



Government of Dominica

## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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Financial Centre  
Roseau  
Commonwealth of Dominica

April 11, 2012

President of the Executive Committee  
c/o Legal Counsel  
Pan American Health Organization  
525 Twenty-third Street NW  
Washington DC. 20037  
United States of America

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica wishes to submit the nomination of prominent Dominican national, Dr. Carissa Etienne as a candidate for the post of Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the period 2013 – 2017 at elections to be held during the 28<sup>th</sup> Pan American Sanitary Conference, in September 2012.

Dr. Etienne is a highly qualified expert who has had a long and distinguished career in the field of medicine and public health at the national, sub regional, regional and international levels. She graduated with a degree in Medicine from the University of the West Indies in 1976 and later pursued post graduate studies in "Community Health in developing countries with a concentration on Health care management" at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

At the national level Dr. Etienne served as a General Practitioner, Medical Officer of Community Medicine, Medical Director of the Princess Margaret Hospital, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Coordinator of the National AIDS program and Associate Professor at the Ross University School of Medicine. She has therefore acquired extensive knowledge and experience in various aspects of health management, health systems, health care delivery, management of essential drugs, human resource management for primary health care and the integration of health programs and health systems.

One of Dr. Etienne's greatest achievements is the development of Dominica's primary health care system, which became a model for the Caribbean region.

Dr. Etienne has a sound knowledge of the inter-American system and the varied health systems in the sub region, having served as Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for a period of five years, from June 2003. In that capacity, she directed the Organization's programs for Health Surveillance and Disease Management, Family and Community Health, Sustainable Development and Environmental Health and Technology and Health Services Delivery and her performance from all reports has been outstanding.

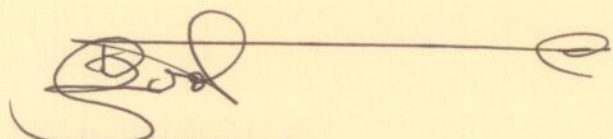
Additionally Dr. Etienne has served with distinction as Assistant Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) from February 1, 2008, a position which has provided her the opportunity to gain extensive experience in international health and understanding of the United Nations Systems. As Assistant Director General of WHO, Dr. Etienne has been able to substantially influence universal access to health care, innovative approaches to human resources development for primary health care, health promotion and social participation.

Our candidate's qualifications, experience, leadership skills, negotiating and advocacy skills and excellent interpersonal relations make her a suitable candidate for the position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

I have the honour to provide Dr. Etienne's curriculum vitae herewith.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica attaches great importance to the activities of the Pan American Health Organization, the principal hemispheric health agency serving the Americas and providing Member States with improved health care. We firmly believe that Dominica's nominee, Dr. Carissa Etienne, will be an invaluable asset to the Organization and to the sub region.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Skerrit', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

**ROOSEVELT SKERRIT  
PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**