

**APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC  
RELATIONS OF THE ACS 2011-2013**

**XXVI MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS  
JUNE 23 AND 24 2011, CITY OF PANAMA, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA**

**This Work Programme was submitted by the Chair of the Special Committee on Trade, the Republic of Panama**

## **I. FOCAL POINT OF THE AGENDA:**

The Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations fosters cooperation and integration through the joint efforts of Member States and Associate Members of the ACS, the construction and consolidation of an enhanced economic space for trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean. In this regard, the Committee's Work Plan for the period 2011-2013 is based on the following four focal points:

- 1. Actions to further promote trade convergence and greater participation of ACS members, with special emphasis on the small economies of the Greater Caribbean.**
- 2. Develop actions to consolidate a logistics and multimodal platform, to promote the development and expansion of trade and investment, its facilitation, competitiveness and connectivity among the countries of the ACS Region.**
- 3. Integrate the ACS Region with other regional initiatives relating to the Business Convergence.**
- 4. Promote and encourage International Trade negotiations and training on Trade Issues.**

## **II. SPECIFIC GOALS BY AREA:**

### **3.2 TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

#### **3.2.1. Gradual Reduction and Elimination of Barriers to Trade and Investment in the Greater Caribbean.**

Promote initiatives and activities aimed at reducing obstacles to trade in the region (E-Regulations, Expedited Visas, Simplification of import procedures, establishment of e-consultation system for accessing information and import requirements).

#### **3.2.2. Promote and facilitate the Special and Differential Treatment for Small Economies in the Greater Caribbean.**

Promote convergence and intensifying trade through unilateral tariff concessions to the lesser developed islands of the Greater Caribbean.

#### **3.2.3 Promote and encourage trade relations in the Greater Caribbean and develop initiatives to integrate the ACS Region into other regional initiatives for trade convergence and infrastructure.**

Boost trade relations in the region, through forums in which the business community can explore new business opportunities (MSMEs Forum of the Greater Caribbean, Business Forum of the Caribbean). Also, identify appropriate ways of integrating the ACS Region in activities taking place in other for a in order to build spaces for commercial convergence and infrastructure.

#### **3.2.4. Promote and encourage international trade negotiations and training on trade issues.**

Strengthen trade capacities in negotiation, management and dispute resolution matters in regional agreements in the region through training sessions offered with the support of WTO, IDB, ACWL.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
3.2.1. Gradual Reduction and Elimination of Obstacles to Trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean.	3.2.1.1.	Standardize and harmonize procedures and documentation requirements for customs and facilitation of customs procedures for members.	<p>a. Promote technical meetings between customs and other competent authorities to:</p> <p>i. Sign agreements to simplify import procedures.</p> <p>ii. Make a list and consolidate requirements and needs of cooperation to transfer customs capacities of the member countries and ASC associated members.</p>	2011 2013	SCTD + DT	<p>a) Negotiation and signing by the ACS members of an agreement for simplification of customs procedures and other requirements for imports in the ACS region.</p> <p>b) Signing by the ACS members of an agreement for the commencement of information sharing on customs procedures through the electronic transmission of data including topics such as digital certification of origin.</p>
	3.2.1.2	b. Digitization and electronic transmission of custom procedures between Member States authorities.	Negotiate with cooperating bodies and organizations the requirements and cooperation needs, to transfer customs capacities of the member countries and the ACS associated members.			

<b>Program Areas and Goals</b>	<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Person and / or Resources Needed</b>	<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.1.3.	Expedited Visas to business persons of the Greater Caribbean.	<p>a. Meeting between migration authorities to identify actions to facilitate procedures of expedited visas for the temporary entrance of business visitors from the Greater Caribbean.</p> <p>b. That all of the members provide visa information by September 2011 at the latest for the purpose of preparing at the latest by November 2011 a summary of migratory provisions for ACS members to obtain a business visa.</p>	2011-2013	SCTD + DT	<p>a) Facilitate the procedures for visa issuance for businesspersons.</p> <p>b) To promote the creation of a special visa for businesspersons in the Greater Caribbean.</p>

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
			<p>c. Send this summary of information to Embassies, Consulates, Chambers and Associations to be updated as soon as there is a change so that there will always be trustworthy information available to the businesspersons. This summary will be published on the ASC webpage.</p>			

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.1.4.	Propose the opening of <i>E-Regulation Programmes</i> within the ACS countries to promote transparency and efficiency in a timely manner for the formalities related to business.	a. To urge ACS member countries to incorporate in their transparency agenda the news of E-regulations programs (offered by the UNCTAD to promote transparency and accelerate business procedures and paper work.	2011-2013	SCTD + DT + UNCTAD	a) To install in the greatest possible number of countries an E-regulation program by the end of February 2013 at the latest.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
3.2.2 Promote and facilitate the Special and Differential Treatment for Small Economies in the Greater Caribbean	3.2.2.1.	Promote the deepening of trade through unilateral concessions.	<p>a. To entrust the ACS Secretariat through the Trade Directorate, to request the collaboration of the ECLAC for the analysis (mapping) of the real and potential flow of trade in the ACS member countries and associate members and to propose a plan for the concession of preferential tariffs among these countries.</p> <p>b. The ACS member countries and associate members will present through the ACS Secretariat, their requests for tariffs concessions by means of lists of products (at the level of tariff subgroups), by country, by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 at the latest.</p> <p>a.</p>	2011-2013		a. Unilateral granting of tariff preferences for ACS member countries and associate members as soon as the internal procedures of each country allow it.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
			<p>c. In the case of Haiti, special attention will be given to requests for tariff concessions submitted by the Republic of Haiti.</p> <p>d. As a result of the activities mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, work will be done on identifying the parameters to define plans for the granting of unilateral preferential tariffs.</p>	2011 2013		

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.2.2.	Promote multi-modal facilities in the ACS.	a. Promote the reaching of <u>Trade Agreements on Technical Cooperation</u> between operators in the maritime industry, port and Free Zones of the ACS countries. It is also hoped that the industry recommends to the authorities actions to improve the way the integration of multimodal transport service is organized, especially the development of facilities for regional distribution of maritime services and auxiliary services related to the industry.	2011 2013	SCTD + DT	That the ACS Member States could make their exportable offers reach member countries and the rest of the world with lower transport costs in the shortest time.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
			b. Study the possibility of creating an entity called <b>TransACS - Logistic</b> to serve as liaison between island private sector exporters and shipping lines that offer their services in the Caribbean, as well as those companies that provide specialized cargo services (shipping, insurance, banking, refrigeration among others).	2011 2013		
3.2.3. Promote and enhance trade relations in the Greater Caribbean	3.2.3.1.	Greater Caribbean Business Forum (large companies)	Conduct two (2) business forums for the interaction of the business community and promote business. The first of which will be held in Panama.	2011 2013	SCTD + DT	Expand and strengthen trade relations within the ACS, recognizing the need to promote a more entrepreneurial culture in the Greater Caribbean, contributing to increased trade among its Member States and Associate Members, generating more interest.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.3.2.	Trade Transparency Forum	<p>a. To conduct meetings for dialogue between members institutions of the ACS, in order to achieve procedures for access to information on: technical regulations, certification, and information on sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for imports, among others.</p> <p>b. Consolidate sources of information on technical regulations, certifications and information on sanitary and phyto-sanitary import requirements, standards, and procedures to ensure food safety and entry control systems in place in ACS countries and points of contact.</p>	2011 2013	SCTD + DT + IDB	Increased cooperation and transparency between the members of the ACS to facilitate trade.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.3.3.	Meeting of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Greater Caribbean	a. With the participation of MSMEs, hold a seminar in which expert entities on the subject of MSMEs, present the importance of the sector and opportunities for development in the ACS.	2011 2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Raise awareness about the role of MSMEs for economic and social development in the region.</li> <li>b) Raise awareness of the banks and government support and other resources that exist in the region for the opening, development and consolidation of MSMEs.</li> <li>c) To promote entrepreneurship and business development in the region.</li> </ul>
	3.2.3.4.	Meeting between maritime authorities and shipping companies serving the Caribbean	Conduct a seminar between Maritime Authorities of the ACS Members and the local Shipping Authorities of the Greater Caribbean to share knowledge and to create links to ensure greater port efficiency.	2011 2013		Improve ports connectivity to facilitate import and export networks among members of the ACS.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
	3.2.3.5.	Participation of ACS Region in the activities taking place in other initiatives related to trade integration matters.	<p>a. Identify appropriate ways of integrating the ACS Region in the activities taking place at other forums to build commercial spaces and infrastructure convergence.</p> <p>b. To request international organizations to consider the ACS region in initiatives that promote regional convergence schemes and regional projects of infrastructure development</p>	2011 2013	ADC-IDB	Incorporate the ACS Region into existing initiatives that promote regional convergence schemes and regional projects of infrastructure development, to avoid gaps in regional competitiveness.

Program Areas and Goals	Activity No.	PROJECT	ACTIVITY	Duration	Person and / or Resources Needed	EXPECTED RESULTS
3.2.4. <b>Promote and encourage international trade relations and training on trade issues.</b>	3.2.4.1.	Promote trade convergence by strengthening capacity in trade negotiations, taking into account the commercial characteristics of the members of the ACS, with a focus on those insular member islands.	Consolidate the offers of regional cooperation for the strengthening of the institutional capacities of countries in negotiation, implementation, and dispute resolution matters from existing commercial instruments.	2011 2013	SCTD + DT+ACWL	Strengthening the Institutional capacities of ACS countries on trade negotiations, administration and dispute resolution

<b>ACS Meetings: Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations</b>					
3.2.5 <b>Coordination of work of the Special Committee on Trade and External Economic Relations.</b>	.	Hold two (2) annual meetings of the Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations	2011 2013	SCTD + DT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation of initiatives and obtaining approval of the activities and work plan proposed by the Chair of the Special Committee.</li> <li>2. Monitoring the implementation of the Work Plan and conduct meetings.</li> </ol>

**NOMENCLATURE:**

**DT** (Director of Trade)  
**SCTD** (Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations)  
**ACWL** (Advisory Centre on WTO Affairs)  
**IDB** (Inter-American Development Bank)  
**UNCTAD** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)  
**ADC** (Andean Development Corporation)

**Numerical Key:**

The first two digits (3.2) indicate the area: Trade Development and External Economic Relations.

The third digit indicates the number of the Programme.

The fourth digit indicates the number of the project within the programme.

**In regard to 3.2.5 this refers exclusively to the Special Committee Meeting on Trade Development and External Relations**

**Example: Code 3.2.2.4 refers to:**

- 3.2- Trade and Development and External Economic Relations.**
- 2 – The number of the Programme.**
- 4 – The number of the project within the Programme.**