The First Meeting of the Joint Committee of the Kingdom of Spain and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held on 4-5 December 2002 in Madrid, Spain pursuant to the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Kingdom of Spain and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) signed in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 4 July 1999.

The Spanish and CARICOM Delegations were chaired respectively by H.E. Mr. Juan López-Dóriga, Director-General for Cooperation with Iberoamerica of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), and by H.E. Mr Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). A list of the participants is at Annex I.

The Heads of both Delegations expressed their satisfaction at the entry into force of the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation and noted that this First Meeting of the Joint Committee heralded a new framework for direct collaboration between Spain and the countries of the Caribbean Community. They undertook to employ their best endeavours to ensure that the activities approved in this First Joint Committee would have a positive impact on the development of all the countries involved and would be carried out in a spirit of shared participation and responsibility.

The fundamental objectives of the Meeting were to analyse the potential for cooperation between Spain and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) based on the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, as well as on the conclusions of the Second CARICOM-Spain Summit which took place in Madrid during the month of May 2002 and identify lines of action for development of cooperation in these areas.

The CARICOM Delegation informed the Spanish Delegation of recent initiatives between CARICOM and SICA following the first CARICOM-SICA Summit last February in Belize. The Spanish Delegation encouraged closer ties between the integration processes of CARICOM and Central America. The Spanish Delegation informed of its
Regional Cooperation Programme with Central America and provided the CARICOM Delegation with documentation on same.

The Spanish Delegation in expressing its satisfaction at the progress made in CARICOM-Spain relations apprised CARICOM of the results achieved under the AECI-SELA agreement which was a fundamental catalyst in the development of cooperation activities by Spain with the Anglophone Caribbean. The Spanish Delegation expressed a willingness to continue this collaboration in this new phase through the CARICOM Secretariat. The First Meeting of the Joint Committee constituted a tangible demonstration and tool of this new framework.

Both Delegations highlighted the importance of the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in Johannesburg (August 26-4 September 2002) and of the Plan of Implementation and decided to implement the relevant initiatives of this Joint Committee in accordance with the Summit conclusions.

The CARICOM Delegation expressed an interest in pursuing partnership initiatives with Spain within the framework of the WSSD process. The Spanish Delegation agreed to give consideration to the proposals put forward by CARICOM.

Both Delegations agreed that a critical outcome of the Summit was endorsement of the decision to undertake a review of the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by the United Nations–convened International Meeting to review the Barbados Programme of Action in 2004. The CARICOM delegation urged Spain’s active participation in the preparatory process and recommended high level political representation in the 2004 event. The Spanish Delegation noted this request with interest.

II. GENERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

The CARICOM Delegation informed the Spanish Delegation of the Consensus of Chaguaramas adopted in 1999, in which the Conference of Heads of Government
outlined the goals to be achieved and actions to be taken as the Region proceeded purposefully into the 21st century.

The CARICOM Delegation informed of the recent revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas which established the Caribbean Community and Common Market in 1973. Under the Revised Treaty, the Region will be transformed into a Caribbean Community including a Single Market and Economy (CSME). The Spanish Delegation was informed that the Region was at a critical juncture in the implementation of the CSME requiring the creation and effective functioning of appropriate institutions to complement institutions already in place such as the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee for the Single Market and Economy; the Advisory Council to this Sub-Committee on which all stake holders, including the private sector, labour, consumers and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are represented; and the Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) which is expected to begin operations shortly to ensure that the Community’s products meet international trade requirement standards.

The CARICOM Delegation presented the Spanish Delegation with a copy of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas as well as the Consensus of Chaguaramas.

The CARICOM Delegation stated that the most important institutional element of the CSME was the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as it was designed to ensure the uniform application of the Treaty governing the operation of the CSME. CARICOM Heads of Government, at their Twenty-third Meeting in July 2002 in Guyana, agreed on immediate measures to inaugurate the CCJ by the second half of 2003. CARICOM Heads of Government also agreed on the establishment of a Trust Fund in the sum of one hundred million United States dollars (US$100,000,000) to be administered by an independent body in order to ensure sustainability and complete independence of the CCJ and mandated the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to raise these funds on the international capital market. The CARICOM Delegation reiterated the vital role which the Caribbean Development Bank plays in the socio-economic development of Member States of the Caribbean Community. In this regard, the CARICOM Delegation expressed its continued support for Spain’s consideration of membership of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). In this regard the CARICOM Delegation
reiterated its interest in Spain being a part of the CDB and solicited action in this regard. The Spanish Delegation noted this request with interest.

III. GENERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

The Spanish Delegation informed of its Development Cooperation Policy with special reference to the importance of the International Development Cooperation Law passed in July 1998 and the 2001 - 2004 Master Plan approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2000. The Master Plan sets out the objectives of Spanish cooperation on the basis of which the Annual Plans and Sectoral Strategies, by countries and regions were developed. The Spanish Delegation provided the CARICOM Delegation with a copy of the Law and the Master Plan I.

The Spanish Delegation indicated that Spain’s development cooperation Policy forms part of the State’s foreign policy and is based on the principle of balanced and participatory sustainable human and social development. The horizontal priorities on which the cooperation policy is based are the fight against poverty, the promotion of gender equality and protection of the environment.

The Spanish Delegation reported that, depending on the country, these priority activities could be carried out through different modalities such as projects and programmes for technical cooperation, food and humanitarian aid, debt relief and debt forgiveness and microcredits. Moreover, the Spanish Delegation informed that the Master Plan I also described the main actors involved in the provision of Official Development Assistance a mayor role being played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Ministry is responsible for guiding Spain’s Development Cooperation Policy and for the coordination of other relevant authorities of the General State Administration with responsibility for this area.

With regard to other actors, the Spanish Delegation underscored the importance accorded to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in its cooperation programmes. It described new funding arrangements designed to increase efficiency and to complement official cooperation activities through project, programme and strategy proposals and provided the CARICOM Delegation with information on these new arrangements.
IV. AREAS OF CARICOM-SPAIN COOPERATION

Conscious of the importance and historic significance of the convening of this First Meeting of the Joint Committee, both Delegations proposed the following lines of action for the period 2002 - 2006:

1. Basic Social Needs

Issues related to health and education are key elements in the consolidation and development of the Caribbean Community. As a sign of Spain’s commitment to supporting this process of development, the Spanish delegation informed of its intention to contribute in the areas of health and education through technical assistance activities and training programmes.

2. Human Resource Development

a) Scholarships

The Spanish Delegation reported on three large scholarship programmes which, with a view to achieving maximum efficiency, had incorporated existing scholarship programmes, improved the quality of financial support, perfected follow-up mechanisms, simplified access by candidates and set up a system to follow-up on past scholarship awardees.

The three large programmes are:

$ Scholarship Programme I offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – AECI (www.becasmae.com)

The Spanish Delegation provided information on the implementation of this university oriented programme aimed especially at those pursuing higher degrees and post-graduate studies, as well as researchers and hispanists, and Spanish language and literature teachers. The training
opportunities offered by the Foreign Ministry are merged under this Programme and assessed in keeping with the priorities identified for Spanish Cooperation and Spain’s foreign cultural policy.

Both Parties agreed on the importance of CARICOM Member States benefitting from this programme.

- Scholarships from the Carolina Foundation (Fundación Carolina) (www.becascarolina.com)

The Spanish Delegation informed that the Carolina Foundation created in December 2000 by the Spanish Council of Ministers, is linked to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was headquartered at the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) in Madrid.

Its scholarship programme, targeting young graduates wishing to pursue courses in higher education, as well as professionals and researchers, has as its objective collaboration in the promotion of cultural and cooperation relations in the areas of education and science. There are two lines of action:

A Scholarship Programme for further studies and training for post-graduate students, professors, researchers, artists and professionals.

A Visitors’ Programme, designed for those foreign nationals who are expected to play a role in the future development of their countr(ies), particularly those with which Spain has close political, cultural, historical or commercial ties.

- Scholarship Programme offered by the University Directorate of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports.

The Spanish Delegation, informed of the existence of the “National Assistance Programme for University Professors and for Spanish and
Foreign Researchers”, administrated by the General Direction of Universities of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. This programme allows teachers and researchers with the relevant experience to spend a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 11 months on sabatical in Spain. It also allows young foreign doctors and technology experts to spend a minimum of (9) months or a maximum of 18 months in Spain.

Similarly, the Spanish Delegation informed that under the National Programme for Training University Teachers, also administrated by the General Direction of Universities of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, students from CARICOM who would have completed their second year of studies and wished to pursue a teaching career and undertake further research, could also compete for the postgraduate scholarships offered. These scholarships are of 48 months’ duration.

b) **Training Courses**

The Spanish Delegation explained the nature and objectives of the intensive technical specialisation courses which are periodically held in the Training Centres in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), in Antigua (Guatemala) and in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) and extended an invitation to the CARICOM Delegation to use these facilities. Both Delegations agreed on the use of the Training Centres for the staging of intensive technical specialisation courses to be agreed on by the Parties during the period that the Agreement establishing the Joint Committee is in force.
c) Teaching of Spanish

Both Delegations agreed on the importance to the Caribbean Community of the teaching of Spanish which has to date involved the Catedra (Fellow) García Lorca, which was established under the Tripartite Cooperation Agreement among the AECI, the Instituto Cervantes and the University of the West Indies (UWI). Both Delegations agreed to develop new initiatives which would favour the teaching of Spanish in keeping with the commitment agreed to at the Second CARICOM-Spain Summit. Both Delegations concurred that this new phase would concentrate on building the capacity of secondary school teachers of Spanish.

The CARICOM Delegation expressed interest in having the Region’s Spanish teachers participate in short training courses in the areas of methodology, new technologies for language teaching and Spanish culture.

The Spanish Delegation advised that the Cervantes Institute proposes to hold a Teachers Training Seminar in 2003, in collaboration with UWI.

d) Cooperation in Education

Both Delegations undertook to facilitate communication between representatives of the relevant education authorities in their countries.

Exchange of Information

The Spanish Delegation recommended that relevant CARICOM Institutions and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain exchange through diplomatic or other appropriate channels information, programmes, publications and textbooks as well as audiovisual material to familiarise both Delegations of the other’s school
systems, programmes and teaching methods.

The Spanish Delegation advised of the possibility of CARICOM countries being incorporated into programmes offered by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports.

**Exchange of Experts**

During the period in which the Agreement is in force, the Spanish Delegation proposed that there be an annual exchange of two teachers, researchers and/or experts in educational administration so as to initiate contact aimed at better understanding their respective education systems, sharing each other’s experience in those areas, determining research areas of common interest or instituting collaboration between universities and institutions of higher learning. Both Delegations will agree on the general terms under which such exchanges will be developed.

The Spanish Delegation also agreed to the setting up of a technical assistance programme in CARICOM countries to facilitate support programmes for the development of educational material and to study the possible implementation of bilateral programmes leading to better understanding and cooperation on both sides.

e) **Strengthening the Teaching of Spanish at the University Level**

The Spanish Delegation informed of the presence of Spanish lecturers in Belize, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the AECI. The CARICOM Delegation expressed its appreciation for the work being done by those lecturers in supporting the teaching of Spanish and expressed the desire to have these programmes extended to other CARICOM states.
Culture

Intellectual property and copyright. Both Delegations agreed to collaborate in safeguarding all aspects of intellectual property rights through their respective competent authorities.

Forum of Cultures 2004. The Spanish Delegation informed CARICOM of the staging of the Universal Forum of Cultures to be held in Barcelona in 2004 in collaboration with UNESCO and in compliance with the unanimous resolution ratified at that organisation’s 29th General Conference. Spain extended an invitation to CARICOM to participate in the Forum in any of the three central thematic areas: Cultural Diversity, Sustainable Development and Conditions for Peace.

Preservation of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Both Delegations, aware of the enormous importance of the protection of their underwater cultural heritage, considered it a priority to avoid any treatment thereof which might lead to its pillage, destruction or exploitation beyond the limits established for the general protection of this cultural heritage. Both Parties were therefore committed to undertaking any action necessary to ensure adequate protection of the underwater heritage, in accordance with the principles established by the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in which cooperation in the regional and bilateral spheres was recognized. The Delegations also undertook to favourably consider specific activities and cooperation projects in the framework of a future bilateral agreement on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage when the latter became of historical and cultural interest thereby justifying collaboration in this area.

Cinema. The Spanish Delegation informed of the Programme “Spanish Cinema Abroad” (Cine Español para el Exterior), organized by the General Directorate for Cultural and Scientific Relations of the AECI-
Foreign Ministry through which Spanish films will be made available to the Caribbean Community for non-commercial viewing.

Festivals. The Spanish Delegation was informed that CARICOM would celebrate its thirtieth (30th) Anniversary in July 2003 and that a cultural festival highlighting the Region’s varied cultures. CARIFESTA VIII - would be held in Suriname in August 2003. The CARICOM Delegation requested support from the Spanish Delegation for the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) through technical assistance as well as through the participation of Spanish artistes in the festival as a means of promoting cultural awareness on both sides. The Spanish Delegation noted this initiative with interest and undertook to widedly publicise the Festival.

The Spanish Delegation was also informed that the Republic of Haiti would be celebrating its 200th Anniversary of Independence in 2004 and Spain was extended an invitation to join with Haiti and the Community in celebrating that milestone. Both Delegations noted that Haiti would host the First African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Cultural Festival in 2004 and Spain was extended an invitation to attend.

Both Delegations agreed to promote the exchange of music, art and culture.

3. **Infrastructure and Promotion of the Economic Fabric**

a) **Fisheries**

The Spanish Delegation presented a report on the conclusion of the Seminar on the Administration of the Fishing Industry which was conducted in Los Roques by two Spanish experts from the General Secretariat of Fishing of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Production and from the Social Marine Institute of Spain with participants from public- and private-sector institutions of CARICOM Member States.
The CARICOM Delegation expressed interest in the strengthening and consolidation of fishers’ organisations, reducing the vulnerabilities of these organisations, human resource development in the fisheries sector and the development and execution of a programme for the supervision, control and surveillance of fish stocks in the Caribbean. The counterpart agency would be the CARICOM Fisheries Unit.

The Spanish Delegation agreed to give support to the strengthening of fishers’ organisations, as well as human resource development in the fisheries industry and to this end, agreed on an exchange of experts in this area.

b) Tourism

The Spanish Delegation gave a presentation on the outcome of the Seminar on Re-Investment in Caribbean Tourism which was held in Jamaica in March 2002 for tourism officials from CARICOM countries.

The CARICOM Delegation informed of the importance of the tourism sector for those economies dependent on this sector which had been adversely affected by repercussions of the terrorist attacks of September 11. CARICOM expressed interest in receiving technical assistance for this sector including the widespread establishment of a “satellite accounting system” which would allow countries to measure, in a reliable and credible way, the economic impact of tourism and would facilitate planning and the decision-making process in this sector. It was felt that this methodology could eventually be applied in other critical areas including health and education.

The Spanish Delegation expressed its commitment to support through Spanish experts in the establishment of the “satellite accounting system” and to consider other areas of support.
c) Programme of Microcredits

The CARICOM Delegation expressed the interest of its Member States in participating in the AECI’s micro-credit programme. The Spanish Delegation gave details of the Programme and emphasized the need to conduct a survey on the stage of development of the microcredit sector in those countries interested in the programme. An evaluation of the capacity of financial institutions to support this area of development would also be required. The Spanish Delegation agreed to send an exploratory team to study both matters and to formulate a proposal for action in this area based on the results of the mission.

d) Export Promotion

The Spanish Delegation reported on the Seminar on Export Promotion which was held in Madrid for officials from the Caribbean Community. The CARICOM Delegation highlighted the importance to the economies of its Member States of the consolidation of its trade relations within the Caribbean area as well as within the European market and requested technical assistance in the training of experts, the identification of markets and of exports to the European market, the development of electronic commerce and the forging of strategic alliances between Caribbean and Spanish organisations.

