

No. 6019

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
FRANCE, NETHERLANDS and UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Organization (with annexed Statute). Signed at Washington, on 21 June 1960

Official texts: English, French, Dutch and Spanish.

Registered by the United States of America on 29 December 1961.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE, FRANCE,
PAYS-BAS et ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Convention portant création de l'Organisation des Caraïbes
(avec Statut annexé). Signée à Washington, le 21 juin
1960**

Textes officiels anglais, français, néerlandais et espagnol.

Enregistrée par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 29 décembre 1961.

No. 6019. AGREEMENT¹ FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATION. SIGNED AT
WASHINGTON, ON 21 JUNE 1960

The Governments of the Republic of France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America,

Having reviewed the work of the Caribbean Commission since the entry into force of the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission, signed at Washington on October 30, 1946;²

Recognizing that the Commission has done much to further regional cooperation in many fields, and has rendered valuable services in the Caribbean area;

Having considered the statements by representatives from the area calling for a revision of the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission in the light of the new constitutional relationships in the Caribbean area;

Having considered that the purposes and functions as set out in the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission should be the basis of a new organization designed to replace it;

Having noted the views expressed at the West Indian Conference convoked in Special Session commencing on July 28, 1959;

Having considered the draft Statute prepared by this Conference and transmitted to them by the Caribbean Commission;

¹ In accordance with article V of the Agreement and article XIX of the annexed Statute, the Agreement and Statute came into force on 6 September 1961, upon signature at San Juan of a Joint Declaration to that effect by the signatory Governments, following the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of their instruments of approval or acceptance, and after the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Commission had received notification, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article IV of the said Statute, from not less than six of the prospective members of the Caribbean Organization. The instruments of approval or acceptance were deposited on the dates indicated below:

France	27 December 1960
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	12 January 1961
United States of America	12 July 1961
Netherlands	25 August 1961

Notifications from the following prospective members of the Caribbean Organization were received by the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Commission on the dates indicated:

Virgin Islands (U.S.)	27 October 1959
Surinam	14 September 1960
British Guiana	19 September 1960
Netherlands Antilles	23 September 1960
Puerto Rico	6 October 1960
France for French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique	30 December 1960

West Indies	30 August 1961
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² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 27, p. 77.

Noting that the purposes and functions as set out in this draft Statute accord with those which were the basis of the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission; and

Noting that nothing in this draft Statute is intended to alter or conflict with the respective constitutional relations between the Governments hereinbefore named and the prospective Members of the Organization respectively;

Hereby agree as follows :

Article I

1. The Contracting Parties agree upon the establishment of the Caribbean Organization in accordance with the Statute¹ annexed to this Agreement.

2. The Republic of France for the Departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique; the Netherlands Antilles; Surinam; the Bahamas; British Honduras; the British Virgin Islands; The West Indies; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ; and the Virgin Islands of the United States are eligible to become Members, and are referred to in this Agreement as " prospective Members ".

Article II

No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted as affecting the present or future constitutional status of the prospective Members of the Organization or, where applicable, the present or future constitutional relations of any of the aforesaid prospective Members with the Contracting Parties.

Article III

On the termination of the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission, signed at Washington on October 30, 1946, the assets of the Caribbean Commission shall be and are by virtue of this Agreement transferred to and vested in the Caribbean Organization. The Caribbean Organization is hereby authorized to assume at the same time the liabilities of the Caribbean Commission and shall be regarded as the successor body to the Caribbean Commission.

Article IV

The Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission shall terminate at the end of the first meeting of the Caribbean Council provided for in the Statute annexed to this Agreement.

¹ See p. 124 of this volume.

Article V

1. This Agreement shall be subject to approval or acceptance by the signatory Governments. Instruments of approval or acceptance shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America, hereby designated as the depositary Government, which shall notify the other signatory Governments of each such deposit.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force on signature of a joint declaration to that effect by the signatory Governments, following deposit of instruments of approval or acceptance by the signatory Governments, and after the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Commission has received notification, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IV of the Statute annexed to this Agreement, from not less than six of the prospective Members of the Caribbean Organization.

3. This Agreement shall have indefinite duration. Any Contracting Party may at any time withdraw from the Agreement. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of the receipt by the depositary Government of the formal notification of withdrawal and shall be without prejudice to any liability already vested in the withdrawing Contracting Party by or under this Agreement in respect of the period before the withdrawal takes effect. This Agreement shall continue in force thereafter with respect to the other Contracting Parties.

Article VI

This Agreement, done in a single original in the English, French, Netherlands, and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America. Duly certified copies thereof will be transmitted by that Government to the other signatory Governments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Washington this twenty-first day of June, 1960.

For the Government of the Republic of France :

Pour le Gouvernement de la République Française :

Voor de Regering van de Franse Republiek :

Por el Gobierno de la República Francesa :

Hervé ALPHAND

For the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands :

Pour le Gouvernement du Royaume des Pays-Bas :

Voor de Regering van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden :

Por el Gobierno del Reino de los Países Bajos :

J. H. VAN ROIJEN