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**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at**

 **the Universal Periodic Review of St Kitts and Nevis in the**

**Human Rights Council on 11 November 2015**

*Speaking List: No. 43 Speaking Time: 2.00 minutes*

Thank you Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

In similar fashion of CARICOM colleagues, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to warmly welcome Ms. Kaye Bass, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of St Kitts and Nevis and her delegation to their second Universal Periodic Review and congratulates the delegation on presenting their report.

Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges that the promotion and protection of human rights has been a difficult task for St Kitts and Nevis in the face of fiscal constraints and lack of technical and human resources.

Nevertheless, Trinidad and Tobago notes with satisfaction that since its first universal periodic review in 2011, St Kitts and Nevis had accepted Trinidad and Tobago’s recommendation to develop a closer policy focus on the special needs and care of persons with disabilities in order to help them live productive lives and contribute to their communities.

In this regard, my delegation is pleased to see that the Government of St Kitts and Nevis has begun consultations and engagement of persons with disabilities and commends the Government for adopting the 2013-2017 Social Protection Strategy, which prioritizes social protection interventions for vulnerable citizens, including persons with disabilities.

Accordingly, my delegation commends the Government of St Kitts and Nevis for displaying increased commitment to catering for the human rights needs of its citizens, despite the Government’s myriad of challenges.

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Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago would like to make the following recommendations to St Kitts and Nevis:

1. To ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not a party and bring its internal legal framework into line with international obligations.
2. To request technical assistance from the relevant United Nations agencies in order to meet its human rights obligations.
3. To engage closely with civil society in the follow-up on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council.

As I close Mr. President, my delegation wishes St Kitts and Nevis a very successful review.