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Russian-CARICOM Cooperation

Press Release

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We welcome participants of the 4th Meeting between CARICOM Secretariat and International Development Partners in Georgetown. Russian-CARICOM partnership was formed in 2010 with signing MOU establishing a Mechanism for Political Dialogue and Cooperation seeking to promote interaction and exchanges in the economic, trade, financial, investment, technological, scientific and technical spheres as well as exchanges and training in the fields of culture, education, health care, sports, youth development and tourism.

Throughout the years both sides took active steps for its implementation.

Russia has contributed to debt relief of such Caribbean countries as Cuba, Guyana and Grenada. The agreement with Grenada on relief of the debt amounting 266,667 USD was signed in November 2015 in Paris.

The Russian Federation has contributed 0.5 million US dollars to the SIDS Special Fund. Over the last four years, the aggregate support to the SIDS from Russia totaled 20 million US dollars.

In addition to monetary assistance to Caribbean countries Russia has donated medical perinatal equipment to Grenada, Saint Vincent and Grenadines. It is installed and successfully used in St. George's and Kingstown hospitals.

Our country also contributes to developing of Caribbean Community human potential. It provides courses for participants from Caribbean and Latin American countries at Regional counter-drug law-enforcement training center in Managua and Russian-Cuban Fire and Rescue Training Centre in Havana.

In view of the growing threat of pandemic viruses the Russian Federation continues research to create counter Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya vaccines. It has developed effective counter Ebola vaccine and opened Ebola fighting center in Guinea, Africa.

We view the Caribbean countries as equal partners and are ready to strengthen trade and commercial cooperation, investment opportunities, student, youth exchanges.

The Russian side sees great potential in interaction with the Secretariat of CARICOM in political sphere including UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, promoting other initiatives for cyber security, preventing of weapons placement in outer space and addressing climate changes and their consequences for Caribbean countries.