

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

**Statement at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Antigua and Barbuda, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 9th May 2016**

Thank you Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago notes the progress made by Antigua and Barbuda since the first cycle and is pleased that our fellow CARICOM state has been able to implement recommendations in respect of its ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and accession to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The continued broadening of the international legal scope to which such small-island developing states subscribe is a clarion signal of commitment, despite known resource constraints, to our common vision of sustainable development, inclusive of respect for human rights. In this regard, my delegation also extends its congratulations on the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and further commends efforts in mainstreaming the differently-abled in the education system and in providing necessary mobility and transportation support.

Trinidad and Tobago applauds the commitment shown in improving the health of the population through action undertaken to combat infectious diseases and reduce the scourge of non-communicable diseases. Recognition of the need to bolster trafficking in persons legislation through the 2015 amendment as well as the introduction of several key pieces of legislation to improve the rights of children are certainly noteworthy.

My delegation recommends that Antigua and Barbuda seek technical assistance, as appropriate, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations organizations, with a view to developing capacity for fulfilling various international human rights obligations to which it subscribes.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes our Caribbean neighbour every success in its review and for its current “Get to Happy” initiative, the fruits of which will undoubtedly serve to support its overall development thrust.

I thank you.