

**Press release 98/2003**  
(23 July 2003)

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH  
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE  
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, 2-5 JULY 2003, MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 2 – 5 July 2003 and coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community.

It was presided over by the Most Hon Percival J Patterson, ON, Prime Minister of Jamaica and Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

Other Heads of Government in attendance were Hon. Lester B. Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas; Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados; Hon. Said Musa, Prime Minister of Belize; Hon. Pierre Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Dr. the Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada; H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; H.E. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti; Hon. John Osbourne, Chief Minister of Montserrat; Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis; Dr. the Hon. Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; H.E. Rinaldo R. Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname; and Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Representing the Associate Member States were Hon. Jennifer Smith, Premier of Bermuda, Hon. Orlando Smith, Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands, and Hon. Derek Taylor, Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Hon. Victor Banks, Minister of Finance represented Anguilla.

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

Heads of Government welcomed the presence of the Dean and Vice Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors as well as the Youth Ambassadors from Jamaica representing the youth of the Community during their deliberations.

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

In his introductory remarks at the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, pointed out on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that CARICOM was the longest existing integration movement among developing countries in the world. This, he said was a tribute to the tenacity of the Caribbean people and their leaders as well as an innate recognition of the necessity of integration.

In his address, the outgoing Chairman of the Conference Hon. Pierre Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, remarked that while we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Caribbean Community: “let us envisage a region that will be the epiphany of interdependency. For it is only by merging our resources, our talents, our people, our voices that we will be true to the theme of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations: *INTEGRATION – OUR KEY TO PROSPERITY.*”

The Most Hon. Percival J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Chairman of Conference, said that if regional integration were an option before, it was now an absolute imperative. “That is the situation in which we meet here to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CARICOM. It is time for celebration of the largest measure of unity the

Caribbean has ever known. It is no small achievement. And let us be quite specific. It was not an achievement of political directorates alone; it was very purposefully an achievement of Caribbean people. For they have never wavered in their perceptions of Caribbean oneness”.

Hon. Said Musa, Prime Minister of Belize stated in his address that integration had been CARICOM’s best hope for survival. “As we continue to advance this great work we must ensure that the structures we build and the results we achieve are indeed designed to improve the welfare of the Caribbean man and woman.”

The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados, in giving an overview of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, stated that at the end of the day, the CSME was intended to give rise to more competitive economies and its implementation must be guided by the precept that it was enterprises and not Governments which competed. “We must use the CSME therefore to evolve more competitive companies.” He quoted former Jamaican Prime Minister Norman Manley in pointing out that “great causes are not won by doubtful men”. Prime Minister Arthur added that “now is not the time to doubt ourselves.”

The President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, who is also President of the African Union, was a special guest at the Opening Ceremony. He stressed the vanguard role played by the Caribbean in the fight against apartheid and issued an invitation to the Heads of Government of the Community to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of post apartheid South Africa in 2004. Heads of Government welcomed the invitation.

Another highlight of the Opening Ceremony was the handing over of the Torch of Unity by Usain Bolt, the World Junior Sprint Champion of Jamaica, to Prime Minister Patterson, Chairman of the Conference. The Torch had traversed the 15 Member States of the Community and was carried by over 300 hundred runners.

The texts of the speeches can be found on the CARICOM Website ([www.caricom.org](http://www.caricom.org)).

## **SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS**

The Premier of Bermuda, Hon. Jennifer Smith, signed the Instruments of Accession making Bermuda the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Associate Member State of the Caribbean Community.

Heads of Government witnessed the signing by the President of Haiti of the Instrument of Accession to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

They also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CARICOM Secretariat and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

The CARICOM Secretariat and the World Trade Organisation Secretariat also signed a Cooperation Agreement.

## **MESSAGES**

Messages were received from the Governments of Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Peru, The Russian Federation and Venezuela as well as from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A message was also received from the International Consortium of Caribbean Professionals (ICCP).

## **AWARD OF ORDER OF JAMAICA (OJ) TO SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Heads of Government applauded the conferment of the Order of Jamaica (OJ) by the Government of Jamaica on Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, for his outstanding contribution to regional integration. The Order of

Jamaica is the highest national order that can be conferred by Jamaica on a non-national.

### **CARIBBEAN EXAMINATION COUNCIL (CXC) AT '30'**

Heads of Government acknowledged the achievements of the CXC and offered congratulations to that Institution on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They noted in particular the invaluable role played by the Council in administering the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate and the expansion of its role particularly with respect to the introduction of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination process. Heads of Government reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the strengthening and growth of CXC as a regional examination body. (A full statement from the Council of Human and Social Development (April 2003) approved by Heads of Government is **attached**).

### **CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)**

Heads of Government stressed the urgency in implementing the key elements of the CSME providing for cross-border free movement ahead of the scheduled 2005 deadline. This they deemed to be particularly important since at this implementation phase it is necessary to focus on the Region's production sectors and support institutions including the requisites for establishing the enabling environment for competitiveness.

As evidence of their recognition that it cannot be business as usual, Heads of Government have taken the necessary action to enable them to declare that effective 1 August 2003, there will be free movement of graduates, media workers, musicians, artistes and sports persons to work across the Region. CARICOM nationals in these categories will have the right to enter any Member State for six months in the first

instance and to work in that Member State consistent with the criteria and procedures which have been agreed and which will be posted on the CARICOM web site.

Over the next several months, arrangements to give effect to the free movement of the new categories of self employed CARICOM nationals establishing businesses, providing services, moving capital, and their managerial, technical and supervisory staff and spouses and immediate dependent family members, will be finalised. This will take into account the Programmes established by the Conference setting out the time lines of December 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the removal of remaining restrictions.

To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the CSME, Heads of Government accepted the offer of Barbados to host a Third Special Consultation on the CSME and also agreed to address CSME issues when they meet in Special Session later this year.

### **Free Movement of People**

Heads of Government recommitted themselves to hassle-free movement of the people of the Region in order to promote a greater sense of community. They urged Member State to ensure that this spirit of community is engendered at all ports of entry in the Community.

### **Caribbean Court of Justice**

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting reaffirmed the decision that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) will be inaugurated before the end of 2003 as agreed at its Twenty-Third Meeting. In that regard Member States were urged to complete the internal legislation necessary to facilitate the original and appellate jurisdiction of the Court. The Conference noted that the High Level Task Force had begun meeting and was engaged in putting together the programme of pre-inauguration activities as well as activities for the inauguration

itself. The Conference determined that the date for the inauguration would be announced later.

Earlier in the historic ceremony the MS in a position to do so signed the Instruments relating to the Court thus ensuring the completion of the legal framework for the inauguration of the Court.

The following instruments in relation to the Caribbean Court of Justice were signed by Heads of Government:

- Protocol on the privileges and the immunities of the Caribbean Court of justice and the Regional Judicial and Services Commission.
- Protocol to the agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice
- The agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund.
- Vesting deed of the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund.

## **REVIVING AND REPOSITIONING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY**

Heads of Government noted the effort of Dominica to sustain the macro-economic measures it had made to stabilise its economy. They urged Member States to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to Dominica.

Heads of Government placed great emphasis on the search for mechanisms to revive and reposition the regional economy. In that context, they reaffirmed their decision to establish the Regional Stabilisation Fund with an initial capital of US\$50M, increasing to US\$180M within five years. Twelve Member States have made commitments to the

capital of the Fund. Heads of Government requested the Caribbean Development Bank to assume day-to-day management of the Fund.

Heads of Government welcomed the pledge of Trinidad and Tobago to provide US\$16M to the Trinidad and Tobago Support Fund as an initial contribution to the Caribbean Development Fund for Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

Recognising the vast ICT potential for enhancing and integrating the Region, as well as driving its trade and economic agendas, Heads of Government adopted the **CARICOM ICT/Connectivity Agenda 2003** and **Platform for Acton**. They embraced the regional strategic approach to development of a sector/industry founded on universal access, utilisation and production of relevant content. The strategy also provided an opportunity for trade and other relevant development issues to be raised in pursuit of ICT benefits. Heads of Government declared education and targeted development of ICT export-oriented services industry, based on a research and development agenda, as a high priority for universal impact and innovation.

Heads of Government endorsed the **Internet-based Radio network – Radio CARICOM** dedicated to public service broadcasting, and which would seek to bring the people of the Region closer to the work of the Region through this medium.

Heads of Government commended the role of the Secretariat in defining the Agenda and requested that it continue to collaborate with Community institutions and other organisations towards maximizing the benefits of ICT to the Community.

## **THE HURRICANE FORECAST**

Heads of Government appealed to Member States to assess their state of preparedness for national disaster and to review local arrangements for financing

emergency response and relief. Member States were also encouraged to adopt Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) strategies to minimize potential losses.

Heads of Government also took cognizance of the recommendations of CDERA that consideration be given to the reinvigoration and activation of the CARICOM Working Group on insurance and reinsurance.

## **EXCHANGES WITH SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS**

### **Chile**

Heads of Government welcomed the participation of the President of Chile in the observance of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community. In their exchange with the President, Heads of Government welcomed the President's call for CARICOM and Chile to work together to achieve common positions on issues in the international arena. Heads of Government expressed appreciation for the positive stand taken by the Government of Chile on the treatment of the concerns of small economies in the FTAA and WTO negotiations and in particular welcomed the readiness of Chile to give special consideration to CARICOM countries in the area of market access in the FTAA as well as the restructuring of the global financial system and debt relief. They expressed appreciation for Chile's technical cooperation programmes with the Region and also welcomed offers made by Chile to assist the Region in the area of security and in its aim to reduce poverty and to improve the effective management of its fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

### **Dominican Republic**

Heads of Government welcomed the reaffirmation by the President of the Dominican Republic of his commitment to the development of a closer relationship between his country and the Caribbean. The President issued an invitation to the leaders of the

region, to attend the Pan American Games in August 2003 and to their spouses to attend the Conference of First Ladies in October 2003.

### **Relations with the French Overseas Departments (DOMs)**

Heads of Government were pleased to welcome the Vice President du Conseil Regional of Guadeloupe to the Conference. They were encouraged by the relations which already exist between the French DOMs and some states of the Eastern Caribbean and expressed satisfaction that both CARICOM and the French DOMs were accelerating their efforts at strengthening relations. In this regard, the INTERREG III Programme was seen as an excellent mechanism to further cooperation between CARICOM and the DOMs.

