



# INSIDE FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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## CELAC-China Forum



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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTICIPATES IN THE SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CELAC-CHINA FORUM



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China greet before the Meeting held between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Caribbean States at the CELAC-China Forum on 21st January, 2018.

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs called on the People's Republic of China and the Member States of CELAC "to look closely at where we need to join forces and cooperate on the basis of a shared destiny, shared interests and shared rewards." He further emphasized that "from climate change to human rights, from peace and security to food security, we are so much stronger when we support each other and face these complex challenges as joint tenants of planet earth."

The call was made during his Plenary Statement at the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum which was held in Santiago, Chile on 22nd January, 2018 under the theme, 'CELAC-China: Working for more development, innovation and cooperation for our peoples.'

Recognising the importance of the theme, Minister Moses underscored that the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum was an expression of the continued growth

and deepening of the relations between the Latin American and Caribbean region and the People's Republic of China. He further stated that "the two sides are natural partners in development, innovation and cooperation and we all stand to benefit from advancing an agenda to leverage the potential of collaboration in these important areas."

Focusing on the adoption of the China-CELAC Action Plan 2019-2021, which identifies goals and activities which, if properly implemented, should lead to concrete results in critical areas such as Policy and Security; Trade, Investment and Finance; Infrastructure and Transport; Agriculture; Environment and Climate Change, Minister Moses gave special attention to the area of security, given Trinidad and Tobago's responsibility for this topic in the quasi-Cabinet of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this regard, he outlined that for Small Island Developing States, non-traditional security concerns such as climate change, added to the traditional and inherent ones such as human trafficking, illegal drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in firearms and weaponry, and the proliferation of criminal gangs, have heightened the tension between scarce resources and vast needs.

Minister Moses concluded his address by commenting on China's initiative for a modern-day silk road, known as 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR), which is a major element of Chinese policy. He pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the Belt and Road initiative as an opportunity to strengthen ties with China, and cited that this country highly values the positive implications of this initiative for people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, trade and tourism.

On the margins of the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum, Minister Moses also participated in the following meetings:

- Trinidad and Tobago/ His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China;
- Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CARICOM countries/ His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China;
- Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC; and
- Caucus of CARICOM Foreign Ministers.



Group Photograph of the delegates of the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEPOSITS THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE



In photo from L-R: Ms. Charlene Roopnarine, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York; Mr. Vladamir Budhu, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York; Her Excellency Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York; and Ms. Dina Hamdy, Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs Treaty Section, United Nations, New York.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, via its Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, has deposited its instrument of ratification for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change today, 22nd February 2018, at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

Having ratified the Paris Agreement, Trinidad and Tobago has accordingly completed the process for recognition as a State Party to the Agreement, and has therefore signaled its commitment to the global response for ambitious and urgent action toward addressing the threat posed by unmitigated climate change. Through ratification, this country has also confirmed its contribution to the global response, as documented in what would now be considered its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), to reduce cumulative greenhouse gas emissions by 15

per cent from the industrial, power generation and the transportation sectors by 2030 from a business-as-usual baseline.

Implementation of the obligations under the Paris Agreement would be spearheaded by the Ministry of Planning and Development, which is the designated focal point for the matters pertaining to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under which the Paris Agreement falls.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty aimed at engendering a response to the burgeoning threat posed by unmitigated climate change. It was adopted at the 21st Conference of States Parties to the UNFCCC in Paris, France in December 2015, entered into force on 4th November 2016, and has since been ratified by over 175 States Parties to the UNFCCC.

## MINISTER MOSES MEETS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY JOSÉ ANTONIO GOMES PIRAS, NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency José Antonio Gomes Piras, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry's headquarters on 26th January, 2018.

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs welcomed His Excellency José Antonio Gomes Piras, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago during a Courtesy Call on 26th January, 2018 at the Ministry's headquarters. The Courtesy Call on Minister Moses preceded Ambassador Piras' presentation of his Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting Minister Moses expressed his appreciation for the strong bilateral relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil, and further underscored that he looked forward to continued cooperation and collaboration between the two countries.

Commenting on his diplomatic posting, Ambassador Piras indicated that this was his first visit to Trinidad and Tobago, as well as his first posting in his capacity as Ambassador and expressed his pleasure at having been appointed the new Ambassador to this country. His Excellency also acknowledged the importance of the diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil, highlighting that the countries had established diplomatic relations three years after the independence of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago established diplomatic relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil in 1965.

Discussions ended cordially with Minister Moses wishing Ambassador Piras an enjoyable tenure in Trinidad and Tobago.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND NIGERIA SEEK TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Jika Ardo Hassan, High Commissioner for the Federal Republic of Nigeria during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry's headquarters on 30th January, 2018.

On 30th January, 2018 Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency Jika Ardo Hassan, newly appointed High Commissioner for the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to strengthen bilateral relations.

These sentiments were expressed during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs prior to the Presentation of Letters of Credence by the High Commissioner to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the discussions, both Minister Moses and His Excellency Hassan acknowledged the good relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Nigeria and expressed future aspirations to enhance bilateral relations through, existing and potential avenues for overall development to the mutual benefit of their

countries.

His Excellency Jika Ardo Hassan, commented on the rich ethnic diversity of Nigeria, postulating that cultural cooperation should be made a priority. He further demonstrated enthusiasm in marketing Trinidad and Tobago's carnival within various states of Nigeria, highlighting that such an initiative can be mutually beneficial for both countries.

Discussions also focused on the possibility of establishing a direct flight schedule from the African continent to Trinidad and Tobago. His Excellency reiterated that this would also be an avenue to strengthen the friendship between both nations.

Minister Moses expressed the hope that the High Commissioner's tenure would be a productive and rewarding one.

## MINISTER MOSES MEETS WITH HER EXCELLENCY INGRID MOLLESTAD, NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with Her Excellency Ingrid Mollestad, newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry's headquarters on 7th February, 2018.

On 7th February, 2018, Her Excellency Ingrid Mollestad, newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway resident in Havana, Cuba, paid a Courtesy Call on Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs at the Ministry's headquarters. The Courtesy Call on Minister Moses preceded Ambassador Mollestad's presentation of her Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Commenting on the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Norway, Ambassador Mollestad noted that, even though Trinidad and Tobago and Norway were far apart geographically, the countries

shared common interests in support of strong multilateral institutions, energy and climate initiatives.

Recognising the importance of the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Norway, Minister Moses stressed that Trinidad and Tobago stood ready to collaborate with Norway on a bilateral and multilateral level.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND SWEDEN SEEK TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets Her Excellency Elisabeth Eklund, newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry's headquarters on 6th February, 2018.

On 6th February, 2018, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs welcomed Her Excellency Elisabeth Eklund, newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden resident in Stockholm, Sweden, during a Courtesy Call at the Ministry's headquarters. The Courtesy Call on Minister Moses preceded Ambassador Eklund's presentation of her Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting, discussions focussed on developing the bilateral relationship between the

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Commenting on this, Ambassador Eklund expressed Sweden's wish to expand bilateral relations with Trinidad and Tobago, and also highlighted Sweden's keen interests in developing bilateral cooperation in the areas of Human Rights and Gender Equality. Minister Moses remarked that Trinidad and Tobago also shared Sweden's desire to expand bilateral relations and underlined that this country looked forward to exploring opportunities for cooperation with the Kingdom of Sweden.



## “FULL OF VIBES” 2018 CARNIVAL KARAOKE AND OLE MAS COMPETITIONS

Staff members of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs were full of vibes as renditions of Soca and portrayals of Ole Mas presentations filled the Media Room on Thursday 8th February, 2018. A special performance by up and coming Soca star Dionne Millet singing her song “Slay” kept the vibes alive. Staff members were also intrigued by a display put together by the Library staff, featuring our Traditional Ole Mas Characters and outlining the history of Carnival. The afternoon festivities concluded with light refreshments as staff partook of tasty local cuisine, whilst enjoying each other’s company.

Thank you to all staff members who contributed in making the event a success.

Congratulations to all the winners.

### Karaoke Competition:

- 1st Place ... Jennisa Nandoo - “People” by Kes
- 2nd Place ... Charisse Semper - “Sweet Fuh Days” by Patrice Roberts
- 3rd Place ... Tracey Ramsubagh - “Year for Love” by Voice
- 4th Place ... Margaret Sampson - “Garlic Sauce” by All Rounder

### Ole Mas Competition:

- 1st Place ... Camille Gaghadar - “Fastest Ferry to Tobago”
- 2nd Place ... Team CARICOM - “Soca Mafia”



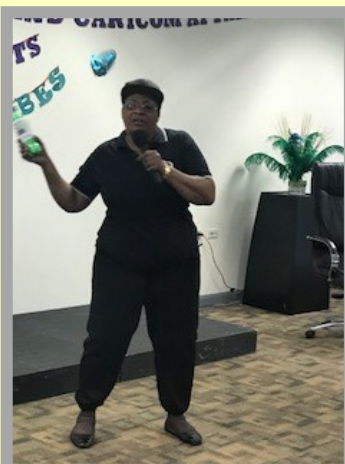
1st Place  
Ms. Jenissa Nandoo



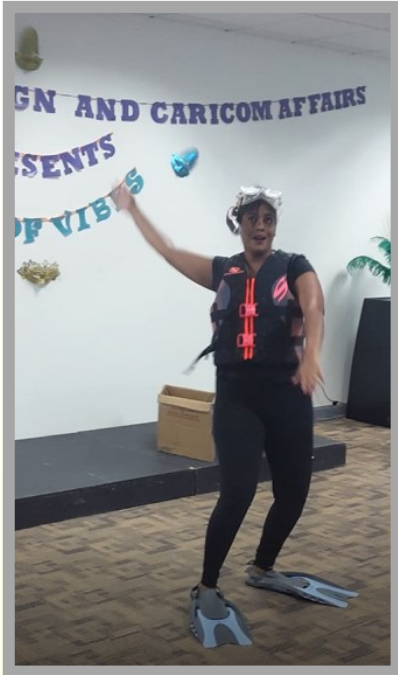
2nd Place  
Ms. Charisse Semper



3rd Place  
Ms. Tracey Ramsubagh



4th Place  
Ms. Margaret Sampson



1st Place  
Ms. Camille Gaghadar



2nd Place  
Team CARICOM  
(L to R: Ann Marie Agong, Rianna Moradally, Akilah Seale and Kimberly Hewitt)



Cross section of the crowd enjoying the performances.



Permanent Secretary Jennifer Daniel retrieving paper money to the crowd's delight.



Carnival literature on display compliments of the Library Unit.