

**Third Commonwealth Regional Conference of Integrity Commissions
and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Caribbean, Kingston, Jamaica,
April 24 - 28, 2017.**

COMMUNIQUÉ

- 1) We, the Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Commonwealth Caribbean, meeting at the Third Regional Conference of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Commonwealth Caribbean (the “Association”), organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the Office of the Contractor General, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the Revenue Protection Division of Jamaica from April 24-28, 2017 under the theme: *“The Anti-Corruption Agenda, Today, Tomorrow, The Region and Beyond”* ;
- 2) **NOTING** with deep gratitude the invaluable support and warm hospitality provided by the Government and people of Jamaica and the organising Agencies of Jamaica, the addresses of Senator the Honourable Pearnel Charles, Junior Minister of State for National Security and representing the Prime Minister, the Honourable Audley Shaw, Minister for Finance and the Public Service, the Honourable Chief Justice for declaring the Conference open on behalf of the Governor General, and Dr Roger Korentang, Head of Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat, for bringing remarks and sharing the message of the Commonwealth Secretary General, Honourable Baroness Patricia Scotland, to the Conference;
- 3) **NOTING** further, that since our last Conference, anti-corruption efforts and collaboration with the regional (including CARICOM), and the global community intensified with access to national and regional training opportunities, reporting cycles and treaty review cycles being pursued to deepen treaty obligations with respect to anti-corruption;
- 4) **MINDFUL** of the continuing need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Commonwealth Caribbean, so that they can realise their potential to transform positively the social, political, economic and anti-corruption landscape of the Commonwealth Caribbean;
- 5) **RECOGNISING** also the need to continue to use this regional platform for the sharing and implementation of best practices and strategies for combating corruption and the promotion of good governance;

- 6) **HAVING** extensively discussed the theme of the conference and its programme content, with a full exchange of views of participants;
- 7) **AGREED AND ADOPTED** the following resolutions: -

It is hereby resolved that we:

- a) Reiterate that regional Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies must continue to maintain their independence, impartiality and professionalism, to further enhance their effectiveness;
- b) Approve the ratification of The Constitution of the Association in its present form, having been agreed by all its members;
- c) Urge Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies to make recommendations to their Governments with a view to realizing reinvigorated political will, public sector and nationwide commitments, to continuously combat corruption in our societies;
- d) Urge regional Governments to enact, expand and enhance national legislative frameworks and strategies for improved effectiveness, so that there are no legislative silos which deter holistic anti-corruption work in the region, and to fully domesticate the commitments and obligations of the OAS and/ or UNCAC treaties ratified by the region's governments;
- e) Must encourage Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies to develop harmonised benchmarking systems and protocols for the purposes of both internal and national systems and institutions, statutory corporations and agencies, for which they have oversight;
- f) Must implement effective organisational risk management strategies and gather to achieve meaningful inter-agency collaboration, locally, regionally and internationally;
- g) Continue our calls on member Governments to:
 - (i) provide adequate financial, technical and human resources to the Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies;
 - (ii) give encouragement and support in their prompt and efficient discharge of their statutory functions in their sustainable fight against and in the eradication of corruption;
- h) Agree that Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies should further intensify their public education and citizens' engagement and initiatives, surveys and data gathering, and in particular continue the

deeper mobilization with children, youth, civil society organizations and religious bodies, in the fight against corruption across the region;

- i) Must encourage Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies to develop harmonised strategies and practices for strengthening cooperation and the sharing of data, information and lists of persons of interest among themselves;
 - j) Must encourage CARICOM to place on its Agenda the discussion of anti-corruption efforts and the adoption of a 'Memorandum Of Understanding';
 - k) Must encourage Governments, Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies to counter corruption perception indices, by engaging independent integrity agencies to work regionally to determine strengths and challenges so that the Association can share more objective indices and recommendations for improving the anti-corruption fight across the region;
- 8) Having regard to the diverse experiences of members of the Association it was further agreed:
- a) To pursue the development and implementation of regional anti-corruption model legislation in keeping with the requirements of the UNCAC as ratified by members and the constitutional and legislative frameworks of their respective countries, to achieve effective reduction and eradication of corruption in the Commonwealth Caribbean;
 - b) To continue to support each other through the sharing of experiences, best practices, information and solutions among Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Commonwealth Caribbean and the monitoring of the impact of the Association's interventions;
 - c) To institute mechanisms for the collection of Subscription Fees from members of the Association;
- 9) The Association requested and Jamaica (Office of the Contractor General) agreed that the logo used for the Conference would be adopted as the logo for the Association, subject to the execution of all copyright procedures;
- 10) The Association commends highly, and express its gratitude to the Commonwealth Secretariat for their continuing leadership, guidance, financial assistance and for organising the Annual Conferences of the Association in collaboration with the Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies of the Association's network;

- 11) The Association AGREED to:
- a) Accept the offer of the Government of Grenada to assist with capacity building programmes and required training of the Association by providing training centre facilities, which will be operated in collaboration with the Government of Singapore and the Commonwealth Secretariat;
 - b) Accept the offer of **Turks and Caicos Islands** to host the next Conference in **2018**, and the **Cayman Islands** in **2019**, in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat;
- 12) The Conference resolved that the **current Chairman of the Association would be a member of the Executive Committee, as an “Immediate past Chairman”, and the new Executive Members, subsequent to election, are as follows: -**
- **Chairman:** Turks and Caicos Islands;
 - **Vice-Chair:** Jamaica;
 - **Secretary:** Turks and Caicos Islands;
 - **Treasurer:** Jamaica;
 - **Three other Executive Members:** Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica and Cayman Islands;
 - **Immediate Pass Chairman:** Grenada;
 - **Representative:** of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Dated the 28th Day of April 2017, at Kingston, Jamaica.