### **Representatives of International Organisations**

Heads of Government engaged Heads of International Organisations or their representatives in a special session with the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth and of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Directors-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). They also expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations through his special representative for the congratulatory message sent to the Conference on this, the Community's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Heads of Government welcomed the support provided by these organisations to the Community and committed their countries to continued support of these international and regional bodies.

### **DIALOGUE WITH SOCIAL PARTNERS**

Heads of Government and the Social Partners reaffirmed their commitment to work together in pursuit of sustainable development and to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the CSME and a better quality of life for the peoples of the Caribbean.

Heads of Government agreed that priorities for immediate attention must be determined on the basis of a dialogue between CARICOM Officials, the Private Sector and other social partners and must focus on development of modalities for cooperation in general and in particular the new partnerships to carry forward the sectoral development programmes included in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramus.

### **RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA**

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the development of relations between the Community and the Russian Federation. They welcomed the congratulatory note despatched by the President of the Russian Federation to the Conference on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Caribbean Community.

Heads of Government noted that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Region are expected to meet with their Russian counterpart in September 2003 when a Mechanism on Political Dialogue between CARICOM and the Russian Federation is expected to be signed.

### **RELATIONS WITH INDIA**

Heads of Government recognized the importance of strengthening relations between the Region and India taking into account the shared cultures between India and a number of CARICOM states. In this regard, they noted the proposal of the Government of India to establish an institutional linkage for regular political dialogue.

Heads of Government welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of India for the Chairman of the Community Council to visit India as part of the process of

strengthening relations and exploring opportunities for developing closer trade and economic ties between CARICOM and India.

### **REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORT**

Heads of Government received a report from Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves on actions being spearheaded by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago to establish a holding company to rationalize air transport services in the South and East Caribbean. They welcomed these developments as well as the short-term assistance being provided to BWIA and LIAT to help these airlines overcome immediate difficulties.

Heads of Government recognized that highest categorisation of their national oversight systems and the implementation of the provisions of the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement are critical to the competitiveness of regionally based airlines and the orderly development of the sector. They urged CARICOM aviation authorities to seek to obtain and maintain Category I status for national safety oversight mechanisms. They also urged Member States that are not parties to the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement to take the necessary measures to become parties.

### **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Heads of Government reiterated the importance of the tourism sector to the Caribbean economy. In this context, they reaffirmed the need to establish the Sustainable Tourism Development Fund to facilitate the implementation of the strategic plan approved at their Twenty-Third Meeting and supported the effort to mobilize the resources for the Fund.

## **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S BID FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FTAA**

Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to support Trinidad and Tobago for the site of the Headquarters of the FTAA Permanent Secretariat and in this regard pledged to actively canvass other countries in the hemisphere.

## **CARICOM/COSTA RICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

Heads of Government approved the CARICOM/Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement subject to certain modifications. It is anticipated that this Agreement will be converted into a CARICOM/ Central America Free Trade Agreement.

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **Belize/Guatemala**

Heads of Government received the reports by the Prime Minister of Belize and by the OAS Secretary General on the progress made by the OAS-sponsored Facilitation Process on the Belize/Guatemala dispute. Heads of Government welcomed the Agreement to establish a Transition Process and Confidence Building Measures signed by the Parties on 7 February 2003, which commits the Parties to preserve the proposals made by the facilitators on 16 September 2002 for achieving a peaceful and permanent resolution to the Guatemala territorial claim on Belize, to complete the constitutional processes to enable referenda to be held as proposed by the facilitators and to work constructively and in good faith to manage their relationship until the matter is settled.

Heads of Government welcomed the news that an office of the OAS in the adjacency zone has now been established to monitor and assist in the implementation of the Agreement. They expressed their appreciation for the constructive role played by the

OAS, and by the Secretary General personally, in the success of a process that offers the two countries an opportunity to resolve their dispute definitively and the success of which would make a notable contribution to conflict resolution elsewhere in the Greater Caribbean.

In reiterating its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize, the Conference urged the Parties to make every effort to bring this Process to an early conclusion by preparing the environment that will make possible the successful holding of the referenda within a reasonable time and by continuing to ensure that the dispute is treated as a matter of national priority and not one for party political manipulation. In this context, Heads of Government called on all friends of the Process to intensify their efforts to ensure that the steps remaining to be taken by the Parties are not unduly deferred, and pledged to do all that they can individually and collectively to encourage and assist in the completion of the Process to bring about the final resolution of this long-standing territorial dispute.

### **Guyana/Venezuela**

Heads of Government welcomed recent developments in the relations between Guyana and Venezuela, which had resulted in a renewed commitment by the two countries to work towards the maintenance of friendly relations and to develop and intensify functional and economic cooperation.

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that both countries had agreed to renew and reinvigorate consultations under the United Nations Good Officer Process. They reaffirmed their firm support for the maintenance of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Guyana and its right to develop the resources of its territory.

