

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

**and**

**The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris  
11 November 2013

This revised Memorandum of Understanding is signed on the occasion of the meeting of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It supplements the Agreement signed in 1980 between UNESCO and CARICOM, acting through the CARICOM Secretariat, and it replaces and supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Organizations on 5 May 2003.

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to usher in an era of strengthened cooperation for the benefit of the citizens and countries of the Caribbean Community, as well as increased participation of the Caribbean in UNESCO's areas of competence, and it is concluded within the framework of Article IX of the 1980 Agreement. Through this Memorandum, cooperation is reaffirmed in the fields of education, the natural sciences, the social and human sciences, culture, communication and information. It confirms collaboration in all fields that constitute the medium-term priorities of both Organizations in each of the five areas of cooperation outlined below. The Memorandum of Understanding recognizes the strategic partnership of the National Commissions for UNESCO established in the Caribbean Community as important mechanisms in the delivery of joint programmes.

In the field of **Education** and in the context of achieving the Education for All goals in the Caribbean, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate on the promotion of education as a fundamental right. The cooperation will focus on the improvement of inclusive quality education and effective learning programmes, particularly on the strengthening of health education that includes comprehensive sexuality education, HIV education and other health promoting life skills, in the context of the Caribbean Strategy against HIV and

AIDS and "Education to Prevent": the 2008 Mexico City Ministerial Declaration on Sexuality Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The two Organizations also will promote experimentation, innovation and best practices, with special emphasis on evidenced-based policy-making for increased quality education at all levels, including early childhood education and care; technical and vocational education and training; the establishment of mechanisms for quality assurance in higher education; strengthening of the teaching profession; education for sustainable development, and, the expansion of open and distance learning for higher education.

In the field of the **Natural Sciences**, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for further Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); sustainable development; disaster risk reduction; response and reconstruction; the management of terrestrial, coastal, island and marine ecosystems, in particular through designated areas under the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the "Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves" (*organised in Menorca, Spain, and Jeju, Korea, under the auspices of UNESCO*), and the Global Geoparks Network; the building of a knowledge base and the promotion of policies in renewable energy and energy efficiency; climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially issues pertaining to adapting to sea-level rise; the integrated management of coastal zone resources and water resources, and research, education and capacity development in these areas; capacity-building and education in the basic and applied sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry, life sciences, engineering); the assessment of natural hazards (including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides and various hydrological risks); and, the fostering of measures for disaster prevention and preparedness. Moreover, the cooperation will promote the development of national, regional and sub-regional science,



technology and innovation policies, as well as the building of human and institutional capacities in the sciences.

In the field of the **Social and Human Sciences**, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate in three main areas: the promotion of the ethics of science and technology, with an emphasis on bioethics; (ii) the enhancement of research-policy linkages in social development and the harmonization of policies against doping in sport, particularly through the follow up on the commitments of all CARICOM countries to the Convention Against Doping in Sport; and, the promotion of philosophical reflection, human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence, and the fight against racism and discrimination. Moreover, the two Organizations will cooperate to provide support, within the context of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, to the countries of the region for the development of policy-oriented research and related capacity-building in such fields as poverty eradication, the sustainable development of SIDS and the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, social inclusion in the Caribbean, the social dimensions of climate change, youth and sports, migration, human rights and philosophy. The two Organizations also will collaborate for the organization of Forums of Ministers Responsible for Social and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

In the field of **Culture**, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate to encourage the ratification and implementation of UNESCO's six culture Conventions with a view to promoting cultural diversity through the safeguarding of heritage in all its dimensions, and the development of domestic cultural and creative industries. In so doing, they will facilitate regional and international economic integration and strengthen social cohesion by fostering pluralism, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace. They will encourage the recognition of the central role of culture in sustainable development, and will advocate for its inclusion in development policies and programmes. Joint cooperation

will also support heritage preservation, heritage education and institutional capacities strengthened in the development of national cultural policies. Finally, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate to implement the Afro-Descendants Decade (2013-2022) Plan of Action.

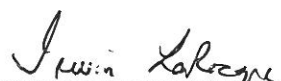
In the field of **Communication and Information**, UNESCO and CARICOM will cooperate on the promotion of freedom of expression as a basic human right; the annual celebration of the World Press Freedom Day and the development of the Caribbean Media Summit; universal preservation of, and access to information, particularly in the public domain; the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development; and, follow up to the Action Lines of the World Summit on the Information Society. This cooperation will encourage the development of infrastructure and capacity-building in these fields, as well as the development of a policy framework for the building of Caribbean Information and Knowledge Societies.

Any dispute concerning the provisions in this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation.

This Memorandum, signed in Paris, on 11 November 2013 by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of CARICOM, enters into force upon signature by the two Parties.



.....  
Irina Bokova  
Director-General, UNESCO



.....  
Irwin LaRocque  
Secretary-General, CARICOM