

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
AND
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(On behalf of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize,
Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St.
Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago)

PREAMBLE

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an intergovernmental organization on behalf of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago of the one part and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica of the other part (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties”)

HAVING DECIDED TO

STRENGTHEN the special bonds of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between their Governments and peoples;

CONTRIBUTE to the harmonious development and expansion of world and regional trade and provide a catalyst for broader international cooperation;

IMPROVE their existing trade relations and create opportunities for further economic development;

CREATE an expanded and more secure market for the goods produced in and the services supplied in or from their territories;

REDUCE distortions in trade;

ESTABLISH clear and mutually beneficial rules to regulate trade between the Parties;

ENSURE a transparent and predictable commercial framework for the planning of productive activities and investment;

OBSERVE their respective rights and obligations under the *Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization* and other relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation instruments, or economic integration instruments to which they are party;

PROMOTE regional integration in the Americas;

ENHANCE the competitiveness of their companies in the world markets;

CREATE new employment opportunities, improve working conditions and the quality of life in their respective territories;

UNDERTAKE all of the above in a manner consistent with the protection and conservation of the environment;

PROMOTE sustainable development;

PRESERVE their capacity to safeguard public welfare;

PROMOTE the active participation of private economic agents in the efforts of deepening and broadening the economic relations between the Parties;

HAVE AGREED as follows: