

Brincat Anna at Parliament-MT

From: Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees
<CAPAC@ttparliament.org>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 November 2023 21:49
Subject: Communication from the CAPAC Secretariat
Attachments: CAPAC Survey - PACs & Climate Change.docx; Minutes - CAPAC ExCo Meeting 6 April 2023.pdf

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Dear CAPAC Member,

I am writing on behalf of the CAPAC Chair, Hon. Mohamed Nashiz of the Maldives, and the CAPAC Secretariat, which is now operated by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2023-2026.

The following are attached for your attention:

- Survey on PACs and climate change to be returned by **Friday 8th December, 2023** to this email address.
- The Minutes of the CAPAC Executive Committee meeting held on 6th April, 2023.

Climate change will be a key theme of CAPAC's work in the coming months. The responses you provide to the survey will be used to produce a report on this very topical global issue.

The Secretariat would also like to request that you provide copies of the reports published by your PAC over the past 12 months, or a link where those reports may be accessed.

We will be in touch over the coming weeks with reminders about the survey as well as with other general CAPAC-related information and documentation for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to respond to this email if you have any questions.

Kind regards

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Survey - Public Accounts Committees and Climate Change

Please complete the following survey and return by Friday 8th December, 2023 to the CAPAC Secretariat at: capac@tparliament.org

1. (a) What is the greatest impact of climate change in your country / territory?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

- (b) Have the financial costs of these impacts ever been measured?

YES NO

- (c) If yes to (b), what have been the trends in these costs over the past five (5) years?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

- (d) If no to (b), what resources would be required in order to measure the financial costs of climate change in your country / territory?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

2. (a) Have climate change vulnerability assessments been conducted in your country / territory?

YES NO

- (b) If yes to (a), which areas of vulnerability did these assessments address (e.g. health, food and agriculture, water) and what was the degree of vulnerability observed?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(c) If no to (a), which areas of vulnerability did these assessments address (e.g. health, food and agriculture, water) and what was the degree of vulnerability observed?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

3. (a) Could you indicate the approximate portion of the national / territorial budgets over the past five (5) years that has been specifically allocated to implementing climate-related initiatives?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(b) Does your country / territory receive funds allocated to climate-related initiatives via Official Development Assistance from abroad?

YES NO

(c) If yes to (b), what portion of the climate change budget comes from ODA?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(d) Does your government contribute to climate finance abroad through ODA?

YES NO

(e) If yes to (d), what average percentage of overall ODA has been allocated to climate change over the past five (5) years and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the use of the funds contributed?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

4. Indicate whether your government uses:

Line-item budgeting

Programme budgeting

Another form of budgeting:

5. To what extent, if any, has climate change been explicitly integrated into the national / territorial government's medium or long term strategic priorities?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

6. What is the government's nationally determined contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

7. What is the government's target date for carbon neutrality?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

8. What are the government's other climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, if any?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

9. (a) Does the government publish a glide path for reaching its climate-related targets?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

(b) If yes, is this glide path audited in any way?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

10. Provide details of any costings conducted for the implementation of policies to meet the NDC and / or other relevant government targets.

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

11. (a) Has your national / territorial Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted specific climate change audits?

(b) If yes, provide examples.

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(c) If no, to what extent has climate change been factored into the SAI's financial, compliance or performance audits?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

NO DATA AVAILABLE

12. (a) Has your PAC undertaken any work focusing on climate change?

YES NO

If yes:

(b) What were the issues discussed, stakeholders identified and recommendations made?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(c) To what extent were these recommendations accepted and implemented by the executive?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(d) What, if any, were the most significant challenges faced when conducting these inquiries?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

(e) How were these challenges overcome?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

If no such work has been done by your PAC, but another committee has worked on climate change, identify that other committee and provide relevant details.

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

13. Do you have any other comments on PACs and climate change, including but not limited to what you would like to learn via CAPAC on this issue area?

INSERT RESPONSE HERE:

**CAPAC ExCo meeting
Thursday 6 April 2023**

In attendance

- Hon. Nashiz, Chair (The People's Majlis)
- Juan Watterson, Vice-Chair (Isle of Man)
- Senator Wade Mark (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Hon. Sebastien Pillay (Seychelles)

Outgoing Secretariat (CPA UK)

- Jacob Loose, Ruth Pope & Axell Kaubo

Incoming Secretariat (Trinidad & Tobago)

- Keiba Jacob, Justin Jarrette & Chad Salandy

Apologies

- Hon. Julian R Robertson (Jamaica)

Minutes

1. Welcome

- Hon. Nashiz welcomed everyone to the second ExCo meeting of 2023.

2. CAPAC Interim Treasurer

- Juan Watterson gave a brief summary of the role of CAPAC Treasurer – the third role in the triumvirate for decision making on behalf of CAPAC.
- Jacob Loose explained that this was an interim position as the post will be filled formally at the next CAPAC Conference and General Meeting. He introduced the two candidates and invited them to say a few words about their interest in the role.
- Senator Wade Mark thanked the Committee for the opportunity to stand for the role and highlighted his relevant experience:
 - Chair of the Public Accounts and Enterprises Committee since 2015
 - Chair of Public Accounts Committee 2002-2010
 - Member of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee
 - Speaker of the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago
 - Vice-President of the Senate of Trinidad & Tobago
 - Joint President of Trinidad & Tobago branch of CPA
 - Chairman of CPA Caribbean Americas and Atlantic Region
 - Minister of Public Administration and Information (1995-2000)
 - Member of global organisations Parliamentarians Against Corruption and Parliamentarians for Global Action.
 - Trinidad & Tobago soon to take up role of Secretariat of CAPAC.

Senator Mark summarised his intention for the role: There is no single way to conduct PAC work, but he is confident that he will be able to bring decades of experience to bear and to share the robust PAC practice that has been developed in Trinidad & Tobago's relatively small legislature.

- Hon Sebastien Pillay thanked the Committee for the opportunity to stand for the role and highlighted his relevant experience:
 - In 12th year (3rd term) as Member of the PAC in the Seychelles.
 - Chairman of the Finance Committee.
 - Leader of the Opposition.
 - Extensive background of working with legislative oversight.

- Worked on changing the legislation of off-shore financial regulations.
- Sees role of Chairman as promoting oversight to other areas of government and setting out the parameters.
- Set up structures to drive anti-corruption, working with World Bank and IMF.
- Started as University Professor, then in infrastructure in charge of Special Projects.
- Active member of SADCOPAC.

Hon. Pillay summarised his intention for the role: The PAC is the most important parliamentary committee. The Commonwealth has a key role to play in benchmarking. Trinidad & Tobago, Maldives and Seychelles – all have tourism-based economies so can learn from each other.

- Hon. Nashiz thanked both candidates and wished them luck. Jacob explained the voting system - direct message to CPA UK, one vote per legislature. Votes were cast and counted.
- Senator Mark achieved most votes and accepted the role of Interim Treasurer. Hon. Nashiz, Juan Watterson and Hon. Pillay congratulated him. Senator Mark thanked the committee and thanked Hon. Pillay for his contribution. He stated that he looks forward to collaborating as one family and one team to promote the aims and objectives of CAPAC.

3. Update on CAPAC Secretariat

- Hon Nashiz invited Jacob Loose to update the Committee on the transition arrangements for the CAPAC Secretariat. Jacob highlighted the paper that had been circulated with the agenda, setting out the plan and process for handing over Secretariat to Trinidad & Tobago, with key input from the People's Majlis. The official handover is taking place at this meeting, but CPA UK will be in touch with Trinidad & Tobago to finalise transition arrangements, including sharing key documentation and transferring ownership of the CAPAC portal.
- Keiba Jacob thanked the Committee for the opportunity to take over Secretariat. She confirmed that they had already started work and look forward to undertaking the research on Climate Change, to be discussed at Agenda item 4.
- Hon Pillay raised a question about attendance at Executive Committee meetings and whether there were sufficient attendees to create real value and bring about effective change. He commented that a lot was discussed at the CAPAC Conference and asked how these things are going to be taken forward.
- Juan Watterson suggested it was incumbent upon the Executive Committee and office holders in particular, to drive projects forward. He explained that Hon. Nashiz will drive the environmental research project, to be discussed at Agenda item 4, and he (Juan) will drive the call for 2022 PAC reports (Agenda item 5). He argued that it was for the Executive Committee to take the ideas identified at the conference and own them, as well as organising the next Conference in 2024.
- Hon. Nashiz agreed and added that every contribution to the Executive Committee was needed and welcome. He emphasised that the Committee needs the expertise and experience of everyone on the Committee so that we can deliver for the organisation as a whole.

4. Presentation of the Climate Change and PACs survey

- Justin Jarrette introduced the questionnaire on Climate Change that has been developed by Trinidad & Tobago, which will be shared with all ExCo members. He explained that they had tried to come up with a broad range of questions and ask open questions so response can be made freely. He explained that for some of the questions there is the option of 'no data available' because its important to get a clear picture of

what is and isn't available. He summarised the 11 questions of the survey, covering: general impact, vulnerability assessments, challenges faced, budgets and different approaches to budgeting, nationally determined contributions under Paris Agreement, the role of SAls in relation to Climate Change, PACs' work on Climate Change, including related topics – e.g. impacts of climate change. He explained that the survey ends with an open question on PACs and Climate Change to provide an opportunity to add anything else deemed relevant, or anything else you want to find out.

- Juan Watterson suggested adding another group of questions on carbon neutrality: Do you have a target for Carbon neutrality? What date? Does your government track this? Justin agreed.
- Hon. Pillay congratulated Trinidad & Tobago on the work and welcomed the point made about SAls as he sees their role as very important. He raised a concern that question 1 may be too wide because it will vary so much and asked how Trinidad & Tobago intend to bring everything together. Justin responded that they were trying to capture a broad range of realities and recognise differences in the impact felt by different countries – e.g. storms in Canada, sea-level rises in the Maldives. Hon. Pillay thanks Justin for his explanation, which helped him understand where you're coming from. He reiterated his thanks and stated that he's really looking forward to the responses.
- Hon. Nashiz suggested it would be great if we could come up with a set of mechanisms to account for the impacts of Climate Change. For countries like the Maldives, sea-level rises are threatening future revenue. It would be great to work on a set of guidelines on how to measure this impact.
- Hon. Pillay suggested that the second question could cover this and triangulate how different countries are doing this. He suggested it would be helpful to draw up a table that sets out the parameters for funding.
- Juan Watterson asked whether different jurisdictions see success differently? He suggested an additional question on what success looks like.
- Hon. Nashiz asked if the ExCo could also be emailed the questionnaire, so they can input to questionnaire before it is circulated more widely.
- Justin thanked the committee for their suggestions. He will reflect on how to best incorporate them.

5. Call for 2022 PAC reports

- Juan Watterson suggested that all PACs are guilty of reinventing the wheel. We may get reports from our Auditor General or generate our own reports on a topic – only to find out colleague in neighbouring jurisdiction has done something similar, and has perhaps done it better. He suggested it would be helpful to all CAPAC members to get a better understanding of what other PACs are looking into. He asked if the Secretariat would undertake to email all members and get a link to or copies of all their 2022 reports. He suggested he and the Executive Committee/Secretariat could then do some analysis, looking at themes and findings, adding value, with the aim of sharing with CAPAC members at the CAPAC conference in 2024.
- Justin Jarrette confirmed the Secretariat was happy to coordinate that piece of work.

6. CAPAC Conference 2024.

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. **Initial ideas/volunteers to host the Conference.**

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. **Date of next meeting**

To be held approx. 6 months from now. The new Secretariat will confirm date and time.

9. **AOB**

Juan Watterson suggested that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Ghana (29 Sept-12 October), will be a good opportunity to promote CAPAC – perhaps by tabling an information paper to the Conference, as well as using networking opportunities to talk about CAPAC. Juan confirmed he will be attending anyway, as will CPA UK in some capacity. Hon. Nashiz confirmed he could probably attend.