

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

**9TH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CONFERENCE
"AMPLIFYING IMPACT THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION"**

Convention Centre – Cartagena de Indias, Colombia - 27th May 2025

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

WELCOME REMARKS	
8:30 – 9:00 AM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks by the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Republic of Colombia Opening Remarks by the Secretary General of the ACS H.E. Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary General of the ACS Remarks by the Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, Jamaica H.E. Natalie Campbell-Rodrigues, High Commissioner for Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago and Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the ACS
9:00 – 9:10 AM	OFFICIAL PHOTO
SEGMENTS	
9:10 – 9:40 AM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on the Strategic Vision for the Association of Caribbean States Presenter: H.E. Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary General of the ACS This segment will provide participants with an overview on the work to develop a Strategic Vision for the ACS and how the Vision will advance the development objectives of the Greater Caribbean.
9:40 – 10:10 AM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on ACS Projects and Initiatives Presenter: Dr. Felipe Ramos, Consultant, Directorate for Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, ACS

	<p>This segment will introduce all approved ACS Projects and Initiatives by focus area. The presentation will explore the status of each project and initiative and will highlight those which were prioritised for mobilisation in 2024/25.</p>
10:10 – 10:30 AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 – 11:20 AM	<p>6. Thematic Area: Transport / Tourism/ Trade <i>Format: Panel Discussion</i> <i>Topic: "Transforming Transport: The Digital Path to Sustainable Development in the Greater Caribbean"</i></p> <p>ACS Project in Focus: • Digital Transformation for the Transport Sector in the Greater Caribbean</p> <p>This panel discussion addresses a pressing issue for the Greater Caribbean: the fragmented transport landscape that impedes the region's economic growth, social progress, and crisis resilience. Transport serves as a lifeline for trade, sustainable tourism, and emergency response, making its optimization a critical priority.</p> <p>The Digital Transformation for the Transport Sector in the Greater Caribbean project aims to leverage digital technologies to enhance regional connectivity and efficiency. This initiative promises to transform how transport networks function, enabling smoother trade flows, better-integrated tourism strategies, and more effective emergency logistics.</p> <p>The session will feature insights from key stakeholders and industry experts, delving into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges of a fragmented transport system in the Caribbean • The potential of digital tools to unify and enhance connectivity • Strategies for integrating digital solutions into existing transport frameworks <p>Moderator: TBD, Officer-in-Charge for Transport, Trade and Sustainable Development, ACS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative from Guatemala, Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Transport ○ Representative from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative from the Latin American and Caribbean Development Bank (CAF) ○ Representative from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) ○ Representative from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Q&A</i></p>
11:20 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>7. Future Feature for Cooperation – Spotlight on Colombia Format: Presentation Theme: South-South and Triangular Cooperation The outcomes of the South-South Cooperation Project Formulation Workshop will be addressed.</p> <p>Presenter: Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC)</p>
12:00 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK
1:30 – 2:15 PM	<p>8. Thematic Area: Disaster Risk Reduction Format: Panel Discussion <i>Topic: "Strengthening Resilience: Advancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean Region"</i></p> <p>ACS Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Capacities for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean Region (MH-EWS) <p>As climate change intensifies and natural disasters become increasingly frequent, the need for robust, coordinated, and effective early warning systems has never been greater. The Greater Caribbean Region faces unique vulnerabilities to multi-hazard events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural and human-induced threats.</p> <p>This panel will explore the "Strengthening Capacities for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MH-EWS)" project, highlighting efforts to build regional resilience and protect lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Panellists will delve into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current state of early warning systems in the Caribbean and existing gaps • Best practices for implementing multi-hazard approaches to preparedness and response • Leveraging digital technologies and regional collaboration to enhance early warning capacities • Strategies for fostering community engagement and integrating local knowledge into warning systems

	<p>Experts from diverse fields, including disaster management, technology, and regional governance, will share insights and actionable recommendations to advance MH-EWS in the Greater Caribbean. By strengthening these systems, the region can better mitigate risks, reduce disaster impacts, and build a more resilient future.</p> <p>Moderator: Adeline Raphael, Officer-in-Charge for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Tourism, the Caribbean Sea and the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Victor Hugo Morales Melendez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the ACS, Chair of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction ○ Representative from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) ○ Representative from the Secretariat for Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) ○ Representative from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) ○ Representative from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) / National Centre for Risk and Disaster Management (CENAD) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Q&A</i></p>
2:15 – 3:00 PM	<p>9. Thematic Area: Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation Format: <i>Panel Discussion</i> Topic: <i>"Building Partnerships for Progress: Insights from Donors on Advancing Sustainable Development in the Greater Caribbean"</i></p> <p>The 9th ICC provides a unique platform to foster dialogue among past and present donors supporting the sustainable development of the Greater Caribbean region. This panel brings together esteemed partners, including the IDB, Government of Korea, KOICA, GCC, and CAF, to reflect on their experiences collaborating with the Association of Caribbean States on transformative projects like the MSME International Trade and Development Project, the Maritime and Logistics Strategy for the Greater Caribbean and the Sandy Shorelines Projects.</p> <p>Panellists will share insights on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their criteria for selecting effective implementation partners • Best practices and lessons learned from their collaboration with the ACS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas and strategic directions for funding in 2025 and beyond, focusing on initiatives that align with the region's sustainable development goals • Innovative financing mechanisms for development <p>This session will serve as a valuable forum for understanding donor expectations, fostering stronger partnerships, and identifying innovative opportunities to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Greater Caribbean. Participants will gain actionable insights into aligning project proposals with donor priorities and enhancing regional impact through international cooperation.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Felipe Ramos, Consultant for Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, ACS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Santiago Quinonez, Director of Demand Management, Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC) ○ Representative from the Korean Agency for International Cooperation (KOICA) ○ Representative from the Latin American and Caribbean Development Bank (CAF) ○ Representative from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) ○ Representative from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Q&A</i></p>
3:00 -3:20 PM	<p>10. Thematic Area: Trade and Economic External Relations Format: <i>Presentation</i> Topic: "Presentation on the Progress of the MSME International Trade and Development Project"</p> <p>ACS Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSME International Trade and Development Project (RG-T4191). <p>In 2022, The ACS was awarded \$720,000 by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under the regional public goods programme (RPG) to execute the MSME International Trade and Development Project. The project is geared towards strengthening MSMEs and value chains in agribusiness, community-based tourism and creative industries.</p> <p>This presentation will cover the progress made in the project in its first year of implementation.</p>

3:20 – 3:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK
3:30 – 4:20 PM	<p>11. Dialogue and Exchange among the Participants</p> <p>Commitment to ACS Cooperation Initiatives – the ACS Membership and special invitees will be invited to engage in exchanges on the approved ACS projects and initiatives and to indicate their commitments in the form of technical and financial support.</p>
CLOSING REMARKS	
4:20 – 4:30 PM	<p>12. Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, Jamaica</p> <p>H.E Natalie Campbell-Rodriques will present the highlights of the Conference and formally close the meeting.</p> <p>13. Closing Remarks by the Secretary General of the ACS</p> <p>H.E Noemi Espinoza Madrid will deliver closing remarks.</p> <p>14. Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Republic of Colombia</p>