## **HAITI**

After presentations on the situation in Haiti by President Aristide and Senator the Honourable Julian R. Hunte, Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia and joint leader of the Joint OAS-CARICOM mission to Haiti, Heads of Government expressed a sense of disappointment that undertakings made by the Government of Haiti had not been fully complied with. Underlining the pervasive feeling of “battle-fatigue” in the international community and the need for urgency, Heads strongly urged the Government of Haiti to comply with despatch commitments made to create a security environment conducive to the formation of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP).

Reflective of their continued concern that further delay in resolving the political impasse would accentuate the deterioration of the situation in Haiti, and following consultations between Prime Minister Anthony of Saint Lucia, lead Prime Minister responsible for Justice and Governance in the Caribbean Community, and the OAS Secretary-General, Cesar Gaviria, Heads agreed that a Special Representative should be appointed to support the OAS Special Mission in Haiti and to facilitate dialogue between the Government of Haiti and the political opposition.

## **THE SITUATION IN ST KITTS AND NEVIS**

Heads of Governments received a report by the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis on current political developments in the twin-island Federation, which highlighted, *inter alia*, the declared intention of the Concerned Citizens Movement of Nevis to invoke Clause 113 of the Constitution of St Kitts and Nevis (the Secession Clause) and to trigger a referendum on this matter within six months. While recognizing the constitutional right of Nevis to invoke Clause 113 of the Constitution of St Kitts and Nevis, Heads of Governments declared their strong preference for the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis to be preserved as a single nation within the international community.

## **TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

Heads of Government agreed to despatch an Election Observation Mission to monitor the by-election in the Turks and Caicos Islands on 7 August 2003.

## **CARICOM/USA RELATIONS**

Heads discussed the Region's relations with the external world in the context of the profound changes affecting the functioning system. In this regard they noted the weakening of the traditional international norms such as multilateralism and respect for international law. Heads also noted that in post 9/11 world, security and the global war against terrorism had become foremost priorities on the international agenda to the detriment of the concerns of the developing world.

Heads of Government acknowledged that CARICOM's friendly relations with the US had been disrupted over the past few months by disagreements on sensitive issues. In this regard they deplored the US decision of 1 July 2003 to withdraw military aid from six CARICOM countries that had ratified the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court and which had not signed "non-surrender" Agreements with the US to exempt their nationals from the jurisdiction of the Court. A statement released by Heads of Government on this issue is appended. Heads were of the view that the Region's relations with the US should continue to be principled and be guided by their historic ties and shared values and interest, and that every effort should be made to renew dialogue with the US.

## **CARICOM/Canada Relations**

Heads of Government noted that the Prime Minister of Canada would be retiring in February 2004 and expressed appreciation for the tremendous goodwill he had

displayed towards the Region. Heads of Government also endorsed the decisions of the COFCOR concerning continuing collaboration with Cuba.

## **EXTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS**

Heads of Government noted that at this time the Region is confronting the cross currents of globalisation which pose both challenges and opportunities. The rules of the multilateral trading system are being rewritten and at the center of this process are the negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas, in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and those between the ACP and European Union for Economic Partnership Agreements.

### **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**

Heads of Government underlined the commitment of the Region to continue its engagement in the FTAA process. They noted the fruitful exchanges between the Region's Trade Ministers and Ambassador Robert Zoellick, the United States Trade Representative, which took place on the eve of the Conference. Heads reiterated the call for a pragmatic approach to the scope of the FTAA negotiations if the completion deadline of December 2004 is to be achieved.

Heads of Government welcomed the progress made towards implementation of the Hemispheric Cooperation Programme (HCP) intended to enhance capacity of countries to prepare for and participate in the negotiations, to strengthen capacity to discharge obligations under the agreement and to facilitate responses to the challenges arising from hemispheric integration. In this context they urged Member States to expedite national action plans and strategies.

Heads of Government welcomed the positive approach now evident with regard to the establishment of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) proposed by CARICOM to provide development financing for adjustment within the FTAA context.

### **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

Heads of Government regarded the visit of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO as timely given the imminence of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico. They expressed deep concern at the failure of the WTO negotiations so far to effectively address issues of critical importance to the Region and other developing countries. In particular Heads emphasized the need for WTO members to give practical expression to the commitments undertaken at the Doha Ministerial Conference, particularly with respect to Implementation Issues, Special and Differential Treatment, access to low cost medicines and the work programme on small economies. In regard to the latter the Heads endorsed the Region's strategy for the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, including the convening by the Region of a meeting on small economies in the margins of the Cancun Conference. Heads endorsed the preparation of a Ministerial Declaration on the WTO process setting out the Region's aspirations and objectives in the WTO negotiations.

Heads welcomed the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Community and the WTO, which will provide for continued trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to CARICOM Member States to enhance their implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and to assist their harmonious integration into the world trading system.

### **ACP-EU Negotiations**

Heads of Government remained concerned at the slow progress in the first phase of the negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements between the African, Caribbean and

Pacific Group of countries and the European Union. They recommitted the Region to the maintenance and strengthening of ACP unity and solidarity and to making every effort to achieve ACP aspirations and objectives during the remainder of Phase I of the negotiations. They noted these were critical to the achievement of the aspirations and objectives of developing countries in both the ACP-EU and WTO negotiations.

Heads of Government commended the efforts to advance the preparations for the regional phase of the negotiations through the drafting of Caribbean Guidelines for Phase II of the negotiations.

### **SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

Heads of Government supported the proposal that the Special Summit to be held in Mexico at the end of November 2003 place emphasis on economic growth with equity, social development and democratic governance.

They also urged that the Special Summit provide the opportunity for leaders to exchange opinions and adopt common positions on the global situation.

### **PRESIDENCY OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Heads of Government heartily applauded the Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Senator the Honourable Julian R. Hunte of Saint Lucia, on his election by acclamation to the Presidency of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They recognized the regional nature that would be reflected in the President's cabinet, which was a fitting tribute to the Community on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

They also recognized that a representative of the Community would be at the helm of the premier international organisation at a time when visionary leadership would be required.

## **REGIONAL ENERGY POLICY FOR THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

Heads of Government reiterated the importance of a regional energy policy which would address as its top priority security of energy supply and petroleum product pricing in light of their impact on the competitiveness of the Member States of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. They mandated the Secretary-General to provide the Conference at its next Meeting, with an advisory opinion on access to natural resources, in particular, energy as provided by the Revised Treaty.

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE NASSAU DECLARATION**

The Nassau Declaration (July 2001) with the theme, 'The Health of the Region is the Wealth of the Region', established specific guidelines for achieving targets for regional cooperation in health as well as HIV/AIDS. Several activities have been undertaken in accordance with the mandates under the Declaration. Chief among them is the strengthening of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS which has been involved with other agencies in successful negotiations for cheaper anti retroviral drugs, and accelerating care and treatment of people living with AIDS, as well as developing human rights and prevention programmes.

Heads of Government approved the establishment of the Caribbean Commission for Health and Development whose overall objective is to formulate strategies for assisting governments to more effectively manage and finance health and health care and to collaborate and share resources, regionally. The work of the Commission is being financed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) macro-economic Commission on Health and will be chaired by Sir George Alleyne, former Director of the Pan-American

Health Organisation (PAHO), and recently appointed UN Envoy on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

Heads of Government also extended congratulations to the Caribbean Nurses Association and the Regional Nursing Body for their activities associated with the year of the Caribbean Nurses under the theme, 'Nurses Lighting the Way to Professional Excellence'.

### **A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN**

Heads of Government reiterated the value and importance of the children of the Community and placed high priority on ensuring that they have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. They recognised that in implementing the 'World Fit for Children Plan of Action', adopted at the United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002, this will contribute to reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They endorsed the CARICOM Regional Framework for Action approved by the Eighth Meeting of the COHSOD and committed to the implementation of this framework.

### **THE CARIBBEAN ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION IN MEDICINE AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

Heads of Government agreed to the establishment of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions.

This Accreditation Authority will be responsible for accrediting in the first instance, medical training programmes offered at universities in the Community.

## **WEST INDIAN CRICKET**

Heads of Government received a report from the Hon. Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Prime Ministerial sub-committee on Cricket, and from the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) on preparations for the staging of the Cricket World Cup 2007.

Heads of Government agreed to establish a central organizing body at the Regional level to assist Windies World Cup Incorporated, the company established by the WICB to manage the event.

They accepted the invitation of Windies World Cup Inc. to name a high level representative to the Board of Directors that will govern the policy direction of the event. They welcomed the offer of technical assistance in staging the event extended by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa whose country hosted the World Cup in 2003.

Heads of Government expressed their deep appreciation to outgoing President of the WICB, Reverend Wesley Hall for his contribution to West Indies Cricket on and off the field.

## **CRIME AND SECURITY**

Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to address crime and security issues within the context of the approved Regional Crime and Security Initiative. They noted the success achieved by some Member States in their fight against crime.

Heads of Government committed themselves to the continued strengthening of national and regional capacity and in this regard placed high priority on resource mobilisation.

## **THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY DECLARATION**

Heads of Government adopted a **Thirtieth Anniversary “Rose Hall Declaration on Regional Governance and Integrated Development”**, which included a decision in principle, to establish a Commission or other executive mechanism for furthering the implementation of Community decisions related to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. A copy of the **Declaration** is **attached**.

## **THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**

As part of the Cultural Activities of the Conference and to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Chauguramas in 1973, the Government of Jamaica hosted a Thirtieth Anniversary Concert which showcased the abounding talent and spirit of the Caribbean. Artistes were drawn from The Bahamas in the North through to Cuba and Haiti, to Suriname in the South, as well as from Jamaica. The event, hailed a true cultural extravaganza of celebration, was shared with the rest of the Caribbean via satellite. As Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson remarked, it was a fitting precursor to **Carifesta VIII** to be held in Suriname, 24 – 30 August 2003.

## **APPRECIATION**

Heads of Government expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Jamaica for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements during the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Conference. They were particularly appreciative of the social and cultural activities hosted by Jamaica in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community, that contributed in no small measure to the congenial atmosphere in which their discussions were conducted.

## **DATE AND VENUE**

Heads of Government welcomed the offer made by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for the hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference in that country in early 2004.

