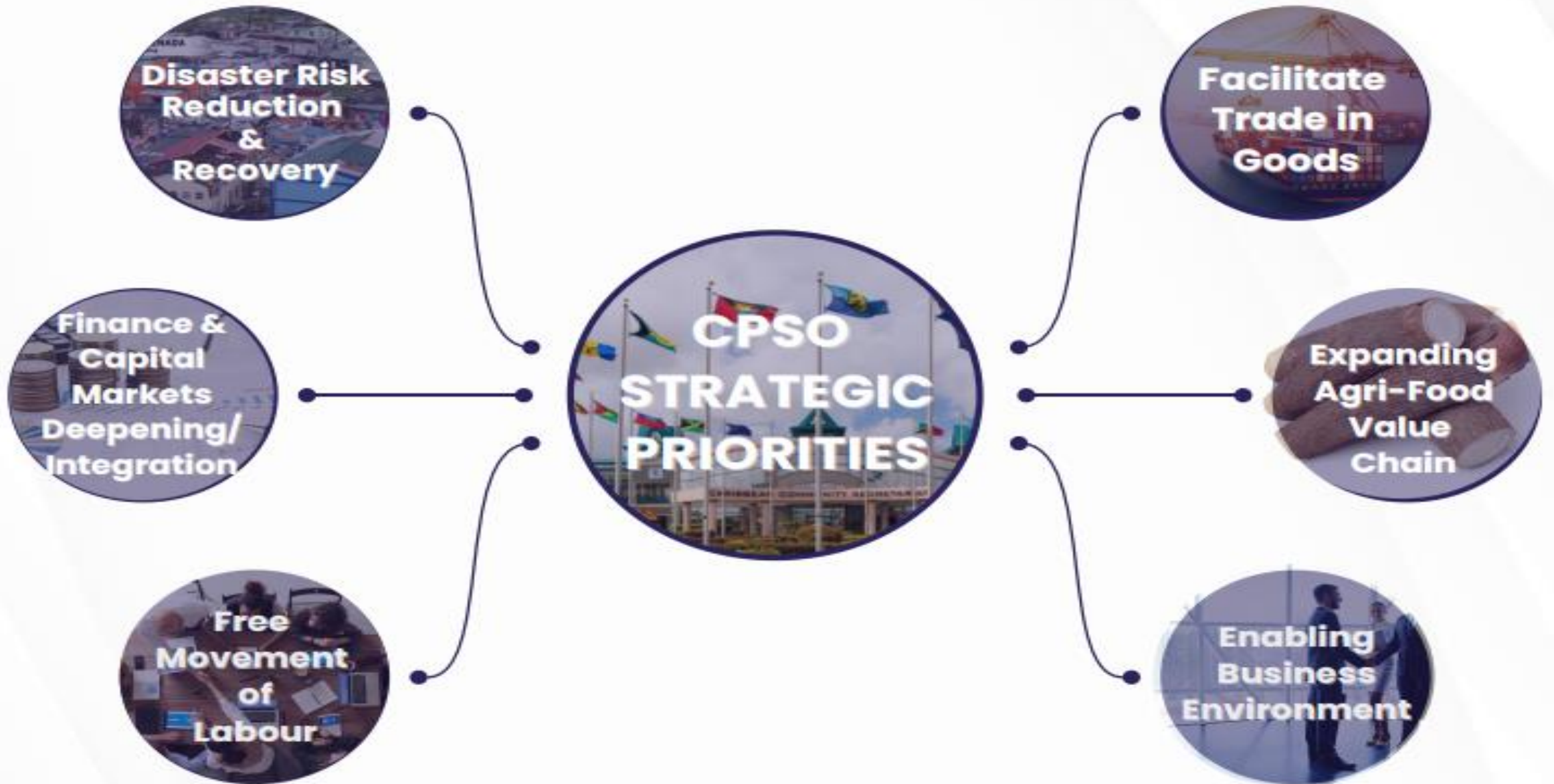




# WORK PROGRAMME *2024-2025*



# WORK STREAMS

1 – Work which the Community has embarked upon as part of the CSME Agenda.

2 – Priority areas and subjects initiated by the regional private sector; work requiring specific treatment- articulation by private sector interests

3 – Responds to specific approaches by the CPSO Membership, COTED, and Member States on priority matters germane to the expansion of intra-regional trade.

# Facilitate Trade in Goods

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1



## ➤ **Review of the CET and RoO:**

- Complete CET and RoO review processes – ‘Built In Agenda’
- Support Completion of ‘Draft CARICOM Proposal on Unfair Regional Trade Practices’
- Continue advocacy and consultations on the ‘Fast Track’ Proposal for the Alteration of the CET.
- Advocate for the Direct Consignment for originating goods to be relaxed
- ‘Participation in Working Group’ – ‘Fine Tuning’ of the Suspension Regime, ‘Specifications and Standards’, ‘Verification of request’.

## ➤ **Non-Tariff Barriers:**

- Maintain and update List of Non-Tariff Barriers.
- Support private sector submission of complaints on NTBs to the CPSO.
- Use analysis and advocacy to encourage Member States to eliminate NTBs.
- Submissions to Lead Head for CSME, Lead Head, Agriculture & COTED.

## ➤ INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

- Collaborate with Member States and Lead Head (Suriname) to complete the CARICOM Industrial Policy.
- Publish opportunities for industrial products based on the Study: **“Comprehensive Assessment of CARICOM’s Trade Performance and Market Opportunities on Ineligibles List” (completed)**
- Collaborate and Support private sector entities, in seizing opportunities for CSME expansion (*Selected Items, Art. 164 – LDCs*)
- Participate in an ‘Open-Ended’ Working Group to advance the ‘Fast-Track’ proposal for CET alterations.
- Complete work on **“Draft Proposal for Substitution by Imported Product that Diminish the Grant of Competing Rate Status in the CET.”**

## ➤ **SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES**

- Collaborate with Member States and other stakeholders towards the development of Draft Model legal framework for SEZs.
- Advance policy coherence with CARICOM Industrial Policy, Policy on MSMEs - (Working Group on SEZs)
- Propose and advance to COTED, changes to the trade regime that supports SEZs under the CET and ROOs.
- Expand the SEZs' Working Group.

# Free Movement of Labour

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2



Single Market  
and Economic Partnership





## ➤ MOVEMENT OF COMMUNITY NATIONALS

- Support operationalization of the full free movement Heads Decision, adopted at the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CHOGs.
- Encourage domestic legislative changes that are required to give effect to the free movement by CARICOM nationals based on the strategic option(s) selected by Member States.
- Advocacy and engagement with the Member States to complete the work on the Protocol on Contingent rights (collaboration to advance ‘tools of trade’ regime) to accompany free movement.

# Expanding Agri-food Value-Chain

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3



## ➤ 25% X 2025 INITIATIVE

- Conduct analytical work to measure the progress toward the 25% X 2025 goal
- Complete MOU with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- Collaboration with ICRISAT for support to the agricultural sector in the states impacted by Hurricane Beryl.
- Implement Caribbean Resilient Economies and Sectors (RESET) Activity, in 11 Member States Under (USAID funded project) – 3-year project
- Host Technical Sessions at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA).
- Participation in Ministerial Task Force (MTF), under the Lead Head for Agriculture.
- Complete proposal on ***“Special Agriculture Opportunity Policy to Support The 25% By 2025 Initiative Mandate for Agricultural Products”***

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

# Enabling Business Environment



## ➤ **Harmonisation of Company Laws**

- Continue to monitor progress being made on the review of the Draft Minimum Requirements for the establishment of companies which are to be reviewed by the CARICOM Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) for sign-off.
- Advocate with Member States for the meeting of the LAC on the common information (minimum standards) that a Registrar will provide to other Registrars for Companies that wish to establish in another Jurisdiction.
- Participation in the detailed review of the **Draft Model Companies Bill**.

## ➤ **Development of Rules of Procedure for the Enforcement of Rules of Competition**

- Continue engagement with the CARICOM Single Market and Trade (CSMT) Directorate and the CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC) on a ‘best-practice’ structure for a regional competition law and policy framework.
- Participation in the Working Group to Discuss ‘Study to ‘Examine the Feasibility of a Regional Competition Authority/Commission, serving in a dual capacity (national/regional)’.

## ➤ **Regional Trademark Administration System**

- Advocate for and support the work towards the establishment of the regional trademark regime.

## ➤ **Regional Public Procurement**

- Advocate for the completion of the public procurement regime.
- Only 7 Member States have signed the Protocol.
- 5 Members have ratified- thus the Permanent Joint Council can be established to commence implementation.

## ➤ ICT and Digital Transformation – CARICOM Gigabit Society 2030

- Chair and participate in the Working Group to advance work on achieving a Gigabit Society by 2030.
- Collaborate with the CARICOM Secretariat and other Partners (CTU, CANTO) on Action Plan for ‘Fast Tracking’ Digital Transformation in CARICOM.
- Complete recommendations to submit to the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads.
- Support the CARICOM Gigabit Society, 2030 as a development priority incl. the ‘business case’ and requisite policy changes.
- Collaborate with ‘Carib Coin’, CTU and partners on the ‘use case’ of ‘**Carib\$**’, as a possible solution to settling trade accounts in different currencies.

# Finance and Capital Markets Deepening

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5



## ➤ REGIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE AND CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION

- Engage consultancy to assist in proposing models to operationalize the Regional Stock Exchange. Build consensus among Stakeholders, Development Partners for the most appropriate model for the Regional Stock Exchange.
- Continue contributing to the work to finalize the Draft CARICOM Model Securities Law and Policy.
- Advocate for remaining Member States to engage and solve for the potential overlap of regulators in the Draft Mergers and Acquisitions Policy
- Partnering with ‘Champions for success’ –Regional Stock Exchange and Artificial Intelligence Education.

# Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6



## ➤ **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- Collaborate with Development Partners and Member States to mobilize resources to support the creation of private sector climate investment plans and finance-ready projects.
- Support the development of products to strengthen climate risk financing for private sector firms especially MSMEs operating in vulnerable sectors.
- Continue engagement with CDEMA and participation in the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG)
- Identify necessary reforms for greater efficiency in the channeling of private sector support in recovery efforts ('e.g. 'measures to support the movement of equipment', etc)
- Advance discussions with CDEMA on identifying economic opportunities for participation by the private sector in the recovery phase post-Hurricane Beryl

# OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS OF WORK

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## ➤ ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF NCDs

- Complete development of a comprehensive package of measures that addresses diets, education and awareness, and exercise via the ‘Working Group on NCDs.
- Support, advance, and implement ‘Calorie Counter Initiative’ regionally, in collaboration with partners (e.g. CANDi).
- Complete a compendium of ongoing, planned, and future initiatives by regional private sector entities that contribute directly and indirectly to the NCD Agenda in CARICOM to highlight best practices that can be shared across the Region.
- Continuous engagement with Gov’t Ministries, and Stakeholders in developing a CARICOM NCDs Policy and Strategy with a special Focus on FoPNL.

## ➤ MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

- Advocate for CARICOM to seek a grace period in respect to IMO CII
  - *to be used to advance necessary hard and soft infrastructural changes to ports to strategically respond to the implications of the CII.*
- Advocate to Member States to ensure that their interests are represented at the IMO and other UN agencies and committee with standing in regard to GHG in maritime shipping.
- Seek to Private sector formally represented through appropriate mechanisms in formulating Member States' position in these fora.
- Collaborate with customs, immigration and other authorities to provide the policy framework to support maritime transport initiatives under the Phase I work.
- Collaborate with FAO and CDB in identifying a system for satisfying standards for agri-trade on an IT enabled protocols for the application of SPS measures.



# The Private Sector is engaged as never before!!!



**CONTACT US**

[info@thecpso.org](mailto:info@thecpso.org)

**WEBSITE**

[www.thecpso.org](http://www.thecpso.org)

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