CAPAC COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

PARLIAMENT REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



THE 5TH CONFERENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

ADVANCING ACCOUNTABILITY: STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE, CAPACITY AND IMPACT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (PACS) ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

JUNE 9 & 10, 2026

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Messages	3
About CAPAC	6
Join CAPAC	6
General Information	7
CAPAC Conference Overview	10
Recap - Past CAPAC Conferences	10
CAPAC Conference, 2026	11
Participating Legislatures	13
Participants	17
CAPAC Conference Link	29
Notice of Time Zones	29
Programme	30
Presenter Biographies	38



WELCOME MESSAGES

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) Secretariat, we warmly welcome all participants, attending both in person and virtually, to the CAPAC Conference, 2026.

It is a privilege for the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago to host this platform for dialogue, collaboration and the continued strengthening of parliamentary oversight institutions. The theme of this year's Conference, "Advancing Accountability: Strengthening the Independence, Capacity and Impact of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) across the Commonwealth," speaks directly to the essential role of PACs in promoting transparency, responsible public financial management, and confidence in democratic governance. Strong and effective oversight mechanisms remain fundamental to ensuring that public resources are managed efficiently and in the best interests of citizens.

Over the two-day period, participants will exchange experiences and perspectives on strengthening the institutional frameworks, operational practices and innovations that support effective PACs and enhance public financial oversight. The exchange of experiences among legislatures provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on shared challenges, identify

practical solutions, and strengthen the collective capacity of Parliaments to hold the Executive accountable.

The CAPAC continues to play an important role in fostering cooperation among PACs and parliamentary officials throughout the Commonwealth. We are confident that the engagements over these two days will generate valuable insights and contribute to the continued development of effective parliamentary scrutiny and public accountability frameworks.

We wish to acknowledge the continued support and valued partnership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The contribution of the CPA Secretariat, under the leadership of Secretary-General Stephen Twigg, has been instrumental in supporting initiatives that promote effective parliamentary oversight, accountability and good governance.

We extend sincere appreciation to all participants, presenters, moderators, partners and supporting institutions for their commitment to this important work. We would also like to recognise the dedication of the CAPAC Executive Committee and the staff of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago whose efforts have contributed to the successful hosting of this Conference.

On behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament, we welcome you and trust that your participation will be both productive and rewarding. May this Conference further strengthen our shared commitment to accountability, transparency and good governance across the Commonwealth.



Senator the Honourable Wade Mark
President of the Senate

Parliament of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago



Honourable Jagdeo Singh, MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Parliament of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

WELCOME MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC), to welcome delegates, presenters and distinguished guests to the CAPAC Conference 2026.

The strength of CAPAC lies in its ability to bring together Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and parliamentary practitioners from across the Commonwealth to learn from one another, share experiences, and build lasting professional relationships. As oversight institutions continue to navigate evolving governance challenges, opportunities for collaboration and mutual support have never been more important.

Since its establishment, CAPAC has sought to promote the highest standards of public accountability and parliamentary oversight by fostering the exchange of knowledge, encouraging innovation, and supporting the continuous development of PACs. This gathering reflects our shared commitment to those objectives and demonstrates the value of collective action in strengthening democratic institutions.

I am confident that the discussions, insights, and professional exchanges that will take place over the planned 2-day event will contribute meaningfully to the continued advancement of effective parliamentary scrutiny throughout the Commonwealth.

We cannot take for granted that all change will be positive progress. It is incumbent on all of us to be champions of best practise, and to continue to challenge our governments, our friends and ourselves to meet the high ideals of constructive parliamentary scrutiny.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting this event, as well as to all delegates, presenters, and partners for their valued contributions and commitment to strengthening accountability and good governance.



Honourable Juan Paul Watterson
Speaker of the House of Keys (SHK)
Chair, Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees

ABOUT CAPAC

The CAPAC was established in June 2015 with the vision that all Commonwealth Parliaments, and the citizens they serve should benefit from strong, independent, and effective PACs or equivalent oversight bodies, that uphold the highest standards of public financial accountability.

The establishment of CAPAC was subsequently endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their Meeting in Malta in November 2015, recognising the Association as a valuable network for strengthening public financial management, accountability, and parliamentary oversight across the Commonwealth.

In 2017, CAPAC adopted its *Principles and Standards of Good Practice for Public Accounts Committees,* providing a structured framework to support democratic parliamentary practices and to assist legislatures in assessing, strengthening and advancing their oversight functions and reform efforts.

Pursuant to Article 2 of its Constitution, CAPAC's primary function is to define, promote, and disseminate standards of good practice, consistent with Commonwealth values, to support Member Committees in operating effectively, transparently, and independently.

Membership in CAPAC provides access to a valuable network of oversight practitioners, opportunities for professional exchange, and a platform to contribute to the development of PAC best practices across the Commonwealth.

JOIN CAPAC

Legislatures wishing to apply for membership in CAPAC are invited to submit an expression of interest to the CAPAC Secretariat at capacsecretariat@gmail.com. The Secretariat will thereafter provide guidance on the membership process, including the requisite documentation required for consideration by the Association.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Travel Information

Business travellers are required to present a passport that is valid for at least six (6) months beyond the intended period of stay, along with a return ticket, for entry into Trinidad and Tobago. Visas are not required for citizens of the United States of America (USA), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States (with the exception of Haiti), the European Union (EU) and the British Commonwealth. Delegates are advised to consult the link published by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, for the visa requirements applicable to all countries: Visa Requirements for All Countries.

All persons entering or departing Trinidad and Tobago are required to complete the Arrival/ Departure Card online at https://travel.gov.tt/en, up to seventy-two (72) hours before travel. Upon submission, travellers will receive a receipt containing two (2) QR codes, which should be downloaded or saved and presented to Immigration and Customs Officers upon arrival/ departure.

2. Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad Hotel located at #1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

Website: https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/trirt-hyatt-regency-trinidad

The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has reserved a number of rooms at the following negotiated rate per night:

Standard Room - Single Occupancy	US$155.00

Room rates are inclusive of breakfast and are subject to all applicable taxes at a rate of 21%. Delegates are required to secure accommodation at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad at their earliest convenience. All participants are responsible for making their accommodation arrangements directly with the hotel.

3. Currency

The official currency of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is the Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD or TT$). There are bills to the value of TT$1.00; TT $5.00; TT$10.00; TT$20.00; TT $50.00; TT$100.00. Pound Sterling or US dollar travellers' cheques are freely and negotiable at any bank, major business place or hotel. The TT dollar floats against the US dollar and the current exchange rate is TT$6.80=US$1.00.

BANKING HOURS	
Mondays to Thursdays	8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Fridays	8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Banks in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago are closed Saturdays and Sundays.

4. Conference Venue

The Official Opening Ceremony and CAPAC Conference will be held in the J. Hamilton Maurice Meeting Room, Ground Floor, Cabildo Building, Parliamentary Complex, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain.

5. Dress Code

- Official Conference Sessions - Business Attire or traditional wear.
- Cultural & Social Event - Business Casual

6. Language and Interpretation

The official language of the Conference will be English, and all proceedings will be conducted accordingly. Please note that interpretation services will not be provided by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

7. Conference Registration and Documents

Conference document packages will be distributed upon arrival at the Conference Registration Desk, located in the Linda Baboolal Meeting Room adjacent to the main Conference venue.

8. Identification

Participants are asked to display Conference badges for the duration of the Conference.

9. Conference attendance

To maximise the benefits of the two-day Conference, participants are kindly requested to attend all sessions.

10. Participation and contributions

During the Conference, participants are encouraged to share their experiences and provide examples from their respective legislatures to enrich the learning of all attendees, both in-person and online. Participants are kindly requested to minimise distractions during sessions and to refrain from responding to calls or emails, except where urgent matters require attention.

11. Internet Service

Wi-Fi Internet service will be available in the meeting rooms throughout the Conference.

12. Catering Arrangements

Meals will be provided during the two-day Conference. Participants are reminded to clearly indicate any food allergies or dietary restrictions in the Registration Form – Dietary Requirements & Meal preferences.

Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room located in the Red House of the Parliamentary Complex, Port of Spain.

13. Ground Transportation

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago will be responsible for transportation of all participants from the airport on arrival, and to the airport on departure, as well as, transportation for all official CAPAC Conference activities. Participants are kindly requested to be punctual for all scheduled transfers, as far as practicable.

14. Additional Information

Electricity/plug types

Power plugs and socket outlets of Type A and Type B are used in Trinidad and Tobago. The standard voltage is 110 volts, with a frequency of 60 Hz. Participants may require a travel adapter and/or voltage converter for devices that utilise a different plug type and/or operate at a higher voltage.

15. Contact Numbers

NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT
Mr. Brian B. Caesar	Clerk of the House	868 685 5226 (mobile)
Mrs. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan	Clerk of the Senate	868 731 8540 (mobile)
Mrs. Lynette Joseph-Guevara	Inter-parliamentary Relations Coordinator	868 718 4195 (mobile)
Ms. Renée François Trumpet	CAPAC Secretariat	868 744 9648 (mobile)
Office of the Parliament	Conference Secretariat	868 624 7275 ext. 2242, 2227

NB: Country code 1868 need not apply once within the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago or as roaming may allow.

Emergency numbers

Police	999
Fire	990
Ambulance	990
Emergency Health Service	653-4343
Directory Assistance	6411

Health facilities

Port of Spain General Hospital	623-2951
St. Clair Medical Clinic	628-1451
West Shore Hospital	622-9670/9878

CAPAC CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The CAPAC Conference is the Association's premier biennial gathering, bringing together PAC Members, parliamentary officials and oversight practitioners from across the Commonwealth to exchange experiences, strengthen professional networks, and advance excellence in parliamentary oversight.

Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the CAPAC Constitution, the Conference is convened every two years and hosted on a rotational basis among CAPAC member jurisdictions. The Conference serves as a key forum through which Members share experiences, discuss emerging challenges in public financial scrutiny, and examine developments in best practices that enhance accountability, transparency, and good governance. It also provides the opportunity to convene the General Meeting of the Association, during which elections to the CAPAC Executive Board and Executive Committee are conducted, as necessary.

RECAP - PAST CAPAC CONFERENCES

- In December 2017, the first Westminster Workshop & CAPAC Conference was hosted by the Parliament of Malta and held in London.
- Access the report: https://www.parlament.mt/media/92326/dok-14-l11.pdf
- In 2020, the Conference was scheduled to be held in the United Kingdom however, it was canceled and facilitated online, in March 2021, due to COVID-19.
- In August 2022, the Conference was hosted by and held in Maldives.
- Access article: https://www.uk-cpa.org/news-and-views/commonwealth-pac-chairs-and-clerks-meet-for-first-time-since-pandemic-at-capac-conference
- In November 2024, a hybrid CAPAC Conference was hosted by the Parliament of Malta, in Malta.
- Access Press Release: https://parlament.mt/14th-leg/press-releases/2024/11-nov/pr241949-capac-conference/

The fifth CAPAC Conference will be hosted by and held in the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

CAPAC CONFERENCE, 2026

Theme

The CAPAC Conference 2026 is themed **"Advancing Accountability: Strengthening the Independence, Capacity and Impact of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) across the Commonwealth."**

Through presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, participants will examine innovative approaches to strengthening PAC independence, enhancing oversight practices, and maximising the impact of PAC recommendations on governance and accountability outcomes.

Aim

To strengthen the effectiveness and resilience of PACs within the Commonwealth, with particular focus on the Caribbean region, and to advance the framework for ongoing dialogue, sustained collaboration and continued engagement among Commonwealth nations.

Objectives

- To examine and reinforce institutional frameworks including legal, procedural safeguards that support the independence of PACs.
- To build technical capacity for effective public financial oversight.
- To examine the real-life impact of PACs by comparing national follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for implementing PAC recommendations.
- To enhance the platform for peer learning and technical exchange through shared experiences.
- To enhance regional cooperation among PACs.
- To strengthen the PAC networks across the Commonwealth by sharing lived experiences, deepening collaboration and expanding global professional networks.

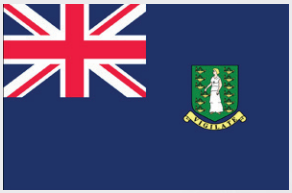
PARTICIPATING LEGISLATURES



Australia



Belize



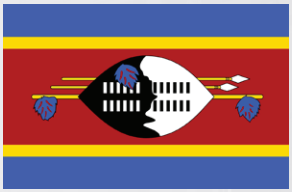
British Virgin Islands



Canada



Cayman Islands



Eswatini

PARTICIPATING LEGISLATURES



Falkland Islands



Grenada



Guyana



Isle of Man



Jamaica

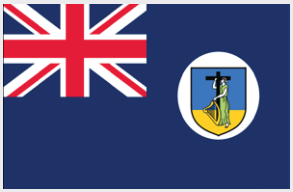


Kiribati

PARTICIPATING LEGISLATURES



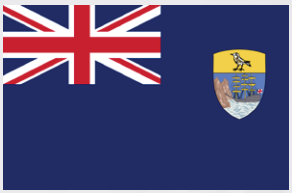
Mauritius



Montserrat



Pakistan



St. Helena



St. Kitts and Nevis



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

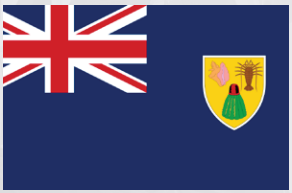
PARTICIPATING LEGISLATURES



Tasmania



Trinidad and Tobago



Turks and Caicos Islands



United Kingdom

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Cayman Islands

Mr. Arlin Royston Tatum Jr.
JP, Member of Parliament
Parliament of the Cayman Islands



Eswatini

Mr. Arthur Mordaunt
Clerk, PAC
Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini



Kiribati

Hon. Bautaake Beia
Member, PAC
Parliament of Kiribati Maneaba Ni Maungatabu



Falkland Islands

Mrs. Bernie Goodwin
Chair, PAC
Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Mrs. Camille Robinson- Regis, MP
Member of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP
Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee,
Vice-Chairman of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee
Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Turks & Caicos Islands

Mrs. Darlene Clerveaux-Forbes
Executive Administrator
Parliament of the Turks & Caicos Islands



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Hon. David Lee, MP
Member of the Public Accounts Committee



Montserrat

Hon. Dwayne Hixon
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing, Environment and Sports
Montserrat Legislative Assembly



Turks and Caicos Islands

Hon. Edwin Astwood
Leader of Opposition, Chair PAC
Parliament of the Turks & Caicos Islands



Grenada

Hon. Emmalin Pierre, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament of Grenada



Kiribati

Honourable England Iuta
Member, PAC
Parliament of Kiribati Maneaba Ni Maungatabu

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Grenada

Mr. Finley Jeffery
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament of Grenada



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Francis Lewis
Member of the Public Accounts Committee,
Member of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Ms. Jearlean John, MP
Member of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee and Member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAAC)



