



2023 Caribbean Sub-regional Meetings

- **Sub-regional Advisory Women's Committee (SUBWOC) meeting – May 15**
Co-chairs– Sis Tifonie Powell-Williams and Sis Jillian Bartlett (online)
- **Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) meeting – May 16 and 17**
Co-Chairs – Sis Tifonie Powell-Williams (JCSA) and Bro Steve Joseph (DPSU)

Venues

SUBWOC: Conference Room, [Cortland Hotel](#), Upper Gambles, Antigua

SUBRAC: Union Hall, Antigua & Barbuda Workers' Union ABWU), Freedom Hall, Newgate Street, St John's

Times: 9:15 am to 5:45 pm

SUBWOCs and SUBRACs are held in all PSI's sub-regions. They are **advisory bodies** to the Regional Executive Committees (RECs).

While many of you customarily use the word “conference” to describe the activities, these are in fact the first layer of PSI's annual constitutional meetings.

PSI aims to ensure that the meetings are as interactive and engaging as possible, providing opportunities for in-depth discussion (both in and outside of meeting hours) on key issues, using a **rights-based perspective**.

We respect and follow the usual and accepted meeting protocols and practices. In the Caribbean we also work hard to ensure that the sub-regional meetings are part of our capacity building efforts. We have designed the content and format of the meetings to assist attendees and their organisations to not only exchange information and strategies, but also to think forward and use available tools **to win for workers and their families**.

Using the examples of actions taken by affiliates, successes and lessons learnt, affiliates will be able to draw on the various tools and resources provided through PSI and allies to deal with the various issues that affiliates are facing. Critical in all this is the need to **build and strengthen practical solidarity**.

The meetings also have an eye on the horizon, helping affiliates to practise foresight. We seek to encourage affiliates to use various methods to think ahead, to anticipate. By doing so, affiliates can shape, create and develop plausible and different futures. Foresight produces and uses information that helps organisations anticipate change.

PaperSmart policy and care for the environment

We use **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** as much as possible. We will send all documents to personal email addresses as provided by participants. We also copy them to your organisations' official email addresses. All our documents have hyperlinks to resources and tools. They are therefore best accessed when reading online.

We *highly recommend* that you **travel with your laptops and tablets**. While it is possible to use your smartphone to read the documents and access information, the small screen size is a drawback. Spreadsheets, presentations, and documents are difficult to view properly, let alone edit, on smartphones.

The background/supporting documents, and the annotated agendas together with the references contained in them are valuable sources of additional information. We recommend that you preserve them as part of your trade union/activist library.

PSI also makes efforts to care for the environment. As such we avoid the use of plastic bottles (bottled water) and other single use plastics.

Antigua and Barbuda banned single-use plastic bags in 2016, becoming the first country in the region to do so. The country has also banned polystyrene and styrofoam products. Please check on recycling options for bottles and plastics.

Managing your documents

If you have not already done so, PSI recommends that you download and use the **free Adobe Acrobat Reader DC**. It is the free global standard for reliably viewing, printing, editing and commenting on PDF documents.

It is the only PDF viewer that can open and interact with all types of PDF content, including forms and multimedia. Click or tap <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> to download and install.

We also recommend that you download and use **Evernote** – <https://evernote.com/>. It is an excellent productivity tool that allows you to save documents, notes, everything. The free plan allows you to sync two devices.

PSI's key policy documents

- PSI Constitution
- Affiliate resolutions at the 2017 Congress
- 2018 to 2022 Programme of Action (PoA)

[View, download and read](#) these documents.

PSI Structure – an overview

PSI is a global organisation with affiliates grouped in 4 broad regions:

- Africa & Arab countries – Africa-Arab Regional Organisation (AFRO)
- Asia-Pacific – Asia Pacific Regional Organisation (APRO)
- Europe - the European Public Service Union (EPSU)
- Inter-America - Inter-American Regional Organisation (IAMRO)

Every five years there is a World Congress. There is an Executive Board (EB) and a World Women's Executive Committee (WOC) that meets twice per year and a Steering Committee that meets once per year. Young worker representatives for each region also serve on the Executive Board.

The Caribbean is one of 7 sub-regions in the Inter-America region (IA). These sub-regions are:

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| ▪ Andean countries | ▪ Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico |
| ▪ Brazil | ▪ Southern Cone |
| ▪ Caribbean | ▪ United States of America |
| ▪ Canada | |

The sub-regions each elect representatives – at least 50% women – who together form the Regional Executive Committee. There is a REC for each region: AFREC, APREC, EPSU Executive, IAMREC

In the first two years after Congress, the regional conferences are held: AFRECON, APRECON, EPSU, IAMRECON. The next IAMRECON is tentatively scheduled for 2024.

Congress 2023 - People Over Profit in a World of Multiple Crises

All information is available on the [Congress website](#) in PSI's 6 official languages.

Congress will be in Geneva from Thursday **October 12 to Wednesday October 18**.

Affiliates will debate key issues including a number of **resolutions**:

1. 2024 to 2028 Programme of Action (PoA) – a resolution from the Executive Board
2. Amendments to the Constitution – a resolution from the Executive Board
3. Affiliate Resolutions

There will also be **sectoral and thematic panels and workshops**. There will also be elections for **new PSI president and general secretary**.

As these sub-regional meetings immediately precede congress, much of our time will be devoted to discussing preparations for and involvement in Congress 2023.

On **May 13**, PSI head office will circulate to all affiliates the resolutions referred to above. This provides the ideal opportunity for affiliates to **review the resolutions, and hear from IAMREC and EB representatives**. Affiliates may wish to propose amendments. **Amendments must be submitted before June 13**.

On Day 2 of the SUBRAC. We will have detailed discussion on the resolutions.

April 30, 2023