Global Health Diplomacy Program

2007 Port of Spain Summit Compliance:
Fair Trade Policies
Alissa Wang, September 18, 2015

This report assesses compliance with the commitment below from the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration based on actions taken by the Caribbean countries between 15 September 2007 and 15 September 2008.

Commitment
2007-16: [we declare] Our support for the efforts of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations thereby promoting greater use of indigenous agricultural products and foods by our populations and reducing the negative effects of globalisation on our food supply.

Compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>No compliance</th>
<th>Partial compliance</th>
<th>Full compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>−1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>−1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
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<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>−1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
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</table>
Background

On 15 September 2007, the heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) attended a summit at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, focusing on the theme of “Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic NCDs.” Recognizing that the Caribbean region is one of the worst affected regions by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Americas, the leaders took on the challenge of preventing and controlling the NCDs of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cancer by addressing the causal risk factors: lack of physical activity, tobacco use, alcohol abuse and unhealthy diets.1

CARICOM formally established the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) in April 1997 to develop, coordinate and execute an overall negotiating strategy for various external negotiations. The CRNM is responsible for developing and maintaining a cohesive and effective framework for the coordination and management of the Caribbean external trade negotiation resource expertise.2 At the 20th Inter-Sessional Meeting on 12–13 March 2009, CARICOM leaders decided to “incorporate the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) into the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat as a Specialized Department.”3 Shortly after at the 30th CARICOM meeting from 2–4 July 2009, the name of the mechanism was changed from the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery to the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN).

Commitment 2007-16, which focuses on encouraging the use of indigenous agriculture through fair trade policies, was made in 2007 and therefore refers to CRNM rather than the newer OTN.

Commitment Features

CARICOM leaders committed to support a specific function of the CRNM to pursue fair trade policies to be incorporated in all international trade negotiations with two overall objectives: to promote greater use of indigenous agricultural products and foods by the Caribbean populations and to reduce the negative effects of globalization on the Caribbean food supply.

One important aspect of compliance for this commitment is participation in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Europe. The EPA emphasizes fair and equal trade policies, particularly with reference to agricultural sectors.4 It includes a chapter on agriculture and fisheries, aimed at increasing the competitiveness of this sector and at improving the sustainable development of the Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), which engages in policy dialogue, cooperation and regional integration with European Union. The most minimal action considered for this compliance assessment is for the country to be part of the EPA, as indicated by the December 2007 CARIFORUM-European Commission Agreement.5 Compliance with this action alone, however, only counts as partial compliance.

During the compliance period, the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum took place in London, England, in July 2008. The EPA and other trade policies were discussed in the context of food supply and use of indigenous foods from the Caribbean. Ministers agreed to support the EPA between the European Union and CARIFORUM, which would increase opportunities for regional trade and for EU aid to help CARIFORUM countries to meet adjustment costs and improve competitiveness. They acknowledged the importance of remunerative access to EU markets for Caribbean bananas and rice, and committed to ongoing discussions in negotiations at the World Trade Organization on related tariffs. Ministers also agreed on the need for a response to the food prices problem. Participation in this meeting thus relates directly to the content of the commitment. Showing support at this meeting is therefore direct support for the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in international trade negotiations and, as a result, promote the use of indigenous agricultural products and foods. Support can come in a variety of forms: Participating in the meeting (by sending representatives) or having an observer status in the meeting counts toward partial compliance. Showing leadership through co-chairing the meeting or making a commitment to consider part of the agreements from the forum at the national level count toward full compliance.

### Scoring Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>The country did not support the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade in all international trade negotiations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The country supported the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade by being a part of the EPA and/or participated (by sending representatives or having observer status) in the 2008 UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>The country supported the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade in all international trade negotiations by being part of the EPA and taking an active leadership role in the July UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum or similar event (by co-chairing, hosting, committing to consider parts of the agreement at the national level).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anguilla: −1

Anguilla did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

Anguilla was not part of the 2007 EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM. Anguilla did not participate in the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum, which featured discussions on the EPA and fair trade policies.

Thus, Anguilla has been assigned a score of −1 for lack of compliance.

### Antigua and Barbuda: +1

Antigua and Barbuda fully complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

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On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initiated the EPA with Antigua and Barbuda, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^9\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. This ministerial forum was co-chaired by the prime minister and foreign minister of Antigua and Barbuda.\(^10\) Thus, Antigua and Barbuda has taken a leadership role in supporting efforts by OTN toward fair trade.

