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The Association of Caribbean States is pleased to congratulate Barbados on its anniversary of independence and transition to a republic.

It comes 55 years to the day since Barbados gained full independence but kept the monarch in the ceremonial role. Dame Sandra Mason, the governor general, was sworn in as president at midnight last night replacing the Queen as head of state on the country’s anniversary.

ACS founding member Barbados currently serves as the Chair of the Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations.