



GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL

Moving Diaspora Engagement Forward- A Model for Deeper Partnership

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) will be the successor body to the Diaspora Advisory Board which comprises members from only the traditional Diaspora destinations (Canada, UK and USA). It is a more inclusive and expansive Diaspora engagement mechanism and will serve as a major tool for Diaspora outreach across the world.

Why was it created?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council evolved out of discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, as well as the current Diaspora Advisory Board Members, who have long acknowledged the need for further expansion and inclusiveness of the engagement processes within and across the Diaspora.

What is the role and function of the Council?

The Council will serve as an advisory and consultative body which can explore pathways for increased engagement and partnership with the Diaspora on matters of interest to both the Diaspora and Jamaica.

What is the significance of the Diaspora's involvement in the Council?

The Council represents another avenue for the Diaspora to be involved in Jamaica's development at the policy level across several sectors, in addition to addressing matters impacting the Diaspora where they reside. This will lead to greater synergies between the Diaspora and Jamaica.

What is the composition of the Council?

Membership of the Council will consist of 28 Jamaicans (14 elected and 14 appointed) drawn from Africa; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East; the Caribbean; Latin America, Europe, United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Council will also include individuals drawn from the Diaspora and Jamaica with expertise in the following sectors: Education; Health and Wellness; Arts, Sports and Culture; Citizen Security; Development Issues; Faith-based Community and Commerce.

Is there an election process for membership to the Council?

Yes, there is an election process for the elected Council members drawn from Canada, the UK and the USA. Elections to the GJDC will take place during the period 21st November to 15th December 2019 across the regions.

Who will oversee and manage the election process?

Electoral Committees will be formed in each location to coordinate and manage the logistics for the election of the Council Members from Canada, the UK and the USA.

Do I need to register to vote in the elections?

Jamaicans in the Diaspora will be required to register during the period 25th October to 17th November in order to vote in their respective regions. The registration process will be made available on the websites of the Jamaican overseas Missions in Canada, the USA and the UK.

Who is eligible to vote in the elections for membership of the Council?

In order to vote in the elections individuals must be Jamaican or of Jamaican heritage, be at least 18 years of age and reside in Canada, the USA and UK.

What method will be used to cast votes?

Votes will be cast electronically via an online platform used in both the USA and Canada in 2017. Paper-ballots will be permitted on the first day of the elections only, on 21st November, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at designated locations.

How long is the term of office for Council Members?

The term of office will be three years (as compared with the tenure of two years for Diaspora Advisory Board Members). This longer term will better facilitate the achievement of agreed deliverables during the tenure of members.

How will leadership of the Council be managed?

Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs will serve as Chair of the Council. The Minister may appoint a Vice Chair.

How frequently will the Council meet?

The Council will meet once per quarter, including via video conference. Additional meetings may be convened, as deemed necessary.

Can a current member of the Diaspora Advisory Board be represented on the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council?

Yes, a current member of the Diaspora Advisory Board may be eligible for re-election to serve on the Council provided that he/she has not served for two consecutive prior terms on the Board.

Are young people eligible to sit on the Council?

Seven youth leaders between the ages of 18-35 years are eligible for membership to the Council as their participation is critical to the sustainability of the Diaspora Movement. Youth members will be drawn from the leadership of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council and will be appointed for this first term of office. Two persons will be drawn from Canada and the UK respectively, and three from the USA.

Are members of the Council compensated?

Members of the Council (whether elected or appointed) will serve on a voluntary basis and are therefore not compensated.

Is the Council an arm of the Government of Jamaica?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council is not an arm of the Government of Jamaica. Members serve in the capacity of members of the Diaspora. Views expressed by Council Members therefore, are not deemed to be representative of the views of the Government.



MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL



