



## **10<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CAROA CONFERENCE 2019**

## **Bermuda Declaration**

**On the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the  
Establishment of CAROA**

WE, members and associates of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA),

MEETING on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our Association at the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of CAROA held in Bermuda on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019;

CONSIDERING the theme of “Strengthening the Role and Performance of the Ombudsman and Human Rights Institutions in the Caribbean and Latin America”;

RECOGNISING the support extended to us by the Ombudsman for Bermuda who hosted the conference and our gratitude to the following bodies who contributed to the success of the Conference: the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Government of Bermuda, International Ombudsman Institute, and Regional Governments;

NOTING our achievements over the last 21 years including in the expansion of our role and influence, membership and scope of operations in response to the new and emerging challenges we face in a rapidly changing world;

RESTATING the continued relevance and importance of our role towards securing quality public services, effective public accountability of governments, protection and promotion of human rights, and overall good governance,

RESOLVED to adopt the following declaration:

1. Reaffirm the fundamental principles of independence, fairness, transparency and impartiality that underpin and uphold the Ombudsman institution and other related oversight institutions in the conduct of their work in securing administrative justice and human rights for all;
2. In view of the changing realities of our region, embrace the associated and necessary expansion of our mandate, role and responsibilities, including in areas such as human rights, the environment, disaster mitigation and management towards ensuring that people of the region are guaranteed the highest quality of governance;
3. Continue to advance the professionalisation of the Ombudsman role and its functions in order to enhance the prospects of those who work and associate with it;
4. Strengthen the operational framework of our Association towards enhancing its resilience, effectiveness and responsiveness to the demands and challenges facing our members; and
5. Reinforce our engagement and collaboration with governments, civil society, regional bodies, other international partners and organisations and relevant stakeholders, for the enhancement of our role and operations.

Adopted this day on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Victoria Pearman  
Ombudsman for Bermuda  
President of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (2017 – 2019)