

GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL (GJDC) FAQ

1. What is the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) will be the successor body to the Diaspora Advisory Board which comprises members from only the traditional Diaspora destinations (Canada, UK and USA). It is a more inclusive and expansive Diaspora engagement mechanism and will serve as a major tool for Diaspora outreach across the world.

2. Why was it created?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council evolved out of discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, as well as the previous Diaspora Advisory Board Members, who acknowledged the need for further expansion and inclusiveness of the engagement processes within and across the Diaspora.

3. What is the role and function of the Council?

The Council will serve as an advisory and consultative body which can explore pathways for increased engagement and partnership with the Diaspora on matters of interest to both the Diaspora and Jamaica.

4. What is the significance of the Diaspora's involvement in the Council?

The Council represents another avenue for the Diaspora to be involved in Jamaica's development at the policy level across several sectors, in addition to addressing matters impacting the Diaspora where they reside. This will lead to greater synergies between the Diaspora and Jamaica.

5. What is the composition of the Council?

Membership of the Council will consist of 28 Jamaicans (14 elected and 14 appointed) drawn from Africa; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East; the Caribbean; Latin America, Europe, United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Council will also include individuals drawn from the Diaspora and Jamaica with expertise in the following sectors: Education; Health and Wellness; Arts, Sports and Culture; Citizen Security; Development Issues; Faith-based Community; Commerce; Agriculture and Environment.

6. Is there an election process for membership to the Council?

Yes, there is an election process for the elected Council members drawn from Canada, the UK and the USA. Elections to the GJDC will take place in the during the period 23rd November – 16th December 2022.

7. Who will oversee and manage the election process?

Electoral Committees will be formed in each location to coordinate and manage the logistics for the election of the Council Members from Canada, the UK and the USA.

8. Can I sit on an Electoral Committee if I want to be elected/selected as a member for the Council?

Individuals who wish to be selected as a member of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council are not eligible to sit on Electoral Committees.

9. Why do I need to register to vote in the elections?

It is important that we have a more transparent and accountable mechanism. Jamaicans in the Diaspora will be required to register to vote online during the period 18th October to 16th November in order to vote in their respective regions. You may visit mfaft.gov.jm for more information.

10. How long will the data collected be stored?

The information collected during registration process will be held up to the end of the elections process.

11. How do I nominate a candidate for election to the Council?

Nominators will be required to submit an electronic Nominations Declaration Form of the person (s) they would like to nominate for election to the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. Five individuals will be required to support each nomination. You may visit mfaft.gov.jm for more information.

12. Who is eligible to vote in the elections for membership of the Council?

In order to vote in the elections individuals must be Jamaican or of Jamaican heritage, be at least 18 years of age and reside in Canada, the USA and UK.

13. What method will be used to cast votes?

Change the response to read: Votes will be cast electronically via an online platform. Persons are encouraged to register online to vote between 18th October- 16th November 2022.

Elections will commence on 23rd November- 16th December 2022. Paper ballots will be permitted on the first day of the elections only in the designated locations. Please visit mfaft.gov.jm for more information.

14. How long is the term of office for Council Members?

The term of office will be three years. A longer term will better facilitate the achievement of agreed deliverables during the tenure of members.

15. How will leadership of the Council be managed?

Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs will serve as Chair of the Council. The Minister may appoint a Vice Chair.

16. How frequently will the Council meet?

The Council will meet once per quarter, including via video conference. Additional meetings may be convened, as deemed necessary.

17. Are young people eligible to sit on the Council?

Seven youth leaders between the ages of 18-35 years are eligible for membership to the Council as their participation is critical to the sustainability of the Diaspora Movement. Youth members will be drawn from the leadership of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GDJDYC) and will be appointed for this first term of office. Two persons will be drawn from Canada and the UK respectively, and three from the USA.

18. Are members of the Council compensated?

Members of the Council (whether elected or appointed) will serve on a voluntary basis and are therefore not compensated.

19. Is the Council an arm of the Government of Jamaica?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council is not an arm of the Government of Jamaica. Members serve in the capacity of members of the Diaspora. Views expressed by Council Members therefore, are not deemed to be representative of the views of the Government.

20. Where do I find more information on the GJDC election process?

You may visit mfaft.gov.jm for more information on the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the election process.