



# National Assembly of Belize

## Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America

Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144

E-mail: [ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz](mailto:ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz)

[www.nationalassembly.gov.bz](http://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz)

---

Ref: NA/16/22 (23)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians**

The **Honourable Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives**, and **Ms. Birgit Gerstenberg, United Nations Resident Coordinator**, met earlier this week on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 in the Office of the Speaker, National Assembly Building, Belmopan. The purpose of the meeting was to receive from the UN Resident Coordinator over eighty (80) copies of the "Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians". This handbook was co-published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker and the UN Resident Coordinator discussed plans for an official session with parliamentarians on how the handbook can be used as a reference tool when looking at proposed legislation, motions and other works of parliament. In the coming months, the planning for the official meeting with each chamber of the National Assembly will be worked on with the presiding officers for meaningful engagement with all parliamentarians. The Speaker and the UN Resident Coordinator also discussed ideas on collaboration on other areas of work of mutual interest to the UN and the parliament based on the UN's Belize country assessment report and the open parliament objectives of the National Assembly.

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Tracey Hutchinson, Team Leader, Ms. Jay Coombs, Human Rights Advisor of the United Nations Office in Belize and Mrs. Clarita Pech, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Belize.

April 8, 2022

