

# **ACS COP27 DECLARATION**

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**25<sup>th</sup> INTERSESSIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY  
MEETING OF THE ACS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

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

(Virtual Meeting)

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

**Key:**

Colombia- green

Cuba- blue

Honduras- purple

Jamaica- red

**Joint statement of the Member States of the Association of Caribbean States ahead of the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27)**

**We, the Member States of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), within the framework of the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC to be held 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of November in Sham El-Sheikh, Egypt:**

**Reiterate** that climate change is one of the greatest threats in the Greater Caribbean Countries, leading to a wide range of negative environmental and socio-economic impacts can **lead to** increased migration, economic decline, food insecurity, **loss of biodiversity**, threatened ecosystems and environmental fragility, all requiring a global response commensurate with their magnitude, increased frequency and worsening impact;

**Express our concern** that the persistent drought and extreme weather events affecting the region more and more frequently, soil degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, rise of the average sea level, coastal erosion, and ocean acidification, pollution in general, **in particular plastic pollution in the marine environment**, as well as emission of greenhouse gases, aspects that demand the urgent strengthening of global and regional multilateralism to **strengthen**, formulate and support the implementation of regional initiatives to jointly address these issues. Amongst holistic solutions supported by the ACS **are the promotion of proposals towards the designation** of the Caribbean Sea as a special **zone** in the context of sustainable development; **as well as** the elaboration of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of ocean/marine resources; joint mobilisation of resources, capacity building, digitalization, and related technology transfer and structured mobilisation of the widest possible stakeholder base in support of all interventions, including the Private Sector, the **Academy** and Civil Society;

**Welcome** the progress made by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change including the decisions agreed upon at [COP-27], vigilant of critical thresholds of global warming that must not be reached and reiterate that the

developed countries have a historical responsibility as the main **contributors to global emissions** [causes of climate change] and must comply with their commitment to allocate \$100 billion annually [to contribute to the implementation of actions in developing countries in the area of](#) mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; as well as guaranteeing the provision of [new, additional, innovative, effective and easily accessible](#) financial resources for the new climate finance goal [that does not compromise the levels of indebtedness and limited fiscal space of developing countries](#) in a manner that would facilitate technology transfer and capacity building so that the Greater Caribbean Region, considered one of the most vulnerable on the planet, can survive the most adverse effects of the triple [environmental](#) crisis;

**Recognize** the importance of establishing a financial mechanism for loss and damage, which will enable the most vulnerable countries to cope with the consequences of climate change, including the intensification of extreme meteorological phenomena;

**Agree** to continue progress towards urgent concerted action in the face of global climate change in order to place the Greater Caribbean at the forefront of international efforts to limit global warming to 1.5° C [and for greater climate resilience of our ecosystems](#), in accordance with the Rio Conventions and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

**Reaffirm** the validity and relevance of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

**Urge** Governments, United Nations Agencies, and Intergovernmental Organizations to pursue collaborative action aimed at achieving the universal ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and its full implementation for the purpose of reducing negative effects on the environment and particularly on Small Island Developing States and countries recognized as highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

**Support** the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and its vision of achieving “the science we need for the ocean we want”;

**Resolve to** advance coordination and efforts to address climate-forced displacement and migration through programs such as the Greater Caribbean

Climate Mobility Initiative (GCCMI) which will use a people-centred and evidence-based approach to promote a common policy agenda and resources to comprehensively address climate mobility through enhanced knowledge, political will and information sharing;

**Commit to** advance the efforts made to address coastal erosion due to climate change, **amongst other factors**, through the implementation of the Sandy Shorelines Project which aims to bring together coastal erosion experts of the region and establish a regional monitoring network of coastal erosion to provide Caribbean Countries to better understand the impacts of climate change on coastlines and advocate for international funding due to the Caribbean's high vulnerability due to sea level rise. This will enable Caribbean Countries to contribute to the definition and application of best practices for the preservation and rehabilitation of beaches and coastal infrastructure in the face of the effects of climate change in the Caribbean region;

**Resolve to** exchange experiences and data to strengthen the use of Geographic Information Systems in order to reduce vulnerability through risk analysis that facilitates decision making as it relates to planning for, inter alia, infrastructure, public works, housing and agriculture;

**Further resolve to** contribute to the better management of the increasing impacts of Sargassum in the Greater Caribbean region as another of the effects of climate change. This will be done through consultation with technical experts and organisations with the expressed commitment to seriously address the ecological, social and economic impacts of Sargassum while assessing potential innovative and nature-based solutions;

**Call for** strengthened capacities for multi-hazard early warning service delivery in the Greater Caribbean region through the strengthening of governance mechanisms, risk knowledge, technical monitoring and warning services, communication and dissemination of warnings as well as community response capability, towards the development of people-centered, end-to-end, impact-based early warning systems which can contribute to a sustainable and equitable future for all;

**Agree to mobilise** the full infrastructure of the ACS to **strengthen** capacity-building in Member States and Associate Members so as to contribute to their resilience, disaster prevention, relief and mitigation efforts and thereby enhance disaster risk reduction in the Greater Caribbean Region;

**Express commitment to** the promotion of proposals towards the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone in the context of sustainable development taking into account the implications that this entails;

**Call for** joint efforts to develop and promote **actions** aimed at 1) strengthening compliance with the international framework that regulates oceans; 2) reducing pressure on oceans and seas by creating enabling conditions for the compliance with SDG 14 [sustainable blue economy] and 3) strengthening applied research and international data on oceans to improve decision making;

**Welcome** the political will and commitment demonstrated by some developed States that have doubled their contribution to the Green Climate Fund; and **again urge** developed States to continue taking the lead with regard to more ambitious mitigation and adaptation commitments; the provision of resources and transfer of technology, infrastructure and training to developing States to counteract the effects of climate change and manage the loss and damage caused by developed countries as the largest emitters, **recognizing common but differentiated responsibilities** and **the need for** access to **new, additional and** effective **financial resources**;

**Recognise** the formulation and implementation of public environmental policies and resource management through the **execution** of sustainable and inclusive projects intended for the mitigation, adaptation, as well as loss and damage caused by climate change **to** enhance the resilience of States. **This includes** through the development of regional projects, which allow access to global financing mechanisms;

**Invite** the ACS to work to secure international cooperation and resources to contribute towards the execution of projects that would allow for climate change adaptation and mitigation.