

AGREEMENT NO. 16/22 TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS) AND THE CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION (CSC)

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

**25th INTERSESSIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 28TH ORDINARY
MEETING OF THE ACS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

ACS Secretariat, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

(Virtual Meeting)

18th January, 2023

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

11th EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

New York, New York

September 21, 2022

Agreement No. 16/22

**TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED BY THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES
(ACS) AND THE CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION (CSC)**

The Ministerial Council,

Pursuant to:

The Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) done in Cartagena de Indias 24th July 1994, Articles III and IX (a and b), and XIV (3);

Ministerial Agreement 10/22 approving the 2022-2023 ACS Plan of Action;

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the ACS, established by the Heads of States and Government of the Member States and Associated Members, during the First and Second Summits held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 17-18 August 1995 and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 16-17 April 1999;

Recalling the 2022-2023 Plan of Action approved by virtue of Ministerial Agreement 10/22 by the 27th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council held 29th April, 2022;

Noting the changing global environment and the need for the organisation to continue to adapt and respond in order to address arising challenges, function with efficiency and position itself to take advantage of opportunities,

Considering the need to establish consistency with the strategic objectives of the Plan of Action, and acknowledging that there may be the need to share this with existing and potential development partners;

Acknowledging the work carried out by the ACS Secretariat with regard to sustainable development in the Greater Caribbean Region; in particular the "*White Paper*" entitled "*Secretary of Secretaries*" and the "*List of Priority Project Proposals*";

Agrees to:

- 1. Approve** the List of Priority Projects identified by ACS Special Committees and the Caribbean Sea Commission as consistent with the strategic objectives of the Plan of Action;
- 2. Instruct** the Secretary General to share this List of Priority Projects with Members, as well as existing and potential development partners where he deems necessary and as may be required.

ASSOCIATION OF CARRIBEAN STATES (ACS)

DIRECTORATE FOR COOPERATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS

This document illustrates the projects prioritized by the Association of Caribbean States, its Membership and its Secretariat in order to mobilize international South-South and triangular cooperation for their effective financing. The prioritization of projects responds to the Action Plan approved in the first semester of 2022, and to the evaluation and appropriation process of the Member States and Associate Members through the mechanisms established in the Internal Agreements of the Association; Special Committee of 2021 and Special Committee of 2022.

The document is divided as follows: first, a simplified table of the projects is presented, including their title and thematic area. Second, each project is described, as well as its status and the estimated cost for its implementation.

Simplified Table of 2021-2022 priority projects *	
Thematic Area	Name of the project
Transport	Maritime Transport and Logistics Strategy and Action Plan for the Greater Caribbean region (consultancy)
Transport	Development of a ferry network in the Greater Caribbean
Trade	Creation of a Regional ACS Observatory
Tourism	Revitalization of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean (STZC)
Tourism	Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Greater Caribbean (Consultancy)
Transport, Trade, Tourism	Digitalization of the Greater Caribbean
Disaster Risk Reduction	Geospatial Information System of the Greater Caribbean for disaster prevention (GIS-GC)
Disaster Risk Reduction	Strengthening capacities for Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean region (MH-EWS)
Disaster Risk Reduction	The Greater Caribbean Bridges to Inclusion (GC BTI)
Caribbean Sea Commission	Update of Report to Declare the Caribbean Sea a "Special Zone" in the Context of Sustainable Development (Consultancy)
Caribbean Sea Commission	Impact of climate change on the sandy shorelines of the Caribbean: alternatives for its control and resilience II
Caribbean Sea Commission	Resilient and low carbon tourism in the Greater Caribbean
Caribbean Sea Commission	Mitigating the effects of climate change on Caribbean coral reefs: cultivation and propagation of stony corals and black hedgehogs for coral reef restoration

* List of projects with corresponding Project Concept Document (PCD)

LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS WITH A CORRESPONDING PROJECT CONCEPTUAL DOCUMENT (PCD) FOR 2021 AND 2022

The projects, their status and projected cost are described by each Directorate of the Association of Caribbean States, and segmented by thematic area.

DIRECTORATE FOR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thematic area: Transport

PCD 1

Name	Maritime Transport and Logistics Strategy and Action Plan for the Greater Caribbean region
Description	Develop a maritime transport and logistics strategy that improves the region's competitiveness by making the transport of foreign trade more efficient and economical, lowers logistics costs and enhances the tourism potential of the countries.
Status	Approved in 2021 during the 30th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport
Budget (US dollars)	\$1.500.000

PCD 2

Name	<i>Development of a ferry network in the Greater Caribbean</i>
Description	Development of solutions for an efficient transport mechanism that facilitates connectivity in the Greater Caribbean
Status	Approved in 2021 during the 30th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport
Budget (US dollars)	\$10.000.000

DIRECTORATE FOR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT

Thematic area: Trade

PCD 1

Name	<i>Creation of a Regional ACS Observatory</i>
Description	This project seeks to design and implement an ACS Observatory to ensure a systematic and sustainable repository of data on the main focal areas of the ACS including Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and Climate Change, Sustainable Tourism, Trade and Transport
Status	Approved in 2021 during the 36 th Meeting of the Special Committee on Trade and External Economic Relations (2021)
Budget (US dollars)	\$125,840

DIRECTORATE FOR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT

Thematic area: Tourism

PCD 1

Name	Revitalization of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean (STZC)
Description	To boost the competitiveness of tourism destinations in ACS Member States and Associate Members. The programme will incorporate an audit and validation system based on the Indicators and Criteria of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean (STZC). In addition, the project aims to provide support to countries in the region to increase the adoption and use of STZC indicators and tools. The project will also strengthen national tourism product development efforts and stimulate the flow of responsible visitors to destinations in the Greater Caribbean. The STZC aims to standardise a regional Sustainable Tourism Audit (STA) process and help mainstream the concept of destination sustainability as a practical, relevant and cost-effective reality for countries in the region.
Status	Approved in 2021 during the 32 nd Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism
Budget (US dollars)	\$1,372,124

PCD 2

Name	<i>Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Greater Caribbean (Consultancy)</i>
Description	Design a comprehensive and integrated system for the understanding, planning and expansion of sustainable tourism as the main driver of economic development in the Wider Caribbean.
Status	Approved in 2021 during the 32 nd Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism
Budget (US dollars)	\$504,105

DIRECTORATE FOR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMNT Thematic area: Transport, Trade, Sustainable Tourism

PCD 1

Name	<i>Digitalization of the Greater Caribbean</i>
Description	To modernize and increase opportunities with great growth potential in the transportation, trade and sustainable tourism sectors in the Greater Caribbean in order to improve economic competitiveness, development and inclusive growth.
Status	<p>The PCD "Digitization of the Greater Caribbean" is the unification of three Project Concept Document approved by the Special Committees on Transportation, Sustainable Tourism, Trade Development and External Economic Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved by the XXX1st Meeting of the Special Committee on Transportation (year 2022). - Approved by the XXXVIIInd Meeting of the Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations (year 2022). - Approved by the XXXIII Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism (year 2022).
Budget (US dollars)	\$25.000.000

DIRECTORATE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Thematic area: Disaster Risk Reduction

PCD 1

Name	<i>Geospatial Information System of the Greater Caribbean for disaster prevention (GIS-GC).</i>
Description	To provide the countries of the Greater Caribbean with a geospatial information platform that integrates and upgrades existing data and layers, in order to increase the capacity for prevention and response to disasters caused by natural phenomena to improve public policy planning and decision-making through comprehensive risk management.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 30 th Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
Budget (US dollars)	\$7,000,000

PCD 2

Name	<i>Strengthening capacities for Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean region (MH-EWS).</i>
Description	Increase access to multi-hazard early warning systems across the Greater Caribbean through the installation of 150 Multi-Alert Diffusion Towers and the strengthening of community capacities to use these systems, in order to increase local disaster preparedness and response.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 30 th Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
Budget (US dollars)	\$10,000,000

