention to ensuring that our governance and accountability mechanisms and structures at the national and regional levels are made sufficiently robust for effecting the required CSME implementation including a greater oversight role for our Ambassadors to CARICOM.

We have endorsed the COTED decision to convene a special session on CSME implementation before its next regular meeting in November 2021 to agree on other specific actions proposed for immediate implementation by the various stakeholders, towards ensuring full implementation of CSME provisions and to approve an overall Action Plan for CSME implementation.

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**PMSC/CSME/2021/11/8.2** Implications of the CCJ Advisory Opinion with respect to the Opt Out Provisions of the Revised Treaty (*Mandate of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference*)

*Having considered Paper PMSC/CSME/2021/11/8.2 entitled "Implications of the CCJ Advisory Opinion on the Opt Out Provision of the Revised Treaty";*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Noted** the Advisory Opinion of the Caribbean Court of Justice [2020] CC1 (OJ) (AO);

**Further noted** the concerns of Jamaica regarding the implications for CSME implementation in the event that there is no amendment of Article 27(4) of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to give the Conference a power to balance rights and obligations in agreeing to a Member State opting out of obligations arising from the decisions of competent Organs.

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**HGC/2021/42/9                      PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE REVISED TREATY  
TO ALLOW ENHANCED COOPERATION  
AMONG MEMBER STATES**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/9 in Caucus entitled “Draft Protocol to Amend the Revised Treaty to Allow Enhanced Cooperation Among Member States” and the Attachments;*

*Noting the outstanding policy issues to be determined and the request by Member States for further time to consult on these policy issues;*

*Also noting previous decisions on the recognition of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** that the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) would provide the policy guidance to inform the further revisions to the draft Protocol to Amend the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community, including the CSME to allow enhanced cooperation among Member States and to address related issues.



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**HGC/2021/42/11**      **ADVANCING THE CARICOM AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AGENDA: PRIORITISING REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (*Mandate of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference*)**

- Report from the Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security
- Consideration of Transport Logistics Aspects

***Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/11 entitled “Advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda: Prioritising Regional Food and Nutrition Security”;***

***Welcoming*** the engagement of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) with the Special Ministerial Task Force (MTF) and the CARICOM Private Sector Organization Inc. (CPSO);

***Noting*** the list of items identified as specific commodities/products being targeted for heightened Regional investment;

***Also noting*** the need to address transportation and logistics considerations in the context of efforts to advance the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda;

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Commended** the Special Ministerial Taskforce (MTF) on Food Production and Food Security on the work done to date;

**Agreed:**

- (a) that priority attention be given to the determination of the quantum of investment required and the attendant implementation timelines;

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- (b) that priority also be accorded to proposals to incentivise private sector partnership in addressing transport and logistics requirements for implementation of the Agri-Food Systems Agenda;
- (c) that the Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Transport and the Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture work together to explore possible options with a view to recommend to Heads of Government, solutions for the Regional maritime transport system;
- (d) that the Conference will remain seized of these issues and that the Item, *“Advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda: Prioritising Regional Food and Nutrition Security”*, be maintained as a standing Item on the agenda of the Conference;
- (e) to the revival of the Regional Transportation Commission incorporating agriculture, finance and transportation technical experts, working in conjunction with the PMSC on the CSME to support and explore practical solutions towards the creation of a regional maritime transportation system with the aim of:
  - (i) Reviewing previous work which has been completed on maritime transportation;
  - (ii) Exploring financing and implementation options for the management and operations of the proposed regional maritime transportation system;
  - (iii) Developing options with regard to issuing an **Expression of Interest** for the management and operation of a regional maritime transportation system.