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Hansen Narinesingh, MP
Member of the Public Accounts Committee



Jamaica

Mr. Heroy Clarke
Member of Parliament,
Deputy Speaker of the Houses of Parliament
Parliament of Jamaica



Isle of Man

Hon. Juan Watterson
Speaker of the House of Keys (SHK), Member of the House of Keys (MHK), Chair PAC, Chair CAPAC
Tynwald, Parliament of the Isle of Man

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Jamaica

Mr. Julian Robinson
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Jamaica



Barbados

Senator Karina Goodridge
Senator
Barbados Parliament



Kiribati

Mrs. Kauae Been
Secretary, PAC
Parliament of Kiribati Maneaba Ni Maungatabu



Cayman Islands

Hon. Kenneth Bryan
Member of Parliament,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Parliament of the Cayman Islands



Turks and Caicos Islands

Mrs. Khristi Ferguson
Member, PAC
Parliament of the Turks & Caicos Islands



Canada

Dr. Lesley Burns
Vice-President, Oversight and Professional Development
Canadian Audit & Accountability Foundation (CAAF)

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



British Virgin Islands

Hon. Marlon Penn
Leader of the Opposition
House of Assembly of the British Virgin Islands



Eswatini

Hon. Madala Bonginkosi Mhlanga
Member, PAC
Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Dr. Marlene Attz
Member of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee



Guyana

Ms. Michelle Singh
Assistant Clerk of Committee
Parliament of Guyana



Eswatini

Hon. Ntando Mkhonta
Member, PAC
Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini



Montserrat

Hon. Nyota Mulcare
Deputy Speaker, Member of the Opposition,
Member PAC
Montserrat Legislative Assembly

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Prof. Prakash Persad
Member of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee



Jamaica

Mrs. Rosemarie Douglas Beckford
Committee Clerk
Parliament of Jamaica



Turks and Caicos Islands

Ms. Rosetta Talbot
Deputy Clerk
Parliament of the Turks & Caicos Islands



Barbados

Senator Ryan Walters
Senator
Barbados Parliament



St Vincent and the Grenadines

Hon. Shervern Rockell John
Minister of Social Welfare and Community Empowerment, Ecclesiastical Affairs, and National Heritage
House of Assembly of St Vincent and the Grenadines



Grenada

Senator Roderick St Clair
Senator
Parliament of Grenada

PARTICIPANTS

In-person participants



Barbados

Ms. Suzanne Hamblin
Parliamentary Official
Barbados Parliament



Kiribati

Hon. Tarakabut Tofinga
Chair, PAC
Parliament of Kiribati Maneaba Ni Maungatabu



Cayman Islands

Mrs. Tishel McLean
Parliamentary Procedural Clerk
Parliament of the Cayman Islands



United Kingdom

Stephen Twigg
Secretary – General
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Headquarters (CPA HQ)

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS LISTING

1. Canada
Mr. Angus Wilson
Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

2. Republic of Mauritius
Hon. Adrien Charles Duval
Member of Parliament, Chair Public Accounts Committee
Mauritius National Assembly

3. Northern Ireland
Mrs. Angela McParland
Assistant Assembly Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly

4. St Helena
Ms. Anita Rosanne Legg
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
St Helena Legislative Council

5. St Helena
Mr. Bramwell Brushuru Lumukwana
Vice – Chair, Public Accounts Committee
St Helena Legislative Council

6. Belize
Mrs. Clarita V. Pech
Clerk to the National Assembly of Belize
National Assembly of Belize

7. Trinidad and Tobago
Mrs. Denese Toby-Quashie
Chief Administrator, Tobago House of Assembly (THA)
Assembly Legislature Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

8. Saint Lucia
Mr. Devonn Fletcher
Assistant Accountant
Parliament of Saint Lucia

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS LISTING

9. Saint Lucia
Mrs. Esmalene Cox-Jn Louis
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament of Saint Lucia

10. United Kingdom
Dr. George Wilson
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
United Kingdom House of Commons

11. United Kingdom
Sir. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
United Kingdom House of Commons

12. Belize
Hon. Godwin Haylock
Member of Parliament
National Assembly of Belize

13. St Vincent & the Grenadines
Hon. Jemalie Augustus Kertis John
Deputy Speaker
House of Assembly of St Vincent and the Grenadines

14. Saint Lucia
Mr. Joneil Wells
Accounts Clerk III
Parliament of Saint Lucia

15. Montserrat
Dr. Judith Baker
Director/Clerk Montserrat Legislative Assembly
Montserrat Legislative Assembly

16. Republic of Mauritius
Honourable Kaviraj Rookny
Member of Parliament
Mauritius National Assembly

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS LISTING

17. Trinidad and Tobago
Assembly Member Mr. Kern Alexis
Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee
Assembly Legislature

18. Canada
Mr. Kieron Testart
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

19. Turks and Caicos Islands
Mr. Khalid Hamid
Auditor General
Auditor General Audit Office

20. Saint Lucia
Ms. Kimther Modeste
Secretary
Parliament of Saint Lucia

21. Saint Lucia
Ms. Kharlene Christine Clauzel
Parliamentary Officer
Parliament of Saint Lucia

22. Trinidad and Tobago
Mr. Lincoln Nelson
Clerk of the Assembly
Assembly Legislature

23. Northern Ireland
Ms. Lucia Wilson
Clerk of PAC
Northern Ireland Assembly

24. Eswatini
Hon. Madala Bonginkosi Mhlanga
Chair, PAC
Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS LISTING

25. Belize
Mr. Manuel Giovani Grant
Parliamentary Officer
National Assembly of Belize

26. St Helena
Mr. Mark Theodore Yon
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
St Helena Legislative Council

27. St. Kitts and Nevis
Mr. Mauriel Knight
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly
National Assembly of Saint Christopher and Nevis

28. Trinidad and Tobago
Mrs. Melissa James-Guy
Administrator
Division of Public Infrastructure and Transportation
Tobago House of Assembly

29. Falkland Islands
Mrs. Nancy Locke
Public Accounts Committee Secretary
Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands

30. Saint Lucia
Mrs. Nita Andrita Louis-Alexander
Deputy Clerk
Parliament of Saint Lucia

31. Tasmania, Australia
Honourable Ruth Forrest
Member of the Legislative Council, Chair of PAC
Parliament of Tasmania, Australia

32. Saint Lucia
Ms. Shama Susie Charles
Administrative Secretary

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS LISTING

33. Tasmania, Australia
Mr. Simon Scott
Committee Secretary Parliamentary Standing
Committee of Public Accounts
Parliament of Tasmania, Australia

34. Saint Lucia
Mrs. Shenavia Desma Bicette
Secretary
Parliament of Saint Lucia

35. Pakistan
Hon. Syed Hussain Tariq
Member of Parliament
National Assembly of Pakistan

36. St. Kitts and Nevis
Mr. Trevlyn Terifor Stapleton
Clerk of the National Assembly
National Assembly of Saint Christopher and Nevis

37. Republic of Mauritius
Honourable Vyashil Saccaram
Member of Parliament
Mauritius National Assembly

38. Saint Lucia
Ms. Yumika Modeste
Secretary
Parliament of Saint Lucia

39. Saint Lucia
Ms. Zacha Charles
Secretary to the President of the Senate
Parliament of Saint Lucia

CAPAC CONFERENCE LINK

The fifth CAPAC Conference is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, June 09 & Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 9:00 AM AST**. The Conference will be held in-person at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and virtually via Zoom platform. Both days will utilise the same link.

Link for the Conference is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83590586210?pwd=4zzmsn9Raeu645LF3NFab9PnDJ6uGe.1

Meeting ID: 835 9058 6210
Passcode: 432971

NOTICE OF TIME ZONES

Please note that the CAPAC Conference will be conducted across multiple time zones. Virtual participants are kindly requested to take note of the corresponding start time in their respective locations.

Dates: June 09 & 10, 2026 **Start Time:** 9:00 AM AST/La Paz

TIME ZONES FOR AN AST START TIME OF 9:00 AM

LOCATION	LOCAL START TIME
Belize	7:00 AM
Northwest Territories, Canada	7:00 AM
Falkland Islands	10:00 AM
Montserrat	9:00 AM
Pakistan	6:00 PM
Republic of Mauritius	3:00 PM
St Kitts and Nevis	9:00 AM
St. Helena	1:00 PM
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	9:00 AM
Tasmania, Australia	11:00 PM
United Kingdom (UK)	2:00 PM

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1: TUESDAY 9 JUNE, 2026

Venue: J Hamilton Maurice Meeting Room
Parliamentary Complex Cabildo Building, St. Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain

Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (AST)

DAY 1 - CONFERENCE	
TIME	**ITEM**
8:30 am	Delegates to assemble in the Lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel for departure.
8:45 am	Coach Departs the Hyatt Regency Hotel.
8:55 am	Arrivals at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
9:00am – 9:10 am	**Registration and seating of all delegates** • QR Code Scanning – Wi-Fi, Programme, Resource Material
9:10 am – 9:15 am	**Official Opening of Conference** **Master of Ceremonies:** • Safety Briefing • The National Anthem of The Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
9:15 am – 9:20 am	Welcome Remarks **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK, Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald and Chair CAPAC** **Stephen Twigg** **Secretary-General Commonwealth Parliamentary**
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Keynote Address **Senator the Honourable Wade Mark** **President of the Senate, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago**

SESSION I: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES AT THE FOREFRONT OF ACCOUNTABILITY *This session sets the foundation by exploring the enduring importance of PACs as key institutions of parliamentary oversight and public accountability. Presentations will explore the challenges and opportunities facing PACs, particularly within small jurisdictions, and consider how effective oversight can contribute to improved public financial management and better outcomes for citizens.*	
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Overview of Session and Introductions Moderator **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK, Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald and Chair CAPAC**
9:40 am – 9:55 am	Guardians of Public Accountability: The Enduring Importance of PACs **Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Chair PAC, United Kingdom, House of Commons**
9:55 am – 10:05 am	The Role of Public Accounts Committees **Mr. Colm Imbert, MP Chairman PAC, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago**
10:05 am – 10:20 am	Issues and Challenges faced by small branch PACs within the Caribbean Region **Dr. Lesley Burns, Vice-President, Oversight and Professional Development, Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF)**
10:20 am – 10:40 am	Panel Discussion **Speaker Juan Watterson, Member of the House of Keys, Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair PAC Tynwald, Chair CAPAC**
10:40 am – 10:55 am	COFFEE/TEA BREAK (15 minutes)
10:55 am – 11:15 am	Interactive Breakout Group Exercise: **Speaker Juan Watterson & Dr. Lesley Burns**

11:15 am – 11:30 am	Report Back Session and Plenary Discussion **Speaker Juan Watterson & Dr. Lesley Burns**
11:30 am – 11:45 am	Wrap up of Session I **Speaker Juan Watterson**
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	OFFICIAL GROUP PHOTO (In-person & Online)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH (1 hour) *Members' Dining Room The Red House*
SESSION II: RETHINKING PAC GOVERNANCE: INNOVATION, INDEPENDENCE AND EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT *PACs continue to evolve in response to increasingly complex governance environments and growing expectations for transparency and accountability. This session will explore unique features in parliamentary oversight of PACs exploring alternative leadership and membership models.*	
1:15pm - 1:20pm	Overview of Session and Introductions Moderator **Stephen Twigg** **Secretary-General Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**
1:20pm – 1:30pm	Broadening Accountability: Lay Member Inclusion in PACs **Mrs. Bernie Goodwin, CPFA** **Chair, PAC, Falkland Islands**
1:30 pm – 1:40pm	Leader of the Opposition, Chair of PAC: Turks and Caicos Islands **Hon. Edwin Astwood, MLA, Leader of the Opposition and Chair, PAC, Turks and Caicos Islands**
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	**Interactive Group Exercise: PROS & CONS Discussions** • Lay Members inclusion in PACs • Assessing the Leader of the Opposition as Chair of the PAC Model

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Wrap up of Session II **Stephen Twigg** **Secretary-General Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**
SESSION III: PARTNERS IN ACCOUNTABILITY: PACs AND THE AUDITOR GENERAL *This session explores the complementary roles of the Public Accounts Committee and the Auditor General in strengthening parliamentary oversight and accountability.*	
2:15 pm – 2:20 pm	Overview of Session and Introduction **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK,** **Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald, Chair, CAPAC**
2:20 pm – 3:00 pm	PACs and the Auditor General **Mr. Shiva Sinanan - Auditor General (Ag.)** **Auditor General's Department, Trinidad and Tobago**
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Question & Answer Session
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Wrap up of Day 1 **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK,** **Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald, Chair, CAPAC**
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	**Tour of The Parliament**
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	OFFICIAL WELCOME RECEPTION **Hosted by Senator the Honourable Wade Mark** **President of the Senate and** **The Honourable Jagdeo Singh, MP** **Speaker of the House**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE, 2026
CAPAC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING

Venue: J Hamilton Maurice Meeting Room
Parliamentary Complex Cabildo Building, St. Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain

Time: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (AST)

TIME	ITEM
8:30 am	Delegates to assemble in the Lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel for departure.
8:45 am	Coach Departs the Hyatt Regency Hotel.
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Safety Briefing Reflections – Recap of Day 1 **Mrs. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan, Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago**
SESSION IV: STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PACs *This session will explore the importance of non-partisan conduct in Public Accounts Committee oversight, alongside the institutional, legal, and procedural safeguards required for PACs to operate independently and effectively hold the Executive accountable.*	
9:15 am – 9:25 am	Overview of Session IV and Introduction of Panelists Moderator **Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP, Leader of the Opposition of the Houses of Parliament of Grenada**
9:25 am – 9:40 am	Safeguarding Independence: Strengthening Public Accounts Committees for Effective Parliamentary Oversight **Mr. Kieron Testart, MLA Member of Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and Chair, of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

9:40 am – 9:55 am	Politicians vs Parliamentarians…does it matter in ensuring rigorous scrutiny? **Hon. Ruth Forrest, MLC** **Chair, PAC, Parliament of Tasmania**
9:55 am – 10:35 am	PANEL DISCUSSION
10:35 am - 10:50 am	COFFEE/TEA BREAK (15 minutes)
10:55 am – 11:25 am	Group Activity / Break out session
11:25 am – 11:45 am	Session Report and Plenary Discussion
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Wrap up of Session IV **Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP** **Leader of the Opposition of the Houses of Parliament of Grenada**
12:00pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH (1 hour) *Members' Dining Room The Red House*

SESSION V: LEVERAGING PAC PROCESSES AND PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT

This session will explore practical PAC practices that strengthen oversight and increase the likelihood that audit findings lead to real change. Drawing on examples from different jurisdictions, the discussion will examine how PACs can use procedural tools, effective questioning, follow-up mechanisms, and relationships with audit offices to improve the quality of scrutiny and ensure recommendations translate into action. The session will be interactive, encouraging participants to reflect on their own practices, identify common challenges, and share approaches that have resulted in measurable impact and improved accountability outcomes.

1:15 pm – 1:20 pm	Introduction and Overview of Session V Moderator **Ms. Chantal La Roche, Director, Legal Services, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**
1:20 pm – 1:30pm	Analysing the PAC Process **Dr. Lesley Burns, Vice-President, Oversight and Professional Development, Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF)**
1:30 pm – 1:50 pm	From Audit Findings to Actionable Outcomes - enhancing accountability through effective follow-up **Dr. Lesley Burns, Vice-President, Oversight and Professional Development, Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF)**
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	Group Exercise (Case Study)
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm	Session Report and Plenary Discussion
2:20 pm – 2:30 pm	Wrap up of Session V **Ms. Chantal La Roche, Director, Legal Services Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**
SESSION VI: MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF PACs THROUGH STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS INTO TANGIBLE OUTCOMES BY THE EXECUTIVE *Session six will examine mechanisms that assist in monitoring the implementation of PACs recommendations to ensure its translation into measurable improvements in governance and accountability.*	
2:35 pm – 2:40 pm	Overview of Session VI and Introduction of Panelist Moderator **Honourable Kenneth Bryan,MP , Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Cayman Islands**

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Oversight that Delivers: Turning Findings into Measurable Change **Honourable Jagdeo Singh, MP, Speaker of the House, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Enforcement of PAC Recommendations: The Eswatini Experience **Honourable Madala Bonginkosi Mhlanga, MP, Deputy Speaker, Chair of the PAC**
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Tracking Implementation: The Kiribati Experience **Honourable Tarakabut Tofinga, MP Member of Tabiteua Island, Chair, PAC**
3:30 pm – 3:50 pm	Panel Discussion
3:50 pm – 4:00 pm	Wrap up of of Session VI **Honourable Kenneth Bryan, MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Cayman Islands**
4:00 pm – 4:05 pm	Wrap up of Day 2 **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK, Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald, Chair, CAPAC**

GENERAL MEETING	
4:15 pm – 5:20 pm	CAPAC General Meeting
5:20 pm – 5:30 pm	Close of CAPAC Conference, 2026 **Honourable Jagdeo Singh, MP, Speaker of the House, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** Vote of Thanks **Honourable Juan Watterson, MHK, Speaker of the House of Keys, Chair, PAC Tynwald and Chair CAPAC**

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Honourable Jagdeo Singh, MP, Speaker of the House, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Jagdeo Singh was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives at the commencement of the Thirteenth Republican Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to his responsibilities as Speaker, he currently serves as Chairman of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC). An attorney-at-law, Mr. Singh previously served as Head of Chambers and Lead Counsel at Fortis Chambers. He has built a highly regarded legal career, with extensive experience in complex and high-profile criminal appellate matters, as well as civil litigation. His legal practice has contributed to the development and advancement of jurisprudence in several areas, including customs law, construction law, and commercial law. Mr. Singh also served as a Member of the Law Reform Commission from 2011 to 2017.



Honourable Juan Paul Watterson, Speaker of the House of Keys (SHK) Member of the House of Keys (MHK) Chair of Public Accounts Committee

Mr. Juan Watterson is a senior Manx parliamentarian and chartered accountant (ICAEW) who has served as Speaker of the House of Keys (the lower chamber of Tynwald, the Parliament of the Isle of Man), since 2016 and as a Member of the House of Keys for the constituency of Rushen since 2006. He also serves as Deputy President of Tynwald. He was a Member of the PAC 2006-2011, and has been Chair since 2016. Over the course of his parliamentary career, Speaker Watterson has served as Minister for Home Affairs from 2011 to 2016. He has also been Chairman of the Isle of Man's Branch Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since 2011.

Juan has been involved with CAPAC since 2017, serving as Treasurer (2022-24), then Chairman since 2024.



Honourable Edwin Astwood, Leader of the Opposition, Chair of Public Accounts Committee Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Astwood is the Member of Parliament for Grand Turk South and Salt Cay and currently serves as Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly of the Turks and Caicos Islands. A three-term parliamentarian, he previously served as Minister of Health, Agriculture, Sports and Human Services, where he played a key role in guiding the country through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Astwood also serves as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and is a member of the Appropriations Committee He is widely recognized for his independent-minded leadership, principled advocacy, and steadfast commitment to representing the interests of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Sir. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee United Kingdom (UK) Parliament

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown is the Conservative MP for North Cotswolds and has been an MP since 1992. In September 2024, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown was elected Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, having served as Deputy Chair of the Committee for the previous seven years and as a Committee member prior to that. The cross-party committee scrutinises the value for money of public spending and holds the Government to account for the delivery of public services. Sir Geoffrey is a farmer and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and was knighted for Political and Public Service in 2018.



Mr. Colm Imbert, Member of Parliament, Chair of Public Accounts Committee, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Colm Imbert currently serves as the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin North/East. He presently holds the position of Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and serves as Vice-Chairman of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PAEC). He previously served as Chairman of the PAC and as a Member of the PAEC during the Tenth Republican Parliament. Over the course of a parliamentary career spanning several decades, Mr. Imbert has accumulated more than twenty-two (22) years of service in Cabinet, holding a number of significant ministerial portfolios, including Finance, Works and Transport, Health, and Science, Technology and Tertiary Education. Most notably, he served as Minister of Finance from 2015 to 2025, during which time he presented ten consecutive National Budget. Mr. Imbert has also served as Acting Prime Minister on numerous occasions.



Honourable Ruth Forrest, Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), Chair of Public Accounts Committee

Ms. Ruth Forrest was elected to Tasmanian Legislative Council (Independent Member for Murchison) in May 2005 and re-elected in 2011, 2017 and 2023. She was elected Deputy President and Chair of Committees in 2018 and is a long serving member and Chair of a number of Parliamentary committees including the Tasmanian Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC).Ms. Forrest has been a member of the PAC since 2010, Deputy Chair from 2014 – 2021 and Chair since 2021. She was also Chair of the Australian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) from 2024-2026 and is the current Tasmanian Branch President of the CPA.



Honourable Tarakabut Tofinga, Member of Tabiteua Island, Chair of Public Account Committee

Mr. Tarakabut Tofinga currently serves as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and is the Member of Parliament for Tabiteuea North. He previously held the office of Minister of Justice from 2020 to 2024.

With more than a decade of experience working across the public sector and civil society, Hon. Tofinga possesses extensive knowledge of public administration and governance. He has developed a strong understanding of legislative processes and requirements, as well as significant expertise in land use planning, development control, the administration of State lands, and native land tenure systems in Kiribati.

His professional experience has provided him with valuable insight into the contemporary governance and development challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), particularly in balancing sustainable development objectives with legislative and administrative frameworks.



Mrs. Bernie Goodwin, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Falkland Islands

Mrs. Goodwin was appointed Chair of the Public Accounts Committee of the Falkland Islands in March 2025. As a Chartered Public Finance Accountant, she began her career in the Treasury of the Falkland Islands Government before serving with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation and later as Finance Director within the fishing industry. Drawing on extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, Mrs. Goodwin brings a strong background in financial management, governance, and accountability to the role of Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. Having recently stepped back from full-time professional commitments, she has been able to dedicate greater focus to parliamentary oversight and the important work of the Committee.



Mr. Kieron Testart, Member of the Northwest Territories, Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Kieron Testart was elected to the 20th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in October 2023 to represent the constituency of Range Lake. He currently serves as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and is a member of several key committees, including Procedure and Privileges, Accountability and Oversight, and Social Development. Mr. Kieron Testart previously served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kam Lake from 2015 to 2019.

In addition to his legislative experience, Mr. Testart served as Director of Economic Development for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation from 2021 to 2023 and Program Coordinator for Canadian Parents for French from 2020 to 2021. Has also held positions within the Government of the Northwest Territories, including as a Policy Analyst, and served as a Deputy Sheriff from 2009 to 2014. Drawing on extensive experience in public service, governance, community development, and legislative oversight, he brings a wealth of knowledge and practical insight to his role as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.



Mr. Shiva Sinanan - Auditor General (Ag.), Auditor General's Department

Mr. Sinanan is an accomplished audit and public sector professional with over thirty (30) years of experience in accounting, auditing, and public administration. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Pure and Applied Physics from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). He also earned a Diploma in Theology and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialisation in Human Resource Management.

He began his career in 1992 as a Registry Clerk and joined the Auditor General's Department in 1993 as an Accounts Clerk. He has since progressed through several roles, including Assistant Auditor General and Audit Director. His experience includes leading audit teams, supervising audits across the public sector, and contributing to the development of audit policies and procedures.



Dr. Lesley Burns Vice-President of Oversight and Professional Development at the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF)

Dr. Burns is the Vice-President of Oversight and Professional Development at the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF). She leads the oversight programme including the management and delivery of capacity building activities and initiatives to support Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and other oversight bodies. She has experience with various international donor organizations and has previously worked for the Government of Canada, both domestically and internationally. Her recent publications include "Public Accounts Committees in Canada's Small Provinces and Territories" in the coauthored volume: Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight: Promoting Good Governance in Smaller States, and Accountability in Action: Good Practices for Effective Public Accounts Committees.

Dr. Burns holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of British Columbia, an MA in Political Science from the University of Guelph, and an Honours BA in International Development from the University of Guelph.

MODERATORS



Honourable Juan Paul Watterson

Member of the House of Keys (MHK), Speaker of the House of Keys (SHK), Chair PAC Tynwald, Parliament of the Isle of Man, Chair CAPAC



Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP

Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives of Grenada



Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Cayman Islands



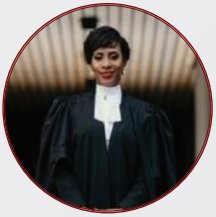
Stephen Twigg

Secretary-General Commonwealth Parliamentary



Mrs. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan

Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



Ms. Chantal La Roche

Director, Legal Services, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

NOTES

NOTES

PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

© 2026 Office of the Parliament

Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868) 624—PARL (7275)

Scan QR Code to visit

www.ttparliament.org