



OFFICE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

## Press Release

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### THE BEGINNING OF ROUND TWO

**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS** – Having completed another session of meetings of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs), the Region will meet with Canada in Barbados on Monday, March 29, 2010 to start Round two of the negotiations for a CARICOM-Canada Trade and Development Agreement.

During the first Round that took place some four months ago in Barbados, the two sides exchanged perspectives on the basic principles and objectives of the Agreement. While commonality exists in this regard, the negotiating Parties are yet to iron out details.

At this early stage, the negotiations will centre on achieving further convergence on issues which will be covered under the Agreement. The latter include Market Access for industrial and agricultural goods, Services, Investment, and Legal and Institutional Issues.

During this second Round, the Parties will for the first time also undertake substantive negotiating exchanges with respect to Sanitary and Phytosanitary

Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) which are particularly germane to trade in goods. The Round will also cover trade-related issues such as Transparency in Government Procurement, and Competition policy.

In preparation for the negotiations, the TWGs have facilitated a detailed level of consultation with the CARICOM member states. However, member states are expected to continue to organize national consultations whilst further regional consultations will be undertaken as the negotiations deepen to address the specific treatment of goods and services sectors.

The Second Round will take place in at the Grand Barbados Hotel and will run from 29 – 30 March, 2010.

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