

## Overview of the **Regional Hub for Caribbean Parliaments**

Dear colleagues,

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago hosts a Regional Hub for Caribbean Parliaments aimed at exchanging knowledge on innovation in parliaments, including on/about parliamentary information management systems, good practices and lessons learned. This could be very beneficial, for us in Caribbean Parliaments, with small IT staff, limited budgets and scarce resources.

Agreement to do this was made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George in a letter to the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Switzerland, February 12, 2019.

The regional hub will operate in the framework of the [Inter-Parliamentary Union Centre for Innovation in Parliament \(IPU CIP\)](#). The CIP already facilitated the creation of the following Parliamentary Innovation Hubs (that are currently connecting a total of nearly 60 parliaments at the level of IT & digital communications staff):

- Pacific regional hub (hosted by Parliament of New Zealand)
- Southern Africa regional hub (hosted by National Assembly of Zambia)
- East Africa regional hub (hosted by the Parliament of Kenya)
- Hispanophone hub (hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Chile)

Mr. Avinash Bikha from the IPU, the role of CIP is to facilitate a global knowledge exchange across hubs, while the hubs themselves operate rather independently, coordinated by the host parliaments in liaison with its members.

As for hub activities: aside from the regular networking and knowledge exchange between IT & digital communications staff - through a Hub (WhatsApp groups, and regular webinars), hubs are also ideally placed to collaborate on 'regional knowledge outputs' (including for example on *virtual working*, *cloud solutions* etc.) Topics and discussions are determined by hub members and the host (ICT and related issues affecting Caribbean Parliaments).

To further establish the regional Hub for the Caribbean parliaments, the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago invites the Caribbean parliaments, to establish a WhatsApp group. this is the first tool of the Hub for communication with all its members. From here, engage in virtual meetings (one on one or groups) and work towards a Regional ICT Webinar (date to be defined) which will then focus on topics such as innovations, challenges, and priorities for knowledge exchange. Also possibly consider invitation and inclusion of non-Caribbean Parliaments and non-Parliamentary organizations (the Isle of Man, IT representatives of the House of Commons of Canada and ParlAmericas, other NPOs).

Thus for us to begin, asking to kindly submit your IT and/or Communications persons information contact details (cellular phone number, email, job title in parliament, short description of your role)

To: Caribbean Hub, [caribbeanhub@ttparliament.org](mailto:caribbeanhub@ttparliament.org)

cc: Garreth Ferguson [gferguson@ttparliament.org](mailto:gferguson@ttparliament.org)

Additionally included is Mrs. Lynette Joseph-Guevara, [lguevara@ttparliament.org](mailto:lguevara@ttparliament.org) Inter-parliamentary Relations Coordinator, Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago, +1 (868) 624-7275 Ext 2245. Her office is responsible for Parliament to Parliament relations, including official communications for the Office of the President, Speaker and Clerk of the House.

Sincerely,

**Garreth Ferguson**

**Information & Communications Technology Director** | [gferguson@ttparliament.org](mailto:gferguson@ttparliament.org)

Office of the Parliament

Parliamentary Complex

Cabildo Building

St. Vincent Street Port of Spain Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

O: +1 (868) 624-PARL(7275) Ext 2259

F: +1 (868) 625-4672

C: +1 (868) 682-4064

SKYPE: gfergusonTT

[ttparliament.org](http://ttparliament.org) | [facebook/TTParliament](https://www.facebook.com/TTParliament) | [twitter/TTParliament](https://twitter.com/TTParliament) | [ParlView](#) | Parliament Channel 11 | 105.5 FM