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**HGC/2021/42/12 THE SINGLE ICT SPACE – UPDATE ON  
NEGOTIATION ON THE REMOVAL OF  
ROAMING CHARGES (*Caucus*)**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/12 entitled “The Single ICT Space” in Caucus;*

*Noting the Report on the outcome of the initial engagement with the two principal Telecommunications providers in the Region on the issue of the elimination of roaming charges in the Region;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Endorsed** the Governance Framework and the composition of the Negotiation Team for the negotiations on Roaming;

**Also endorsed** the projected timelines and action proposed in relation to the Roaming negotiations.

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**HGC/2021/42/13**      **TAX TRANSPARENCY, BLACKLISTING AND  
DE-RISKING**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/13 entitled “Tax Transparency, Blacklisting and De-Risking”;*

*Acknowledging Member States’ progress in respect to the global tax transparency initiatives;*

*Recognising the importance of Member States adopting, as far as possible, a unified approach during the negotiations within the Inclusive Framework on the measures for the taxation of digital transactions including the proposed global corporate minimum tax;*

*Also acknowledging the excessive economic pressure exerted on CARICOM Members by the European Union through the continuous inclusion of several Member States on blacklists in respect to -*

- (i) Non-cooperative tax jurisdictions; and*
- (ii) High Risk Third Countries with Strategic Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Deficiencies;*

*Also recognising that the US Anti-Money Laundering Law (AMLA) enacted on 1 January 2021 presented a more structured risk-based approach to the conduct of correspondent banking relations, but could potentially worsen the regulatory landscape for CARICOM banks;*

*Welcoming the efforts of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) to facilitate a more transparent, inclusive and mutually beneficial relationship through dialogue and consultation within the framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement which links members of the OACPS to the EU and its members;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Encouraged** Member States to, as far as possible, prioritize the alignment of their obligations under the global tax transparency agenda with existing and new criteria within

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the context of their commitments to prevent blacklisting as a non-cooperative tax jurisdiction;

**Mandated** the Regional Working Group on Tax Transparency, Accountability and Cooperation to re-engage with a focus on monitoring and advising Member States on their strategic options with respect to the global tax transparency agenda;

**Agreed** to support the efforts at the level of the OACPS to forge a more transparent, inclusive and mutually beneficial relationship with the EU on tax and AML-CFT governance;

**Also agreed** to meet before the end of July to discuss the matter of the OECD decision on a global minimum corporate tax;

**Further agreed** that Member States would consider obtaining specialist legal advice preparatory to an approach to the relevant United States agencies to press their case for a more facilitative regulatory framework within the context of the **Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) of 2020**;

**Also encouraged** Member States (Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and other financial sector supervisors) to continue to prioritize reforms to strengthen their AML-CFT frameworks, and to collaborate with each other to develop and implement a strategy for continuous engagement with the FATF/CFATF and other standard-setting bodies.

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**HGC/2021/42/14**      **ENGAGEMENT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR,  
LABOUR AND CIVIL SOCIETY** (*Mandated by the  
Conference*)

*Having received Presentations by the CARICOM Private Sector Organization Inc. (CPSO) and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC);*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Urged** the CPSO and the CPDC, as leaders in civil society, to assist with the drive for the Region's citizens to be inoculated against the COVID-19 virus, for the Community to achieve herd immunity.

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HGC/2021/42/15

CRIME AND SECURITY ISSUES (*Caucus*)

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/15 entitled "Crime and Security Issues" in Caucus;*

THE CONFERENCE:

**Noted** the Confidential Brief presented by the Executive Director of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, Lt. Col. Michael Jones on the issues.

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HGC/2021/42/16

CONSIDERATION OF THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL  
REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF THE CARIBBEAN  
COURT OF JUSTICE TRUST FUND (*Caucus*)

*Having reviewed Paper HGC/2021/42/16 entitled "Consideration of the Eighth Biennial Report on Adequacy of the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund" in Caucus;*

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed in principle to a capital injection of US\$50 Million to support the projected life of the Trust Fund to 2040;

Also agreed that funding options be explored including through approaches to the Caribbean Development Bank;

Further agreed that the formula presently applied in respect of Member State contributions to the Fund be reviewed to ascertain its continued feasibility.



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**HGC/2021/42/17**      **BORDER ISSUES** (*Caucus*)

➤ Belize-Guatemala Relations

*Having reviewed Paper HGC/2021/42/17 entitled “Border Issues”, in Caucus;*

*Having received updates from the Heads of Government of Belize and Guyana on the respective border issues with neighbouring States of Guatemala and Venezuela, respectively;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** to include the following statements in the Communiqué emanating from its Forty-Second Meeting:

**Belize-Guatemala Relations**

*“Heads of Government received an update on the progress of Guatemala’s Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize) at the International Court of Justice.*

*They expressed concern that the undertaking by both countries and the Organization of American States (OAS) to engage in the design and development of a mechanism of co-operation for the Sarstoon River remains outstanding and urged both countries and the OAS to reinvigorate their efforts to this end.*

*Heads of Government also urged Belize, Guatemala and the OAS to continue implementing fully the existing Confidence Building Measures. They expressed support for the crucial role of the OAS in the process aimed at resolving the dispute, arising from Guatemala’s claims on Belize; and further called on the international community to continue supporting the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone.*

*Heads of Government reaffirmed their unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Belize”*

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➤ Guyana-Venezuela Relations

**Update on Guyana-Venezuela Controversy**

*“Heads of Government received an update on the most recent developments in the controversy between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. They noted that Guyana had begun to prepare its Memorial for submission on 8 March 2022, in accordance with the schedule set by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to hear the case on the merits of Guyana’s application concerning the validity of the Arbitral Award of 1899, and the related question of the definitive settlement of the land boundary between the two countries.*

*Heads of Government reiterated their full support for the ongoing judicial process that is intended to bring a peaceful and definitive end to the long-standing controversy between the two countries and urged Venezuela to participate in the process.*

*Heads of Government reaffirmed their firm and unwavering support for the maintenance and preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana”.*

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**HGC/2021/42/18                      RENEWAL OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL                      OF                      THE  
COMMONWEALTH (*Caucus*)**

***Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/18 and Paper HGC/2021/42/18 Add entitled “Renewal of the Term of Office of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth” in Caucus;***

***Noting*** the current situation regarding the renewal of the Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland, Q.C., for a second term as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth;

***Recalling*** that the Secretary-General has been viewed as a champion of developing countries and of the interests of small states during her tenure;

***Having deliberated*** on a position to be advocated by CARICOM Heads of Government in preparation for their participation in CHOGM when the meeting is held;

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Expressed** their broad support for the renewal of the term of office of the Secretary-General.

DECISIONS

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**HGC/2021/42/19                      THE REVIVAL OF REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORT  
POST COVID**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/19 entitled “The Revival of Regional Air Transport Post COVID”;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Mandated** the Secretariat to compile a list of fees and taxes which are applicable at the Region’s airports;

**Agreed** to the convening of a Special Meeting of the Conference during the week of 12 July 2021 for urgent discussions on the matter of travel taxes;

**Also agreed** to request the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to provide technical support for this effort.

DECISIONS

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**HGC/2021/42/20**

**INSTRUMENTS FOR ADOPTION**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/20 entitled “Draft Protocol to Amend Article 32 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy”;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

Adopted and opened for signature the Protocol to Amend Article 32 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy;

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/20 Add entitled “Instruments for Adoption and Signature – Execution of Agreements by Member States”;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

Agreed that –

- (i) Agreements may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and collectively shall be deemed to constitute one Agreement;
- (ii) Member States may execute Agreements by industry standard electronic signature software and/or by exchanging executed signature pages in pdf format via e-mail, and such signatures shall have the same legal force and effect as the exchange of original signatures.

DECISIONS

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**HGC/2021/42/21 ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION  
OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN NAIROBI,  
KENYA**

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/21 – “Establishment of Diplomatic Mission of the Caribbean Community in Nairobi, Kenya” in Caucus; Paper HGC/2021/42/18;*

*Noting that Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago indicated their readiness to occupy the diplomatic mission in Kenya;*

*Also noting the interest of Jamaica in occupying the diplomatic mission in Kenya when its budget allows;*

*Further noting that Barbados has offered to bear the expenses to fit-out the diplomatic mission in Kenya;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** to establish a diplomatic mission of the Caribbean Community in Nairobi, Kenya;

