



Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize Concluding Statement

The Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize, met in New York on Thursday 22 September 2016, to discuss the status of efforts to reach a final resolution of Guatemala's claims on Belize's territory.

2. The meeting was convened by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the request of the Government of the Belize, and was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados.
3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize, Hon Wilfred Elrington, briefed the Committee on developments between the two countries since the Committee's teleconference, on 16 May 2016. The Committee was briefed in particular on recent developments along the Sarstoon River and the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala.
4. The Committee expressed its support for the efforts of Belize and Guatemala to move deliberately to fully implement the special arrangements of 2008 between the two countries to submit Guatemala's territorial, insular and maritime claims to the International Court of Justice.
5. The Committee acknowledged and commended the Organization of American States for its confidence-building and peace-building efforts between Belize and Guatemala, and urged the international community to continue to support these and other similar measures.
6. The Committee recalled the unequivocal and collective support of the Commonwealth for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Belize, as expressed consistently and most recently at the Committee's teleconference on 16 May 2016.
7. The Committee encouraged all concerned to work towards a peaceful and final resolution of the longstanding disagreements concerning the border between Belize and Guatemala in

accordance with the terms of the Agreements reached in 2005 and 2008.

8. The Committee further welcomed the agreement of both countries to work toward the design and development of a cooperation mechanism along the Sarstoon River.

9. The Committee also agreed to draw the conclusions of their meeting to the attention of all Commonwealth member governments.

New York, 22 September 2016.

The Committee was first established in 1977 and comprises the Foreign Ministers of Barbados, Canada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria and Tanzania. The Foreign Ministers of Belize and the United Kingdom are observers in the work of the Committee.