**Montego Bay, Jamaica**

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2003**

**STATEMENT FROM THE  
SIXTH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR HUMAN AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT (COHSOD) HELD MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1, 2003  
TO THE  
24TH MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL**

1. The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), at its Sixth Special Meeting, in recognition of the work of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) in:
  - (i) **responding** to the Region's desire to achieve rapid social and economic development, to retain and build upon our cultural identity, to prepare our workforce for the global economy of the 21st century, and to benefit from the technological revolution accompanying phenomenal change;
  - (ii) **developing** a curriculum that ensures the availability of a cadre of citizens who are full, unapologetic, self-confident, creative, sovereign human beings capable of embracing and accessing the wealth in our diversity in ethnicity, language, religion, art and technology and who are adequately equipped with knowledge of the Caribbean and the world, with bilingual skills and an appreciation of the contribution of science and technology to contemporary world and sustainable development;
  - (iii) **administering** the first Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations in 5 subjects, registering 30,194 candidates for the examinations in 58,708 subject entries;
  - (iv) **growing** the CSEC examinations to 48 subjects in 2002, comprising 30 at the General Proficiency, 14 at Basic Proficiency and 4 at the Technical Proficiency level, registering 122,621 candidates with 464,486 subject entries;
  - (v) **introducing**, in response to the COHSOD 1997 mandate to double the enrolment of graduates to tertiary institutions from the secondary education system by 2005, through the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) a new developmental model of examination at the post secondary level -
    - (a) that allows flexibility through a structure of One and Two-Unit courses and the opportunity to increase access to quality education at the post CSEC level;

- (b) that satisfies entry requirements to universities and other tertiary level institutions regionally and internationally, providing for assessment of core skills, satisfying the educational needs of a larger percentage of the post CSEC population, catering to a wide range of abilities and interests and allowing for flexibility in choice of subjects and in time and place of study;
- (vii) **delivering** through CAPE a curriculum in a modular form so that students have the opportunity to complete courses or components relevant to their interests and needs and at their own pace of development, thereby facilitating them with greater opportunities for access to the job market and for life-long learning;
  - (viii) **shifting** the focus on entry requirements that restrict access and equity, to an emphasis on exit standards;
  - (ix) **introducing** a process that supports the development of graduates who are adaptable, flexible, creative, competent and who have the capacity for life-long learning;
  - (x) **providing** a coherent and transparent certification that is recognized regionally and internationally, and that establishes equivalencies across upper secondary and lower tertiary education in the Caribbean with a view to clarifying routes to educational advancement and promoting better articulation between educational pathways;
  - (xii) **engaging**, at all stages in the development of CAPE and CSEC curricula, in extensive consultations regionally and internationally, in order to ensure quality, thoroughness, relevance and marketability of CXC's products;
  - (xiii) **collaborating** with the tertiary education institutions in CARICOM's 16 participating territories in order to realise economies of scale and increase enrolments;
  - (xiv) **conducting** workshops across the region to enable teachers to deliver effectively the CXC syllabuses;
  - (xv) **coordinating** some 3000 teachers from across the region in the marking of examination papers in four centres in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; and
  - (xvi) **additionally**, seeking to provide technical assistance to member states to build capacity for measurement and evaluation, and engaging CXC's

resources and expertise in assisting countries in the administration of primary level examinations and analyses of primary examinations data;

2. **Recommends** that as CXC celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, CARICOM Heads of Government -

- (i) **acknowledge** the contributions of CXC to fostering regional cooperation in education, and
- (ii) **reaffirm** the commitment of Governments to the strengthening and growth of CXC as a regional examination body.

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS  
OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
ON BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 98 OF  
THE ROME STATUE ESTABLISHNG THE  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

At the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Heads considered the request made to each Member State of the Community by the Government of the United States of America to enter into bilateral immunity or “non-surrender” agreements that exempt US nationals and other persons who have worked for the US Government from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Heads reaffirmed their strong support for the principles and purposes of the ICC and their confidence that it would carry out its important mandate with the highest integrity and professionalism. They recalled the vanguard role played by CARICOM, particularly Trinidad and Tobago, in the establishment of the Court and noted with satisfaction that those CARICOM Member States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute establishing the Court would do so expeditiously.

Heads also recognised that some Member States may wish to negotiate bilateral “non-surrender” agreements with the United States if they are advised by their legal authorities that any agreement into which they enter is consistent with their obligations under the Rome Statute.

They were deeply disturbed at the punitive action taken by the US Government with effect from 1 July 2003, against the six CARICOM Member States which are parties to the International Criminal Court. They stressed that this development was at complete variance with the spirit of the special relationship which has traditionally existed between the United States and the Caribbean, a relationship which has always been

characterised by mutual respect and cooperation, and strict adherence to the rule of law, to international obligations, and constructive dialogue which Heads are committed to continuing.

They also stressed that the effective protection of the “Third Border” of the United States could not be achieved unilaterally, and that continued military and security cooperation between the Caribbean and the United States was in the national security interest of all countries which comprise our common Caribbean neighbourhood.

Heads resolved to explore the possibility of establishing mutual legal arrangements on military matters among their Member States, and in addition, to seek partnerships in the International Community to protect and enhance the security of the Caribbean Community.



**THE ROSE HALL  
DECLARATION**

**ON**

**'REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT'**

**ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**AT THE  
TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF  
GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM**

**MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA  
2-5 JULY 2003**

**THE ROSE HALL DECLARATION  
ON  
'REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT'  
ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CARICOM**

**July 4, 2003**

We the Heads of Government of the member countries of the Caribbean Community meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Percival J. Patterson, on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973;

**RECALLING** the commitments signified in the Preamble and Articles of that Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community;

**RECOGNISING** the many steps we have taken in furtherance of the vision and agreements of the founding signatories in 1973; and of the further targets we set ourselves in the Nassau Understanding (1984), the Grand Anse Declaration (1989), the Bridgetown Declaration of Principles (1997), the Montego Bay Declaration (1997), the Nassau Declaration on Health (2001) and the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (2001);

**BEARING IN MIND** our consultations on Options for Governance to Deepen the Integration Process held in Port-of-Spain in February 2003, and the report of the Expert Group of Heads of Government appointed pursuant to that consultation entitled *Regional Integration: Carrying the Process Forward*;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the document entitled *CARICOM Beyond Thirty: Charting New Directions* submitted to the Meeting by the Chairman.

**MINDFUL** of the areas in which we have not yet achieved all the goals agreed for the integration of our economies and the betterment of the lives of the people of our region;

**RECOGNISING** that the current geopolitical and geostrategic environment is significantly different from that which existed at the time of the establishment of the Community in 1973;

**AWARE** that the collapse of the previous structure of international relations, based on superpower rivalry has given way to a new order that is increasingly characterised by unilateralist tendencies on the part of some members of the international community;

**AWARE ALSO** that this development not only threatens to undermine the principle of multilateralism embodied in the UN Charter but also has major implications for the exercise of sovereignty by the developing countries, especially small states such as ours in the Caribbean;

**CONSCIOUS THEREFORE** of the resulting urgent need for small developing countries to work assiduously for a world order governed by international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

**CONSCIOUS ALSO** of the heightened challenges to our Community that have arisen or become more acute in the global environment since the abiding goals of CARICOM were first proclaimed;

**RECOGNISING** that the process of globalisation and economic liberalisation continues to pose significant challenges for the economically fragile and vulnerable member states of the Community as they seek to adjust to a new global trading regime based on reciprocity and open competition;

**DETERMINED** nevertheless, that we shall go forward with resolution toward realisation of the hopes and expectations of the people of our region and in fulfilment of the aims, purposes, objectives and undertakings of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;

**HEREBY DECLARE:**

**A. REGIONAL GOVERNANCE**

That, with a view to improving governance for the purpose of deepening the integration process, we have agreed in principle to the following:

1. The reaffirmation that CARICOM is a Community of Sovereign States, and of Territories able and willing to exercise the rights and assume the obligations of membership of the Community, and that the deepening of regional integration will proceed in this political and juridical context.
2. The development of a system of mature regionalism in which critical policy decisions of the Community taken by Heads of Government, or by other Organs of the Community, will have the force of law throughout the Region as a result of the operation of domestic legislation and the Treaty of Chaguaramas appropriately revised, and the authority of the Caribbean Court of Justice in its original jurisdiction – taking into account the constitutional provisions of member states.
3. The establishment of a CARICOM Commission or other executive mechanism, whose purpose will be to facilitate the deepening of regional integration in the areas of responsibility specified in the next following paragraph. The Commission's function will be to exercise full-time executive

responsibility for furthering implementation of Community decisions in such areas as well as to initiate proposals for Community action in any such area.

4. The functions of the Commission will relate to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and such other areas of the integration process as the Conference of Heads may from time to time determine.
5. In the exercise of its responsibilities the Commission will be accountable to the Conference of Heads of Government and will be responsive to the authority of other Organs of the Community within their areas of competence.
6. The adoption of the principle of automatic resource transfers for the financing of Community institutions, certainly on the establishment of any new tier of governance.
7. The reform of the CARICOM Secretariat to enhance its effectiveness as the administrative and technocratic arm of CARICOM.
8. The recognition that within this framework, it is both legitimate and feasible for a group or groups of CARICOM Member States to forge such closer links among themselves as they collectively consider appropriate.
9. The strengthening of the role of the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians in the enhancement of regional integration.

We have also agreed that the Expert Group of Heads of Government, assisted by a technical group, be entrusted with the further task of elaborating these proposals for presentation to a Special Meeting of the Conference later this year, dedicated to taking decisions on them.

We have further agreed to a review of the functioning of the Organs of the Community in order to identify possibilities for rationalisation of their operation including the decentralisation of decision-making.

## **B. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT**

That, with a view to deepening the integration process in the context of the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, and the realities of the international economic environment, we have:

1. Agreed to accelerate the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, and in that context to promote macro-economic

convergence, the unification of capital and financial markets, and the early unrestricted movement of people within CARICOM.

