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## Press Release

\*For Immediate Release\*

Date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Directors, staff, volunteers and member organizations of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) warmly congratulate Dr. Carissa Etienne on her appointment as Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Longstanding HCC member, Priscilla Prevost, Health Coordinator of the Eastern Caribbean Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, last month congratulated newly installed PAHO Director and fellow Dominican on the occasion of Dr. Etienne's inauguration as Director of PAHO/WHO. In doing so, Ms. Prevost, who attended the inauguration in Washington DC as the official representative of the HCC presented Dr. Etienne with a copy of the HCC "Civil Society Strategic Plan of Action for Prevention & Control of NCDs for countries of the Caribbean Community, 2012- 2016" and delivered a personal congratulatory note from President of HCC, Professor Trevor Hassell to Dr. Etienne on behalf of the HCC.

In June 2012, the HCC entered into Official Relations with PAHO and have as our joint mandate the strengthening of civil society capacity to respond to priority areas in chronic non-communicable disease (NCD) programming including anti-tobacco activities, cervical cancer advocacy and health initiatives utilizing mobile phones (mhealth). The HCC looks forward to working closely with PAHO in the region as the key link between PAHO and a strong, unified civil society that will work collaboratively to advance the NCD agenda.

The HCC is particularly proud of Dr. Etienne's appointment given her Caribbean heritage. In her native Dominica, Dr. Etienne served as Coordinator of the National AIDS Program, Disaster Coordinator for the Ministry of Health, Chair of the National Advisory Council for HIV/AIDS, and Director of Primary Health Care Services, among others, before assuming several international appointments.

The new Director pledged to work in close partnership with PAHO member countries to extend the benefits of health progress to all people in the Americas. Dr. Etienne's highest priority will be accelerating progress toward universal access to quality health care.

Professor Trevor Hassell

**President, Healthy Caribbean Coalition,**

on behalf of the Directors and members of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition

**For Additional Information, please contact**

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*The HCC was formed in 2008. It is a live network of non-governmental and civil society organisations from across the Caribbean Region that has a remit to address non-communicable disease (NCDs).*