



ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

# STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY GERARDO LOZANO ARREDONDO

AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES, OECS,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS



August 12, 2009, Saint Lucia

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12TH AUGUST 2009**

Your Excellency,  
Len Ishmael, Director General  
of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States,

Dear colleagues of the Diplomatic Corp

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honor and a privilege for me, to present the credentials that entitle me as  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OECS.

As a country belonging to the Great Caribbean, México has as one of its priorities, to  
achieve greater bonds with the Eastern Caribbean States, with whom we share  
similar goals and challenges, in different areas like climate change, natural disasters,  
alleviation of poverty, health, education, protection of the environment, trade and  
economic development and security, among others.

The opening, in 2005, of the Mexican Embassy in Saint Lucia, headquarters of the  
OECS, was an important step towards this objective, since it contributed to  
strengthening the relations of Mexico with the countries that comprise this  
Organization.

Nevertheless it is important to underline that the relations between Mexico and the Eastern Caribbean States began since the independence of the Islands. For example, in the case of Saint Lucia, this year we commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, as well as with the other independent OECS countries.

In the same manner, the technical, educational and cultural cooperation is long standing between Mexico and the Caribbean countries. In fact, the Mexican Government attributes particular importance to the International Cooperation for Development, which is one of the main principles of its Foreign Policy.

Madame the Director General,

Mexico recognizes the significant efforts of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to contribute to the sustainable development of its Member States by facilitating their bilateral and multilateral co-operation and assisting them to maximize the benefits from their collective space. In this sense, we acknowledge the efforts for the establishment of an OECS Economic Union and the creation of a Single Financial and Economic Space.

Mexico is aware of the enormous challenges that the international economic crisis imposes on the OECS to achieve these objectives. However, we are convinced that with the unity and solidarity among its member states and the assistance of the international community, these challenges will be overcome.

We are convinced that technical cooperation is a fundamental tool for promoting the development of capabilities and for sharing experiences among countries.

Cooperation is a noble area that brings our people closer and promotes the mutual knowledge of our societies, cultures and traditions.

That has been the spirit of the most recent Mexican regional cooperation initiatives with the Eastern Caribbean Countries, in some diverse areas such as: the technical assistance in trade negotiation, in which Mexico shared its experiences in the negotiations of free trade agreements; the training workshop on protocol, conduction and organization of international conferences and the yearly course on Foreign Policy for officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Some of these activities have been jointly organized with the Secretariat of the OECS.

In the area of health, the Mexican government has organized a series of intensive seminars in monitoring, attention and prevention of HIV/AIDS. In the education sector, several training courses for the teaching of the Spanish language have been organized.

I would particularly like to mention “The Special Scholarship Program for the English Speaking Caribbean Students” that benefits 200 students from the Eastern Caribbean. Under this programme, students initially take an intensive Spanish course and when they have concluded these classes and have obtained academic acceptance from a Mexican university, the scholarships will be renewed to pursue higher education that can last between four to five years.

Within its capacity, the Government of México is willing to continue assisting OECS countries in its development objectives. We expect to maintain and increase these programmes in the near future. In this sense, I want to express the interest of the Mexican government in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in order to institutionalize and strengthen the existing cooperation relations.

I believe, Your Excellency that the prospects for the relations between Mexico and the OECS are extensive and promising and let me assure you that you can count on Mexico, as a friendly and close partner. We wish to work together in all fields that could benefit our people.

Finally, allow me to convey to you, the compliments of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa and her best wishes for the well being and prosperity of the Eastern Caribbean Countries and this Organization; wishes which I respectfully join in expressing.

Thank you very much.