

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MAKEDA ANTOINE-CAMBRIDGE**

**AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

**AT THE**

**THIRD CYCLE OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF**

**BARBADOS**

**29TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**19th January 2018**

Thank you Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago expresses its appreciation to Barbados for the presentation of its third report.

We acknowledge the progress made in improving the human rights framework inclusive of the work of the National Human Rights Advisory Committee; the enactment of the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act 2017; ongoing efforts on the Draft Juvenile Justice Bill and the Draft National Policy on Gender; the success of Women Entrepreneurs of Barbados (WEB) and the National Youth Parliament; and the attempts being made to enhance professionalism in the police force through the empowerment of the Police Complaints Authority, the Truth Verification Unit and capacity-building for the electronic recording of interviews.

Steps to address domestic violence by establishment of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit, the update in legislation, the expansion of police powers in ensuring protection and psycho-educational interventions for aggressors are also commendable.

Since the last cycle, Barbados has also ratified the CRPD and has sought to boost its responsiveness to the needs of the disabled. The Derrick Smith School and Vocational Centre, the Technology Programme and the data collection and retrofitting initiatives are noteworthy in this regard. We note the importance ascribed to enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities and extend best wishes for a successful bid to serve on the Convention’s Committee for the period 2019 to 2022.

Trinidad and Tobago recommends that Barbados:

* Continue efforts at addressing gender inequality as it relates to the conference of nationality from parents to children;
* Adopt a national policy on trafficking in persons; and
* Improve the representation of women in decision-making positions and roles in the Parliament, Government and diplomatic service.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes the delegation of Barbados a successful review.

I thank you.