

Barbados to be declared a republic, its first elected president to be sworn in on the 55th anniversary of the country's independence

*From the Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova,
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Barbados gained independence on November 30, 1966, 55 years ago. To commemorate the date, as part of the decolonisation process, its first elected President, Sandra Mason, will be sworn in and Barbados declared a republic on November 29.

The history of this Caribbean state has many characteristic features that determined the entire region's progress from its colonial past to modern sovereign democracy. This long and thorny path culminated in Barbados gaining full independence and transitioning from a monarchical system of government as part the Commonwealth of Nations to a republican one. In this context, the Barbadians' achievements in shaping their own identity and an independent vector of development deserve sincere respect.

The present-day relations between Russia and Barbados rest on the traditions of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. Barbados is our promising partner in the Caribbean region, in bilateral format as well as in CARICOM. We share a commitment to the principles of multilateralism and respect for international law, and we interact constructively at the UN.

We are ready to further develop Russia-Barbados ties embracing trade, investment, economic, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation, tourism and other areas of mutual interest.

We congratulate the people and government of Barbados on the Caribbean island becoming a republic, and Sandra Mason on her election as the first president of Barbados, and we express our best wishes for happiness and prosperity.

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