



COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONS & ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES

PRESS RELEASE

CCAICACB'S NEW EXECUTIVE RESOLVED TO ADVANCE RESOLUTIONS OF ITS COMMUNIQUE

APRIL, 26th 2023 – Chairpersons, CEOs, representatives and Independent Members of the Commonwealth Caribbean Integrity Commissions and Anti- Corruption Bodies (CCAICACB), met in Georgetown, Guyana for their recently concluded Annual Conference held from April 17 to 21 2023. The recently concluded Conference was held under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the Government of Guyana.

The conference was opened by addresses from the Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General, His Excellency Professor Luis Franceschi, the Honourable Ministers Gail Teixeira and Dr. Ashni Singh of Guyana.

Seminal contributions to the program were rendered by Dr. Roger Koranteng of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr. Toussant Boyce of the Caribbean Development Bank, Mr Guglielmo Castaldo (Sr.) of the UNODC, Mr. Josh Drayton of CARICOM IMPACS, Mr. Lemarque Campbell of the American Bar Association; with presentations from Professor Emeritus Trevor Munroe, Calvin Wilson, Professor Rajendra Ramlogan, Canon Mark Kendall, Pandit Deodat Persad and Moulana Abuo Bakr.

The Association's elected Executive Officers over the next two years are: Chairperson A. Anande Trotman Lady Joseph of Grenada, Vice Chairperson Ricaldo V. Caines of Nevis, Secretary Ercia P. Blake of Nevis, Treasurer Albert Edwards of St Kitts, Integrity Commission of Guyana, Mr. Thomas Holmes of Dominica, Independent Member Dirk Harrison of Jamaica, and Immediate Past Chair Canon Mark Kendall of the Turks and Caicos.

The collective AGM participants resolved the Association's platform for increased collaboration and regional public education and actions. The Communique is attached.

Ercia P. Blake
CCAICACB Secretary

The Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti- Corruption Bodies (CCAICAB), a Non- Profit Organisation, comprises of representative members and allies across the Commonwealth Caribbean. The Commonwealth Secretariat provides critical support for realizing its work across the region. Contact us at secretary@ccaicacb.org

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ

- 1) We, the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (“the Association”), meeting at our Ninth Annual Regional Conference convened under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the Government of Guyana under the theme: ***Resetting the Anti-Corruption Agenda: Assessing Achievements and Challenges in the Commonwealth Caribbean.***
- 2) **NOTING** with deepest gratitude the invaluable facilitation of the Conference, the warm hospitality and contributions provided by the Government and people of Guyana, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance through its Minister the Honourable Gail Teixeira and the National Coordinating Committee.
- 3) **RECEIVING ADDRESSES** from the Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General, His Excellency Professor Luis Franceschi, the Honourable Ministers Gail Teixeira and Dr. Ashni Singh of Guyana at the Opening Ceremony.
- 4) **RECOGNIZING** the contributions of the representatives of the global and regional agencies to the conference discussions including the indefatigable support of Dr Roger Korangteng of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the contributions of Dr Toussant Boyce of the Caribbean Development Bank and Mr Guglielmo Castaldo (Sr.) of the UNODC and Mr. Josh Drayton of CARICOM IMPACS along with presentations of distinguished and esteemed presenters as detailed in the Conference Program.
- 5) **HAVING** extensively discussed the programme content and theme of the conference with a full exchange of views of presenters, panellists and participants.
- 6) **RECOGNIZING** that corruption undermines the democratic foundations of society and national development.
- 7) **RECOGNIZING** that the smallness of our nation states presents peculiar challenges to the fight against corruption.

AGREED AND ADOPTED the following resolutions: -

- a. continue to reiterate the need for Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the region to maintain their independence, impartiality and professionalism to further enhance their effectiveness across the Caribbean region;
- b. make recommendations to our respective Governments to ensure that the agreed benchmarks and standards for the establishment, operationalizing and sustaining of the national bodies are adopted to ensure that they are properly accommodated, financed, and staffed, so that effective national integrity and anti-corruption mandates can be realized in the Caribbean region;
- c. advocate for and encourage governments to review current legislation and where necessary enact legislation which strengthens existing legislative frameworks, to ensure: 1. the adequate criminalization of corrupt actions and practices and 2. effective investigations and prosecutions of such offences;
- d. member organisations should aim to attain competencies in processes for compliance reviews of asset declarations, complaints, and investigations through capacity training of organizations' staff and the implementation of related policies and strategies for improved effectiveness in their work;
- e. urge Member Governments through their Ministries of Education and in collaboration with Member Integrity Commissions to pursue initiatives for the infusion of integrity and anti-corruption principles into the national curricula;
- f. seek support and funding for the establishment of a Secretariat and employment of an Administrative Secretary;
- g. invite CARICOM and other internationally recognized organizations to collaborate with CCAICACB in anti-corruption efforts, integrity building and capacity building;

- h. foster greater networking and coordination among national and regional agencies to strengthen anti-corruption work;
- i. encourages civil society including religious bodies to intentionally promote integrity principles values and ethics throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean;
- j. encourage governments to enact whistle-blower legislation with the aim of protecting those who report corrupt practices;
- k. **BUILDING** trust and the greater confidence of our Caribbean people in the fight against corruption through several creative measures and innovations of our institutions; and
- l. **SECURE** the further technical assistance and support of the Commonwealth Secretariat and other agencies for the continued provision of region wide education.

Dated this 21st day of April 2023