



COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONS & ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES

PRESS RELEASE



The Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (CCAICACB) concluded successful Tenth Annual Conference held in Nassau, The Bahamas.

*June 20, 2024-The CCAICACB held a successful conference in Nassau Bahamas during 10th to 14th June, 2024 under the theme: “**Best Practices in implementing Integrity and Anti-Corruption Laws in the Caribbean in the age of Artificial Intelligence**”; through sponsorship and support of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Technical Support Fund, and the facilitation of the Bahamas Public Disclosure Commission led by Bishop Victor Cooper, with support of the Government of the Bahamas through the Ministry of Tourism and the Royal Bahamas Police Force.*

The welcoming presence of the Governor General Her Excellency, Dame Cynthia Pratt at the Opening Ceremony, the keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Roger Koranteng;

Executive Committee Members: Lady A. Anande Trotman-Joseph – Chairperson (Grenada); Mr. Ricaldo V. Caines - Deputy-Chairperson (Nevis); Canon Mark Kendall - Immediate Past Chairman (Turks and Caicos Islands); Ms. Ercia P. Blake – Secretary (Nevis); Mr. Albert Edwards - Treasurer (St. Kitts); Mr. Dirk Harrison – Independent Member (Jamaica); Mr. Thomas Holmes – Country Representative (Dominica); Dr. Amanda Jaisingh - Country Representative (Guyana); Dr. Roger Koranteng - Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom

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Head of Public Sector Governance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, representing Her Excellency Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary General; and the encouraging Remarks of the Honorable Prime Minister Phillip Davis KC at the evening Reception, on the Opening Day, were conference highlights.

The hybrid format accommodated in person and virtual delegate attendance and presenters, including Heads of Integrity Commissions, Anti-corruption bodies and independent members, from Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Nevis, St Kitts, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands. A delegation from the Sint Maarten Integrity Chamber evidenced the expanded regional reach of the Association. The Commonwealth Secretariat, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security” (IMPACS) and the Caribbean Institute of Forensic Accounting (CIFA) Consulting Agency were also represented.

Key presentations were made mainly by members who are subject matter experts in carrying out regional integrity, anti-corruption and security work, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and information sharing and the impacts of Artificial Intelligence on tackling corruption. These presentations were bolstered by the global and regional perspectives through the presentations of Dr. Roger Koranteng of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Guglielmo Castaldo Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser of UNODC, Nadine Bushell CARICOM “Implementation Agency for Crime and Security” (IMPACS) and Stephon Grey-Head of CIFA Consulting.

Chairperson Lady A. Anande Trotman Joseph encouraged members to: **“Collectively advocate and lobby regional governments for allocations of adequate budgetary support and resources by regional administrations to enable the full establishment of anti-corruption systems to effectively fight corruption; in tandem with enactments, and implementation of laws, policies, and international best practices and benchmarks.”**

A communique was developed to establish the principles that all Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies should use as guiding frameworks in carrying out their mandates. Members and delegates resolved to return to their member states enthused to advocate for effectively tackling corruption, promoting interagency collaboration, networking, and gaining an understanding of the role of artificial intelligence in their work.

CCAICACB Secretary
Ercia P. Blake

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

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CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ Of The Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (“CCAICACB”)

We, the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (“CCAICACB”), meeting at our Tenth Annual Regional Conference convened in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat with the theme: ***“Best Practices in implementing Integrity and Anti-Corruption Laws in the Caribbean in the age of Artificial Intelligence.”***

- 1) **NOTING** with deepest gratitude the invaluable facilitation of the Chairman, Commissioners and Staff of the Public Disclosure Commission of The Bahamas; for the warm hospitality, support and contributions of the Ministry of Tourism, of the Commissioner and ranks of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.
- 2) **RECOGNISING** the attendance of Her Excellency Dame Cynthia A. Pratt, ON GCMG CB CD JP, The Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference.
- 3) **APPRECIATING** the encouraging remarks of The Honourable Philip Davis MP KC, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas during our opening reception.
- 4) **RECOGNISING** the well-received contributions of the representatives of the global and regional agencies to the conference including Dr Roger Koranteng representing the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. Guglielmo Castaldo representing the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Ms. Nadine Bushell representing CARICOM “Implementation Agency for Crime and Security” (IMPACS).
- 5) **NOTING** that the majority of the presenters, real subject matter experts, are members of the CCAICACB.

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AGREED AND ADOPTED the following resolutions to: -

- a. Call upon Caribbean Governments to effectively implement their obligations under both the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the Inter American Convention Against Corruption;
- b. Continue to lobby the Caribbean Governments for sufficient budgetary support for Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in the region for their effective operationalisation;
- c. Call upon Caribbean Anti-Corruption stakeholders to ensure the implementation of anti-corruption benchmarks and standards;
- d. Pursue and foster strong in-country and regional inter-agency collaboration in programmes, knowledge, information and sharing of best practices among CCAICACB members;
- e. **Encourage** Caribbean countries to align integrity and anti-corruption legislative reforms with international best practices;
- f. Call on Integrity Commissions and Anti-corruption Bodies to focus more on corruption prevention by being proactive.
- g. Guide Member organisations to build capacities in compliance processes, review of asset declarations, complaints, and investigations.
- h. Engage Ministries with responsibility for education, to include integrity and anti-corruption principles into their national curricula;

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- i. Seek external support and funding for the establishment of a Secretariat and employment of an Administrative Secretary for the CCAICACB;
- j. Publicise activities undertaken by the Integrity Commissions and Anticorruption Bodies; and implement a feedback mechanism where the public can share on aspects of their work needing improvement;
- k. Lobby CARICOM, other regional and international organizations to collaborate with the CCAICACB in anti-corruption efforts, integrity and capacity building;
- l. **Encourage** Governments to enact and/or implement whistle-blower legislation with the aim of protecting those who report corrupt practices;
- m. **Build** awareness and community involvement in the fight against corruption through innovative and effective public education and sensitisation campaigns in the Caribbean; and
- n. **Encourage** Caribbean Anti-Corruption stakeholders to explore and leverage the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence in the fight against Corruption.

Dated this 13th day of June 2024

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