

ABSTRACT

The End of Preference: Caribbean Development Beyond Lomé

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Caribbean countries have come to depend on preferential trading arrangements, among which is the Lomé Convention. Global trends are eroding the margin of preference of these agreements and are threatening to marginalise the countries in the region. The new global economy demands reciprocity from all countries, including developing countries. This requires that the region become competitive within a relatively short timeframe. However, existing development problems could hinder the region's progress towards attaining competitiveness.

This thesis explores the conditions under which preferential trade agreements are becoming irrelevant and the impact on Caribbean development. The development experience of the region will be examined with a view to determining the gaps that must be bridged for successful insertion into the new global economy and the capacity of the Caribbean to adjust.

It would be necessary for the Caribbean to position itself externally and collaborate closely with other countries to gain political support and financial and technical assistance for its endeavours; and to undertake structural transformation internally to meet the challenges of a liberalised international system.

Keywords: Meera Ramesar, preferential trade agreements, globalisation, competitiveness.