ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1994, No. 24

Resolution ratifying the Agreement establishing the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians.

WHEREAS the Ratification of Treaties Act 1987 (No. 1 of 1987) provides in section 3 (1) that where a Treaty to which Antigua and Barbuda becomes a party is one which affects or concerns the relationship of Antigua and Barbuda with any international organization, agency, association or similar body, such Treaty shall not enter into force with respect to Antigua and Barbuda unless it has been ratified or its ratification has been authorised or approved in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Agreement establishing the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians concerns the relationship of Antigua and Barbuda with the States forming the CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) and is an agreement which is subject to international law;

AND WHEREAS ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA became a signatory to the Agreement on the 17th day of June, 1993;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that the Agreement establishing the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians which is attached hereto as a Schedule be ratified as a Treaty under section 3 (1) *(c)* of the Ratification of Treatise Act, 1987.

Passed the House of Representatives this 23rd day of June, 1994.

Bridget Harris,
Speaker.

Sylvia Walker,
Clerk to the House of Representatives.

AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSEMBLY OF CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The tenth Meeting of the conference of heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held at Grand Nnse, Grenada, from 3rd to 7th, 1989, having determined that there should be established an **Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians** as a deliberative body for deepening the integration movement.

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Associate Institution" means any institution recognised or designated as such, under Article 14 of the Treaty;

"Associate Member State" means any State admitted as an Associate Member of the Community by the Conference and a Party to this Agreement;

"Community" means the Caribbean Community established by the Treaty;

"Council" means the Common Market Council established under the Annex to the Treaty;

"Conference" means the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community;

"Institution" means an Institution established and designated

"Parliament" includes the Legislature of a Member State;

"Secretariat" means the Community Secretariat;

"Secretary-General" means the Secretary-General of the Community;

"Treaty" means the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community and Common Market done at Chaguaramas on the 4th July, 1973.

ARTICLE 2

ESTABLISHMENT

Member States hereby establish an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians having the membership, powers and functions hereinafter specified.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Assembly shall consist of representatives of Member States and Associate States elected by their Parliaments or appointed in such manner from their membership as the Parliaments shall decide.

2. Each Member State shall be entitled to not more than four representatives at meetings of the Assembly and each Associate Member State shall be entitled to not more than two representatives.

ARTICLE 4

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSEMBLY

The objectives of the Assembly shall be:

(a) to involve the people of the Community, through their representatives, in the process of consolidating and strengthening the Community;

(b) to provide opportunities for involvement in the issues of the integration process by members of Parliament in each Member State and Associate Member State, in addition to those who now participate;

(c) to provide a forum for people of the Community to make their views known through their representatives;

(d) to provide more frequent contact in the monitoring of the policies of the Community;

(e) to provide enhanced opportunities for the coordination of the foreign policies of the Member States.

ARTICLE 5

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

1. The Assembly shall be a deliberative and consultative body for the discussion for policies, programmes and other matters falling within the scope of the Treaty.

2. In carrying out its functions pursuant to this Agreement, the Assembly may:

(a) make recommendations to the Conference, the Council, Institutions, Associate Institutions, and the Secretariat;

(b) request from the bodies listed in sub-paragraph *(a)* of this paragraph information and reports for discussion;

(c) discuss any matter referred to it by the Conference, the Council, or any Institution or Associate Institution;

(d) adopt resolutions on any issue or matter arising under the Treaty.

3. The Assembly shall follow accepted parliamentary procedures and practices and , in particular, may:

(a) establish such committees, agencies and other bodies it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions; and

(b) admit as observers to its deliberations, representatives of countries not being Member States.

4. It shall not be competent for the Assembly to discuss or adopt any resolution on any matter which is essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a Member State or Associate Member of the Community and any question whether any matter is within the competence of the Assembly for the purposes of this paragraph shall be decided by the Speaker of the Assembly.

5. Subject to the provisions of this Article and Article 6, the Assembly shall have power to regulate its own proceedings, including the adoption of Standing Orders.

