



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 Her Excellency Laura Camila Sarabia Torres, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.Opening Remarks by the Secretary General of the ACS Her Excellency Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary General of the ACSRemarks by the Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, Jamaica Her Excellency Natalie Campbell-Rodriques, High Commissioner for Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago and Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the ACSRemarks by the Acting Director of the Presidential Agency for Cooperation of the Republic of Colombia (APC) Mrs. Sandra Yaneth Bermúdez Marin, Acting Director of the APC
9:00 – 9:10 AM	OFFICIAL PHOTO

SEGMENTS	
9:10 – 9:40 AM	<p>5. Presentation on ACS Projects and Initiatives</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Felipe Ramos, Consultant, Directorate for Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, ACS</p> <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>
9:40 – 10:30 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Transformation for the Transport Sector in the Greater Caribbean <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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for integrating digital solutions into existing transport frameworks <p>Moderator: Dr. Felipe Ramos, Consultant, Directorate for Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, ACS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His Excellency Carlos Guevara Mann, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Panama. Mr. William Brown, President, Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) Mr. Ugo Blanco, Country Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Q&A</i></p>
10:30 – 10:50 AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:50 – 11:20 AM	<p>7. Presentation on the Strategic Vision for the Association of Caribbean States</p> <p>Presenter: H.E. Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary General of the ACS</p> <p>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.</p>
11:20 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>8. Combining efforts in the Greater Caribbean: Towards Transformative Technical Cooperation Format: Dialogue Theme: South-South and Triangular Cooperation</p> <p>The outcomes of the South-South/Triangular Cooperation Project Formulation Workshop will be addressed. Discussion among the participants of the workshop.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Andrés Ceballos, Private and Philanthropy Advisor, Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC)</p>
12:00 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK

1:30 – 2:15 PM

9. Thematic Area: **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Format: Panel Discussion

Topic: *"Strengthening Resilience: Advancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean Region"*

ACS

Project:

- Strengthening Capacities for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Greater Caribbean Region (MH-EWS)

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.

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:

- 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

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.

Moderator: Adeline Raphael, Officer-in-Charge for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Tourism, the Caribbean Sea and the Environment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His Excellency Víctor Hugo Morales Meléndez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to Trinidad and Tobago, Chairman of the ACS Special Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction ○ Ms. Ana Milena Prada Uribe, Deputy Director for Risk Awareness, Disaster Risk Management Unit of the Republic of Colombia. ○ Mr. Jesús Guerra Bell, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) of the Republic of Cuba and Chairman of the ACS Caribbean Sea Commission. ○ Mr. Nahuel Arenas García, Head of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) - Video Presentation <p style="text-align: center;">Q&A</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2:15 – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>10. 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 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 • 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: H.E. Natalie Campbell-Rodrigues, Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, ACS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amelia del Pilar Prado Hurtado, Director of Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia ○ Her Excellency María Cristina Pérez Gutiérrez, Ambassador of Spain to Trinidad and Tobago <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Q&A</i></p>
<p>3:00 -3:20 PM</p>	<p>11. Thematic Area: Trade and Economic External Relations <i>Format: Presentation</i> <i>Topic: "Presentation on the Progress of the MSME International Trade and Development Project"</i></p> <p>ACS Project: • MSME International Trade and Development Project (RG-T4191).</p> <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> <p>Presenter: Mrs. Safiya Peters, Adviser and Officer-in-Charge, Directorate for Transport, Trade and Sustainable Development</p>
<p>3:20 – 3:30 PM</p>	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>

<p>3:30 – 4:20 PM</p>	<p>12. 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 topic of the Ocean Economy, approved ACS projects and initiatives and to indicate their commitments in the form of technical and financial support.</p>
<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p>	
<p>4:20 – 4:30 PM</p>	<p>13. Closing Remarks by the Secretary General of the ACS</p> <p>Her Excellency Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary General of the ACS will deliver closing remarks.</p> <p>14. Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation, Jamaica</p> <p>Her Excellency Natalie Campbell-Rodriques will present the highlights of the Conference and deliver closing remarks.</p> <p>15. Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Republic of Colombia</p> <p>Her Excellency Francia Elena Marquez Mina, Vice President of the Republic of Colombia.</p>