PCD 3

Name	<i>The Greater Caribbean Bridges to Inclusion (GC BTI).</i>
Description	GC BTI will establish training centres in all 25 Member States and 10 Associate Members that will provide free training to underserved populations on the areas of skilled trades to gain necessary skills to support infrastructure build, disaster recovery, and tourism growth.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 30 th Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
Budget (US dollars)	\$16,635,000

DIRECTORATE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Thematic area: Caribbean Sea Commission

PCD 1

Name	<i>Update of Report to Declare the Caribbean Sea a "Special Zone" in the Context of Sustainable Development (Consultancy)</i>
Description	Update the 2014 Consultancy Report, incorporating the implications (legal, financial, economic, environmental - with emphasis on climate change-, social and cultural, etc.) of designating the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone in the -context of sustainable development, as well as identifying parameters that exist in international conventions related to the procedure for the conceptual definition and drafting a proposal for the definition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone in the context of sustainable development, establishing measurable measures for its implementation. This analysis will be in line with Resolution (A/RES/75/214) <i>"Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"</i>
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 22 nd Meeting of the Special Committee of the Caribbean Sea Commission
Budget (US dollars)	\$2.000.000

PCD 2

Name	<i>Impact of climate change on the sandy shorelines of the Caribbean. Alternatives for its control and resilience II.</i>
Description	To contribute to the definition and application of best practices for the preservation and rehabilitation of beaches in the face of the effects of climate change. Based on the results achieved in the current sandy Shorelines project, it is anticipated that all the ACS member countries will be incorporated, expanding the erosion monitoring network in the region.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 22 nd Meeting of the Special Committee of the Caribbean Sea Commission
Budget (US dollars)	\$4,000,000

PCD 3

Name	<i>Resilient and low carbon tourism in the Greater Caribbean</i>
Description	Increase the climate resilience of attractions and tourism activities in the Greater Caribbean through integrating nature-based solutions and climate innovation using a risk-based approach to development, knowledge transfer, policy development and climate financing.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 22 nd Meeting of the Special Committee of the Caribbean Sea Commission
Budget (US dollars)	\$15.000.000

PCD 4

Name	<i>Mitigating the effects of climate change on Caribbean coral reefs: cultivation and propagation of stony corals and black hedgehogs for coral reef restoration</i>
Description	To create the basis in Caribbean countries for intensive cultivation of stony corals and black hedgehogs to restore reef sites as an alternative to mitigate the effects of climate change.
Status	Approved in 2022 by the 22 nd Meeting of the Special Committee of the Caribbean Sea Commission
Budget (US dollars)	\$6,100,000

ACS ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES



SEPTEMBER, 2022

COORDINATING CARIBBEAN COOPERATION

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PRESENTATION OF THE ACS

In a region characterized by hosting different intergovernmental and multilateral entities, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), with 28 years of existence, is positioned as a unique creation, conceived to enable a space for exchange and dialogue oriented towards practical and complementary cooperation among its members, twenty-five (25) Member States and ten (10) Associate States, on five issues that are handled more effectively and with greater impact at the regional level:

- i. the protection and preservation of the Caribbean Sea, through the recognition of the latter as a Special Zone, and concrete actions to ensure environmental integrity and adaptation to climate change in the Region;
- ii. disaster risk reduction;
- iii. sustainable tourism;
- iv. transportation; and
- v. trade and economic relations.

Conceiving the region as the Greater Caribbean gives the ACS the capacity to innovate common solutions and platforms, inclusive of digital alternatives, to address the issues that arise from the five (5) priorities mentioned above. This is because each and every one of the aforementioned focal areas are interrelated and

require comprehensive interventions in which all countries of the Greater Caribbean participate as a whole.

Along these lines, the ACS offers a crucial platform for the development of the Greater Caribbean, by not only uniting countries and territories linked by the Caribbean Sea, but also by rescuing the best practices and visions that the actors have to offer in a complementary and non-competitive manner. It is in this way that the ACS was able to materialize, through its Membership, the construction of an Action Plan for 2022-2028, which not only outlines the route to follow in the activation of technical cooperation in the five (5) focal areas of the ACS, but also ensures the comprehensiveness of other cross-cutting issues such as the attention to the most vulnerable, digitization, and technology.

