

Comments on report from CRO 12th Conference from Ras Howie Acting Chair Millennium Council

Greetings CRO Executive,

In reviewing the documents with regards to the report, specifically towards CRO representation with the Millennium Council, we will be discussing same at our next Executive meeting in January 2009.

It should be corrected that although we have been on the frontline of projecting the Intellectual Property Rights issues, that we have been equally responsive to several other issues as regards Reparations, Repatriation and Economic Development in our Community as our reports, position papers and lobbying can represent.

As you speak of recognizing the potential of the Millennium Council's potential, so we also acknowledge recognition of CRO's potential to become a Caribbean based centralizing organization and applaud the areas and themes that the CRO have highlighted as being concurrent to our own. We also seek to highlight the upcoming participation in the WCAR event next year, noting the criteria being put forward by that organization re groups representation and possible travel support being linked to how much actual activity has been ongoing in their programme of action.

Noting the housing of the Secretariat from 1998 to 2003 in Barbados and 2003 to 2008 in Antigua, we would like to understand the criteria for the housing of the Secretariat as we would consider that Jamaica should out of the ability to more deeply integrate the organization's mandate, look forward to housing the Secretariat here. We further note the lack of representation on the Nominations for the CRO Executive from Jamaica though we were aware that several ones who were invited from Jamaica to the meetings there.

We also acknowledge the great need for capacity building in our varied respective organizations and the ability to integrate and communicate more effectively our agendas, which we squarely acknowledge as being directly related to lack of economic thus infrastructural capacity. We are currently advancing the development of a Trust Fund and looking to move forward longstanding economic proposals within the Community to be aligned with this essential area.

We look forward for continued communication with the CRO and the deepening of its capacity.

Raspectfully

Ras Howie
Acting Chair