

Statement by The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Sweden in the Human Rights Council on 26th January, 2015

Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Sweden on this the second cycle of their Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Trinidad and Tobago has noted, with pleasure, the steady inroads made by Sweden with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights. The adoption of a 2014 action plan for the protection of children against human trafficking and exploitation is just one example which confirms the earnest commitment of the country. Another noteworthy achievement is Sweden's robust weapons export system which ensures that small arms and military equipment do not easily fall into the hands of illegal perpetrators.

Despite these advancements made by Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago is fully cognizant of the fact that the safeguarding of universal human rights remains a continuous work in progress. In this regard, my delegation is of the view that further work needs to be attributed to areas relating to combating discrimination against minorities and the enhancement of the rights of disabled persons.

Conclusion:

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

1. That Sweden pursues strategies and policies to prevent discrimination, in all spheres of public life, against its indigenous peoples and other minority groups such as Afro-Swedes and Muslims.
2. That effective measures are taken to ensure the right of a person to enjoy freedom of religion and religious belief.
3. That Sweden takes action to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain gainful employment.

With this, I thank you Mr. President.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland