



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARRIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**PORT OF SPAIN: 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**



Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM as he delivers the Opening Remarks at the Handover Ceremony of the Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.



Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs witnesses the Handing Over of the Instrument of the Office of the Secretary General on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 in Port of Spain, Trinidad at Tobago.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs participated in the Handover Ceremony of the Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), during which he delivered opening remarks and bade farewell to outgoing Secretary-General, His Excellency Rodolfo Sabonge and welcomed incoming Secretary-General designate, Her Excellency Neomí Espenoza Madrid.

In his remarks, Minister Browne commended the Secretary-General's leadership, noting that His Excellency navigated the organization through a challenging period marked by climate change, humanitarian crises, and globalization. Of special note was the restructuring of the ACS Secretariat, which is now more fit for purpose. Minister Browne also extolled His Excellency's advocacy on issues of concern to Member States, which elevated the Association's profile and extended its reach and visibility to the benefit of Member States.

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Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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In welcoming the incoming Sixteenth Secretary-General of the ACS, Minister Browne highlighted Her Excellency's distinguished career as an Ambassador, University Lecturer and Advisor to the United Nations (UN) President of the General Assembly. He expressed full confidence in her ability to lead the Secretariat and his enthusiasm to receive her guidance in the face of global uncertainty and attacks against our humanity.

Minister Browne emphasized to those gathered, *"It is through your critical work on issues like climate change, economic development, and disaster response that the region can come together to address the complex challenges we face, including economic instability and natural disasters."*

Minister Browne then served as witness at the Handing Over of the Instrument of the Office of Secretary-General.



**L-R:** Her Excellency Kandya Obezo, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs of Colombia; Outgoing Secretary-General of the ACS, His Excellency Rodolfo Sabonge; Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs; Incoming Secretary-General Her Excellency Neomí Espenoza Madrid.

**Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**

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