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REF: NA/17/23 (23)

PRESS RELEASE

Parliamentarians attend the CPA UK Commonwealth Conference on Parliamentary Scrutiny and Oversight of National Security in Westminster, London, United Kingdom

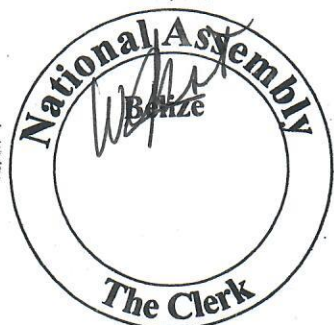
—**24th November 2023**—The Honourable Tracy Panton and Senator, the Honourable Bevinton Cal, comprise the Belize parliamentary delegation that attended the Commonwealth Conference on Parliamentary Scrutiny and Oversight of National Security in Westminster, London, United Kingdom. The conference was held from the **21st to 23rd November 2023**.

The conference was organized and funded by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK), with an aim to provide participants with the necessary knowledge to scrutinize and deliver oversight on national security in their legislatures, and to increase their knowledge on global trends and issues on national security. The conference gave the delegates the opportunity to widen their networks by creating an open communication line to work collaboratively with their peers and share good practices in holding the executive to account.

The three-day conference consisted of 12 sessions, where delegates were able to discuss topics such as: Navigating the Global Security Landscape: Exploring Emerging Trends and Challenges, Role of Parliament in Scrutinising and Overseeing National Security Laws, Strengthening Financial Oversight of the Security Sector, National Security Challenges and Solutions in Small Jurisdictions, Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict, Climate Change and National Security: Risks and Adaptation Strategies, Building Cyber Resilience: National Strategies and International Cooperation, among others.

Honourable Panton and Senator Cal also had the honour of being invited as guests to the UK Speaker's Private Gallery to witness the in person scrutinizing of the UK Prime Minister. The conference ended with participants providing a recap of the key takeaways from the three-day programme. The Parliamentarians present also had the opportunity to collectively develop an action plan for future collaboration, identifying areas of mutual interest and potential joint initiatives to strengthen national security within the Commonwealth.

The accommodation and travel expenses for Honourable Panton and Senator Cal were made possible through the support of the CPA UK Branch. Both Members are expected to return to Belize on the 25th November 2023.



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