



IIR-CARICOM WEBINAR

Fifty Years of Cooperation: Cuba – CARICOM Relations

Thursday 1st December, 2022 | 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. AST

PROGRAMME

CHAIR

Dr. Jacqueline Laguardia Martinez
Lecturer, Institute of International Relations

WELCOME REMARKS

Ambassador Donna Forde
Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations,
Caribbean Community Secretariat

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Annita Montoute
Interim Director, Institute of International Relations

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Background and History of Cuba-CARICOM Relations: A Cuban perspective

Amb. José Francisco Piedra Rencurrell
Former Ambassador of Cuba to Jamaica

Background and History of Cuba-CARICOM Relations: A CARICOM perspective

Dr. Mark Kirton
Former Ag. Director and Lecturer, IIR

Opportunities and Challenges for Cooperation Between Cuba and CARICOM

His Excellency David Comissiong
Ambassador of Barbados to CARICOM

The Future of CARICOM and Cuba Trade Relations

Dr. Kai-Ann Skeete
Trade Research Fellow
Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade, Law, Policy and
Services, Cave Hill Campus

Charting a Future CARICOM-Cuba Relationship

Ms. Michele Lowe
Senior Co-ordinator, Hemispheric and Bilateral Negotiations
Directorate of the CARICOM Single Market and Trade, Caribbean
Community Secretariat

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Adriel Charles
Master of Science in Global Studies student, IIR

VOTE OF THANKS

MEET THE PANELISTS



David Comissiong

Ambassador David Comissiong was born in the Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

David Comissiong is a former Senator in the government of Barbados, and is currently Barbados' Ambassador to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

He is also a founder-member of the Caribbean Pan-African Network (CPAN), the Clement Payne Movement of Barbados, the Caribbean Chapter of the International Network In Defence of Humanity, and the Global Afrikan Congress (GAC), and was an architect and the first Director of the Barbados Government's Commission for Pan-African Affairs (CPAA).

He represented the Caribbean region at the 7th Pan-African Congress in Uganda (1994), played a key role in the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism in South Africa (2001), and has represented the Diaspora on the African Union's Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).

Since the year 2012 Mr Comissiong has served as a member of Barbados' National Task Force on Reparations.

He is the author of *The Wide Streets of Tomorrow: Essays and Speeches*; *It's the Healing of the Nation: The Case for Reparations*; and *The Pan-African Love Story of Arnold and Mignon Ford*.



Mark Kirton

Dr. Mark Kirton is a citizen of Guyana and the holder of the Bachelor of Arts (Distinction) from the University of Guyana, Master of Science (M.Sc) from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) from The University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.

His professional experience spans more than four decades of university teaching, research and administration. At the University of Guyana, he served as Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Political Science and Law (later becoming the Department of Government and International Affairs), Head of the Graduate School of the Social Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Dr Kirton later joined the University of the West Indies and served as Director (ag.) Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad from where he retired.

Dr. Kirton's current research interests include regional integration, Latin American politics and government, and migration and human security.



Michele Lowe

Ms. Michele Lowe is the Senior Co-ordinator for Hemispheric and Bilateral negotiations at the CARICOM Secretariat. She has over 20 years' experience in international trade policy and trade negotiations. She co-ordinated CARICOM's participation in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations from 2001-2004, the negotiations for a CARICOM-Cuba Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement in 2000, and the negotiations between CARICOM and Canada for a Trade and Development Agreement from 2009-2014.

She is an Adjunct Senior lecturer in the Department of Government at the UWI, Mona campus, where she lectures a final year undergraduate course in Theory and Practice of International Negotiations.



José Francisco Piedra Rencurrell

Prof. José Francisco Piedra Rencurrell is Cuban diplomat and researcher with more than thirty years' experience in international relations. He has served in diplomatic missions in five countries, among them Jamaica, where he was Ambassador for six years.

Ambassador Piedra Rencurrell has been Professor for about a decade at the University of Havana and at the Institute of Sport & Physical Culture "Manuel Fajardo". He has also worked as consultant and analyst for Cuban television.



Kai-Ann Skeete

Dr. Kai-Ann Skeete is the Trade Research Fellow at the Shridath Ramphal Center for International Trade, Law, Policy and Services at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. Dr. Skeete lectures Research Methods for Trade, Trade Aspects of Regional Integration as well as CARICOM and the CSME. Her research interests include CARICOM's Forward Trade Agenda, Caribbean Regional Integration, Geopolitics, Security Studies and Regional governance systems. Dr. Skeete's recent publications include chapters or journal articles on Caribbean Small States Regionalism, CARICOM Diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence and CARICOM's Enlargement. She has worked across the Caribbean region as a Trade Consultant since 2009.

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"The Russian Invasion: Geopolitical and Goeconomic Implications for the Caribbean" June 23, 2022

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