

Joint Communiqué  
Ministers of Foreign Affairs of  
The Republic of Suriname and Barbados  
Belize City, 13 March, 2009

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname H.E. Lygia Kraag-Keteldijk and Barbados, Hon. Maxine McClean, meeting on 13 March, 2009 in Belize City, Belize, are pleased to announce the convening of the inaugural session of the Suriname-Barbados Joint Commission in Paramaribo, in April, 2009.

The Joint Commission is provided for in the "Agreement for the Deepening of Bilateral Cooperation between the Government of Barbados and the Government of the Republic of Suriname" as a mechanism to oversee its implementation, including by preparing a joint work programme to guide future cooperation between the countries.

The Ministers emphasized the deep bonds of friendship that exist between their countries and people. They also underlined the importance both states attach to the continued deepening of the regional integration movement which had served to bring Suriname and Barbados closer together.

The Ministers agreed that the convening of the Joint Commission meeting marks a new era in bilateral cooperation and will provide significant opportunities for deepened cooperation, in areas of priority interest to both countries, including trade and investment, agriculture, housing, environment, education and training, science and technology, marine affairs, culture and sports.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs  
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Hon. Maxine McClean  
Minister of Foreign  
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Barbados