



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

by

H.E. Mr. Eden Charles,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,

Deputy Permanent Representative of

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

to the United Nations, New York

at the

Twenty-seventh session of the Committee

of the Whole of ECLAC

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

28-29 May, 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement delivered by Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to express its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC or "the Commission") for its work in support of the development efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly as it relates to making the case for the special circumstances faced by middle-income countries. We congratulate the Executive Secretary, Ms. Alicia Barcéna for her stalwart advocacy in support of the region and for keeping the ECLAC member Governments well informed of and involved in the work of the Commission.

We also express our appreciation and support for the excellent work being done by Mrs. Diane Quarless and other officials at the ECLAC sub- regional office based in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Chairman,

At the Rio+20 Conference, Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and emphasised the significant role of regional and sub regional organizations, including the UN regional commissions and their sub regional offices in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges ECLAC's support to regional and sub-regional entities such as the Community for Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Consequently, we join with other ECLAC Member Governments in calling for further support from ECLAC for the activities of these bodies. Such support will be invaluable as the region moves forward with deepening its integration in support of sustainable development.

As a very diverse region composed of countries with varying needs and challenges we see the ECLAC sub-regional office and its work in support of the Caribbean as indispensable to our collective efforts to guarantee the sustainable development of the entire region. As a result, we reiterate our calls for this office to be strengthened and better resourced to address the specific needs and challenges of the sub-region.

Trinidad and Tobago also acknowledges the efforts of the ECLAC sub-regional office to revitalise, strengthen and fully operationalize the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the

Sustainable Development of Small Island States ("the RCM"). The importance of these efforts cannot be overstated as we prepare to launch into the regional preparation for the Third International Conference on SIDS to take place in Samoa in 2014. We call on ECLAC to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for this important task as the RCM must be fit for, purpose in contributing to regional preparations for the SIDS Conference as well as for following up on its outcomes.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago takes note of the strategic priorities outlined in the draft programme of work for the Commission for 2014-2015 contained in the document entitled "Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development". It is noteworthy that the strategic priorities aim to address several of the key concerns and gaps that have been identified in the region as it relates to sustainable development and we look forward to further engagement on the document taking into account specific national characteristics and circumstances.

We also welcome the ongoing work by ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies to address regional priorities in particular areas through the Regional Conference on Women, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the recent establishment of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC and activities in support of the follow up on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Trinidad and Tobago recognizes that there are inter-linkages between the issues surrounding population and development and sustainable development on the whole, and therefore welcomes the renaming of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the renewed and strengthened focus on these important issues that should result.

Mr. Chairman,

As host of the ECLAC sub-regional office and a number of other UN offices for the sub-region, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be a firm supporter of the work of the UN system at the regional level in assisting Member States to achieve their sustainable development objectives in line with international agreements.

We have benefitted at the national level from assistance received from ECLAC in the field of data collection and statistical analysis. This work has enhanced our capacity at the national level to measure and report on progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Further work in this area will certainly be required to allow for meaningful engagement on the Post 2015 development agenda.

Like other countries of the region, Trinidad and Tobago also continues to benefit from the work of ECLAC in the field of climate change. We continue to participate

actively in projects such as those related to assessing the economic impacts of climate change on the macro economy of the Caribbean which are geared toward improving proposed adaptation and mitigation strategies in the Caribbean sub-region.

ECLAC's partnership with the Caribbean through its sub-regional office continues to bear fruit in a number of areas. We acknowledge with great appreciation the assistance rendered by ECLAC for the promotion of the proposal piloted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago for a Convergence Model of Integrated Production as a method of building resilience for the region's small economies in a globalised world. We look forward to continued collaboration with ECLAC on this and other matters of national and regional importance.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that the regular meetings of the Committee of the Whole should continue as they provide opportunities for further dialogue between ECLAC and its members, as well as the wider UN membership.

Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to strengthening its participation in the activities of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies as we seek to achieve a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

I thank you.