



TWENTY-EIGHTH INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

DECISIONS



CHAIRMAN:

**H.E. Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger
PRESIDENT**

GUYANA

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Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
Turkeyen
P.O. Box 10827
Georgetown
Guyana

Tel: (592) 222 0001-0006

Fax: (592) 222 0170/71

E-mail: documentation.centre@caricom.org

URL: <http://www.caricom.org>

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DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2017/28/5 REGIONAL SECURITY

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/5 in Caucus;

THE CONFERENCE:

Committed to ensure that Attorneys-General and Ministers responsible for Legal Affairs respond in a timely manner to the Secretariat's efforts to finalise Agreements which are essential to the implementation of the Regional Crime and Security Agenda;

Also committed to taking full advantage of opportunities for capacity building to address existing and emerging threats, provided for in programmes spearheaded by IMPACS and the CARICOM Secretariat, including those related to Cybersecurity and Cybercrime, Crime Prevention, Drug Demand Reduction;

Agreed that IMPACS should negotiate an MOU with the Dominican Republic to facilitate the sharing of information within the context of the CARICOM **Advance Passenger Information System** (APIS) Programme;

Also agreed to other measures that are to be regarded as a sensitive decision pursuant to Rule 27.4 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Conference, and should not be disclosed in Plenary or recorded in the Summary of Recommendations and Conclusions and shall not be made public.

INS/HGC/2017/28/6 STATUS OF THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/6 - Status of the CSME which gave an overview of the comprehensive review of the CSME recently undertaken;

Commending the strides made towards full implementation of the CSME even while ***Cognisant*** that there is still work to be done;

Acknowledging that areas are still being completed and validated in terms of the Review;

Recalling the agreement that there is a need to accelerate implementation of the CSME;

Recognising the importance of Transportation to the CSME;

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Conscious that the concern is to ensure that the CSME is effective and supportive of the goals of its various stakeholders;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed on the following areas for greater attention and determination -

- (i) Critical priority areas necessary for achieving effectiveness of the CSME through, *inter alia*,
 - (a) Completing the free movement of persons regime including -
 - implementation of the facilitating mechanisms at borders and within Member States;
 - finalising the Protocol on Contingent Rights, taking into account the decisions of the Conference at its Thirtieth and Thirty-Third Regular Meetings;
 - determining additional key categories of persons eligible for free movement;
 - removing bottlenecks to movement of managerial, supervisory and technical personnel;
 - (b) Market access for agricultural goods, particularly,
 - regularising the use of SPS not as barriers to trade;
 - (c) Enhancing the environment for businesses and increasing competitive production through, *inter alia*,
 - harmonised legislation and single registration systems;
 - support for production integration;
 - (d) Ensuring the establishment of the enabling macro-economic environment, particularly,
 - finalisation of the Financial Services Agreement;

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- Agreement on Investment Policy and Code and Incentives Regime;
 - the Framework for an Integrated Capital Market;
 - the Regional Deposit Insurance System and Regional Credit Information Sharing;
- (ii) Requirements for engendering greater responsiveness to and use of the CSME by both Member States and the private sector -
- (a) strengthening public awareness;
 - (b) addressing capacity and resource constraints in Member States;
 - (c) greater engagement with the private sector;
- (iii) The roles of the Organs of the Community in giving effect to the CSME including:
- (a) consideration of other configurations for arriving at the decisions necessary to take the CSME forward;
 - (b) establishment of effective consultative mechanisms;

Also agreed that –

- (i) Member States will submit comments on the review to date, by 31 March 2017 including challenges faced with implementation; the steps that would need to be taken relating to the implementation of each mandate; and the possible timeframe within which these could be met;
- (ii) the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the COTED scheduled for 11-12 May 2017, will consider the Implementation Plan with a view to making recommendations for the consideration of the Conference;

Further agreed that after consultations with key stakeholders on the CSME, including impact and strategies for implementation, further consideration will be given to -

- (i) the optimising of the effectiveness of the CSME including the sectors of transportation, agriculture, and services which latter had been identified as key for driving growth in our economies;

DECISIONS

- (ii) the enhancement of the enabling macro-economic environment by adopting strategies which address debt reduction, fiscal sustainability, investment promotion and export development to be elaborated by the Commission on the Economy;

Mandated that –

- (i) the Organs and Bodies of the Community, particularly the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) and the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) meet to consider and conclude on the many outstanding issues that are stymieing the progress required for the Single Economy and ensure that their respective preparatory meetings are held, as required;
- (ii) the Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG) and the COFAP resolve the issue of access to foreign exchange for payments for goods and services particularly for small traders and to address the issue of currency convertibility;
- (iii) the LAC complete its review of the outstanding issues related to the Protocol on the Procedures relating to Refusal of entry of CARICOM Nationals;

Requested Member States to comply with the decision of the Conference to recognise a single Skills Certificate and to conduct verification of documents solely through the competent authorities of the Member States;

Also mandated that the CARICOM Secretariat undertake a quantitative analysis of the impact of the CSME and mobilize the necessary resources for that purpose.

INS/HGC/2017/28/7

TRADE IN HONEY

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/7,

Having received the concerns expressed by the Rt Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada,

Noting the COTED decisions on measures to be taken by Trinidad and Tobago to allow the trade in honey of Community origin;

Acknowledging further that the Community Council, at its Thirty-Ninth Meeting held on 9 January 2016, endorsed the COTED's decisions to refer the matter to the Conference for resolution;

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Cognisant that Article 78(2) of the Revised Treaty obliges all Member States to eliminate existing restrictions on imports and exports of goods of Community origin, other than those authorised by this Treaty;

Recognising that Article 9 of the Revised Treaty, *inter alia*, provides that Member States shall take all appropriate measures ... to ensure the carrying out of obligations arising out of this Treaty”;

Recognising also that by virtue of the Caribbean Community Act of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago has given effect to the Revised Treaty including Article 9;

Having considered the options available to Trinidad and Tobago to expeditiously allow the trade in honey of Community origin -

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that Trinidad and Tobago shall -

- (i) **immediately** avail itself of the provisions of Section 8 of its Caribbean Community Act and Article 9 of the Revised Treaty set out in the Schedule of that Act and take all possible executive, administrative and other measures to enable it to allow the trade in honey of Community Origin;
- (ii) **complete** the necessary legislative action to allow the trade in honey of Community Origin;
- (iii) **provide** Grenada and the Secretary-General, by 30 June 2017, with the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements as well as the food safety requirements that must be met by a Member State seeking to export honey to, or transship honey through, Trinidad and Tobago.

DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2017/28/8

CORRESPONDENT BANKING

Having noted Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/8 and received a presentation/an update from the Honourable Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda on the De-Risking issue as well as an overview of the CARICOM Strategy and Action Plan to Address the Continuing Loss of Correspondent Banking Services submitted by the Committee of Central Bank Governors;

Acknowledging –

- (i) the several drivers behind the de-risking strategies which include the intersecting/convergence of global standards in respect to financial regulatory reforms and tax competition/transparency as well as basic profitability considerations by correspondent banks given the small volume of transactions emanating from CARICOM States;*
- (ii) the advocacy initiatives that had been pursued and their success in raising international awareness of the consequences of the de-risking challenge thereby accelerating the issuance of advisories to clarify regulatory standards and procedures governing correspondent banking relationships;*
- (iii) the advice that an appropriate lobbyist should be employed to represent the CARICOM Brand and explain the implications of de-risking ...*
- (iv) that there are lessons to be learnt from the recent experience of West Africa in addressing the de-risking issue;*
- (v) the application of de-risking practices by domestic financial institutions which have resulted in the closure of the accounts of certain customers;*
- (vi) that the CDB had focused on supporting the regional advocacy initiatives and in providing assistance to Member States to upgrade and strengthen their Anti-Money Laundering-Counter Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) frameworks. Regarding the latter, the CDB had made a significant contribution to the Stakeholders' Conference which was hosted by the Honourable Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. Also, the CDB is collaborating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to convene a conference which will bring together correspondent banks, CARICOM respondent banks and related regulatory authorities to discuss solutions on 22 February 2017 in Barbados;*

DECISIONS

THE CONFERENCE:

Commended the Honourable Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda for spearheading the Community's advocacy initiatives in respect of de-risking and reiterated the importance of a concerted regional approach to effectively address this ongoing threat;

Reiterated the Community's commitment to achieving compliance with global standards for financial regulatory reform and tax transparency;

Agreed that given the multi-dimensional nature of the drivers influencing the de-risking strategies, the Community would undertake a comprehensive stock-taking exercise to determine Member States' status and ensure that national action plans are aligned with the timetable for compliance with global regulatory standards;

Requested the Committee of Ministers of Finance with responsibility for Correspondent Banking to assume oversight for the roll-out of the Strategy and Action Plan.

INS/HGC/2017/28/9

TOURISM IN THE REGION

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/9 - Tourism in the Region; Attachment to Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/9 - Growth and Development through Tourism – Advancing a Regional Tourism Agenda, prepared by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CTO/CHTA); and INS/HGC/2017/28/9 Add. - Notes prepared by the CARICOM Secretariat on the Brief by the CTO/CHTA;

Noting that the context of the proposals is Advancing a Regional Tourism Agenda particularly through Public /Private Sector Partnerships;

Also noting that the proposals are fully aligned with the tenets of the CARICOM Strategic Plan and are also in furtherance of the Strategic Plan for Tourism Services which is currently being developed;

Acknowledging the importance of transportation and facilitation of travel, human resource development, the creative industries and marketing as well as competitiveness and financing for the sustainability of Tourism in CARICOM;

Also acknowledging the diversity of the tourism product in both island and land based countries;

DECISIONS

Recognising that there exists three regional entities guiding the work in the Tourism Sector – CTO, CHTA and the Caribbean Tourism Development Company (CTDC);

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that public-private sector partnerships guiding the development and marketing of tourism for the Caribbean needed to be more effective;

Requested the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a Tourism Unit/Desk at the Secretariat within the context of reform and as resources become available;

Supported the establishment of an Interim Tourism Working Group comprising representation from CARICOM, CTO and CHTA, with access to Member State officials for information pertinent to their work and with a mandate to -

- (i) **coordinate** with regional public and private sector stakeholder groups, the development of specific solutions which can be advanced in priority areas;
- (ii) **prepare** a pilot region-wide public relations and marketing initiative, including mechanisms for financing by the public and private sectors to drive business to the Caribbean during the 2017/2018 period for presentation to the Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of the Conference;

Also agreed that Eco-Tourism should be given special consideration in the work to be undertaken by the proposed Interim Tourism Working Group;

Further agreed that a Special Meeting of the COTED on Air Transportation to be hosted by St. Vincent and the Grenadines must be convened before the next Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2017;

Agreed that a Special Meeting of the COTED on Tourism should be convened at the earliest opportunity to fully ventilate the issues addressed in the presentation.

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INS/HGC/2017/28/10 **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
(ICT4D)**

INS/HGC/2017/28/10.1 ***Closure of the Caribbean Knowledge and
Learning Network Agency (CKLNA)***

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/10.1;

THE CONFERENCE:

Endorsed the actions taken to effect the closure of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network Agency (CKLNA), in furtherance of the mandate of the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Conference;

Requested Member States that have not yet paid their outstanding contributions to the CKLNA Budget, to do so urgently in order that all commitments are honoured;

Also requested the Technical Working Group (TWG) to meet urgently to determine the way forward and plan a strategy with regard to continued engagement with Cable and Wireless;

Agreed to receive a proposal with respect to C@ribNET services at the next Meeting of the Conference in July 2017.

INS/HGC/2017/28/10.2 ***Roadmap for a Single ICT Space***

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/10.2;

Recalling its mandate for the development of a Roadmap for the CARICOM Single ICT Space for its consideration and also that the Work Plan and Budget would be submitted for consideration at its July 2017 Meeting;

THE CONFERENCE:

Approved the Roadmap for a Single ICT Space.

DECISIONS

**INS/HGC/2017/28/11 MATTERS RELATING TO THE CARIBBEAN
COURT OF JUSTICE (CCJ)**

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/11 in Caucus;

Recalling its Decision No. HGC/2016/37/20 which inter alia mandated the Bureau to make appropriate recommendations to the Conference in respect of the following matters –

- (i) A mechanism to review the proposed Pension Rules for the Judges of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ); and*
- (ii) Replenishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund (CCJTF);*

Acknowledging that the Bureau had been unable to meet to consider this matter prior to the Twenty-Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference;

Taking into consideration the request of the RJLSC through the Lead Head with responsibility for Justice and Governance, for consideration of the inclusion of survivors' benefits in the pension arrangements for Judges of the CCJ, which are currently set out in Appendix II to the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice;

Aware that Article XXVIII.2(c) of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice provides inter alia that "the Commission may, with the approval of the Conference, make regulations to amend Appendix II."

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that where a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice dies -

- (a) in office but would have been entitled to a gratuity or pension had he served as a Judge until reaching the compulsory age of retirement; or
- (b) after reaching the compulsory age of retirement, and is in receipt of or entitled to a gratuity or pension;

his/her surviving spouse shall be entitled to one-half of the gratuity or pension which would have been payable or was being paid to the Judge, subject to the following conditions –

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- (i) the pension payable to the surviving spouse of a Judge who dies in office before reaching the compulsory age of retirement shall be calculated on the basis of a calculation which assumes that the Judge retired at the compulsory age of retirement but only served for the period of his actual pensionable service.
- (ii) the definition of “spouse” shall not include “common law spouse” for the purposes of the pension arrangements;
- (iii) the pension benefit shall be paid monthly for the life of the spouse or, where applicable, the gratuity benefit shall be paid as a lump sum;
- (iv) the spouse shall not be eligible for the receipt of the surviving spouse’s benefit if he/she is appointed a Judge of the CCJ;

Requested the RJLSC to prepare appropriate regulations, pursuant to Article XXVIII.2(c) of the CCJ Agreement, to reflect the modified pension arrangements in accordance with the decision of the Conference;

Also agreed that the regulations should be effective no earlier than 18 March 2017 or upon their finalisation by the RJLSC, whichever date is later.

INS/HGC/2017/28/12

BORDER ISSUES

INS/HGC/2017/28/12.1

Belize-Guatemala

Having received a presentation from the Government of Belize;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to issue the following Statement -

Heads of Government noted that both Belize and Guatemala have now completed their internal procedures required for the Special Agreement to Submit Guatemala’s Claim to the International Court of Justice of 2008, including its related Protocol of 2015, to enable these agreements to come into force and that the two countries have exchanged notes in this respect.

They expressed their hope that both countries can proceed with the required referendum as early as possible.

DECISIONS

Heads of Government noted with regret that the undertaking by both countries and the OAS to engage in the design and development of a mechanism of co-operation for the Sarstoon River remains outstanding and urged both countries and the OAS to redouble their efforts in this respect.

Heads of Government expressed support for the continuous and critical role of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in the process aimed at resolving the dispute arising from Guatemala's claims on Belize and further called on the international community to continue supporting the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone.

The Heads of Government emphasized their unflinching support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Belize.

INS/HGC/2017/28/12.2 ***Guyana-Venezuela***

Having received a presentation from the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to issue the following Statement -

"Heads of Government received an update from the President of Guyana on the most recent developments on the controversy between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the particular efforts of former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, to find a way forward under the Geneva Agreement – as they had exhorted at their Meeting in July 2016. They joined President Granger in acknowledging these efforts.

Heads of Government welcomed the decision taken by Mr. Ban Ki Moon before demitting Office and the resulting prospect of 2017 as a 'final year' of the 'Good Offices Process' of the Secretary General, to be followed by a referral of the controversy to the International Court of Justice "if, by the end of 2017, the Secretary-General concludes that significant progress has not been made toward arriving at a full agreement for the solution of the controversy."