The Spanish Delegation, for its part, expressed its willingness to study these requests and undertook to provide training activities for the relevant officials, as well as technical assistance to build the capacity of officials and experts responsible for the identification of markets and exports.

e) Agriculture

Agriculture represents a significant portion of the GDP of the Caribbean Community, and is currently in a declining stage of production and productivity. In light of the changes facing the sector and as a key strategy to facilitate their
integration into the international environment, CARICOM countries are diversifying their economies through the trade in goods that are high in demand and value.

With the aim of improving the competitiveness of the Region’s agricultural product, the CARICOM Delegation requested assistance in the following areas: human resource development and exchange of experts, technical assistance for the development of a study on packaging to improve product competitiveness and the undertaking of a feasibility study on the production of animal feed from banana pulp.

The Spanish Delegation took note of these requests and expressed its willingness to conduct capacity building programmes for experts in this area and to provide the technical assistance for the two studies.

4. **Environment and Natural Resources**

The Spanish Delegation made a presentation on the Araucaria Programme which has, as its main thrust, the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development of Latin America.

The Delegation of the Caribbean Community demonstrated its interest in having its environment experts participate in horizontal activities under the Araucaria Programme, such as specialised courses at Spanish Cooperation Training Centres and being included in communication and exchange networks on sustainable development.

**Natural Disasters:**

The CARICOM Delegation informed of the impact of floods on the economies of the Caribbean region.
The CARICOM Delegation sought technical assistance from Spain to strengthen the capacity of regional institutions responsible for flood hazard mitigation, implementation of early warning systems, development of contingency plans and community awareness campaigns. The counterpart agency in this area would be the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

The Spanish Delegation provided information on the areas of responsibility of the National School for Civil Protection which falls under the General Directorate of Civil Protection and agreed that the School would support capacity building exercises for CARICOM officials and experts in flood warning systems. The Spanish Delegation also provided information on the activities of the General Directorate of Civil Protection of the Interior Ministry through which technical support could be given to CARICOM officials and experts in the development of communications material for use by the general public in emergency situations.

5. Social participation, institutional development and good governance

a) Regional Integration Process

The CARICOM Delegation made a presentation on developments in the regional integration process, in particular progress made in the creation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the anticipated operationalisation of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) by mid-2003. The Delegation of Spain was informed that a Special Unit of the CSME had been established to oversee and expedite this process to have CARICOM operate as one market and economic space allowing for the free movement of key factors of production - persons, capital, goods and services. The Spanish Delegation was advised that Haiti formally became the fifteenth member of the Caribbean Community in July 2002.

The CARICOM Delegation intimated that the Caribbean Community expressed an interest in receiving technical assistance from Spain on that country's experience and involvement in the European Union.

The Spanish Delegation expressed its appreciation for the information and
undertook to collaborate in this area.

b) Civil Society

The CARICOM Delegation informed of the increasing involvement of civil society in the decision-making process involving leaders of the different social sectors and sought technical assistance in the training of the latter to enable them to play their role as central actors in the development process through dialogue with their respective Governments.

The Spanish Delegation shared the importance which the CARICOM Delegation attached to the inclusion of civil society in the decision-making process and expressed its willingness to study initiatives in pursuit of this objective.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Both Delegations affirmed that the implementation of cooperation activities agreed under this Final Act would be coordinated and supervised, on the part of Spain, by the AECI through its General Directorate for Cooperation with Latin America; and on the part of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), by the CARICOM Secretariat through the sub-programme of Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance.

Both Delegations agreed that a Follow-up Meeting would be convened to assess the activities approved in this Final Act at an intermediary date during the term of the Joint Committee to evaluate the cooperation activities approved by the Joint Committee as well as to recommend modifications, new activities or complementary programmes in the sectors of cooperation included in this current Act.

At the conclusion of this First Meeting of the Joint Committee for Cooperation between Spain and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), both Delegations expressed their satisfaction at the agreements reached and expressed the hope that they would contribute to CARICOM’s development objectives and would help
to stimulate and strengthen the ties between the Governments and peoples of both CARICOM Member States and Spain.

Finally, the Heads of both delegations expressed their desire for the continued deepening of the friendly relations and cooperation between CARICOM and Spain.

Signed in two originals, English and in Spanish, on 5 December 2002 in Madrid, Spain.

On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  On behalf of Spain

Edwin Carrington  Juan López-Dóriga