



**STATEMENT FROM
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
HONOURABLE DR. TERRANCE DREW,
PRIME MINISTER OF ST. KITTS AND NEVIS
FOLLOWING THE TWENTY-FIFTH SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM
HELD 10 APRIL 2026**

The Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met on 10 April 2026 to discuss the issues in relation to Governance of the Community that have been raised by Trinidad and Tobago, especially including the re-appointment of the Secretary-General of the Community. Neither the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago nor any representative from Trinidad and Tobago attended the Meeting.

In keeping with the discussions among the Heads yesterday, information related to communications with Member States in preparation for and during the Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference, as well as discussions and decisions taken by Heads while meeting in Retreat is shared in the attachments.

It is hoped that as the Community moves forward, it will be possible to revert to the use of internal mechanisms for addressing the challenges that arise from time to time, lest unfortunate and erroneous statements diminish the progress towards deepening the integration process for the benefit of the people of the Region.

11 April 2026

Attachment

In preparation for the 50th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which was held in St Kitts and Nevis from 24-27 February 2026, all Member States were duly informed of the Official Events, the Draft Agenda of the Conference and the Programme of Work indicating which Agenda Items were to be taken in Plenary sessions, in Caucus and in Retreat of Heads only.

The Offices of all Heads of Government were informed of the date and venue of the Retreat via official correspondence prior to the Meeting of the Conference and via communication during the meetings. All Member States acknowledged receipt of all official correspondence related to the convening of the 50th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago departed St Kitts and Nevis on the evening of the first day of the Conference, February 25, before the Retreat on February 26. On 25 February at 10:33 PM Foreign Minister Sean Sobers called the Secretary General on WhatsApp to inquire if he should attend the Retreat in the absence of his Prime Minister. He was advised he could and that other Heads who have had to leave may be represented by their Foreign Ministers. He indicated that he had a problem with seasickness so he may not be able to attend.

At 10:55 PM on 25 February, Chairman received the following WhatsApp messages from the Secretary General: “Chairman. TT Foreign Minister Sobers called me to ask if he should come to retreat in the absence of his PM. I indicated that other Heads who have left may be represented by their FMs.” “He also indicated he gets seasick, so he’s not looking forward to the boat ride. So we may not have TT represented tomorrow.”

At 12:37 AM on 26 February, Secretary General sent the following message to Minister Sobers: “Minister, if the boat trip will cause nausea am sure the Chairman would understand if you chose not to come tomorrow.”

The Minister did not subsequently indicate to the Chairman or the Secretary General that he would be willing and able to attend the Retreat.

During the Retreat, under the Agenda item, Financing and Governance of the Community, Heads decided to consider the reappointment of the Secretary General and agreed to the reappointment as provided for under Article 24 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Secretary General was not in the room during the discussion of this matter.

A decision was also taken to delay the announcement so as to inform, as a matter of courtesy, the Heads who were not at the Retreat, before the official announcement was made. Attempts were made to reach the Heads who were absent to inform of the decision, but it was not possible

to make contact with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago by email or telephone call. After some efforts to reach the Prime Minister, the Chairman was asked to speak with the Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

While on Retreat, under the Agenda Item on Financing and Governance, Heads of Government also agreed to establish a sub-Committee of Heads comprising Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Jamaica to review the Governance and Financing of Community institutions. Under the Agenda Item Geopolitical Developments, Heads also agreed to issue a statement on CARICOM's Meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The Timeline of Correspondence overleaf sets out official communication with Member States on the preparation for the 50th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM which was held in St Kitts and Nevis from 24-27 February 2026.

**TIMELINE OF COMMUNICATION SENT TO MEMBER STATES ON THE
FIFTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

All communication sent by the Office of the Secretary General (OSG) to Offices of Heads of Government, Permanent Secretaries in the Offices of Heads of Government, Foreign Ministries and Ambassadors to CARICOM unless otherwise specified.

1. **23 December 2025 at 6:24 p.m: Convening of the Meeting.** Savingram No. 616/2025 sent via email informing of the dates of the Opening Ceremony and the Business Sessions from Wednesday, 25 February, to Friday, 27 February 2026. It also informed that the Provisional Agenda for the Meeting and the Memorandum of Arrangements, setting out the logistical and administrative information for the Meeting, would be forwarded under separate cover to Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States and to the Associate Members.
2. **31 December 2025 at 4:20 pm Memorandum of Arrangements (MOA).** Savingram No. 621/2025 sent via email with MOA attached. In addition to the usual officials addressees, email was also sent to sean.sobers@foreign.gov.tt. On page 3 of the MOA under section 4 Key Dates – table had information for 26 February- 9:30 a.m. – Heads Retreat. Venue – TBC.

Information included the following key events to take place prior to and during the Conference:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
24th February	9:30 a.m.	Special Meeting of the Community Council	TBC
	5:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	Marriott Dome, Frigate Bay
	7:30 p.m.	Welcome Cocktail Reception	The Beach House, St. Kitts Marriott Resort
25th February	9:30 a.m.	Business Session of the Conference	Royal Ballroom, St. Kitts Marriott Resort
26th February	9:30 a.m.	Heads Retreat	TBC
27th February	5:00 p.m.	Press Conference	St. Kitts Marriott Resort
	7:00 p.m.	Closing Reception	TBC

3. **Letter of 7 January 2026 to Chair of Conference from the Secretary-General.** Attached were draft letters of invitation to be sent to the CARICOM Heads of Government by the Chair, including invitations for Heads of Government addressing the Opening Ceremony: The Outgoing Chair and the newly-elected heads of Government. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago was again invited to speak as she had not attended the 49th Regular Meeting in Jamaica and therefore had not addressed that meeting as invited to do so by the then Chair.
4. **19 January at 3:14 p.m. Provisional Agenda sent via email under Savingram No. 25/2026**
5. **19 January email from the Cabinet Secretary of St. Kitts and Nevis to the Chef de Cabinet.** This email included a request to get the shirt sizes for the CARICOM Heads and Heads of Delegation attending the Meeting. Email stated that shirt would be a button up Oxford type or cotton blend.
6. **20 January at 9:26 a.m. email to Secretaries in the Offices of the Presidents/Prime Ministers** requesting measurements for the shirts. Deadline for receipt of information indicated to be 31 January 2026.
7. **27 January 5:21 p.m. email to Secretaries in the Offices of the Presidents/Prime Ministers** with Gentle Reminder regarding the measurements for the shirts.
8. **30 January at 7:06 p.m. Provisional Annotated Agenda** sent by Savingram No. 36/2026.
9. **4 February 4:10 p.m.** Email to Secretaries in the Offices of the Presidents/Prime Ministers requesting exact measurements for the shirts as requested by St. Kitts and Nevis.
10. **9 February 9:18 a.m.** email to Secretaries in the Offices of the Presidents/Prime Ministers- Gentle reminder re shirt measurements with Indication – Very Urgent.
11. **9 February 3:16 p.m.** Response from Denise Drakes, Prime Minister’s Secretariat Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Trinidad and Tobago forwarding on behalf of the Honourable Kamla Persad -Bissessar, SC, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, requested information as to measurements. Receipt acknowledged by OSG on 9 February at 3:26 p.m. Information sent to the Cabinet Secretary, St. Kitts and Nevis via email from the Chef de Cabinet on **9 February at 6:10 p.m.** in a table also with the measurements for the Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and Jamaica (4 in all).

12. **19 February at 11:44 a.m.** Caucus papers sent by email to Offices of Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers.
13. **19 February** – Conference Services copied on a Note Verbale sent on the composition of the delegation from Trinidad and Tobago to the meeting.
14. **20 February at 11:11 a.m. Message to Heads of Government via Email re Agenda Items for the Fiftieth Regular Meeting**, advising that the Secretariat was working with the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis on finalising the Programme of Work for the 50th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government. The email also advised that the number of anticipated engagements with Special Guests and partners, as well as the plans for a **Heads only Retreat**, would reduce the amount of time available for plenary discussions. It had therefore been proposed that the Community Council, as the second highest Organ in the Community, be requested to consider several items on the agenda for the Fiftieth Meeting of the Conference and to make recommendations for final approval by the Conference in keeping with the Community Council mandate, as per the Revised Treaty, to “function as a preparatory body for meetings of the Conference”, which has tended to be limited to reviewing the proposed agenda for Meetings of the Conference of Heads of Government.
15. **21 February at 1:25 p.m. Programme of Events** sent by email included the following:

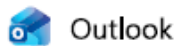
Thursday February 26		
10:00 a.m.	20th Meeting of CARICOM Ambassadors	CARICOM Delegations
	Communiqué Committee Meeting	
10:00 a.m.	Official Photograph of CARICOM Heads of Government Heads Retreat	CARICOM Heads only

16. **22 February at 2:25 p.m. Information on the Retreat** emailed to Secretaries in the Offices of the Presidents/Prime Ministers/Premiers providing information on the arrangements for the Retreat scheduled for Thursday 26 February. Information circulated as provided by St. Kitts and Nevis on the Attire (custom, locally designed dress shirts); Venue (Nevis); Transportation (Specially arranged water taxis); Welcome (Premier Mark Brantley); Attendees (Only Heads of Government plus their close protection detail and other security personnel as needed) and the CARICOM Secretary-General); Time of Departure.

17. **24 February at 8:55 am, Programme of Work for the Meeting**, which was agreed with the Chair in the evening of 23 February, emailed including details of order in which the agenda items would be discussed. The Programme of Work included the following:

Thursday, 26 February		
10:00 a.m.	20th Meeting of CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors	CARICOM Delegations St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]
	Communiqué Committee Meeting	
10:00 a.m.	Official Photograph of CARICOM Heads of Government Heads Retreat 11. GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS 12. FINANCING AND GOVERNANCE OF THE COMMUNITY Other issues as raised	CARICOM Heads of Government only

On the morning of 25 February, Conference Services also circulated a copy of the draft agenda and the Programme of Work for each delegation after the media had left the room after the Opening of the Meeting. If Head of Delegation was not in the Room then the person in the seat (usually a Minister) would receive the documentation. Extra copies were also provided to other members of the delegations in the second row.



RETREAT ARRANGEMENT - Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM

Date Sun 2/22/2026 2:55 PM

IMMEDIATE

The attention of the Heads of Government is drawn to the following information provided by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis with regard to the arrangements for the Retreat scheduled for Thursday, 26 February:

Attire: Custom, locally designed and made dress shirts will be given to each Head (on arrival to their hotel room). These shirts are to be worn for the Retreat (perhaps with a khaki or dark coloured bottom but this is not strictly necessary)

Venue: A Private Villa at the Four Seasons Resort in Nevis.

Transportation: 5 private water taxis have been commissioned to transport Heads to & from Park Hyatt (Saint Kitts) to Four Seasons Resort (Nevis). These will be escorted via the St. Kitts and Nevis Coast Guard and will be under security protection while docked awaiting return to Saint Kitts. Estimated time between the two (2) ports should be approximately 10-15 minutes.

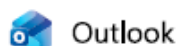
Welcome: The Premier of Nevis, The Hon Mark Brantley will greet Heads on arrival.

Attendees: Only Heads of Government plus their close protection detail (and other security personnel as needed) and the CARICOM Secretary-General.

Time of Departure: Will be confirmed.

Regards

Janice Miller
Chef de Cabinet
Office of the Secretary-General



FIFTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM,
ST KITTS AND NEVIS, 24-27 FEBRUARY 2026 - PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date Tue 2/24/2026 8:55 AM

 1 attachment (35 KB)

Programme of Work_23Feb2026.docx;

Offices of the Prime Ministers/Presidents
Ministries of Foreign Affairs

The Secretariat forwards for the attention of Member States and Associate Members the **attached Programme of Work** for the Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

Kind regards

Dorette Cummings
//f/ Amb. Janice Miller
Chef de Cabinet
Office of the Secretary-General

N.B: The Office of the Secretary-General would appreciate receiving an acknowledgement of receipt of this transmission via return e-mail.

**Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis, 24-27 February 2026**

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date/Time	Event/Agenda Item	Remarks
Tuesday, 24 February		
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	16th Special Meeting of the Community Council	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	25th Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Dominica Room]
4:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	St. Kitts Marriott Dome <i>Invitees to be seated by 3:30 p.m.</i>
7:30 p.m.	Welcome Cocktail Reception	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [The Beach House]
Wednesday, 25 February		
9:30 a.m.	FIRST PLENARY SESSION	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]
9:45 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.	1. WELCOME: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General ▪ Opening Remarks by the Chair 	Open to media
10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Business Session PROCEDURAL MATTERS (Closed) 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA 3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS 4. RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS: 4.1 Decisions of the Forty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (16 October 2025)	CARICOM Delegations only. Closed to media
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	6. ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Member of the Council of Ministers and Climate Envoy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 	
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Dr. George Elombi, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Afreximbank 	

**Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis, 24-27 February 2026**

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date/Time	Event/Agenda Item	Remarks
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates 	
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Hon. Shirley Botchwey, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth 	
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Marco Rubio, Secretary of State, United States of America 	
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Heads Lunch	Heads plus 1 St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [La Cucina] Delegates – St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort [Calypso Restaurant]
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Special Meeting co-hosted by the Chair of the Community and the United States	Heads plus 1
4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	13. BORDER ISSUES: 13.1 Belize-Guatemala 13.2 Belize-Honduras 13.3 Guyana-Venezuela 10. THE SITUATION IN HAITI 9. SECURITY ISSUES: 9.1 Update from the High-Level Representative on Law and Criminal Justice 14. ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY: 14.1 Development of a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Enlargement Policy 15. UPDATE ON APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY:	Heads plus 1

**Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis, 24-27 February 2026**

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date/Time	Event/Agenda Item	Remarks
	15.1 Bermuda	
	16. REPORT ON OVERSEAS TERRITORIES	
	<i>End of Day 1</i>	
Thursday, 26 February		
10:00 a.m.	20 th Meeting of CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors	CARICOM Delegations St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]
	Communiqué Committee Meeting	
10:00 a.m.	Official Photograph of CARICOM Heads of Government Heads Retreat 11. GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS 12. FINANCING AND GOVERNANCE OF THE COMMUNITY Other issues as raised	CARICOM Heads of Government only
TBC	16 th Special Meeting of the Community Council (resumed)	Time reserved for the Community Council to meet as needed
Friday, 27 February		
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	High-Level Roundtable Event (by St. Kitts and Nevis National Reparations Committee)	Royal St. Kitts Hotel [Private Dining Room]
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	SECOND PLENARY SESSION PLENARY ITEM: 8. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INDIGENISATION OF THE UWI <u>PAPERS FOR INFORMATION</u> 20. IMPLEMENTATION OF FULL FREE MOVEMENT USING THE PROTOCOL ON ENHANCED COOPERATION	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]

**Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis, 24-27 February 2026**

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date/Time	Event/Agenda Item	Remarks
	<p>23. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>24. REPORT ON EXTERNAL TRADE:</p> <p> 24.1 Preparations for the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (MC14)</p> <p>25. REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CLIMATE FINANCE AGENDA</p> <p>26. ADVANCING THE CARICOM AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AGENDA: PRIORITISING REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY</p> <p>27. FORTHCOMING SUMMITS INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY:</p> <p> 27.1 Ninth CARICOM-Cuba Summit 27.2 Fifth CARICOM-Mexico Summit 27.3 Tenth Summit of the Americas 27.4 Twenty-Eighth Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Antigua and Barbuda, 1-4 November 2026</p> <p>28. MATTERS RELATED TO THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE (CCJ)</p> <p>17. CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (FEBRUARY 2026, BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Recommendations from the 16th Special Meeting of the Community Council 	

**Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis, 24-27 February 2026**

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date/Time	Event/Agenda Item	Remarks
	Adoption of Communiqué and Statements 18. DATES OF FORTHCOMING INTER-SESSIONAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT 19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS <i>End of Meeting</i>	
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Lunch Break	
5:00 p.m.	Closing Press Conference	St. Kitts Marriott Beach Resort, Casino & Spa [Ballroom]