



Antigua and Barbuda General Election

18 January 2023



The Commonwealth



Antigua and Barbuda General Election

18 JANUARY 2023



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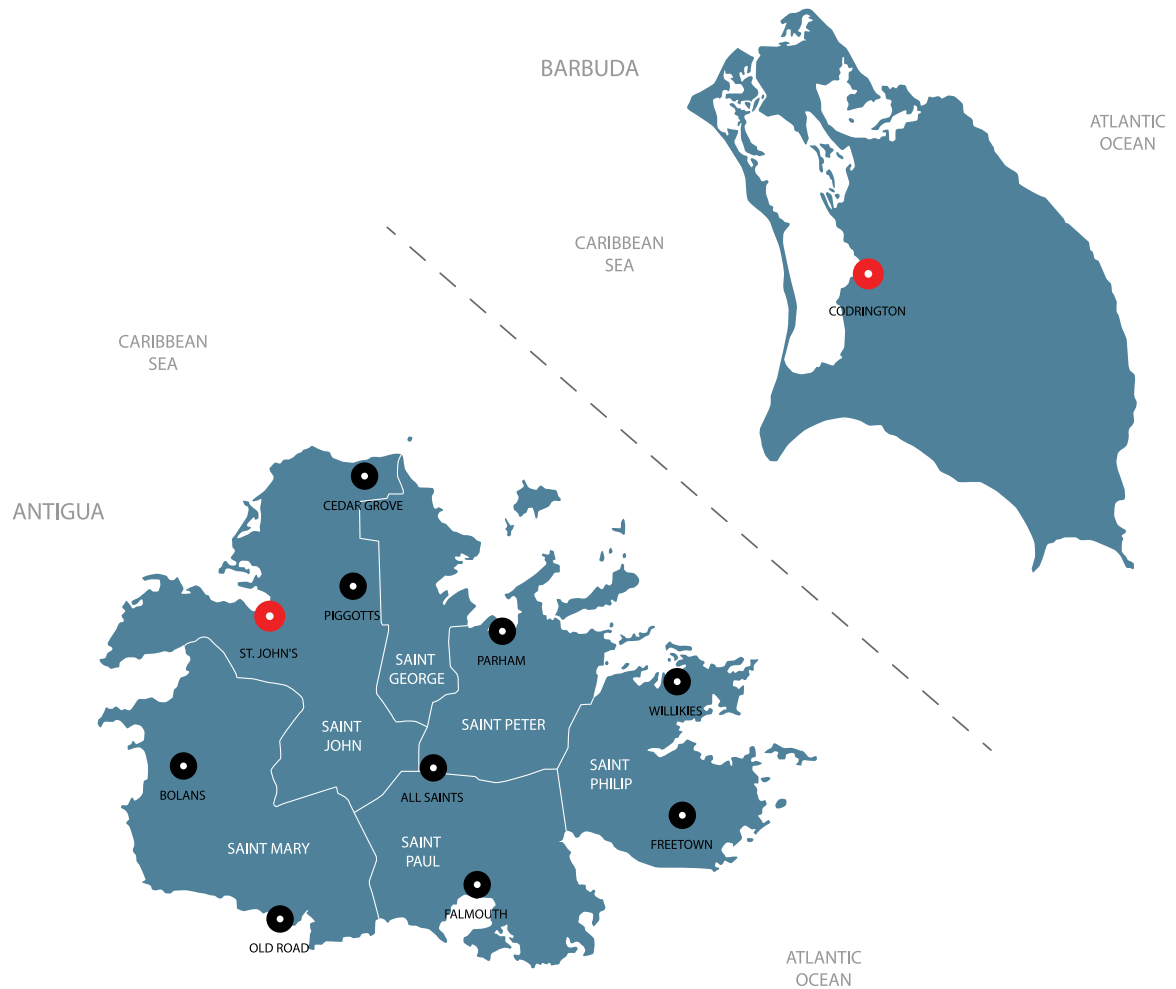
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Map of Antigua and Barbuda



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABAPD	Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities
ABLP	Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party
ABEC	Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission
ABS	Antigua Broadcasting Service
ABTLP	Antigua and Barbuda True Labour Party
ALP	Antigua Labour Party
BPM	Barbuda People's Movement
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
COG	Commonwealth Observer Group
DGA	Department of Gender Affairs
DNA	Democratic National Alliance
ICT	information and communication technology
OMG	Observer Media Group
PLM	Progressive Labour Movement
PWD	person with disabilities
NYCAB	National Youth Council of Antigua and Barbuda
RPA	Representation of the People Act
UK	United Kingdom
UPP	United Progressive Party

Letter of Transmittal

20 January 2023

20 January 2023

Dear Secretary-General,

As Chairperson of the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) to the 18 January 2022 General Elections in Antigua and Barbuda, I am pleased to submit to you our Final Report.

The Group's overall assessment is that the electoral process was credible, and the results reflect the will of the people who voted. Although the turnout was 67 percent, the lowest in the 20 years we were encouraged by the patience of the voters who did come out to exercise their civic rights at early hours of the election day. We were also pleased and encouraged by the calm and peaceful atmosphere in which polling took place.

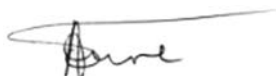
This report is informed by extensive consultations with national stakeholders and international observer groups, and our observation of all aspects of the election processes during the period of our deployment. The Group's report welcomed various calls by stakeholders to implement reforms that will strengthen the

electoral and governance processes in Antigua and Barbuda. The Group encouraged all stakeholders to remain firm and committed on the path of democratic consolidation.

The group encourages the Commonwealth Secretariat to remain engaged with key stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda and to continue to support domestic efforts to achieve aspects of democratic reforms.

In accordance with our mandate, we submit our detailed findings and recommendations in the attached report to help further strengthen the electoral process in Antigua and Barbuda. We hope that these findings are received in the constructive spirit in which they are offered.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Observer Group, and in my own name, I would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the democratic process in Antigua and Barbuda. I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the observers and convey the Group's appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat Staff, who provided invaluable support to the COG mission.



Danny Antoine Faure
Chairperson

Observers' Signatures



Senator Gideon Moi
Kenya



Baroness Denise Kingsmill CBE
United Kingdom



Orrette Fisher
Jamaica



Clare Keizer
Clare Keizer
St. Vincent and Grenadines

Acknowledgments

We convey our sincere thanks to the Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, the former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, for giving us the opportunity and the privilege to serve the Commonwealth through this Observation mission.

We convey our appreciation and gratitude to the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their hospitality during our time in the country. The openness and disposition to provide unfettered access and to willingly engage with the Group was appreciated. We would particularly like to convey our sincere gratitude in this regard to the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, political parties, civil society and other stakeholders who took their time to interact and engage with us. The insights they shared provided us with helpful guidance, nuanced context and a lens through which to understand the electoral process and the socio-political landscape of Antigua and Barbuda.

We appreciated the opportunity to work in collaboration with domestic and the other international observers from the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States.

We also greatly appreciated the support provided throughout the mission by the Commonwealth Secretariat staff team – Luis Franceschi, Abiola Sunmonu, Abubakar Abdullahi and Musu Kaikai – as well as all citizens on ground who supported us and enabled us to do our work.

Executive Summary

A Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) was deployed to observe the 2023 general election in Antigua and Barbuda at the invitation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. The Group was in the country from 12 to 24 January 2023.

As part of its Terms of Reference, the Group considered the various aspects of the electoral process against national, regional, Commonwealth and other international frameworks for credible democratic elections to which Antigua and Barbuda has committed itself. The Group met with a cross-section of stakeholders to understand and assess the situation in the country and the preparations for the election. These consultations, as well as the Group's own observations before, during and after election day, informed its overall assessment of the electoral process.

The 2023 general election was a snap election that was called on 22 December 2022 when the Prime Minister requested the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament. The elections were held on 18 January 2023, which provided a narrow window for parties to campaign and for the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) to prepare. Given this context, ABEC, the parties and key stakeholders involved are to be congratulated for preparing and holding a successful and peaceful election.

Although the turnout, at 70 per cent, was the lowest in 20 years, the Group observed that the elections were well organised, transparent and credible, with the outcomes reflecting the will of the people. The election was conducted in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and with the principles of democracy as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. The overwhelming majority of the polling day staff were women, who carried out their duties in a professional, diligent and dedicated manner. We note that there were more female candidates in this election (10), than in the previous election (four); however, it was disappointing that only one female candidate was elected. We call on the people of Antigua and Barbuda to take concrete steps to ensure that more women are elected, as they make up more than 50 per cent of the population.

The campaign was competitive, with four parties taking part, three parties of which fielded candidates in almost every constituency. The Barbuda Movement Party fielded one candidate in Barbuda and three candidates ran as independents. The rallies and motorcades were reportedly large and festive. However, the political atmosphere was tainted by accusations of vandalism and an arson incident at one party's constituent office. The security forces maintained control and only two other incidents of vandalism were officially reported. The period prior to the election was characterised by a number of vitriolic remarks, personal attacks and accusations. It is hoped that this negative culture of politics will change, as such remarks should not have a place in Antigua and Barbuda, or anywhere else across the Commonwealth.

Before making recommendations, the Group notes that the COG of 2018 made a number of constructive recommendations designed to enhance the campaign environment and to improve the electoral process. These included the appointment of a politically neutral chair of ABEC, a comprehensive review of boundaries and constituencies, and the creation of a media body to monitor airtime and provide equal access to all parties. It is with concern that we note little progress has been made thus far, as many of the same issues persist. The Group hopes the government and opposition parties will work together to implement the current recommendations we set out below, in the interests of progress and sustainable democracy in Antigua and Barbuda.

Recommendations

Electoral framework and electoral administration

- Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission: The appointment of a politically neutral Chair and Supervisor of Elections, such as a former High Court judge, agreed to by both the government and opposition parties, might help with the perceived impartiality of ABEC. This recommendation was also made by the 2018 COG. We recommend that this issue be considered to ensure ABEC remains independent, not only in the way that it conducts its business but also to enhance the confidence and perceptions of impartiality by the electorate.

- **Constituency boundaries:** The body tasked to review constituency boundaries should be fully independent, politically neutral and sufficiently resourced to do its work in a timely manner.
- **Boundary delimitation:** A review of the number and boundaries of constituencies should be completed as a matter of urgency to achieve a more equitable distribution of voters. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed well ahead of the next election cycle.

Women's political participation

- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider enacting a gender policy as part of a national framework for strengthening gender equality and advancing women's political participation and representation.
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider establishing a National Council of Women, which could serve as a non-partisan platform for advancing and supporting women's agendas, as is the practice in many democracies in the Commonwealth.
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider ways in which women could be more actively supported in entering political life, including through robust mentoring and leadership programmes.
- The Group encourages political parties to nominate more women for future elections and to establish party-based affirmative action as may be appropriate in advancing female candidature and electability.

Youth participation

- Greater efforts should be made by relevant authorities to strengthen youth confidence in the electoral institutions and youth participation in the electoral process as candidates and voters. ABEC should consider improving access to civic and voters' education for young people.

Persons with disabilities

- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider improving the process of maintaining the secrecy of the ballot for persons with various forms of disabilities.
- Efforts should be made to make polling stations more accessible by persons with disabilities. For future elections, ABEC could consider conducting polling unit accessibility audits using disability-assistive material.

Campaign and the media

- The current legislation needs to be strengthened to include limits on campaign expenditure and stricter enforcement.
- There should be an independent body, separate from ABEC and the government, charged with regulating and enforcing campaign finance legislation.
- The incorporation of Antigua Broadcasting Service television and radio as a state-owned entity with an independent board of directors governing its policies, operations and programming could help mitigate some of the challenges regarding accessibility, fairness and bias.
- The establishment of an independent and adequately funded media council or monitoring body could provide oversight and enforcement of Section 36 (1) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) (Amendment) 2001¹ and Section 62 (3) of the RPA (Amendment) 2002.²

¹ 36. (1) The Commission shall, upon the issuing of the writ for an election, consult with all electronic and print media operating in Antigua and Barbuda to draw up a timetable for—

(a) public education programmes for voters;

(b) political broadcast and access to the print media for political parties and candidates to promote their views through the electronic media and to have their messages printed in the newspapers circulating in Antigua and Barbuda.

² 62. (3) The Commission shall ensure that media organisations acknowledge their obligation to provide equitable access and opportunity to all political parties and independent candidates, (where applicable) without discrimination, to purchase space in newspapers and prime time on radio and television stations to promote their respective views during an election campaign period.

Voting

- **Campaign finance legislation:** ABEC should seek to expeditiously complete its report to Parliament on legislation to govern campaign funding. By identifying the source and use of funds and limiting the contribution from donors, as well as expenditure by candidates and parties, the political process could benefit from:
 - a reduction in the possible control of elected representatives by donors;
 - an elimination of or reduction in the possibility of illicit funds undermining or corrupting the process;
 - a levelling of the playing field to broaden the democratic process by ensuring those without access to huge sums have equal access to the electoral process; and
 - a reduction in the possibility of bribery in an effort to influence the elector's vote.
- **Advance polling:** Allowing law enforcement officials to vote ahead of the rest of the population will ensure they are able to concentrate on securing the integrity of the process on election day by being allowed to concentrate fully on their core functions instead of leaving their assigned duties to vote.
- **Alternate means of identification:** The current system of using only the voter registration card to vote prevents anyone who presents themselves to vote without the card from voting. Persons unable to find their cards close to election day may be unable to access the replacement for several reasons, including the prohibitive cost of EC\$100 for a replacement. Persons who forget their cards may not be inclined to return to the voting location.
- **Photographs of voters:** It is suggested that a copy of the Elections Record at registration, to include photographs, be kept at the station and be used in conjunction with the Picture Voters' List to allow such persons noted in the above recommendation to vote.
- **Uniform dress for poll workers:** It is recommended that all poll workers be provided with clearly marked T-shirts/uniforms to facilitate identification and access by electors needing assistance.

Counting

- **Counting in polling stations:** The preliminary counting should be carried out in each polling station. This should be pursued as it would ensure that:
 - the count is more transparent;
 - the count is completed in a timelier manner; and
 - the results are available in shorter time following the close of polling.

1. Introduction

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, constituted an Observer Group for the 18 January 2023 general election following an invitation from the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne.

The Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) was led by His Excellency, Danny Faure, former President of the Seychelles, and three other eminent Commonwealth citizens (Annex I). A four-person staff team from the Commonwealth Secretariat provided technical support to the Group.

Terms of Reference

'The Group is established by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the invitation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Group is to consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole.

The Group will determine in its own judgement whether the elections have been conducted according to the standards for democratic elections to which the country has committed itself, with reference to national election-related legislation as well as to relevant Commonwealth, regional and other international norms and commitments.

The Group is to act impartially and independently. It has no executive role: its function is not to supervise but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgement accordingly. It is also free to propose to the authorities concerned such action on institutional, procedural and other matters as would assist the holding of such elections.

The Group is to submit a report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will forward it to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, Leader of the Opposition and other political party leaders, and thereafter all Commonwealth member governments.'

Activities

The Group was present in Antigua and Barbuda from 12 to 24 January 2023. It was briefed on the preparations and the political environment ahead of the 2023 general election by the Prime Minister, the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), representatives of political parties, the police and civil society groups, including groups representing citizen observers, women, unions, youth and the media.

The Group released its Arrival Statement on 16 January 2023 (Annex II).

On election day, members of the Group observed polling in 16 constituencies, and visited more than 50 per cent of all polling stations. No observer was deployed to Barbuda, because of logistical constraints (Annex IV).

The Group released an Interim Statement on 19 January 2023 (Annex III), highlighting its preliminary findings and observations.

This report was prepared in Antigua and Barbuda prior to the Group's departure on 24 January 2023 and was thereafter transmitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

2. Political Background

Pre-independence

Antigua and Barbuda was initially settled by the Siboney, in approximately 2400 BCE. The Siboney were then succeeded by the Arawaks and later the Caribs. Spanish explorer Christopher Columbus arrived on the larger island in 1493, and named it after a church in Seville, Santa Maria de la Antigua. Antigua was colonised by English settler Sir Thomas Warner in 1632 and formally became a British colony in 1667. Barbuda, on the other hand, did not formally become a British colony until 1678.

The first election in Antigua and Barbuda under universal adult suffrage took place in 1951 and was won by the Antigua Labour Party (ALP). The ALP, formed by Vere Bird, had grown out of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union. Antigua assumed a status of association with the UK under the West Indies Act passed in 1967. As an associated state, Antigua had full internal self-government, with the UK retaining control of foreign affairs and defence. Mr Bird was the first Premier, but the ALP was later ousted in the 1971 elections by the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM), also a labour movement, led by George Walters. The main difference at the time was that the PLM was campaigning for early independence, whereas the ALP wanted stronger economic foundations to be developed first.

The ALP returned to power in the 1976 elections. In 1978, the Antiguan Government commenced negotiations for independence. The talks were complicated by the fact that Barbuda, long a dependency of Antigua, felt that it had been economically impeded by the larger island and wanted to secede. Mr Bird led the country to full independence on 1 November 1981. Antigua and Barbuda joined the Commonwealth at its formation in 1981.

Post-independence

Following independence, the political landscape of Antigua and Barbuda remained relatively stable, and the ALP stayed in government for over two decades.

In April 1992, three opposition parties merged to form the United Progressive Party (UPP). In September 1993, on the retirement of Mr Bird, his son Lester Bird became Prime Minister. In March 1994, the ALP won its fifth consecutive election victory, securing 11 of the 17 seats in the House of Representatives; the UPP led by Baldwin Spencer took five and the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) one.

In March 1999, the ALP won its sixth consecutive general election, gaining 12 of the 17 seats, with 53 per cent of the votes cast. The UPP took four seats, with 44 per cent of the votes, and the BPM retained its one seat in Barbuda.

In 2003, the Electoral Office of Jamaica was engaged to compile a new voters' list and collect photos and fingerprints to be used on identity cards, in preparation for the next general election. The UPP won the election, with 12 seats and 55 per cent of the vote, and Mr Spencer became Prime Minister, ending a 28-year run of power for the ALP and the Bird family. Turnout for the election was an estimated 93 per cent.

Following a difficult first term for the UPP government, and a political environment characterised by a high level of acrimony between the two major parties, Antigua and Barbuda's March 2009 election produced a close and contested result. The UPP, led by Mr Spencer, was returned to power with a reduced minority, winning nine of the 17 seats and 51 per cent of the vote. The ALP took seven seats (47 per cent), and the BPM retained its one seat on Barbuda. Turnout was approximately 80 per cent.

The ALP, however, raised legal challenges regarding the results in three key constituencies: those of Mr Spencer and two of his ministers. The challenges centred on the argument that the late opening of polls in these constituencies was enough to affect the ultimate result, and therefore the results were invalid and the seats vacant.

On 31 March 2010, Judge Louise Blenman of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court delivered a verdict in favour of the ALP, declaring the three-election results void. The government was granted an injunction staying the execution of that judgement until the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal could rule on its appeal against the decision. The decision was delivered on 27 October 2010 and the appeal was granted in favour of the governing UPP.

Consistent criticism of ABEC following the 2009 election, including by the Prime Minister in 2010, led to the resignation of several members and the establishment of a tribunal by the Governor-General to investigate members of ABEC for alleged malfeasance.

Leader of the Opposition Lester Bird was challenged for the leadership of the ALP, renamed the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), in 2013, and was subsequently replaced by Gaston Browne. Mr Bird then left the ABLP to form a new party, the Antigua and Barbuda True Labour Party (ABTLP).

General elections took place in June 2014. Voter turnout was approximately 89 per cent. The ABLP won 14 of the 17 seats in the House of Representatives, a decisive victory against the UPP government, which retained three seats. Mr Browne was sworn in as Prime Minister on 13 June 2014.

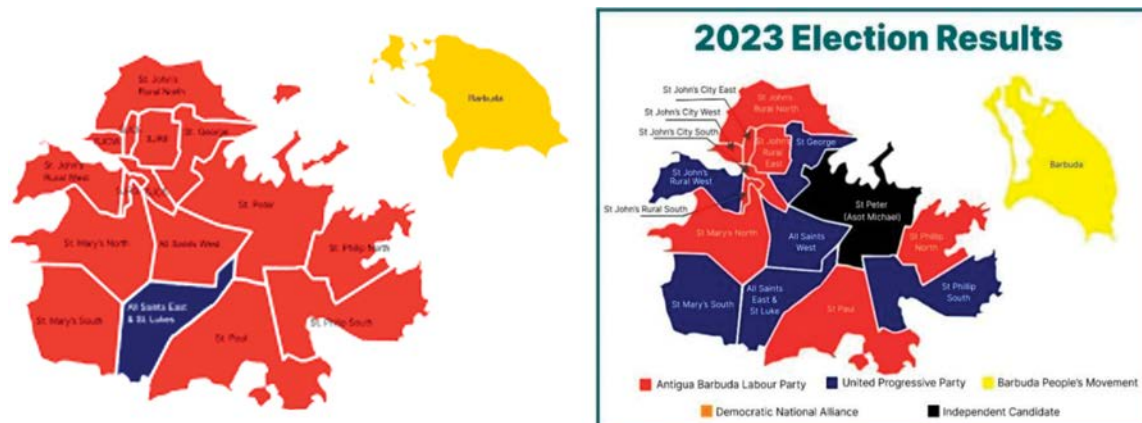
In the 2018 elections, the ABLP took 59 per cent of the total vote and won 15 constituencies, in a snap election called 18 months early, which had the opposition parties unprepared. The main opposition UPP took 37 per cent of the vote but only one constituency. The BPM won the Barbuda constituency. The polls were deemed competitive and credible, and the turnout was 76 per cent.

Political dynamics of the 2023 elections

The writ for the 2023 elections was issued on 22 December 2022, when the Governor-General dissolved Parliament at the request of the Prime Minister. The ABLP under Prime Minister Browne fielded candidates in all 17 constituencies including, for the first time, Barbuda. Both the UPP and the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) had 16 candidates. There were three independent candidates, including Asot Michael, who had formerly been an ABLP member of parliament. The BPM fielded one candidate in Barbuda.

Tensions between the administration in Antigua and citizens and law-makers in Barbuda had been growing since the 2016 dissolution of the Barbuda Land Act of 2007. The 2007 Act had made the land on Barbuda communally owned by Barbudans, with consent required for any purchase or development. The 2016 Act allowed for privatisation without the need for communal consent. The Barbuda Council had resisted the Browne government's plan to build a multimillion-dollar resort on the island, citing concerns over potential environmental damage. The rising tensions led to the Council calling for the secession of Barbuda in August 2020. Relations remained difficult throughout 2021, into the elections, as private development projects such as the Peace, Love and Happiness Project were rolled out in Barbuda.

The political map after the 2018 and 2023 elections



Source: Reproduced with permission of the Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission (2023).

After the 2023 election, the political map of Antigua and Barbuda changed from what it had been in 2018, when the ABLP had won a majority government. In the 2023 election, the ABLP won a reduced majority, down from 15 seats before the vote to nine of the 17 seats after the polls. The UPP won six seats. For the first time, an independent candidate – Asot Michael – won a seat in Parliament. The BPM's leader, Trevor Walker, retained his seat in Barbuda. The DNA did not win any seats in the 2023 election.

The Group noted that there were more independent candidates (three) and more female candidates (10) than in the 2018 elections. The political landscape pre-election was unfortunately characterised by tension, legal disputes, personal attacks, vandalism and arson. There were particularly vitriolic exchanges between the Prime Minister and one of the independent candidates.

Although Barbuda retained its seat despite the ABLP fielding a candidate for the first time, longstanding issues regarding land ownership and sentiments of marginalisation prevail.

3. The Electoral Framework

Antigua and Barbuda is a parliamentary democracy under His Majesty the King, who is represented in Antigua and Barbuda by a Governor-General.

Legal framework and international and regional commitments

Antigua and Barbuda's national electoral legal framework comprises:

- the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda (1981, as amended);
- the Representation of the People Act (RPA) (1975, as amended); and
- the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Guidance Act (2012).

Antigua and Barbuda's Constitution provides the basic framework for government, parliamentary democracy and elections. The Constitution also guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms for every person in Antigua and Barbuda, including freedom of expression (Article 12), peaceful assembly and association (Article 13).

Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda has committed itself to the following regional and international instruments relating to democracy, the conduct of elections and human rights:

- the Commonwealth Charter (2012);
- the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (ratified by Antigua and Barbuda in 2016);
- the Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001);
- the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (ratified by Antigua and Barbuda in 1989); and
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified by Antigua and Barbuda in 1988).

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda is appointed by the Governor-General. According to the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, 1981 Section 68 (2),

The Governor-General appoints 'a member of the House who is the leader in the House of the political party that commands the support of the majority of members of the House; or where it appears to him that such party does not have an undisputed leader in the House or that no party commands the support of such a majority, the member of the House who in his judgement is most likely to command the support of the majority of members of the House, and is willing to accept the office of Prime Minister.'

The Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister and ministers appointed by the Governor-General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, from among members of the House and of the Senate (Constitution, Section 70).

Leader of the Opposition

Article 79 of the Constitution provides for the position of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition is appointed by the Governor-General and is defined according to the Constitution as 'a member of the House of Representatives who appears most likely to command the support of a majority of the members of the House that do not support the Government.'

House of Representatives

The House of Representatives consists of elected members equal in number to the number of constituencies as set out by the Constituencies Boundaries Commission (Constitution Article 36(1)). If the persons holding the office of Speaker and/or Attorney-General are not otherwise members of the House

of Representatives, they shall be a member of the House by virtue of their holding or acting in that office but are not entitled to vote (Constitution Article 36(2–3)). There are currently 17 seats in the House of Representatives, representing the 16 constituencies in Antigua and one constituency in Barbuda.

Parliament can be dissolved at any time by the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister (Constitution Article 60(1)). If not dissolved sooner, Parliament shall continue for five years from the date of its first sitting after any dissolution and shall then stand dissolved (Constitution Article 60(2)). All seats in the House of Representatives are vacated at the dissolution of Parliament, or in other instances, as specified in Article 41 of the Constitution.

Senate

The Senate consists of 17 persons, who are appointed by the Governor-General (Constitution Article 28). Ten are appointed in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, four are appointed in accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, one is appointed by the Governor-General at his discretion, one is appointed in accordance with the advice of the Barbuda Council and one, being an inhabitant of Barbuda, is appointed in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister. All Senate seats are vacated upon the dissolution of Parliament, or in other instances, as specified in Article 31 of the Constitution.

Electoral Commission of Antigua and Barbuda

Parliamentary Elections in Antigua and Barbuda are governed by the 1981 Constitution and the RPA. The Acts make provisions for the establishment of ABEC, the registration of voters and the conduct of the elections. ABEC is responsible for policy directives, general direction and supervision of the preparation of the voters' register and the conduct of elections.

In addition, the functions of the commission include:

- selection and appointment of election officers;
- development and design of staff training programmes;
- design of a continuous non-partisan voter education programme; and
- regulation of the conduct of election officers.

ABEC consists of seven members appointed by the Governor-General. The Chair and two members are appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, with the Deputy Chair and one member recommended by the Leader of the Opposition. Of the other two, one is nominated jointly by the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Antigua and Barbuda Trades Union Congress and the Antigua and Barbuda Employers' Federation. The other member is jointly appointed by the Antigua Christian Council and the United Evangelical Association of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Supervisor of Elections is appointed under Article 67 of the Constitution and is responsible for day-to-day operations and the actual conduct of elections.

Voting system

Under Article 61 of the Constitution, a general election shall be held within three months after the dissolution of Parliament. After Parliament is dissolved, the Governor-General issues the writ to the Supervisor of Elections as soon as practicable. The writ includes the date for the nomination of candidates and the date of the general election, which must take place between 21 and 28 days after the issue of the writ (RPA (Amendment) 2010 Section 10).

Voter registration

In keeping with Section 24 of the RPA (Amendment) 2010, ABEC shall, not later than 14 days after the issuing of the writ for an election for a constituency, publish in respect of that constituency a register of

voters to be known as the register for elections. The register for elections must contain the names of all persons included in the register of voters published pursuant to Section 21 of the RPA (Amendment) 2001 and the revised register published pursuant to Section 23 of the RPA Amendment (2001).

A person is qualified to register as a voter in a constituency if they:

- are a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda; or
- are a Commonwealth citizen who has legally resided in Antigua and Barbuda for a period of at least seven years immediately before the qualifying date and has met all residency requirements;
- are 18 years of age or over; and
- have resided in that constituency for a period of at least six months immediately preceding that qualifying date.

The electoral law allows for continuous registration, which means persons can be added to the list on an ongoing basis following a period of claims and objections. Similarly, dead voters can be removed on an ongoing basis following presentation of proof of death. Although the law does not adequately address migration and internal movement, it allows ABEC to seek approval from Parliament at 10-year intervals to undertake a full registration exercise, a residence reverification exercise or the renewal of elector registration cards. Elector registration cards expire after 10 years.

ABEC completed the last full registration between October and November 2013. Since then, the list has been updated on an ongoing basis by the addition of new eligible applicants and the removal of dead voters. The list used in the 18 January 2023 election was published on 13 January. All registered voters are eligible to receive a voter identification card, which is compulsory for voting.

There were concerns that the list was not published within the specified legal timeframe, resulting in stakeholders not having enough time to carry out the necessary claims and objections required by law.

Nomination of candidates

To qualify to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives, persons must satisfy the following criteria:

- be a citizen 21 years of age or above;
- have resided in Antigua and Barbuda for a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date of the election; and
- be able to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause, to read the English language with sufficient proficiency to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the House.

Each candidate is nominated separately on a nomination paper delivered to the returning officer by the candidate, or by their proposer or seconder. A candidate must be nominated by two voters, one as a proposer and the other as a seconder. Eight other registered voters in the constituency are required to express agreement to the nomination by signing the nomination paper in the presence of the returning officer. A candidate must consent in writing to their nomination, attested to by one witness. Absence of consent may render the nomination invalid.

Each nomination paper must be accompanied by a deposit of EC\$500. Once a nomination paper and consent thereto are duly delivered and all other procedures are carried out in accordance with the law, the candidate stands duly nominated. A candidate may withdraw their candidature by forwarding to the returning officer a notice of withdrawal signed by him or her and attested to by one witness.

After the close of nomination, the returning officer prepares and publishes a statement of nomination, stating the particulars of candidates who have been nominated and stand nominated, and those who no longer stand nominated, along with the reasons.

The nomination of candidates for the 18 January 2023 Antigua and Barbuda general elections took place on 28 December 2022. Nominations took place between 08:00 and 16:00. At the close of the nomination proceedings, a total of 53 candidates were nominated, as below:

Political party	Number of candidates
Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP)	17
United Progressive Party (UPP)	16
Barbuda People's Movement (BPM)	1
Democratic National Alliance (DNA)	16
Independents (IND)	3
Total	53

Voter education

ABEC undertook a series of voter education initiatives. These were disseminated via electronic and print media, public service announcements and the issuing of pamphlets. Significant use was also made of the various social media platforms including ABEC's website, Facebook and YouTube. The key areas of focus included:

- when and where to vote;
- the need to collect voter registration cards;
- the alternatives available to those who lost their voter registration cards; and
- detailed instructions to voters on the proper voting procedures.

Stakeholder feedback in relation to the degree of success of the campaign was mixed.

Selection and training of election day workers

According to ABEC, a total of 1,000 persons were selected and trained to work on election day, of whom about 600 worked on the day. Each worker was given 32 hours of instruction and provided with a handbook outlining their roles and functions under the law.

In addition to the traditional roles of presiding officer and poll clerk, an information officer was at each polling location. Their role was to assist the voter in identifying their polling stations.

Identification card distributing

Under the Antigua and Barbuda election laws, every voter must have a valid voter registration card to vote on election day. Voters who were unable to find their voter registration card were able to procure a replacement card at the offices of ABEC at a cost of EC\$100.

On the eve of the election, hundreds of voters gathered at the offices of ABEC to secure replacement cards. The office was unable to process the volume of cards requested and so some voters were issued with temporary letters confirming their identity.

Boundaries

The Governor-General, consistent with the powers vested in him under Section 63 (1) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, appointed the members of the Boundaries Commission on 21 June 2021. In carrying out its function, the Commission is required to take into account Section 3(1) of the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Guidance Act of 2012, which requires that '*all constituencies shall contain as nearly equal numbers of inhabitants taking into account the need to achieve voter parity as appears to the Commission to be reasonably practicable...*'

In its report to the Speaker of the House on 16 November 2022, the Commission indicated its firm belief that *'all constituencies' boundaries are in need of dire reform,*' noting that the last attempt at a review had been undertaken as far back as 1984. Legal challenges had derailed attempts to implement boundary reform in 2013 ahead of the 2014 general elections.

In attempting to highlight the skewed distribution of voter across constituencies, members of the Boundaries Commission pointed to the fact that the constituency of Saint George had a total of 5,684 registrants, whereas Saint Phillip South had 1,248. The Commission further pointed out that it did not have sufficiently accurate data to carry out the review as the last census for the island had been conducted in 2010. No census was undertaken in 2021 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Their final recommendation is for the review to be done ahead of the next general election.

Recommendations

Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission

- The appointment of a politically neutral Chair, such as a former High Court judge, agreed to by both government and opposition, might help with the perceived impartiality of the Commission. This recommendation was made also in 2018. We recommend that this issue be considered to ensure ABEC remains independent, not only in the way that it conducts its business but also in the perceptions of the electorate.

Constituency boundaries

- The body tasked to review the constituency boundaries should be fully independent, politically neutral and sufficiently resourced to do its work in a timely manner.
- A review of the number and boundaries of constituencies should be completed as a matter of urgency in order to achieve a more equitable distribution of voters. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed well ahead of the next election.

