

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CHAIR OF THE ACS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

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

PROGRAMME OF WORK GUATEMALA'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATE (ACS) 2022-2023

Guatemala's candidacy

Guatemala taking in to account its commitment towards multilateralism, as one of the main priorities of its Foreign Policy, and focusing on working towards being the most modern, influent and transparent Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ibero-America, prioritizes diplomacy focused on development which binds it to its Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Association of Caribbean States 2022-2023.

Objective:

To lead the ACS along with its Members, seeking the strengthening and integration of the countries within the area of the Caribbean Sea. To increase the actions that will help to contribute to the primary challenges of the region in an integral and sustainable matter, after the recovery of the pandemic caused by Covid-19.

Work guidelines:

Guatemala will promote work on economic and social development through international cooperation and achieve post-pandemic reactivation of the countries, attract international investment and encourage its development based on a green agenda to counteract climate change, establishing open and transparent communication channels, with the purpose of working together to make this important organization more active and have a strategic vision in favor of its Member States and their populations. Based on 4 strategic pillars of action:

- Increase multidimensional cooperation;
- Strengthen a regional green agenda;
- Economic reactivation through the attraction of investment and development;
- Tackle the migratory cycle from a development perspective.

Cross cutting issues:

- Implementation of the Plan of Action 2022-2028.
- Develop actions originated from the 4 pillars of action, with the Presidencies of the Special Committees, such as:
 - Strengthen the cultural bonds between the countries of the Association. Exchange of diplomats within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States.
 - Extend cooperation towards programs of investment and human mobility.
 - Extend connectivity, particularly maritime, aerial or terrestrial transportation. Taking into account multimodal transport.
 - Promote the creation of a regional Green agenda, prioritizing the fight towards climate change y the protection of the Caribbean Sea.
 - Create networks of sustainable tourism.
 - **Institutional strengthening of the ACS:**
 - ✓ Through the Special Committee of Budget and Administration there will be follow up of the pending agreements of the Personnel Manual of the ACS, which includes a Pension Fund, as well as the results of the management audit. The whole membership will evaluate the proposals that generate consensus.

Benefits:

We will contribute in the fulfillment of the 5th strategic pillar: “Relations with the World” of the General Government Policy 2020-2024 of Doctor Alejandro Giammattei Falla, President of the Republic of Guatemala, to ensure the enhancement of international relations and the strengthen hemispheric diplomatic relations, for the following:

- The promotion of international cooperation to jointly address, through multilateralism, the global issues of greatest concern to the region, such as the effects of climate change and irregular migration.
- The positioning of Guatemala as a leading country that seeks the wellbeing of the States and of their people, identifying national and regional priorities and placing them in the primary work agenda.
- Progress towards the implementation and fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goal 17 on: revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, understanding that in order to achieve the 2030 Goals, it is essential to create strategic alliances.
- To promotion of Guatemala as a touristic destination, especially in this juncture generated by Covid-19, through the high authorities and delegations of the ACS Member States participating in the various activities through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their delegations, as well as the observer countries and organizations attending.