

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

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

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**Statement at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Haiti, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 7th November 2016**

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to express sympathy regarding the loss of life, injuries and extensive damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti just over one month ago. I also wish to state that Trinidad and Tobago and its partners in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), continue to mobilise resources and provide ongoing support towards the relief efforts in Haiti.

Trinidad and Tobago thanks Haiti for the presentation of its candid report and applauds efforts made towards implementing various recommendations of the First Cycle. The voluntary submission of a mid-term progress report, efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and steps taken to improve the judicial system, food security and access to education are certainly noteworthy.

Trinidad and Tobago is very mindful of persistent challenges that serve to undermine gains made in Haiti over the years, including vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, as well as a lack of resources. In the circumstances, my delegation recommends that Haiti continue to seek assistance and cooperation, as it deems appropriate, to support ongoing initiatives to fulfil its various international human rights obligations and implement those recommendations which will be accepted during the current UPR Cycle.

In addition, my delegation wishes to recognise the commitment of Haiti towards the hosting of Presidential and Parliamentary Elections on November 20, 2016. Trinidad and Tobago views the preparation of this electoral timetable as further evidence of Haiti’s commitment to democracy and democratic processes. Through the mechanism of the CARICOM Election Observation Mission, Officials from Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM Member States serve as Observers to the electoral process in Haiti.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes our CARICOM sister every success in its review.

I thank you.