



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY EDEN CHARLES,**

**AMBASSADOR AND CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES,**

**AT**

**THE GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE**

**2016 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM**

**ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

20 July 2016  
Trusteeship Council Chamber  
United Nations Headquarters

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago has the honour to participate in the first High-level Political Forum since the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda last year September, and aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Mr. President,

Almost one year since the adoption of this ambitious and transformative Agenda, the international community has joined together towards the pursuit of a collective goal. Trinidad and Tobago supports the convening of this meeting as it is consistent with the goal of the 2030 Agenda to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty, and to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. We support this year's theme of the HLPF "**Ensuring that no one is left behind**" as it is in keeping with the vision of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that no one should be left behind in its attempt to bring long-term socio-economic development to every segment of our society.

It is this collective goal that guides the preparation of Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2030 National Strategic Development Strategy. Vision 2030 aims to provide a broad socio-economic development framework, in line with the ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda. This national strategy is intended to provide an orderly long-term development process inclusive of the SDGs and will define the priorities and overarching thrust of government policy.

In keeping with the three dimensions of sustainable development, the priority areas are focused on achieving sustainable economic growth through greater diversification of the economy, and improving the social conditions and quality of life of citizens in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner. Trinidad and Tobago recognises that our people continue to be our greatest resource and remain central to the pursuit of national sustainable development for all. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago therefore recognises the need to create a society in which the basic needs of all people, especially women and children, are met and that each individual is given an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to national development.

To date, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in keeping with Vision 2030 on sustainable development, has crafted a set of draft national development goals that are aligned to the SDGs. The draft Vision 2030 National Development Strategy is underpinned by the principle of national ownership and will serve as the basis for engaging in dialogue with the wider public sector, business community and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, in order to achieve the successful mainstreaming of the SDGs, a Whole of Government approach would be implemented thereby ensuring Ministries, Departments and Agencies pursue a collaborative agenda at the sectoral level. Consequently, the Government has adopted a broad consultative approach in formulating this development plan, which is scheduled to be finalised by the end of 2016.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago recognises the importance of partnerships and international cooperation to the achievement of the SDGs, and is therefore grateful for the assistance provided by the United Nations Country Team in Port of Spain, which has continued to facilitate an open and inclusive dialogue between Government and civil society as part of mainstreaming the SDGs into the national conversation.

A necessary element of the Agenda must be the continued recognition of the unique developmental challenges faced by Small Island Developing States. As a result, there is a need for revitalised multi-stakeholder partnerships, with the United Nations Development System at its centre. At the same time, like others, we call for enhanced cooperation, capacity building and the transfer of technology from our developmental partners, as mandated by the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway.

Trinidad and Tobago remains unreservedly committed to ensuring that no one is left behind, and will continue to work with Member States and other stakeholders in our common pursuit to achieve sustainable development for all.

I thank you.