

**STATEMENT**

**DELIVERED BY**

**MS. MARIELLA FONROSE, SECOND SECRETARY**

**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**

**VANUATU**

**32nd SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**24th January 2019**

Thank you Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to express its appreciation to Vanuatu for the presentation of its third cycle report.

Trinidad and Tobago recommends that Vanuatu:

* Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); and
* Continue to strengthen its mechanisms and policies to combat violence against women and girls.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS), we note the constraints and challenges faced and commend your efforts towards protecting and defending the human rights of your people. As the first Pacific state to develop a National Implementation Plan for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, we applaud your efforts.

We acknowledge the commitment to address climate change through the elaboration of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2030, the commissioning of the new Ministry of Climate Change as well as within the framework of Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan. We further note with interest the steps being taken to improve access to basic health services inclusive of the pilot test underway to deliver vaccines to remote areas via drone technology.

Trinidad and Tobago extends its best wishes to Vanuatu for a successful review as well as a speedy restoration period following the volcanic eruptions in Ambae in 2018 and Ambrym earlier this year.

I thank you.