



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
633 Third Avenue, 12th Floor • New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel.: (212) 697-7620 • Fax: (212) 682-3580

STATEMENT

By

Senator The Honourable Mr. Dennis Moses

Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

at the

**Summit for the adoption of the 2030
Sustainable Development Agenda**

**Friday, September 25, 2015
General Assembly Hall
United Nations Headquarters
New York**

President of the General Assembly
Mr. Secretary General
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Colleague Ministers and other High Representatives
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I have the honour to address you on this occasion for the adoption of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I wish to applaud the efforts of all those who worked tirelessly to ensure that while this agenda is truly global in scope, it preserves legitimacy and relevance at the regional and local levels. It is aspirational yet achievable; and though grounded in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is more comprehensive and integrated and therefore, more coherent in its application.

Mr. President,

A few weeks ago, Trinidad and Tobago celebrated the fifty-third anniversary of its independence as a sovereign state, and exactly one week ago to date, its fifty-third year as a proud member of the United Nations. On the occasion of our independence, the first Prime Minister and Father of the Nation Dr Eric Williams, in his national address spoke of the aspirations of a small fledgling nation on the global stage in the following terms: And I quote,

“You hope soon to be a member of the World Family of Nations, playing your part, however insignificant, in world affairs. You are on your own in a big world, in which you are one of many nations, some small, some medium sized, some large. You are nobody’s boss and nobody is your boss. What use will you make of your independence?”

Fifty-three years on, as I stand here today to herald the endorsement by Trinidad and Tobago of a new global sustainable development agenda, I reflect with satisfaction, and indeed with a great sense of national pride, upon our several contributions to global affairs. I am much gratified that our Founding Father would conclude that our independence has indeed

not been squandered. This ground - breaking agenda anchored in the principle that 'no one shall be left behind', is one which should represent a triumph for all States, including, the small and the marginalised. Indeed, it marks a new phase in the focus of multilateralism and represents the evolution of the United Nations as a dynamic body capable, of responding to emerging needs and challenges reflecting the diversity of its membership.

It is therefore fitting, that as the international community commemorates seventy years of the United Nations, we should also launch a new collective vision for the peoples of the world for the next fifteen years. Trinidad and Tobago endorses this new global development agenda. This agenda consolidates progress made by the family of nations in the context of the MDG's, and compels us all to do more to lift humanity out of extreme poverty and marginalization on a sustainable basis through enhanced international cooperation in economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres, while promoting universal respect for human rights.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda will be guided by its own national sustainable development strategy, which seeks to implement the sustainable development goals through twelve strategic priority areas over the period 2015-2025. Our intention is to place strong emphasis on social and economic empowerment of our people through incentivizing sustainable growth and diversification, achieving macroeconomic stability, job growth respecting the ILO principle of Decent Work, and the protection of the environment.

It is our intention to achieve these aims through a progressive programme of institutional reform, the establishment of a permanent mechanism for improved dialogue among the social partners namely, Government, Labour and the Private Sector and other elements of Civil Society, and focused interventions for improvement in data collection and analysis. We recognize that fulfilment of the goals and targets of this agenda will require the availability of accurate, timely, high quality and disaggregated data. We are therefore pleased to note, that the

strengthening of data and statistical systems is one of the areas for which Small Island Developing States will be prioritized for assistance through partnerships and international cooperation.

Mr. President,

Despite its a middle-income status, Trinidad and Tobago, as a Small Island Developing State, is still grappling with many developmental challenges that are exacerbated by its size, lack of economies of scale, openness, and a disproportionate dependence on a limited number of resources. These challenges result in a high degree of vulnerability to exogenous economic and environmental shocks. Although we have achieved success in implementing the majority of the Millennium Development Goals, concerns still persist in a number of areas.

Consequently, we stress the importance of the revitalization of the global partnership for development, the parameters of which are established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We submit that a necessary element of this revitalized partnership must be the continued recognition of the special case and unique development challenges faced by Small Island Developing States, and the need to design financial tools and facilities to effectively respond to these issues. We wish to indicate that a key area of outstanding work, which should be completed as soon as possible, is the design of new and broader indices of development that complement GDP per capita.

Trinidad and Tobago believes that the cornerstone of the integrated sustainable development agenda should be the development of tools to measure and monitor implementation that is fit for purpose. As a responsible Member State committed unreservedly to this Agenda, with tremendous faith in the ability of the multilateral system to facilitate the implementation of universal agreements, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to work with all partners toward the achievement of this critically important objective.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago joins with other members of the international community in endorsing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda .Let us all work together for the full and effective implementation of this landmark agenda for the benefit of all our Peoples.

I thank you.