Heads of Government welcomed Guyana's unqualified acceptance of the UN Secretary – General's decision, and expressed the hope that its implementation in good faith by both

DECISIONS

parties will lead to the resolution of the controversy and the release of the parties and of the entire Caribbean Region from its unwanted implications.

Heads of Government also welcomed the proposal of Mr. Ban Ki Moon for 'confidence building measures' and President Granger's assurance of Guyana's willingness to explore all possibilities consistent with Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity. To the extent that any such measures require regional support, Heads of Government pledged their best efforts to that end.

Heads of Government reiterated their firm support for the preservation of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

INS/HGC/2017/28/13 RELATIONS WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/13;

Having reviewed the policy guidelines established in relation to the Region's relations with the Dominican Republic;

Having also reviewed the key considerations including the question of direct engagement with the Dominican Republic on the issue of the statelessness of Dominicans of Haitian descent;

Having noted the continuing legal and social precariousness of the situation of the majority of Dominicans of Haitian descent;

Having also noted the steps being undertaken by the Secretariat to undertake the mandate of the Conference concerning the preparation of a report on the conditions under which displaced Dominicans of Haitian descent were living in Haiti, with a view to proposing practical ways to assist;

Recalling the many instances that Member States had drawn the issue of the plight of Haitians of Dominican descent to the attention of international actors;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to maintain the multi-pronged approach as clarified by the Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting of the Conference which included -

DECISIONS

- (i) a **no business as usual** posture;
- (ii) **maintaining** political pressure on the Dominican Republic in all fora;
- (iii) **continuing** engagement on trade matters, a policy or political dialogue in the context of the CARIFORUM-EU relationship and the programming of EDF resources;
- (iv) **engaging** directly, as appropriate, with the Dominican Republic and to use such opportunities to address the matter of statelessness and the required remedies;

Also agreed to review this policy of principle and pragmatism at its Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting in July 2017 so as to assess its continued efficacy;

Further agreed to support the efforts of the Government of Haiti to obtain financial resources from the International Financial Institutions (IDB, IMF, etc.) to further its economic development.

INS/HGC/2017/28/14

CARICOM-CUBA TRADE AGREEMENT – SECOND PROTOCOL

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/14;

Noting that the Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission established under the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and Cuba met in Georgetown, Guyana on 30-31 January 2017;

Recognising the importance of the agreement reached by the Joint Commission on a Second Protocol to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, which would reflect the amendments to the Agreement arising from the market access negotiations between CARICOM and Cuba for the expansion of preferential market access;

Acknowledging the proposal by the Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission that the Second Protocol to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and the Republic of Cuba be officially signed at the Fifth CARICOM-Cuba Ministerial Meeting, proposed for 11 March 2017 in Havana, Cuba;

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Also recognising that the substance of CARICOM's offer of additional preferential market access to Cuba was approved by the Forty-Second and Forty-Third Meetings of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) held in April 2016 and November 2016; respectively;

Also noting that the Second Protocol is being sent to Member States for clearance by way of "round robin";

Desirous of continuing to strengthen the valuable economic relations and co-operation between the Community and Cuba;

Further recognising that Article 230(2) of the Revised Treaty of Chaguramas provides that the Conference may delegate to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, the conclusion of agreements on behalf of the Community;

THE CONFERENCE:

Urged Member States to take all necessary action to complete internal procedures so that the Second Protocol to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and the Republic of Cuba could be signed in March 2017;

Authorised the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to sign the Second Protocol to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and the Republic of Cuba, on behalf of the Community, once Member States have given their acceptance of the Protocol.

INS/HGC/2017/28/15

**THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN LIGHT OF
POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

Having reviewed Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/15;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to the areas of engagement identified;

Also agreed to the engagement strategy recommended;

Further agreed to the drafting of a strategic briefing document to be presented to the new US administration;

DECISIONS

Agreed to have a letter of congratulation sent to the US President by the Chairman of the Conference and to express the Community's interest in engagement at the highest level;

Also agreed to make representation to have the US Secretary of State meet with the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR).

INS/HGC/2017/28/16 FUTURE OF COTONOU AGREEMENT AND THE ACP GROUP

Having considered Paper INS/HGC/2017/28/16;

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to the revitalization of the ACP and the renewal of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;

Also agreed to give early consideration to the associated strategic issues in order to provide guidance for the forthcoming negotiations;

Further agreed that Member States would participate at Ministerial level at Meetings of the CARIFORUM Consultation of the Caribbean within the EU-CELAC Partnership and the Future of the ACP/EU Post Cotonou Relationship hosted by Jamaica on 29 and 30 March, 2017, respectively.

INS/HGC/2017/28/17 CARIFESTA

Having received an update from the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados on preparations for CARIFESTA XIII in August 2017;

THE CONFERENCE:

Congratulated the Government of Barbados on its progress to date in preparing for CARIFESTA XIII;

Encouraged Member States to participate in CARIFESTA XIII and provide information on their contingents in a timely manner;

DECISIONS

Also encouraged Barbados to ensure the engagement and involvement of youth not only in the artistic aspects of the Festival but also in the planning and implementation of CARIFESTA XIII;

Agreed that Trinidad and Tobago will host CARIFESTA XIV in 2019;

Also agreed that Antigua and Barbuda will host CARIFESTA XV in 2021.

INS/HGC/2017/28/18

AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE EUGENE DUPUCH LAW SCHOOL (EDLS) FOR STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS (FORMERLY COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS) LLB STUDENTS

***Having received** a presentation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas in respect of the decision of the Executive Committee of the Council of Legal Education admission of LL.B. graduates of the University of The Bahamas to the Eugene Dupuch Law School;*

***Recalling** the previous decisions of the Conference in respect of the critical and urgent need for a review of legal education in the Community, taken at the Twenty-Fifth Inter-Sessional Meeting (St Vincent and the Grenadines, March 2014) and at the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Conference (Barbados, July 2015);*

***Also recalling** that the Council of Legal Education had advised the Conference that it required funding to complete a review of legal education in the Community, and that the Improving Access to Justice (IMPACT) Project, funded by Canada and implemented by the Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLIC) in Barbados, had provided funds to conduct the review;*

THE CONFERENCE:

Noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council of Legal Education that 2017 LL.B. graduates of the University of The Bahamas be granted entry to the Council of Legal Education Eugene Dupuch Law School in accordance with Article 3 of the Treaty Establishing the Council of Legal Education on the basis that the University of The Bahamas LL.B. degree is currently equivalent to the LL.B. degree offered by The University of the West Indies (UWI);

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Reiterated its earlier decisions that a thorough review of legal education in the Community was urgent and critical to inform important decisions on the future of the legal education system in the Community;

Requested that a report be submitted to the Conference at its Thirty-Eighth Meeting to be convened in Grenada in July 2017, on the status of the review of legal education and the timeline for completion and submission of recommendations to the Council of Legal Education and the Conference.

INS/HGC/2017/28/19 FORUM OF CARICOM FIRST LADIES/SPOUSES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Having received a presentation from the Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda on the Forum of First Ladies and Spouses of Heads of Government of CARICOM addressing the "Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child" Initiative;

THE CONFERENCE:

Welcomed the Establishment of the CARICOM First Ladies/Spouses Network;

Agreed to give political support to the efforts of the Network.

INS/HGC/2017/28/21 DATE OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed to hold its Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting in Grenada as follows -

- 4 July 2017 - Opening Ceremony
- 5- 6 July 2017 - Business Sessions.

DECISIONS

INS/HGC/2017/28/22

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ***Briefing in Respect of the Imminent Appointment of the next Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI)***

Having received a briefing from the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI) on the selection process for the position of Chancellor of The UWI;

THE CONFERENCE:

Thanked the Vice-Chancellor for appropriately informing the Conference of the process.