



Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Jamaica's Candidate for
Secretary-General
of the Commonwealth 2022

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SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH JAMAICA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

Political Vision & Pursuits

Kamina Johnson Smith is passionate about the use of multilateralism as an effective tool for meaningful dialogue for promoting breakthrough to advance the attainment of our global development goals. She considers this critical for post pandemic recovery.

She is Jamaica's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, having been appointed initially in 2016 and re-appointed for a second term in September 2020. She was concurrently re-appointed Leader of Government Business in the Senate. Within Cabinet, she chairs the International Relations Sub-Committee, is a member of the Economic Growth and Job Creation Sub-Committee, and the National Security Council.

Ministerial Leadership

The Minister has consistently re-affirmed Jamaica's commitment to a principle-based foreign policy, aligned with the country's national development goals and its responsibility as a good global citizen. During her tenure, the Minister initiated discussions with the UK on post-Brexit trade arrangements, as Chair of the CARIFORUM group; served as President of the ACP Council of Ministers securing the mandate to negotiate a Post Cotonou Agreement with the EU and was a member of the Central Negotiating Group; chaired CARICOM's COFCOR (Foreign Ministers) and COTED (Trade & Economic Development) meetings; participated in G20 and G7 meetings, the latter being the first for a Jamaican Foreign Minister, and currently serves as ACP Co-ordinator within the WTO.

She oversaw the further expansion of the mandate of the Foreign Ministry to include promulgation of a National Foreign Trade Policy and Action Plan; creation of an Economic Diplomacy Programme; expansion of the Honorary Consular Network; promulgation of a Consular Manual to improve service delivery to citizens overseas; expansion of the number of countries with which Jamaica has established diplomatic relations; strengthening of relations

with both traditional and non-traditional bilateral partners; and furthering meaningful engagement with the Jamaican Diaspora, including tabling a National Diaspora Policy and establishing a Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and a Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council to deepen engagement.

Senatorial Achievements

As Leader of Government Business, she has led well over 100 debates across government portfolios, including the establishment of frameworks to curb the country's high crime rate; reforms to the justice system and the fight against human trafficking; and the strengthening of laws to address AML/CFT frameworks. She has served on Joint Select Committees reviewing laws related to violence against women and children; reform of the anti-corruption institutional framework in Jamaica; reform of Jamaica's Customs law; and the independence of Jamaica's central bank.

Ministerial Management Oversight

With the Ministry having relocated to a more functional multi-purpose building as its permanent home, the Minister has formally initiated a strategic review of the Foreign Ministry and the establishment of a Foreign Service Institute – both processes designed to ensure that the Ministry is better able to advance Jamaica's national and global development goals. In this the year of commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Jamaica's Independence, she has committed to give full effect to the Ministry's goal of 'Building Partnerships Across the World' .

Education and Other Professional Experience

The Minister is an Attorney-at-Law and worked in private practice for 17 years, including 13 years at Cable & Wireless Jamaica, in the capacities of Vice-President (Legal) and Corporate Secretary. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in French, as well as a Bachelor of Laws, from The University of the West Indies. She pursued graduate studies at the Norman Manley Law School where she was Valedictorian and the recipient of awards in Legal Remedies and Advocacy. She later attained a Master of Laws in Commercial Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Highly committed to volunteerism and public service, the Minister has served various philanthropic and professional organizations, including the Corporate Governance Committee of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ), the Factories Corporation of Jamaica and the Early Childhood Commission.

Minister Johnson Smith was born in St. Andrew, Jamaica, is married and speaks French as a foreign language.