

# The Caribbean Community Preferential Trade Agreement

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Propositions  
belonging to the PhD dissertation

The Caribbean Community Preferential Trade Agreement: Is there a legal obligation  
to create trade?

by Ms. Gianni Avila

1. There is no conclusive evidence as to whether preferential trade agreements assist or hinder the general movement towards global free trade. Despite this, many WTO Members continue to opt for a more discriminatory and preferential approach to trade.
2. GATT Article XXIV and paragraph 2 (c) of the Enabling Clause outline the formation requirements for creating preferential trade agreements, but do not legally require countries to create trade.
3. The institutional regulation of preferential trade agreements contributes to greater transparency in international trade relations.
4. The CARICOM preferential trade agreement has resulted in limited trade gains, as the British Caribbean colonial paradigm continues to impose a one-dimensional internal and external trade policy on the CARICOM region.
5. CARICOM member states must overcome their intra-regional transportation deficiencies in order to maximize their trading potential.
6. Most CARICOM member states have been independent for less than 50 years. Nation-building in the era of a rules-based multilateral trading system and globalization remains a challenge for these small developing countries.

7. The regional platform provided by the CARICOM preferential trade agreement is a valuable tool that assists the CARICOM member states with their interactions on the international plane.
8. National political actors in the various CARICOM member states should equip themselves with a fuller understanding on the aims and instruments of regional integration in the Caribbean. Going forward, this can positively alter its pace and trajectory.
9. It is indeed true that some tasks seem impossible until they are completed.