

Statement by The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Universal Periodic Review of Guyana in the Human Rights Council on 28th January, 2015

Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation warmly welcomes the Republic of Guyana and congratulates them on this second cycle of their Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Guyana, rich in its biodiversity and pristine tropical forests, is one of the founding Members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Trinidad and Tobago is therefore quite honoured to participate and witness this UPR session involving our fraternal neighbour on the South American continent.

Mr. Chairman my delegation acknowledges that Guyana, just like any other CARICOM nation, is not totally exempt from the challenges associated with the implementation and fulfilment of its universal human rights objectives. These challenges include curbing human trafficking, gender and social discrimination, unemployment, the scourge of child abuse and child labour and combating the deadly HIV/AIDS virus.

Despite this, my delegation is quite pleased to note that Guyana has taken action to boost its domestic human rights programmes and policies. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to highlight 1) the creation of a ministerial inter-agency national task force and the development of a national plan of action to combat human trafficking, 2) the increase in awareness campaigns regarding sexual abuse, 3) the drafting of a sexual and reproductive health policy and 4) the TACKLE education programme which aids in addressing child labour.

Conclusion:

In concluding, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. That Guyana implements a comprehensive strategy to combat the discrimination against women, Amerindian children and also children with disabilities.

2. That Guyana improves access to age-appropriate HIV, sexual and reproductive health services especially among adolescents.

3. That Guyana continues to address the root causes of human trafficking and provide the relevant training to law enforcement officials and judges to ensure that the perpetrators of the this heinous crime do not go unpunished.

With this, I thank you Mr. President.