

NIA

National Integrity Action

**WILTON PARK'S MEETING ON CARIBBEAN 2030: NEW THINKING FOR A NEW GENERATION – "GOVERNANCE, CRIME AND REGIONAL SECURITY"
AT WISTON HOUSE, WEST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

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In relation to governance, crime and regional security I envision two realistic possibilities for 2030, which in electoral terms is just 3 elections away in most territories!

The first real possibility is for the present scenario to continue with minor modifications, a scenario in which the Caribbean **continues to achieve world class standards on many indicators, fall well below on others and remains, in my view, that region of the world in which the gap between performance and potential remains largest or** we can going into 2030 consolidate the positives, begin substantial reversal of the negatives and embark on a path of fulfilling the region's potential.

I want to sketch the first scenario and then suggest (not **what** is to be done which we have talked and written about ad nauseam) but **how** the second scenario, the one we all wish might be realized.

The first scenario 2030, continuation of the present 2015 underperformance with all the positives and negatives and despite all wishful thinking. On the positive side, the CARICOM

and increasingly the wide Caribbean continues to be above the rest of the world in the top percentile of states globally.

1. A region of strong electoral democracy – with fewer instances of one party rule, civil strife/war, military dictatorship, terrorist activity, with government parties yielding state power and opposition parties acceding in constitutional mandated election than any other region; where observer groups regularly endorse free and fair elections.
2. A region with relatively strong freedom of the press.
3. A region of freedom of religion, of association; where Muslims, Christians, Jews and non-believers live side by side in relative harmony
- 4.
5. Of strong representation of women in management, if not in specific electoral representation.
6. Of relative independence of the judiciary
7. Where access to primary and secondary education is near universal
8. Where outstanding citizens populate the leadership of regional hemispheric and international organisations
9. A region of outstanding business people who have created world class brands
10. Low levels of bribery victimisation

11. In which Eastern Caribbean states like Barbados and St. Vincent score and rank highly on Corruption Prevention Index

But also a region in which we are on the negative side of critical indicators of governance, crime and regional security.

1. The most **homicides** of any region per capita 30 per hundred thousand as against 5 per hundred thousand globally.
2. A region where we perform poorly on 2 critical **World Bank Indicators** of good governance: **rule of law and control of corruption.**
3. A region in which most of our countries perform poorly on key criteria put out by the Global Competitive Index – transparency in public spending and favouritism in government decisions.
4. A region in which political and campaign finance rules rarely require parties to be registered and regulated, much less party disclosure of sources of funding
5. In which offences of ‘illicit enrichment’ are rarely prosecuted and drug kingpins and high ranking officials have to be extradited to face the courts
6. In which a majority of our people believe that the politically – connected go free
7. In which levels of inequality remain high – Jamaica the second highest in the entire hemisphere
8. In which not one of our countries with the exception of Cuba ranked in the top quarter of the one hundred and eighty seven (187) countries scored / ranked in **UNDP 2014 Human Development Index**
9. In which youth are increasingly alienated

10. In which academics and professionals continue to write excellent reports, diagnosis and recommendations (like **Time for Action, 1992**; or **CARICOM CRIME AND SECURITY STRATEGY 2013** with one hundred and eight flagship initiatives) and then little or nothing happens
11. In which the young politicians mainly fit in, emulate or offer no resistance to the tribalism of their seniors
12. In which the UK, US, Canada decline and China rises as source of ODA and investment – to the detriment of support for CSOs, reform in the justice system.

This scenario of strong positives and even stronger negatives contributing to overall **underperformance** can well continue to 2030 and beyond.

The alternative is to realize a vision which builds on the above positives but undermines/overcomes the negatives. We know what is to be done. I suggest HOW

Next Steps – Jamaican Approach

1. Build public awareness (social will) to understand /stand up against the negatives – against unaccountable conduct, to demand action against those in relation to whom there is credible evidence of corruption; to reward politicians who are honest and clean, punish those who are tribalists and practice cronyism. Identify, promote, celebrate the operations which work/best practices.
2. How is **this** to be done? In the pre-independence period the politicians played a major role, were the drivers, in building public awareness to carry the region forward. That era is now past – now it has to be the **media** – traditional and social. Civil society

organisations, business people of integrity, young entrepreneurs who have to take the lead to build social will, professionals and private sector who need to give backbone to weak political will.

3. Establishing and sustain networks towards the Caribbean 2030 vision – younger politicians within parties, across parties, across the region, networks of like-minded across sectors – public, private and civic.
4. Traditional external partners asserting themselves more to uphold standards of good governance – UNCAC
5. Engage the diaspora amongst whom are the best of the reform minded, middle class, young professionals and entrepreneurs in not only philanthropic contributions but in – becoming a strong voice for good governance partnering with local and regional CSOs etc – against red tape and bureaucracy.