



Closing Remarks by Justice Anderson at the First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston
Anderson, Judge of the Caribbean Court
of Justice

The First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts

Hyatt
Trinidad and Tobago
23 September 2022

In September 2022, the Caribbean Court of Justice hosted the First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of the First Hemispheric Meeting was "**The Rule of Law and International Justice**". Participants explored the challenges facing regional courts in the course of their operations and shared best practices in substantive areas of international and community law. The following Regional Courts participated in this First Hemispheric Meeting - The Central American Court of Justice, The Court of Justice of the Andean Community, The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and The Caribbean Court of Justice. Topics discussed included, the Rule of Law and International Justice, Compliance and Enforcement of International Judgments, Institutional Arrangements of International Courts, the Relationship with Domestic Courts and the Referral Obligation.

Closing Remarks

By

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice,

on the occasion of

First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts and Tribunals of the Americas

‘The Rule of Law and International Justice’

23 September 2022

PROTOCOL

Protocol having been established yesterday permit me to greet you today as Heads of Judiciaries, Excellences, Fellow Judicial officers, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

It scarcely seems possible, but we are at the closing ceremony of our two-day meeting on the Rule of Law and International Justice. Over the past two days, we have discussed several aspects which will no doubt serve to strengthen our commitment to, and delivery of, legal services to the people we serve. On behalf of President Saunders and the rest of the CCJ Team, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your participation over these past two days. This has been a most productive encounter.

ORDER OF CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony will proceed in the following way:

1. I will ask each Head of Judiciary (or the designated representative) as well as Former President Carmona to make very brief closing remarks. The order of giving those remarks will follow the order of the giving of the opening remarks.
2. After those remarks, we will have the **adoption** & then **issuance** of the Communiqué of the Meeting.

3. The Communiqué will be issued to all present (including the Media) and will likely form the basis of any conversation in which the Media wishes to engage Participants to the conference.
4. Whilst the Media studies the communiqué (it is a relatively short document), our guests will receive a farewell package from the CCJ as a small token of our appreciation of your being here. I fear those who attended virtually may be at a disadvantage in this regard.
5. Our host will then bring the gavel down on the meeting. And the media will then be free to **seek engagement** with such of the participants as they choose.

ADOPTION OF DECLARATION

The Declaration that has been adopted here by consensus, that is, by the approbation of participants to each paragraph as read by Mrs Ria Mohammed-Pollard of the CCJ, and interpreted in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking colleagues, is **attached**. It is to be signed by the Head of Judiciary of each regional court participating in this meeting.

The Declaration is truly a historical document. By its adoption, the regional courts of the Americas have:

- Reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of their founding documents
- Strongly condemned all wars which contravene the International Legal Order
- Expressed fidelity to the principles which operationalize and advance institutional integrity and the stability of regional courts in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These are important commitments which will redound to the benefit of the judicial system in the hemisphere and beyond.

NEXT CONFERENCE

See you next year in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the Second Conference of Hemispheric Courts on the International Rule of Law.

Thank you!!!