

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

E S M O N D S T . C L A I R R E I D

Jamaican High Commission

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CAREER PROFILE

An International Relations and International Business Specialist with over 30 years experience in the multilateral diplomacy, trade and bilateral arenas. High performance senior executive with a proven track record in general management, leadership development, conflict resolution, negotiations, trade and investment promotion.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Strategic thinker
- Results oriented
- Excellent knowledge and understanding of the international trade environment
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficient in computer applications
- Varied proficiency in Spanish, French and German

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2019 – present **High Commissioner, Jamaican High Commission, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Dec. 2017 – March 2019 **Under Secretary, Foreign Trade Division (Acting)**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Achievements

- Provided strategic direction and leadership to the Division especially in light of a reduced staff complement and a demanding trade policy agenda
- Coordinate policy responses and strategic analysis of emerging trends in bilateral and multilateral trade with implications for Jamaica's national development objectives
- Acted as Officer-in-Charge of the Ministry as required, during periods of absence of the Permanent Secretary
- Provided policy advice and support to Executive Management
- Represented Jamaica in important trade and development engagements within the OACPS-EU framework, the Commonwealth, CARICOM, the WTO and the G20

2014-2017 **Senior Director - Foreign Trade Department,**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Achievements

- Provided strategic direction and leadership to the Department;
- Successfully resolved various cases involving Jamaican businesses and overseas entities engaged in commercial transactions;

- Provided support and advice to stakeholders regarding the benefits under existing bilateral and other international trade agreements;
- Contributed to the successful completion of Jamaica's Revised National Foreign Trade Policy;
- Provided guidance and support in staff professional development.

2010 - 2014

**Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative-
Embassy/Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN & Specialised Agencies in
Geneva, Switzerland**

Achievements

- Promoted Jamaica's interests in various WTO bodies especially in relation to advocacy for capacity building and special and differential treatment for Small, Vulnerable Economies;
- Monitored developments with regard to issues such as Aid for Trade and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building;
- Served as ACP Focal Point for Agriculture in the WTO;
- Represented Jamaica in meetings of various UN Bodies including UNCTAD, FAO, WIPO, WHO, ILO and UNCHR;
- Contributed extensively to Jamaica's successful coordination of GRULAC-WTO and the ACP Geneva Group, including the drafting and articulation of positions in relation to agriculture, trade facilitation and development;
- Contributed to the strengthening of relations between Jamaica and the Swiss Confederation as well as Austria, Italy, Greece and Turkey;
- Oversaw the management of the human and financial resources of the Permanent Mission;
- Provided leadership and support with regard to the relocation of the Chancery in 2012.

2007-2010

**Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Jamaica to Belgium & Mission of Jamaica to
the European Union, Brussels, Belgium**

Achievements

- Contributed to the strengthening of trade, economic and political engagement between the ACP Group of States and the European Union;
- Actively worked on trade aspects of ACP/EU relations including key commodities such as Bananas, Rum and Sugar;
- Supported the strengthening of the EU-LAC cooperation framework;
- Participated in the successful negotiation of the 10th EDF Programme;
- Contributed to the effective management of the human and financial resources of the Mission.

▪ **2005-2007**

**Assistant Director- Foreign Trade Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica**

Achievements

- Contributed to the successful negotiation and conclusion of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement in 2007;
- Actively engaged with domestic stakeholders including the private sector, in the preparation for trade negotiations and the pursuit of strategic objectives;
- Provided support in the implementation of specific aspects of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);
- Provided policy guidance to staff on various trade related issues including Services and non-tariff barriers to trade.

2002-2005 Foreign Service Officer, Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Achievements

- Actively contributed to bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.
- Contributed to active stakeholder engagement via the Jamaica Trade and Adjustment Team (JTAT) and other processes

1998-2002 Counsellor, Embassy of Jamaica to the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn/Berlin

Achievements

- Contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Jamaica and the Federal Republic of Germany including trade, tourism and investment promotion;
- Actively supported Jamaica's successful participation in the World Exposition (EXPO 2000) held in Hannover, Germany;
- Contributed to the successful relocation of the Embassy of Jamaica from Bonn to Berlin (2000);
- Served as Charge d'Affaires a.i. (2001-2002)

1994 -1998 Counsellor, Jamaican High Commission, London

Achievements

- Contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Jamaica and the United Kingdom
- Represented Jamaica in meetings of The Commonwealth, International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Coffee Organization (ICO) and International Cocoa Organization (ICCO);
- Contributed to strengthening of relations with the Jamaican Diaspora in the UK and other parts of Europe;
- Actively supported Jamaica's successful participation in the World Exposition (EXPO 1998) held in Lisbon, Portugal.

1990-1994 Foreign Service Officer, Political Department & Caribbean and Americas Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

Achievements

- Actively supported Jamaica's participation in the adoption of various UN initiatives such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Contributed to Jamaica's active engagement in the strengthening of the regional integration process at the level of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), inter alia.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING*

- 2016 Certificate - Public Sector Senior Leadership Development Programme, Management Institute for National Development (MIND), Kingston
- 2014 Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulations Skills Course, WTO, Geneva
- 1997 **MBA International Business - Schiller International University, London**

- 1994 Certificate-Advanced Professional Training Course in Development Diplomacy, Berlin
- 1993 Certificate of Participation-Training Course in Administrative French, Fort de France, Martinique
- 1991 Administrative Cadet – Office of the Services Commissions, Kingston
- 1990 **BSc. International Relations (Hons) - University of the West Indies (Mona).**

*Extensive participation in various training courses, seminars, workshops organized by the WTO, OAS, Commonwealth Secretariat, Management Institute for National Development (MIND) and the EU. The focus of these courses was on Supervisory Management, Trade and Environment, Negotiations, Agriculture, Trade in Services, Investment and Intellectual Property Rights.

BOARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS

2014- 2019: Member of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC)