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Central Bank Engages the Confederation of the Regional Business Chambers in Continued Stakeholder Conversations

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad. July 31, 2025—As part of ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts, the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago today, July 31, hosted a meeting with key representatives of the Confederation of the Regional Business Chambers. This meeting forms part of Governor Larry Howai’s continued commitment to active partnership with the business community since assuming office in June.

Governor Howai was accompanied by the Deputy Governor and other members of the management at the Bank. The Governor underscored the value of building and nurturing relationships with groups such as the Confederation as their insights and feedback will help inform decisions that will facilitate thriving businesses and a flourishing economy. Governor Howai acknowledged that the Confederation is a rich and valued source of information for the Central Bank for businesses across the 13 Chambers.

Foreign exchange, including supply-demand dynamics and the outlook for improving access and efficiency, was a central topic of discussion during the meeting. Governor Howai discussed the domestic economy, foreign exchange reserves and foreign exchange market transactions. The potential benefits to small and medium enterprises of a fast payments system such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) that is being considered for implementation was also discussed.

The Confederation representatives expressed appreciation for the opportunity to partner, collaborate and share with the Bank in improving our nation’s competitiveness. They conveyed the major challenges faced by small and medium enterprises including access to foreign exchange and bank financing, registration of their businesses, banking fees and charges, and digital foreign exchange restrictions. The Confederation proposed solutions for the Bank’s consideration and committed to engaging further with the Bank in the future.

“The Central Bank is deeply committed to working alongside our partners in the business sector to strengthen economic confidence and resilience,” said Governor Howai. “These engagements are considered critical to the Bank; we are optimistic that by putting our heads together, we can find novel ways forward, even in a challenging environment.”

This meeting is the latest instalment in a series of planned focused stakeholder engagements aimed at ensuring transparency, responsiveness, and inclusive decision-making across the financial sector and broader economy.

Representing the Confederation of the Regional Business Chambers were Vivek Charran (Chairman), Angenie Jairam and Jai Leladharsingh.

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Photo: Central Bank Governor and members of Management in discussion with representatives of the Confederation of the Regional Business Chambers at a meeting held on July 31, 2025.