

**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**

**DOMINICA**

**33rd SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**9th May 2019**

Thank you Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago takes this opportunity to welcome our fellow Caribbean Community (CARICOM) neighbour to its third cycle review and further expresses its appreciation to Dominica for the presentation of its report.

We are well aware of the deleterious effects of climate change, which compound the already vulnerable positions of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in our region, particularly as it relates to natural disasters. The effects of Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017, which resulted in extensive damage and loss, remain painful challenges to pursuing and maintaining progress made towards development.

Dominica’s indomitable spirit, in spite of these setbacks and reflected by its presence here today, is a testament to its resolve to uphold its national and international commitments including those related to the protection and promotion of the human rights of its citizens.

We take note of the steps underway to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). We further acknowledge the establishment of the Kalinago Barana Aute model village and the role that it would play in the preservation of culture and heritage. The efforts towards strengthening systems for the prevention of and response to gender based violence through various training, sensitization and legislative measures; the provision of transportation to and from school for students in rural areas; and the operationalization of the Small Business Fund are commendable endeavours.

Trinidad and Tobago further extends its very best wishes for a successful review and reiterates its continued solidarity with Dominica’s recovery efforts.

I thank you.