

JAMAICA

Jamaica has made significant progress since the meeting of the Group of Experts for the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption held in February of this year.

In March 2003, Jamaica officially launched the Corruption Prevention Commission (Commission). The five member Commission is chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice Chester Off. Those public servants that earn J\$2 million or more and certain other officials listed in the schedules to the Corruption Prevention Regulations, including all customs officers and police officers, had until April 30, 2003 to submit statutory declarations.

Public servants made great effort to meet the deadline and the Commission is in the process of reviewing the declarations: first to ensure that all public officers required under the Regulations to file declarations have done so; and second to determine whether further information is needed or investigations required.

Jamaica has also established an Inter-Departmental Committee to monitor Jamaica's compliance with the OAS Convention. The government bodies involved in preventing and detecting corruption are represented on this Committee. The Committee also invites non-governmental organizations that monitor compliance of anti-corruption initiatives to attend meetings of the Committee, where appropriate. Jamaica formed this Committee in its continued effort to ensure transparency and continued dialogue in the fight against corruption.

In addition, Jamaica has issued press releases in relation to the meetings of the Group of Experts for the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to ensure public awareness about the efforts being made in the hemisphere to fight corruption.