

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Earth Day

Friday, April 22, 2022

9:00 a.m.

The Shore Club,
Turks and Caicos Islands

**Only One Earth
Invest in Our Planet**

Welcome



Thank you for joining us for the first Turks and Caicos Islands Climate Change Summit. This summit is meant to bring together the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and private sector partners, along with regional and international stakeholders, in order to develop and agree on a way forward in addressing climate change in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Together, we seek to build resilience through innovation and creativity, bridging the gap between science and action.

It is through this summit that we will develop a road map to climate change through the launch of, and commitment to, our Climate Charter. The summit will also provide a platform for public education on climate change and how each of us can make a difference.





Today we celebrate the Turks and Caicos Islands first ever Climate Change Summit under the Theme, “Only One Earth; Invest in Our Planet”.

The Turks and Caicos Islands like many Small Island Developing States (SIDs) face unique challenges brought about by Climate Change, these include but are not limited to extreme weather events, coral reef bleaching, and loss of vital biodiversity. These threaten our lives and livelihood. In the good times we rely heavily on our natural environment for our economic wellbeing while in the bad times the power of mother nature can overwhelm us as a nation.

While the TCI along with other SIDs contribute but a rounding error of global carbon emissions, we are on the frontline of climate change and the most vulnerable to its impacts. Our ability to cope with these challenges are exacerbated by our small geographic size, isolation, and exposure. It is therefore imperative that we build resilience against these impacts. Over the next century those small islands that understand that relying on resilience built before the event, is a rather better investment than relying on recovery after the event, will have enjoyed - and continue to enjoy - a vibrant future. TCI must be one of those.

This summit earmarks the finalisation of the Turks and Caicos Islands Climate Charter commitment which is a roadmap on how the TCI will tackle climate change holistically and innovatively. Small as we are, we recognise that we all only have one habitable planet and it is our duty to do everything within our power to preserve it for future generations. We look forward to a stimulating discussion as we create solutions today with tomorrow in mind.

***H.E. Nigel Dakin,
Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands***



As the world moves towards an ever increasing technologically based existence, the need for innovation rises drastically to be the leading example and provider of better production of these newer technologies. Its development however, comes at a cost to the carbon footprint left behind. All around the world economies have accepted the dismal effects of climate change and governments are now feverishly working to combat its results on the planet.

World leaders are now aware of the effects of cleaner, renewable energy and are aligning their countries to utilise revised production models to reach a higher state of green. The economic correlation of “going green and sustainable growth struck the world by storm. Governments are now ensuring a prosperous future for its citizens by striving to achieve a decarbonized existence. But this will require collaboration, coordination and a substantial flow of investment to rapidly transform existing industries into a series of complex, interconnected emissions-free systems.

If left unchecked the economic cost of climatic change could spiral out of control and the resources to manage it will be an unattainable dream. This then makes prioritizing the achievement of obtaining minimal emissions to be not just an inspirational goal, but an economic imperative.

***Hon. Charles Washington Misick,
Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands***



The Turks and Caicos Islands: we are a small island state composed of low-lying islands and pristine coastlines with crystalline waters, beautiful coral reefs and gorgeous green mangroves. Our country hosts hundreds of thousands of guests each year who visit these ‘Beautiful by Nature’ islands to experience our natural wonders first hand. It goes without saying that our way of life is intrinsically tied to the natural environment around us and as such, we stand to lose much of what we hold dear as the effects of climate change continue to impact the world.

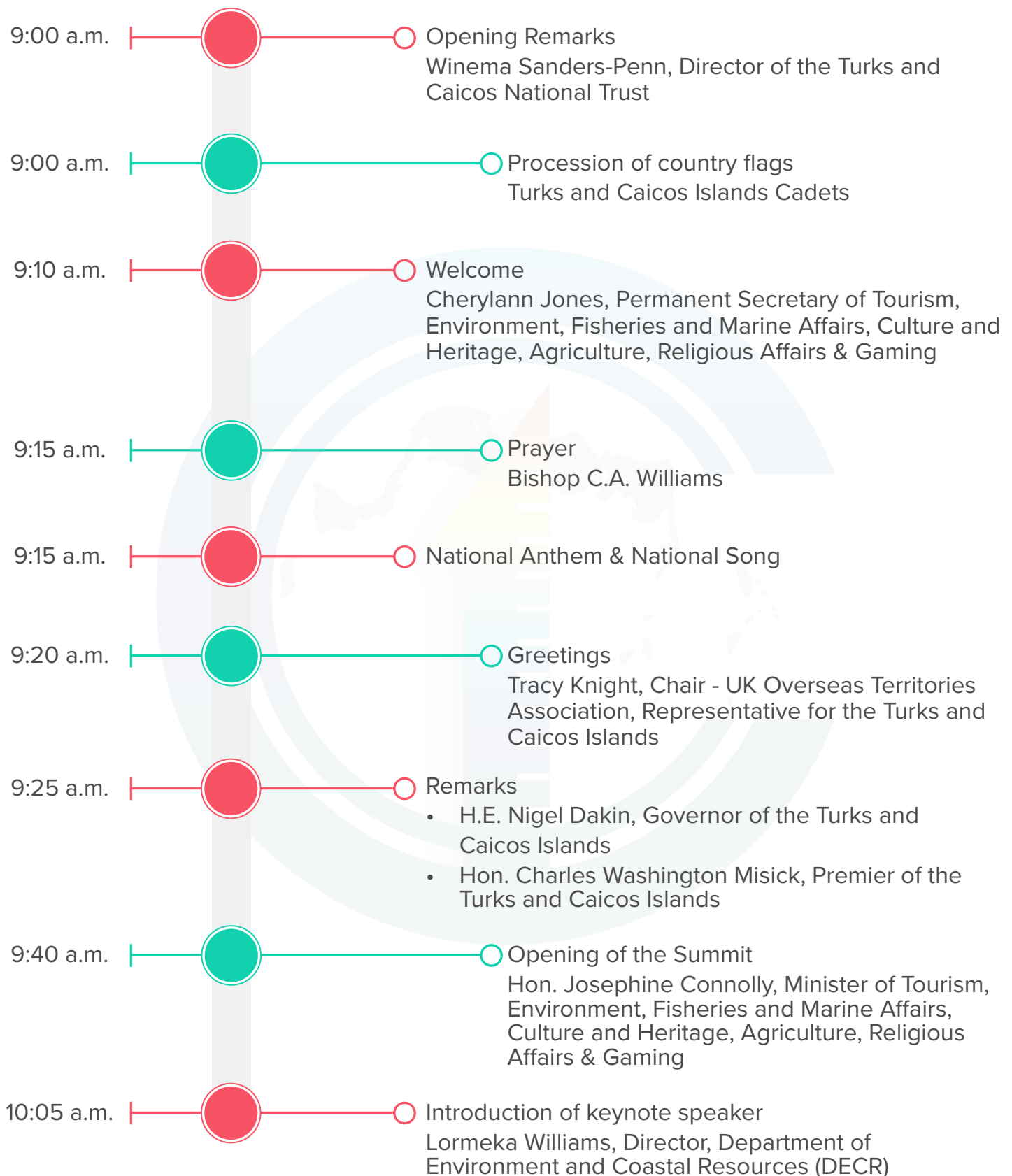
Our livelihoods, ecosystems and biodiversity are under threat by rising sea levels, changes in temperature, ocean acidification and increased frequency and intensity of severe weather systems. While we, as a country, have taken major steps toward tackling the impacts of climate change, we must strive to continue our efforts and do even more.

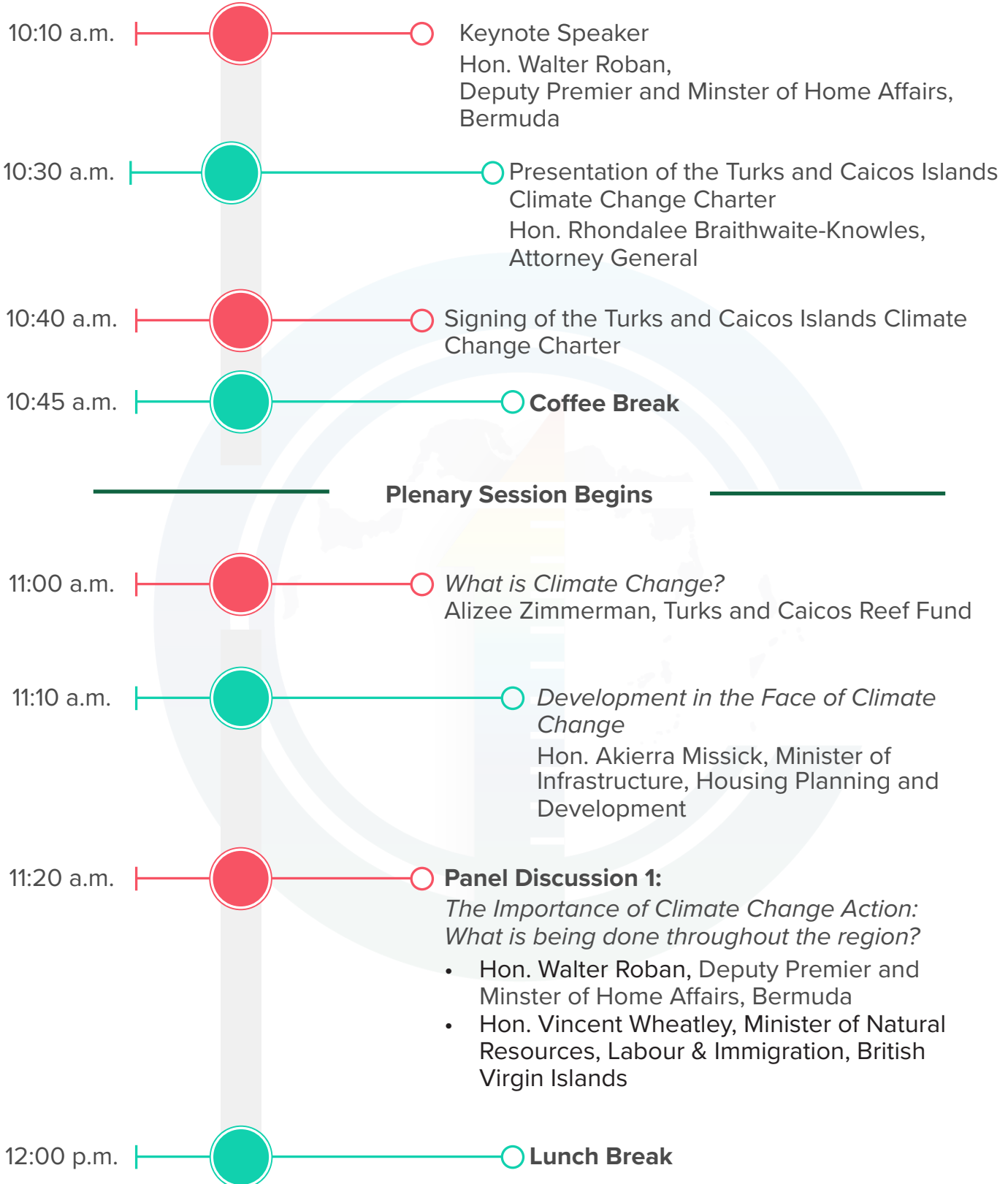
To that effect, we are proud to host today’s event, the Turks and Caicos Islands Climate Change Summit. As we continue our fight, this summit will help to educate people about the various aspects of climate change while bringing us together to strategize on the best way forward. The presentations provided by today’s speakers will help us better understand the impacts of climate change both locally and within the region and the panels will open the dialogues we need to have as a country in order to properly address key issues.

However, this event is just a part of the solution. It is up to all of us to take the knowledge gained here today and spread it throughout the fabric of our society. We must use that knowledge to put together a plan to deal with the changes that are coming and we must action that plan to protect our future and preserve these ‘Beautiful by Nature’ islands for generations to come.





































Hon. Josephine Connolly
Minster of Tourism, Environment, Fisheries and Marine Affairs,
Culture and Heritage, Agriculture, Religious Affairs & Gaming

Morning Agenda





Afternoon Agenda

- 1:00 p.m. |    **Panel Discussion 2:**
Green Energy Solutions
- Matt Gorvin, Co-founder & CEO, RENU TCI
 - Devon Cox, Senior Vice President of Energy Production, FortisTCI
 - Dr. Eric Salamanca, Energy Analyst, Energy Utilities Department
- 1:30 p.m. |    *It's Getting Hot in Here! Effects of Global Warming on the Terrestrial Environment*
Bryan Naqqi Manco, Assistant Director of Research and Development, DECR
- 1:40 p.m. |    *In Hot Water: Ocean Temps Increase*
Alexander McLeod, Reef Specialist, DECR
- 1:50 p.m. |    **Panel Discussion 3:**
Climate Change: What Does this Mean for Tourism?
- Stacy Cox, CEO, Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association
 - Angela Musgrove, CEO, Invest TCI
 - Oshin Whyte, Environment Policy Lead, Governor's Office
- 2:10 p.m. |    **Coffee Break**
- 2:20 p.m. |    *Coastal Resilience/Natural Capital*
Jatavia Howell, Assistant Director for Protected Areas & Revenue, DECR
- 2:30 p.m. |    *What the Drought? Water Conservation.*
Stefon Tyndall, Provo Water Company
- 2:40 p.m. |    *Climate Change & Natural Disasters*
Mike Clerveaux, Director (acting), Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies
- 2:50 p.m. |    *Climate Change & Weather Patterns*
Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director of Meteorology, Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority
- 3:00 p.m. |    *Coastal Resilience & Climate Change*
Amaury Camarena, Senior Coastal Engineer, CBCL
- 3:10 p.m. |    Closing Remarks
- 3:10 p.m. |    Vote of Thanks
Luc Clerveaux, Deputy Director, DECR



**Hon. Walter H.
Roban, JP, MP**

**Deputy Premier and
Minister of Home
Affairs, Bermuda**

Walter H. Roban is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Business and International Studies. He then furthered his studies at the University of Birmingham in England, where he received a Master of Arts degree in International Studies, specializing in international politics, political risk and foreign policy analysis.

He has worked in the legal profession and also in the banking industry, most recently as an Assistant Vice President in the Private Banking Division of HSBC Bank in Bermuda.

In 2003, Walter was appointed a Government Senator, serving until 2006. In 2007, he was elected to the House of Assembly for Constituency 15, Pembroke East. After serving as Junior Minister for Home Affairs, he was appointed to the Cabinet in June 2009 as Minister Without Portfolio with responsibility for Municipal Reform.

He also held the portfolios of the Health, and Environment and Infrastructure Strategy from August 2009 until October 2011. Walter later served as Minister of Transport from June 2012 to December 2012.

Walter currently serves as Deputy Premier and Minister of Home Affairs.

Greenhouse gases are destroying the one place we all call home.



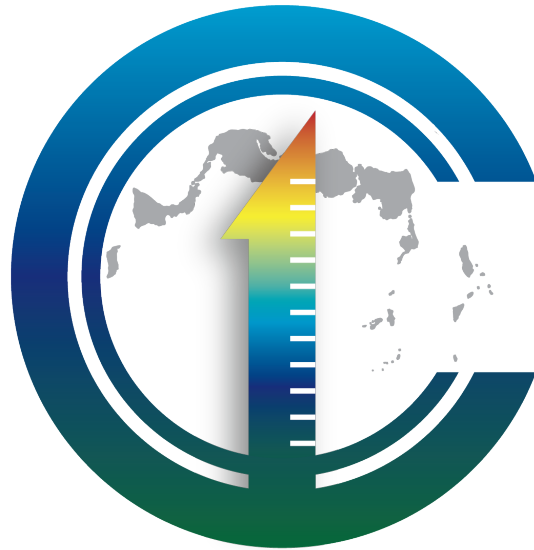
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CLIMATE
CHANGE**



Only One Earth
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CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Special thanks to the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Fisheries and Marine Affairs, Culture and Heritage, Agriculture, Religious Affairs & Gaming for creating and hosting this event.



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