MEDIA RELEASE
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Trinidad and Tobago
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Caribbean Regulators Discuss Regional Cooperation on Virtual Assets at TTSEC's 2nd Dialogue Series

Port of Spain---- The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) successfully hosted the second instalment of its 2026 Industry Dialogue Series under the theme **"Caribbean Regulatory Cooperation in Virtual Assets and Securities Markets,"** bringing together securities regulators and financial sector leaders from across the Caribbean to discuss the evolving regulation of virtual assets.

The virtual forum provided an opportunity for over seventy (70) regional regulators from eleven (11) jurisdictions to exchange experiences, share practical insights and explore opportunities for greater collaboration as jurisdictions continue developing regulatory frameworks for Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs). The discussions follow the proclamation of Trinidad and Tobago's virtual assets legislation last December.

In her opening remarks, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at the TTSEC, **Ms. Lystra Lucillio**, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation.

> "Virtual assets operate beyond national borders, making collaboration among regulators more important than ever. By sharing our experiences, strengthening partnerships and learning from one another, we can build regulatory frameworks that protect investors, preserve market integrity and support responsible innovation throughout the Caribbean."

The Dialogue featured a keynote presentation by the **Financial Services Commission of Jamaica**, which examined emerging international regulatory developments, evolving global standards and the importance of coordinated supervisory approaches. **Ms Karene Blair,** Senior Director, Securities Supervisory Division at the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Jamaica, underscored the need for a robust licensing regime supported by strong AML/CFT controls, ongoing stakeholder consultation and inter-agency cooperation.

Ms. Blair also stressed that, given the borderless nature of virtual assets, continued regional collaboration among Caribbean regulators is essential to strengthening supervisory effectiveness, promoting investor protection and supporting the development of consistent regulatory standards across the region.

Representatives from the Securities Commission of The Bahamas, Bermuda Monetary Authority, Barbados Financial Services Commission, Belize Financial Services Commission, Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, Financial Services Commission Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services

Commission, and the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission (ECSRC) also participated, sharing updates on legislative developments, supervisory experiences and emerging regulatory priorities.

Panel discussions focused on cross-border supervisory cooperation, anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards, investor protection, market integrity, stablecoins, decentralised finance (DeFi), cybersecurity and the regulatory implications of emerging technologies.

Participants acknowledged that while Caribbean jurisdictions are progressing at different stages of implementation, they face many common challenges, including rapidly evolving technologies, limited resources and the increasingly borderless nature of digital financial services. The discussions reinforced the importance of continued collaboration, information sharing and capacity building across the region.

Closing the session, **Ms. Rosalind King**, Director, Compliance and Inspection at the TTSEC, encouraged participating jurisdictions to continue strengthening the relationships established through the Dialogue Series. The Dialogue concluded with strong consensus on the need for greater regional cooperation to effectively regulate Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) and address the evolving risks associated with virtual assets in the region. Participants agreed that strengthening supervisory frameworks, enhancing cross-border collaboration and aligning regulatory approaches with international standards are essential to promoting responsible innovation, protecting investors and preserving the integrity of Caribbean financial markets.

The Industry Dialogue Series reflects the TTSEC's ongoing commitment to advancing regional regulatory cooperation. As the Commission prepares to assume the Chairmanship of the Caribbean Group of Securities Regulators (CGSR) in 2027, it remains committed to fostering collaboration, facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting high standards of regulation throughout the Caribbean.

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About the TTSEC: The TTSEC is governed by the Securities Act Chapter 83:02 and is responsible for overseeing the securities market and ensuring that fairness, equity and transparency remain common values in the marketplace. Our vision is to be an innovative regulator of a thriving securities market, enabling economic development for the benefit of all.

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