Thus, Antigua and Barbuda has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

**Bahamas: 0**

Bahamas partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initiated the EPA with the Bahamas, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^11\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Bahamas represented the country at this meeting.\(^12\) The Bahamas thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, the Bahamas has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Barbados: 0**

Barbados partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initiated the EPA with Barbados, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^13\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The foreign minister of Barbados represented the country at this meeting.\(^14\) Barbados thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Barbados has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Belize: 0
Belize partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initiated the EPA with Belize, which was included in CARIFORUM.15

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The attorney general and foreign minister of Belize represented the country at this meeting.16 Belize thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Belize has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Bermuda: −1
Bermuda did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations. Even though it participated in the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum, it did not take part in the EPA itself.

Bermuda was not part of the EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM countries.17

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. Bermuda participated as an observer.18 It thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Bermuda has been assigned a score of −1 for lack of compliance.

British Virgin Islands: −1
The British Virgin Islands did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations. Even though it participated in the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum, it was not part of the EPA itself.

The British Virgin Islands was not part of the EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM countries.19

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The British Virgin Islands participated as an observer. It thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

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Thus, the British Virgin Islands has been assigned a score of $-1$ for lack of compliance.

**Cayman Islands: $-1$**

The Cayman Islands did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

The Cayman Islands was not part of the EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM countries.\(^{20}\)

The Cayman Islands did not participate in the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum that aimed to support efforts toward fair trade.\(^{21}\)

Thus, the Cayman Islands has been assigned a score of $-1$ for lack of compliance.

**Dominica: 0**

Dominica partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Dominica, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^{22}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The Dominica ambassador represented the country at this meeting.\(^{23}\) Dominica thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Dominica has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Grenada: +1**

Grenada fully complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Grenada, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^{24}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. It was noted in the meeting that Grenada would be undertaking national consultations to

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review the EPA in order to reach a decision on signing. Grenada thus took an active role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Grenada has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

**Guyana: 0**

Guyana partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Guyana, which was included in CARIFORUM.26

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. Guyana’s foreign minister represented the country.27 Guyana thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Guyana has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Haiti: 0**

Haiti partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Haiti, which was included in CARIFORUM.28

Thus, Haiti has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Jamaica: +1**

Jamaica fully complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 4-5 October 2007, Jamaica hosted the Special Meeting of CARIFORUM Head of Governments and EC Commissioners for Trade and for Development in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The meeting dealt with the EPA, where CARIFORUM leaders and EC commissioners reviewed the negotiations for the EPA.29 Jamaica thus took an active leadership role here in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

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On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Jamaica, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^{30}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. Jamaica’s deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs represented the country.\(^{31}\) Jamaica thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Jamaica has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

**Montserrat: -1**

Montserrat did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations. Even though Montserrat took a participatory role in the UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum, it was not part of the EPA itself.

Montserrat was not part of the EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM countries.\(^ {32}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. Montserrat participated as an observer.\(^ {33}\) Montserrat thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Montserrat has been assigned a score of -1 for lack of compliance.

**Saint Kitts and Nevis: 0**

Saint Kitts and Nevis partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Saint Kitts and Nevis, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^ {34}\)

Thus, Saint Kitts and Nevis has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Saint Lucia: 0**

Saint Lucia partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Saint Lucia, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^ {35}\)

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On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Saint Lucia represented the country. Saint Lucia thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Saint Lucia has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: 0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which was included in CARIFORUM.

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines represented the country. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Suriname: 0
Suriname partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Suriname, which was included in CARIFORUM.

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The ambassador of Suriname represented the country. Suriname thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Suriname has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

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**Trinidad and Tobago: 0**

Trinidad and Tobago partially complied with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

On 16 December 2007, the European Commission initialled the EPA with Trinidad and Tobago, which was included in CARIFORUM.\(^{41}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. The foreign minister of Trinidad and Tobago represented the country at this meeting.\(^{42}\) Trinidad and Tobago thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Trinidad and Tobago has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

**Turks and Caicos: –1**

Turks and Caicos did not comply with the commitment to support the efforts of the CRNM/OTN to pursue fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations.

Turks and Caicos was not part of the EPA between the European Commission and CARIFORUM countries.\(^{43}\)

On 13 July 2008, the communiqué for the Sixth UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was published by the OTN. Turks and Caicos participated as an observer.\(^{44}\) Turks and Caicos thus took a passive, participatory role at the meeting in support of the OTN’s efforts toward fair trade.

Thus, Turks and Caicos has been assigned a score of –1 for lack of compliance.

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