PROTOCOL
TO THE
TREATY ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AMONG CARICOM MEMBER STATES
RELATING TO
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE CARICOM OPERATIONS,
PLANNING AND COORDINATING
STAFF (COPACS)
PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AMONG CARICOM MEMBER STATES
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CARICOM
OPERATIONS, PLANNING AND COORDINATING STAFF (COPACS)

Contracting Parties to the Treaty on Security Assistance Among CARICOM Member States,

Recalling Article 2 of the Treaty which established the Security Assistance Mechanism and Article 3 which set out the objectives of the Mechanism including the “expeditious, efficient mobilisation and deployment of regional resources in order to manage and defuse national and regional crises and to combat serious crimes”;

Recalling further Articles 5 and 6; and

Recognizing that the Community may have the need on occasion to mobilize forces under a single command in relation to the management of a single incident or event;

Agree as follows:

Article 1
Interpretation

In this Protocol, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Conference” means the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community established by Article of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community Including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy;

“Contracting State” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Treaty;

“COPACS” means the CARICOM Operations, Planning and Coordinating Staff established by Article 2;
“Regional Operations Commander” means the Regional Operations Commander appointed in accordance with Article 3;

“Security Assistance Mechanism” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Treaty;

“Treaty” means the Treaty on Security Assistance Among CARICOM Member States concluded among Member States of the Caribbean Community on 6 July 2006 at St Kitts and Nevis.

Article 2
Establishment of COPACS

1. Notwithstanding Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty, the Contracting States hereby establish the CARICOM Operations, Planning and Coordinating Staff, which shall have the functions specified in Article 3.

2. COPACS shall be temporary in nature and shall be convened by the Conference as and when required and for such period as determined by the Conference.

3. The Conference may assign any function or responsibility under the Treaty to the Regional Operations Commander during the period that COPACS is convened.

Article 3
Regional Operations Commander

1. The Regional Operations Commander shall be appointed by the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement for such period as COPACS is convened.

2. The Regional Operations Commander shall be responsible for managing COPACS and shall have the overall command of the forces of the Security Assistance Mechanism during such period as COPACS is convened.
Article 4
Functions of COPACS

1. COPACS shall have the following functions during such period as it is convened:

(a) mobilising, coordinating and deploying the resources of the Security Assistance Mechanism during the period and in respect of the incident or event for which it is convened;

(b) seeking to ascertain the quantum and availability of the resources in the territories of the Contracting States which may be identified for use by the Security Assistance Mechanism;

(c) preparing and implementing a Resource Mobilisation Plan for the approval of the Conference;

(d) preparing and implementing a Plan in relation to all security related aspects of the event or incident for which it was convened;

(e) as directed by the Conference, acting as the focal point for relations with governments of third States and representatives of competent international organisations on issues relating to its establishment;

(f) preparing a draft budget for its activities in relation to the incident or event for which it was convened;

(g) performing any other function mandated by the Conference within the scope of its establishment pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 2.

2. COPACS shall establish a Regional Operations Coordinating Centre as required to be the Operational Headquarters under the command of the Regional Operations Commander, in order to execute the Plan specified in subsection (c) of paragraph 1 and related matters.
Article 5
Security Assistance Mechanism

Nothing in this Protocol shall prevent any Contracting Party to the Treaty from activating the Security Assistance Mechanism as provided in the Treaty in relation to any incident or event for which COPACS does not have authority.

Article 6
Entry into Force and Termination

1. This Protocol shall be open for signature by any of the Contracting Parties and shall enter into force upon signature by three such Contracting Parties.

2. This Protocol may be terminated by the agreement of all parties hereto and in any event shall be terminated immediately upon the termination of the Treaty, but termination of the Protocol alone shall not otherwise affect the operation of the Treaty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective governments, hereby sign the present Protocol.

Signed by
for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on the 14th day of February, 2007

Signed by
for the Government of The Bahamas on the day of
at

Signed by
for the Government of Barbados on the 14th day of February, 2007
Signed by
for the Government of Belize on the day of
at

Signed by
for the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on the 14th day of February 2007
at Kingstown, St. Vincent

Signed by
for the Government of Grenada on the 14th day of February 2007
at Kingstown, St. Vincent

Signed by
for the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on the day of
at

Signed by
for the Government of Jamaica on the day of
at

Signed by
for the Government of Saint Lucia on the day of
Signed by

for the Government of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis on the 14th day of February 2007
at Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Signed by Ralph Gonsalves
for the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines on the 14th day of February 2007
at Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Signed by
for the Government of the Republic of Suriname on the day of
at

Signed by

for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the 14th day of February 2007
at Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

AND IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized thereto has signed the present Treaty

for the Regional Security System on the 14th day of February 2007