

Commonwealth– Cambridge Collaboration: COMPASS Launch

Speaker Biographies



The Commonwealth



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Centre for Resilience and
Sustainable Development



THEIR FUTURE OUR ACTION

Launch of the Final Action-Research Report

Marlborough House, London

Monday 12 August 2024

MODERATOR: Ms Janet Charles
Acting High Commissioner, High Commission for Dominica



Janet Charles exemplifies dedication and expertise in her roles as a distinguished diplomat and committed public servant. With a career that spans over 35 years in international relations and public administration, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the advancement of Dominica on the global stage. Currently, she serves as the Acting High Commissioner of Dominica to the United Kingdom and the Head of Dominica’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

Throughout her career, she has seamlessly combined her professional responsibilities with a deep commitment to community service. Her passion for making a meaningful impact is reflected in her significant contributions to disaster relief efforts and her leadership in initiatives that strengthen the bonds between Dominica and its diaspora.

Janet holds a BA (Hons) in Business Studies with a focus on International Business from the University of Westminster and a Master’s degree in Contemporary Diplomacy from the University of Malta. Her academic achievements have further enriched her capacity to navigate the complexities of diplomacy and international affairs.

HIGH-LEVEL PANELLISTS

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, KC was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is the tenth of twelve children and grew up in London. She completed her LLB (Hons) London University at the age of twenty and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple at the age of twenty-one.

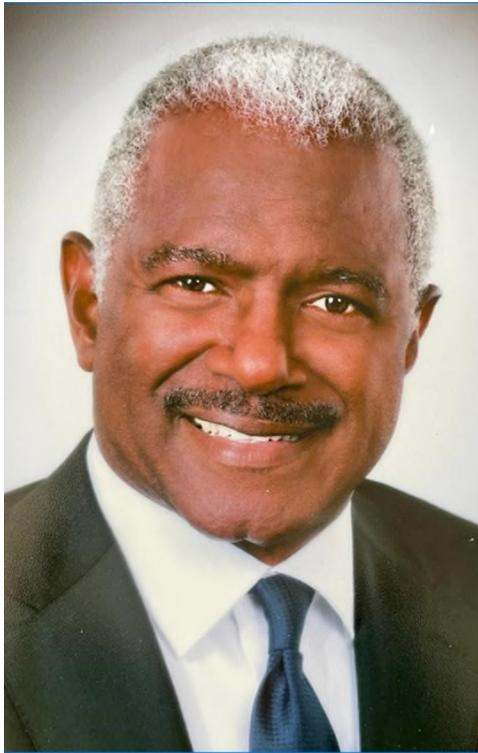
Her career has been marked by achieving a number of extraordinary firsts, not least of which was to be the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty’s Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland.

While holding these and other senior ministerial office she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and

international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.

As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of Commonwealth she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 56 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change - including its disproportionate impact on women - and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.

HE Mr Paul Andrew Gomez High Commissioner, The Bahamas High Commission London



High Commissioner Gomez is a Chartered Accountant (“CA”) by profession and is a Member of The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (“BICA”), and he is also an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (“CI Arb”), London.

He also serves as a Justice of the Peace (“JP”).

High Commissioner Gomez started his professional Accountancy career in January 1981 after graduating from university, working for the International Accounting and Consulting Firm that is now KPMG, in both their Los Angeles and Nassau, Bahamas, offices, respectively.

In January 1990, at age 31, HC Gomez started a public accounting firm in Nassau called Gomez & Co., Chartered Accountants, which became, nine months later, Gomez & Gomez, Chartered Accountants, when he and his brother (Craig Tony

Gomez, CA) partnered.

HC Gomez in 2001 became Managing Partner and principal owner of Grant Thornton Bahamas, Chartered Accountants and Consultants, a Member Firm of Grant Thornton International, which (in The Bahamas) specialised in providing services primarily to international clients such as banks, mutual funds, investment holding companies, trusts, and other complex financial structures.

In November 2019, HC Gomez's firm rejoined his brother's firm, Baker Tilly Bahamas, The Bahamas Member Firm of Baker Tilly International, a top ten global accounting and consulting group.

Baker Tilly in The Bahamas is today the fifth largest public accounting and consulting firm, servicing a diversified client base, consisting of international and domestic companies and financial structures.

HC Gomez is today a Co-Chairman and Senior Partner in Baker Tilly Bahamas, and his status is presently INACTIVE.

He is also Chairman of Paje Investments Limited, an investment holding company he established about thirty years ago, that specialises in the acquisition and development of real estate.

HC Gomez, a widower, has two children and five grandchildren.

Prof Nazia M Habib

Founder and Director, Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development, University of Cambridge



Professor Dr Nazia Habib is a global expert in developing action research methodologies that tackle complex decision-making challenges, with the aim of creating scalable and sustainable resilient systems across both public and private sectors.

With an extensive academic background spanning Computer Science, Accounting, Economics, Political Economics, and Sustainability Science, combined with decades of fieldwork in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, she is a transdisciplinary, award-winning scholar. For over a decade, Prof Habib has been at the forefront of pioneering systems-based action research methodologies that emphasize collective thinking and co-creation.

As the founder of the Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development (CRSD) at the University of Cambridge, Dr Habib has collaborated with the World Bank, the UN, and other international agencies to scale her innovative research philosophy. Her work, which spans over 75 countries and more than 600 companies, integrates systems thinking to systematically address sustainable investment, responsible innovation, and good governance.

Prof Habib is committed to reducing the cost, time, and challenges associated with making evidence-based decisions, with the ultimate goal of enhancing collective decision-making processes on a global scale to accelerate sustainability and resilience. She is dedicated to introducing new methodologies for evidence collection and minimizing negative unintended consequences.

Mr Nahjae Nunes
Vice-Chairperson, Policy & Advocacy | Co-Chair, CHOGM International
Youth Taskforce, Commonwealth Youth Council



Nahjae Nunes FRSA, CYC Vice-Chair for Policy and Advocacy and Co-Chair of the CHOGM International Youth Taskforce, is a distinguished Social Justice Activist and a well-respected figure in policy and advocacy. Born and raised in Jamaica, Nunes brings a unique perspective to his work.

Currently a graduate student of International Relations at the University of Oxford, Nunes is distinguished as one of only two Springer Scholars of All Souls College.

Before his studies at Oxford, he graduated as the most outstanding student from the Global Affairs program at New York University where he was a Dean's Scholar and the first NYU Harold W. Rosenthal Fellow to the U.S. Government.

He has served as a Humanitarian, Social, and Cultural Policy Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations, a Youth Advisor to the Government of Jamaica, and was awarded the Diana Award in 2021.