THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sir Hilary Appointed Chairman/Chancellor of the United Nations University



The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica W.I. Tuesday, January 7, 2025—The United Nations University at the sitting of its Governance Council on December 7, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan, unanimously appointed Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, its new Chairman/Chancellor, effective May 2025.

Noting that Sir Hilary has established a global reputation as a strategic planner in higher education, respected scholar, and thought leader in development thinking, the Council expressed its keenness to work under his Chairmanship as the University enters its 50th anniversary this year.

Sir Hilary has had a long and senior role in the affairs of the United Nations. He has served in many capacities, among them as Consultant to the annual United Nations Development Report on Latin America and the Caribbean; committees on the Global Future of Higher Education; Vice President and historian to UNESCO's flagship initiative, The Slave Routes Project; and recently as joint Editor of Volume 9 of the UNESCO's General History of Africa series.

He has twice addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, first in support of the international community's declaration of 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent; and secondly on matters of Reparatory Justice in a multi-polar political and economic world.

Sir Hilary has also addressed the United Nations Security Council under the Presidency of The Honorable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, on the subject of Global Peace in the deepening digitised North-South Divide.

Recently, the United Nations Academic Impact Committee voted The University of the West Indies (The UWI), as the global hub for Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action (SDG 13) on account of Sir Hilary's lead in the establishment of The UWI's International School for Development Justice in 2024, aimed at delivery online postgraduate degree programmes on the SDGs. He had earlier served as Special Advisor to United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon on Sustainable Development, who he invited and welcomed to The UWI, as well as current General Secretary, Antonio Guterres.

The position of Chairman/Chancellor is honorary, with a mandate to facilitate the leadership of the Rector/Vice-Chancellor of the University, and to guide the Council in a manner that sustains the confidence of international and internal stakeholders, primarily the leadership of the United Nations, faculty members and managers, private sector investors, and students.

The United Nations University is a global academy, headquartered in Tokyo, with Research and Teaching Institutes in multiple countries. It is an academic and innovation Think Tank and research arm for the world community.

In accepting the appointment, Sir Hilary thanked members of University Council, representatives of the United Nations and other organisations, for their expression of confidence. He assured them that as the University enters its 50th year under the management of its esteemed Vice-Chancellor, and the guidance of Council, it will continue to rise as one of the finest global universities.

He noted that his appointment is a signal honor for The UWI, whose reputation and international connectivity will be enhanced as well as the Caribbean, the Hemisphere and in particular, emerging communities in the Global South.

End.

About The University of the West Indies
The UWI has been and continues to be a pivotal force in every aspect of Caribbean development; residing at the centre of all efforts to improve the well-being of people across the region for the past 75 years.
From a university college of London in Jamaica with 33 medical students in 1948, The UWI is today an internationally respected, global university with near **50,000** students and **five campuses: Mona** in **Jamaica, St. Augustine** in **Trinidad and Tobago, Cave Hill** in **Barbados, Five Islands** in **Antigua and Barbuda** and its **Global Campus,** and **global centres** in partnership with universities **in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe**.

The UWI offers over **800** certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate degree options in **Culture, Creative and Performing Arts, Food and Agriculture, Engineering, Humanities and Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology, Social Sciences,** and **Sport**. As the Caribbean's leading university,

it possesses the largest pool of Caribbean intellect and expertise committed to confronting the critical issues of our region and wider world.

The UWI has been consistently ranked among the top universities globally by the most reputable ranking agency, ***Times Higher Education (THE).*** The UWI is the only Caribbean-based university to make the prestigious lists since its debut in the rankings in 2018. In addition to its leading position in the Caribbean in the ***World University Rankings***, it is also in the top 25 for ***Latin America and the Caribbean*** and the top 100 global ***Golden Age*** universities (between 50 and 80 years old). The UWI is also featured among the leading universities on THE's ***Impact Rankings*** for its response to the world's biggest concerns, outlined in the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Good Health and Wellbeing; Gender Equality and Climate Action. In 2024, The UWI launched a first-of-its-kind global online graduate business school focused on leadership within the context of supporting the SDGs.

Learn more at www.uwi.edu