

## **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is determined that the problem of corruption should be tackled effectively. To achieve this objective Trinidad and Tobago has been actively pursuing the improvement of national laws to increase transparency and accountability and thereby enhance the mechanisms to detect, prevent and punish corrupt activity. The Government believes that transparency and accountability in government will promote integrity in public life, discourage corruption and foster confidence in the stability of democratic government. Anti-corruption laws must be strengthened to keep pace with modern situations and to more effectively deal with this most elusive type of criminal activity.

Following the election of the new Government in Trinidad & Tobago, the Ministry of the Attorney General has embarked upon a comprehensive review of the anti-corruption strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. This review includes consideration of the establishment of a special independent anti-corruption agency which will be equipped to monitor and investigate allegations of corruption and initiate prosecutions in both the public and the private spheres. In February, the Government, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, invited a former Commissioner of the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption to advise on the development and implementation of the country's national anti-corruption strategy.

This internationally recognized expert in the field of anti-corruption measures was asked to prepare a project report for submission to the Government. The project report contains advice on the mechanisms to be implemented in order effectively to prevent, detect and punish corrupt activities in both the public and private sectors. In particular the consultant was asked to make recommendations with respect to the proposed Independent Anti-Corruption Commission, as well as its structure, composition, powers and functions in relation to the police, the Director of Public Prosecutions and other relevant agencies.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is currently reviewing the Report submitted by the consultant and will shortly produce a public consultation paper. Once public consultations have been held new anti-corruption legislation will be prepared to implement the agreed strategy.