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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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CROSQ UPDATE TO THE TBT COMMITTEE

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY (CROSQ)

This document contains information provided by CROSQ at the TBT Committee meeting of 10-12 November 2021 under Agenda Item 4 (Update by Observers).

1. The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) has a mandate to establish and harmonize standards and conformity assessment activities for the enhanced efficiency and improved quality in the production of goods and services in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)¹. By so doing it is hoped to empower the Community to meet the requirements of international markets for goods and services as well as secure the quality, health and safety of products produced and or used in the region.

2. By mandate, CROSQ is also the regional centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, using standards, technical regulations, metrology and accredited conformity assessment procedures. In this regard, CROSQ supports international competitiveness of the region's products and services for the enhancement of social and economic development of the region.

3. It is recognized that;

- a. The differences in the regulatory requirements by which standards are made mandatory in individual CARICOM Member States and others, is among the issues that may have the greatest impact on regional trade let alone international trade.
- b. Where regulations are poorly designed or overly complicated it can impose excessive costs and inhibit the economic sector it is trying to regulate.
- c. Within CARICOM, the various institutions are not always harmonised on the process and the protocols required to comply with the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) requirements as it relates to Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs).

4. With these in mind, CROSQ with the support of a project under the TRADECOM II PROGRAMME funded by the European Union through the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACP) Secretariat's trade development programme, and with the help of a consortium organization (AESA Consulting) has finalized (1) a Caribbean Regional Guide on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) and Model National Code of Practice (COP) and (2) an accompanying training GRP Workbook. These documents are now finalized and the electronic version of the [Regional GRP](#) and the [GRP Workbook](#) are available on the CROSQ website and can be of particular value to developing countries.

¹ CARICOM Members - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Associate Membership of the Organisation is also available to the Associate Members of the Community as well as to other States and political entities of the Association of Caribbean States.

5. It is expected that these publications will enhance compliance with the WTO TBT requirements as well as the European Union – CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement objectives. We are willing to make a presentation on this developing world model of good regulatory practice to the TBT Committee on invite.