Its inception dates back to an initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) following the recommendation of the '92 West Indian Commission Report, "Time for Action", whereby the countries of the Community decided to expand their economic and commercial spaces to reach out to countries with a common denominator, the Caribbean Sea. Thus, the ACS is the only one in the region that brings together a wide range of English-, Spanish-, French- and Dutch-speaking countries and territories, but also sub-regions, with international legal personality (CARICOM - Treaty of Chaguaramas) and three other groups specially configured to give it a very particular identity within the Association, the Central American Group (Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua); the Group of 3 (Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela) and the Non-Grouped (Cuba, Panama and the Dominican Republic). All derive their shared identity from the Caribbean Sea.

The convening power of the ACS is harnessed to provide a high-level space in which politics and

science can dialogue on the common theme of the Caribbean Sea and the tangible and intangible human endeavors that depend on it. Consequently, as envisioned by CARICOM, the ACS mission is green and blue: the imperative to ensure sustainability through coordinated, south/south and triangular cooperation.

Its Convention clearly establishes its main functions and purposes: i) consultation, ii) cooperation and iii) concerted action, in pursuit of the sustained development of the Greater Caribbean in the cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological fields (Article 3); as well as the development of the potential of the Caribbean Sea and the promotion of an expanded economic space for trade and investment that offer opportunities for cooperation and concerted action.

The ACS intimately encompasses within its operational space a subgroup of Founding Members and Observer Organizations which, like the ACS itself, give viability to the various multilateral cooperation efforts of the Region: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Integration System (SICA), Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Economic Commission for the Caribbean and Latin America (ECLAC) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), with special attention, according to the Summit mandate, to the coordination between the ACS, CARICOM and SICA. By convening meetings of the Secretariats of these entities (the Inter-Secretariat Meetings), the ACS seeks to coordinate the cooperation efforts of these entities to achieve greater synergy, thus avoiding the duplication of efforts. The ACS, therefore, constitutes itself as *the secretariat of the secretariats* at the service of its Membership with the capacity to multiply the number and

impact of development interventions of the development partners working with it.

The ACS has 29 Observer countries, 6 observer organizations and 16 social actors, and are the privileged development partners with whom the Association is in constant dialogue for the aim of jointly developing development interventions.

Within the governance of the institution, there are two (2) permanent organs (art. 7): 1) the Ministerial Council and 2) the Secretariat. Regarding the first, the Ministerial Council is the main policy-making and guiding body of the Association, in the context of the purposes and functions (art. 8). Among its functions are (Art. 9): i) determining ACS actions, policies and programs, ii) analyzing and adopting the ACS Work Program, among others.

The main function of the Special Committees is to assist the Ministerial Council in promoting practical cooperation actions, composed in accordance to the requests of the Member States or Associate Members that so desire (art. 5, 6 and 7 of Agreement 7/95). Among the functions of the Special Committees are to propose, submit, follow up and evaluate the annual Work Programme, among other activities (art. 8 of Agreement 7/95).

These organs are ultimately guided by the Summit of Heads of State and/or Government that constitutes the ACS Membership, which takes place every three (3) years to review and reaffirm policy, identify priorities for cooperation and, as necessary, define the principles and practices that underpin ACS cooperation.

The ACS institutional and process trajectory towards the IX ACS Summit and events such as the VII International Cooperation Conference in Havana, Cuba, and the ACS Business Forum, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala in 2023, have

been mapped out to ensure that the Summit showcases:

- i. the renewed focus of the ACS on overcoming regional challenges through tangible cooperation activities at the macro regional level in the Greater Caribbean, following the priority areas set out in the 2022-2028 Action Plan; and
- ii. the efforts being made at the Secretariat level to best equip itself at the policy, governance and process levels to attract and coordinate the implementation of cooperation

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS

Since the adoption of the Plan of Action 2022-28 by the XXVII Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council in May 2022, and under the Pro Tempore Presidency (PTP) of Guatemala, the ACS is focused on highlighting the Implementation Plan and sharing it with the different stakeholders during the VI International Cooperation Conference in Havana, Cuba on November 10-11, 2022. The Implementation Plan should be approved at the VI Special Meeting of the ACS Ministerial Council to be held on September 21, 2022 in New York, followed by the IX Summit of ACS Heads of State and/or Government to be held on May 9 and 12, 2023 respectively in Antigua, Guatemala.

In this regard, seeking to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action in the context of the institutional framework of the ACS, the Secretary General is holding meetings with his counterparts from the founding organizations of the ACS, namely the different Secretary General of CARICOM, SICA and SIECA, in order to identify joint actions to generate complementarity between the Agendas, which in turn will avoid duplication of efforts and, above all, give added value to the very nature of each

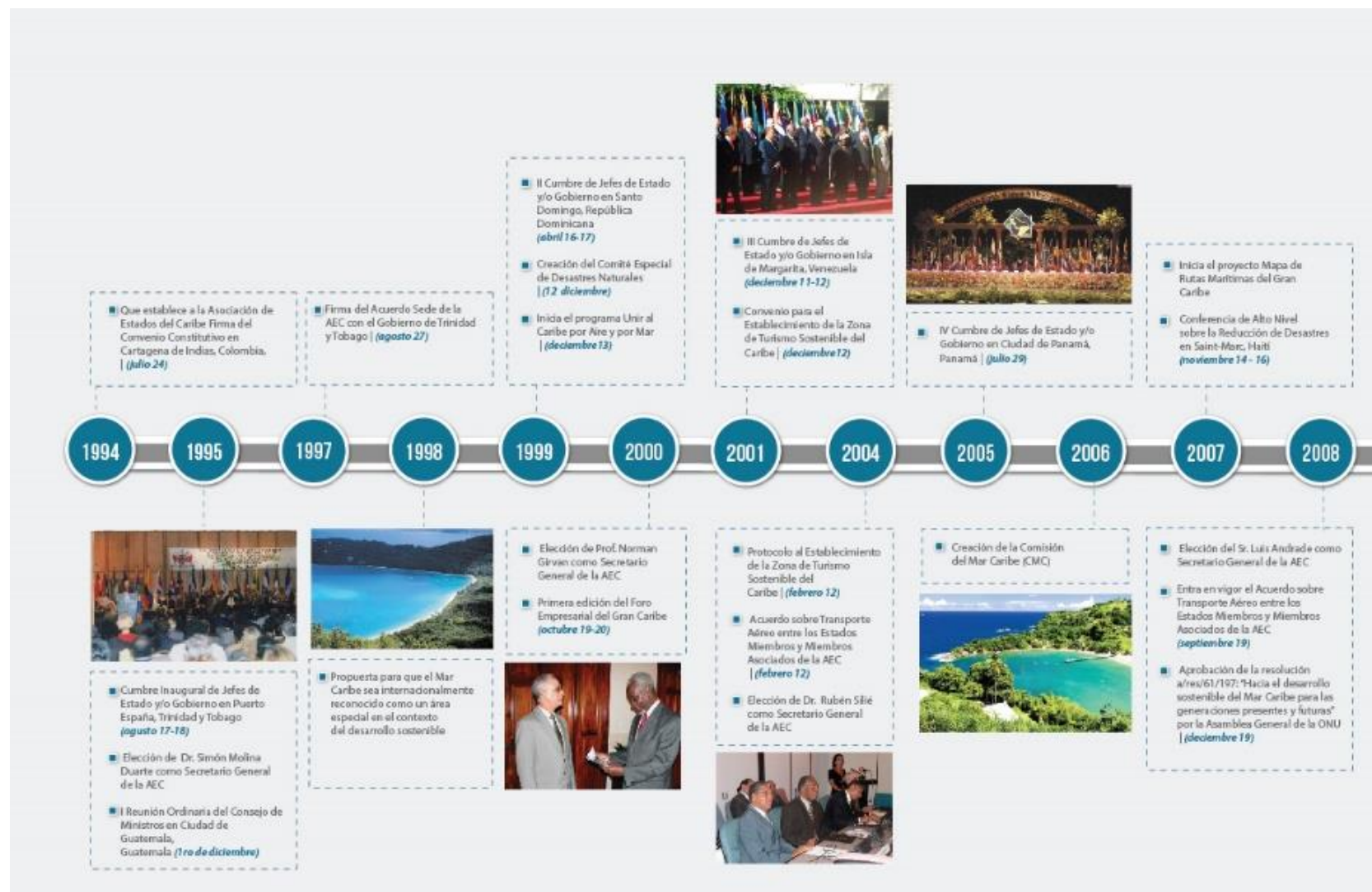
sub-region and the differentiation that the Greater Caribbean region represents.

Likewise, for the last quarter of the year, the Secretary General is developing an active agenda of meetings to mobilize fresh financial resources; bi-lateral, with Regional and Multilateral Agencies and Banks, including a visit to Brussels to talk with Senior Officials of the European Union, in the search for new alliances that will enable the development of the priorities established in the Implementation Plan approved by the Ministerial Council and the Work Programme.

It has also established a strategic approach with other important players in the development equation for Public Private Partnerships (PPP): countries, private sector, and the chambers organized within the sectors, all of which allow in the medium and long term to impose a new approach on the issues that fall within the competence of the private sector, which will bring benefits in the areas of trade, transportation and sustainable tourism to all the Membership, areas negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenges facing the Greater Caribbean region (see Annex 1 - Project Portfolio).

Finally, in order to facilitate an increasingly dynamic, sustainable and relevant International Cooperation, the Secretary General works closely with the current and successive PPT in communicating the vision and needs so that Member States and Associate Members activate their bilateral and sub-regional diplomatic channels of cooperation to jointly advance in attracting cooperation in the service of the Greater Caribbean as a whole.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE ACS





- Puesta en marcha del proyecto Fortalecimiento de las Operaciones y Servicios Hidrometeorológicos en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo del Caribe



- V Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y/o Gobierno, Pétion Ville, Haití (abril 26)
- Entrada en vigor de la Convención que Establece la Zona de Turismo Sostenible del Caribe (durante la presidencia temporal de México, noviembre 6)

- La CMC organiza simposio regional: Retos, Diálogo y Cooperación hacia la Sostenibilidad del Mar Caribe (CMC), contó con la participación de 18 países
- 36 estudiantes de tres países participaron en un programa intensivo del idioma francés y cultura de Guadalupe



- Elección de la primera mujer Secretaria General de la AEC, Dra. June Soomer
- VII Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y/o Gobierno en La Habana, Cuba (junio 4) en donde se aprueba la revitalización de la Asociación
- Bielorrusia, Bolivia y Uruguay se convierten en Observadores de la AEC



- Se aprueba la reestructuración de la Secretaría en la XXIII Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo de Ministros en la Isla de Margarita, Venezuela
- Las Islas Virgenes Británicas se convierten el X Miembro Asociado



- Elección de Ing. Rodolfo Sabonge como Secretario General de la AEC

2010

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

- Elección del Dr. Alfonso Múnera como Secretario General de la AEC
- Diálogo para identificar las oportunidades de comercio entre los Estados Miembros de la región del Gran Caribe (julio 11-12)



- Entrada en vigencia del Acuerdo Regional de Cooperación en Desastres Naturales (31 de marzo, este acuerdo fue promovido por México durante su presidencia del Consejo de Ministros en 2013)
- VI Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y/o Gobierno en Mérida, México (abril 30)
- La AEC facilita reunión entre delegaciones de Guyana y Venezuela para discutir mecanismos para destinado a la eventual delimitación marítima entre los dos países.



- Grupo de Trabajo sobre propuestas y recomendaciones concretas para la revitalización
- Inicia el Proyecto de Erosión Costera con USD 4 Millones
- Palestina, Japón y Los Emiratos Arabes Unidos (EAU) se convierten en Observadores de la AEC



- VII Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y/o Gobierno en Managua, Nicaragua (marzo 29)

