

Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of

<u>Congratulatory Message - Commemoration of the 1st Anniversary of the</u> <u>OACPS</u>

On behalf of the Government and people of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, I extend warm congratulations to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) on the occasion of its 1st Anniversary.

The 1975 Georgetown Agreement, named after Guyana's capital, brought three distinct regions together to focus on common goals. One year ago, with the entry into force of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, our organisation resolved to enhance its visibility, adapt to new challenges and opportunities in the global environment and improve engagement with the European Union and beyond.

The first anniversary of the OACPS comes at a critical juncture as we conclude the new transformative OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement and intensify efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new opportunities and frontiers we pursue are not without threats and challenges. The deleterious consequences of climate change and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic continue to unravel our development gains. Our collective actions must be focused on building inclusive and sustainable economies and communities. Ongoing efforts to reform the OACPS Secretariat to better meet the needs of Member States is an important component for addressing these new global challenges and threats.

The transition presents an opportunity to further strengthen the unity, solidarity and cooperation among the three regions of the OACPS to address challenges to their development and for the Organisation to increase its influence in the international arena.

Guyana remains strongly committed to the values of the OACPS and looks forward to contributing to the achievement of its shared objectives in the years ahead.

H.E. David T. A Hales Ambassador 01/4/2021