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## *CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)*

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### *What is the CSME?*

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is an agreement which allows CARICOM goods, services, people and capital to move to any CARICOM member state without restriction or government taxation. The aim was for member states to pool their financial, human and natural resources to place the region in a better economic standing and to respond to the changes that have taken place as a result of trading blocs and globalization.

### *What gave birth to the CSME?*

The treaty of Chaguaramas, signed on July 4, 1973 was the agreement that gave birth to CARICOM. The treaty was revised in 2002 when the heads of government of CARICOM member states decided to establish a single economy system among CARICOM members. The revision of 2002 led to the Caribbean Community and Common Market being called the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

### *AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF CSME*

The main objectives of the CSME are to:

- make full use of the region's labour force
- utilise its natural resources and capital to benefit the region
- attract investment
- improve the living and working conditions of citizens
- allow for movement of CARICOM goods, services, people and capital throughout the Caribbean community without restrictions or the need to pay tariffs
- expand trade and economic relationships with countries outside the community
- make the region more competitive on the world market
- enhance functional cooperation
- have one economic trade policy in the region
- promote competitive production of goods; this would lead to greater quantity, variety and quality (of goods and services)
- harmonize economic, monetary and fiscal policies across all member states.