

CONFIDENTIAL
HGC/2022/43/CD

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

**3-5 July 2022
Paramaribo, Suriname**

DECISIONS

CHAIRMAN

**H. E. Chandrikapersad Santokhi
President
REPUBLIC OF SURINAME**

DATE AND VENUE

3-5 July 2022

**Paramaribo, Republic of
Suriname**

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

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 978-976-600-511-5 (E-book)

© 2023 Caribbean Community Secretariat

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

Printed in Guyana

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Table of Contents

HGC/2022/43/5	UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGING HEALTH ISSUES	1
HGC/2022/43/6	SECURITY ISSUES	2
HGC/2022/43/7	SITUATION IN HAITI	3
HGC/2022/43/8	UPDATE ON RECENT SUMMITS	4
HGC/2022/43/8.1	Ninth Summit of the Americas	4
HGC/2022/43/8.2	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)	4
HGC/2022/43/9	REPORT FROM THE PRIME MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE (PMSC) ON THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)	5
HGC/2022/43/9.1	Report from Honorable Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for Single Market and Economy, including Monetary Union	5
	➤ With respect to Rules of Origin and the Common External Tariff	6
	➤ With respect to the movement of CARICOM Skilled Nationals	6
	➤ With respect to the definitions of domestic workers, agricultural workers and security officers	6
	➤ With respect to qualification requirements for the free movement of domestic workers, agricultural workers and security officers	7
	➤ With respect to Local Content	8
HGC/2022/43/10	ADVANCING THE CARICOM AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AGENDA: PRIORITISING REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	9
HGC/2022/43/11	DEVELOPMENT OF A CARICOM INDUSTRIAL POLICY	10
	➤ Update from His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname and Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for Industrial Policy	10
HGC/2022/43/12	ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS	11
HGC/2022/43/12.1	The Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society	11

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

HGC/2022/43/12.2	CARICOM Youth	11
	➤ With respect to the presentation from Youth	12
HGC/2022/43/13	ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST – SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS).....	12
HGC 2022/43/14	CLIMATE FINANCE.....	14
HGC/2022/43/15	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE.....	16
	➤ With regard to the Calendar of Community Meetings	16
	➤ With regard to Strengthening the role and function of the Community Council	17
	➤ With regard to improving the Productivity of Meetings	18
	➤ With regard to improving access to regional expertise	18
	➤ With regard to Improving resource availability and allocation within the CARICOM Secretariat	18
	➤ With regard to re-convening the Inter-Governmental Task Force (IGTF) on Treaty Revision	19
HGC/2022/43/16	UPDATE ON THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	19
HGC/2022/43/17	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL	20
HGC/2022/43/17.1	CARICOM Secretariat Strategic Plan.....	20
HGC/2022/43/17.2	CARICOM 50th Anniversary	20
HGC/2022/43/17.3	Extension of CARICOM Development Fund’s (CDF) Second Contribution and Subvention Cycle	21
HGC/2022/43/18	BORDER ISSUES.....	22
	➤ Belize-Guatemala Relations	22
	➤ Guyana-Venezuela Relations	22
HGC/2022/43/21	ANY OTHER BUSINESS.....	23
HGC/2022/43/21.1	Energy Security (Caucus)	23
HGC/2022/43/21.2	Transportation (Caucus)	24
HGC/2022/43/21.3	CARICOM-Saudi Arabia Relations (<i>Caucus</i>)	25

HGC/2022/43/5

**UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGING
HEALTH ISSUES**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/5 entitled “Update on COVID 19 and other Emerging Health Issues”;

Acknowledging CARPHA’s continued comprehensive response to COVID-19 in keeping with the Agency’s mandate;

Noting the status of the Monkeypox disease, the risk of its importation to the CARICOM Region and the CARPHA response regarding boosting testing capacity within the Region;

Acknowledging the gains in regional development during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Supporting CARPHA’s Communication Strategy;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to maintain vigilance in their response to COVID;

Also agreed to monitor syndromic surveillance systems as per CARPHA’s guidelines;

Further agreed that Member States must continue to support the multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral Public Health Response that has been successfully led by CARPHA;

Agreed that Member States should invest in strategies to support the recovery of education and reduce learning gaps;

Also agreed that Member States should engage multilateral financial institutions for assistance in strengthening social safety nets that mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on lives and livelihoods;

Further agreed to establish a more harmonized approach to the Border and Health Security processes for travel across all Member States during pandemics;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General for Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat, for his sterling service and contribution to the Community.

HGC/2022/43/6 SECURITY ISSUES

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/6 entitled “Security Issues” in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to accept the Report and recommendations of IMPACS;

Also agreed to convene a Conference to address Crime and Violence as a Public Health issue at the earliest opportunity to be led by CONSLE and the relevant public health experts/COHSOD;

Further agreed to improve sharing of gun crime intelligence with the regional gun crime unit;

Agreed to resume and/or strengthen the cooperation among intelligence and operational level personnel among law enforcement of Member States.

HGC/2022/43/7

SITUATION IN HAITI

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/7 entitled “The Situation in Haiti” in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the informative update made by the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti;

Welcomed the ongoing Haitian efforts to promote dialogue;

Also welcomed the willingness of Haitian stakeholders to receive observers to accompany the dialogue process;

Also noted the deterioration of the security situation, the request by Prime Minister Henry for support to train the security forces, and the efforts of Haiti’s international partners to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police;

Underlined the critical importance of restoring the authority of the state;

Also underlined the importance of a CARICOM initiative outside the existing parameters to address the Haitian situation and which could include other regional partners;

Mandated the COFCOR to undertake consultations with international partners in addition to the UN and the OAS, such as the African Union, the Francophonie and CELAC to determine their readiness to assist in going forward on the Haiti issue;

Agreed that the group of Heads comprising the Bureau of Conference plus St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and Jamaica should provide CARICOM leadership on Haiti;

Also agreed that the CARICOM fact-finding mission at high political level should take place in view of the security assurances given by the Government of Haiti;

Supported the renewal of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) with a strengthened mandate, taking into account the prevailing security situation.

HGC/2022/43/8

UPDATE ON RECENT SUMMITS

HGC/2022/43/8.1

Ninth Summit of the Americas

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/8.1 entitled “Update on Recent Summits - Ninth Summit of the Americas”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the update on the meeting between the Leaders of the United States and the Caribbean Community in the margins of the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

Also noted the update received on the follow-up activities undertaken regarding the establishment of the three Committees - Food Security, Finance, and Energy Security, in keeping with the agreements reached in the Meeting between the Caribbean Leaders and the President and the Vice President of the United States of America, held on 9 June 2022.

HGC/2022/43/8.2

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
(CHOGM)**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/8 entitled “Update on Recent Summits - Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the update received on the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

HGC/2022/43/9

REPORT FROM THE PRIME MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE (PMSC) ON THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

HGC/2022/43/9.1

Report from the Honourable Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for Single Market and Economy, including Monetary Union

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/9.1 entitled “Report from the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)”;

Cognisant of the mandate given at the Thirty-Third Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in March 2022, for the completion of the review process by January 2023;

Recalling that the Second Meeting of the Sectoral Working Group to Review the CET and the fourth Meeting of the Sectoral Working Group (SWG) to Review the Community Rules of Origin were convened in March 2022 and June 2022 respectively;

Noting that the Third Meeting of the SWG on the CET will be convened in July 2022 and an intensified schedule of meetings of both working groups is being planned for the rest of the second half of 2022;

Concerned about the delays in settling the definitions and qualification requirements for the free movement of household domestics, agricultural workers and security officers;

Acknowledging its decision taken at the Thirtieth Regular Meeting (2009) to allow for the movement of household domestics who have obtained a Caribbean Vocational Qualification or equivalent qualification with effect from 1 January 2010;

Also acknowledging its decisions taken at the Eighteenth Special Meeting on the CSME (2018) including the expansion of the categories of skilled CARICOM nationals to include agricultural workers and security guards by July 2019 and agreement that the principle of mutual recognition of companies should be implemented in relation to all companies incorporated in a Member State.

Decisions

Noting that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Open-Ended Working Group on Local Content will be finalised shortly following consultations with technical experts and Member States;

Acknowledging the Consultancy to Provide Assistance to Member States to Harmonise Companies and Insolvency Laws and Instruments for the Mutual Recognition of Companies being undertaken by the British Institute for International and Comparative Law;

THE CONFERENCE:

With respect to Rules of Origin and the Common External Tariff,

Agreed that Member States would engage fully in the intensified programme of work of the SWGs and requested that the PMSC keep track of progress of the work in the SWGs on the Revision of the CET and Rules of Origin.

With respect to the movement of CARICOM Skilled Nationals,

Agreed

- (i) to replace the use of the terms “household domestic” and “security guards” with the terms “domestic workers” and “security officers”, respectively.

With respect to the definitions of domestic workers, agricultural workers and security officers,

Also agreed to the following definitions:

a. "domestic worker"

A domestic worker is any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship¹ and includes a person who –

- ***conducts*** functions such as sweeping vacuuming, cleaning, washing and polishing, taking care of household linen, purchasing supplies, preparing food,

¹ ILO convention 189

Decisions

serving meals and various other domestic duties for the household within private residential homes; or

- ***provides*** routine personal care and assistance with activities of daily living to persons who are in need of such care due to effects of ageing, illness, injury or other physical conditions, in private residential homes; or
- ***provides*** routine care and supervision for children in private residential homes²

b. Agricultural Workers

Agricultural workers are persons engaged in agricultural work in one or more of the following areas:

- *Crop farm production including growing/harvesting field or tree and gathering fruits and plants;*
- *Livestock farm production including breeding and tending of animals (including aquaculture)*

c. Private Security Officer

A private security officer provides services for the protection of persons or property or to prevent the theft and/or destruction or the unlawful taking of property.

With respect to qualification requirements for the free movement of domestic workers, agricultural workers and security officers,

Further Agreed to the following qualification requirements:

Domestic Worker

- CARICOM Vocational Qualification (CVQ), National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), or practical experience evidenced by letters from two persons for whom the domestic worker has provided services as a domestic worker.

² ISCO - 08

Decisions

Agricultural Worker

- *Relevant qualification in the field (including, but not limited to Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs) or its equivalent); or*

Letter of recommendation from a national agricultural body (such as a representative association or Ministry with responsibility for informing of the availability of Agricultural Workers.

Security Officer

- A letter/declaration from a previous employer confirming that the national possesses the ability to perform the relevant tasks related to the sector. The letter would have to include the number of years of employment (at least one year), relevant experience, and training provided; or
Relevant qualification in the field, such as a Caribbean Vocational Qualification or a professional licence.

and

- Letter from relevant body responsible for maintaining the register/roster of security officers or Estate/Island/District Constable or equivalent in the Member State in which the Community national is registered as a security officer or recognised as an Estate/Island/District Constable.

With respect to Local Content,

Agreed that the Terms of Reference will be considered by a Special Meeting of the COTED and that the first meeting of the Working Group will be convened shortly after the approval of the Terms of Reference.

HGC/2022/43/10

**ADVANCING THE CARICOM AGRI-FOOD
SYSTEMS AGENDA: PRIORITISING REGIONAL
FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/10 entitled “Advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda”;

Having received an update on the progress made by the CARICOM Ministerial Task Force on Food Production and Food Security (MTF) on the decisions of the Thirty-Third Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government;

Welcomed and encouraged by the outcome and success of the Regional Agri-investment Forum and Expo held 19-21 May 2022 in Georgetown, Guyana;

Noting the current food security challenges and rising food prices which the CARICOM Region is currently confronting;

Acknowledging the work of the MTF in the advancement of the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda;

THE CONFERENCE:

Commended the Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture and Agriculture Development in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, for the overall delivery and success of the CARICOM Agri-Investment Forum and Expo;

Endorsed the Action Plan and Outcome Statement of the CARICOM Agri-Investment Forum and Expo;

Mandated the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to conclude, by July 2022, various initiatives and programmes, aimed at the removal of all Non-Tariff Barriers to Intra-Regional Trade in the Community viz;

- Draft Trade Policy for Animal and Animals Products;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

- Protocols developed by Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) for Trading in 19 Special Regional Commodities;
- Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety Policy;
- Draft Alternate Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Settlement Mechanism;

Requested that the CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) accelerate the pace of implementation for the various agricultural investment projects;

Accepted the invitation extended by Trinidad and Tobago to attend the Agri-Investment Forum and Expo II to be held from 19-21 August 2022 in Port of Spain.

**HGC/2022/43/11 DEVELOPMENT OF A CARICOM
INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

- Update from His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname and Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for Industrial Policy

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/11 entitled “Development of a CARICOM Industrial Policy”;

Recognising the need for urgency in the development of an Industrial Policy Strategy for the Community under the leadership of the Lead Head of Government for Industrial Policy in the Quasi Cabinet;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that Suriname, as Lead Head for Industrial Policy, would be added to the core membership of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on CSME to allow for effective action, reporting, follow-up and synergies with other portfolios in the development and implementation of the CSME;

Also agreed that following the report of the Caribbean Export Development Agency supported Consultant and the report to Conference by the Lead Head Suriname, a

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Technical Working Group will be established to focus on the implementation of the Policy and any actions therefrom and that these would be considered and approved by a Ministerial Task Force (MTF) on Industrial Policy chaired by Suriname;

Further agreed that the Ministerial Task Force will comprise Member States, and the Technical Working Group will comprise Officials of Member States and regional institutions such as Caribbean Export Development Agency, Caribbean Development Bank, CARICOM Development Fund, the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO);

Agreed to report on activities undertaken at the Thirty-Fourth Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads of Government in February 2023.

HGC/2022/43/12	ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
-----------------------	---

HGC/2022/43/12.1	The Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society
-------------------------	---

HGC/2022/43/12.2	CARICOM Youth
-------------------------	----------------------

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/12.1 entitled “Engagement with Community Stakeholders – The Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society” and Paper HGC/2022/43/12.2 entitled “Engagement with Community Stakeholders - CARICOM Youth”;

Having received the presentations from the CARICOM Private Sector Organization Inc. (CPSO), the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and the CARICOM Youth Forum;

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the presentations from the Community Stakeholders;

Congratulated, in particular, the youth of the Community on their active engagement and participation in the CARICOM Youth Forum held on 24 June 2022;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Agreed that a format similar to that of the Youth Forum would be used for engagement with Civil Society prior to the meetings of the Conference of Heads of Government;

Also agreed that the CARICOM Secretariat would review its process for the engagement of the social partners with the Conference;

With respect to the presentation from Youth,

Received the Report - ***‘Summary of the CARICOM Youth Forum’*** - from the Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (CYA);

Supported the proposal for a Youth Summit to be held in Suriname before the end of the calendar year of 2022.

HGC/2022/43/13

**ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST –
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION
FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC
STATES (OACPS)**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/13 entitled “Engagement with Special Guest: Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)”;

THE CONFERENCE:

Welcomed the presentation made by the Special Guest, His Excellency Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), on addressing the challenges in the current geopolitical environment, climate change, and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

Noted the concerns regarding reform of the multilateral system, as well as the global effects arising from the conflict in Ukraine;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Also welcomed the Secretary-General's perspectives on OACPS-European Union (EU) relations and the importance of continuing to work with the European Union to enhance the OACPS-EU relationship, particularly the role countries must play to further build on the partnership;

Also noted the Secretary-General's update on the new OACPS-EU Partnership, including that it has not yet been signed and that the transitional measures of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement have been further extended to June 2023;

Acknowledged the Secretary-General's call for greater OACPS unity and participation by leaders of all the Regions;

Endorsed the OACPS Secretary-General's commendation of the work of the OACPS, chaired by Jamaica, on securing an Agreement on Fisheries during the WTO MC12 Conference;

Further welcomed the information shared on the 10th OACPS Summit of Heads of State and Government, scheduled to be held on 8-10 December 2022 in Angola, including that the Summit will be held under the theme "*Three Continents, Three Oceans, One Common Destiny: Building Resilience and Sustainable Development of the OACPS*";

Further noted that the schedule of the OACPS Summit coincides with the CARICOM-Cuba Summit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of CARICOM-Cuba relationship, due to be held in Barbados on 8 December 2022;

Agreed that the OACPS Secretariat and CARICOM Secretariat would consult, with a view to finding flexibilities to facilitate the participation of CARICOM Leaders at both Summits;

Emphasised the importance of intra-ACP collaboration and advocacy on the global strategic issue of migration, given the wide-spread actions of discrimination and injustices by some countries against migrants;

Urged the OACPS to take a leading and active role in supporting CARICOM on the call for reparations;

Decisions

Also agreed on the need to invest more time and effort in strengthening solidarity and cooperation to develop a common, strong advocacy compact on reparation, migration, education, public health at the United Nations (UN) and other international fora;

Noted that the OACPS was preparing for a general Diaspora Conference with a view to also consider reparations.

HGC 2022/43/14

CLIMATE FINANCE

Having considered Paper HGC 2022/43/14 entitled “Climate Finance” and the presentations by the representatives of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission;

Acknowledging that all modelled scenarios indicate that the 1.5°C global warming level will be reached or exceeded with devastating implications for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying coastal states in the near-term (2021-2041) and that critical economic sectors and infrastructure will have to grapple with significant climate change impacts over the coming decades thereby requiring considerable public and private investment to enhance resilience;

Also acknowledging that SIDs require urgent access to adequate, predictable, affordable climate finance, at scale, to achieve climate resilient development;

Recognising that the current international climate change architecture does not meet the urgent climate resilience needs of CARICOM SIDS and that there is an urgent need for reform of the architecture to take into account the unique and special circumstances of SIDS and to simplify and streamline access criteria across donors and multilateral funds to accelerate and scale-up climate finance to the Region;

Noting that the early adoption and implementation of a climate vulnerability and resilience framework, such as the CDB’s Internal Resilience Capacity Framework (Recovery Duration Adjuster), can facilitate the access of highly vulnerable SIDS to bilateral and multilateral climate finance funds;

Decisions

Also noting the definition for *Climate Vulnerability* provided by the Government of Barbados as the probability of a country facing a greater than 5% of GDP loss or damage from a climate related event or slow onset events over the next two years;

Further noting that National capacity constraints (including bottlenecks relating to absorptive capacity, structural and human capacity) contribute to significant implementation gaps across the Region and constitute major barriers inhibiting the quality of climate finance flows to the Caribbean.

Further acknowledging that -

- (i) Jamaica worked with the IDB and World Bank to launch a catastrophe bond to address loss and damage resulting from climate events which could serve as a model for the community; and
- (ii) Barbados is collaborating with Guyana and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to launch a Blue-Green Investment Facility with a capitalization base of US\$45 million of which about US\$20 million will be sourced from the GCF and which could be open to participation by other Member States.

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to the adoption of a two-pronged strategic Programme of Action towards scaling up climate finance towards building resilient economies and societies, namely –

- Focused and proactive advocacy underpinned by a facilitative regional coordinating mechanism; and
- National capacity building, including through accessing the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) partnership, to generate bankable projects as well as source and utilize climate finance;

Called for the early adoption and implementation of a climate vulnerability and resilience framework, to improve access to more bilateral and multilateral concessional climate financing by SIDS like those in CARICOM that bear the greatest impact of climate change.

