

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

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**Review of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

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Madam President.

Vanuatu welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to this review and thanks them for the comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu commends Trinidad and Tobago for enacting the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act of 2020 that widens its scope to include children and adults in residential institutions who can also get protection orders, as well as encompassing relatives in the extended family to get better protection. The expanded powers of courts to grant interim and protection orders based on a single act or omission, and elimination of the cap on monetary compensation that a domestic violence victim can be awarded will contribute to better protection of children, women and other victims of domestic violence.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Vanuatu recommends to Trinidad and Tobago:

1. Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
2. Consider acceding to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
3. Continue to implement effective climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, and advocate for climate action by all nations.

Vanuatu wishes the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.