GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATEMENT

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Remarks by Premier Wheatley at the Overseas Territories Attorneys General Conference

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Madam Chair, Honourable Attorneys General, distinguished delegates, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Virgin Islands, it is my privilege to welcome you to our shores for this year's Overseas Territories Attorneys General Conference. We are honoured to host you, and we extend a particularly warm Virgin Islands welcome to those who have travelled to be with us in person. We hope that, even with the important work ahead, your visit will not be *all* business. You are, after all, in one of the premier tourist destinations in the hemisphere, and we trust you will find a moment to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of these islands.

This year's theme - *Stronger Together: Common Challenges, Collaborative Solutions* - captures the spirit of what brings us here. The agenda over the next two days reflects the shared issues that shape our collective governance landscape: human rights, transnational crime, illicit finance and sanctions, disaster preparedness and recovery, the protection of maritime boundaries, sustainable development, the use of technology in crime and in delivering justice, and more. These are not theoretical concerns. They are real, urgent matters that affect the stability, security, and prosperity of each of our jurisdictions.

Conferences such as this one remind us that while our challenges may be similar and our objectives aligned, our contexts are not identical. One-size-fits-all responses rarely succeed. What does succeed is the willingness to learn from one another - to understand the peculiarities, sensitivities, and constitutional arrangements that define each Territory. It is through this exchange of culture, experience, and expertise that we craft solutions that are both effective and respectful of local realities.

This is the essence of being *stronger together*. When we collaborate, we elevate the quality of our legal systems. When we share best practices, we strengthen our collective resilience. When we align standards where appropriate, we make coordination across jurisdictions more seamless. And when we face common

threats with a united front, we enhance the security and credibility of all our Territories.

I wish each of you a productive and engaging conference. The Virgin Islands looks forward to the insights that will emerge from your deliberations, and to the continued partnerships that will ensure we remain, in every sense, stronger together.

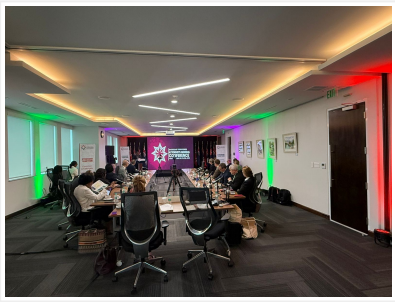
Thank you, and please enjoy your time in the Virgin Islands.

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