MEDIA RELEASE

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CARIBBEAN HEADS OF JUDICIARY TO MEET TO ADVANCE REGIONAL JUDICIAL SECTOR REFORMS

CCJ, Port of Spain. The Conference of Heads of Judiciary and Chief Justices of CARICOM will convene in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago tomorrow, 29th February 2012, to study and advance the judicial reform strategic policy agenda. They will be joined by their senior technocrats who include executive court administrators and registrars.

The Conference will meet further to their decision taken at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Judiciary and Chief Justices of CARICOM in October 2011, to undertake “a cohesive regional approach to justice sector reform led by the Conference” and to “...appoint an appropriate executing body”.

This meeting is being held with the financial assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Eleven judiciaries of the region will be represented at the meeting, which will be held at the offices of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The Honourable Mme. Justice Zaila McCalla, Chief Justice of Jamaica, is the current chairperson of the Conference.

Following this meeting, on March 1st 2012, the Conference of Heads of Judiciary and Chief Justices of CARICOM and their technocrats will also participate in a Stakeholders’ Session for the development of a strategic plan for the Caribbean Court of Justice. This will take place at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. This first of several strategic planning sessions will also include other regional judicial sector stakeholders including, Presidents of the Bar Associations of CARICOM countries, representatives of labour and business of CARICOM countries, and representatives of civil society including Jamaicans for Justice and the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

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