ARTICLE 6

MEETINGS

1. The Assembly shall meet at least once in every year with meetings rotating among Member States and Associate Member states, as far as practicable.

2. Member States and Associate Member States shall meet the cost of attendance of their representatives at meetings of the Assembly.

3. Each representative of a Member State shall have one vote.

4. Each representative of an Associate Member State shall have the right to speak but not to vote in the Assembly.

5. Observers shall not have the right to speak or vote in the Assembly.

OR [With the permission of the Assembly, observers may speak but not vote at meetings of the Assembly.]

6. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, a decision of the Assembly shall be by a majority vote of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

7. The quorum for a meeting of the Assembly shall be one-third of the representatives of Member States.

8. The representatives of Member States shall, at each meeting of the Assembly, elect from among their number a Speaker who shall preside in the Assembly and shall have only a casting vote.

ARTICLE 7

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. There shall be a Clerk of the Assembly who shall be a Clerk of the Parliament of the host country.

2. The Secretary-General shall designate a senior official of the Community to:

(a) assist in coordinating the work of the Assembly;

(b) liaise with the principal organs, Institutions, Associate Institutions, and other bodies of the Community, in relation to the deliberations of the Assembly.

3. Administrative and secretarial services for meetings of the Assembly shall be provided by the host country assisted, to the extent possible, by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 8

IMPLEMENTATION

Member States and Associate Member States shall take all appropriate measures to:

(a) fulfill obligations undertaken by them under this Agreement;

(b) facilitate the achievement of the objective of the Assembly;

(c) pursue measures which support the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9

SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement is open for signature by any Member State of the Community listed in the Annex to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 10

RATIFICATION

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by the signatory Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. Instruments of Ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General who shall transmit certified copies to the Government of each Member State.

ARTICLE 11

ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of the seventh Instrument of Ratification by a Member State in accordance with Article 10 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

ACCESSION

After the entry into force of this Agreement, any new Member State or any Associate Member of the Community wishing to become party to this Agreement shall deposit an appropriate Instrument of Accession with the Secretary-General and such Accession shall take effect thirty days after the receipt of the Instrument. The Secretary-General shall transmit a Certified Copy for the Instrument to the Government of each Member State or Associate Member of the Community.

ARTICLE 13

AMENDMENTS

1. This Agreement may be amended upon a resolution of the Assembly for this purpose, adopted by a majority of the representatives, present and voting, representing three-fourths of the Parties to this Agreement.

2. Any such amendment shall enter into force upon deposit with the Secretary-General of Instruments of Ratification or Acceptance of the amendment by three-fourths of the Parties to this Agreement.

3. The Secretary-General shall notify Parties to this Agreement of the entry into force of any amendment.

ARTICLE 14

WITHDRAWAL

1. A Member State or Associate Member of the Community which withdraws from membership of the Community in accordance with Article 27 of the Treaty shall, if party to this Agreement, be deemed to have withdrawn from this Agreement with effect from the expiration of the time limited by that Article.

2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, a Member State or Associate Member State may withdraw from this Agreement by giving notice in writing to the Secretary-General who shall promptly notify the other Parties to this Agreement. Such withdrawal shall take effect twelve months after receipt of the notice by the Secretary-General.

3. A Member State or Associate Member State undertakes to honour any financial obligations duly assumed while it continues to be a Party to this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have affixed their signatures to this Agreement.

Done in a single copy which is deposited with the Secretary-General who shall transmit certified copies to all Parties to this Agreement.

Signed by Lester B. Bird

For Antigua and Barbuda

Signed by Hurbert Ingraham

For the Bahamas

Signed by Erskine Sandiford

For Barbados

Signed by

For Belize

Signed by Charles Maynard

For Dominica

Signed by Nicholas Brathwaite

For Grenada

Signed by Desmond Hoyte

For Guyana

Signed by P. J.

For Jamaica

Signed by

For Montserrat

Signed by

For St. Kitts and Nevis

Signed by

For Saint Lucia

Signed by

For Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Signed by Patrick Manning

For Trinindad and Tobago

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