



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION AND THE CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOUR

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**DATED** this 26 day of MAY 2015

Whereas the Project, *Challenges to CARIFORUM Labour, Private Sector and Employers to fulfil their EPA Obligations: Caribbean Employers' Confederation and the Caribbean Congress of Labour Component of the Support to Facilitate Participation of CAIFORUM Civil Society in Regional Development and Integration Process*, has been developed with funding from the European Union (EU), the Executing Agency being the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Implementation Agencies being the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), with the expected outcome being that CCL and CEC are able to influence social and economic policies developed by CARICOM;

Whereas the EU and CARICOM Member States entered into an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in October 2008, which has as one of its provisions a Social Chapter referring to the need for each Member State to apply and implement the principles inherent in the ILO's eight Fundamental Conventions;


And it has been determined through preliminary discussions between representatives of CEC and CCL that there is a need to focus on legislation that ensures the EPA Social Chapter can be effected;

Recognizing that the CARICOM Model Legislation was developed some twenty years ago and does not address concerns expressed in regard to the implementation of an integrated regional market economy as envisaged by the CARICOM Single Market and Economy Agreement;

Recognizing that to ensure trade agreements bring the benefits anticipated by having access to wider markets, CEC and CCL have determined it necessary to support the understanding, application and implementation of regulatory requirements focusing on the EPA Social Chapter;

Thus, CCL and CEC hereby agree to work together in good faith:

1. to uphold and advocate for the principles enshrined in ILO Conventions addressing the issues of elimination of child labour, forced labour, discrimination and the right to freedom of association and to bargain collectively;
2. to analyze and identify areas where common legislative and regulatory principles having regional application are essential; and
3. to formulate in legislation for implementation at a national level amongst Member States the principles facilitating the establishment and operations of business and the free movement of labour within the common space.

SIGNED by .....  
President  
Caribbean Congress of Labour

SIGNED by .....  
President  
Caribbean Employers' Confederation