

**ELEVENTH FORUM OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND
OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE OF CULTURAL POLICIES
OF LATINA AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COOPERATION UNIT FOR THE
ELABORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS FOR THE FORMATION
AND TRAINING IN THE AREA OF UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE.**

The Dominican Republic, Colombia, Haiti, Barbados and Panama, aware that the area of Underwater Cultural Heritage has been defined as a new frontier of Cultural Heritage.

And,

Considering: that since the meeting of the 10th Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials Responsible for Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean , held in Bridgetown, Barbados, the Declaration of Santo Domingo was welcomed as an adequate frame work of principles reflecting our position and, ratifies the commitment adopted to continue actively advancing towards the achievement of an effective protection of our Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Considering: that our countries coincide in the diagnosis of their difficulties regarding the ineffective professional and technical training of experts, as well as in its financial limitations.

WE PROPOSE:

1. The establishment of a coordinating unit for the efforts of our countries in the elaboration and implementation of Regional Cooperation projects, sponsored by the Forum, consisting in its initial phase, in the establishment of a Regional Center for the Formation and training of Professional and Technical Personnel to cover our needs of qualified personnel to guarantee an effective and scientific protection of this area.
2. The headquarters of this Coordination Unit will be located in the Dominican Republic, nation that commits to cover the operational expenses of such coordination during the first year. The members of Coordination Committee could also come from the host country of Haiti, Barbados, Mexico and Colombia.
3. The main task of this Secretariat will be to elaborate projects and professional and technical training programs for the, in all the areas of Underwater Cultural Heritage as well as to explore of financial funding, requesting such funds to international organizations, integration agencies, international organizations, etc.
4. The Coordination Unit, that we propose, will have the full support of the Technical Secretary of the Forum, in order to channel its initiatives, proposals, reports, etc. to the members of the Forum.