



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
PANAMA**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, 9am**

Thank you Chair

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the delegation of Panama to this its second UPR Review.

My delegation wishes to commend Panama for the range of programmes put in place since its last UPR aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. The following initiatives are worthy of special mention:

- (i) The introduction of human rights education as a cross-cutting theme in schools throughout Panama; and,
- (ii) The introduction of human rights training for police officers

Such programmes will no doubt make a valuable contribution to building public awareness on all human rights issues and to creating a culture of respect for human rights.

Trinidad and Tobago also commends Panama's efforts to protect the most vulnerable in society, in particular, women and children and adolescents.

My delegation has taken note of the Government of Panama's acknowledgement of the existence of discrimination against indigenous peoples and people of African-descent, and in doing so, recognizes the efforts it has made to address this. One key initiative is the establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Unit in 2012.

In this context, we wish to recommend that Panama:

- Intensify its efforts to treat with discrimination to ensure that indigenous peoples and people of African-descent fully enjoy economic, social and cultural rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

In conclusion, my delegation wishes Panama a successful Review.

*Justin Sabion*