

PSI sub-regional office for the Caribbean
Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) meeting

March 9 – 10, 2013
The Grenadian by Rex Resorts
9:15 am

Introduction

The Caribbean Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) meets annually. The SUBRAC is a PSI advisory body comprising representatives from affiliates who “facilitate the consultation process at sub-regional level on policy issues and work programme implementation, and who participate in exchange and dialogue on issues relevant to PSI affiliates.”

One of the key aims of the meeting is to **Inform, Educate and Motivate** committee members.

Working methods

The meeting will include presentations, small group activities, as well as plenary discussions.

The sub-regional Office will provide committee members with a working document as well as briefing and background documents for the various agenda items. The Sub-regional Office will send most documents by e-mail prior to the meeting. There will be no hard copies of documents previously sent by e-mail.

Any other documents, not previously sent, will be provided in both electronic format and hard copy at the meeting. The hotel provides wireless access and as far as is possible, we encourage committee members to use the technology to derive the maximum benefit from the deliberations and discussions.

The Titulars, Bro Wayne Jones and Sis Jillian Bartlett, co-chair the meeting.

Other activities

We are awaiting confirmation from the Grenada Public Workers’ Union on a public activity, radio or TV programme or similar event.



Revised Draft Agenda

March 9 and 10, 2013

1. **Call to order, welcome and introductions**
 - Welcome from Titular members, Adoption of agenda, announcements, introductions
2. **Minutes of the 2012 meeting**
 - Adoption and confirmation of minutes
3. **Matters arising (items not otherwise covered in the agenda)**
4. **Working for the Alternative: Implementing the Congress mandate**
 - *Titular members will outline the general plan for this year's meeting, highlighting the methods that will be used and the expected outcomes.*
 - *We invite the committee to review the consultation document, flagging key issues and concerns. We also invite SUBRAC to provide advice and guidance in identifying priorities and how we can be more focussed about activities in 2013/14, taking into consideration the realities facing affiliates.*
5. **Implementing the Congress mandate – how should we respond?**
 - a) Financing public services
 - High debt and low growth in Caribbean countries
 - Fair taxation
 - Fighting privatisation (outsourcing, PPPs, precarious work)
 - b) Social dialogue – influencing policy
 - Collective bargaining
 - Consultations with regional and international financial institutions
 - Caribbean integration
 - Climate change and SIDS
 - c) Defending human and trade union rights
 - Social justice
 - Equality and equity issues
 - d) Trade union renewal
 - Trade union self-reform
 - Growth strategies

What are the political, economic and social factors that are influencing this ever-shifting landscape? Why do some governments see unions as the enemy?



In this agenda item, the intention is to take a step back. We want to look at “the big picture”. We invite committee members to do this in the context of 4 main themes.

There will be presentations on each of the themes and we invite committee members to work in various small groups to try to find answers to these and other questions. Committee members will also have the opportunity to share the successful strategies that they have used, especially those used at the bargaining table.

6. Report from SUBWOC meeting

7. Items from partner organisations (the Global Unions, ILO, etc)

- ITUC/TUCA campaigns and activities
- 2013 International Labour Conference

We invite the committee to note carefully the various campaigns and activities of PSI’s partner organisations. We also invite SUBRAC is also invited to discuss the sub-region’s views and responses and agree on positions and recommendations.

8. Taking action. Work priorities and strategies

This item examines the main ideas and points from the small group discussions, plenaries and specific (sub)sector issues. We invite the committee to use this information to clearly identify priorities and to construct strategies to take affiliates forward.

9. Venue for 2014 Sub-regional meetings

10. End of meeting



Revised Draft schedule – March 9, 2013

9:00 am	NETWORKING
9:30 am	Call to order, welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Welcome from Titular members, Adoption of agenda, announcements, introductions Minutes of the 2012 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Adoption and confirmation of minutes Matters arising (items not otherwise covered in the agenda)
10:30 am	NETWORKING BREAK
10:50 am	Matters arising (cont'd) Working for the Alternative: Implementing the Congress mandate <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Titular members will outline the general plan for this year's meeting, highlighting the methods that we will use and the expected outcomes.</i>– <i>We invite the committee to review the consultation document, flagging key issues and concerns. We also invite SUBRAC to provide advice and guidance in identifying priorities and how we can be more focussed about activities in 2013/14, taking into consideration the realities facing affiliates.</i>
1:00 pm	LUNCH
2:20 pm	Implementing the Congress mandate – how should we respond? a) Financing public services <ul style="list-style-type: none">o High debt and low growth in Caribbean countrieso Fair taxationo Fighting privatisation (outsourcing, PPPs, precarious work, etc) b) Social dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Collective bargainingo Consultations with regional and international financial institutionso Caribbean integrationo Climate change and SIDS <i>What are the political, economic and social factors that are influencing this ever-shifting landscape? Why do some governments see unions as the enemy? In this agenda item, the intention is to take a step back. We want to look at “the big picture”. We invite committee members to do this in the context of 4 main themes.</i> <i>There will be presentations on each of the themes and we invite committee members to work in various small groups to try to find answers to these and other questions. Committee members will also have the opportunity to share the successful strategies that they have used, especially those used at the bargaining table.</i> <i>[Liquid break is available. Please take a break at your convenience]</i>
4:30 pm	Report backs from group discussions
5:15 pm	END OF DAY 1



Revised Draft schedule – March 10, 2013

9:00 am	NETWORKING
9:30 am	<p>Implementing the Congress mandate – how should we respond? (cont'd)</p> <p>c) Defending human and trade union rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social justice ○ Equality and equity issues <p>d) Trade union renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trade union self-reform ○ Growth strategies <p><i>We invite Committee members to continue the small group discussions. In this session, we invite committee members to focus especially on how affiliates can better respond to the current – and future – environments. The session provides an opportunity for affiliates to look inward and evaluate their actions and decisions, especially at the bargaining table.</i></p>
10:30 am	NETWORKING BREAK
10:50 am	Implementing the Congress mandate – how should we respond? (cont'd)
12:00 noon	<p>Reports backs from group discussions</p> <p>Report from SUBWOC meeting</p>
1:00 pm	LUNCH
2:20 pm	<p>Items from partner organisations (the Global Unions, ILO, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ITUC/TUCA campaigns and activities – 2013 International Labour Conference (ILC)
3:30 pm	<p><i>We invite the committee to note carefully the various campaigns and activities of PSI's partner organisations. We also invite SUBRAC to discuss the sub-region's views and responses and agree on positions and recommendations.</i></p> <p>Taking action. Work priorities and strategies 2013 to 2014</p> <p><i>This item examines the main ideas and points from the small group discussions, and plenaries. We invite the committee to use this information to clearly identify priorities and to construct strategies to take affiliates forward.</i></p> <p><i>[Liquid break is available. Please take a break at your convenience]</i></p>
5:00 pm	<p>Venue for 2014 Sub-regional meetings</p> <p>Conclusions</p>
5:15 pm	END OF MEETING

