



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA
STATEMENT BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF VANUATU
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, 30 JANUARY 2014**

Mr. President,

Permit me to extend a warm welcome to the Delegation of Vanuatu and to express Trinidad and Tobago's appreciation for the submission of the very informative National Report to the Working Group.

My delegation notes the steps taken by the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu to enhance its framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. More importantly, as a colleague Small Island Developing State, Trinidad and Tobago is also acutely aware of the challenges that attend development in such countries.

We are therefore mindful of some of the positive actions taken by the Vanuatu authorities since the country's last UPR, including, *inter alia*:

1. Ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in July 2011;
2. Steps taken to ameliorate the incidence of gender violence including the establishment of Family Protection Units (FPUs) in certain districts;
3. The banning of corporal punishment in all schools;
4. Efforts to improve conditions in correctional centres and,
5. The establishment of a Disability Desk Officer in 2009 at the Department of Women's Affairs focused on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Mr. President, my delegation recommends that the Government of Vanuatu consider the following in the furtherance of its efforts to enhance its capacity to guarantee the human rights of its citizens:

1. Step up efforts to raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility including continuing review of relevant legislation;
2. Formulate appropriate plans to establish a compulsory education policy;
3. Continue to seek technical assistance to address the specific problem of the disproportionately negative impact of climate change on women and children.

Thank you Mr. President and my best wishes to the Delegation of Vanuatu for their review.