

The Regional Management Framework for Crime and Security

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2007 report *Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the Caribbean* confirmed what we in CARICOM have known and had been grappling with for decades; drug trafficking was the principal transnational crime in the Region.

The Conference of Heads of Government, at its Twenty-second meeting, in July 2001, established a Regional Task Force on Crime and Security to identify, analyze and recommend a way forward in dealing with the fundamental causes of Crime and Security threats in the Region. The recommendations of the Task Force for a Regional Action Agenda and a new regional framework for the development and management of Crime and Security issues was endorsed. The establishment of the framework was approved in July 2005 at the Twenty-sixth session of the Conference of Heads of Government.

The Framework in Operation

While the decision to establish the Framework was taken in July 2005, it did not formally come into operation until March 2006, after the Conference of Heads of Government in February of the same year noted how little progress had been made regarding the implementation of decisions taken in July 2005 concerning the prospective security arrangements for the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007 (CWC 2007). The CARICOM Secretariat was directed to convene the first meeting of the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) in March 2006.

It should be noted that this process began in July 2001, as the Conference of Heads of Government acknowledged that issues related to crime and security were escalating, and a new/changed approach needed to be put in place.

The framework was reviewed in 2009 by Mrs. Joan Massiah and again reviewed in 2012 by Landell Mills. The reviews made specific recommendations on the Regional Security Architecture with a view to:

- Provide rationalization options;
- Clarify expected results;
- Determine functions, funding and structural requirements; and
- Streamline inter-relationships between CARICOM Security Agencies and the Secretariat.

The approved structure for the new security Framework comprises the following:

A Council of Ministers for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) as a separate and distinct body of CARICOM, reporting to the Conference of Heads of Government

A Ministerial Sub-Committee on Resource Mobilisation, to focus specifically on resource mobilisation, implementation and other urgent matters.

A Security Policy Advisory Committee (SEPAC), comprising Permanent Secretaries, Advisors, or other Senior Policy Officials and Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of CARICOM Heads of Operational Entities

An Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), the nerve centre of this Management Framework and an institution of CARICOM with primary responsibility for the implementation of the regional crime and security agenda, reporting directly to the Council of Ministers.

Standing Committees of Operational Heads from Law Enforcement and Border Security to make recommendations to the CONSLE regarding regional security policy and strategy formulation.

In reviewing the effectiveness of the framework, it was determined that there was a 'link' missing.

In November 2015, the CONSLE approved the incorporation of a Standing Committee of Heads of Corrections and Prison Services (HCPS) to the CARICOM Management Framework for Crime and Security

It was agreed that the absence of the input from the Heads of Corrections and Prison Services (HCPS) in the CARICOM Management Framework for Crime and Security to support the work of the Heads of Police, Military, Immigration, Customs, Intelligence and Financial Criminal Units represented a tremendous gap, which needed to be urgently remedied by incorporating a Standing Committee of Heads of Corrections and Prison Services into the CARICOM Management Framework for Crime and Security. This would include chairmanship and any corresponding amendment to the Rules of Procedure; and

This brought fruition to Strategic Goal 11 of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy that speaks to the ***“modernisation and enhancement of Correctional Services and Institutions Management”*** and recommends the development of a proposal to advance and incorporate a Standing Committee of Heads of Corrections and Prison Services (HCPS) into the CARICOM Management Framework for Crime and Security.



CARICOM Framework for the management of Crime and Security