**Also agreed** to authorise the Secretary-General to sign the Heads of Terms and the Lease set out in **Attachments III and IV** respectively to Paper HGC/2021/42/21 on behalf of the Caribbean Community;

**Further agreed** that:

- (i) all expenses associated with the operation of the diplomatic mission in Kenya shall be borne on a pro rata basis by those Member States occupying the mission; and
- (ii) that those Member States occupying the diplomatic mission shall indemnify the Caribbean Community from and against liability in respect of all proceedings, damages, costs, losses, expenses, claims and demands of whatsoever nature and in respect of any act, omission or default arising from their occupation of the mission, and in respect of any fees and expenditure incurred in occupying the mission in Kenya.

DECISIONS

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**HGC/2021/42/22**      **CARIBBEAN REGIONAL POST-COTONOU**  
**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**  
**PROGRAMMING** *(Proposed by Antigua and Barbuda)*

*Having considered Paper HGC/2021/42/22 entitled “Caribbean Regional Post-Cotonou Development Cooperation Programming”;*

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** to endorse the priorities for Caribbean Regional Post-Cotonou Programming, identified by the Council of Ministers of CARIFORUM on the basis of the internal regional consultation which has already been undertaken;

**Also agreed** that CARIFORUM internal consultations and dialogue between CARIFORUM and the European Union (EU) on a Caribbean Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme, Post-Cotonou, should be intensified;

**Endorsed** the approach agreed by the Council of Ministers for a united, single Caribbean approach and coordination in developing and agreeing with the EU on a Caribbean Post-Cotonou Multi-Annual Programme (2021-2027);

**Further Agreed** that the areas of transportation and health should form part of CARIFORUM priorities for negotiating a Caribbean Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme, Post-Cotonou, with the EU;

**Agreed** that CARIFORUM should negotiate for continued access to bi-lateral grant resources through national Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes, based on vulnerability, for those CARIFORUM States being denied access to bilateral grant resources.

DECISIONS

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HGC/2021/42/23

UPDATE ON COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN THE  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (*Caucus*)

*Having reviewed Paper HGC/2021/42/23 entitled "Update on Commission of Inquiry in the British Virgin Islands" and received a presentation from the Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands in Caucus;*

THE CONFERENCE:

**Emphasised** the importance of respect for the rule of law, transparency, the presumption of innocence and the right of rebuttal in judicial matters;

**Reiterated** its support for the Government and People of the British Virgin Islands and the C-24 UN draft Resolution which among other things calls for a visiting mission by the United Nations (UN) this year;

**Agreed** to issue the following Statement of support regarding the right of the British Virgin Islands to self-governance and self-determination:

*"The Caribbean Community has noted the ongoing Commission of Inquiry in the British Virgin Islands announced in January 2021, backed by the UK Government. It notes with concern some indication that the democratic political institutions in the British Virgin Islands have not been allowed to fully perform their constitutional functions. It recalls its dismay as expressed at its Thirty-Second Inter-Sessional Meeting held in February 2021, at the manner in which the Commission of Inquiry was established with no consultation, or prior communication, between the UK government and the duly-elected government of the BVI.*

*As a Region committed to democracy, transparency and the rule of Law, the Caribbean Community salutes the full cooperation of the Government of the BVI with the Commission of Inquiry. Heads of Government urge that every effort be made to ensure that the constitutional functions to be carried out by the Government can be undertaken without hindrance. They look forward to an early conclusion of a COI that will lead to a just outcome."*



DECISIONS

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**HGC/2021/42/24**                      **DATE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD INTER-SESSIONAL  
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY  
2022, BELIZE)**

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Agreed** that the Secretary-General would consult with host country, Belize on the date of the Thirty-Third Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference.

**HGC/2021/42/26**                      **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**HGC/2021/42/26.2**                      **Appreciation to the Secretary-General**

**THE CONFERENCE:**

**Extended** its deep and profound gratitude to Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque for the decade of strong, sterling service to the Caribbean Community, executed with quiet dignity, especially in this most tumultuous period of the Region.