

**STATEMENT**

**DELIVERED 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**

**BELIZE**

**31ST SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**12th November 2018**

Trinidad and Tobago recognises the efforts made by our Caribbean Community (CARICOM) neighbour to improve the protection and promotion of the rights of its citizens and discharge its human rights obligations despite the resource constraints identified in the presentation of the report.

My delegation recommends that Belize:

* Pursue policies which seek to further stem the dropout rates for primary and secondary schools as well as improving the transition ratio from primary to secondary school.

We extend our congratulations on the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. We commend the progress made through the Educational Quality Improvement Programme, the expansion of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and the continued implementation of programmes to address poverty and social exclusion. The establishment of the Anti-trafficking in Persons (ATIPs) Council and the TIPS Unit, training for a range of stakeholders and public education programmes will undoubtedly contribute to a more coordinated and strengthened approach to addressing issues related to trafficking in persons.

As a country also adversely affected by climate change, we take note of the commitment undertaken in the elaboration of the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 and further take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the hosting of the SAMOA Pathway Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting in San Pedro in August this year.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes Belize every success in its review.

I thank you.