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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA
24th May 2012, 2.30pm**

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago extends a warm welcome to the delegation of the India, led by the Honourable Goolam Vahanvati, the Attorney General. Trinidad and Tobago would also like to thank His Excellency and the Secretariat for the comprehensive report which gives a clear picture of human rights protection in India.

It is noteworthy that the India has made significant efforts to advance the overall protection of Human Rights. This is a clear illustration that the UPR process is a useful tool for nations to shape their human rights protection regimes.

Trinidad and Tobago commends the Government of India for the following developments in their Human Rights protection strategies:

- The enactment of legislative instruments which seek to guarantee the protection of the rights of individuals such as :
 1. The National Green Tribunal Act, which seeks to ensure a person's right to live in a healthy environment.
 2. The Sexual Harassment Bill, 2010 which seeks to protect women.
 3. The Right to Education Act which ensures the right to free and compulsory education for children.
 4. The Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers Act which recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dwellers.
 5. The Right to Information Act.

Trinidad and Tobago takes this opportunity to recognize the logistical and financial challenges faced by a country recovering from the effects of a global economic downturn and recommends the following:

- That India continues its efforts to achieve balance between its counterterrorism strategies and the need to forestall the spread of xenophobia.
- That India continues to promote its many initiatives for the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women.

Thank you Madame President.