4. Participation and Inclusion

Introduction

Antigua and Barbuda's Constitution and national legal frameworks recognise and guarantee the equal rights of women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to participate in the election process. According to a 2022 Freedom House Report, citizens and civil society organisations in Antigua and Barbuda generally participate in electoral processes without any legal restrictions. The country is party to several international and regional instruments and has enacted national policies that are aimed at promoting inclusive political and electoral participation. These include:

- CEDAW (1980);
- the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985);
- the Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women (1986);
- the Commonwealth Plan of Action (1995);
- the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Plan of Action (2005);
- the National Youth Policy (2007);
- the Disability and Equal Opportunity Act (2017);
- the Domestic Violence Act of (2015);
- the Equal Opportunity Act (2005).

Women's participation

The Group was informed that Antigua and Barbuda had made some gains on gender equality, particularly on women's education and health and on their representation in public service and the private sector. However, in the country's political life, women continue to be underrepresented at the highest levels, particularly in the House of Representatives. Although there appears to be no 'glass ceiling' for women political leadership positions, the number of women elected to the House of Representative since the country gained independence has been very low. The Group is encouraged by the number of women represented in the Senate that was dissolved before the election and urges the government to sustain and improve on the number of women in appointed and elected parliamentary positions.

Although Antigua and Barbuda ratified CEDAW in 1980, the Group notes that the country is yet to develop a gender policy and has no electoral gender quota, nor any form of affirmative action for advancing female political representation. The Group was informed that female candidates for the 2023 snap elections had emerged from the same competitive political party selection and nomination processes as their male counterparts. It is the view of some stakeholders that political parties have no concrete gender equality and affirmative action targets reflected in their constitution, agendas and manifestos.

A female political party leader expressed the view that engaged women participating in politics had to navigate a myriad of barriers to achieve their political aspirations. In the lead-up to the election, Prime Minister Browne reportedly pledged publicly to appoint four female candidates nominated by his party Cabinet Ministers should they be successful at the polls.

The Group was informed by the Department of Gender Affairs (DGA) of its mandate to aggregate the interests of women across the country on gender equality and to promote women's political participation. The DGA informed the Group that it collaborated with limited resources with organisations such as the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership in building leadership capacities for women. Although women's

interparty platform for building political consensus and agendas across parties is yet to be established, women in Parliament have reportedly established an unofficial caucus led by the former Senate President.

The women's parliamentary caucus provides mentorship to a limited number of young women who aspire to go into active politics. The Group was advised that women of Antigua and Barbuda were largely the foot soldiers of political parties at the grassroots level, and were regarded as great organisers of party rallies, meetings and fund-raising events.

Although the Equal Opportunity Act 2005 bars discrimination based on race, sex, class and political affinity, the Group was informed that cultural beliefs about women's roles on the domestic front was a limiting factor for women's political aspirations. The confrontational style of politics and media scrutiny were also cited as major deterrents to women's political aspirations. Politically motivated violence against women in politics, which could be physical or psychological, are reportedly relatively uncommon in Antigua and Barbuda. However, the Group was informed that female politicians on all sides of the political spectrum often voiced their concerns on the inherent biases and offensive comments of male counterparts and members of the public in relation to their looks and other attributes that are unrelated to their political thoughts and aspirations.

Political candidates

The Group observed that the 2023 election saw an increase in the number of female candidates as compared with previous electoral cycles. The governing and opposition political parties nominated a total of 10 female candidates, and one female candidate contested as an independent. The ABLP fielded four female candidates; the UPP and the DNA fielded three candidates each. The Group noted with concern that Maria Browne was the only female candidate elected and returned to Parliament for a second time.

Election management

The Group noted that participation of women in the management of elections was high. As of January 2023, the Supervisor of Elections is a woman, and ABEC reflects some gender balance in the way it is constituted. The Group was encouraged that a considerable number of polling officers deployed by ABEC at various voting station were women.

Participation by persons with disabilities

As in most developing Commonwealth countries, PWDs remain among the most politically marginalised groups in Antigua and Barbuda. PWDs are excluded from political participation, because of political spaces that are relatively closed to them, as well as electoral frameworks and electoral processes that are not very friendly and easily accessible. Antigua and Barbuda is, however, making efforts to advance the participation of PWDs in national life. The country has ratified the United Nations CRPD, and in 2017 it enacted the Disability and Equal Opportunity Act. The Act stipulates the rights to physical access, to access to services including health and education and to employment for PWDs. The Act also provides for the establishment of a National Disability Council.

The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD) is the foremost cross-disability organisation in the country. ABAPD was founded in 1995; it is managed by persons with disabilities and is a duly constituted and registered not-for-profit organisation advocating for the rights and equality of PWDs, while providing support and services where possible. The Group was unable to engage with the ABAPD.

The Group is encouraged by ABEC's efforts to improve electoral processes for PWDs. In the lead-up to the election, ABEC advised PWEs and the elderly that key services of the Commission would be accessible at the Central Registration Unit for convenience. ABEC's decision came as a direct response to concerns raised by PWDs, who had encountered significant challenges in climbing the stairs to ABEC's headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway in St John's. The Commission also developed PWD-targeted voter information for the 2023 elections, which was published on its website and social media platforms. However, the Group noted the absence of PWDs among candidates for the election.

Participation of young people

The policy framework for promoting the political and electoral participation of young persons in public life and electoral processes of Antigua and Barbuda is embedded in the National Youth Policy 2004, which defines youth as persons between the ages of 16 and 35. The National Youth Policy 2007 seeks, among other things, to *'recognise young people's roles, rights, and responsibilities and ensures the holistic development of young men, women, through a process of involvement and empowerment.'*

The institutional framework for enabling and participation of young people includes the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Transformation, the National Youth Council of Antigua and Barbuda (NYCAB) and the National Youth Parliament, which are representative bodies of young people.

The leadership of the NYCAB described it as an impartial and nonpartisan organisation committed to mobilising and stimulating the creativity of young Antiguan and Barbudans. The NYCABs run grassroots voter education and electoral participation initiatives. The Group noted with encouragement the diversity and vibrancy of young people, who articulated their views on youth political participation in electoral processes and their aspirations for the political and democratic development of the country.

It is the view of some political analysts that young people in Antigua and Barbuda are politically conscious; yet their participation as candidates for elective offices is limited by political barriers, and there is a sense of apathy as it relates to young people becoming card-carrying members of political parties, registering to vote and actually participating in voting itself. Political analysts believe that the financial cost of vying for elected offices, the tone of politics during campaigning and political polarisation tend to discourage young people from venturing into politics or standing for election.

The young people whom the Group engaged held and expressed diverse views on their participation in electoral processes as candidates, campaigners and voters. They decried the episodic engagement of young people during electoral campaign periods as vote banks and bemoaned the phenomenon of vote-buying, and the inducement of the vulnerable youth population by political parties and candidates, which had allegedly been rife during previous campaigns and the 2023 election campaign. Young people further informed the Group that most of their peers voted based on familial and transactional relationships rather than for candidates with the best policies.

The young people engaged by the Group further bemoaned lack of access to reports on elections and other electoral statistics that ought to be public by law but are not usually published by ABEC. It is the view of young people that electoral processes in many instances are open but are usually characterised by a lack of access to key information considered by the Commission as sensitive. Young people also decried the selective and piecemeal implementation of the Access to Information Act by government.

Young people further informed the Group on areas they considered to be of significant interest for the youth constituency. These included:

- the need to provide targeted civic education for young people;
- the strengthening of inter-ministerial youth committees that currently exist but were deemed ineffective;
- the need for political party youth arms for advocacy for the youth cause and for political parties to nominate more young people for elections;
- the need to set up youth advisory committee in Cabinet; and
- the political will in government to frequently engage in open, frank development conversations with young Antiguan and Barbudans.

The Group observed that eight candidates nominated for the election were considered young persons. The DNA fielded more youth candidates than any other party for the election. The Group notes with encouragement the appointment of two young people, as Cabinet Minister and Leader of Opposition. However, six candidates considered young persons were not elected.

Recommendations

- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider enacting a gender policy as a national framework for strengthening gender equality and advancing women's political participation and representation.
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider establishing a National Council of Women, which could serve as a non-partisan platform for strengthening women's agendas, as is the practice in many democracies in the Commonwealth.
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider ways in which women could be more actively supported in entering political life, including through robust mentoring and leadership programmes. The Group encourages political parties to nominate more women for future elections and to establish party-based affirmative action as may be appropriate in advancing female candidature and electability.
- Greater efforts should be made by relevant authorities to strengthen youth confidence in electoral institutions and youth participation in the electoral process as candidates and voters. ABEC should consider improving access to electoral information for young people, particularly election reports.
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda could consider improving the process of maintaining the secrecy of the ballot. Efforts should be made to enable polling stations to be more accessible for PWDs. For future elections, ABEC could consider conducting polling unit accessibility audits on the use of disability-assistive material.

5. Campaign and the Media

Campaign

The candidates

The general elections of 18 January 2023 were contested by 53 candidates in 17 constituencies. The governing ABLP nominated 17 candidates, while 16 candidates each were nominated by the UPP and the DNA. In Barbuda, the UPP did not field a candidate, where a candidate had been nominated by the BPM. Of the 53 candidates, 10 were women and three were Independents.

List of candidates by party

S/N	CONSTITUENCY	ABLP	UPP	DNA	IND	BPM
1	St John's City West	Gaston A. BROWNE	T. Alister THOMAS	Jamel KNIGHT		
2	St John's City East	Melford NICHOLAS	Harold LOVELL	Leon SMITH		
3	St John's City South	Steadroy Cutie BENJAMIN	Franz DEFREITAS	Roland TIMOTHY		
4	St John's Rural West	Gail CHRISTIAN	Richard LEWIS	Stephen RICHARDSON	Anderson CARTY	
5	St John's Rural South	Daryll MATTHEW	Gladys POTTER	Tecia THOMAS	Gail PERO-WESTON	
6	St John's Rural East	Maria BROWNE	Ivor BIRD	Theo YOUNG		
7	St John's Rural North	Charles FERNANDEZ	Pearl WILLIAMS	Louis RIVERA		
8	St Mary's North	Molwyn M. JOSEPH	Johnathan JOSEPH	Kisean JOSEPH		
9	St Mary's South	Samantha N. MARSHALL	Kelvin SIMON	Andrew ANTONIO		
10	All Saints East & St Luke	Colin JAMES	Jamale PRINGLE	Avoy Rolston KNIGHT		
11	All Saints West	Michael BROWNE	Anthony SMITH	Anthony STUART		
12	St George	Dean JONAS	Algernon WATTS	Benjamin QUINLAND		
13	St Peter	Rawdon TURNER	Tevaughn HARRIETTE	Chaneil IMHOFF	Asot MICHAEL	
14	St Philip North	Robin K. YEARWOOD	Alex BROWNE	Mario THOMAS		
15	St Philip South	Lennox WESTON	Sherfield BOWEN	Joanne MASSIAH		
16	St Paul	E. P. Chet GREENE	Cleon ATHILL	Gameal JOYCE		
17	Barbuda	Knacyntar NEDD				Trevor WALKER

The campaign

The election campaign was lively, competitive and generally peaceful. The main methods of campaigning by the better-resourced political parties and candidates included rallies and motorcades; door-to-door campaigning; paid TV, radio, e-paper and social media advertisements; and promotion through billboards and posters. The others resorted to social media and door-to-door campaigns. The COG noted that the governing party's visual presence in the campaign was dominant, with the most, and often the largest, billboards and posters seen around the country. The exception to this was in the St Peter constituency, where the billboards of the independent candidate were just as prominent. There were no reported restrictions on the freedoms of assembly, association or expression.

The key campaign themes of the parties and independent candidates contesting the poll were economic growth, reduction in the cost of living, an improved water supply and job creation. Specifically, the ABLP, whose slogan was 'Next Level,' campaigned on a platform of economic growth; reducing the cost of living; improving the supply of water and other utilities; an improved road network, particularly in communities; employment; and safety and security. The UPP's platform was similar – its main themes were the creation of a pro-business and pro-jobs environment; wage increases for public sector workers; a lower cost of living; improved access to water; and hope for the future. The DNA, in its policy paper, detailed plans to grow the economy; reduce the cost of living; deliver a sustainable daily supply of potable water to homes and businesses; increase the minimum wage; pay pensioners on time; and ensure everyone was treated fairly and equally. The BPM focused on issues specific to the interests of the residents of Barbuda.

Considering the similarity of the party platforms, voters were left to make their choice based mainly on other factors, such as historical voting patterns, the performance of the incumbent over the previous two terms and the personality and leadership qualities of the candidates.

Despite the general peaceful nature of the campaign, there was a handful of regrettable incidents that marred the overall atmosphere of peace. Among these was the 30 December 2022 incident in which the political leader of the ABLP threatened to 'thump' an independent candidate while both men were campaigning at a residence in Pares. The campaign headquarters of a candidate of the ABLP was torched in the early hours of 16 January 2023 and political parties and independent candidates reported the removal and vandalism of billboards and posters.

There were allegations of vote-buying mainly by the two main political parties and one of the independent candidates. There were also allegations of misuse of state resources, to induce voters in the campaign period. The attention of the COG was drawn to the use of defence force aircraft and vehicles by the ABLP for campaign purposes in Barbuda and the hosting of a government-sponsored 'One Nation' concert on 7 January 2023 featuring a popular international artist, at which the Prime Minister made an address.

At present there is inadequate legislation relating to the regulation of party finance or expenditure on election campaigns. There is no cap on election campaign expenditure and no restriction on foreign donations or audit requirements. Political parties are only required to keep records of all donations and the names and addresses of donors who give more than EC\$25,000 during the campaign period – which is defined as from when the writ of an election is dropped to the conclusion of said elections. This means political parties are neither bound nor required by law to keep previous records or show records beyond the campaign period of a given electoral cycle. Furthermore, there is no effective enforcement by ABEC of the already limited existing campaign finance regulations.

This lack of transparency leads to accusations of impropriety and claims of an uneven playing field. Greater transparency in both party funding and expenditure is important for public confidence in the democratic process.

The media

The media landscape in Antigua and Barbuda is vibrant and dominated by radio stations, of which there are almost 20 in total. There are also two daily electronic newspapers (e-papers), one television station and several online news sources.

Traditional media

Despite the proliferation of online news sites, mainstream media (radio, television and e-papers) remain key communication channels to inform the electorate about the policies and platforms of political parties and candidates running for office. It is therefore essential that the media present all viewpoints during a campaign so that voters can make informed choices.

The two most prominent media houses are the state-owned Antigua Broadcasting Service (ABS) and the privately owned Observer Media Group (OMG). ABS broadcasts on ABS television and radio, and publishes and streams online and on social media. ABS is a department of the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology and reports to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. OMG, which is owned by NewsCo Ltd, publishes a daily e-paper – *The Daily Observer* – online and on social media. The group also owns two radio stations. OMG is politically aligned with the UPP, with the company's managing director and one of the on-air hosts contesting the 2023 poll on a UPP ticket.

Another influential media group is PointVille Communications Inc., which is said to be affiliated with the Prime Minister. This group publishes a daily e-paper – *Point Xpress* – and broadcasts on two radio stations. Other private online news sites include Antigua Breaking News, Antigua Newsroom and Real News Antigua.

Of concern is the fact that none of the three major media entities in Antigua and Barbuda is independent, one being state-owned and the other two being closely aligned with political parties. A survey of the content of the e-paper editions of the UPP-aligned *Observer* and the ABLP-aligned *Pointe Xpress* during the two weeks leading up to January 18 showed a distinct imbalance in the coverage of the political campaign.

The COG received differing accounts of ease of access to media for political parties and candidates. While some stations mentioned scheduling difficulties or unwilling participants as reasons for the lack of variety in their political coverage, the parties pointed to differential treatment, and smaller parties found it difficult to afford wide-scale advertising. Overall, the media landscape favoured the governing party, with fewer opportunities for smaller parties and independents to use traditional media to campaign.

Some stakeholders with whom the COG met expressed the view that, in the weeks leading up to the elections, there had been substantially more coverage of government projects and programmes by the state-owned ABS than of activities by opposition parties and independent candidates. ABS, however, claimed that it was not its practice to directly cover activities of political parties, rather government activities.

Once the election writ had been issued, ABS sent all political parties a list of advertising rates and an invitation to appear free of charge in predetermined slots on ABS radio and television. Only the ABLP and the DNA made use of the available time slots. ABS also invited leaders to appear on primetime interviews in the days leading up to the election. ABS selected the days on which the leaders would appear and gave the Prime Minister the date closest to the election.

There are no print newspapers in Antigua and Barbuda, a situation flagged by some stakeholders as problematic, especially in relation to the role that medium has historically played in voter education, particularly for more elderly voters or those without access to the internet. Lists of polling locations and other election information were published online in the two e-papers – *The Daily Observer* and *Pointe Xpress*.

Social media

In 2022, there were 75,300 internet users in Antigua and Barbuda, or 76 per cent of the population. 67.9 per cent of people over the age of 13 in Antigua were on Facebook, while 46.2 per cent and 33.1 per cent of that same demographic were on Instagram and Twitter, respectively.

Given their reach, social media channels played an important role in the dissemination of opinions and information during the 2023 election campaign. Noteworthy of the social media electoral campaign was that it excluded the demographic without access to the internet and served to fortify already existing political positions.

Monitoring of media

ABEC is required, in keeping with Section 36 (1) of the RPA (Amendment) 2001, to consult with all electronic and print media operating in Antigua and Barbuda to draw up a timetable for (i) public education programmes for voters and (ii) political broadcasts and access to print media for political parties and candidates to promote their views through electronic media and to have their messages printed in the newspapers circulating in Antigua and Barbuda.

ABEC is also required to make rules (i) governing procedure for the use of electronic and print media during elections, (ii) requiring owners of electronic and print media to provide equitable allocation of time and space, in a non-discriminatory manner, to enable political parties and candidates to carry their messages in accordance with ABEC guidelines and (iii) prescribing penalties for failure to comply with the rules.

Further, Section 62 (3) of the RPA (Amendment) 2002 says ABEC shall ensure that media organisations acknowledge their obligation to provide equitable access and opportunity to all political parties and independent candidates (where applicable) without discrimination, to purchase space in newspapers and prime time on radio and television stations to promote their respective views during an election campaign period. There appears to be an absence of an effective mechanism to ensure compliance with this regulation.

Recommendations

- Current legislation needs to be strengthened to include limits on campaign expenditure and stricter enforcement.
- There should be an independent body, separate from ABEC and government, charged with regulating and enforcing campaign finance legislation.
- The incorporation of ABS as a state-owned entity with an independent board of directors governing its policies, operations and programming could help mitigate some of the challenges regarding accessibility, fairness and bias.
- The establishment of an independent and adequately funded media council or monitoring body could provide oversight and enforcement of Section 36 (1) of the RPA (Amendment) 2001 and Section 62 (3) of the RPA (Amendment) 2002.
- Campaign finance legislation: ABEC should seek to expeditiously complete its report to Parliament on legislation to govern campaign funding. By identifying the source and use of funds and limiting the contribution from donors as well as the expenditure by candidates and parties, the political process should benefit from:
 - a reduction in the possible control of elected representatives by donors;
 - an elimination of or reduction in the possibility of illicit money undermining or corrupting the process;
 - a levelling of the playing field to broaden the democratic process by ensuring those without access to huge sums have equal access to the electoral process;
 - a reduction in the possibility of bribery in an effort to influence electors' votes.

6. Voting, Counting and Results Process

Election day observations

The COG was divided into four teams, which were deployed to carry out observations in all constituencies except Barbuda.

Advance poll

It was noted that there was no advance polling. This meant that the police and all other members of the essential services were required to vote on election day. Members of the security forces had to leave their assigned locations at various times throughout the day to cast their votes. This was tempered by the fact that, once in uniform, they were allowed to go to the head of the queues at their respective polling location.

Opening of the polls

The teams were able to witness the opening of the Polls in separate polling stations in four locations. We observed that all procedures for the openings of the poll were carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations of Antigua and Barbuda. Every station was fully staffed with a presiding officer and two poll clerks. Agents for the ABLP and the UPP were present in all stations. Neither the DNA nor the independent candidates had agents present in all polling stations.

Reports are that all polling stations opened at the legislated time of 06:00. It was observed that ballot boxes were emptied and displayed to all those present, before being closed and sealed. It was observed in a few instances that the presiding officer had neglected to affix the seal. There were no reports of, nor did the observation teams notice, any shortage of polling day materials at any station throughout the day.

Police officers were present at all voting location in sufficient numbers, with one present to stand guard at each station to ensure no voter entered the polling station before the scheduled 06:00 opening.

Identification of voters

All members of the Group reported that the identity of voters was checked consistently at every polling station visited. No voter was permitted to vote without presenting their voter registration card. The name of each voter was read out from the card by the presiding officer and the voter's name and photograph was identified on the polling station list. When required, agents were allowed to examine the voter's card to ensure its authenticity and that the photograph was that of the voter. The Picture Voters' List served as a secondary means of confirming the voter's identity. The voter's name was then ticked off on the lists by the presiding officer, poll clerks and political agents.

Use of voters' ink

Polling officials consistently checked the fingers of the voters for ink prior to issuing the ballot, and again after the ballot was marked for any substance that might prevent the ink from staining the finger, prior to it being dipped into the ink.

Every voter was required to place their right index finger into the ink before being allowed to place the marked ballot into the ballot box.

Instructions to voters

Each presiding officer provided instructions to the voters on how to properly mark and fold the ballot before it was issued. The instructions were not consistent but in all cases were satisfactory.

Assistance with disabled voters

In all instances where disabled or incapacitated voters queued up to vote, the process was carried out in keeping with the regulations. In addition, the elderly and other special needs voters were allowed to go directly to the front of the queue to cast their votes. The Group observed that one of the major challenges faced by PWDs in the 2023 election was the inaccessibility of some polling stations.

A large number of polling stations did not have any step-free access, and many were at schools with uneven surfaces and narrow pathways. The Group was informed that there was provision made for those in hospitals, care homes or other care facilities, who were unable to be transported to a polling station to vote. It is the view of some stakeholders that, on election day, political parties do make some effort to transport disabled voters to polling stations.

According to Section 50 of the RPA (Amendment) 2011, blind voters may bring a companion to assist them to vote. However, other voters who require assistance do not have this option available to them. In these instances, the presiding officer marks the ballot on behalf of the voter in the presence of the polling agents, who are the political party's representatives at the polling station. This puts all other PWDs at a further disadvantage of having to disclose their preference to the presiding officer, which may not be their desire, and undermines the secrecy of ballot for the voter.

The Group was pleased to see that the voters of Antigua and Barbuda encouraged the participation and respected the needs of the elderly and the disabled in their communities. While some PWDs were able to vote independently, the Group observed inconsistencies on election day in how much secrecy was afforded to voters who were disabled. In a number of polling stations visited, PWDs were accorded priority voting. Persons with special needs were quickly brought to the front of any queue to cast their vote. The Group was pleased to find some political party agents observed at polling units were PWDs.

All polling stations were located on the ground floor of public buildings and schools. In numerous cases, the voters were nonetheless required to ascend or descend steps, which made entry and exit challenging for the elderly as well as voters with mobility challenges. The stations were inaccessible to wheelchairs.

Secrecy of the vote

The secrecy of the vote was respected as all voters were instructed to fold the ballot in such a way that their choice was not displayed when returning the ballot to the presiding officer. Where voters did not comply with the instructions, they were sent back behind the voting booths to properly fold the ballot to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

Unlawful gathering and campaigning at polling stations

There was no evidence of anyone campaigning or seeking to influence the voter within the precincts of any polling station. The 100 yards designation from the location of polling stations was not marked. Nevertheless, there was no evidence of illegal congregation close to any polling location. There was no evidence of party colours being worn by anyone on election day.

Electoral officials

The electoral officials inside the polling stations carried out their functions in a professional and nonpartisan manner. They were very well trained, as evidenced by the consistency and uniformity with which the process was administered.

The layout of the stations was not consistent, as the presiding officer was closest to the door in some cases and far away in others. This did not significantly affect the process.

Close of poll and counting of ballots

All polling stations in which the close of poll was observed closed promptly at 18:00 as there were no voters in line. Where there were voters waiting to cast their ballots, a police officer stood at the end of the queue to ensure no one could join after the designated cutoff time of 18:00. Voters already in the queues at

18:00 were allowed to vote in keeping with the legislation. As soon as the last eligible voter in each station voted, the opening to the ballot box was sealed by the presiding officer, ensuring no additional ballots could be inserted. All political party agents present in polling stations were allowed to witness the close of poll procedures in these stations.

The police were on hand to ensure the doors were closed at 18:00, and no one was allowed to enter while the close of poll procedures were being carried out.

Procedures for the close of polls were carried out in accordance with the stipulated regulations. The candidates' agents added their seals to the boxes before these were transported by the presiding officer accompanied by the agents and the police to the counting centre in each constituency and handed over to the respective returning officer.

The returning officer kept the boxes in a sterile area into which only agents authorised to witness the count and international observers were permitted. Other party representatives and members of the public were allowed to witness the count outside the sterile area. The doors to the counting areas were closed and manned by the police.

Once all the boxes for the constituency had been delivered, the returning officer commenced the count. Boxes were opened one at a time and the votes counted. The ballots were displayed to the agents as means of confirming they had been properly marked and for whom.

The tally for each box was announced after it was completed. The process continued until all the votes were tallied, at which point the winner was declared. The process went on throughout the night into the next morning.

Results

At the end of the process, ABEC announced that the governing ABLP had won nine seats and the main opposition UPP six seats (see Annex VI). The BPM won the seat in Barbuda and the independent candidate in St Peter also won a seat.

Post-election observations

There were no reports of any disturbances or protests following the announcement of the results. The supporters of the ABLB celebrated with street dances and parades throughout the night.

The nation has accepted the results of the elections.

Conclusions

The conclusions of COG are as follows:

Overall, polling was conducted at a very high standard, with no breaches of procedure detected. Voters voted for their candidate of choice in an atmosphere conducive to free and fair elections.

- The elections were conducted in keeping with the laws and regulations of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Poll workers and other stakeholders conducted themselves in very professional manner throughout the exercise.
- Election day proceedings were carried out in a fair and transparent manner, which allowed voters entering the polling station to vote according to their free will.
- The results of the polls reflected the will of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Recommendations

Despite the positive conclusions and high praise expressed by the COG for the way the elections were conducted, the Mission has identified areas in which improvements are possible. These recommendations, it is felt, if accepted, will further strengthen the electoral process in Antigua and Barbuda.

These recommendations are:

- **Advance polling:** If the police are allowed to vote ahead of the rest of the population, this will ensure they are able to concentrate on securing the integrity of the process on election day by being allowed to concentrate fully on their core functions instead of leaving their assigned duties to vote.
- **Use of alternate means of identification:** The current system of using only the voter registration card to vote prevents anyone who comes without the card from voting. Persons unable to find their card close to election day may be unable to access the replacement for several reasons, including the prohibitive cost of EC\$100 for a replacement. Persons who forget the card may not be inclined to return to the voting location. It is suggested that a copy of the Elections Record at registration, to include photographs, be kept at the station and be used in conjunction with the Picture Voters' List to allow such person to vote.
- **Uniform dress for poll workers:** It is recommended that all poll workers be provided with clearly marked T-shirts to facilitate identification and access by voters needing assistance.
- **Counting in polling stations:** The preliminary counting should be carried out in each polling station. This should be pursued as it would ensure that:
 - the count is more transparent;
 - the count is completed in a timelier manner;
 - the results are available in a shorter time following the close of polling.

Annex I. Biographies of Chairperson and Observers

Chairperson

H.E. Danny Faure (Seychelles). Mr Faure was elected the fourth President of Seychelles on 16 October 2016. He was Head of Government and held the ministerial portfolios of Defence, Public Administration and Legal Affairs. In addition, in February 2020, at the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic, he also held the portfolio of Health.

As a young man, Mr Faure worked with the Seychelles People's Progressive Front. He became Chair of its Youth Wing and was elected as a member of the Central Committee of the Party. He was appointed Leader of Government Business of the majority party in the National Assembly, a post he served for five years from 1993 to 1998. He was appointed Minister of Education on 28 March 1998. He was instrumental in putting forward the idea of a virtual university for small states of the Commonwealth in the Ministers of Education Forum and the Commonwealth Meeting held in Halifax, Canada. In June 2009, Mr Faure was appointed Secretary-General of the Party.

In 2010, Mr Faure appointed Vice-President of Seychelles, holding ministerial portfolios for Finance and Trade, Public Administration, and Information and Communication Technology. He also served on the Board of the Commonwealth of Learning from 2014 to 2016; one of his initiatives was support to on the Blue Economy for Small Island States.

Mr Faure is presently the Patron and Chairperson of the Danny Faure Foundation, which was launched on 8 June 2021. He is also a member of The Eminent and Distinguished Persons Advisory Panel of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank.

Baroness Denise Patricia Kingsmill (United Kingdom) was born in Rotorua, New Zealand. She later moved with her family to the UK. After graduating from the University of Cambridge, with a degree in Economics and Anthropology, she spent the early years of her career in the fashion industry in Paris and New York. She then qualified as a solicitor of the Supreme Court, and, after a 20-year legal career, was appointed Deputy Chair of the Competition Commission, the UK's anti-trust regulator. In 2000, Baroness Kingsmill was awarded a CBE and in June 2006 she was appointed to the House of Lords as a Life Peer. Baroness Kingsmill has had an extensive business career. She is a member of the Board of Inditex SA (Zara) and until recently she was also a member of the Boards of E.ON SE, IAG S.A. and Telecom Italia. She was the founding Chair of Monzo Bank, a mobile-only internet bank.

Orrette Fisher (Jamaica) is an accomplished elections management specialist with more than 23 years of experience in the planning and execution of national elections. Mr Fisher served the Electoral Commission of Jamaica for 23 years up until 2018. The latter 10 years of his tenure were as Director of Elections, which required the management of national elections, multi-million-dollar budgets, political party and campaign financing, voter registration and education, election information systems and other aspects of electoral operations. Now an independent consultant in elections management and training, he has been contracted to provide consultancy, administrative and technical support by several organisations including the Commonwealth Secretariat, the CARICOM Secretariat, the International Foundation of Electoral Systems and the International Republican Institute.

Clare A. Keizer (St Vincent and the Grenadines) is Editor-in-Chief of *Searchlight* newspaper of St Vincent and the Grenadines and CEO of Interactive Media Ltd, the company that publishes *Searchlight*. Ms Keizer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Physics from the University of the West Indies, a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, and certificates in journalism from the University of the West Indies, the Commonwealth Press Union and the Commonwealth Trust. Prior to working in the media, Ms Keizer worked for several years as Director of Technology at a large data processing company and before that as a project manager and a teacher. Ms Keizer is Chair of IM Holdings Inc, Deputy Chair of Invest SVG (the national investment promotions agency), Director of Interactive Media Ltd and Company Secretary and Director of SVG Publishers Inc., a company that prints all three newspapers in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Senator Hon. Gideon Moi (Kenya) is the immediate former Senator for the county of Baringo and the current Chair of the Kenya Africa National Union (KANU) political party, a role he assumed in 2013. Prior to his senatorial tenure (2013–2022), Mr Moi served as the member of parliament for Baringo Central constituency, from 2003 to 2007. During this period, he demonstrated leadership as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Communication and Public Works. Mr Moi's notable contributions to legislation include the Local Content Bill during the 11th Parliament, when he chaired the Senate Committee on Energy. In his role as the Chairperson of the Senate ICT Committee, Senator Moi played a pivotal role in the sponsorship of the Data Protection Bill, contributing to Kenya's transformation into a digital nation. Continuing his commitment to public service, Mr Moi served as a Senator and Chair of the Senate ICT Committee until 2022.

Beyond politics, he serves as the Chancellor of the Kabarak University Governing Council and holds a significant role in educational institutions such as Moi High School Kabarak, Sacho High School and Moi Educational Centre as a Board Member. Mr Moi is a prominent figure in Kenya's economic landscape, with a diversified business empire spanning various sectors, fostering employment for thousands. His personal life reflects a commitment to family, being happily married with three children. Furthermore, his philanthropic endeavours, marked by active and gracious participation in various projects, are well documented in the public domain.

Annex II. Arrival Statement



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA GENERAL ELECTIONS
ARRIVAL STATEMENT
HIS EXCELLENCY DANNY FAURE
FORMER PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES
CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP
15 January 2021

I am honoured to have been invited by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, to chair the Commonwealth Observer Group for the General Elections of Antigua and Barbuda.

I am leading a group of four other eminent persons, appointed from across the regions of the Commonwealth, with a depth of experience in the political and legal sphere, electoral management and media. We are here, at the invitation of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), ahead of the elections scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th of January.

We are here to observe the electoral process and will act impartially and independently in accordance with our terms of reference, as we assess its organisation and conduct. Our task is to observe the electoral process to act independently and impartially, as we assess the pre-elections preparation, the elections itself on polling date, as well as the post-election period. The task we have been given is one we take seriously and will undertake solemnly, in compliance with international standards for the conduct of international observers.

Our planned briefings and engagement with key stakeholders will begin shortly, as we anticipate meeting with political parties, civil society organizations, media representatives, ABEC, citizen observer groups and groups representing women, among others.

Antigua and Barbuda have been a long standing and valued member of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has provided technical assistance and collaboration on key areas like Ocean Governance, implementation of the Commonwealth Blue Charter and access to Climate Finance Hub. This assistance is aligned with the whole-of-electoral cycle approach adopted by the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth's post-election engagement with stakeholders will be guided by recommendations arising from the Commonwealth Observer Group's report.

From Tuesday 17 January, our observers will be deployed across the country to observe all the preparations ahead of the polling period. On polling day, we will observe the opening, voting, closing, counting, and the results management processes. During this time, we will also be engaging with political party representatives, the police and other local stakeholders.

Our mandate is to observe, and not to interfere with the process, and we hope to share a detailed account of our observations of the electoral process. On Friday 20th of January, we will issue a statement of our preliminary findings. After that, a final report will then be prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and subsequently shared with the government of Antigua and Barbuda, the ABEC, relevant stakeholders, and the public.

The importance of the elections in a democracy as the ultimate expression of the will of the people and cannot be understated. Casting a vote is a fundamental human right and we hope the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, will keenly exercise this right on elections day.

On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their hospitality and for allowing us to be a part of this process.

Annex III. Interim Statement



Interim Statement by

His Excellency Danny Faure
Former President of the Seychelles
Chairperson of the Commonwealth Observer Group
Antigua and Barbuda
19 January 2023

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, members of the press and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

I have the honour to present the interim statement of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the 2023 Antigua and Barbuda general elections. This statement is based on our preliminary observations, on polling day and our engagement with a cross section of stakeholders in the past week.

It does not constitute our final report. We will be making that submission at a later date, once our assessments have been formally completed. Not only will we ensure that the electoral commission will be presented with a copy, but I have personally given my assurances to the Governor General and the Prime Minister that they will be presented with copies too. Furthermore, in the spirit of transparency, we intend to also make the report accessible to the people of Antigua and Barbuda and all stakeholders who have an interest in the further development of this country and its democracy.

Arrival and Group Make Up

Our Group was constituted by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, following an invitation from the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

We are a group of 9 prominent citizens from Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the United Kingdom; among these members, there are experts in law, politics, elections and the media. We arrived on 14 January and held meetings with a cross section of stakeholders despite the shortness of the time available to us. We held meetings with government, opposition, independent candidates, electoral commission officials, media, youth, women, police, and associations representing local observers.

On election day, on 18 January, we visited 16 constituencies- all, but Barbuda which we could not access due to logistical constraints. However, we held a virtual and fruitful conversation with the leader of the Barbuda People's Movement. We engaged with voters, polling officials, party agents and other local and international observers.

In accordance with our mandate, our assessment of the elections is based on national, regional, Commonwealth and International standards to which Antigua and Barbuda has committed itself, as underscored in the arrival statement we issued on 16 January 2023.

Findings

I will now share some preliminary observations.

1. Yesterday, the people of this beautiful country reaffirmed their commitment to our shared values of democracy by exercising their right to vote, although the turnout was 67 percent, the lowest in the last 20 years. We were pleased and encouraged by the calm and peaceful atmosphere in which polling took place. Eligible voters exercised their franchise. We believe that the results reflect the will of the people.

2. We acknowledge the active participation of Antiguan and Barbudans, the police and security services. In contrast to the number of female candidates, of which there were only 10, we were particularly encouraged to see women and youth make up the overwhelming majority of the polling staff and party agents. Their professionalism, efficiency and dedication to follow due process and to work together in transparency is commendable as was the long hours they spent away from work and family. Their dedication to democracy is admirable.
3. We recognize the efforts of youth groups and civil society organisations in facilitating voter's education despite the short and constrained timeline, restricted access to information and resources. We also commend the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission's policies to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and to prioritise seniors in the line-up.
4. Our team was given free and unfettered access to unobtrusively observe the polling procedures. I have also been encouraged by the passion, openness and frankness displayed by all stakeholders in our engagements. They helped us get a better appreciation of the electoral process as well as the hopes, disappointments, and aspirations of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Recommendations

However, certain key elements of internationally recommended standards must be looked into, and I will only focus on **Four** in this preliminary statement:

1. **Strong Institutions:**

For democracy to thrive and be fully functional, there needs to be a clear separation of powers. With the evolution of democracy in Antigua and Barbuda, emphasis now needs to be put on good governance based on the framework of independence, transparency, oversight and accountability.

2. **The Media**

There is a need to de-politicize the media landscape. It must be free, fair and inclusive. There is an urgent requirement to strengthen the regulatory framework. It is not proper to give unrestricted access to the government, while limiting the access to other parties.

3. **Transparency; The Representation of The People (Amendment) Act**

Appropriate steps must be taken to ensure accuracy and transparency as it pertains to:

- Timely publication and updating of the voter's list;
- Balancing the protection of voters' data with the right of the public and all parties to access and challenge the voter's list;
- The efficiency of the tallying process by counting ballots at the polling stations.

Concluding Remarks

The electoral process has now ended. But the rebuilding and healing of a nation needs to continue proactively. The Commonwealth will stand by you.

We were saddened by the vitriol, personal attacks, acts of arson and vandalism that took place pre-election. They should have no place in Antigua and Barbuda. The greatest test of leadership is now... all parties need to display magnanimity in victory and honour in defeat.

We urge all leaders of political parties, civil society organisations, faith-based groups and the people of this beautiful country to join hands together in building bridges and creating the Antigua and Barbuda you want for the next generation. We call on the government to also implement our recommendations.

We thank the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their warmth and hospitality and we wish you all the best as you move forward.

Thank You and God Bless

The Commonwealth Observer Group Members are:

H.E. Danny Faure

Former President
Seychelles

Hon. Gideon Moi

Politician and former Senator
Kenya

Baroness Denise Kingsmill CBE

Member of the House of Lords
United Kingdom

Mr Orrette Fisher

Elections Management Consultant
Jamaica

Ms Clare Keizer

Journalist and Editor-in-Chief at Searchlight
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Annex IV. Deployment Plan



Commonwealth Observer Group (COG)

Antigua and Barbuda Deployment Plan & Contact Details (2023)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
Team 1 H.E Mr Danny Faure. Prof. Luis Franceschi. Ms Musu Kaikai.	St JOHN'S CITY WEST	[1] A - G	WESLEYAN HOLINESS BUILDING, BISHOPGATE STREET	JANELLE BENJAMIN	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] H - M	WESLEYAN HOLINESS BUILDING, BISHOPGATE STREET			
		[3] N - Y	WESLEYAN HOLINESS BUILDING, BISHOPGATE STREET			
		[1] A - B	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[2] C - F	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[3] G - I	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[4] J - L	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[5] M - P	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[6] Q - S	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[7] T - Z	VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILLA AREA			
		[1] A - X	LIONS DEN, CROSS STREET			
		[1] A - B	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[2] C - F	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[3] G - I	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL			
	[4] J - L	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL				
	[5] M - P	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL				
	[6] Q - S	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL				
[7] T - 7	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL					
	St JOHN'S CITY EAST			LAURISA FRANCIS	PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL	HODGES BAY RESORT

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
	St JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	[1] A - W	EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH BASEMENT, REDCLIFFE STREET	CLEOPATRA JAME	MARY E PIGOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTTOS	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[1] A - I	EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH BASEMENT, REDCLIFFE STREET			
		[2] J - Z	EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH BASEMENT, REDCLIFFE STREET			
		[1] A - Z	EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH BASEMENT, REDCLIFFE STREET			
		[1] A - D	MARY E. PIGOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTTOS			
		[2] E - I	MARY E. PIGOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTTOS			
		[3] J - P	MARY E. PIGOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTTOS			
		[4] Q - Z	MARY E. PIGOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTTOS			
		[1] A - B	TEMPLE ACADEMY, ARMSTRONG ROAD			
		[2] C - D	ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, CHRISTIAN STREET			
		[3] E - G	NAZARENE CHURCH, GRAYS FARM MAIN ROAD			
		[4] H - J	EXHIBITION & CULTURAL CENTRE, PERRY BAY			
		[5] K - M	EXHIBITION & CULTURAL CENTRE, PERRY BAY			
		[6] N - R	EXHIBITION & CULTURAL CENTRE, PERRY BAY			
	[7] S - Z	EXHIBITION & CULTURAL CENTRE, PERRY BAY				
	[1] A - B	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY				
	[2] C - D	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY				
	[3] E - F	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY				
	[4] G - H	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY				
	[5] I - K	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY				
[6] L - M	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY					
[7] N - Q	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY					
[8] R - S	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY					
[9] T - Z	GREENBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENBAY					
[1] A - Y	FIVE ISLANDS SCHOOL					
	St JOHN'S RURAL WEST			ROLSTON NICKED	EXHIBITION & CULTURAL CENTRE, PERRY BAY	HODGES BAY RESORT

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers			
Team 2 Senator Gideon Moi. Abiola Sunmonu	St JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	[1] A - J	MINOAH MAGNET ACADEMY, RADIO RANGE	ASHWORTH AZILLE	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE	HODGES BAY RESORT			
		[2] K - Z	MINOAH MAGNET ACADEMY, RADIO RANGE						
		[1] A - D	TINDALE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH						
		[2] E - J	TINDALE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH						
		[3] K - Q	GROUND FLOOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICE, VALLEY ROAD						
		[4] R - W	GROUND FLOOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICE, VALLEY ROAD						
		[1] A - C	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE						
		[2] D - G	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE						
		[3] H - K	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE						
		[4] L - Q	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE						
		[5] R - Z	GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN GROVE						
		[1] A - B	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD				KADINE COMES	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] C - D	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD						
		[3] E - G	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD						
		[4] H - J	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD						
[5] K - M	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD								
[6] N - Q	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD								

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
		[7] R - S	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD			
		[8] T - Z	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, OLD PARHAM ROAD			
		[1] A - B	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[2] C - D	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[3] E - G	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[4] H - I	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[5] K - M	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[6] N - R	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[7] S - Z	CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL			
		[1] A - B	YORKS COMMUNITY CENTRE, YORKS			
		[2] C - E	YORKS COMMUNITY CENTRE, YORKS			
		[3] F - I	WESLEYAN JUNIOR ACADEMY, FORT ROAD			
		[4] J - L	WESLEYAN JUNIOR ACADEMY, FORT ROAD			
		[5] M - Q	WESLEYAN JUNIOR ACADEMY, FORT ROAD			
		[6] R - S	WESLEYAN JUNIOR ACADEMY, FORT ROAD			
		[7] T - Z	WESLEYAN JUNIOR ACADEMY, FORT ROAD			
		[1] A - C	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE			
		[2] D - G	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE			
		[3] H - K	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE			
		[4] L - Q	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE			
		[5] R - Z	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE			
	St JOHN'S RURAL NORTH			GWENDOLYN WILLOCK-JAMES	CEDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CEDAR GROVE	HODGES BAY RESORT

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
	St MARY'S NORTH	[1] A - E [2] F - J [3] K - R [4] S - Z [1] A - E [2] F - J [3] K - P [4] Q - W [1] A - G [2] H - O [3] P - Z [1] A - C [2] D - G [3] H - L [4] M - R [5] S - Z	JENNINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, JENNINGS VILLAGE JENNINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, JENNINGS VILLAGE JENNINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, JENNINGS VILLAGE JENNINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, JENNINGS VILLAGE BENDALS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENDALS VILLAGE BENDALS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENDALS VILLAGE BENDALS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENDALS VILLAGE BENDALS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENDALS VILLAGE WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH BASEMENT, ALL SAINTS ROAD WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH BASEMENT, ALL SAINTS ROAD WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH BASEMENT, ALL SAINTS ROAD MORAVIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, CASHAW HILL MORAVIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, CASHAW HILL MORAVIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, CASHAW HILL MORAVIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, CASHAW HILL MORAVIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, CASHAW HILL ANTIGUA STATE COLLEGE	BIRCHFIELD OSBORNE	ANTIGUA STATE COLLEGE	HODGES BAY RESORT

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
Team 3 Baroness Kingsmill Abubakar Abdullahi	St MARY'S SOUTH	[1] A - C	BOLANS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLANS VILLAGE	DENESE	URLINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, URLINGS	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] D - H	BOLANS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLANS VILLAGE	PARKER		
		[3] I - L	BOLANS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLANS VILLAGE			
		[4] M - R	BOLANS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLANS VILLAGE			
		[4] S - X	BOLANS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLANS VILLAGE			
		[1] A - W	JOHNSONS POINT HEALTH CENTRE, JOHNSONS POINT			
		[1] A - J	URLINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, URLINGS			
		[2] K - W	URLINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL, URLINGS			
	ALL SAINTS EAST & St LUKE	[1] A - C	ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE	DENMORE ROBERTS	IRENE B. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SWETES VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] D - G	ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[3] H - K	ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[4] L - R	ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[5] S - Z	ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[1] A - E	IRENE B. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SWETES VILLAGE			
		[2] F - J	IRENE B. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SWETES VILLAGE			
		[3] K - R	IRENE B. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SWETES VILLAGE			
		[4] S - Z	IRENE B. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SWETES VILLAGE			
		[1] A - W	JOHN HUGHES PRIMARY SCHOOL, JOHN HUGHES VILLAGE			
		[1] A - E	OLD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, OLD ROAD VILLAGE			
		[2] F - J	OLD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, OLD ROAD VILLAGE			
		[3] K - R	OLD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, OLD ROAD VILLAGE			
		[4] S - Z	OLD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, OLD ROAD VILLAGE			

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
	ALL SAINTS WEST	[1] A - D	J.T. AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE	THOMASINE GREENAWAY- WHYT	SEA VIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEA VIEW FARM VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] E - J	J.T. AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[3] K - Q	J.T. AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[4] R - Z	J.T. AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS VILLAGE			
		[1] A - I	BUCKLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUCKLEYS VILLAGE			
		[2] J - Z	BUCKLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUCKLEYS VILLAGE			
		[1] A - I	FREEMANSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FREEMANSVILLE			
		[2] J - Z	FREEMANSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FREEMANSVILLE			
		[1] A - E	SEA VIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEA VIEW FARM VILLAGE			
		[2] F - J	SEA VIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEA VIEW FARM VILLAGE			
		[3] K - Q	SEA VIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEA VIEW FARM VILLAGE			
		[4] R - 7	SEA VIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEA VIEW FARM VILLAGE			
		[1] A - F	POST MILLENNIAL ACADEMY, LAW PASTURE			
		[2] G - M	POST MILLENNIAL ACADEMY, LAW PASTURE			
		[3] N - 7	POST MILLENNIAL ACADEMY, LAW PASTURE			

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
	St GEORGE	[1] A - D	NEW WINTHORPES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW WINTHORPES	VIVECA SHADRACH	POTTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, POTTERS VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT
		[2] E - H	NEW WINTHORPES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW WINTHORPES			
		[3] I - L	NEW WINTHORPES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW WINTHORPES			
		[4] M - R	NEW WINTHORPES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW WINTHORPES			
		[5] S - Z	NEW WINTHORPES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW WINTHORPES			
		[1] A - F	PIGOTTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, PIGOTTS VILLAGE			
		[2] G - J	PIGOTTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, PIGOTTS VILLAGE			
		[3] K - R	PIGOTTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, PIGOTTS VILLAGE			
		[] S - Z	PIGOTTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, PIGOTTS VILLAGE			
		[1] A - B	POTTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[2] C - E	POTTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[3] F - H	POTTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[4] I - K	POTTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[5] L - M	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[6] N - Q	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[7] R - S	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY, POTTERS VILLAGE			
		[8] T - Y	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY, POTTERS VILLAGE			

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers				
Team 4 Orrette Fisher Clare Agatha Keizer	St PETER	[1] A - B	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE	STEPHEN	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT				
		[2] C - D	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE	SAMUELS						
		[3] E - F	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[4] G - I	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[5] J - L	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[6] M - Q	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[7] R - S	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[8] T - Z	PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARHAM VILLAGE							
		[1] A - J	PARES PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARES VILLAGE							
		[2] K - W	PARES PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARES VILLAGE							
		[1] A - W	PRECISION CENTRE, INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, PAYNTERS							
		St PHILIP NORTH	St PHILIP NORTH	[1] A - I			GLANVILLES SECONDARY SCHOOL, GLANVILLES VILLAGE	AVONELLA BENJAMIN	NELVIE N. GORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WILLIKIES VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT
				[2] J - Y			GLANVILLES SECONDARY SCHOOL, GLANVILLES VILLAGE			
				[1] A - G			NELVIE N. GORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WILLIKIES VILLAGE			
[2] H - N	NELVIE N. GORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WILLIKIES VILLAGE									
[3] O - Z	NELVIE N. GORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WILLIKIES VILLAGE									
[1] A - W	NEWFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWFIELD VILLAGE									
St PHILIP SOUTH	St PHILIP SOUTH			[1] A - L	FREETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, FREETOWN VILLAGE	JOYANN HARRIGAN	METHODIST CHURCH, BETHESDA VILLAGE	HODGES BAY RESORT		
				[2] M - W	FREETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, FREETOWN VILLAGE					
				[1] A - W	ST, PHILIP'S RECTORY, ST. PHILIP					
				[1] A - J	METHODIST CHURCH, BETHESDA VILLAGE					
		[2] K - W	METHODIST CHURCH, BETHESDA VILLAGE							

(Continued)

Teams/Regions	Constituency	Polling Units	Location	Returning Officers	Collation Centres	Hotel reserved for observers
	St PAUL	[1] A - B [2] C - F [3] G - I [4] J - L [5] M - Q [6] R - S [7] T - Z [1] A - D [2] E - J [3] K - Q [4] R - W	LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERIA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE LIBERIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE COBBS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL, COBBS CROSS COBBS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL, COBBS CROSS COBBS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL, COBBS CROSS COBBS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL, COBBS CROSS	JANNELLE WEHNER- WATTS	LIBERTA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBERTA VILLAGE	

Annex V. 2018 COG Recommendations – Status of Implementation

of Implementation

2018 Recommendation	Type of Recommendation	Status of Implementation	Comments
<p>The current arrangements for appointing a majority of the members of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), on the basis of nominations by political party leaders, risks politicising the Commission. In addition, as members of ABEC are appointed for a seven-year period, the composition of the Commission may become unbalanced if vacancies occur after an election and a change of Government. The appointment of a politically neutral chair, such as a former High Court judge, might help with the perceived impartiality of the Commission. We recommend that this issue be considered to ensure that ABEC remains independent, not only in the way that it conducts its business, but also in the perception of the electorate.</p> <p>In a number of countries there is a single body that combines the functions of the Electoral Commission and the Boundaries Commission. This is a matter for Antigua and Barbuda to decide, but we do see merit in ensuring these Commissions are fully independent, politically neutral and sufficiently resourced to do their work in a timely manner</p>	Legal/Regulatory	Not implemented	The same arrangement exists at the time of the 2023 general elections.
	Legal/Regulatory	Not implemented	At the time of the 2023 general elections, ABEC and the Boundary Commission are separate entities.

(Continued)

2018 Recommendation	Type of Recommendation	Status of Implementation	Comments
<p>A review of the number and boundaries of constituencies should be completed as a matter of urgency. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed as well ahead of the next election</p>	<p>Legal/Regulatory</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>The issue of constituency disparity and the need for re-delimitation has been on the front-burner of elections in Antigua and Barbuda and it remained so during the 2023 elections as there had been no adjustments to constituency boundaries.</p>
<p>We would encourage the creation of a system to monitor airtime and access to media by all political parties during the campaign to ensure a level playing field, and for this information to be published</p>	<p>Legal/Regulatory/ Administrative</p>	<p>Partially</p>	<p>This appears to have improved have improved for the 2023 elections; however, there are still no clear and effective mechanisms to ensuring equal media access by all political parties.</p>
<p>We urge the Government and ABEC to consider the needs of all those voters with disability and provide equal opportunity for them to exercise their franchise while maintaining the secrecy of the ballot. This includes assistance with transport, accessibility of polling stations and possibly extending the provision in the Representation of the People Act for blind persons to choose a companion to vote on their behalf to other categories of disability</p>	<p>Legal/Political/Policy</p>	<p>Partially</p>	<p>The Group noted an improvement in PWDs' participation in the general elections. ABEC advised PWDs and the elderly that key services of the Commission would be accessible at the Central Registration Unit for convenience. ABEC's decision came as a direct response to concerns raised by PWDs, who had encountered significant challenges in climbing the stairs to ABEC's headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway in St John's. The Commission also developed PWD-targeted voter information for the 2023 election.</p>
Campaign Conduct and Party Finance			
<p>We believe a code of conduct, agreed by all political parties, should be adopted and respected ahead of the next election. This would enhance the quality of the campaign for all participants and facilitate a more policy-based debate, giving the electorate informed choices. This might also facilitate the entry of more women into the political process.</p>	<p>Political/Policy</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>At the time of the 2023 elections, there is no code of conduct for political parties on campaign finance.</p>

(Continued)

2018 Recommendation	Type of Recommendation	Status of Implementation	Comments
<p>The lack of transparency in campaign finance leads to accusations of impropriety and claims of an uneven playing field. Whether or not there should be some level of state funding for political parties, the case for greater openness in both party funding and expenditure is important for public confidence in the democratic process. We urge the political parties to consider ways in which they might take this forward</p>	<p>Political/Policy</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>At the time of the 2023 election, there is inadequate legislation relating to the regulation of party finance or expenditure on election campaigns. There is no cap on election campaign expenditure and no restriction on foreign donations or audit requirements. Political parties are only required to keep records of all donations and the names and addresses of donors who give more than EC\$25,000.</p>
Voting and Counting			
<p>The efficiency of the process could be improved if counting were to take place at the polling station immediately after the conclusion of the polls</p>	<p>Administrative/Policy</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>As with the 2018 elections, counting of votes was done at designated constituency tallying centres rather than at the polling stations.</p>

Annex VI. Election Results

No.	Constituency	Elected Candidate	ABLP	UPP	DNA	BPM	IND	Total Votes Cast	Turnout (%)
1	St John's City West	Gaston A. Browne	1,295	621	18			1,948	63.81
2	St John's City East	Melford Nicholas	791	785	13			1,595	73.64
3	St John's City South	Steadroy C. Benjamin	904	495	11			1,421	68.98
4	St John's Rural West	Richard Lewis	1,614	1,932	31	46		3,635	66.82
5	St John's Rural South	Daryll Matthew	1,424	1,074	11	19		2,541	64.99
6	St John's Rural East	Maria Browne	1,770	1,460	48			3,294	65.83
7	St John's Rural North	Charles Fernandez	1,563	1,358	42			2,978	71.12
8	St Mary's North	Molwyn M. Joseph	1,664	1,615	28			3,329	6.38
9	St Mary's South	Kelvin Craig Simon	862	1,061	12			1,940	74.96
10	All Saints East & St Luke	Jamale Pringle	1,047	1,799	52			2,908	70.45
11	All Saints West	Anthony S. Smith	1,461	2,022	44			3,546	70.62
12	St George	Algernon Watts	2,005	2,146	54			4,224	71.80
13	St Peter	Asot Michael	899	601	29	2,137		3,680	79.84
14	St Philip North	Robin Yearwood	708	615	16			1,346	71.75
15	St Philip South	Sherfield Bowen	360	582	28			1,011	80.37
16	St Paul	E.P.Chet Greene	1,244	1,101	29			2,387	72.75
17	Barbuda	Trevor Walker	456			624		1,086	84.78
Total			20,067	19,267	466	624	2,202	42,869	70.37
	% of total votes cast		46.8	44.9	1.1	1.5	5.1	70.4	

Commonwealth Secretariat

Marlborough House, Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

thecommonwealth.org