

Justin Sobloy

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
Tuesday 23rd October 2012, 14.30-18.00**

Madame President, Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to add its voice to those welcoming the delegation of Ghana, led by the Honourable Minister and in doing so, we take the opportunity to applaud the people of Ghana for their unity and strong commitment to safeguarding the stability of their democracy, which the world witnessed following the sudden and untimely death of their former President, Professor Atta Mills.

My delegation commends Ghana for the progress it has made in the promotion and protection of human rights since the first cycle of the UPR, through, *inter alia*, its keen efforts to give effect to the recommendations it accepted in May 2008. Worthy of special mention are: (1) the National Human Rights Action Plan (NAHRAP) which is being drafted currently and will cover five key priority areas including human rights education; (2) the establishment of the Gender-Based Violence Court to handle domestic violence cases (3) the plethora of social programmes that have contributed to a steady increase in female enrolment in schools and (4) the launch of a new 5 year HIV strategic plan to consolidate the gains that have already been made in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Trinidad and Tobago recommends that Ghana redouble its efforts to (1) promote and protect women's rights, this should include treating with the widespread violence against women, and (2) reduce unemployment and poverty, thereby ensuring that each and every Ghanaian can benefit from the fruits of the country's impressive economic growth.

Madame President, thank you.