2. Agreed that in order to stimulate the expansion of output and employment within the framework of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, a high level expert group be appointed, drawn from the public and private sectors, the labour movement, civil society, the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, the CDB and the UWI to identify the opportunities and the required institutional and policy measures to promote integrated production in the Community, especially through private sector investment.
3. Reiterated our commitment to collaborate more effectively to exploit the agricultural potential of the Community through, *inter-alia*, the stimulation of increased production, the strengthening of joint research activities, the pursuit within a regional context of additional processing of agricultural raw materials, including sugar in particular, the promotion of increased agricultural trade intra-regionally and extra-regionally and to work towards greater food security within the region.
4. Agreed, in recognition of the critical role played by tourism in the economies of the region, that we will intensify the pursuit of strategies aimed at the sustainable development of the sector. These strategies should include programmes for mobilizing resources and the enhancement of the efficiency of national and regional public and private sector institutions in designing and implementing tourism development policies and programmes.
5. Resolved to pay close attention and take appropriate measures to increase the efficiency of public and private sector investment, so that available investible resources can have maximum impact on poverty alleviation and employment creation.
6. Agreed that in order to effectively protect the Caribbean Sea and promote the sustainable use of its resources Member States will ensure the successful functioning of the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and will in due course consider investing it with the authority to administer a comprehensive Common Fisheries Regime.
7. Agreed that a multifaceted programme, including enhanced communication and information flows, be developed and implemented to reinforce and strengthen the sense of common identity and mutual understanding that bind CARICOM people together, and to encourage all

feasible initiatives to exploit the economic potential that is inherent in the cultural vitality of our people.

8. Emphasised the importance of CARIFESTA VIII which will be held in Suriname in August 2003 and call upon the people of the region to support the event in order to ensure its success.
9. Agreed further, that the occasion of Cricket World Cup 2007 in the Caribbean be used as a vehicle to showcase Caribbean life and culture.
10. Reaffirmed, in keeping with the Nassau Declaration on Health (2001) our commitment to promote the health and well-being of the people of the Community in recognition of the principle that 'the health of the region is the wealth of the region'. In this context, special emphasis will be placed on supporting the efforts of the Pan Caribbean Partnership in its fight against HIV/AIDS.
11. Agreed to sustain and seek new ways to improve the dialogue with the private sector, labour and civil society in advancing the objectives of the integration movement.
12. Emphasised the need to intensify efforts to promote human and social development through, inter-alia, appropriate education and training in order to improve the overall well being of the people of the Community and to establish the conditions for the creation of a knowledge-based society capable of competing effectively in the new global environment.
13. Agreed that the initiatives we have taken to engage in joint external trade negotiations in relation to the WTO, FTAA and the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement must be consolidated, and that we shall address attention to building similar joint external negotiating capacity in other aspects of our engagement with the international system.
14. Resolved that Member Governments and the Community Organs work with the public and private sectors and with civil society to strengthen and broaden cultural, social and economic linkages with the West Indian diaspora, which is an integral part of the Caribbean Community.
15. Agreed that Member States should work towards the strengthening and enlargement of the Caribbean Development Bank, in order to secure the mobilisation of adequate financing to support the economic and social transformation of the region.

16. Agreed that the work of the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security and our recent decisions on the subject be used as a basis for the creation of permanent institutional arrangements for the collective enhancement of security and control of crime within the region.
17. Resolved to create opportunities for the political opposition in Member States to play a more active role in the development of the Community within a framework of respect for democratic principles and in this context called upon the opposition parties to fully embrace these opportunities.
18. Resolved also that the Charter of Civil Society should be actively applied as an instrument for strengthening democratic governance in the Community.

### **C. THE COMMUNITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

That, with a view to establishing a respected place for our countries in the international system, we have:

1. Recognised that, in addition to promoting closer regional integration, the Member States of the Community need to maintain and enhance alliances with other developing countries in advancing their economic interests.
2. Reaffirmed therefore, the need to strengthen relations with other countries in the wider Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and in particular to contribute to increased solidarity within the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77.
3. Reiterated the importance of recognising Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a special and particular grouping in the international system and commit ourselves to the pursuance of appropriate arrangements and measures to facilitate their equitable and beneficial participation in that system.
4. Resolved to work towards a sustained improvement in our relations with developed countries on the basis of mutual respect and mutually beneficially trade and economic arrangements.
5. Reaffirmed our commitment to promote the enhancement of the relevance of the policies and programmes applied by the International Financial Institutions to assist developing countries, including the Member States of our Community.

6. Reaffirmed also, our commitment to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of international law, as well as to the reform of the UN particularly the Security Council in order to achieve more equitable representation of the Members States in that Body.
7. Agreed that we will work within the framework of the United Nations to promote multilateralism as the guiding principle of international relations.

#### **D. RESOLUTION**

1. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of our Community, we have resolved to consolidate the achievements of the past and also to chart 'New Directions' for the future which are designed to give new meaning to the purposes of our community, to further consolidate our common cultural identity and to promote an integration strategy that will optimise the development possibilities of the region and thereby contribute to the well-being of its people.
2. We, the Heads of Government are determined, and call upon the Organs of CARICOM, the Member Governments and Social Partners of the Community to be similarly resolute, in pursuing the fulfilment of these undertakings so that a marked deepening of integration in our region will be achieved.

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