

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
25TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**Statement by
Miss Cherryl Gordon, Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Jamaica
to the
Universal Periodic Review of
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

Geneva, 10th May, 2016

Thank you, Mr. President.

Jamaica warmly welcomes the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, our sister CARICOM State, and thanks the delegation for the update on the situation of human rights in the country.

Jamaica commends Trinidad and Tobago for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens, as demonstrated in its comprehensive national report and update. Of the significant number of advancements in human rights made since its last UPR, we commend the Government especially for its extensive legislative reforms in areas such as children's rights, justice and prison reform; labour and persons with disabilities. Also commendable is the construction of the General Hospital in Tobago; health initiatives (which have also benefitted other Caribbean nationals); an inclusive and participatory constitutional reform process; and development of a cultural policy for a multi-cultural nation associated, among other things, with the Steel Pan – said to be the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th Century.

Jamaica knows all too well the challenges of addressing high levels of violence and organised crime; and recommends that Trinidad and Tobago increase its collaboration with regional and hemispheric partners in this regard;

We also recommend that Trinidad and Tobago prioritise measures to significantly reduce gender-based violence including violence against women and girls.

We take note of the multi-stakeholder review of the draft Immigration Policy being undertaken by Trinidad and Tobago. We are confident that this review, guided by the best interests of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, will take into account regional and international commitments and best practices.

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Finally, Jamaica commends Trinidad and Tobago for its determination to ensure that its UPR was as inclusive as possible, as evidenced by the wide cross-section of participants which were consulted on the preparations for the national report. We wish you all the very best in this review.

I thank you.