1. The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Women Judges’ members participated in Regional and International Conferences during this period although it did not host any conferences or seminars.

2. The Latin American and Caribbean Association of Women Judges co-hosted this Region’s conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil on the 21st to 22nd October 2015. In attendance were judges from Latin America – Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil while the Caribbean Region was represented by one Magistrate from Jamaica Sonya Wint-Blair and three members of the TTAWJ – Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, Justice Joan Charles and Justice Carla Brown-Antoine.

3. The members of the TTAWJ present fully participated in the conference. The theme of the Conference was ‘Women Judges and Women’s Human Rights’. During the Opening Ceremony TTAWJ’s President Justice Joan Charles brought greetings on behalf of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges (C.A.W.J.). At the conference Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee presented on the topic ‘ADR/Conciliation as A Means To Justice’, Justice Carla Brown-Antoine presented on the topic ‘Trafficking in Women and Girls - Prostitution and Migration’ while Justice Joan Charles presented on the topic 'Violence Against
Women’. I am happy to report that our presentations were well received by attendees.


5. At this International Meeting, I was appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the IAWJ, thereby becoming not only a Board Member but a Member of the Executive Council. I remain both humbled by and grateful for this appointment and purpose to represent the TTAWJ and the CAWJ to the best of my ability.

6. A significant event for the TTAWJ and the Region was Magistrate Ramsumair-Hinds’ participation as a panellist in the Plenary Session on ‘Women and Girls in Detention’. Her paper on the topic was excellent, drawing commendation from many of the international jurists present. The Biennial Conference presented an excellent opportunity for our members to meet their peers worldwide and to learn from each other’s experiences in an atmosphere of comity and conviviality.

7. The TTAWJ welcomed the launch of the Guyana Association of Women Judges (G.A.W.J.) in September 2016 which Justice Carla Brown-Antoine and I attended. I brought greetings on behalf of the TTAWJ while Justice Brown-
Antoine outlined the history of the C.A.W.J. and our activities to date by a Power Point Presentation.

8. The President of the IAWJ Susana Medina, invited Judge Paula Blake-Powell from Jamaica and myself to participate in an International Judges’ Meeting in Mexico City which was held from the 24th to 25th November 2016. At the meeting we participated in the Family Law Roundtables where we presented on Cases from the Zimbabwe Constitutional Court as well as the Mexican Supreme Court. We also shared on our experiences as International Judges to an audience of approximately two hundred judges from Mexico, Australia, Argentina, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

9. It has been my great pleasure to serve this wonderful organisation as its first president and I take this opportunity to extend God’s richest blessings to the new President and Incoming Board.

10. I remain committed to the T.T.A.W.J. and stand ready to serve the Organisation as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Charles
President
Trinidad and Tobago Association of Women Judges