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Requested the CDB to present to the reconvened Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP), on 26 August 2022, the Recovery Duration Adjustor with empirical data to demonstrate its utility to determine eligibility for concessional funding to address climate impact and **also requested** feedback from the COFAP which would allow Member States to make strategic interventions in upcoming international meetings including 2022 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

Also agreed that Member States would consider upscaling the Community's advocacy at the international level for the establishment of a 1-2% global carbon tax, the proceeds from which would be placed in a trust fund for the benefit of climate vulnerable countries;

Further agreed that the CARICOM regional institutions operating in the climate change and climate finance space, the CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, would continue to coordinate and collaborate on key issues and emerging trends towards the formulation of a strategic approach to enlarging the Community's access to climate finance;

Noted the request from the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, as the current chair of AOSIS, that Member States consider joining the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law.

HGC/2022/43/15

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/15 entitled "Community Governance" in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE:

With regard to the Calendar of Community Meetings,

Agreed to the establishment of a Calendar of six (6) Meetings of the Conference of Heads of Government annually with regular in-person Meetings being held in February and July and four (4) virtual Inter-Sessional Meetings being held in March, May, September and

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

November, and that the Regular Meeting in February would include a one-day Retreat for a Heads and the July Meetings would include the Annual CARICOM Day celebrations;

Also agreed that in this new format, the category of Special Meeting would be discontinued but the category of **Special Emergency Meeting** would be maintained in the event a crisis prompts the convening of an unscheduled Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government to consider a response.

Further agreed that the Meeting Agendas would be shortened to allow for deeper discussions.

Agreed to the organization of the meetings of the Community Council and the four Ministerial Councils in relation to the scheduled meetings of the Conference;

Also agreed to the revision of the Rules of Procedure governing meetings of the Conference to codify these changes.

With regard to Strengthening the role and function of the Community Council,

Agreed that the deliberations of the Community Council should be broadened in keeping with its responsibilities under the RTC;

Noted that the Community Council would be meeting shortly in Special Session to consider how it can strengthen its role and would be providing considered advice to the February 2023 Meeting of the Conference;

Also agreed to the establishment of a Ministerial Team which would fall under the Lead Head with responsibility for Governance and which would be chaired by his Minister with Responsibility for CARICOM Affairs. The Ministerial Team would comprise the Bureau of the Community Council and provide for open ended participation by other Member States and oversee the development of a workplan for continuous improvement of Community Governance;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

With regard to improving the Productivity of Meetings,

Agreed that agendas of Meetings of Community Organs would be recast so that matters on the agenda are only those that are for discussion and decision and matters for information will be so designated and shared through other communication channels;

Also agreed that the timetable for the preparation of agendas and papers will be revised to reflect the set calendar of more frequent meetings and that Member States, Regional Institutions, Associates Institutions, and the Secretariat will be expected to observe the deadlines;

Noted that the Secretariat will establish a template for the preparation of papers for submission to Community Organs which will set out (i) objectives (ii) specific issues being addressed (iii) information for decision-making (d) specific decision being requested and (e) financial implications and other requirements for implementation in keeping with the requirements of Article 27 (5) of the RTC;

Also noted that subject matter experts at the CARICOM Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of single background documents that all Community Organs would have access to;

With regard to improving access to regional expertise,

Noted that the Secretariat would establish regional expert groups from time to time to provide structured technical advice to the Community in the development of policy and in implementation efforts;

With regard to Improving resource availability and allocation within the CARICOM Secretariat,

Noted that the Secretariat is prioritising recruitment of technical and professional staff in order to build internal capacity to deliver on Community objectives;

Also noted that to be more cost effective, the Secretariat is seeking to reduce overhead costs and among the decisions already taken is the non-renewal of the tenancy agreement for the Annex building which will save significant rental and maintenance costs;

Decisions

With regard to re-convening the Inter-Governmental Task Force (IGTF) on Treaty Revision,

Agreed that there is a need to review and update the RTC to incorporate decisions already taken by the Conference as well as any decisions that flow from the ongoing work to strengthen Community governance;

Also agreed that the Inter-Governmental Task Force (IGTF) on Treaty Revision would be re-established at the appropriate time to examine the provisions of the RTC and make recommendations for revision;

Mandated the Community Council to oversee the development of further proposals for strengthening Community Governance, including the work of the IGTF when it is established and to propose to the Conference, at its February 2023 Meeting a timetable for its re-establishment.

HGC/2022/43/16 UPDATE ON THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/16 entitled “Update on the British Virgin Islands”, in Caucus;

Having received an update from the Premier of British Virgin Islands (BVI) on the governance situation of the BVI;

THE CONFERENCE:

Supported the right to self-determination of the people of the BVI;

Recognised that the success and modernization of the BVI is due to the effort and initiative of its home-grown leadership;

Acknowledged that Member States will continue to support the decolonization process;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Called on Member States to endorse and support the Draft Resolution on the BVI before the United Nations Fourth Committee;

Encouraged concerned parties to approve the BVI's call for a UN/C-24 visiting mission to visit the BVI;

Expressed faith in the leadership of Premier Wheatley and the Government of National Unity and commended their commitment to implement the recommendations for reform as mutually agreed by the BVI and the United Kingdom;

Commended Premier Wheatley's initiative for keeping CARICOM up to date on developments in the BVI;

Also encouraged the BVI to provide regular updates to the CARICOM on the process of implementation of the reforms mutually agreed between the UK and the BVI.

HGC/2022/43/17

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FORTY-NINTH
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HGC/2022/43/17.1

CARICOM Secretariat Strategic Plan

Having received an update from the CARICOM Secretariat and of related discussions from the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Community Council:

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the information presented on the status of the Caricom Secretariat Strategic Plan 2022 - 2030

HGC/2022/43/17.2

CARICOM 50th Anniversary

Having received an update from the CARICOM Secretariat and of related discussions from the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Community Council:

THE CONFERENCE:

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Noted that The Community Council has requested that the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA) support the preparations of a Draft Programme for the Observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Caribbean Community.

Noted that a final program will be shared with the Community Council and The Conference well before the end of 2022.

Agreed that events marking the 50th Anniversary would commence in 2023, that special events would be planned for Thirty-Fourth Inter-Sessional Meeting and that the main celebratory event would take place at the July 2023 Regular Meeting of the Conference.

Noted that celebratory events are expected to be planned to take place across the Community throughout 2023.

**HGC/2022/43/17.3 Extension of CARICOM Development Fund's (CDF)
Second Contribution and Subvention Cycle**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/17.3 entitled "Extension of CDF'S Second Contribution and Subvention Cycle";

Acknowledging that an extension of the second funding cycle would allow the CDF and beneficiary countries the opportunity to complete the preparation of Country Assistance Programmes (CAPs) for Member States that are currently eligible (Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica) and those which are expected to become eligible (Barbados and Suriname) within the current second programming cycle if extended to the end 2022;

Noting that the CDF must now enter into negotiations with contributors and donors for replenishment of its capital fund, to usher in a new (third) contribution and subvention cycle in accordance with Article X(1) of the CDF Agreement.

Also noting that that this paper had been considered by the Community Council on 27 May 2022 and that the Community Council had recommended positive consideration by the Conference;

Decisions

THE CONFERENCE:

Approved the further extension of the CDF's second contribution and subvention cycle by six (6) months to 31 December 2022;

Also approved the establishment of an open-ended Technical Working Group comprising Member States' Senior Finance Officials, a representative from the CARICOM Secretariat, a representative from the OECS Commission, as well as the CDF, to prepare proposals and make recommendations to the COFAP for the replenishment of the CDF's capital fund for the third contribution and subvention cycle.

HGC/2022/43/18 BORDER ISSUES

➤ **Belize-Guatemala Relations**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/18 entitled "Border Issues", in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE

Noted the update received in relation to the territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala;

Reiterated its support for the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Belize.

➤ **Guyana-Venezuela Relations**

Having considered Paper HGC/2022/43/18 entitled "Border Issues", in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the update provided by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the border controversy with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Reiterated its support for the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Guyana.

HGC/2022/43/19 **DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE (THE BAHAMAS, FEBRUARY
2023)**

THE CONFERENCE:

Accepted the offer of The Bahamas to host the Thirty-Fourth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference during the period 8-12 February 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 20 **CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

Decisions on each Agenda Item were approved during the Meeting.

HGC/2022/43/21 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

HGC/2022/43/21.1 **Energy Security (Caucus)**

***Having reviewed** the challenging energy situation brought about by the rising cost of fuel due to market conditions which have been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and the implications for CARICOM, in Caucus;*

***Acknowledging** the importance of creating an environment to alleviate pressures from the energy crisis wrought by the Ukraine war;*

***Noting** the concerns about the impact of the current economic situation and related challenges facing all Member States;*

***Also acknowledging** the importance of the beneficial arrangements of the Petro Caribe Energy Cooperation Agreement with Venezuela;*

Decisions

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to increase focus and investment in energy security by utilising and harnessing hydrocarbon resources in the region towards reducing dependency on external resources and supplying the growing global needs;

Also agreed to pursue energy diversification and security through making use of significant assets in the Region with immediate existing capacity in LNG and fertiliser for agriculture;

Further agreed to develop the renewable energy sector through building infrastructure to meet regional power generation needs;

Agreed, in the context of the bilateral relationship with the United States, to urge for the removal of the sanctions on Venezuela to allow for countries in the Region to benefit from the PetroCaribe initiative and for progress on the exploitation of cross-border natural gas fields between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

HGC/2022/43/21.2

Transportation (Caucus)

Having considered the Region's need for a significantly enhanced transportation system that can bolster food security and deepen regional integration;

Recognising that there is substantial interest across all relevant stakeholders to create a successful solution;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to establish a Working Group to provide oversight of the project which will include representatives from the Governments of Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the CARICOM Secretariat, the CARICOM Private Sector Organization Inc. (CPSO), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB);

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Welcomed an update from the Prime Minister of Barbados, with regard to advanced discussions on establishing a traditional ferry and fast ferry service for passengers and cargo for the Region and noted that a formal proposal is being awaited;

Supported a concept paper provided by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and agreed that work should commence in August 2022 on the proposed roadmap study on the factors needed for successfully establishing a fast ferry service for the transportation of agricultural produce;

Agreed that the initial focus is on trade between Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

Also agreed to establish a Working Group to provide oversight of both projects which will include the Prime Ministers of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago.

HGC/2022/43/21.3

CARICOM-Saudi Arabia Relations (*Caucus*)

Having received a presentation from His Excellency Adel al-Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a view deepen relations between the Region and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Caucus;

Noting the issues raised by the Minister of State, including the stated intention of the Government of Saudi Arabia to seek closer relations with the countries of the Caribbean, Central and South America with a focus on the promotion of investment and trade in areas related to infrastructure, hospitality, energy, climate change and the environment;

Also noting the recommendation of the Minister of State for the creation of an institutional framework for engagement at the level of Leaders and Ministers;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed on the importance of expanding its international relationships beyond the traditional focus;

**Forty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Paramaribo, Suriname, 3-5 July 2022**

Decisions

Also agreed on the need for deeper engagement with the Government of Saudi Arabia, through the creation of a CARICOM-Saudi Arabia Forum to promote shared principles, increased opportunities for people-to-people contact, cultural heritage, and to address issues of mutual concern, including development issues and infrastructure challenges in the Community.